

**LYNCH LAW.**—The number of incidents that have come to the notice of the compiler is thirty-three—all in the former slave states. Of the victims twenty-nine were negroes; and the offense charged was actual or attempted rape of a white woman in seventeen cases, and murder in most of the others. The state authorities have manifested in most cases great activity in thwarting and in prosecuting the lynchers, but difficulties in the way of success are often insuperable. An illustration of the obstacles that have to be overcome is found in the fact that a Mississippi farmer who turned state's evidence in a lynching case last year was assassinated in his bedroom in March. Light was thrown on the uncertainty of reports on lynching affairs by the discovery in January of a negro, who, with a fellow-criminal, was supposed to have been lynched in Alabama, in 1894. The two had been taken from the officers of the law by a mob, but, it appears, had escaped from their captors. As the negroes were under legal sentence of life imprisonment, they naturally did not reveal the truth; and as the governor offered large rewards for the members of the mob, the latter failed to make public all they knew. In this case "lost in the woods"—the euphemism commonly employed in the South to describe the fate of a negro seized by a mob—expressed the literal truth.

## II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

**TURKEY AND THE CHRISTIANS.**—The affairs of the Ottoman power have continued throughout the period under review to form the chief point of international interest. For the first three months the questions involved in the Armenian massacres were most conspicuous; during the last three months the situation in Crete and Greece took precedence. In respect to the **Armenians**, the diplomatic pressure exerted by the powers resulted in a general amnesty, December 22, to both Christians and Mohammedans who had been concerned in the disturbances. The efforts to secure the operation of the administrative reforms which the Sultan had promised were less successful. Orders issued by the Porte for putting into effect desired changes were followed by no results whatever. Toward the end of November, however, the Russian Czar, who had up to that point opposed all threats of force by the powers, gave way to the extent of agreeing to consider methods of coercion in case reforms demanded by all the powers could be secured in no other way. This attitude removed the most serious obstacle in the way of effective pressure, and was reported to have made a profound impression on the Sultan. The ambassadors of the powers at once proceeded, in a series of conferences, to concert a precise plan of operations. This task was not completed till February 8, when the result was submitted to the respective governments. At just that time, however, the Cretan question assumed a critical character; and, in the developments which followed, the other matter, so far as public information is concerned,

disappeared from view. A fresh outburst of fanaticism, in the middle of March, resulted in the killing of from fifty to a hundred Armenians at Tokat, in Asia Minor, and the pillage of the Armenian quarter. This was followed by the usual "vigorous protests" by the powers, and a special commission was sent out by the Porte to investigate the responsibility of the Turkish officials for the trouble. — **The crisis in Crete** was precipitated by an outbreak of hostilities at Canea, February 5, between Mohammedans and Christians. The vaunted reforms which the powers had undertaken to secure (see last RECORD) had not gone fully into effect, and the conflict seems to have been merely a renewal of the old friction which the reforms had been intended to remove. The outbreak was followed at once by fighting from one end of the island to the other, on the familiar lines — the Mohammedans, supported by the Turkish garrisons, holding the coast towns, and the Christians holding the open hill country. In Greece sympathy for the Christians took at once a very demonstrative form, and the government promptly dispatched a flotilla to the scene of the disturbances, with arms and provisions for the insurgents. On February 14, a Greek war-ship fired upon a Turkish transport that was conveying aid to the government forces. In response to the protests addressed to the Greek government, at the instance of the Sultan, by the powers, the government proclaimed its resolution to protect the Christians in Crete, and for that purpose to occupy the island. On the following day a force of 1500 Greek troops, dispatched from Athens, landed near Canea. At the same time the war-ships of the powers, which had assembled in large numbers, landed marines in the town to protect it. Similar action was taken at the other towns which the Christian insurgents were threatening; and on several occasions the foreign vessels were obliged to open fire on the assailants to make them keep at a proper distance. Neither Cretans nor Greeks, however, attacked the foreign troops. Throughout western Europe much popular sympathy for the cause of the Christians in Crete was manifested, and much popular applause was bestowed on the Greeks. On February 22 it was announced, however, by the governments of Great Britain, France and Germany, in reply to questions in the respective legislatures, that the six powers were resolved to act together in pacifying Crete, and that the intervention of Greece would not be tolerated. The scheme of the powers was embodied in collective notes presented to the Greek and Turkish governments on March 2. It provided for administrative autonomy for Crete, under the suzerainty of the Porte, and declared that annexation to Greece was out of the question "under present circumstances"; the Greek government was accordingly ordered to withdraw its military and naval forces from the island within six days under penalty of compulsion. The Porte promptly signified acquiescence in the plan of the powers. Greece, however, declared that the scheme of autonomy "unhappily cannot correspond to the noble intentions that inspired it"; pleaded for the annexation of the island; and declined to withdraw her land

