

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

its welcome (like the extremely pleasant attitude of press and people toward the Yale crew at Henley, referred to last week) is really significant. The English people seem to have been genuinely surprised at the ill feeling on the part of some Americans which followed the Venezuelan outburst; to have appreciated the better tone expressed by thoughtful and broader-minded Americans; to have recognized that there have been on the English side of the ocean not a few unamiable and would-be patronizing utterances in the past; and to have resolved to take advantage of present opportunities to show us that the old-time sneers of "Saturday Review" writers, and the early war-time predictions that the United States had reached the disastrous end of its experiment in democracy, did not at all represent the present English feeling towards America. Certainly nothing could be more hearty and enthusiastic than the treatment universally accorded the visiting Americans this year. The Queen and the Prince of Wales have joined in the ceremonies in honor of the first military company of this country ever allowed to carry arms into Great Britain, and the public has cheered the American flag vociferously wherever it has appeared. Ambassador Bayard was warmly applauded when, at a dinner in honor of the "Ancients," he said that "Great Britain and the United States realized that there was common ground for a common purpose. On this ground they now planted their feet, standing secure where the logic of common institutions quietly, insensibly, and inevitably led them." Emphasis is given to these words by the semi-official announcement that outline plans for the proposed treaty for international arbitration will soon be made public. At this same dinner Colonel Walker's felicitous reference to Victoria's "queenliness as a woman, and womanliness as a queen" greatly pleased the English loyal sentiment. English papers continue to speak in the warmest terms of the conduct and modesty of the Yale oarsmen; their defeat, chronicled last week, was followed by the complete victory of the Leanders, who outrowed Yale, over all the other competitors for the Grand Challenge Cup.



The situation in Cuba is very difficult to understand, because it is hard to conceive of a condition of things which makes it possible to crowd a comparatively small island with a great body of trained soldiers and yet make no progress whatever in subduing an insurrection very rudely organized. During the thirteen months which ended in April of the present year, Spain sent to Cuba about 120,000 soldiers, together with an immense amount of military material of every kind. During the coming fall she will add to this force about 50,000 additional troops, of course at an enormous expense. The insurrectionists are outnumbered probably about ten to one; and yet no impression is made upon them. The Spaniards are among the best fighting men in the world. Whatever their faults may be, they have never lacked either courage or obstinacy. They were the leaders of the great revival of national spirit which overthrew Napoleon, and their desperate and splendid defense of their country at that time made a great impression upon contemporary Europe. They are as good fighters to-day as they were then. But they are, in the first place, fighting for the retention of an island which has been vilely governed from the start, and they are, in the next place, fighting at a great distance from home. They are badly officered. There are, of course, many skillful and courageous officers in the Spanish army, but there are also a great many incompetent and self-seeking men, and Cuba has long been the hunting-ground of the impecunious

Spaniard, both civil and military. Then, on the other hand, the island is practically made up of a line of seaports, with an interior country very mountainous, densely overgrown, and extremely unhealthful, especially to Spaniards fresh from the Peninsula—more unwholesome for them, it is said, than for men of any other nationality. The insurgents appear in small groups at one point, and as soon as troops are massed against them scatter and disappear, melting into small bands, retreating into the interior through a country which they know by heart, and which is practically inaccessible. The Spaniards are, therefore, carrying on a campaign with a military organization of a high order and a great preponderance of troops against a motley crowd of negroes, mulattoes, and native Cubans, few in numbers, without great generalship, and very loosely organized, but who know every inch of the territory, and who fight their antagonists very much as the Seminole Indians fought the United States from their inaccessible Florida swamps for so many years. This state of things may go on indefinitely. Spain seems resolved to spare neither men nor money, and to keep up the frightful expenditure to which her pride has committed her. It looks very much as if the struggle would continue until one side or the other were worn out by the incessant drain.



The Democratic Platform

The platform adopted by the Chicago Convention shares with the Republican platform the unusual merit of being definite and uncompromising in its statement of principles. For the first time in many years the platforms of the two great parties are practically free from platitudes, from wordy and meaningless arraignments of each other, and from those subtleties and evasions which have made platforms almost useless as expressions of political conviction. The Chicago platform indicates even more clearly than the Republican platform the passing of all the old issues except protection, and the appearance in the field of a group of new questions upon which the country is divided along new lines. It is a Democratic platform in respect to its attitude on the tariff question, on the matter of Government expenditures, and on the foreign policy; it is a Populist platform on every other issue.

The currency question, which a good many politicians have unsuccessfully endeavored to push into the background, is put uncompromisingly to the fore in the Chicago platform, in a series of statements which in their total effect are even more radical than was expected; for the platform, after declaring that the demonetization of silver has resulted in the appreciation of gold, and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities, goes on to affirm unalterable antagonism to monometallism, which it holds to be "a British policy, not only un-American, but anti-American;" demands the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation; declares that the standard silver dollar should be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that such legislation should be enacted as will prevent in future the demonetization of any kind of legal-tender money by private contract. This is a clear, radical, and logical statement of the extreme free-coinage doctrine. With the statement that the demonetization of silver has resulted in a great fall of prices and in corresponding depression and distress The Outlook is in fullest sympathy. As it believes that Populism is the logical outcome of the policy of protection, so it believes that the extreme free-coinage policy which has taken possession of so large a part of our population is the logical outcome