

authority has proceeded for years in the Mush and Talori regions, an agitation instigated by the Armenian Committee abroad. It was the failure successfully to cope with the agitation that finally exasperated the Turkish officials. On the other hand, the Government entirely failed to protect the Armenians from the constant extortions of the Kurds and rapacity of the officials. The Armenians were obliged to pay tribute to the Kurds to prevent their houses from being burned and their cattle stolen, the Government never attempting to prevent such outrages. It was impossible to expect the Armenians to be contented under such conditions. Mr. Shipley concludes that it was not so much the suppression of a pseudo-revolt that was desired by the Turkish officials as the extermination of the Armenians themselves. Since the Sassun affair massacres have occurred at many other places; in the province of Van alone, out of 550 villages 500 have been destroyed. The total number of slain is variously estimated, but just how many thousands were killed will never be known, or how many defenseless creatures suffered a worse fate than death. These outrages are the end of a long similar history—namely, the massacres of the Greeks in 1822, of the Nestorians in 1850, of the Syrians in 1860, of the Cretans in 1867, of the Bulgarians in 1876, and of the Yezidis in 1892. A rumor now obtains that it is Russia's intention to obtain Great Britain's consent to a proposed twenty years' occupation by the former of six vilayets in Anatolia. Great Britain is practically pledged to interfere with force in preventing a foreign occupation of Asia Minor. But for this protection of Turkey from Russia, the Turkish massacres would have been impossible. It is also reported that Russia is willing to assent to Great Britain's permanent acquisition of Cyprus by purchase. The government of that island is now administered by Great Britain under the 1878 convention. It is supposed that the Porte would be the more willing to sell the island since it is in dire need of funds for its treasury.

The question, What is the duty of this country in respect to the present condition of things in Cuba? does not appear to us quite so clear as it appears to some of our contemporaries. One party is quite anxious for interference on behalf of the insurrectionists; another is equally desirous to have us keep our hands entirely off. There can be no question that Cuba has long suffered from incompetent and corrupt misgovernment, and that the insurrection is abundantly justified. There is also little question that in the war which has been pursued the laws of civilized warfare have been disregarded on both sides. If it is true that the removal of General Campos and the appointment of General Weyler signifies a change of policy on the part of the home government, and if Spain means to follow a policy of merciless extermination, there may come to be a duty of protest on our part, and possibly of something more than protest; but we do not see how our Government can officially assume this to be the case, or request beforehand, as the Senate resolutions appear to do, the Spanish Government to observe the laws of civilized warfare in dealing with those who are in rebellion against it. Nor, if we understand the principles of international law, has the rebellion as yet assumed any such proportions as would justify this country in recognizing the insurgents by according to them the rights of belligerents and assuming a position of neutrality between the two contending parties. At present our relations are those of friendship with Spain, and nothing as yet has been accomplished by the revolt which justifies us in sundering those relations

and recognizing the revolutionary party as entitled to the same friendly relations. We may devoutly wish for the consummation of such a condition, but such a condition has not yet been consummated.

On Saturday last the House Bond Bill, with its free-coinage amendment, was finally brought to vote in the Senate. The fact that the bill could not by any possibility become law prevented filibustering tactics against it, though Senator Hill, the champion of *clôture* two years ago, seemed for several days determined upon obstructive tactics. The vote in favor of free coinage—42 to 35—though larger than its enemies had predicted, showed that the new Senators, elected as noncommittal on the currency question, are opponents of free coinage. Senator Baker, of Kansas, tried hard to get a vote upon his amendment providing for the free coinage of the American product of silver, but recorded himself against unlimited free coinage. Senator McBride, of Oregon, and Senator Martin, of Virginia, without explaining their votes, joined the anti-silver forces. The increased strength of the free-coinage supporters was due to their recent legislative victories, to the admission of the new State of Utah, and to the fact that Senators Voorhees and Turpie, of Indiana, and Gordon, of Georgia, who had all been elected as free-coinage advocates, returned to their old allegiance in the absence of any strong pressure to remain away from it. Every member of the Senate either voted or was paired upon the free-coinage proposition. Counting the members paired, the Senate stood 48 to 41 in favor of restoring silver to its former place in the currency. The Democrats divided 24 to 15 in favor of free coinage, the anti-silver minority consisting of Senators Hill and Murphy, of New York, Smith, of New Jersey, Gorman and Gibson, of Maryland, Martin, of Virginia, Faulkner, of West Virginia, Lindsay, of Kentucky, Caffery, of Louisiana, Mills, of Texas, Palmer, of Illinois, Vilas and Mitchell, of Wisconsin, and Brice, of Ohio. The Republicans divided 25 to 20 against free coinage, the pro-silver minority consisting of Senators Cameron, of Pennsylvania, Pritchard, of North Carolina, and all of the 21 Republicans from west of the Missouri except Baker, of Kansas, Thurston, of Nebraska, and McBride, of Oregon. The four Populists, as a matter of course, supported free coinage.