forces, on the ground that that would be to "abandon the Cretan people to the mercy of Mussulman fanaticism and the Turkish army." She asked, finally, that the choice of government be left to the people of the island. This practical defiance of the powers was followed, after some days of delay, by the announcement of a blockade of the Island of Crete by the allied fleets, and the reënforcement of the occupying marines by infantry. The blockade was formally proclaimed on March 16, and became operative on the 21st. The Greek war-ships withdrew; but the land force intrenched itself in a strong position and continued to give moral, if not physical, support to the insurgents. The latter paid no attention to the project of autonomy, but kept up their operations against the Turkish garrisons, whom the allied fleets were called upon repeatedly to defend. It was announced by the admirals that the blockade would last only until the Greek force withdrew from the island; and it was understood that the withdrawal of the Turkish troops would follow that of the Greeks. A proposition to blockade the ports of Greece was said to have been urged very strongly by the German Emperor; but the British government, probably fearing public sentiment at home, seems to have withheld its consent to such action.— **War between Greece and Turkey** broke out in connection with the situation in Crete. While that situation was developing both nations had been calling out their reserves and concentrating armies on the Thessalian frontier, with a view to any contingencies. The war fever ran high in Greece; and as the forces confronted each other, the chances of a collision became very great. On April 5 it was announced that the powers had made to Greece and Turkey a joint declaration that, in case of a conflict, the aggressor would be held responsible for all consequences, and in no case would be permitted to derive any advantage from the struggle. Fighting was actually begun on the 9th, by a body of Greek irregulars, who, under the auspices of the National League, a patriotic society, crossed into Macedonia and attacked a Turkish position. The regular Greek officers disavowed this movement, and were said to have exerted themselves vigorously to prevent it. Fighting continued, however, at various points; and on April 18, the Porte, on the ground that the aggressions of the irregulars had been supported by the Greek regular army, broke off diplomatic relations and ordered the Turkish army to cross the frontier. Hard fighting began at once at all the passes through the mountains that constitute the boundary. The Turks were superior in numbers and forced the Greeks steadily back till on the 24th Larissa, the base of the Greek position, was captured. A new position was then taken by the defeated army at Pharsalos, on the southern border of the Thessalian plain, but on May 6 the Turks, after a general engagement, drove the Greeks from this line also. Meanwhile the Greek-fleet had bombarded several towns along the coast of the Gulf of Salonica, but without important results; and on the western coast of Epirus, Greek forces, after making some progress in Turkish territory and threatening Janina,

were driven back to their original positions. The reverses in the field provoked great popular irritation at Athens. The Delyannis cabinet fell April 29, and was succeeded by a ministry headed by M. Ralli. Demonstrations of hostility to the king and royal family were frequent, and there was apparently danger of a revolution. The great powers were known to be in consultation over the situation, but no steps toward intervention were made public.

**GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.** — The usual pre-Parliamentary political discussions during November and December turned chiefly on the question of **Irish financial relations**. On the basis of the royal commission's report, noticed in the last RECORD, a very active agitation developed in Ireland for a readjustment of taxation in favor of that part of the United Kingdom. Home Rulers and Unionists, noble landlords and dynamiters, united in supporting the demand and in denouncing the injustice of the existing system. On the other side, it was maintained that no grievance really existed; that the royal commission had been "packed" in favor of Home Rule and had reported in that sense; that there was no justification for treating Ireland as a distinct taxable entity; and that if Irishmen actually paid disproportionate taxes, it was merely a result of their greater consumption of whiskey. The question seemed at one time likely to play a prominent part in the work of Parliament, but the government avoided this by announcing, at the opening of the session, that a new royal commission would be appointed to deal with the matter, and especially to consider the extent to which the greater relative outlay on the government of Ireland could operate as a set-off against the greater contribution. A short debate on this subject in the Commons at the end of March was followed by a vote of 317 to 157 in favor of the government. — **Parliament** assembled January 19. The Queen's Speech dealt largely with foreign and colonial affairs, and declared that the present condition of the world required a continuation of "prudent foresight" in providing for the defense of the empire. Chief among the measures announced was that dealing with primary education, and especially with the voluntary schools. The Voluntary Schools Bill, as explained by Mr. Balfour on February 1, avoided the complexity of the bill which had failed at the preceding session, and provided merely that such schools should be exempted from the payment of rates, and should be further aided by an allotment of 5s. per pupil from the exchequer. The distribution of the money was to be directed by the Education Board, in coöperation with associations organized by the schools according to sect. The opposition to this bill was not very serious, and it passed in the Commons, March 25, by a majority of 200. In accordance with a program previously announced, Mr. Balfour introduced in April a bill giving aid to necessitous board schools also. The omission of such aid had been the chief ground for opposition to the earlier measure. The budget presented by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, April 29, indicated an unusually prosperous year. A surplus of £2,473,000 was revealed, but no reduction of taxation

