

carried on. To get rid of them, free competition must be established. That being established, monopoly and all its brood of evils would disappear.

Whoever will consider what free competition means, will realize the beneficently revolutionary character of the effects that would be produced by the introduction of a principle like that of the single tax, which is simply an appropriate method of unshackling competition. With competition freed and monopoly abolished no one could fail to secure his equitable share in the benefits of social growth. To all such the new modes of production which were more prolific and required less labor, would be welcomed as a boon. It is the operation of the principle of monopoly, not of free competition, that makes them now a menace. If the great factory, the department store, capitalistic farming, or any other normal species of large production is a menace to any industrial class, it is not because such method is in itself bad, but because the injured class is disinherited of its competing power. Restore that power, by abolishing monopoly, through making competition free, and special difficulties of adjustment which now seem to be insuperable obstacles, would prove to be the merest shadows in the path. What labor of all grades needs is not to be helped but to be freed. Being freed, it would help itself.

NEWS

Once more the center of general interest has shifted. Attention is now diverted from the Spanish-American war, the Czar's peace proposition and the Dreyfuss exposure, to the British war in the Soudan. Khartoum, the scene of the Gordon massacre 13 years ago, and the objective point of the British army in Egypt, has been captured. The British and Egyptian flags were hoisted there on the 5th.

The British movement upon Khartoum began last spring with a battle at the Atbara river, which flows into the Nile near Berber, the most advanced post the British had yet occupied. The battle of Atbara, fought on the 8th of April, resulted in a complete victory for the British, though with severe loss. The loss of the na-

tives was greater, however, amounting to 2,000 in killed alone; and Mahmoud, the dervish commander at Atbara, was taken prisoner. Since then the British and Egyptian troops have been steadily pushing their way up the Nile to Omdurman, which lies at the confluence of the White Nile and the Blue Nile, not far below Khartoum. Omdurman was the headquarters of what is called the rebellious movement, for it is to be understood that the British are supposed to be engaged not in invading dervish territory, but in assisting the Egyptian government to put down a dervish rebellion. On the 1st of September the Anglo-Egyptian army, under Gen. Kitchener, encamped within eight miles of Omdurman, and within three miles of the rebel army. At dawn on the following day the dervishes were advancing for an attack. Preparations to receive them were made and at half-past seven their attack was anticipated with artillery fire. The dervishes replied with rifles, following with a sweeping rush upon the British flank. Driven back by a withering storm of bullets from the whole British line, they swayed toward the British center and concentrated there for an attack in full force; but the large body of horsemen which led the attack literally melted under a continuous fire, and the main body withdrew behind a ridge in front of their camp. Gen. Kitchener's army followed them. As it came over the crest of the ridge the dervishes bore down upon its right with 15,000 troops which had been massed for a supreme effort to retrieve the dervish losses of the day. To meet this movement Gen. Kitchener seized an eminence with his main body and wheeling to the right caught the dervishes in a depression where he poured in upon them a cross fire with infantry and artillery which fairly mowed them down. They fought bravely, however, until there was but a remnant left, and these broke and fled. Gen. Kitchener's cavalry drove them 30 miles into the desert. Meanwhile British gunboats on the Nile bombarded Khartoum, destroying all the forts and incidentally injuring the tomb of the original mahdi, who died in 1885. By noon the battle had been won, and in the afternoon the British occupied Omdurman. On the 5th, as already stated, the British and Egyptian flags were raised above the neighboring city of Khartoum, which Gen. Kitchener reports as a complete ruin. The loss to the Anglo-Egyptian army

was 46 killed and 341 wounded; the dervish loss is reported as high up in the thousands. The dervish leader, Khalifa Abdullah, escaped.

Khartoum and all that region in the Soudan were, until July, 1881, under undisputed Egyptian control. About that time the original mahdi, Mohammed Ahmed, led a religious crusade which in January, 1885, captured Omdurman and Khartoum. Gen. Gordon, known as "Chinese Gordon," had been in command there for a year, in behalf of the British government, which had intervened to put down the rebellion; and when the city of Khartoum fell into the mahdi's hands, he was massacred by a mob of the mahdi's followers. The dramatic incidents connected with Gordon's death have been supreme in exciting English public opinion against the Soudan rebels, and arousing English enthusiasm over the recapture of Khartoum. The recapture affects the public mind in England as being in the nature of revenge for Gordon's death.

An American correspondent reports conduct on the part of the British at the battle of Omdurman which is hardly believable; yet the report is apparently confirmed by so conservative a paper as the London Standard. He says that no wounded mahdists were left after the battle, because the British deliberately and under orders massacred them. He also says that this has been the custom ever since Gordon's death. The excuse given for it is that wounded mahdists on the battlefield are as dangerous as if they were unhurt. They never stop killing while life remains. British officers and surgeons, it is said, have been killed or wounded while passing over battle fields trying to relieve the suffering of wounded mahdists—killed by the wounded mahdists themselves. For this reason it has become the practice to send over the battle fields small bodies of the Soudanese troops under command of the Sirdar, Gen. Kitchener, expressly to kill the wounded rebels. The London Standard refers guardedly to the matter in these words:

Some of the Sirdar's Soudanese were cautiously making their way across the field of battle, their duty being one which, however hateful it may seem to the theoretical humanitarian, warfare against a savage horde like the followers of the Khalifa makes imperative. There is no need to dwell on such

incidents. It is enough to say that as everyone with experience of fighting in the Soudan knows too well a wounded Baggara may often be more dangerous than a Baggara without a scratch on him. Concealing his agony and feigning death, he can still deal a fatal blow at his unwary enemy.

