

tion, will be worth less than the ink it takes to write it.

The Albany Law Journal, which has generally kept an even keel on the waves of hysteria over anarchism, which now and again sweep the land, has at last foundered. Like most eleventh hour converts, the Journal is carried clear beyond all bounds. Here is what it says, apropos of the attempt of autocratic courts of Europe to involve this country in an agreement for the outlawry of what are vaguely called anarchists: "All urging or proclaiming the doctrine and duty of subverting all government, must by all governments be treated as criminal."

Let it be observed that the manner of subverting government is not treated by the Albany Law Journal as an element in the new fangled crime it proposes to define. The crime is to consist solely in agitation against government. So, if an assassin conceived it to be his duty to murder public servants for the purpose of subverting government by terror, he must be regarded by all governments as a criminal, not because he is an assassin or has conspired to assassinate—that would be only incidental—but because he proclaims the doctrine of governmental subversion. Or, if, believing with the signers of our declaration of independence that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of natural rights it is the right of the people not only to alter but to abolish it, a revolutionist should agitate for the forcible abolition of all government, he must be treated as a sort of international criminal, not because of the means he advocates, but for the object he aims at. Or again, if the most peaceful man of whom we can conceive preaches the doctrine that men would live in amity but for the force exerted by governments, and therefore that it is a religious duty to abstain from assisting government in the exercise of force, whether as soldier, civil officer, or voter, and yet to offer no resist-

ance to the assaults of government, to the end that all government might thereby in time be divested of power and so be abolished, he too must be treated everywhere as a criminal, not because he has committed a crime or threatened it, for he has done neither, but because he proclaims the doctrine and duty of subverting government! Thus the American idea of government as a mere means to an end, is set up as the very end itself.

Could anything be more un-American, more disorderly, more lawless? The proposition of the Albany Law Journal would be in spirit a revival of the old federalistic alien and sedition laws. For Americans there is a simple rule from which they cannot deviate without risking their liberties. It is this, that homicide except in self-defense is a crime against all society, and that it is the same crime whether the victim be a monarch or a common man. Let all society protect itself, then, against all inexcusable homicide. This is something which the great body of Americans will, and as we believe ought to, insist upon. But let political agitation, no matter how unpopular its object, even though it be for the subversion of all government, let that once be recognized by the American people as a crime in itself, regardless of the means contemplated, and our right of political agitation will soon be so restricted by the criminal law that nothing short of another revolution will restore them. The crime of treason, with the safeguards with which successive revolutions have hedged it in, is ample for the protection of our own government. Other governments must protect themselves or perish; it is none of our affair. To concoct a new crime, a sort of international treason, such as the Albany Law Journal suggests, would itself be a crime of the first magnitude. We trust that Americans are not yet ready to engage in international man hunts with such medieval sportsmen as the Emperor of Germany and the Czar of Russia.

Circulation has been given to a rumor that the Arena magazine, which has suspended publication, was deliberately killed by some of its stockholders, who had acquired control of a majority of the stock for that purpose. The motive is stated to have been to put a quietus upon this anti-monopoly publication because of the wide influence it exerted. In some degree this rumor is confirmed by a story that Dr. Ridpath, the Arena editor, is the author of a letter which asserts that the Arena was on a sound paying basis when it suspended publication. This rumor ought either to be positively confirmed, or as positively denied. It is altogether improbable that a self-supporting magazine would be forced to stop publication, if it were really self-supporting. While we can understand that such a magazine would be annoying to the plutocrats of the country, we are not prepared to believe that they have yet reached the point of trying to kill off self-supporting anti-monopoly publications by acquiring control of the stock and forcing them to commit suicide. If the evolution of plutocracy has reached that stage, those who have the evidence owe it to the public to prove the fact. If, on the other hand, the suspension of the Arena was legitimate, those who are responsible for it cannot afford to rest under the imputation that they have in cold blood killed it off to serve the ends of American plutocracy.

The history for 75 years of a degenerate family of Switzerland consisting of 106 illegitimates, 141 beggars, 64 public paupers, 181 prostitutes, and 76 criminals including 7 murderers, has become the subject of a good deal of superficial discussion. Of course it is rich food for the expert in heredity, who holds the poor ancestor's bad qualities responsible for all this want, misery and crime, without the slightest reference to the effect of their social environment upon the different individuals. Then there is the expert in public finance. He has calculated with sol-