

cent of conniving at or endorsing bribery, but by the same token must stand convicted of glaring incompetence. This is Parliamentary opinion. The worst symptom, as the *Spectator* rightly thinks, is that the public seem to care so little about the matter. This, it argues, is the outcome of the great change which is taking place in English affairs, a change which it believes to be right, but recognizes as inevitable, the change from government by caste to government by election. The caste did not state though it jobbed outrageously for caste's sake, not for money. The new order of things creates a set of men who desire money above all things, and are ready to sell honour, influence, "practical ability," carefully acquired "knowledge of detail," everything in short, for money. It is, then, a most reasonable and righteous demand that the people, before the mischief goes farther, shall make the laws harder, so that a jobber who takes a bribe shall be as punishable as a forger or a thief, as easily and as severely. Why not? It is not in the Old Country alone that the need is felt of sharper, clearer and more easily applied laws to put an end to such practices. Such laws, too, on either side of the Atlantic, if properly enforced, would prove powerful and much-needed educators of the public conscience.

SHOULD the white Pasha who is moving forward in the Bahr-el-Ghazel province prove to be Henry M. Stanley, news of his further movements will be awaited with great curiosity and interest. The scanty despatches seem to hint at the possibility of his being engaged in a more ambitious project than that of relieving Emin Bey. Can it be that he has appropriated the mantle of Gordon, and conceived the daring design of carrying to completion the unfinished projects of that brave chieftain? For a man of ambitious and daring spirit such a scheme would have strong attractions. He may have discovered that Emin Bey stands in no need of immediate succour. Or it is conceivable that he may have resolved on the occupancy of Khartoum, with the prestige its recapture and the release of its white slaves would confer, as the surest road to the relief of Emin. A leader in the position of Stanley, at the head of a force in the heart of Africa, is in reality an autocratic sovereign and is not to be judged by ordinary rules. Why might not an American think it a worthy ambition to avenge the death of an English commander and wipe away the reproach of an English expedition?

THE statement said to have been made by Assistant Secretary Maynard from Washington in a letter to Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, that "the present instructions of the Treasury Department regarding the killing of fur seals in Behring's Sea by the crews either of American or foreign vessels, are the same as were in force during past seasons, and that any such vessels found engaged in taking and killing seals in such waters will be liable to seizure," calls attention to the very unsatisfactory state of things in regard to this matter. Diplomatic movements are proverbially slow, but it does seem as if Canadians interested should have some more definite assurance that their interests would be protected and the losses of those who have suffered wrong and outrage made good within some reasonable date. It is inconceivable that the United States Government should attempt any claim to exclusive rights in the waters of this wide sea. In fact, so far as appears, it has scrupulously refrained from urging any such claim. And yet on no other ground can the issuance of such instructions as these above described be reconciled with any proper regard for the rights either of its own citizens or those of other nations. There is a mystery about the business which will, we suppose, be some day cleared up. But in the meantime the present unsatisfactory state of affairs surely demand urgent representations by the Canadian Government or their High Commissioner in England.

MR. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW withdrew his name from the list of candidates before the Chicago Convention, on the ground that his connection with railway matters was likely to prove disastrous to the fortunes of the Republican party, should he become the nominee. If certain influential Republican journals in the West, such as the *Chicago Tribune*, can be relied on as exponents of Western feeling, Mr. Depew's self-sacrifice will have been made in vain. The same anti-railroad monopoly influence will be invoked against Mr. Harrison, who has the misfortune to be a railroad attorney, whom the *Tribune* calls "the residuary legatee of the president of the New York Central railroad," and "the heir to the New York Central influence." It may be that as the conflict progresses the power of party loyalty may prove sufficient to bring up the refractory forces and close the broken ranks, but at present the outlook can scarcely be considered hopeful. Both unity and enthusiasm are needed in much larger measure than is yet promised, in order to give the party any prospect of success.

IN the current number of the *Andover Review*, Rev. D. N. Beach, of Cambridge, presents the results of an experiment commenced about two years ago at Harvard University. It will be remembered that at that time, on the petition of the students, and after mature deliberation and much misgiving on the part of many, the Faculty repealed all compulsory regulations in regard to the attendance of students at morning prayers and Sunday evening preaching. The innovation was very wisely carried farther, not only compulsion, but sectarianism was done away with. At the same time an attempt was made to infuse new life into these religious services, and so to supply in the form of increased attractiveness and adaptation to the wants of students that which was to be lost in arbitrary inducements to attendance. To this end the oversight of arrangements for the conduct of these exercises was put into the hands of a committee of five University preachers, representing the chief Protestant denominations. The result has been on the whole most encouraging to the advocates of absolute religious voluntarism. Mr. Beach says that there was never more religious activity at Harvard than there is to-day. The vespers are very largely attended. The Sunday evening attendance varies with the preacher, but is always respectable and often large. One excellent result has been the preparation and delivery of a series of discourses by very able men, not following in the line of the stereotyped orthodox sermon, but dealing with the great religious issues of the day, and exploring the deeper currents of modern thought with a fearless, yet reverent, love of truth and an anxiety to know and face all objections which cannot but prove of the highest value to truth-seeking students through all their future course. The stand thus taken by a leading American University in favour of pure voluntarism will, there is little doubt, soon be recognized by other institutions of learning as the only logical and defensible position in religious matters.

THE German Emperor's speech at the opening of the Reichstag struck a note quite different in the main from that which pervaded his addresses to the army and the people. The declarations now made in favour of peace are much less ambiguous. The reliance for peace it is true is still upon the army. The argument addressed to rival nations is mainly one of menace. Little is said of the virtues of mutual forbearance and goodwill. The young Emperor becomes almost jubilant when he refers to the new army laws, which he describes in another less formal address as having brought great joy to the heart of his grandfather and to his own. But all this is not matter of surprise, since Germany is now, and is likely to be for many years to come, first of all and above all a military nation. Perhaps, in view of the intense hostility of France on the one hand and the aggressive militarism of Russia on the other, it would not be easy or safe for her to assume any other attitude than of conscious strength and armed defiance. The reference to the alliance with Austria becomes doubly interesting and significant by reason of the omission of any similar reference to Great Britain, which makes it tolerably certain that the British Government is adhering to that policy of non-interference in European compacts which is now becoming traditional, or, at least, that, contrary to the prevailing impression, it has no formal alliance such as that or Austria with the German Empire. The address to the Reichstag is said to have been written after long conference with Prince Bismarck, and the impress of the great Chancellor is upon it throughout. The voice may be the voice of William, but the words are evidently the words of Bismarck. This is, so far, reassuring as a pledge that the same far-seeing counsels that have so long guided the affairs of the empire, and controlled the destinies of all Europe, will still, for a time, be supreme.

ANOTHER interesting and significant part of the German Emperor's address was that in which he indicated his views with regard to the internal government of the nation. In this, as in military matters, the Emperor takes his grandfather as his model. The system of paternal government is to be continued. Imperial legislation is still to undertake to do for the working people that which in more democratic countries the people are learning to do for themselves. They are to be afforded by law that further protection which "is needed by the weak and oppressed in their struggle for existence." The vague promise is held out that "in this way it may be possible to arrive at an equalization of unhealthy social contrasts;" though how such equalization is to be effected, whether the process is to be one of levelling up or levelling down, we are not informed. In another sentence the Emperor conveys an ominous hint to the Socialistic element which is becoming so powerful in the population. The policy is evidently to be, as hitherto, one of stern suppression rather than of conciliation or political education. On the whole it is hard to feel that the security afforded for permanent peace either at home