was proposed. Among the additional expenditures resolved upon was £200,000 for an increase of the British garrison in South Africa. — Foreign affairs gave rise to the most animated **party contests** of the session. The Liberals in general, and the more radical wing in particular, assumed a very critical attitude toward the government's Cretan policy. Lord Salisbury's adherence to "the European concert" was assailed as a mere submission to Russian lead, and the use of force against the Christians in Crete was violently denounced. The Earl of Kimberley, who had been chosen at the opening of the session to succeed Lord Rosebery as Liberal leader in the upper house, announced definitely his repudiation of the "integrity of the Ottoman Empire" as a principle of British policy. The trend of Liberal thought, both in and out of Parliament, was accentuated by a letter of Mr. Gladstone, published March 18, in which he eloquently advocated the cause of Greece, and raged against the whole course of the "European concert" in dealing with Turkey. As to the government, Lord Salisbury confessed at the opening of the session that in sustaining the Porte against the projects of Nicholas I in the Crimean days, Great Britain had "put its money on the wrong horse"; but he insisted that the only way to avoid woes now, as great as those of the Crimea, was to act in coöperation with the other powers. When the Cretan difficulty arose, the government's course was justified on the same reasoning, as well as on the necessity of protecting the Moslems in Crete from massacre by the Christians. In the House of Commons Sir William Harcourt, leading the Liberals, harassed the government severely on several occasions, but declined Mr. Balfour's challenge to move a vote of censure. — The Irish Parliamentary Party manifested throughout the session the usual factional differences. An attempt in March to bring together on the financial issue all the representatives of Ireland, including Conservatives, proved abortive. It was considered significant that at the annual conference of the National Liberal Federation at Norwich, in March, the program contained no specific reference to Irish Home Rule. — The parliamentary committee to investigate the Transvaal raid began its work in February. Mr. Cecil Rhodes came from Africa to give testimony. He admitted that the project practically originated with himself, and that it was intended to extend the British Empire. It was justified, he believed, by the treatment of the *uitlanders* by the Boers. The inquiry had not ended at the close of this RECORD.

**THE BRITISH COLONIES AND INDIA.** — In Canada the settlement of the long-pending Manitoba school question was announced in November. Prime Ministers Laurier, of the Dominion, and Greenaway, of Manitoba, concluded an agreement under which the schools were all to be subject to the control of the provincial authorities, to be held to a uniform standard of efficiency and to use the same text-books. Religious teaching for a half hour daily by any Christian clergyman was provided for, when demanded by a given number of parents, but no child was to be obliged,

without his parents' consent, to attend this teaching. Where forty children in a city or town, or twenty-five in the country, should require either a Catholic or a non-Catholic teacher, the demand was to be granted, provided that the non-religious qualifications of all teachers should be the same. This agreement failed to satisfy many of the leading Catholic clergy; it was ratified, however, by the Manitoba legislature, March 25, and went into effect as law. On that day the Dominion Parliament opened at Ottawa. The chief measures announced in the governor-general's speech were a revision of the tariff and a change in the franchise law so as to leave the regulation of the suffrage to the various provinces. The tariff bill, as published in April, embodied a general reduction of duties, the establishment of preferential rates for British goods and a very decided discrimination against products of the United States, subject, however, as the finance minister declared, to modification in case the burdens on Canadian products were removed from the Dingley Bill. — In the **Australian colonies** the legislative sessions of the autumn closed without the enactment of the radical measures that were proposed and in some cases passed by the lower houses. In both Victoria and New South Wales referendum bills were killed in the Legislative Councils. The movement for federation, on the other hand, made very decided progress. During the winter West Australia passed an enabling act for the constitutional convention, leaving only Queensland standing aloof from the scheme. Early in March delegates to the convention were elected — ten in each of the five colonies participating, and on the 22d the convention assembled at Adelaide. A series of resolutions was at once submitted by a delegate from New South Wales and soon adopted, proposing principles on which the constitution should be framed. These included the retention by the respective colonies of powers not delegated to a central organ; the exclusive control of customs and excise taxes, and of military and naval affairs, by the federal parliament; and absolute freedom of trade among the federated colonies. Subject to these conditions, it was resolved to establish a bicameral legislature, a federal supreme court, and an executive consisting of a governor-general appointed by the queen and a ministry responsible to the legislature. The convention's work had not been completed at the close of this RECORD. — The stress of **famine and plague in India** has absorbed the energies of the political authorities. Severe drought in large districts made famine probable by the end of the summer, and the pressure began to be felt in October. Active measures for dealing with the situation were begun by the Indian government in November, and by the middle of March the number of persons receiving relief had risen to over 3,000,000. Public works on an extensive scale were carried on to give employment. Private aid was enlisted throughout the empire, and huge funds were raised by subscription. The Mansion-House fund alone, managed by the Lord Mayor of London, had reached in April £500,000. Non-British lands also contributed largely. With the maturing of crops in the spring some improvement was manifest in the general situation, but it was

