

of a nation in acquiring and governing territory.

The Chinese upheaval is lightly touched upon, and with reference to Cuba the platform asserts that the nation's pledge is being kept. The state administration as well as the national is applauded, and the tax crusade of Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, is noticed in these terms:

We favor such revision of the tax laws of the state as will require all classes of property to bear their equal and just share of taxation and we recommend the creation of such machinery for fixing and equalizing valuations as will be adequate at all times to correct error and take notice of changes in value. During the last ten years the general assembly has increased the revenues of the state by forms of taxation other than by levies upon real and personal property. We favor further legislation in this direction, to the end that the burden of taxation upon property may be lessened, and we denounce as unjust any scheme which aims to cast the entire burden of taxation upon real estate.

Finally, the two senators, Hanna and Foraker, are proudly described as "able in debate and wise in counsel," and the latter is nominated for reelection. The clause making this nomination is as follows:

Senator Foraker has rendered splendid and conspicuous service in our country during his term in the United States senate and we heartily indorse him for a second term.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The international vegetarian congress opened in London on the 25th.

—A cloudburst in the Pocahontas coal fields of West Virginia on the 23d destroyed a vast amount of property and 50 lives.

—Earl Russell, grandson of the former premier of England, has been indicted for bigamy and will be tried by the house of lords.

—By injecting oxygen in its natural state, a Belgian physician claims to make almost instant cures of boils, abscesses and anthrax.

—Hoshi Toru, the Japanese statesman who formerly represented Japan at Washington, was murdered on the 21st in Tokio. The motive of the murder was political.

—Gen. Maximo Gómez, the famous Cuban general, accompanied by Senor Gonzales, secretary to Gov. Gen. Wood, left Havana secretly on the 26th for New York by way of Florida.

—The supreme court of Tennessee decided on the 20th, two judges dissenting, that women cannot be ad-

mitted to the bar in Tennessee, because lawyers are officers of the court and the state constitution forbids women from holding office.

—On the 25th the Leipziger bank at Berlin suspended payment, owing to the suspension of the "Dresden Credit Anstalt." The liabilities are estimated at \$17,000,000 to \$18,000,000, and the assets at \$9,600,000. The bank's shares had been quoted the day before at 140. This is the largest of a series of German bank failures.

—Adelbert Hay, son of Secretary Hay, and recently U. S. consul at Pretoria, was found dead on the sidewalk in front of the New Haven House, New Haven, Conn., at 2:30 in the morning of the 23d. He had fallen from a window of the hotel, where he was a guest while attending the Yale commencement, having retired to his room an hour and a half before. Mr. Hay was 26 years old.

### MISCELLANY

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

London, June 17.—Replying to questions in the house of commons to-day. Mr. Brodric, the war secretary, said there were 40,229 persons in the "concentration camps" of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. The deaths in these camps for the month of May numbered 98 men and women and 318 children.—Daily Paper.

#### For The Public.

It hath not been the use of British men To war with children. See you not, my lords,

My lords and commons, how these figures read

To every man who is not blinded by The lust of conquest and the gleam of gold? Is this the England ye have vaunted of, Which led the world to liberty and right, Whose laws dealt equal justice unto each, Whose very flag gave freedom to the slave—

A symbol of their brightest, fullest hopes To the oppressed and wronged, a safe retreat

To hunted patriots, saying unto kings And tyrants, in their wrath: "Ye strike not here;

Beneath these folds is refuge unto all?"

Can this be England, driving from their homes

Women and children, making of sheltering walls

Fire blackened ruins, rooting out the crops, Killing the cattle, burning fruitful farms And villages, and leaving in her track A wilderness? Can this be England? Oh, 'Tis thus the savage, mad with homicide, Drunken with human blood, exterminatés All that his arm can reach, man, woman, child,

Until a hostile tribe is blotted out. Beware! Beware! Such wrongs pass not unseen

By the clear eye of God; each deed writes down,

In the dread judgment book, a darker fate, And a more terrible punishment to come.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON ON GOV. PIN-GREE.

A telegram from Tom L. Johnson to a Detroit paper.

My deep sympathies are with Pingree's family in their loss. I will miss him greatly. From opponents we became friends; he won me to his side of many public questions and I am proud to say that the last few years he has counted me among his personal friends.

The people of Detroit have lost their greatest champion and safest adviser. I know of no one to take his place as a progressive leader of the state, but the fact most to be regretted is the loss of the example that he set of rugged courage and incorruptible fidelity to duty as he saw it; an example that public officials should emulate, for I consider Gov. Pingree's public career as a striking illustration of what a great and truly good man can do in the interest of the plain people. Each of his successive victories showed greater strength than the one before and proved how little public men should fear organized privilege when they really deserve the confidence of the communities in which they live.

There never was a time when Gov. Pingree could have been bought or frightened out of doing what he conceived to be right. The country needs the inspiration of such a career.

#### AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

Extracts from Editorial in London Daily News of May 29.

