

go to prison rather than pay the tax for the support of what are virtually church schools. The Wesleyan Conference, by a strong resolution, recorded its protest by a very large majority. This was all the more striking as an amendment by Dr. Waller, giving a modified acceptance of the Government bill with amendations, was snowed under by a majority about as large.

AN ANTICHRISTIAN DOCUMENT.

We have had sent us from Quadian, in the Punjab, India, with a request for notice, a copy of "The Review of Religions" by a native Mohammedan. It is a defence of the Moslem faith as set forth in the Holy Quran, or Koran, as we call it. It is in part a philosophical treatise on the existence and attributes of God, fortified with many Arabic quotations. The second part sets forth the claims of Mirza Ahmad, the promised Messiah. He asserts the superiority of John the Baptist to Jesus, and he predicted the recent plague, and declares that himself, the true Messiah, offers the only salvation from its ravages, that he is one with the holy prophet Mohammed. "Ye Christian missionaries, say no more that Christ is your God, for there is one among you who is greater than Christ." He expects, he says, a volley of abuse hurled at him from the clerical orders of all religions.

Yet this very book is itself a prophecy of the triumph of Christianity. It bears the date of the year of our Lord 1902. It is written in fairly good English, learned, doubtless, in a school or college established by the Christian nation, and is printed in the English language, which is becoming the vehicle of thought and expression alike in the Turkish, Moslem, Chinese, and Japanese empires. As another evidence of Christian civilization it advertises on its cover English "cricket-bats, tennis rackets, and ping-pong."

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

Our American kinsfolk are taking up the white man's burden in the Antilles and the Philippines. The appropriations for the fiscal year 1903 amount to \$560,000,000. "This compares," says Public Opinion, "with an average aggregate yearly appropriation of about \$300,000,000 just prior to the Spanish war. The costs of this Government have thus nearly doubled within five years. The fact is fairly entitled to the description of astounding."

Yet the burden of the weary Titan, Great Britain, in ruling her over three hundred millions of dark-coloured races is more than thirty times as great as that of the American Republic, yet she bears it without flinching. This is her greatest glory, that she has brought civilization instead of savagery, peace instead of war, law, order, and liberty, instead of anarchy, injustice and rapine, to so many millions of mankind.

The United States has generously given back Cuba to the Cubans, but through the selfishness of the sugar interest represented in the Senate, while it has kept the promise to the ear, it has broken it to the hope. Unless some more generous reciprocity is granted Cuba, its sugar trade and its prosperity must perish. The President and official press feel that the country has been shamed by this selfishness.

THE COAL WAR.

The civil war in Pennsylvania—and not very civil either—between the miners and mine-owners drags its weary length along. The three months' idleness of 200,000 workmen, most of them of foreign birth, and many of them anarchists, has wrought its natural result in restiveness, recklessness, and outbreaks of violence and bloodshed and death. The loss of their time, their only capital, is enormous, and can never be recouped. The mine-owners lose little. The coal is still in the mines, and with that already mined will command famine prices, while many industries sustain great loss, and unless the strike be soon broken it will be a hard winter for the poor. Surely the resources of civilization should be adequate to the suppression of such an internecine war.

Now that Britain's hands are no longer tied in South Africa, she is making her influence felt in the far East. Her trade with Japan, their joint guarantee of the independence of Korea, and the abolition of the Likin, or tax, on foreign merchandise in transit in China, are new victories of diplomacy. Public Opinion says that an important step has been taken toward the abolition of what has been the great stumbling-block in the way of commerce with China. If Great Britain has really secured the abolition of the Likin, she will be entitled to the gratitude of every commercial nation.