

President of his neglect to answer the letter of July 22 from the same committee, and then refers to his slighting reference to the work of the committee in his speech of August 28th at Weirs, N. H., which it makes the occasion for submitting a specific case of wanton and officially authorized cruelty on a Catholic priest in the Philippines, accompanying the charge with details. The communication was referred by Secretary Root, on the 22d, to the judge advocate of the army, Gen. George B. Davis, with instructions to make a thorough investigation of the allegations, and if any of the offenses can be placed upon officers or men of the army to have such persons brought to trial. The dispatches explain that as some of the allegations are against volunteer officers, who under recent court decisions cannot be reached by military tribunals of the regular army, it is the intention of the Secretary to have these investigated through the department of justice, if the inquiry of Gen. Davis develops facts which will warrant a trial.

Following this first step toward placing responsibility for the cruelties in the Philippines and the suppression of the facts regarding them, upon the administration, the New England anti-imperialist committee issued on the 25th an elaborate review of the Philippine situation, written by Moorfield Storey, counsel for the committee. The point of Mr. Storey's argument is that the responsibility for the conditions in the Philippines does not rest primarily with our soldiers and officers in the islands, but with Secretary Root. The document is a blistering review of the history of army management in the Philippines from the time of the American occupation of the islands to the present. It is stated to be entirely based upon official and authentic evidence, and its statements are supported at every point by citations of the reports of commanding officers, or of unimpeached testimony given before the Senate Philippine committee. At the outset Mr. Storey calls attention to the promises repeatedly made by President Roosevelt that all cases of barbarity, or of violations of the laws of war, occurring in the Philippines should be visited with severe punishment. These promises are then viewed in the light of Secretary Root's statements on the same subject in

speeches and letters. It is charged that there is direct conflict between Mr. Root's contentions and the facts given in the reports of the commanding officers in the Philippines, which must have been known to him. It is sought to show that the secretary has made no effort whatever to carry out the promises of rigid investigation and condign punishment made by the President, but has concealed information known to him from the public. Mr. Storey then reviews the history of the various investigations and courts-martial instituted at the request of the war department, and maintains that, in every instance, such investigations were either farcical or designedly incomplete, and that the selection of the investigating officers or courts-martial boards was such as to make it impossible to secure a conviction.

Just at this time, also, come disquieting reports from New York of financial conditions. Vague rumors of possible collapse had circulated during the summer, and Mr. Wellman, the press correspondent, became authority some two or three weeks back, for a significant interview with the secretary of the treasury. Mr. Shaw intimated in this interview that the financial outlook was not hopeful, most of the reserves of Western banks being in the banks of New York, and most of these being deficient in reserves, a vast bulk of the money they control having been loaned out on "industrial" securities. In line with this uneasy interview there came word on the 23d of a jar in Wall street and the closing out of small traders, together with the urgent calling in of loans by New York banks. It appears that within the past six weeks deposits in the New York banks have decreased over \$47,000,000, that loans have been contracted over \$22,500,000, and that the reserves required by law are deficient by more than \$1,500,000. The dispatches of the 24th are more soothing in tone.

Secretary Hay has opened an international question over the domestic affairs of Roumania, which is exciting comment in the diplomatic circles of Europe. Roumania, which borders on Russia and Austria-Hungary to the south, asserted its independence of Turkey in 1877, and its independence was confirmed by Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Austria and Turkey in 1878 through

the treaty of Berlin. Recently a considerable immigration of Jews from Roumania to the United States has been noted, owing it is said to maltreatment at home; and the immigrants have been an impoverished class, owing as Mr. Hay observes, to the same cause. On the ground, therefore, that the ill-treatment and impoverishment of Jews by Roumania causes an undesirable immigration to the United States, Mr. Hay requests of the Roumanian government a reform in the treatment of those people, and asks the powers that confirmed Roumanian independence by the treaty of Berlin to intervene authoritatively. Mr. Hay's letter was followed immediately by one from the British government inviting action in the matter by the powers that signed the Berlin treaty.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The Queen of Belgium died on the 19th. She was a great-granddaughter of the famous Maria Theres, of Austria.

—Lieut. Peary, whose return was reported last week (p. 377), failed to reach the North Pole. The farthest point he got to was 84:17 north latitude, 343 miles from the pole.

—A conference of employers and employes, addressed by Carroll D. Wright, Prof. Bemis, Prof. Ely, Prof. Clarke and others, met at Minneapolis on the 22d, having been arranged for by citizens of that city.

—The death of the Emperor of Korea—Chao-Hsien—is announced by way of Paris. He came to the throne in 1864, and assumed the title of "emperor" in 1897. The heir to the throne, Eni Wha, is a man of European education and habits.

—Maj. J. W. Powell, director of the bureau of ethnology at the Smithsonian institute at Washington, and reputed to be one of the foremost geologists and anthropologists of the world, died on the 23d at his summer home in Haven, Me.

—Hobart S. Bird, editor of the San Juan News, Porto Rico, has been sentenced at San Juan to four months' imprisonment for libel. He was denied what in the United States is a constitutional right, the privilege of testifying in his own behalf.

—The Boer generals, Botha, DeWet and Delarey, have issued an appeal to the civilized world for charitable contributions to allay the distress which they say is devastating the colonies, and which, as they add, the British government refuses to further alleviate.

—Stanley Spencer, an English aeronaut, made a successful experiment