

believe that the way for the United States to keep their gold is to go on to silver. On this point I inclose two cuttings from Cernuschi."

The cuttings from Cernuschi are not published in the "World," but they are doubtless from the recent article in the Paris "Économiste," in which he declared that "inasmuch as England's attitude prevents the realization of international bimetallism, I would not hesitate, were I a citizen of the United States, to become a silver monometallist."

As several States have enacted what have been called "flag laws," that is, laws to compel the flying of the American flag over school buildings during school hours, for the purpose of stimulating patriotism among pupils and students, much interest has been taken in the legal proceedings at Champaign, Ill., to compel the authorities of the University of that State to observe in a proper manner the law of the same character enacted at Springfield last winter. The authorities supposed that by having the flag flying from the flagstaff on the campus during school hours they were complying with the statute. But the matter was taken before the grand jury and an indictment found against them, the ground being that they should have had the flag flying over the buildings themselves. When the case was taken before Judge Francis M. Wright, of the Circuit Court, the constitutionality of the law was raised, and, being decided in the negative, the indictment was quashed. He did not question "the right of the State to have the flag floated on any of its buildings wherever it is appropriate, and whenever it chooses, and in any particular manner it desires to have it floated." What he did question was "whether the Legislature, under the Constitution, has the power to declare the failure to do that in a particular manner is a misdemeanor or crime." In answering this question in the negative, he said:

"The Legislature has the power, under certain limitations, to define what is and what is not a misdemeanor, what is and what is not a crime, but in doing so it must have for its object some sovereign purpose. It must have for its object either the maintenance of the police authority of the State, the morals of the State, or the health of the State. If the legislation in that respect does not fall within some of those subjects or kindred subjects, that all would at first blush see, then an act declared to be a misdemeanor that does not fall within some of those definitions, or something akin to them, would not be a misdemeanor. So, in this case, I think the Legislature has clearly made a mistake in declaring something to be a misdemeanor that never was heard of before. The motion to quash will, therefore, be allowed."

Although an effort has been made in some quarters to twist the decision as a favor to Governor Altgeld, one of the officials indicted, there is no proof to sustain the charge. The fact that the Chicago "Inter-Ocean" and the "Times-Herald" approve the decision indicates that the case was decided upon its merits. If, as the Chicago "Chronicle" alleges, the law was "the result of lobby practices by agents of bunting and flagstaff manufacturers," there is a double reason why the decision should give satisfaction.

In New York recently the Board of Education made a display of partisanship that would do credit to a Tammany ward organization. A letter was presented to the Board urging the appointment of one of the members to a salaried position, although that member had not resigned from the Board. A week later this appointment was made and confirmed by action of the Board, in spite of vigorous protest. The appointee, who had been a recognized candidate for months for the position, did have the grace to retire from the room when the subject of his appointment was put to vote. After he was elected to this salaried position he returned to the room, received the congratulations of his

friends, and took part in the proceedings of the Board. The same session witnessed the appointment of a man to the position of assistant superintendent who has been the subject of adverse criticism in his position as principal for years; and both of these appointments are made for six years. The higher standards of education in this country must be brought to bear on the appointments to the Boards of Education made by mayors. When the majority of men appointed to a school board are known to the community, not because of their political bias and activity in political conflicts, but because of their education, of their integrity, of their devotion to the best interests of the community, politics will be removed from the public-school system, and not till then. The necessity of education in a democracy is constantly proved by the management of the public-school system throughout this country. The Superintendent of Schools in Milwaukee has resigned his position, with this declaration: "I enjoy greatly the work of the school board, and would be glad to keep it up, but the responsibility and the power are not commensurate." It is singular that a nation noted for its keen business sense should administer its public affairs so inefficiently. The position of the Superintendent of Schools in Milwaukee can be paralleled, probably, in the majority of the cities of this country maintaining a public-school system. A man is placed at the head of a system of public instruction who cannot appoint a teacher or displace a teacher without the consent of a body of men who have no knowledge of educational matters. The Milwaukee "Sentinel," in commenting on the resignation of the Superintendent of Schools, says:

"The charge of the schools and the authority that belongs to their superintendence are not vested in the Superintendent, but in reality are held and exercised by eighteen petty ward sovereigns, holding office under appointment of ward aldermen, who are governed, in most cases, by considerations of politics and not by the best interests of the schools."

Mr. A. D. F. Randolph, who died in his seventy-sixth year on Monday of last week, was not only a bookseller of experience and recognized position, but a man of very interesting personality. Beginning life as a clerk, he entered the service of the American Sunday-School Union in 1841, and often described with glee the method of delivering books by wheelbarrow, which was in practice when he came into the business. After an apprenticeship of ten years, which gave him a thorough knowledge of the business, he became a bookseller and established himself at the corner of Broadway and Amity Street. From that day until the time of his death, the firm name of A. D. F. Randolph & Co. was not only well known but highly respected, for Mr. Randolph was a high-minded man who took a deep and generous interest in the making as well as the distribution of books. Although not liberally educated in the schools, he cultivated himself by a long and loving study of literature and by keen observation and large acquaintance with men. His literary taste was sound; he had logical powers of an excellent kind; his discrimination was keen and just, and he was a very interesting talker on many subjects. From the first he looked upon book-selling as a profession rather than as a trade. He made every attempt to organize it, to introduce the professional spirit, and to give the business to which he devoted his life dignity and standing in the community. He regarded the bookseller as the natural friend of the author and the reader as well; one whose function it was to make the public acquainted with the best reading. He was a man of deep feeling and considerable imagination, strongly drawn towards religious subjects, and was the author of many

religious poems, some of which have attained wide popularity. When the monument to Mr. Seward was erected at Auburn, in this State, eight lines of one of Mr. Randolph's sonnets were selected as the most appropriate inscription. He had genuine felicity of expression, generous aspiration, and sincere devotion to the best things in life. Courteous in manner, attractive in speech, helpful and generous, he has left a very pleasant and stimulating memory. He dignified his profession, and it in turn invested him with interest and dignity.