Senator Tillman's maiden speech, "pitchforking" President Cleveland's administration, was the sensation of last week in Congress. The coarseness in his speech was not nearly so marked as the press dispatches indicated; that is, they picked out for our reading the worst passages—but they were all there. When condemning President Cleveland for the construction placed upon the Chicago platform after his election, he speaks of "the elastic conscience of the bull-headed and self-idolatrous man who now holds the reins of power;" when denying the legal authority of the President to issue bonds to redeem greenbacks in anything but coin, he says, "While to this besotted tyrant coin has come to mean gold alone, he cannot by his mere *ipse dixit* change the law of the land and pervert the plain meaning of the English language;" when arraiging representatives of free-coinage constituencies who voted for the suspension of silver coinage, he calls them "bootlicks and sycophants who have crawled on their knees for the crumbs of patronage, and betrayed their constituents for the offices in his gift;" when charging that offices were distributed through such representatives, in payment for their votes, he declares, "In the entire history of the country the high office of President has never been so

prostituted, and never has the appointing power been so abused. Claiming to be the apostle of civil service reform, he has debauched the civil service by making appointments only of those whose sponsors would surrender their manhood." If such language as this is not unparliamentary, it ought to be. Senator Tillman ought to have been called to order at the time. A speech so disfigured is wholly vitiated, and its only effect is to injure the cause it is intended to support.

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It is believed by the anti-Platt element in the Republican party of New York City that one-half of the names upon the rolls, made up in violation of the constitution of the party for the purposes of the last primary election, from which the present County Committee derives its title, were put upon those rolls by fraud. As a protest against these enrollment frauds, a committee of five hundred prominent Republicans has been formed. This action, political, not personal, is indeed a timely one. As Mr. Brookfield says :

"The time has come for the great majority of the party who believe in honest primaries to rise up and assert the power which is theirs. Before such a movement the present organization, with all its pretense of regularity, would be carried down by the weight of the millstone of fraud which is about its neck. I know that this is strong language, and that many impulsively shrink from a division in the party ranks on the eve of a Presidential election, but I believe that the time for strong language and for vigorous action has come, and that there are no party considerations which will justify honest Republicans in acquiescing in such wholesale frauds as have been recently perpetrated in the name of the party. On the contrary, I believe that the approach of the Presidential campaign only emphasizes the importance of creating in this city a clean, vigorous, honest, and representative organization, without which the voting strength of the party cannot be brought out. Unless this step is taken now it will sooner or later be forced upon us by one of those disgraceful defeats at the polls which is invariably the grave of a dishonest party organization."

