

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

a brief illness, at Lymington on Thursday of last week, at the age of seventy-three. Mr. Patmore had published a number of volumes of verse, but he was best known by his charming domestic poem, "The Angel in the House," though his best work was done later and is found chiefly in "The Unknown Eros." He was a contributor to a number of English periodicals, and his prose work showed strong æsthetic feeling and a good deal of critical insight. He belonged to the idyllic school, and his special characteristics were refinement and sensitiveness rather than originality and force. His verse, except in a few pieces, lacked spontaneity, but it was always finished, melodious, and often captivating in its sweetness. He was essentially a fastidious rather than a creative poet, but he had many of the qualities which go to the making of great verse. His felicity was not always a matter of calculation; it was largely a natural gift, though, no doubt, very thoroughly cultivated. He was tender and domestic rather than passionate and stirring. The sweetness of domestic life appealed to him with peculiar charm, and he has interpreted the quiet virtues and the quiet life in a very captivating fashion.

We are feeling a natural and increasing interest in the situation in India, a situation every day apparently more serious. We know now that not only does famine exist, but that great regions of country can grow little grain during the coming winter. These winter crops mean much more to India than those of the summer, and hence the famine must be proportionately greater. It is a satisfaction to learn that the Government is far better equipped to meet this emergency than before. Previous famines have taught the powers that be the necessity of forecasting any failure in crops, so that now in each locality both the production and stocks of grain are carefully recorded, and such precise information given to the Government that remedial measures may be quickly taken. We have already commented on the extension of its transportation service, by which the evils of famine have been halved. At the request of the Indian Government, large amounts of carrot-seed have been shipped from England for gratuitous distribution among the famished cultivators. The carrot can be rapidly grown even when winter rains are deficient. Within the past three months over 100,000 village wells have been made in the northern provinces at the Government's expense, and much work has been furnished to the able-bodied poor in the construction of canals and railways. Our attention is also called to the famine by our own exports of wheat to India—an auxiliary to relief never before known in that country. We have thus exerted a good effect in keeping down grain prices there. It is now suggested that our corn may also be profitably exported to India. The effect of the famine on Lancashire cotton-spinners has been notable, since of course the distribution of cloth in the Dependency is lessened. It is said that in the northern part of Lancashire 30,000 looms have already been stopped—about one-twentieth of the whole number in that county and in Cheshire. This, too, has a direct connection with our own country, since our cotton is almost exclusively used to produce the lower qualities of goods sent to India.

The greatest advances in medical science in the last decade have undoubtedly been due to the study of bacteriology. As yet we are probably only beginning to realize the possibilities that the future may make certainties as to methods of treatment of large classes of diseases. A new application of the germ theory, and in a new field, is hoped

for from the coming visit of the famous Dr. Koch to South Africa. In this case not men but cattle are subjects of his proposed experiments. The plague called rinderpest has of late years made fearful ravages among the vast herds of the South African countries. It is the same disease that, in slightly differing forms, has done great damage in all parts of the world; science has heretofore practically admitted itself at fault, at least in curing the diseased animals, and wholesale slaughter of infected herds has been the only way of stopping the pest. It has been suspected, but not certainly known, that the disease is one of germ origin. Dr. Koch is of this opinion, and with the aid of other eminent scientists he will make a thorough bacteriological study of the subject. The importance of the matter is serious, for already in Africa the financial losses are to be measured by millions of dollars, and whole districts are being impoverished. Next to a discovery which should afford a remedy for human disease, a satisfactory mode of dealing with the cattle-plague would be of public service. And all discoveries in the general field of germ-propagation and germ-destruction are steps toward scientific knowledge of unknowable value.

A correspondent sends us a report of a speech delivered by Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Agent of the Peabody and Slater Funds, given in North Carolina, and calls our attention to the following paragraph:

"I don't believe much in the idea of having the United States flag over our schools. I'd like to know what the United States Government has done for our public schools in North Carolina to demand that the flag should hang over them. It never gave a cent to North Carolina schools, except to the A. and M. Colleges. It is a deception and a fraud to put the flag there. It is the State that gives you education.

From personal acquaintance with Dr. Curry, we question whether this paragraph accurately represents him. Certainly the flag is not unfurled in our schools as a symbol of gratitude for money given by the United States to the schools. But there are some other things than money: and the United States gives protection, nationality, a continental fellowship, in a word America, to the schools. The unfurling of the flag is a legitimate method of recognizing that all schools, public and private, collegiate and primary, North and South, are first of all American. It is a wise method of inspiring a patriotic Americanism in the hearts of the school-children. And we rather think that Dr. Curry would himself recognize the truth of this proposition.

Secretary Olney's Defense

Secretary Olney has come to the defense of the Administration from the charge of lukewarmness and inefficiency in protecting Americans and American interests from mobs, murderers, and marauders on Turkish soil. We publish his defense, in full in another column, and with it a letter from Dr. Cyrus Hamlin. We think most of our readers will agree with us that, if the Administration is to be defended at all, it needs a stronger defense than Secretary Olney's. That defense is comprised in four statements: (1) That the American flag was not insulted nor any Americans even present at the massacre at Haskeui; (2) that Dr. Grace Kimball found protection under the American flag at Constantinople; (3) that Americans have suffered less than Englishmen, Frenchmen, and Italians from the massacres; (4) that the chief danger to American missionaries now is from Armenian revolutionists.

To this our response is very simple. (1) Dr. Hamlin