anticipated that the distress would be acute in some regions until near the end of the year. The bubonic plague made its appearance in the autumn at Bombay and in some other parts of western India. Its ravages were confined mostly to the natives, and the efforts of the government to stamp it out met with almost insuperable obstacles in the unsanitary habits and the social and religious prejudices of the people. By the end of the winter, however, a system of control had been put in operation, sometimes by the strong hand, and the danger of a very wide spread of the pestilence had been greatly reduced. The most decisive measure was an act authorizing the governor-general to prohibit infected persons from leaving their province. This was adopted late in February, as the fear of consequences if Mohammedan pilgrims were detained was dominant at first. Even the Mohammedans, however, later became reconciled to the system.

**FRANCE.**—The course of political life has been exceptionally placid. The Chambers have been in session throughout the period under review, except for a recess at the holidays. M. Méline has maintained his position at the head of the government without serious difficulty. Radical attacks by interpellation have been frequent but unavailing. In March the Chamber of Deputies took a definite step toward restraint of obstruction by adopting a provisional rule that interpellations can be made only on Saturdays. The ministry received a slight check by the passage, November 17, of a bill simplifying the method of electing senators. Though its consideration was opposed by the government, the bill passed, by 297 to 238; a further motion requiring the government to press the measure in the Senate was voted down, 311 to 241, and accordingly no change in ministry occurred.—Most of the parliament's attention was devoted to the budget for 1897, which was finally voted on March 29. Of other legislation the most important actually effected was that increasing the export bounties on beet sugar, to meet similar action by Germany and Austria-Hungary.—The elections for one-third of the senators, held January 3, resulted in a triumph for the Moderate Republicans. Where the Radicals opposed the Moderate candidates, the opposition in nearly all cases failed.—The Panama scandal came into some prominence at the end of March through a confession made by Arton, the lobbyist chiefly concerned in the bribery. Proceedings were instituted against several deputies and senators who were implicated by Arton's exposure, but no convictions followed.

**GERMANY.**—The work of the Reichstag has gone very little beyond the discussion of the budget and other routine business. Even in this the inability of the government to secure a certain majority has been very clearly demonstrated. In March, in connection with the naval estimates, the minister of marine brought forward a scheme for greatly increasing the navy, and demanded a large appropriation to put the scheme in operation. The project was understood to have emanated from the emperor, but the Reichstag refused, March 20, by 204 to 143, to grant the desired money. This vote was followed by the retirement of Admiral Hollman, the minister of



marine. Conservatives and National Liberals supported the government, but the Clericals decided the matter against it. Another project that failed was the amendment of judicial procedure, insuring, among other things, a right of appeal in criminal cases and compensation for persons unjustly accused. The Reichstag inserted in the bill an amendment providing that editors need not reveal the names of writers in their papers. The government resisted this amendment, and when it was adopted withdrew the bill. On the other hand, a private member's bill for the repeal of the Jesuit-Exclusion Law was passed, April 3, but with no hope of approval by the Bundesrath. In the middle of March the latter body adopted and sent to the Reichstag a bill to regulate emigration, which provided for a rigorous imperial supervision of companies and vessels engaged in forwarding emigrants, and was avowedly aimed at so controlling the destination of the emigrants as to promote their highest welfare as well as the ultimate welfare of the German race as a whole. A new Code of Commerce, supplementing the Imperial Civil Code, was adopted by the Reichstag April 7, to go into effect with the Civil Code in 1900. — When, on January 1, the new **Bourse Law** (see last RECORD) went into effect, the produce exchanges at Berlin and other cities dissolved their organizations, but the members at once resumed business under other forms devised to evade the provisions of the law. The authorities claimed that the new associations were also subject to the law, but up to the close of this RECORD no definite step has been taken toward enforcing the legislation against them. — Certain phases of militarism have formed a prominent topic of public discussion during the period under review. Early in the autumn, at Carlsruhe, a young lieutenant named Brüsewitz, considering himself insulted by an artisan who brushed against him in a *café*, demanded an apology from the offender, and, when it was not forthcoming, run him through with a sword and killed him. The officer was tried by a military court and sentenced to dismissal from the army and four years' confinement in a fortress. Heated discussion in the press and in the Reichstag followed this incident, and the practice of duelling and the whole code of conduct among army officers was severely commented on. The emperor disapproved the court's disposition of the Brüsewitz case and ordered a new trial, which resulted in January in a sentence of the offender to imprisonment for three years. Meanwhile the emperor issued a decree, January 1, supplementary to existing regulations on courts of honor and duels among officers. To prevent duels more effectively, it was enjoined upon officers to end their quarrels by reconciliation, "so far as professional honor and good manners (*gute Sitten*) permit," and a procedure was laid down through which a council of honor should coöperate in effecting such reconciliation. It was made the duty of officers to lay their disputes before this council and to accept its decisions, subject to an appeal to a court of honor, whose judgment should be final. No definite penalty was prescribed, however, for a failure to conform to this method of settlement. In case a challenge should be given or accepted before or pending action of a coun-



