

undesirable that half-grown youth of both sexes, or either sex, should be subjected to long hours, in bad air, at monotonous toil. The race must guard its own physique if it is to maintain its pre-eminence in the struggle for existence. The effect of such additional restrictions on the rate of wages is a matter of secondary importance. The tendency would undoubtedly be to raise it, but it will stand some raising yet. Paradoxical as it may appear, past increases in the rate of wages seem to have had the effect of making Great Britain better able to compete with the countries in production, and further amelioration of the condition of the working classes would presumably have a like result.

The Armenian  
Question.

There are signs that the European powers will soon intervene authoritatively in Armenia, though the task of effecting a reorganization there is one of far greater difficulty than it was in Crete. Indignation meetings are taking place in various European countries, and the coming International Peace Congress to be held at Budapest will discuss the matter. When he was so informed by the Executive Committee of the British Arbitration Association, Mr. Gladstone sent a characteristic reply: "Remonstrance with him," says the veteran humanitarian, "whom I always wish to call the great assassin, would not be of the smallest value, unless it were known to include a firm intention to resort to measures of coercion in case of need." He regards the remonstrances of the six powers during the past twelve months as having "supplied wholesale and deliberate murder with the only assistance it wanted, namely, assurance of impunity," and he expresses the hope that the convention does not contemplate recommending "a further prolongation of simply verbal discussion." The people of the United States have now a chance of casting their influence in a right direction and to some purpose, if they can only withdraw their attention from the election campaign sufficiently to enable them to do it.

Zanzibar and the  
Slave Trade.

Six years ago, in consideration of the restoration of Heligoland by Great Britain to Germany, the latter power agreed to give the former a free hand in dealing with the Zanzibar district of East Africa. At that time a native Mohammedan Sultan was on the throne, and Britain contented herself with the establishment of a protectorate over the country. In 1893 this ruler died and a successor was chosen with British approval, the protectorate being continued. The recent death of the Sultan, the attempt of a near relation to seize the throne by force, the bombardment of the palace by British men-of-war, the protection of the fugitive usurper by the German consul, and the refusal of the German Government to surrender him except as a "prince and a prisoner of war," have started a discussion of the Zanzibar question which will probably not cease until the Sultanate is absolutely abolished and the district is formally annexed to the Empire. The most interesting aspect of that question is the one that touches slavery. So long as the country remains quasi-independent it will be impossible to take effective steps to discontinue slavery, and so long as it exists there Zanzibar will continue to be the headquarters and main support of the African slave trade.

Boers and  
English.

Those who feel disposed to take a pessimistic view of the South African outlook, and who base their fears on the alleged racial relationship between the Boers and the Germans, appear to forget that the ethnical affinity is much closer between the English and the Boers. The latter emigrated

originally from Holland and are Low German in race and language. So are the English, though a long line of historical evolution has driven far apart the descendants of the Angles and Frisians who separated from each other on the shore of the North Sea fourteen centuries ago. As the German publicists are making use of the racial argument to flatter the Boers and thus assist German statesmanship in extending its influence in Africa, it would be a good thing if British writers were more frequently to do the same thing for the more legitimate purpose of keeping the Boers and the British in harmony with each other. Great Britain will never voluntarily conquer the Transvaal by force of arms, but both the Transvaal and the Orange Free State will be gradually absorbed and assimilated by the great Anglo-Saxon community which is spreading over South Africa. If war is to be avoided, why not cultivate a friendly sentiment by kindly treatment and appeals to racial kinship?

The Anglo-Saxon  
Race.

Sir Walter Besant discusses the future of the English-speaking peoples in a spirited and vigorous article in the North American Review. He admits, with apparent pride, the truth of the common charges brought against the Anglo-Saxon race: "We are, as we always have been, a masterful race; we are a stiff-necked, unyielding race, a tenacious race; we are a race which cannot change its own mind—as regards laws and manners—for the mind of any other race; we are a people which, if it settles down anywhere, means to go on living as before, and to make other people live in the same way." This reminds one of the curious compliment paid to the English by Von Ihering, the great Austrian jurist, in his essay entitled "Der Kampf um's Recht." After calling attention to the unpopularity they have incurred as individuals wherever they go, asserting their rights in the most unpleasant and uncompromising fashion, he dwells on the great benefit they have thus conferred by educating less robust travellers to assert themselves, and other people to respect the rights of all travellers. The *motif* of Sir Walter's article is to plead for an arbitration tribunal to settle peaceably all disputes between Great Britain and the United States, the object being to make war between the two countries a practical impossibility. He looks forward to a time when there will be six great English-speaking nations—United States, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand—and when, "as an example for all the world to see, there will be the great federation of our race, an immense federation, free, law abiding, peaceful, yet ready to fight; tenacious of old customs; dwelling continually with the same ideas; keeping, as their ancestors from Friesland did before them, each family as the unit; every home the centre of the earth; every township of a dozen men the centre of the Government."

Reduction of  
Railroad Rates.

Mr. Bryan, the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, having asserted that "railroad rates have not been reduced to keep pace with falling prices," Mr. Henry W. Poor has published a point blank contradiction of his statement, and accompanied it with statistics to prove that while the price of wheat has declined about one-half since 1873, the date of the demonetization of silver, the decrease in the rates of transportation have been about two-thirds, and that the average rate of interest on the capital invested is only 1.59 per cent. Clearly the farmer gets the benefit of this reduction, and if he cannot maintain himself by its aid the inference is that the colonization of the West has proceeded on a wrong principle, as it undoubtedly did. Unfortunately the