

upon conviction of murdering her step-daughter. She was the first woman in the world to suffer under that mode of capital punishment.

—The London district messenger boy, of whom we told last week as having been sent with messages to New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, with the idea that he would beat the mails, has successfully done his work. It transpires that he was employed for this mission by Richard Harding Davis upon a wager.

—A fatal encounter is reported as having occurred between Americans and Canadians near the disputed Alaska boundary line. The fight was for possession of a rich placer gold field. Americans to the number of 100 attempted to drive out 50 Canadians. Volleys were fired on each side, and several men were killed and wounded.

—A second delegation of prominent citizens of Finland, sent from Helsingfors to St. Petersburg to protest to the czar against his abrogation of the Finnish constitution, has met the same reception that was given a like delegation last February, as reported in No. 48 at page 10. It was denied an audience with the czar. And in addition its members were preemptorily ordered to return home.

## MISCELLANY

### A CHRISTIAN TOWN.

For The Public.

Jesus from home looked down

Into the midst of a Christian town:

Some were rich, and some were fair;

Some were worn with pain and care;

Some were naked, and some were wan;

Some were hungry since life began;

Some were idle and longed to toil,

But dared not touch the common soil.

Murder lurked in alleys dim;

Lust looked up and laughed at Him;

Monopoly, all in splendor, shone

Over pavements of blood and bone.

Honor's robe the garb of Crime;

Pelf the theme of prose and rhyme;

Greed the prince and love the slave;

Scorn the need of all the brave;

Self a god on gilded throne,

Truth a tramp at the door alone;

Mammon sitting in Power's chair

Saying: "I rule here, you rule there."

Oh! the pity of that fond face,

Stained with tears for the human race.

"Father! Father! I died for these;

I drank the cup to its very lees,

But even now they do not see

The truth that waits to make them free;

Now as then my cry rings true:

"Forgive them! They know not what

they do!"

A. F. BROOMHALL.

### THE MONOPOLIST'S PRAYER.

For The Public.

"I thank Thee, O Lord, for all the good gifts, of which Thou, in Thine infinite mercy, hast enabled me to deprive my brethren."

### THAT MYSTERIOUS BALANCE OF TRADE.

The difference between the money value of the exports and imports of a nation is called "the balance of its trade;" according as the exports are in excess it is called by the mercantile world "in favor;" when the imports exceed the exports it is called "against." The Standard American Encyclopedia, however, points out that this is a mistaken view, and that the reverse is true. We quote from that authority: "This view is based upon a two-fold error, for, in the first place, the increase of national wealth is by no means to be identified with the immediate influx of hard cash; nor is gold the highest expression of national wealth, but only a means of turning real wealth and the faculty to labor to account. Further, the assumption that the excess of exports represents excess of income is completely false. It takes exports for income (because payment is received for them), imports for expenditure (because they must be paid for), while it would be more consistent with the truth to say that exports are identical with expenditures and imports with income; so that wealth increases in proportion as the value of the imports (what is received) exceeds that of the exports (what is given away), and that whether these exports and imports consist wholly of goods or partly of money."

To many of our readers this will doubtless prove an almost revolutionary view of the case, but a careful study of the subject will show that it is correct. The mistake lies in the idea that money is what the world wants, whereas money, being merely a medium of exchange, can serve no other purpose. What the world wants is food, clothing, shelter, books, recreation, travel, etc., and without ability to enjoy these, all the money in the world would be of no avail.—Editorial in The Farmer's Voice, of Chicago.

