

public for whom it would greatly increase the price of English books, the prospects of its being rejected by the Senate are thought to be good, and thus, in the opinion of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, the way will be open for an equitable international arrangement, beneficial to all parties.

THE last meeting of the great Mission Conference held a few weeks since in London, was a protest against three great iniquities which are being perpetrated amongst heathen races with the sanction of the British Government. These are the opium trade with China, the liquor traffic with the native tribes in Africa, and licensed, Government-regulated prostitution in connection with the military in India. The meeting was held in Exeter Hall, and the statements of fact made by the various speakers justified their warmest denunciations. In regard to the opium traffic, a defence of the Government was essayed by a member of the Civil Service in India, who argued that to put an end to the opium traffic in China would now be an impossibility, but his arguments were met with the crushing rejoinder that all that was asked of the Government was that it should close its opium factories in India and cease to manufacture and trade in the pernicious drug. Rev. H. Grattan Guinness, stated in reference to the drink traffic, that in some cases 700 per cent. profit was made by selling the villanous stuff, and whole tribes were being extirpated by it. Boys of fourteen or fifteen were paid their wages in drink, and girls were to be seen in large numbers lying drunk round the canteens of the traders. The Malagasy were being ruined by the same curse, for 10,000 barrels of rum were being sent yearly to half a million of people. The same thing was going on at Zanzibar. All the machinery of civilization was at work to spread drunkenness. Resolutions condemning the opium trade and the drink traffic, and appointing a deputation to wait on the King of the Belgians to thank his Majesty for the course he had pursued in reference to the latter matter were adopted. A resolution was also carried to the effect that the Conference viewed with shame and sorrow the system of State-regulated vice in India, and hoped that the Government would vigorously follow up the recent action of the House of Commons. Some of the medical regulations issued in connection with the Government management of this unspeakable vice were thought unfit to be read at the Conference, but samples have since been published. Whether the representations of this influential body will have any effect in inducing the British Government to wash its hands of all complicity in practices so fraught with evil to the aboriginal races, and, in the case of the last, with growing danger to the lives and safety of the British in India, through the hatred and resentment of the educated natives which are said to be becoming daily more intense, remains to be seen.

SHOULD the guilt of the dynamite conspiracy against the Burlington railroad be brought home to members of the Brotherhood of Engineers, as now seems probable, it will be greatly to be regretted in the interests of the Labour organizations. It would, of course, be unjust to hold other organizations responsible for the action of this particular one; perhaps it may be proved unjust to hold even this organization responsible for the acts of certain of its members. But, nevertheless, the bad odour of so cruel and cowardly an attempt will be sure to cling more or less to the whole body, and will not fail to excite injurious suspicions against kindred societies. It is to be hoped that the Brotherhood, as such, may be able to clear its skirts of all suspicion of complicity, or even of sympathy, with methods which would do more to bring Labour unions into discredit, and destroy their usefulness within their legitimate sphere, than almost any other conceivable course.

THE world-wide interest which attaches to the meeting of the German and Russian Emperors strikingly shows to how great an extent, even so late in the nineteenth century, the destinies of Europe are in the hands of two or three individuals. What makes the reproach to our vaunted civilization still greater is the fact that these individuals are not chosen by any process of either natural or national selection, but owe their tremendous powers to the accidents of heredity. Should the result of the conference be a renewal in some form of the triple alliance, Europe will no doubt breathe easier for a time, though the pledges of peace will pretty surely be purchased at the sacrifice of some of the smaller nations. The price of Russia's adhesion will, there is little doubt, be the virtual suzerainty of Bulgaria, and, it is by no means likely that Austria's assent to such an arrangement can be purchased at any less price than that of a similar supremacy in Serbia. Whether those principalities will bow to the inevitable, and suffer their liberties and aspirations to be set aside without a struggle, is one of the questions which help to complicate the problem.

France, if her rulers can spare time from duels and other internal excitements, will, no doubt, strive hard to avert the isolation with which she is threatened, and which may be regarded as the prime object of the conference, but the combinations will probably prove too strong for her. Whether the young Emperor of Germany will be content with the proud consciousness of power as chief arbiter of all the destinies involved, or will stipulate for some more substantial return for his good offices, remains to be discovered. On the whole the world has seldom seen conferences of more importance, judged by the gravity of the issues which are, to all seeming, involved, than those about to take place between the Emperor of Germany and those of Russia and Austria.

RESORT to the arbitrament of the duel for the settlement of the dispute between Premier Floquet and General Boulanger has probably proved disastrous to the latter in more ways than one. Even should he recover from the somewhat severe wound inflicted by the sword of the civilian, he can scarcely hope to regain his former prestige in the eyes of the people. The idol of the hour has been ignominiously hurled from his pedestal. The would-be-conqueror of Germany and Dictator of France has been worsted in a broil by a man many years his senior, and destitute of his professional training. The conclusion drawn from his lack of personal prowess against his ability to lead the army or rule the nation may be very illogical, but not more so than the duel itself, to which the French masses still pin their faith as a criterion of merit. It seems impossible that they can retain their enthusiasm for the man who has been thus humiliated in the eyes of the whole nation. Neither his rude insolence in the Chamber nor his vindictiveness in the fight will, in the face of his overthrow, convince the populace that he possesses the stuff of which genuine heroes are made. Boulangism is probably finally discredited in France.

THE working of responsible Government in Hawaii is developing some peculiar features. At the recent opening of the regular session of the Legislature, King Kalakawa, who, by the way, is said to have been spending his days for some time past in disgusting drunken orgies with certain of his followers, at first refused to read the speech which had been prepared for him, because it recommended some measures which he did not approve. His ministers reminded him that, the Government being "ministerial," he was not personally responsible, but he continued moody and obstinate, and when finally induced to read the speech, took care to omit the passages to which he objected. The probabilities are, however, that the Government will go on without being very greatly affected by his personal views, which, as may be supposed, are not remarkable for intelligence. Should he be so ill-advised as to use too freely or vigorously the personal right of veto which is his in virtue of a recent decision of the Hawaiian Supreme Court, he would probably find the experiment a rather dangerous one in the present temper of his not very loyal or admiring subjects. The revolution which has been for some time imminent in the Islands would be pretty sure to be precipitated.

THE WOUNDS OF A FRIEND.—II.

WE have already remarked on the generous tone of Mr. Matthew Arnold's comments upon American affairs. He tells us that, two or three years ago, he said that "what, in the jargon of the present day, is called 'the political and social problem,' does seem to be solved there" — in the United States — "with remarkable success." He pointed out that "the contrast which in this respect the United States offer to our own country is, in several ways, much to their advantage."

But Mr. Arnold was startled out of a state of comparative complacency by the strong language of Sir Lepel Griffin, who declared that "there is no country, calling itself civilized, where one would *not* rather live than in America, except Russia." Certainly, then, thought Mr. Arnold, one cannot rest satisfied with admiring the institutions of the United States and "their solid social condition, their freedom and equality, their power, energy and wealth. One must go further, go on to examine what is done there towards solving the human problem, and must see what Sir Lepel Griffin's objection comes to."

Of course, every one who thinks at all knows the immense difficulty of forming judgments of any value on subjects so large and complicated. Mr. Arnold was so sensible of this difficulty that he had some thought of imitating Theophrastus, and putting off the discussion of the "human problem" in America until he was ninety-nine years of age. But then he reflected that he might not come near that time of life; and alas! as we know, he