

tion of the Australasian land value tax.

Another notable banquet has been added by the single tax men of Massachusetts to the several they have given at Boston during the past three years in aid of their movement. On this occasion the special guests were the Catholic clergy, of whom a score were present, including Vicar General Byrne. The proceedings were published in full by the Boston Herald of the 4th. The address of the evening, delivered by Father Johnston, rector of the Gate of Heaven church, was upon the single tax in its relations to the teaching of the Catholic church. It was a thoughtful and eloquent argument in support of the conclusion that there is nothing in the single tax method or principle at variance with the teachings of the Catholic church.

On the whole, the minority report of the ways and means committee of the lower house of congress, which advocates a reduction of not less than \$70,000,000, instead of only \$40,000,000 as the republican majority proposes, is a well-considered document. It is true there are flaws in it. For instance, it advocates taxes on production instead of consumption as a sound fiscal principle; whereas taxes should fall upon neither consumption nor production, but upon such property as their expenditure enhances in value. The report takes fair ground, however, in declaring that the minority will not oppose the reductions contemplated by the majority, but will seek only to enlarge them. It is wise also in suggesting that further reductions in taxation should be made by abolishing some of the tariff duties that foster trusts and enable them to sell goods abroad for lower prices than they get at home for the same kind of goods out of the same factories.

Good luck is one of the elements of success in lawsuits. This piece of

worldly wisdom has been again exemplified by the Standard Oil trust. In 1892 that organization was ordered to dissolve. The order issued from the supreme court of Ohio pursuant to the Ohio anti-trust law. But the company paid no attention to it. So the republican attorney general, Mr. Monett, began proceedings in 1897 to punish the trust for contempt in disobeying the order of dissolution. Attempts were made to bribe him. But he was proof against that, and the republican state convention consequently refused to renominate him. It also refused to renominate one of the judges of the supreme court who was known to be friendly to the anti-trust law. A new attorney general and one new supreme court judge were accordingly elected a year ago. And now the supreme court makes a decision. Or rather it fails to make one. It stands 3 to 3 on the question of punishing for contempt, which is the same thing to the trust as a favorable decision. The trust goes free. By a curious coincidence the new judge is one of the three who favors the Standard Oil trust. Was there ever such luck?

Wu Ting Fang, the talented diplomat who represents the Chinese empire at Washington, lectured last week before a large audience in New York on the five relations of man—sovereign and subject, parent and child, elder and younger, husband and wife, friend and friend—as taught by Confucius. In the course of his lecture Mr. Wu took occasion to compare the golden rule of the Christian with that of the Confucian. Since Christ taught men to do to others as they would have others do to them, while Confucius taught them not to do to others what they would not wish others to do to them, Mr. Wu inferred that the two precepts are identical. He considered as "hair-splitters" those who find in them different ideas. It is hardly hair-splitting, however, to say that

Christ's golden rule is positive, whereas that of Confucius is only negative, and to maintain that therein there is a substantial difference. But this aside, we may readily agree with Mr. Wu in his pointed rebuke that conventional Christians do not even try to live up to Christian precepts. Referring to Christ's command: "Love your enemies," Mr. Wu said:

Love your enemies! At this very moment Christian missionaries are crying for vengeance and bloodshed. Christian armies are hastening, sparing neither age nor sex, in their indiscriminate slaughter, and carrying away everything upon which they can lay their hands. What a vast difference between profession and practice!

In this connection it may be well to explain that the most numerous and vehement of the demands upon the president for vengeance against the Chinese are reported from the white house to have come from Christian ministers.

#### THE WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL.

At the city of Washington, as we write, there is in progress the first centennial celebration of the occupation of the District of Columbia as the seat of the American government.

By the constitution, which became operative in 1789, congress is empowered "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of the government of the United States." At first the new government sat at New York and then at Philadelphia, but at the first session of the first congress steps were taken to secure a permanent place where the power of exclusive legislation thus conferred by the constitution might be freely exercised. This was not a simple matter. The sectional ill-feeling between the north and the south, which grew in intensity until it culminated in 1861 in the civil war, played an irritating part in the selection of a site.

That the site should be upon a navigable river was taken as matter