The situation in Crete continues to be both interesting and obscure. It finds its interest in the fact that any point of disturbance at the eastern end of the Mediterranean may become at any instant a point of disturbance in the entire European situation. A further word about the political condition of the island may not be out of place. There are on the island about 270,000 people who call themselves Christians, and about 70,000 who call themselves Mohammedans. The Christian population, therefore, outnumbers the Mohammedan population about four to one. Nearly thirty years ago nominal autonomy was secured for Crete by the action of the Great Powers, and under the Treaty of Berlin definite and material gains were made in the direction of Cretan independence. Manhood suffrage and vote by ballot were secured, together with the establishment of a representative Assembly, elected on a basis of proportional representation of the Christian and Mohammedan populations of the island. The appointment of the Governor was, of course, to be made at Constantinople, but so far as possible the government of the island was distributed between the two faiths, Christians and Mohammedans everywhere sharing together the functions and powers of administration. The Christian population has, however, been much the more active, sagacious, and prosperous, and has secured a great preponderance of influence, not only through preponderance of numbers, but also through superiority of intelligence. This has naturally awakened a bitter animosity among a good many Mohammedans, and political disturbances have followed each other from time to time, the Cretan being naturally, at his best, a restless and somewhat rancorous politician.

The Turkish Government, taking advantage of the continual disturbances, on the occasion of sending a new Governor-General to the island in 1888 sent also an army of about 20,000 men, and at the same time practically nullified most of the rights secured to the island in former years, and placed it practically on the basis of a Turkish province. The Christian population has been restive under this loss of rights, and will undoubtedly continue to be restive, not only until its rights are secured, but until actual independence is secured. The Sultan, as was reported last week, is making very considerable concessions. A new Christian Governor has been appointed, and a meeting of the Assembly of the island has been summoned; but these concessions are interpreted in the light of recent history in Armenia. It is now reported that the popular leaders in Crete have resolved to form a provisional government and to announce the annexation of the island to Greece. It is one thing, however, for the Cretans to make such a disposition of their affairs, and quite another to secure the consent of the Great Powers. The latter will probably not permit any wholesale slaughter on the island, but it is very probable that they will also refuse to consent to the secession of the island from Turkish rule just at present. In any event, the Cretans will probably not have long to wait.

The Turkish Empire has been crumbling for a great many years, but was never so evidently tottering as to-day.

The defeat of the Canadian Conservatives at the polls has now been followed, rather tardily their opponents think, by the resignation of the Conservative Ministry at Ottawa. Sir Charles Tupper had, it is asserted, hopes of securing the reappointment to the Upper House of Parliament of two members of his Ministry who had resigned their seats in that House to contest seats in the Lower House. Such appointments can be made by the Governor-General, but Lord Aberdeen has promptly and very properly declined to strengthen Sir Charles Tupper's party vote in the Upper House by such a step. All public interest is now centered on the course to be followed by Mr. Laurier. His often expressed friendliness to the United States in no way casts doubt on his essential loyalty, and that loyalty is founded in regard for the highest interests of Canada. Mr. Laurier will doubtless be embarrassed by the fact that all appointive offices have been filled by Sir Charles Tupper with partisans, some acts of this kind having been contrary to all recognized principles of the civil service. In a short time, however, Mr. Laurier will gain a firm hold on the reins of government, and will be able to formulate a definite policy. Mr. Laurier has already announced the make-up of his Cabinet. Parliament will meet about the middle of August. A commission to look into the Manitoba school question will, it is expected, be appointed at once.

By almost unparalleled economies the Government of Newfoundland has ended the fiscal year with a surplus. It will be recalled that, after the great bank failures a year and a half ago, the colony seemed utterly bankrupt. In order to meet its obligations it was necessary for the Government to retrench, and it proceeded to do this by abolishing appropriations for roads, special services, and agriculture, and reducing those for schools, poor relief, and the salaries of all public officials. In this way it effected a reduction of \$480,000, or nearly one-fourth, in expenses, and replaces the customary deficit with a surplus of \$200,000. Unfortunately it has made some blunders which keep the colony from gaining as it should from its economies. In selling its bonds through an English syndicate a year ago, the Colonial Secretary agreed to a sinking fund provision by which a certain portion of the bonds should be paid every half-year at their "market" value instead of their par value. The bonds were sold at 94, but already have a market value of 116. The total amount of bonds involved was only \$2,500,000, but the needless loss upon this sum is keenly felt by the 200,000 people of the colony. Their total public debt is now \$17,000,000, or more than four hundred dollars for every family. A considerable portion of this debt, however, was incurred in the building of six hundred miles of railroad along the west coast of the island. The work, which is nearly finished, seems to have been economically performed, and its total cost will hardly exceed \$10,000,000, or \$16,000 a mile. Whether it will be profitable when built is another question, for the territory through which it runs is largely uninhabited. The recent distresses of the colony have caused considerable emigration, and unless the Liberal administration at Ottawa shall open the way to freer commerce with Canada and the United States the future will still be full of embarrassment.

The visit to England of the Boston military organization known as the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company is not in itself a matter of importance, but the cordiality of