cil of honor, the decree merely provided that the matter should be reported to the emperor. — **The Prussian Landtag** met November 20. A very favorable financial situation was revealed by the budget, which produced a good surplus instead of the expected deficit. The work of the session concerned chiefly routine matters.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.** — The central point in Austrian politics has been the **elections for the Reichsrath** for the first time under the new electoral law. The old Reichsrath, after finishing routine business, was dissolved January 23, and the elections were ordered for March 4-15. The campaign and its results emphasized what recent events had clearly revealed — the wreck of the German-Liberal Party through the great strength of the anti-Semitic and Clerical movements. The German Liberals secured only seventy-seven members, as compared with one hundred and nine in the former house; the German Nationalists, recently split off from the Liberals, secured thirty-nine; the Czechs, sixty-three; and the Poles, fifty-nine. The anti-Semites and Christian Socialists made marked inroads on most of the national groups, and through the new *curia* the Social Democrats secured about a dozen seats. The new Reichsrath was opened, March 29, with a speech from the emperor which promised a large number of projects for social improvement, including an extension of the workingmen's insurance system. The chief item in the program of the session, however, was declared to be the ratification of the adjustment with Hungary. In connection with the efforts to form a majority under the new party conditions, the Badeni cabinet submitted its resignation to the emperor April 2; but the resignation was not accepted, and after an interval the ministry, having received a public assurance of the imperial favor, settled down to its work again. An imperial ordinance requiring a greater use of the Czechish language in official business in Bohemia was put in force in April, and was regarded as a concession designed to secure the support of the Young Czechs for the government. This ordinance was the basis for a motion, May 6, to impeach Prime Minister Badeni and other ministers for gross violation of their powers. The motion was voted down on the 8th by 203 to 163. — Dr. Lueger, the anti-Semite leader, having been elected burgomaster of Vienna, was this time confirmed by the emperor (*cf.* RECORD for June, 1896, p. 390).

**RUSSIA.** — The **financial condition** of the empire, as set forth by Minister Witte in January, was very prosperous. Though there was a deficit in 1896, the increases in revenue were so marked that in the ordinary budget a surplus was assured for 1897, due largely to the development of the trans-Siberian railway. An extraordinary expenditure of over 120,000,000 roubles was provided for, devoted altogether to railway construction; and this sum was to be met by the surplus in the ordinary revenue, together with drafts upon the treasury reserve. Preparations have been made for pressing forward work upon the 900 miles of railway through northern Manchuria, which, by permission of China, are to form the last link in the chain uniting European Russia with the Pacific. The finance minister announced

also that the arrangements for putting the monetary system on a gold basis were approaching completion. — On January 13 it was announced that Count Muravieff would succeed the deceased Prince Lobanoff as minister of foreign affairs. The leaning toward France previously displayed by the new minister caused for a time a panicky feeling in the German press. — An undercurrent of **discontent among the university students** throughout Russia has been manifested on two occasions in extensive public demonstrations. In Moscow, November 30, a large body of students took part in a public ceremony in memory of those killed in the disaster at the coronation of the Czar (see last RECORD), and indulged in manifestations of disrespect toward the authorities. Several hundred students were arrested, and the ringleaders were imprisoned. Thereupon demonstrations of sympathy for the prisoners were made on a large scale by the students at St. Petersburg, Kazan, Kieff and other university towns. In March occurred another outbreak, this time at Kazan, where the suicide of a woman student who was in prison as a political suspect was said by her fellows to have been caused by an attempt of an official to outrage her. On this occasion a thousand arrests were made. In April it was reported that the authorities had discovered the manifold apparatus by which the appeals to the students and other seditious matter had been printed, with much evidence of a widespread revolutionary organization.

