

THE HEAD IN CHINA.—The Emperor of China is the supreme head of his subjects, and is supposed to receive his instructions as to the management of the vast territory committed to his charge by decrees from Heaven. He is considered by his subjects as being second only to Almighty God, and to be the connecting link between themselves and the Almighty.

NO MORE MEAT.—The Vegetarian Society of London have undertaken to popularize their vegetable foods in a most practical way. An cfler has been made to all schools, clubs or mission rooms in the great city to serve a savory half-penny meal to each child or person free of charge. The idea is that if the new soups, grain and vegetable preparations are thus introduced the public will speedily become familiar with them. Whole-meal bread has already been introduced with great success in many of the metropolitan bakeries.

TO PROTECT THE BEES.—A law to prevent the spraying of the blossoms of fruit trees has recently been enacted in the Province of Ontario. It has been found that the blossoms sprayed with Paris green or other poison have been most destructive to the honey-gathering bees, aside from the fact that the presence of the poison in the blossom may result in the presence of poison in the honeycomb. A second serious objection to the prevalent custom is that the poison has been known to present an obstacle to the complete fertilization of fruit.

WHAT THEY DO IN SWEDEN.—A strange political movement is now under way in Sweden, where the question of the extension of suffrage is being hotly discussed. Universal suffrage would be most popular in Sweden, and in order to impress this idea deeply on the regular Riksdag, or parliament, an assembly called the Folke Riksdag has been called. This assembly is most irregular in its make up and has no official recognition, yet its views and decisions will have weight in the regular parliament. It is perhaps the first time in history that a pressure of this kind has been brought to bear upon a tardy or negligent nation-governing body.

PROGRESSIVE BELGIUM.—For many years it has been a grievance of the Belgians that but two per cent of the little population were allowed to vote. The three political parties of the kingdom—the Socialists, the Liberals and the Clerics—have had many drawn battles on the subject, the first named parties combining against the influential Clerical party. A fortnight ago, owing to the persistent demand of the Liberals, the question of manhood suffrage was submitted to the people, each man for the nonce being allowed the privilege of voting. The result of this referendum was an overwhelming majority of votes on the side of the reformers. It remains to be seen whether the spoken will of the people will result in the desired extension.

PROFANITY AT A DISCOUNT.—The press of Great Britain have for some time been urging that the Government should enact some measure for the suppression of profanity. The moral tone of many English towns has been greatly lowered of late years, and cursing and swearing in public places have been openly allowed. The Englishman having enjoyed the privilege of cursing and drinking at pleasure was not at all anxious to limit his freedom, and was not overjoyed when some student unearthed a statute of George II.'s time, in which an oath tariff is insisted on, the scale being one shilling for a laborer's oath, up to five shillings for a gentleman's oath. An offender recently tried under the old statute was fined a shilling for each of the four wicked words he had uttered in public, but his language on learning the decision of the court is not reported.

A CONCURRENCE OF OPINION.—Long ago Shakespeare made his Julius Caesar avow his hatred of thin men, men who were troubled with isomnia, men who were lean and hungry in their looks. President Cleveland seems to be of the same mind, and in selecting the men who are to surround him in his Cabinet he has chosen men whose appearance would have been approved by the great Bard of Avon. The weightiest member of that august body is Mr. Bissell, who boasts a good 325 pounds avoirdupois. Mr. Hoke Smith claims 225 pounds of solid matter, and Mr. Cleveland strikes a moderate medium between the two at 270 pounds. Considering the discomfort which the average fat man is compelled to endure, we think there is little reason for jealousy on the part of the "lean kine" that Cleveland has chosen to recognize, and in a manner reward men who are unmistakably in the same box with himself.

PLEASANT FOR SAN DOMINGO.—Since our American friends are beginning to fear that their efforts to secure the Hawaiian Islands have been futile they have turned covetous eyes on the little island of San Domingo. The prospects for the annexation of that island are particularly bright, although it is not even alleged that annexation is desired by the native inhabitants. American influence has been greatly on the increase in the island of late years. The American Santo Domingo Improvement Co. have acquired valuable rights which affect both the exterior and the interior of the island. This company have the right to appoint all the custom officials and to receive all customs receipts, and last year the official receipt was stated to be \$1,200,000. A firm of Amsterdam merchants who had obtained many concessions from the Island Government sold out their rights to the American Co., thus giving it an almost unlimited power. When the American railroads and telegraph services are completed it is thought that means may be found to induce the natives to consent to annexation.

