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The War in the Philippines. Recent news from the Philippines is of a character to strengthen the conviction that the United States has a rather large contract on its hands in that country. During the rainy season, which will continue for some time, the American forces can scarcely undertake to do more than to hold the ground which they had gained. The unhealthiness of the climate has already told severely upon the troops, and will make it impossible to keep American soldiers for any long time in the Philippines without great loss from disease, and the expense of bringing home the troops now there and sending fresh ones to take their places is not a trifling consideration even for the United States. Moreover the stubborn resistance which the Filipinos are offering makes it evident that, if the war is to be brought to an end within any reasonable time, the American forces in the Philippines must be largely augmented. It now appears that the other islands of the group sympathize to a much greater degree than had been generally supposed with Luzon, the principal island and that in which Manila, the chief city is situated. Aguinaldo, the Filipino general, wields a very considerable influence not only in Luzon but in the other islands. Apparently he has little trouble in supplying his troops with arms and ammunition. The Filipinos may not be very capable of self-government, but it is quite plain that their capacity for fighting is not to be despised, and they are making it tolerably plain that if the United States shall administer the affairs of the Philippines it will not be with the free consent of the governed. Under all the circumstances, one cannot wonder that a great many American citizens do not feel any pride in the war in which their country is at present engaged.

The Eastern Question. President Schurman of Cornell University has just returned from the Orient, whither he went some months ago as a member of a Commission, charged by the United States Government with the duty of enquiring into the conditions existing in the Philippines, with a view to informing and advising the Government in reference to its relations with those islands. President Schurman was interviewed of course upon his arrival in San Francisco, and while he did not feel himself at liberty to talk about the Philippines until he had made his report to President McKinley, he was free to speak about interests connected with other oriental countries. He is reported as saying that the great question in the East is not the Philippines but China. He appreciates the importance which Great Britain and Japan attach to this question and the jealousy which is felt at the encroachments of Russia. "It is feared that, now that Russia has taken Manchuria, it will try to encroach gradually on some or all of the eighteen provinces of China, and when it gets them it will do as that country has done hitherto, put a duty on all foreign goods. Englishmen and Japanese feel that America should hold with them in preventing the dismemberment of China. It is felt out there that almost anything is liable to happen in the Orient in the next half dozen years. It is a momentous situation. Englishmen there feel that their own government is not quite so strong at the present time, as it should be, nor as it used to be." Dr. Schurman met the Japanese statesman, the Marquis Ito, and other leading men of that country, and he says that, "Everywhere and at all times with these statesmen it was recognized that the future of China was the one overshadowing question. China, it was agreed, should maintain its independent position, but its doors should be kept open. It means much to England and Japan and not less to America. There is a hope in the Orient among leading men that China itself may become aroused so that it may itself hold its domain intact. But it is not yet sufficiently awakened. That is the sad phase of it. The

Chinese are a patient, industrious people. They can live in any climate, away in the Arctic, or far south in the tropics. They can make money anywhere. Such a race, it is felt, ought to arouse itself in this dilemma, but we shall see. Nobody can tell what will happen."

A Tragic Incident. A tragic event connected with the Dreyfus trial has taken place during the past week. It was the attempted assassination of Maitre Labori, the leading counsel for the defense. While walking from his house to the court room, Maitre Labori was set upon in a secluded spot by two men and received a pistol shot in the back, causing a very serious, if not fatal, wound. The circumstances under which the shooting took place give great color to the suspicion that it was the outcome of a scheme on the part of the Anti-Dreyfusards to defeat the ends of justice. On Saturday General Mercier, the Ex Minister of War, had given his testimony—or rather had delivered his declamation—against Dreyfus in the Court-Martial at Rennes. The friends of Dreyfus expected much from the cross-examination of Mercier by M. Labori who was understood to be able to tear the evidence of the ex-War Minister to shreds, and the advocate was on his way to the Court room for the purpose of this examination of General Mercier, when he was shot down. There was great excitement in the Court room at Rennes when the murderous deed became known, and the effect upon the people of France can hardly be other than to arouse sympathy for the cause of Dreyfus. The immediate result, however, was a partial triumph for General Mercier and the Anti-Dreyfus party, since Maitre Demange who is associated with M. Labori in the defence was unprepared and consequently unable to deal with the statements of Mercier in an effective manner. Madame Labori who was at the side of her husband soon after he was shot down is said to belong to an English family by the name of O'Key. The family came to Nova Scotia a few years ago and have a home near Kentville. If we are correctly informed, Miss O'Key—now Mrs. Woodworth—who was a year or two ago connected with the teaching staff of Acadia Seminary, is a sister of Madame Labori.