**ITALY.** — A general election has been the only incident of importance in the abnormally placid political life of Italy. The old parliament was in session from November 30 to January 21, and carried through certain legislation, chiefly of financial character. The treaty with France in reference to Tunis (see last RECORD) was ratified with little opposition. Dissolution of the Chamber followed the final adjournment. The elections took place March 21 and resulted in a sweeping victory for the government, the opposition securing only about 150 seats out of 500. The new parliament assembled April 5. In the king's speech a program of educational, judicial, administrative and social reform was announced, a maintenance of the *status quo* in Africa and a steady support of the concert of the powers in Eastern affairs. The assurance of an equilibrium in the budget was proclaimed with especial satisfaction. A test vote on an interpellation on foreign policy stood 278 for the ministry to 132 against. This seemed to point to a long lease of power for Premier Rudini. — On April 22 a lunatic attempted to stab King Humbert as the latter was driving in Rome, but the king received no injury.

**SPAIN AND HER COLONIES.** — The situation in Cuba at the close of this RECORD seemed on the whole more favorable to Spain than at any time since the outbreak of the insurrection. Financially the government was relieved of its immediate straits in November by the domestic loan then issued (see last RECORD). The opening of 250,000,000 pesetas of this loan to popular subscription on the 16th was the occasion of a great patriotic demonstration in the large cities, and the sum was subscribed for more

than twice over. It was reported in April, however, that the treasury was again in difficulty and that another loan was under negotiation. From a military point of view some progress has been made in breaking the insurgent power in Cuba, though nothing decisive has been effected. In Pinar del Rio General Weyler's expedition in force in November drove the insurgents to their mountain strongholds, and occupied the open country. Maceo, the insurgent commander, left the province early in December, and passed by boat around the *trocha* to the province of Havana. There he was killed in a skirmish on December 4. His successor in Pinar del Rio, General Rivera, was captured by the Spaniards March 28. The Cuban cause at that end of the island appears to have lost all important military cohesion, though large Spanish forces are necessary to hold the province against guerrilla uprisings. In January General Weyler proceeded eastward to drive the insurgents systematically out of the provinces of Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara. His operations have not been successful in bringing the insurgents to a pitched battle, and the campaign has consisted only in a series of petty engagements in which success has been about equally divided. From their mountain strongholds the Cubans harass all parts of the central provinces and destroy the sugar estates which obey the governor-general's orders to grind cane; while the Spanish columns devastate those which do not obey. The financial and economic condition of the island remains as bad as possible. The forced circulation of paper money has produced serious disorders in some of the towns. — **In the Philippines** the fighting in November and December went against the Spaniards; but toward the end of March the chief strongholds of the insurgents were, after a long siege, carried by the government troops, and the end of the uprising became merely a matter of time. — A large degree of **administrative autonomy for Puerto Rico and Cuba**, which had been voted by the Cortes in March, 1895, but withheld from operation on account of the rebellion, was proclaimed operative in the former province by royal decree January 1. On February 6 the reforms applicable to Cuba were published, with a provision that they would be put in force when order should be restored and every attempt at separation should have ceased. The scheme gives to municipalities the choice of their own officers and control of local taxes and of education; establishes for the island an administrative council of thirty-five members (twenty-one of whom are elective by the people), with control of the Cuban finances; provides for the preferential treatment of Spanish products in Cuban tariffs; and requires that the higher administrative and judicial officers, appointed by the governor-general, shall be either natives of Cuba, or Spaniards of two years' residence therein. There is careful provision in various parts of the project for authority in the governor-general to maintain the paramount rights of Spain as against any tendency in the local organs to disregard them. This project of reform was looked upon as designed to comply with the suggestion of President Cleveland's message as to conciliation (*supra*, p. 354). The

insurgent leaders promptly declared, however, that it was insincere and that in no case would they accept it. In April General Weyler notified the home government that the western and central provinces of Cuba were sufficiently pacified, and accordingly, on the 29th, a royal decree was signed directing the new system to be put into operation in those districts.