The supreme court of the United States has legalized American imperialism. It is a momentous decision, the most momentous, perhaps, that the famous tribunal has ever been called upon to make. An absolutely unchangeable constitution is an impossibility, and, rigid, as it is, and bulwarked with all conceivable safeguards, Americans have seen theirs change and develop by amendment, interpretation and the subtle growth of custom. But that it could ever be extended to embrace imperialism, to sanction colonies, and to throw its shield over the conversion of a republic into an empire, is something, we venture to say, that its framers would have laughed at as incredible. However, the thing is done. The constitution, it is now decreed, does not follow the flag. Territories and states are not the only form of government the constitution permits. The supreme court has pronounced in effect, if not in words, that, so far

as the law goes, there is nothing to prevent the Americans treating the Filipinos and Porto Ricans as the Russians are treating the Finns. The thoroughfare of imperialism, which is the thoroughfare of autocracy, is declared legally open to the descendants of the signers of the declaration of independence. A curious issue, this, to 120 years of triumphant democracy. Scoffers will welcome it as a proof that the "great experiment," as Carlyle prophesied, does not promise to be so very great or so very novel after all. By what complex process the judges of the supreme court reached their decision it is impossible to tell; but there is the past to show that on occasion the members of the tribunal which all Americans rightly reverence may not be able to put their political opinions altogether aside. This reflex action of public opinion upon the judiciary, dangerous as it is, is unavoidable in a nation which enjoys the privilege or disability of living under a written constitution. Times change and new conditions arise, and confusion becomes only worse confounded, if the instrument of government refuses to accommodate itself to progress. The Americans, as Mr. Bryce observes, have more than once been obliged to bend their constitution in order to avoid being forced to break it. This time, however, they have bent it without the provocation. It is not progress which the constitution has been stretched to cover, but retrogression; not the advancement of humanity, but that disheartening product of our times, the militarism of a democracy. The American constitution never showed its amazing elasticity on behalf of a poorer cause.

We deplore the decision with all our heart. It can only give fresh encouragement to the already ominously large party which seems bent on shaping American destinies after the worst models of the old world. If ever there was a country whose sole mission seemed to be the building up of an orderly, prosperous and intelligent commonwealth, of developing a new and higher type of civilization, that country was America. The force that the nations of Europe waste in arming themselves against one another, Americans have turned to "fruitful strifes and rivalries of peace," to subduing their vast continent, to making it, what it is now, a homogeneous and unconquerable

whole. Not one of the causes that make colonization a necessity for the powers of the old world is applicable to the United States. Stupendous as is their population, they still have room enough and to spare for twice their present numbers. There is no population question, no labor question, no question of a submerged tenth to make an outlet for emigration imperative. Their foreign commerce is large, for a European nation it would be immense, but it represents barely four per cent. of the value of the interstate trade. It will be generations before their new possessions bring in a tithe of what has been already sunk in them. And as for the fantastic notion that imperialism will steady the national character and bring a better tone into domestic politics—we confess to some scepticism as to the possibility of reforming Tammany Hall by way of Luzon. If American politics are parochial, it is the Americans who have made them so. Unless they annex a quarter of the world they will never find problems more pressing, more complex, more worthy of the finest statesmanship than those now clamoring for solution on their own continent. But, after all, it is the headlong fall in the moral scale that is most to be lamented, the turning of the back on all that has been the special glory and distinction of the country in order to join in the barbaric scramble for the waste places of the earth. It is not in a year, or even in a decade, that the evil fruits of imperialism mature. But that sooner or later America will repent her wild outburst is inevitable.

#### CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP AND THE FOURTH OF JULY.

An extract from a sermon preached in St. James' Episcopal Church, Greenville, Miss., June 23, 1901, by Rev. Quincy Ewing. Reported for The Public.

If any of us doesn't like the declaration of independence unemasculated, with its soul and character left in it; if he considers it as it stands, not a good document, but a bad one, not a true document, but a false one; why, let him say so. Let him "take no stock" in the Fourth of July; and he may, if he follows this course, lay just claim to Christian citizenship—he saves his honesty. But the man who professes to glory in the day which commemorates the adoption of the great declaration, and repudiates its essential and most distinctive propositions, can hardly lay claim to Christian citizenship in this republic, if Christian citizenship implies thor-

oughgoing honesty on the part of him who claims it; and I think it does.

We may as some other sort of citizens, but we cannot as Christian citizens—impliedly honest—celebrate the adoption of the declaration of independence as it left the pen of Jefferson and was voted for by the colonial congress July 4, 1776; and applauded the shooting to death of an incipient republic, and the denial of rights to one of our territories that we accord to others, on July 4, 1901.

Convince me that this nation has finally, for all time to come, repudiated the declaration of independence, and I could only celebrate the Fourth day of July honestly—in accordance with my emotions—by stretching the blackest crape I could find across my front door, the crape of mourning for a dead nation that I had loved—dead with that soul-death which possesses all nations and individuals who repudiate their souls!

But I do not think it will be necessary for any honest citizen of this republic to bespeak his emotions in black crape on the Fourth day of July. The nation is not finally dead; it is only sleeping. The soul of Christianity still lives, though traitors to it have worn the mitre and the triple-crown. Chartered into active life and conquering power by the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord's Prayer, and the sovereign definition of religion as love of God and love of man—Christianity has survived not one Judas, but millions, and is potent and alive enough to survive billions more. So I doubt not the soul of this republic will survive all traitors who seek to deliver it to death. It is sleeping now; they are wide-awake. The day must come when it will wake, and they will sleep—not with their fathers, for as citizens of this republic they are fatherless.

The declaration of independence which chartered this nation's soul into active life and conquering power, is not dead, nor is it outgrown; and on the Fourth day of July all Christian citizens of the republic may celebrate it gladly and honestly, recalling the spirit of the colonial congress of '76, and looking to the future, to another congress, in which that spirit shall rule supreme!

#### THE AMERICAN EMPIRE. For The Public.

Less than 14 decades ago the parliament of England passed a law to tax the American colonies, explaining, in justification of the act, that the proceeds of the taxation would be used in, and for the benefit of the colonies.