

against it; but the necessary number of affirmative votes is 102—two-thirds of the membership. [See current volume, page 325.]

—During practice maneuvers of the French fleet off Cherbourg on the 8th the battleship *St. Louis* ran upon the submarine *Vendemiaire* as she rose to the surface, and literally cut her in two. The submarine immediately sank with her entire crew of 26 persons. [See vol. xiii, p. 518; vol. xiv, p. 1004.]

—A decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on the 7th, held that the powers of the Commerce Court are limited to questions of law and that it has no power of reviewing the decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission on questions of fact. [See current volume, page 325.]

—The Illinois Supreme Court decided finally on the 6th, in the case of *Milford E. Streeter* against the *Western Wheeled Scraper Company of Aurora*, that the "assumption of risk" doctrine in labor accident cases was destroyed in Illinois by the new statute regarding safety appliances. [See current volume, page 398.]

—General Caneva, commander in chief of the Italian forces in Tripoli, claims to have won the biggest battle of the war, at Zanzur oasis, on the 8th. He reports an insignificant Italian loss, with a Turkish loss of 1,000. General Caneva says that his forces are now in complete control of the Tripolitan coast. [See current volume, page 442.]

—In San Quentin prison, California, on the 9th, a "grub strike" broke out at dinner time on the part of from 200 to 300 out of the 1,900 prisoners then in the dining room. Two prisoners were shot by guards, one of them fatally. The dispatches state that several of the mutineers would be severely "disciplined," a word which has been understood with reference to San Quentin prison to be a euphemism for torture.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (see current volume, page 371), for the first ten months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for April, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
Gold .....	45,706,414	39,978,952	5,727,462 exp.
Silver .....	45,706,414	39,978,952	5,727,462 exp.
Silver .....	53,118,690	37,825,702	15,292,988 exp.
Total ....	\$1,989,302,085	\$1,444,590,405	\$544,711,680 exp.

—Katmai volcano in the peninsula which forms the southwestern point of the Territory of Alaska, which had long lain dormant, is now in violent eruption. The first evidence of the disturbance came on the 6th, when the peninsula and surrounding waters were rocked by earthquakes. As reported by the mail steamer *Dora* which was in sight of the mountain, after the earthquakes came a terrific explosion and a great mass of rocks was thrown out by the mountain, followed by a steady stream of rocks and ashes which soon darkened the sky and obscured the volcano. By the 9th it was estimated that an area of 300 square miles, much of it fertile territory, had been covered to a depth of several inches by volcanic ash. Fine ashes had been blown as far as Sitka, 700 miles east. This volcanic disturbance is the most violent ever recorded in Alaska. [See vol. xiv, p. 979.]

## PRESS OPINIONS

### How to Pay Easily and Honestly for Public Improvements.

The Boston Common (ind.), March 23.—If the Massachusetts Board of Port Commissioners is really anxious that the city shall get the greatest possible use out of its harbors for the least possible cost, they will at once recommend that the legislature pass a resolution to submit to the people a Constitutional amendment enlarging the scope of the State's powers of excess condemnation. Thus also they can free themselves, severally and jointly, now and hereafter, from the least suspicion of a motive of interest in any scheme of private land speculation, such as is now taking place with respect to the East Boston Company.



### How to Be a Good Citizen.

Newark (N. J.) Evening News, June 6.—Governor Wilson told the members of the New Brunswick Board of Trade to get into politics as well as look after other civic affairs and to help fight the wrong. When any one complained of "dirty politics," the Governor would ask him if he voted at the last primary, and if not, he wanted nothing further to do with such a man. The Governor's advice is wholly good. In a democratic country, under a democratic form of government, every citizen ought to be in politics. It is his privilege, his right, his duty. No one is morally excused for not participating in politics. The plea of "dirty politics" is vapid, inadequate, inconsequential. The man who will not go into politics because he knows some of it is dirty, ought not to go into business because there are gamblers, cheats, frauds, thieves and scoundrels in business. It does not follow that he must conduct business upon any such plans as the undesirables adopt. Going into politics does not mean going into dirty politics any more than going into business means going into dishonest and crooked business. It means exactly the reverse. When every citizen does his part as a citizen, does not leave it to the unscrupulous partizan or the professional politician, then and only then is the standard of citizenship raised to the highest point; then, and only then, is dirty politics the least influential and the least successful.



