

back to the University and awakening interest and giving information. Cambridge has not, so far, had a Settlement, with the exception of the Trinity Settlement on the Camberwell Road, but not a few of its graduates have done work through the Oxford House and Toynbee Hall. As the result of the recent enthusiastic university gathering it was decided to establish a Cambridge House in South London. Dr. Westcott, the Bishop of Durham, who was one of the speakers, declared that the greatest peril of the present time is the ignorance of one class of the feelings and aims of another class, the ignorance of one man of the feelings and aims of another man, and it was the natural privilege of a university to assist in removing this ignorance. Mr. Balfour summarized the work of the Settlement as directed towards the organization of charity, the organization of thrift, and the organization of recreation. He also said very strongly that the employers in great cities and in great corporations and joint stock concerns lose the sense of personal responsibility to the employed, and he emphasized the fact that the weight of such work as is needed to be done in the great cities must be done largely by the laity. Few things are more significant of the vital life of the great universities than the interest which they are showing in the social problems of the hour. This is the one way in which the university can be of direct and immense service in practical matters—a service which springs directly and legitimately out of its own functions and life.

Boston has given a lesson to the entire country in park work, and no city needs to profit by that lesson more than will the Greater New York. Surrounding Boston there are thirty-seven separate municipalities, containing a population of about 1,000,000 persons. While the central city has developed a superb series of parks within its own boundaries, it was evident that the great new population was spreading throughout the suburban district more rapidly than the local park commissions and water commissions were acquiring open public spaces. In 1891, therefore, an act was passed establishing the Metropolitan Park Commission. The Commission consists of five persons, one new member being appointed every year by the Governor, the term of service being five years. The General Court authorizes from time to time the sale of bonds by the State Treasurer, who is directed to collect every year the amount of interest and the sinking fund charges from the towns and cities of the metropolitan district according to an apportionment newly made every five years. Over \$2,000,000 worth of 3½ per cent. bonds, running forty years, have been authorized. The total annual sum to be collected from the district is about \$111,000. Boston pays half of this requirement. Like the unproductive but wonderfully picturesque sections of Boston, such as Revere Beach, the banks of the Charles River, and the Blue Hills, so the suburbs of New York City contain many strongly characterized scenes which should find their proper use in a continuous park system. It is to be hoped that a park commission with ample powers shall consider an adequate plan, reaching from the ocean on the northeast to the ocean on the southeast, embracing the suburban resorts on the south and north shores of Long Island; including the park systems of Brooklyn, Jamaica, Long Island City, and Flushing; Pelham, Bronx, Crotona, Van Cortlandt, and Palisade Parks, the Hudson County Boulevard, the Bloomingfield Road, the Orange Mountain Parks, the Millburn and Springfield turnpikes, and the Rumsen and other roads of Monmouth County, New Jersey. Every one who knows

the whole or a part of this splendid sweep will appreciate the possibilities of development.

General Weyler, after a brief visit to Havana, has returned to the Pinar del Rio mountain regions to conduct his campaign against Maceo. So far that campaign has had little results. The only engagement of any consequence has been at the Rubi Hills, and there the Cuban patriots assert that Weyler was repulsed with great loss; sensational reports declare that his loss was many hundreds. Weyler's statement of the situation is that Maceo retreats from one mountain stronghold to another, that it is impossible to entice him into a general fight, that the Cubans are rapidly exhausting ammunition and provisions, and that their dispersion or extermination is merely a question of time. The fight at Rubi Hills, Weyler says, resulted in small loss to either side, and ended with the retreat of the Cubans. The difficulty in getting at the truth about Cuba is illustrated by the fact that when Colonel Reyes, an aide-de-camp of Maceo, arrived in Jacksonville on a mission from the Cubans to this country, the New York papers reported him as asserting that 2,000 of Weyler's men had been killed in two days and twice as many wounded, and that whole battalions had been blown up by dynamite. Startling head-lines, "Routed," "Great Slaughter," "Blown up by Dynamite," heightened the sensation. When Reyes arrived in New York none of these sensational statements were confirmed by him! Whatever may be the actual military situation, the condition of the island generally is one of desolation, threatened famine, and financial ruin. General Weyler before leaving Havana said to a correspondent "that it was a necessity of war to destroy the whole province, burning every house which may be made a shelter for the insurgents, and every plantation which may give them food." The same dispatch says of the Cuban leader Gomez that on his expected march westward this month "he will carry with him *la vengadora tea* (the avenging torch), and will not leave a single sugar-cane field which might yield a direct or indirect revenue to the Spanish Government." General Weyler has lately again positively refused to allow the grinding of sugar-cane, and has ordered all growers of corn in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana, and Matanzas to gather together all of the corn still in their possession and transport it to the nearest towns and settlements by December 20. After that date all corn found in the possession of farmers will be regarded as contraband of war. Merchants, planters, exporters, business men generally—all are in a state nearing despair, and the long struggle between the Spanish troops and the Cuban insurgents seems no nearer at an end.

Little has been known with certainty about the progress of the revolt against Spanish rule in the Philippine Islands. A Hongkong correspondent of the London "Times" at last furnishes an interesting account of the first outbreak and of the steps taken to quell the rebellion. It appears that the large province of Cavite is in the hands of the native insurgents, and that there have been risings in seven other provinces. Spanish misrule and tyranny were the sufficient causes; the belief that the rebellion was fomented by Japan is discredited. It is said, however, that Japanese, Germans, and even one American (a Mr. Collins) have been arrested for aiding the rebels. The natives and half-breeds who started the insurrection are members of a secret society. The members are "sealed with blood," and the triangular mark thus made on the arm of each has proved a fatal means of identification in many cases.