NOT JUST YET.—Senator Morgan, of the United States, is bemoaning the faint-heartedness of his predecessors, which prevented them from assuming a protectorate over the Pacific Ocean at the same time that "with France at their backs," they struck out for independence. He regrets that they did not acquire "Newfoundland, the Bahamas, the Windward Islands, Jamaica and all to Yucatan," and he calls stridently for a national movement to complete the chain of possessions along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver to Hong Kong, and to assert supremacy on all "real estate" in the Pacific Ocean. This is by all odds the finest bit of writing we have struck as yet upon the claims of the United States to exterior countries. We will await further notification on the subject, however, before we cede our coast to the ambitious politicians. Great Britain can afford to smile at the humble-beeing of the lesser nation.

ON HEALTH REFORM.—An excellent movement has been inaugurated in Great Britain by Sir James Paget, who has noted carefully the decreasing value which has been awarded mere health by the masses of the people. He calls for enthusiasm in all hygienic teaching, for more widely disseminated knowledge of the structure and needs of the body. Pride in health is a national safe-guard—it entails physical courage—it results in the adoption of moral lives. The youth who is carefully instructed beware of the temptation to sow wild oats or to become addicted to the alcohol habit. The well taught girl will not pinch her body in stiff corsets and tight clothing, and the coming generation will profit by the normal lines of its progenitors. The natural trend now-a-days is to a more rational hygiene, manly strength and robust womanhood are beginning to be more fully appreciated, and the time seems ripe for the success of a thorough going health-reform movement.

RUSSIAN JUSTICE.—A study of the methods by which justice is meted out within the realms of the Czar should have a tranquillizing effect on those who are always storming at the mal-administration or the unintelligence of the mandates of our Canadian Statutes. Innocent men or women may be denounced by enemies and imprisoned for a year or so before a trial, which is apt to go against them, for the simple reason that the prosecutors are responsible to the Minister of Justice to make a report which will lead to their disgrace and dismissal if over 20 per cent. are acquitted in one session. Detectives both male and female abound, and witnesses can be bought for a rouble or two by the prosecutor. There is a Court of Appeal which is seldom resorted to, as it never redresses any wrong done in the lower court. A prisoner is allowed no counsel and is not privileged to summon witnesses on his own behalf, and it not unfrequently happens that his judge is also his prosecutor. While we admit that human justice in any country cannot be free from error we cannot but compare, greatly to the advantage of our own constitution, the Canadian with the Russian Judiciary.

A CONVERT TO THEOSOPHY.—Mr. Stead, the brilliant though somewhat erratic editor of a well-known British paper, has avowed himself a firm believer in Theosophy. For the past year he has upheld the workings of the Society for Psychical Research, and has searched far and near for satisfactory spiritual manifestations. He now claims that he is being used as a medium by an acquaintance who died within the last few months, and that through her direction he is insensibly caused to write messages from her. These messages have taken the form of warnings or simple statements of opinion. It is mere folly to aver that Mr. Stead is not sincere in his conviction, for he is known to be a trustworthy man, who would not wilfully aid in giving credence to a lie, and we have the authority of holy writ in stating that there are more things in Heaven and earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy. We are not, however, in a position to state that Mr. Stead's conclusions regarding his telepathic friend are correct. Mesmerism and hypnotism are still little understood by most of us, and it is quite within the bounds of reason that the whole occult phenomena has been but the action of the mind of a living person on Mr. Stead's unconscious brain.

HE THINKS ONE WOULD DO.—The Sultan of Turkey, it is said, is one of these tryingly situated persons who is not permitted by national custom to do what his conscience details as right and proper. It is alleged that though he is possessed of 304 spouses of one sort and another, that he is steadfastly opposed to all polygamous marriages. The possession of four wives is obligatory on the incumbent of his position, as are also the 300 temporary spouses, who rank rather lower than do these permanent ladies. Twenty-one new wives are presented to the Sultan each year with great pomp and ceremony, and as each dame has to be supplied by the Sultan with an establishment of ten servants, horses and carriages, he finds the gift oftentimes a doubtful blessing. In order to balance this costly service the Sultan marries off his brides to officials as rapidly as possible, dowering the bride handsomely in order to make up for any missing attractions. As both those who provide the buckles and those who afterwards marry them are amply repaid for their trouble, and as it gives the highest distinction to a Turkish misdeed to be able to claim graduation from his royal highness' harem, there is little wonder that the custom of the Sultan's polygamy is so well established. The vested interests of the nation prevent any measures being enacted to bring about a more civilized mode of procedure.

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