What Mercier and Casimir-Perier Say In attempting to explain before the Court-Martial in the Dreyfus case why secret testimony was handed to the judges in the first trial of Dreyfus, General Mercier said in effect that the situation was one which, if the facts had been made public, would have involved war with Germany. The German Ambassador had asked that the Government of France should publish a denial of the truth of statements published by the French press connecting Germany with the charges which had been made against Dreyfus. For four and a half hours, Mercier declared, the then President, M. Casimir-Perier, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and himself, had waited in the President's study the result of telegraphic communications between the German Ambassador, Count Von Munster, and his Emperor, on which depended peace or war. The situation was so grave Mercier declared, that he, as Minister of War, had given command to General Boisdeffre to remain at the war office with a number of officers ready to give command for the mobilization of the army. Besides, General Mercier declared, the country was at that time quite unprepared for war and would have been at a great disadvantage in a conflict with Germany. "Therefore, as a patriot, I had to take precautions not to do anything to precipitate war. I dared not show the secret documents in open Court." These are certainly very remarkable statements to be made by the French Ex-Minister of War, since in statements purporting to come authoritatively from the German Government, it was long ago denied that Germany had any connection with the Dreyfus-affair, and a similar denial was

authorized by the Government of France. M. Casimir-Perier, former President of France, also gave evidence before the Court. But while he controverted General Mercier's statements at some points, denied that the situation in regard to Germany was so critical as Mercier had represented and accused the latter and other army officers of assuming undue authority, he (M. Casimir-Perier) does not appear to have denied the general correctness of Mercier's statement, that Germany was connected with the affair in such a way as to make publication of certain documents relating to Dreyfus case inconsistent with the policy of maintaining peace with that country. . . . Later dispatches indicate that Maitre Labori's wound is not so serious as was at first feared and it is possible that he may be able to appear in the Court room again during the trial. Maitre Demange was however unsuccessful in an attempt to secure postponement until M. Labori could appear, and the case is progressing.

President Kruger. Probably few men care less for fame than does the president of the little Transvaal republic, who among his own people is familiarly known as "Oom Paul." But this plain old man in his rugged native strength and Dutch obstinacy, supported by men of like spirit but of smaller ability, stands sturdily across the path of what assumes to be advanced civilization in South-Africa, and his name has accordingly become one of the most familiar in the ears of the English-speaking world today. Though assuming in connection with his public functions such a measure of pomp as he judges in keeping with the dignity of his office as chief magistrate, the private life of President Kruger is marked by extreme simplicity. The presidential mansion we are told, is a plain one-storied, thatch-roofed cottage, surrounded by a verandah where, at a very early hour, the president is accustomed to receive his visitors and discuss subjects of interest over cups of coffee. The people of the Transvaal claim the privilege of conversing freely with their president at any time. Of exceedingly vigorous physique and tried personal courage, a man whose natural strength has been developed into strong self-reliance by battling with hardships and whose success has tended to make him obstinate and intolerant of opposition, Present Kruger is, within a limited range of thought and action, a man of great sagacity and strength. His outlook and his sympathies are however too narrow to admit of his being classed among great men. His education has been in no sense of a liberal character. The conditions of his development in a savage world where he fought with wild beasts and wilder men" has not been such a course as could be expected to result in the cultivation of a broadly intelligent and liberal statesmanship. One can sympathize with his sturdy determination to maintain the independence of the Boer republic, while one regrets the narrowness which leaves out of account the larger interest of the South Africa people, as a whole. By those who know him best and are willing to do him justice, President Kruger is recognized as a profoundly religious man, and one who according to his light, truly seeks divine direction. But his views upon religious subjects seem to be scarcely more liberal and enlightened than his political views. He interprets the Scriptures in the most literal manner. Like the noted John Jasper, he rejects modern astronomical science as inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible and holds that to believe in the revolution of the earth is heretical. It is said that he preaches nearly every Sunday. He is fond of Old Testament quotations and often compares his burghers to the chosen people wandering in the desert under the special protection of the Almighty. He is not a reader either of books or of newspapers, but feeds upon the Bible. His thought and speech reflect his familiarity with the Scriptures and this accounts for Scriptural expressions and illustrations in his discussions of political matters. "President Kruger is anything but a hypocrite," says an Englishman who is well acquainted with his character and by no means blind to his faults and deficiencies, "and it is not from cant or hypocrisy that his mind overflows with Bible language."