### THE FATE OF FINLAND.

The guarantees of Alexander I. are virtually repealed. The ancient privileges of the land of a thousand lakes have vanished. The most prosperous and enlightened province of all the czar's domain will be administratively forced down to the level of all the rest. That, and no less is the meaning of the work of the extraordinary session of the seim which opened January 24 at Helsingfors. Ostensibly it was a meeting of the free and independent parliament of Finland. Practically it was a meeting of men under compulsion to register the will of the autocrat whose ukase summoned them, and that will

is that henceforth Finland shall be only "a geographical expression." The expressed purpose of this meeting of the seim was "to bring the Finnish law of military service into conformity with the law of the empire at large." That is to say, the seim has adopted, at the czar's dictation, a law permitting the garrisoning of Finland with Russian troops and imposing upon Finlanders the obligations of conscription and service in the Russian army in any part of the world.

When the new governor general of the grand duchy, Gen. Bobrikoff, assumed authority at Helsingfors, five months ago, he made the matter plain. He frankly told the Finns that all their notions of autonomy, of a mere "personal union" with Russia, and of a separate nationality, must be forever dismissed as perverted and fantastic. They must use Russian money and postage stamps, and the Russian language must be the official language, and the Russian church the state church, and they must look to St. Petersburg, and not to Helsingfors, for government. So the Finnish press will be subjected to Russian censorship, and the Finnish schools and colleges will be degraded to the Russian level, and in all possible ways the stalwart, handsome, moral and enlightened Finns will be assimilated with the Moujiks. The seim will be a mere Zemstvo. The czar will continue to be styled grand duke of Finland, but only in the same sense that he is called king of Poland. The end of Poland came a century and four years ago. To-day we see the end of Finland.—Boston Transcript.

### CAPABILITIES OF THE FILIPINOS.

The Filipinos are evidently human beings, in some respects not unlike ourselves. Indeed, while the bulk of them (I have in mind, particularly, Luzon, where are five out of the seven of eight million making up the population of the islands) are uneducated and half-civilized, they have some of the marks of a superior people. They wish education. They are cleanly, are hospitable and obliging. They have a pleasing family life. Wives have an amount of liberty hardly equalled in any other eastern country, and they seldom abuse it. The men are self-respecting and self-restrained to a remarkable degree. The climate allows them to be indolent, yet they possess many fine branches of industry (making beautiful mats and elegant linen fabrics), and they imitate such branches of European industry as ship-building, leather dressing and carriage building with great success.

With their patriarchal system of living, they have not learned the art of forming a state and are commonly supposed to be destitute of the capacity of governing themselves; yet the stress of circumstances has developed leaders among them and during the past year an attempt has been made to organize a government. For three centuries they have been subject to Spanish rule, and it is absurd to deny the existence of capacities that have not been allowed to grow. What their capabilities are is shown in the nature and personnel and working of the extempore government they now have and which makes so much a part of the gravity of the present situation that I must give a few details.

Its seat is in Malolos, 45 miles from Manila. There the Philippine congress sits in an old Spanish church. It had 83 members when it declared the republic on the 16th of September last; more have since been added. Of these 83, 17 were graduates of European universities. The president studied at Madrid and Salamanca, taking degrees in theology and law, and is an author, his works on the life and manners of the inhabitants of Luzon having been translated into German.—Rev. Wm. M. Salter, before Society for Ethical Culture in Chicago, Feb. 12.

#### INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM ESSENTIAL TO SOCIAL PROGRESS.

Recognizing this important psychological law, the conclusion is logical and inevitable that, all actual and permanent expansion and integration of societies must proceed by the voluntary cooperative action of individuals. The statesman or social reformer who would work in harmony with the tendencies and laws of nature, must therefore direct his efforts toward convincing the judgments and converting the motives and moral natures of individuals, rather than toward forcibly changing the customs and institutions of society by legal enactment, military domination, or a majority vote under the white heat of an emotional political campaign. These customary methods of attempting to effect social changes may be of some service as educational influences, inciting thought in the unreflecting, but as means of finally solving and disposing of social or political problems, they are lamentable failures. It is the too exclusive dwelling on biological analogies by students of society which leads to socialistic and communistic conclusions to be enforced by the militant power of the state. Here psychology should come in as a corrective, showing that man, through his

voluntary action, is constantly reacting on his environment and recreating it in the image of his own ideals. \* \* \*