**MINOR EUROPEAN STATES.** — The relations between **Norway** and **Sweden** have manifested no evidence of improvement in the latest period of political activity. It was announced in December that the negotiations for a renewal of the commercial and shipping treaty between the two lands had failed. The Swedish parliament formally denounced the treaty during the winter, and in July, 1897, its provisions go out of operation. The severance of union in this respect does not promise success for the joint commission which is laboring to devise a scheme for strengthening the bonds between the two kingdoms. — In **Denmark** a conflict developed in March, between the ministry and the Folkething over the finances, and between the ministry and the Landsting over a radical project for agrarian reform. A situation arose like that which was terminated in 1894 (*cf.* this RECORD for June, 1894) and resort had to be made to a provisional budget. — In **Switzerland** a project of law establishing a national bank, with exclusive power of issuing notes, was rejected on referendum, February 28, by 247,000 to 192,000. The attention of the governmental bodies has been chiefly concerned with projects for old-age and accident insurance, for the unifying of civil and criminal law, and for the nationalization of the chief railway systems. A plan for the last-named purpose was presented by the Bundesrath to the legislature in March. — **Portugal** experienced a ministerial crisis at the beginning of February, caused by financial questions. The Robeiro cabinet was supplanted by one presided over by Senhor Luciano de Castro. — In the **Danubian states** political life has been without incidents of great importance. In **Bulgaria** a new Sobranje was elected in November, with little opposition to the government's candidates, and the work of the session that began in December was chiefly routine. The war between Greece and Turkey excited no demonstrations in any of the Danubian States. Possibly the situation brought, more promptly than would otherwise have happened, the gratification of certain demands of Bulgaria and Servia as to ecclesiastics in Macedonia. These states, together with Roumania and Montenegro, received in April the official thanks of Russia and Austria for their correct conduct. The trial of three persons accused of complicity in the murder of Stambouloff in 1895 resulted, December 30, in the conviction of two of them and their sentence to three years' imprisonment. In Servia a cabinet crisis at the end of December resulted in the retirement of the Novakovitch ministry and the accession of one under the presidency of M. Simitch. The change was declared to have only internal significance. Roumania's legislature opened its session November 27 with an address from the throne declaring both internal and external conditions to be most satisfactory. A cabinet crisis soon followed, due mainly to personal and

factional causes. Premier Stourdza retired in favor of M. Aurelian ; but in April the latter in turn was forced out, and the Stourdza cabinet resumed power.

**AFRICA.** — Events in the sphere of British interests have attracted most attention in connection with this continent. As to the **expenses of the Dongola expedition** (*cf.* last RECORD) the court of appeals at Alexandria, on December 2, sustained the lower court's decision that the application of funds to that purpose by the commissioners of the public debt was illegal, and required that the money taken from the reserve should be returned. Great Britain promptly agreed to lend Egypt the amount necessary to satisfy this requirement ; and it was pointed out in both Great Britain and France that the former's hold on Egypt was rather strengthened by the financial relation thus established. To that extent the incident as a whole presents a French legal and a British political victory. The revenue of Egypt for 1896 was exceptionally large, and the surplus reserve was raised to £6,444,000. — Two little wars in the Niger region have increased British power there. For massacring a peaceful trading expedition the king of Benin was conquered and dethroned in February, and his possessions near the Niger delta annexed to the British Coast Protectorate. At the same time the Royal Niger Company's forces were engaged some hundreds of miles up the river in a campaign which resulted in the overthrow of the powerful Mohammedan state of Nupé and the extension of the company's control over its territory. — By decree of the sultan in April the legal *status* of slavery was abolished in Zanzibar. This act gave great satisfaction to a public sentiment in England that has been very active ever since Zanzibar became a British protectorate. — **The situation in the Transvaal** has been characterized by many manifestations of suspicion as to British designs on the country. The great popular demonstrations in the Cape Colony in favor of Cecil Rhodes, when he passed through on his way to England, served to confirm the Boers in their fear of aggression. An Alien Immigration Act passed by the Volksraad in November was complained of by the British government as in conflict with treaty obligations. The act required that all aliens entering the Transvaal should furnish guaranties of ability to support themselves, and should be equipped with passports renewable every three months. The Boers declared this to be a necessary police measure in view of the great number of laborers attracted by the mining industry. A decision of the supreme court at the end of January caused trouble between the Volksraad and the judiciary. The court held valid a mining claim that had been set aside by executive order, confirmed by resolution of the Volksraad, the judges holding that under the constitution private property could not be taken without compensation. The Volksraad thereupon passed a bill, in February, expressly denying to the court the right to overrule acts of the legislature as unconstitutional, and modifying the constitution and tenure of the court. The judges, when called upon to conform to this act, agreed only upon the understanding that the more offensive clauses should be repealed

