

fairs, horse shows, charities and fashions to attend to, and most of them have also their little club essays to write about art, and the lives of the dead men, and all the late novels. What time have they left, any more than the clergymen, the lawyers, college or business men, to look into these things and find out who will give us the best government—a government that will make all Europe blush under her epaulets because she's way out of sight when we're around with our big navy, our millionaires, our steel and sugar trusts, our men of brains, who have learned how to run the government? Perhaps you don't believe all this? Wait a bit; I'll prove it. Look at the men in state prisons. Do they trouble themselves about finding work, or food, or the best way to govern the institution, or whether the warden makes a profit buying his supplies or out of their labor, or what they are going to get for a Thanksgiving dinner? No; these things are all provided, and many a man this winter will steal to get himself put under this form of government rather than have his full liberty outside. Now, Louis, doesn't that prove that a poor man's liberty may be now and then a fine thing to talk about; but for a man who owns no land, and who can't get a job, a government that will give him work and feed him is the best kind, and the way for all of us to get a government founded upon some such principle, is to let those few whose interests it is to make a profit out of supplies, or out of franchises and all such, to do the governing?"

Louis said not one word. Sometimes he does that way, when he's not listening, but Budd got tired, so she climbed up on my knee, put her hands around my neck and, shaking her curls at me, said, impatiently:

"Why, papa, why don't you let the down-town man see to all that?"

She calls "the city" the "down-town man," and thinks that he paves the streets, and keeps the cars running, and makes Sunday come round once a week.

The "down-town man" answers to my idea of government, only I desire to have it understood that I am no socialist. My down-town man is a gentleman, a man who doesn't need to work, a rich man of brains.

I do not believe in mob rule, or in a government by the people, but in a government for the people; in short, in a syndicate government.—James Richard Semple, in the San Francisco Star.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Building Inspector Harks called on Mayor Johnson yesterday for advice regarding the south wall of the old York building north of the Superior street viaduct. This building was burned a year or so ago, but the south wall, which is brick and about three stories high, has stood. The building inspector told the mayor that the owners of the ruins had been ordered to tear this wall down; they had been told time and again, but had failed to do it.

"We have the wall tied to the viaduct," said Harks, "but it should be torn down at once. It stands on Elm street and is likely to fall at any minute and crush the life out of one or more persons. In order to take it down properly we have to undermine it and then cut the ropes that bind it to the viaduct. The only trouble is that it will take a lot of telephone and telegraph wires with it."

"Notify the owners of the wires to remove them," said the mayor.

"I have notified them," answered Harks, "but they have paid no attention to the matter. The wall ought not to stand another night."

"Then tear it down," said the mayor. "If it destroys any wires the companies will have themselves to blame. Notify them that the wall comes down this evening, wires or no wires."

"All right," said Harks, and he left the office to give the necessary orders. The wall was toppled over on schedule time, but no wires were destroyed. The companies hustled about and removed them.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of Nov. 28.

Assistant Director of Law Babcock will shortly draw up an ordinance regulating fire escapes. Mayor Johnson held a conference on this subject yesterday with Director of Fire Lapp and Judge-elect Babcock.

"We can't make anyone put up fire escapes," said Lapp, "for we have no power. We may be able to persuade them, but we cannot compel them. There is no city ordinance on the subject, and the state law has been knocked out in a case at Cincinnati. The supreme court held that it was a piece of special legislation, and therefore invalid. I don't see how we can do anything. It is outrageous the way buildings are left unprotected in this city."

"I can fix that," said Judge Babcock. "The regulation of that matter comes within the power of the police au-

thorities of a city, and I can draw up an ordinance that will correct the evil and at the same time be valid."

"That settles it," said the mayor. "I want you to draw up that ordinance right away, judge. If we have any power to compel owners of buildings to properly equip them with fire escapes we will do it."

The ordinance will probably be introduced into the city council in a week or two.—Plain Dealer of Nov. 30.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN ASSESSOR.

Within a few days Mayor Johnson will inaugurate a new method of getting from land owners their ideas as to the value of their land. Lithograph maps showing the real estate in each ward, together with a signed letter from the mayor, will be distributed at every house in the city.

The map shows to each person all the land in the ward in which he resides or owns property, and the unit values placed on it by the annual city board of equalization at the open meeting held in the city hall last summer. While the mayor believes that the figures on the maps come pretty close to representing the real cash values he thinks that some mistakes have probably been made, and for that reason he wants to get the individual opinions from the land owners as to what the cash value of their property is.

Those receiving the maps are requested to mark in plain figures what they think the values really are, and return the maps to the tax bureau in the city hall. They will be given careful consideration, and the unit values as they now stand will be revised to make them as nearly accurate as the combined opinions of all land owners in the city can make them.

The values which are finally determined on will be placed on the tax duplicate next June in place of those on which taxes are now based. At that time the annual city board of equalization will have the power to make these changes.

It is believed by Mayor Johnson that the result will be to bring about as nearly a uniform valuation of real estate in Cleveland as it is possible for men's minds to meet on. He also says that the effect will be to greatly reduce the taxes, for, while the people are asked to give the actual cash values of their land, it does not follow that the board intends to assess any land at its cash value.—Plain Dealer of Nov. 30.

