

cans, and had learned to love and admire them. We knew that in this nation all men are free and equal, and we had read the American constitution, that sublime document, and therefore we hoped that the blessings of liberty would be extended to us. Have our hopes been realized? Nay, they have been hopelessly blasted. The supreme court has held that Porto Rico is not a part of the United States, that her citizens are not citizens of the United States, and that therefore the American constitution, which we had learned to love and revere, does not protect our island. Instead of autonomy, which had been conceded to us by Spain, we now have a government which gives the governor more despotic powers than any Spanish military governor ever had, and he exercises them to the detriment of the people. In order that his will may be done and that his power may be absolute Governor Hunt supports the party of the minority, composed of American adventurers and native renegades, who have no regard for the welfare of the country and are ready to applaud as long as they enjoy official protection. The election of November last was the greatest political crime of the century. All means were used from fraud to murder to give the victory to the governmental party, which won, although far in the minority. It fills my heart with anger and indignation when I think of the number of crimes which have been committed to carry such elections. But the murderers will remain unpunished because the ministers in the temple of justice are politicians. We have gone back to those dark days of the Spanish administration of 1887, when our mothers and sisters were in constant fear that their sons and brothers might be arrested by the Spanish soldiers to be thrown into a dungeon and suffer torture for the crime of being patriots. To-day under the present government our mothers and sisters have the same fear that they may be brought back murdered because they do not belong to the party protected by the government. Life for honest people is becoming impossible in Porto Rico, because they see that the government protects the criminal and punishes the law-abiding citizen. The government there has tainted the flag with dishonor. I am sure that if the true facts were known the honest-hearted Americans would be filled with indignation. But only the official reports reach American ears, and in them Porto Rico is represented as a happy and prosperous country. These reports are basely false. Porto Rico is going through a great crisis; the island is prostrated. I make this appeal to you as true American citizens, because I believe

that my country is entitled to have a government founded upon those principles that have made this nation the greatest, the freest and the noblest among the nations of the world, and because I believe we are at least entitled as civilized and Christian people to have our national rights guaranteed by the government to which we owe our allegiance. In heaven's name we want instead of profligacy, honesty; instead of extravagance, economy; instead of rioting, peace.

To northwestern Africa is a long way from Porto Rico, but news of the march of empire carries us there, for out of an insurrection in Morocco may not improbably arise another imperial question in world politics.

Morocco is an absolute despotism, ruled by a sultan who is unrestrained by any laws, civil or religious. He is chief of the state and head of the religion, which is Mohammedan. The reigning sultan now is Mulai-Abd-el-Aziz, who was born in 1878, and on the death of his father, Mulai-Hasan, succeeded to the sultanate by proclamation of June 7, 1894, having then been elected from the eligible family. He is the fifteenth of his dynasty and the thirty-sixth in lineal descent from Ali, uncle and son-in-law of Mahomet, the Prophet. His father having left other sons, they have plotted against him since the beginning of his reign; and in doing this they have had much popular support because the sultan has not only encouraged progressive ideas, introducing telephones, etc., and building railroads, but in that connection has abandoned Morocco's traditional policy of isolation and admitted French and British embassies, and immigrants, a courtesy of which Great Britain and France have taken advantage to secure franchise rights and set up claims to "spheres of influence" in the "hinterland" or unsettled parts of the country.

The plotting against the sultan has now culminated in a stupendous rebellion. On the 26th the London Times reported the situation at Fez, the Morocco capital, as serious, a pretender to the sultanate having secured followers in numbers too great for the government troops to cope with, and having some days earlier utterly routed the government army in a battle at Taza. The rebels were reported soon after as marching upon Fez, and on the 30th dispatches by way of London told of the investment

of that city. The sultan, with the few troops left him after the disaster at Taza and subsequent desertions, had barricaded himself in the royal palace and was preparing for a desperate resistance. According to dispatches of the 30th the rebels had cut off the aqueduct which supplies Fez with water and it was considered probable that the city would have to capitulate within three days.

As France and Great Britain claim interests in the Morocco country, and the rebellion against the sultan offers a conventional pretext for their intervention to "restore peace and protect foreign rights," Spain, lying, as she does across the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco, manifests great concern lest this pretext may be utilized to secure a foothold which would be a perpetual menace to her. Reason for this concern was found in the departure on the 29th of four British war ships from Malta to Gibraltar, in connection, as it was believed, with the Morocco situation. Steps to guard against prejudicial results from intervention were taken by the Spanish government, which instructed its ambassadors in London and Paris to ascertain the views on the Morocco situation of the British and French governments. Reassuring replies were announced at Madrid on the 30th, it being stated that Great Britain and France had notified Spain that they had no intention of taking any advantage of the situation in Morocco, and that they desired the maintenance of the status quo even in the event of the sultan's being dethroned and his place taken by the pretender.

Japan is facing a ministerial crisis over a question of taxation, the house of representatives having been dissolved on the 28th by imperial order, and elections fixed for February. The dissolution was brought about by the opposition of party leaders to ministerial plans for increasing the public revenues, which are deficient. Those plans comprehended an increase in the land tax. To that the opposition leaders objected, and no compromise was possible.

The land tax of Japan is not what is known in English speaking countries as the "single tax," as advocated by Henry George, nor does it bear any essential resemblance to it. On the contrary, it is an awkwardly devised tax, falling chiefly on agricultural production. It was estab-