and the independence of the court be left intact. It was reported that the British government complained of the Volksraad's proceeding as endangering the property rights of *witlanders*. During the winter the Transvaal government submitted a claim against Great Britain of £1,677,938 for damage inflicted by the Jameson raid. Throughout the spring the construction of fortifications and the importation of military stores were actively carried on by the Transvaal government, while a visit of President Kruger to the Orange River Free State was supposed to signify an attempt to form an alliance. The British government kept up an animated protest against the Transvaal's acts, as tending to derogate from British supremacy in South Africa. In April additional troops were sent to the Cape Colony, and on the 22d a fleet of eight war-ships appeared in Delagoa Bay. This demonstration, taken in connection with declarations by Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary at London, that British supremacy would be maintained at all hazards, increased the general tension. — The relinquishment by Italy of her protectorate over **Abyssinia** left King Menelik, as master of his own foreign relations, an object of much interest to the British and French governments. A French mission to the Abyssinian capital started in November and by spring had concluded a commercial convention and was said to be negotiating certain political relations. In March a British envoy proceeded to Abyssinia, to secure the regulation of territorial questions concerning the upper Nile region. An Italian garrison has remained in possession of Kassala, but avowedly only to hold the Dervishes in check on behalf of British interests in Egypt. — The French in **Madagascar** have, after considerable resistance by native tribes, established their power in effective form. Slavery has been abolished and the educational system put on a sound basis. At the beginning of March the Hova queen, Ranavalona, who had been allowed to retain a nominal authority, was finally deposed and banished to the Island of Réunion.

**THE ORIENT.** — The political life of **Japan** has been relatively peaceful. In the parliamentary session which opened December 22 the most important legislation effected was that establishing a gold standard for the currency. For the silver money was substituted a gold coinage at the ratio of  $32\frac{1}{2}$  to 1. Silver coins were limited in legal-tender character. This act was passed in March. A bill in reference to freedom of the press was brought forward by the government, but its fate was still undecided at the close of this RECORD. It provided for a considerable limitation of the government's power to suspend publication of newspapers, and for judicial process in all save a limited range of offenses. The death of the crown prince of Japan was announced in March. — The terms of a treaty concluded at the end of September, if correctly reported, have greatly enhanced the **influence of Russia in China**. The Russians secured the right to run 900 miles of railway, in completion of their trans-Siberian line, through Chinese Manchuria, and in addition to build a line, if China should not decide to do it, connecting this system with Moukden and Port Arthur. China reserved

the right to purchase the lines at the end of thirty years, but conceded to Russia in the meantime the right to maintain troops at important points to protect the lines. An arrangement was also said to have been embodied in the treaty by which China, in return for a guaranty of Port Arthur and other seaports against foreign powers, assured Russia of the use of those positions for military and naval purposes in case of need. — **The situation in Corea** has been cleared up by the publication of a treaty between Russia and Japan, under which both agreed to leave to the king full liberty of action in both foreign and domestic policy. For the maintenance of order pending the organization of an adequate native military and police force, each power left a small military detachment in the country, with a pledge to withdraw it when order should be entirely restored. In February the Corean king returned to his palace from the Russian embassy, where he had taken refuge a year before (see this RECORD for June, 1896).

**LATIN AMERICA.** — **Brazil and Uruguay** suffered in the latter part of the winter and in the spring from insurrectionary disturbances. In the former state, bands of so-called "fanatics" — persons dissatisfied with the republic on religious and political grounds — gave trouble throughout the winter, and early in March inflicted a severe defeat on a military force sent against their chief stronghold in the state of Bahia. Serious military preparations were then made by the government, but the issue has not yet been determined. In Uruguay an important rebellion, which seems to have had little basis beyond personal ambition, had resulted by April in the destruction of the government's authority in the eastern half of the republic. Montevideo was declared under state of siege at the beginning of March. — In **Chili** the passions of the close presidential election noticed in the last RECORD manifested themselves in the session of the Congress in November. President Errazuriz, in adopting a concessive policy toward the Liberals, gave offense to his own party. A cabinet crisis was forced and a change of ministry resulted, the new body being composed entirely of Liberals. Conservative hostility to the president ran very high. — At the beginning of March diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Great Britain were formally resumed. The indemnity for the Uruan affair was paid by Venezuela in January. — The government of the "**Greater Republic of Central America**," provided for by the Amapala convention (see this RECORD for December, 1895), went into operation as between Honduras, Salvador and Nicaragua in 1896. All foreign relations were taken charge of by the diet, a body composed of one delegate from each state, and on December 23 the new federation was formally recognized by President Cleveland through the reception of its diplomatic agent at Washington.

WM. A. DUNNING.