

a very important department of the Administration, it is surely not too much to expect that the Minister thus accused will take some means to defend himself from the calumny. It cannot be necessary to point out to any intelligent and upright man, on either side of politics, that the words in question do affirm such a principle. We need only observe that if the legacy belongs to the individual, there is no analogy between his case and that of the administrators of a trust fund, such as the public moneys of which the Government of the day is trustee for the people. On the other hand, if the legacy is merely left to the individual, in trust, to be divided among the people, that individual, by "beginning with his friends," betrays his trust and proves himself unworthy of his position. There must be a strange looseness in the political thinking of the day, or we should not so often hear the appropriations of the Government spoken of as if they were distributions of favours by those who were handling their own and had a right to do with it as they pleased. What do the Conservative papers think of Mr. Ouimet's principle?

Whether the negotiations said to be going on between the Chinese and Japanese authorities lead to an immediate agreement or not, it is evident that the Eastern war is about over, if war that may be called which has been rather a triumphant progress on the one part and an ignominious surrendering or running away, on the other. Whatever may be the effect upon the future history and relations of the two nations, the contest has been a revelation to the outside world, in regard to both. The Japanese have displayed courage, military skill, and facility in the use of the best modern appliances for destructive warfare, which have astonished even those who had been for years past watching with wonder and admiration the rapid progress of this people in assimilating Western ideas and inventions. On the other hand, the event, so far as the Chinese are concerned, has been a striking illustration of the tendency to take the unknown for the magnificent. By some process or other most of us had come to credit the myriads of the Celestial Empire with a far-seeing cunning, a dogged persistence, and a reckless disregard of life, which would have made them formidable antagonists on their own soil, even of a European Power. In a few short weeks the illusion has been dispelled, and they stand revealed as not so much a great nation as a loosely connected conglomeration of peoples, nearly destitute of national cohesion or patriotism, and sadly wanting in tactical ability, organizing power, and personal courage. The result can hardly fail to be the beginning of the end of Chinese exclusiveness, and consequently of Chinese civilization. A great influx of European immigrants, ideas, and institutions is an almost certain event of the near future. With regard to the pretty well authenticated account of Japanese outrages and cruelties at Port Arthur, the fact is, we suppose, scarcely to be wondered at, however it may be deplored. It is but in the natural order of things that a semi-civilized people, once ambitious of progress, should master civilized methods of war, much more rapidly than civilized notions of humanity and generosity to the vanquished. There seems much reason to fear that the same fact may be illustrated by the utter absence of magnanimity in her present negotiations with her fallen foe.

An English paper predicts that the recent School Board election will kill the cumulative vote. In discussing this method of voting on a previous occasion we ventured to say that if this system should prove effective in the accomplishment of its avowed purpose, the representation of small minorities of

all kinds, it would be a doubtful boon to the community. It is not easy to conceive of a more unreliable working machine than would be a legislative body made up of representatives of every political or sociological fad which might succeed in drawing together the votes of a certain number of promoters. It would be dangerous as well as ineffective, for there could scarcely any longer be a division on the line of any great principle or policy. Every majority would be the result of a compromise, or a conglomeration of a certain number of factions, each of which would have its price in some promised return legislation. But it now seems that the system has failed in a time of great public excitement to effect the very end for which it exists. "Of the five Roman Catholic candidates not one succeeded in getting a seat; the five who stood as Independent Labour candidates all failed; of the nine Secularist candidates not one was returned, and the solitary Jewish candidate, who, in the city, was at great pains to make it clear that he was not running in union with Miss Davenport-Hill, was left out in the cold with 6,206, while Miss Hill was at the top of the poll with 18,932." Hence the journal from which we quote wisely concludes that "the cumulative vote is not a proper instrument for conducting an election on Democratic principles. Without securing representation for any of the smaller minorities, it gave a majority of seats to the one larger minority which was wise enough to place its votes where they would do the most good."

The New York
Police.

We do not suppose that the depth of the guilt of a dishonest servant can be accurately measured by either the boldness of his depredations or the amount of his spoils. But so far as these two factors enter into the question, the police of New York must be admitted to a bad pre-eminence in knavery. Some of the revelations made before the Lexow Committee are simply astounding. Just think, for instance, of a police captain buying his captaincy for the sum of \$15,000 in hard cash, borrowed from friends, and repaying the whole in two years out of a salary of \$2,750 a year! What volumes of nefariousness are implied in that single fact, which was clearly proved on his own confession before the Committee! A point seems now to have been reached at which the police officers no longer deny that the whole department is utterly corrupt, however loudly each individual captain or commissioner may protest his personal innocence, until his own turn comes. Some of them, by the way, have very peculiar ways of backing up their protestations. One refuses, on the advice of counsel, to even testify that he is a member of the police force; another defies the law rather than show his check-books; a third declines an opportunity to defend himself against specific charges of bribery. The vital question, whether any adequate punishment will be inflicted upon those proved guilty of these atrocious crimes, especially when the culprits are "higher up," remains to be answered. The first legal conviction has been obtained, that of a police-officer for accepting a bribe for not interfering with a fruit merchant's use of the side walk, but there must be a long list of similar convictions, followed by exemplary punishment, if the investigation is to avail for the effectual purification of the department. There's the rub which will try the judiciary of the city and State.

Sir Henry Loch, Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, has the greatest record as a British office-holder. He has served in the Civil Service in London, has been a midshipman in the navy, and a major in the army, has had a diplomatic mission, and has been Governor of sundry colonies.