It is a sound political philosophy, justified by scientific sociological principles, which is enunciated in the affirmation of the Declaration of Independence, that "all just government rests on the consent of the governed." This is as true in Cuba, Hawaii and the Philippines as it is in Massachusetts; it is as true of the older monarchical and aristocratic systems as it is of a democratic-republican form of government. While the evolutionary sociologist recognizes the different forms of government are adapted to varying degrees of culture and social development, he also knows that an autocracy which does not rest upon the actual consent of the governed, which finds no response in the hearts of the people, but is maintained solely by military compulsion, is a tyranny, unstable in its foundations, unadapted to its social environment, and destined to early destruction by peaceful or violent means.—From "Our Nation's Peril," by Lewis G. Janes.

#### REMEDIAL MEASURES—A FABLE.

"O, sir!" cried one of the prisoners in the "Black Hole of Calcutta," to the Maharaja, as he came to visit the jail, "pray let us out of this—we are in great distress and dying by the dozen."

"Dying?" replied the prince, "then something must be done! We must first find the extent and then the cause of your distress."

So he sent a friendly visitor, who took the measure and the weight of each one in the hole, and figured out how many feet of air he breathed; he made a scientific study of the case and noted the following valuable and interesting sociologic conclusions. (The friendly visitor had a large family):

"First—Competition is at the root of all this suffering. Had the prisoners taken turns at the peep hole in the door of the cell, all could have lived till now.

"Second—Underlying this is human greed; for the stronger ones had stopped up the breathing space with their heads, and so the weaker perished.

"Third—There is a maladjustment of the Social Force. If, instead of breathing in the air and returning it from their lungs into the cell, the prisoners would discharge it on the outside, a large number would survive.

"Fourth—Those poor people are prodigal of their water, they drink whole cupfuls at a time, whereas, were they persistently to breathe through the

nose, the desire for water would be greatly lessened.

"Fifth—There is no real scarcity of water, as the Ganges and the Mississippi hold an abundant supply, which is practically free. The heat is an unavoidable incident of human life, though aggravated by the vices and fever of the poor prisoners. To open the door as a panacea, is a fascinating theory, but I am constrained to say (else I should lose my job) that the only immediate and practical remedy is to mitigate their thirst by giving the lower strata rags to chew. Much might be done also by blowing through the key hole. But the only real specifics are: First, Education, so that they may make the best of their opportunities, but not so much as to make them discontented, and second and mainly, Moral Elevation."

When the Maharaja read the report, he sent to the prisoners a theological student and a book upon "The Pleasures of Content." And he raised the Visitor's salary.—Bolton Hall, in The Ram's Horn.

#### THE LATE LAND DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Anyone reading the speeches of Mr. Chaplin and Mr. Balfour would suppose that the housing question was at the best a matter of academic interest, and that the rating of land values existed mainly as a proposition for the employment of royal commissions. We hope that the overcrowded people of the towns, who pay from a quarter to a third of their wages in rent, will weigh these speeches well. Let them note the fact that the president of the local government board grudges an afternoon to the discussion of these vulgar matters, whilst Mr. Balfour looks upon overcrowding and rack-renting as mere incidents—trying, perhaps, but inevitable—in the growth of town life. The people in other parts of Europe and in America are overcrowded, says Mr. Balfour. Let us wait, then, until everything is in order in Hamburg or Warsaw before we touch the ground landlord at home. Mr. Balfour admits that overcrowding is a curse, but the phrase is meaningless on his lips. If multitudes of people are living under such a curse, why in the name of statesmanship is nothing to be done? Why this protest against hot haste? Why is the country forced to wait year after year upon the pleasure of royal commissions, each one more futile than the last? And how comes it that landlords and clerics are able to extort emergency reports, recommending doles for their comfort out of the public pocket, whilst