There are only three or four thousand Spanish troops in the islands, and these are mostly at Manila. The fighting has been followed by horrible cruelty on both sides. The natives, for instance, seized a large monastery in Cavite and not only murdered but tortured all the priests, saturating some in petroleum and then tying them to trees and setting fire to them. In retaliation the Spaniards have, it is alleged, tortured prisoners with thumbscrews found in the convents, which were actually in use in the worst days of the Inquisition. It is certain that in Manila prisoners were confined by the Spanish officers in an underground dungeon into which the tide entered, and ventilated only by an iron grating in the roof. On one night, by accident or design, this grating was covered, and the scenes of the Black Hole of Calcutta were repeated; half of the one hundred and fifty prisoners were found dead in the morning. As in the war in Cuba, the rebel forces avoid open engagements, know the country thoroughly, and it will be a difficult matter to bring them into subjection.

The Czar has taken the administration of affairs, both home and foreign, into his own personal keeping, and hereafter his Ministers are to be mere head clerks of departments. He is to receive daily reports from all departments, and to make his own replies to all questions, and settle all policies without so much as consulting the heads of those departments unless he chooses to do so. It is significant that the Czar seems to find small use for the opinion of the Russian Ambassador to Constantinople, who is now at St. Petersburg, and who is in a position which would naturally entitle his opinion to great consideration. The Czar's only confidant appears to be his great-uncle, the Grand Duke Michael, the last surviving son of Nicholas I. The Grand Duke, who is Aide-de-Camp General to the Czar, and President of the Council of the Empire, appears to have gained at least a temporary ascendancy over his great-nephew. Under his advice there is to be an entire reorganization of Russian administration. Both in administrative and army positions there are to be wholesale changes and transfers, all in the direction of bringing the bureaucracy more directly under the control of the Czar, who is to be his own Minister. This radical move on the part of the Czar may mean more consistent absolutism, or it may mean the breaking up of the detested bureaucracy from which Russia has so long suffered. No change in Russian foreign policy is to be expected at present, and it is generally believed that Russia's protection of the Sultan will continue; that she will reject all schemes for European interference in Turkey, as she has recently rejected the French proposal for the readjustment of Turkish finances. The Russian papers are frankly declaring that Russia has now exclusive control of Constantinople, and one of the semi-official journals of St. Petersburg states the Russian attitude almost brutally when it says: "The policy of Russia is not to support the action of the other Powers, but to enforce her own will; no matter what massacres of Armenians and other Christians may occur, the isolated action of Russia is a practical reality."

One of the most ardent wishes of that somewhat ardent young man, the Emperor of Germany, has been for a new and powerful fleet. In the expression of this desire he has not been content with direct references to it in his remarkable speeches, but has also inspired those about him to like expression. We are not surprised, therefore, to read, in the last issue of the semi-official "Militärwochenblatt," an article from an officer of the General Staff, strongly recommending that Germany ought to have a better navy

than that of any other Power except Great Britain. The German navy must be strong enough, he says, not only to protect the German coast, but so to engage the British fleet as to give German transports opportunity to land an army in England. The Emperor's influence has been shown also in another and more notable quarter—namely, in the proposition by the Finance Minister, Dr. Miquel, to devote to naval expenditure next year no less than \$32,500,000, a sum nearly twice as great as the appropriation for last year. The reason for this prodigious increase is frankly avowed to be the building of new ships, over \$15,000,000 being necessary to that end. Nevertheless, there is a deficit of more than \$14,000,000 in the Imperial Budget. It is proposed to meet this by a loan, and a consequent increase to that extent of Germany's bonded debt. In this connection it is interesting to note that such an addition to the debt is by no means so burdensome as it might be in France. The total indebtedness of Germany (including the individual debts of the German States with that of the Empire itself) is said to be less than \$3,000,000,000; those of Russia and of Italy, about \$2,500,000,000 each; of Austria, about \$3,000,000,000; of the United Kingdom, \$3,300,000,000; while that of France is stated to be over \$6,000,000,000. Yet France, and Russia and England too, by this proposed action of Germany must burden themselves proportionately. When will the folly of militarism be so apparent that we shall hear the good news of disarmaments?

When the Egyptian expeditionary force set out, no definite statements were made with regard to it beyond the fact that Dongola would be retaken. Now that Dongola has been captured, the British Government announces that the occupation of Khartoum and the reconquest of the Soudan are to follow. Dongola was recaptured after a sharp fight. The town was bombarded by the gunboats, and the Dervish position was carried by a charge of the combined English and Egyptian forces. The reconquest of the Soudan is, as has been often pointed out, the logical necessity of the occupation of Egypt. Unless that great region is kept in order, Egypt would be constantly harassed, and it would be a mere waste of time to leave an open spring flowing and attempt to stay its course by a series of small dams hundreds of miles distant. Sir Herbert Kitchener, who has been in command of the expedition, has shown great skill and sagacity, and the fighting quality of the Egyptian troops has greatly improved, and the native army is now regarded by military experts as thoroughly effective. Kitchener will have in the neighborhood of thirty thousand native troops and probably two or three British or Indian brigades, with a small squadron of gunboats. At high water the gunboats can pass from Dongola up the Nile to Abuhamed, and beyond that point at the same season there will be easy navigation. The gunboats will be accompanied by a column following probably the general line of the river to Abuhamed, which will be promptly taken if the English plans are successful. Meanwhile the Dervishes are collecting supplies of all sorts and fortifying their position, and the advancing column will be met by sixty or seventy thousand men. It is believed, however, that the old-time fighting quality has gone out of these warriors of the desert, that both their religious and their military zeal has subsided, and that General Kitchener will have very little trouble with them when he finally faces them for a definite struggle.

Among the minor British poets of the day few have been more widely read than Coventry Patmore, who died, after