Mr. Brookfield further remarks that "it is fortunate for the Republican party that the electoral vote of New York State will not be required for the election of a Republican President next November." To all of this the chief of Republican "machine" politics in New York State, Mr. T. C. Platt, replies that "the men who have worked themselves into this bolting are the same malcontents who during many years have been willing to ruin the Republican party if they could not rule it." He adds :

"In fact, they seemed willing to ruin it even if they do rule it, for they do rule it in this local government here in New York City, and their multiplied follies have gone far to prevent a future Republican success in this town. The conduct of the chiefs of the present reform administration has been a thousand times more disgraceful than any of the known transactions of Tammany Hall; bribery and corruption have stalked through the streets day and night; it is no secret that positions with salaries of thousands of dollars a year have been offered to Republican leaders to betray the organization; neither is it a secret that men who have obtained places are threatened with dismissal or have been dismissed when they fail to obey the orders of the bolting bosses. . . . All this talk about fraudulent organization rolls is plainly dishonest. The plan of the party organization was theirs [the bolters']. They supervised every detail of it from first to last; and yet, because it doesn't work so as to put the organization within the control of a little group of Union League Club politicians, they go up on the housetops and scream 'Fraud.' . . . My interest in politics consists only in my ardent and heartfelt desire for the triumph of Republican principles, and I propose to labor for Republican success, with such ability as the Maker has endowed me with, so long as he shall give me life."

This pious ejaculation is in somewhat startling contrast with one made by Mr. Platt's late pastor, Dr. Parkhurst. For on the same day a statement from Dr. Parkhurst appeared in which the Platt methods are described as a mixture of "personal insolence and colossal dare-deviltry that is thrilling." It is not too much to say that we entirely sympathize with this estimate, and also with a previous estimate

of Dr. Parkhurst, namely, that he would "rather fight five Crokers than one Platt." Messrs. Choate, Bliss, Brookfield, Root, and Charles Stewart Smith declare that the recent frauds in enrollment were "rotten to a degree never known before in the history of the party." Mr. Platt's criticism upon the local government of New York City drew a characteristically prompt response from Mayor Strong, who promises to pay \$500 for any authenticated case of such an affair as Mr. Platt mentions. Nothing worthy of report has yet been offered in response to this challenge.

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Those having in charge the Raines Bill to substitute a tax for a license system in New York State have definitely promised to modify its provisions so that no liquor-saloon can be established in a residence district without the consent of neighboring property-owners. This modification removes the most important objection urged against the bill in the public hearings last week. The other objection most frequently urged was half answered by its own overstatement. The bill was denounced as grossly unjust to the cities, because half of the revenues collected were to go to the State treasury. Had this objection been temperately put, it would have had great weight; but, being put in an extreme form, it was easily refuted by the friends of the bill, who showed that the cities would contribute to the State fund but little more than their proportion of any State tax levy. In other words, New York City is not "victimized" because it will contribute nearly 48 per cent. of the State excise fee, while containing but 28 per cent. of the population, because taxation is distributed, not according to population, but according to property, and New York contains 42 per cent. of the taxable property of the State. The large cities are, indeed, overtaxed by the provision objected to, but not in a very marked degree. The present prospects are that the measure will pass; the most serious danger is that its provision for ward local option will be practically eliminated, and this is one of its most valuable features. Public pressure should be exerted by temperance advocates to have it retained.

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For nearly thirty years the system of furnishing free lodgings in the station-houses of this city has been condemned on grounds of health, cleanliness, and morality, but no positive steps to bring it to an end were ever taken until last week. During the past three years, indeed, the system had been discouraged by the attitude of the Police Department, and the number of free lodgings furnished had been reduced from 127,000 in 1893 to 65,000 last year. Last week the department ordered that on February 15 the system should be brought abruptly to an end. Those interested have for years agitated for the construction of a municipal lodging-house, where applicants for lodgings could be sifted, and those ready to work be cared for, while the idle and vicious should be committed for vagrancy. But such an establishment seemed no nearer this year than five or ten years ago, and therefore the department decided that, if a thoroughly good system could not be introduced preliminary to the overthrow of a thoroughly bad one, the thoroughly bad one should be overthrown preliminary to the establishment of a thoroughly good one. After the middle of this month the most hopeful of the applicants for lodgings will be given tickets admitting them to the Wayfarers' Lodge of the Charity Organization Society, while the rest will be sent to the lodging-house of the Charities Department. At this last place no work test is applied to applicants, but baths are insisted upon and some attention is given to the future of