Following closely upon the recapture of Omduran and Khartoum by the British in the Soudan, the British government has become involved in sanguinary difficulties in the Island of Crete. A collision began on the 6th between Mussulmans and Christians in Candia, and at the height of the rioting a British warship in the harbor fired shells into the city. The British military authorities had appointed a council of internal control to administer the revenues. It was composed of Christians. By way of precaution the British had stationed a detachment of soldiers outside the office of the council, and, a crowd of Mussulmans who had menaced the Christians, attempting to force an entrance into the office, the soldiers fired upon them, wounding several. The Mussulmans then ran for arms. Securing these they returned and fired upon the soldiers. From this the riots spread rapidly through the Christian quarter, the Mussulmans firing through windows into Christian houses and burning many houses and shops. A party of marines was landed from the British warship, and four other British warships started from other ports for Candia. Among the killed was the British vice consul; he was burned to death in the burning of his house. Both the British and the German consulates were burned. At last reports nearly 100 British soldiers had been killed.

The Dreyfus case is still the one subject of public thought in Paris. When we last wrote, Col. Henry had confessed to forging one of the important documents against Dreyfus, which the ministry had accused Dreyfus of having written, and he had been arrested and put in prison, where he had committed suicide. Since then, Col. Paty de Clam, who with Henry and Esterhazy have been conspicuous in their hostility to Dreyfus, has been arrested. He is charged with complicity in manufacturing evidence against Dreyfus, but no particulars have come nor have any further developments transpired.

Cavaignac, the French minister of

war, has found it necessary to resign. In his letter of resignation he explains that he resigns because of disagreement in the ministry over the Dreyfus case, he being still firmly convinced of Dreyfus's guilt. M. Cavaignac insists that no revision of the Dreyfus case should be had without facts to show that there was error in his trial. Inasmuch as the forged document played no part in the trial, but only by way of justification in the chamber of deputies two years after the trial, he argues that nothing has occurred to justify the revision which some of the ministry favor. Gen. Zurlinden has been appointed minister of war in the place of M. Cavaignac; and on the 7th it was credibly reported in Paris that the ministry had unanimously agreed upon a revision of the Dreyfus case.

The Czar's peace proposals are reported from Rome to have met with favor in Italy, the ministry having decided, it is said, to send a representative to the peace conference. From St. Petersburg it is announced that almost all the European powers have sent favorable replies to the Czar's disarmament note. From the same sources come reports to the effect that the principal subject for consideration at the peace conference will be the Alsace-Lorraine question. It is expected that the peace conference will meet in November. Meanwhile, the Russian war office is strengthening the Czar's field artillery service.

Early in the week rumors of an understanding between Great Britain and Germany became current. It was spoken of in some quarters abroad as a preliminary to the peace conference, it being supposed that these two countries would unite in the conference in order to hold the demands of France within what they might regard as due bounds. Later details of a pending treaty were reported, but nothing authentic is yet publicly known. The treaty would seem to be chiefly commercial, though it may furnish a basis for the adjustment of differences as to territorial questions arising between Germany and England in different parts of the world. This much is probably certain, that the enmity between those two nations has somehow been smoothed away, and that hereafter they will find their interests to be very much in common.

While making a new treaty with England, Germany has been claiming

rights under an old one with the United States. She objects to the tariff discriminations made in the reciprocity agreement between this country and France. It will be remembered that during the present year President McKinley made a reciprocity agreement with France, under which certain American products are admitted into France at a reduced duty in consideration of the admission into this country of certain French products on similar terms. To this Germany objects. She wants to send her goods into the United States at as low a rate of duty as France does, claiming a right to do so under the treaty of 1828, which accords to Prussian products the same duties as may be put upon the products of the most favored nation. On the American side it is claimed that the treaty of 1828 was superceded by that of 1868 and that in practice both Germany and America have repeatedly ignored the "most favored nation" clause, in legislation affecting each other. John A. McKasson, special reciprocity commissioner, made the reply for the United States, which has been delivered at Berlin through the German ambassador to the United States. Its receipt in Berlin was reported on the 5th.

A hitch has occurred in the arrangement of the details of peace between Spain and the United States. Judge White, of the supreme court, who was appointed one of the peace commissioners to represent the United States at Paris, has positively declined the appointment, and as yet no one has been found to fill his place. The Spanish commissioners, so it was reported in Madrid on the 3d, were named on the 2d. They are Eugenio Montero Rios, Rafael Cerero y Saenz, and Senor Villaurutia, the under secretary of state for foreign affairs. The Spanish ambassador to France declined an appointment on the ground that the American ambassador to France was not one of the American commissioners.

For the purpose of passing upon the peace conditions, the Spanish cortes met on the 5th. Senator Rodrigues, from Puerto Rico, sent a letter refusing to obey the summons to attend. Sagasta proposed a decree authorizing the renunciation of Spanish sovereignty over the colonies in accordance with the peace protocol. It does not appear yet to have been passed. The reports of proceedings