The tax maps which the mayor will have sent out to the residents of the various wards of the city will be print-

ed in the course of a few days. There will be a separate map of each ward. The maps of the Seventh ward, for instance, will only be distributed among the residents of that ward. A circular letter will be distributed with the maps. After explaining the work of the tax school and the unit system of arriving at land values the circular says:

"This print is distributed for the purpose of giving every resident in your ward the opportunity to give his opinion as to the value of one foot of bare land by 100 feet in depth, within the ward.

"By establishing a unit of value and submitting the same to the people for criticism and suggestions, the cash value of all the land within Cleveland can be arrived at. We, therefore, at the request of the mayor, ask each resident to take this print, go over it carefully and to insert in plain figures what he regards as the value of one foot of land by 100 feet in depth, on as much property as he is acquainted with, and either in person or mail return the same to the tax department in the city hall. If a unit of value is not clear to you, then give us your opinion as to the value of one foot of bare land for the entire depth, giving the number of feet of such depth."—Plain Dealer of Dec. 1.

FRAMING TAX BILLS.

The important tax bills which will be introduced into the legislature this winter at the instance of Mayor Johnson, will be drawn by Attorney James Williams on lines suggested by the mayor. The mayor engaged Mr. Williams for this work yesterday. He is the man who codified the laws of Ohio and on questions of constitutional law is in the front rank. In drafting the mayor's ideas on taxation into bills for the legislature to enact into laws requires some delicate word-handling and few men are as well equipped as Attorney Williams to perform this task.—Plain Dealer of Nov. 27.

MAKING OUR THANKS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

A portion of a sermon delivered at Union Thanksgiving services in Cleveland, O., November 28, by the Rev. Carl F. Henry, pastor of All Souls' Universalist church, in Cleveland.

While we of this land have enjoyed plenty and peace, another people of another land have suffered, and still are suffering, because of us, the awful famine and miseries of war. When the pilgrim fathers appointed that first day of thanksgiving one of the blessings for which they were grate-

ful was liberty—civil and religious liberty; and from that day until now this land of freedom has been an asylum for all who are oppressed. Americans have always held that one self-evident truth is that among the inalienable rights of man are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." For this principle our fathers gave their heart's blood freely; upon it they built the state. And for 120 years our flag was loved as the emblem and protector of those rights. In every harbor in the world and on the high seas it was welcomed by the oppressed of every land, who sent up a prayer to God for his blessing upon the free republic beyond the blue.

But, alas! the history that we have been making under Asiatic skies since January, 1899, has forfeited our right to claim any special distinction in this respect. The awful tragedy in which we have had a part, and still prolong, has outraged every principle of freedom for which the fathers fought, and upon which our nation was founded and grew to greatness. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," which the framers of the declaration of independence declared to be inalienable rights of all men, have been denied to a race by the country of Washington and Lincoln, and for nearly three years the power of arms has been employed in all the cruel business of war to subjugate and bring to vassalage a liberty-loving people fighting for their homes and country.

The circumstances under which this war was begun make it one of the most perfidious and disgraceful in military annals. Long months ago Hon. Carl Schurz challenged its apologists "to point out in the whole history of the world a single act of perfidy ever committed by a republican government more infamous than that which has been committed by our government against our Filipino allies." It has not been done. It cannot be done. The challenge, though renewed, has remained and will remain unanswered.

When America began this war of conquest it seemed to many of us that she put a stain upon her escutcheon which nothing could wipe away; but we were not prepared for that which has followed. Little by little the "destiny" that impelled us to claim sovereignty over our brown allies and enforce the claim with all the barbarities of war, has led us on to doing to these people exactly what Weyler did to the Cubans. His "reconcentrado" policy was so brutal and inhuman that the world stood aghast at its inaugura-

tion, and America flew to arms, President McKinley declaring that Weyler's driving noncombatants into the towns, there to sicken and starve to death, was "not civilized warfare; it was extermination," and the "only peace that it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave." But, in less than four years thereafter we are doing in the Philippines exactly what Weyler did in Cuba, justly earning, thereby, the name "Butcher" Weyler.

It is a sad spectacle, indeed, to see the two great Anglo-Saxon, enlightened nations exchanging precedents for modes of warfare surpassing in cruelty anything of modern times, for England and America have gone beyond all others in this respect. Mr. Chamberlain defends the outrages in South Africa by citing American precedent in the Philippines, and we apologize for American atrocities in the Philippines by pleading Kitchener's methods in South Africa. Were it not for our own barbarities we should shudder with horror at the practices that have for their purpose the extermination of the Boers. The British press reports a death rate in the "reconcentrado" Boer camps increasing so rapidly that in September alone, of 109,418 persons, 2,411 died, and most of them were women and children. This is at the rate of 264 a year for every thousand—more than 17 times the rate in Cleveland. The frightful results of the same policy in the Philippines may never be known, but they must be terrible. The people of Samar have been ordered to concentrate in towns on pain of being public enemies and being treated accordingly; and in the island of Leyte we have not only driven the people into the towns, but have also established a rigid blockade to prevent the importation of food and compel starvation—all because the husbands and fathers of these women and children insist that the land is theirs and they have a right to govern themselves. If war is hell, how shall we characterize this deliberate, cold-blooded starving of women and children?

We dared to hope three years ago that our time-honored ideals would temper our colonial policy (if we must enter upon it) with a modicum of liberty and justice. We hoped that America, if she determined to govern without the consent of the governed, would at least have the grace and justice to govern well. But in the heat of conflict these hopes have volatilized into thinnest air. The colonial policy of America at this hour is less in harmony with liberty and humanity than