### Progressive China.

Christian Science Monitor (Boston), June 5.—Whether China, at this stage of history, will try to reproduce the experience of western Europe and America in forms of government, or will launch out on a more socialistic or collectivistic theory of the state and of state activities, is one of those wide-open questions that make prophecy unsafe. Neither President Yuan Shi Kai nor Premier Tang Shao-yi is touched with modernity to the same extent as Dr. Sun Yat Sen. The leader of the revolution and the man who retired in order that Yuan Shi Kai might rule does not hesitate to declare his belief in socialism and in extreme state activity in solving all

problems of economic and industrial distress, such as the great famines and floods that now periodically destroy population and wealth. He also would go far in preventing increment of wealth derived out of social development from going into pockets of private owners. He would tax after the manner urged by Henry George. No man in the Empire now has, or is likely to have, greater weight as a national adviser, for Sun Yat Sen speaks with the authority of a world-wide traveler and of a patriot who has put nation far above self. It is worth noting that Premier Tang Shao-yi says that he hopes for socialism's triumph some day; but he is not as ready to experiment with radical legislation now as is Dr. Sun Yat Sen.



### Are They All So Sordid?

The Cincinnati Post (ind.), May 8.—Says Louis Post: "Men of the kind (the privileged) who go bravely to death in sinking ships when rescue appliances are inadequate for all, will as bravely give up their industrial privileges once they understand that privilege for some spells disaster for all." The editor of The Public fails to see the difference in the sentiment which fills a man at the moment when he sees women and children threatened at sea and the sentiment which moves him at the moment when "business is business." In the first instance, it is a sort of natural heroism; in the second, one of the strongest of human sentiments—greed. At one time, the man says: "There's not enough for all. Let the poor women and children have place in the lifeboat!" At another time he says "There's plenty for all. Let me have it, regardless of the poor women and children." To many of the privileged the greed of money is stronger than the desire of life, and there is no teaching them that surrender of privilege means safety rather than disaster. Often, royalty has honestly believed that society would go to smash without its royalty, and so our moneyed royalty thoroughly believes that the country would perish should their privileges be surrendered. What sort of demonstration other than what we've had must we have in order to make the privileged understand that "privilege for some spells disaster for all"? Privilege has resulted in an average wage under which decent citizenship is an impossibility. Privilege has created a condition under which there is no justice as between the rich and poor in the courts. Privilege has founded a class that preys upon the multitude. These things all men see or feel. The world has earnestly rejoiced (and been tremendously surprised) in that a few millionaires didn't take seats in those lifeboats. But they surrendered no privilege, no right that was not just as heroically surrendered by nearly 1,500 poor men who were dying with them. Death knows no privilege, nor do men recognize such in the presence of death. Neither Editor Post nor anyone else will see, as an effect of that ocean horror, a single privilege relinquished by the privileged. The lesson to be drawn from those last scenes on the sinking Titanic is simply that a rich man can be as brave in dying as a poor man. No privilege was given up. Nor as yet has any privileged one surrendered a privilege that means misery and death to women and children as surely as if they were on the stricken Titanic.

## RELATED THINGS

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

#### FULFILLMENT.

##### For The Public.

O Worshiper in this long hallowed place,  
Unsteady now, and wan, with feeble voice,  
Here vent your praise, and let your heart rejoice;  
Your visage bodies forth the inward grace.

E'er long you'll heed the now expected call,  
As finally your hands enwearied sink,  
And passing lightly o'er the farther brink,  
Your spirit's Father will reclaim His all.

Your many year-long labors fully done,  
Your children, e'en, now gathered to the dust,  
You worship here with monumental trust,  
And scarcely know the work just now begun.

The wife of many long and faithful years,  
You kissed farewell, ah, not these many weeks,  
And as your question clearer knowledge seeks,  
She 'waits you patiently with unborn tears.

Thus though your aged form be somewhat bent,  
While yet remains the daily trivial task,  
With little more of good or ill to ask,  
Your lasting courage is not clean forspent,—

For see in yonder aisle the bride and groom  
Of recent years, whom, both in deed and thought,  
You from the school to faithful freedom brought,—  
Thus lent your merit life in youthful bloom;

And see where towers the massive, rising plan—  
Embodiment of some wild genius' scheme,  
For whom your intercession saved the dream,  
Averted ruin and preserved the man;

And, too, where many thousands daily toil  
With better hope than then before you came,  
And dared their over-lords for very shame  
To further wring their blood in greedy spoil.

Ah, Sir, forget not in the day, that some,  
Now children in life's morning, plain can see  
In all your labor, faithful ministry  
To Him who in the evening bids you come.

THORWALD SIEGFRIED.



## THE CHRISTIAN LAW OF CIVILIZATION.

From an Address by James E. Mills\* on "First Principles of Political Economy" as a System of "Christian Economics."  
Prepared in 1893.

The law of equal right of access to the earth is the first great commandment—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all

\*See this issue of The Public, page 559.