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It is a pleasure to record such acts of disinterestedness as those of Lieut. Aaron Ward and Rear Admiral Francis J. Higginson, of the American navy. Having been named for promotion for specially meritorious services, both these officers declined, on the ground that they did not regard their services as exceptional, and that their promotion would be to the prejudice of brother officers quite as worthy as themselves.

Somewhat of a flutter occurred in circles that may be better described as pious than as religious, upon an announcement this week that the Japanese government was planning to make Christianity the imperial religion. It appears now that the announcement had no foundation in truth. But even if it had been true, there would have been nothing in it to cause genuinely religious men to rejoice. To establish Christianity as a state religion is neither to introduce nor to promote Christianity, but more likely to strangle it. Christian ecclesiasticism is the only thing in the similitude of Christianity that can be set up by law, and ecclesiasticism is no more religion than a silk gown is a woman.

Tolstoi's confirmation of our views regarding the hollowness of the peace pretensions of the Russian government is strengthened by a recent public letter of Prince Krapotkin's. The prince appeals to the English speaking world against accepting the czar's peace manifesto as sincere. His reasons are impressive. While publishing this manifesto outside of Rus-

sia as an assurance of a desire to promote peace, the Russian government stops all agitation for peace at home. The press is strictly forbidden to discuss the question, and even the priests are put under a censorship to prevent their speaking against war. Meantime Russia is imposing imperial military service upon Finland, and is resorting to flogging and other torture to force the doukhobors into the army. When Prince Krapotkin and Tolstoi agree in denouncing as fraudulent the czar's peace proposals, we feel quite safe in not becoming ecstatic about them.

Sugar growers who imagine that bounties on sugar are for their benefit, may discover their mistake in a decision made about two weeks ago by the United States supreme court. It was held distinctly by this decision that the manufacturers of sugar, and not cane growers, are entitled to the sugar bounty. In rendering the decision Justice Brown remarked that cane growers would receive their share of the bounty in higher prices for cane. That would be more consoling to sugar cane and beet growers if they didn't know that higher prices for cane or beets would stimulate cane and beet production, and so press prices down again.

An enthusiastic advocate of manual training estimates that 97 per cent. of the graduates of Chicago public schools are unable to earn an adequate living, because they lack an industrial education. He fails to observe that as large a percentage of those who do not lack industrial training are also unable to earn, or at least to get, an adequate living. An extension of industrial training, under existing conditions, would make it harder, not easier, for the great mass of people to command decent wages.

Duns' Review of business and finance grows enthusiastic over the recent advances in wages. Acutely enough this sapient business review observes that these additions to wages put into the markets a new and vast buying demand. But while wages in the very industries it names were being reduced during the two years that have elapsed since the presidential election, it did not occur to Dun's Review to note that the reductions took out of the markets that same buying demand. Inasmuch as the recent wages advances hardly equal the reductions that preceded them, how, on the whole, can the buying market be benefited? That market would have fared better if there had been no advances, provided there had been no reductions.

It must have required no ordinary bravery on the part of Congressman Cannon to declare officially through the Congressional Record, that the Dingley bill has yielded sufficient revenues for the ordinary expenses of the government. This bold statement is made full in the face of the fact that federal revenues are running short of expenses, notwithstanding a war loan almost large enough to pay all the war expenses, besides the imposition of a war revenue tax. But for the war loan, the war taxes, and receipts from sales of railroads, though there had been no war, the treasury would by this time be well-nigh empty.

The total treasury receipts from all sources except sales of railroads, from July 1, 1897—a few days before the Dingley law took effect—down to December 31, 1898, inclusive of bond sales, were \$806,112,603.85, as appears from the treasury reports. During the same period the total expenses were \$773,085,058.96. Here we find a surplus of \$33,027,544.89. But the extra expenditures for war down to