

sacred portals of the twentieth century drunken with folly, inflated with pride and lust, and stained by the innocent blood which we have shed.

These should be our confessions: We have forsaken the faith of our fathers, and we who were consecrated to the service of freedom have stabbed our mother to death in the hearts of her brave little brown children. We have become a nation of cowardly assassins. We are using our wealth and our brute strength to rob and murder, and utterly destroy a poor, weak, brave people who trusted in us and gave their all to us.

Then as we lie prostrate in the dust and humiliated before God and man, let us confess our sins in detail: We invited these men to stand and fight our common enemy in the land which he withheld from them. When we had no further need of them we turned upon them, ravaged their country, destroyed their homes, drove to want and death their wives and children. Because their cry came up against us and condemned us, we suppressed the truth that it might not be made known. Our chief magistrate, and those whom he appointed to have knowledge of these far off islands and their people, have borne false witness to hide our infamy from ourselves and the world. And this nation, by the voice of its people in a national election, has condoned and taken upon itself the guilt of its rulers.

Then let us remember, lest we still hide our sins from ourselves, and by failing to confess and forsake our evil ways go on forever sinning, that we have turned from our ancient appeal to the righteousness of our ways and attempted to hide behind the vain and lying words "duty" and "destiny." This is the indictment: Our people no longer have a moral purpose as a sure and safe guide. We seek "to build up trade," to "enlarge our commerce," to "take our place among the nations." We forget God and his laws while we bow down and worship greed and gain.

Many of our citizens, while not approving of the administration policy of the past two years, ask: "Why did you not make a concrete issue?"

A concrete issue, indeed.

Was it not a concrete issue when we proved that the administration has turned away from the faith of the fathers, and has betrayed the cause of human liberty in each and every step of its infamous blood-stained Philippine policy?

Was it not a concrete issue when we promised so that none other than the blind could fail to read, none other than the deaf could fail to hear, and none other than the hopelessly and incurably prejudiced could fail to believe, that in the event of the election of Mr. Bryan this policy of falsehood, treachery and murder should cease and that the Filipinos should be given opportunity, aided by this great nation, to show their fitness for self-government, as they had already demonstrated their devotion to it?

Was it not a concrete issue when we called upon the nation to pause before surrendering to the great combinations of capital which are trading upon franchises, tariffs and other special privileges?

It was not for lack of concrete issues that in the United States the cause of human rights and equal opportunity has been trodden in the dust. The concrete issues were plain enough. We failed because the moral sense of the people is atrophied.

Our only hope is in the immortality of truth and righteousness. But, looking over the field of American politics, a reasonable forecast is that these dead bones of our departed liberties will never be re clothed with flesh and live again. Who can hope for a resurrection morning for liberty and human rights in the United States?

It is claimed that the young men of this nation are with the administration. This may be true, and is an added cause of alarm. The men who came to manhood 30 or 40 years ago brought with them a controlling purpose of moral convictions. There is great cause for alarm if the young man of to-day, entering the activities of life, is confronted with conditions that sweep him irresistibly into the currents of greed of gain, finding no opening socially or in business life except he stands by those who exalt

success, worship gain and ignore moral considerations.

Yet let us remember that there is always a remnant of the people who have not consented to these evil ways. If there is any hope it is in that. If our people shall be brought to pause, study, reflect, there may yet be hope for our country, and we may yet lead the world in a better life than it has ever known. Our final hope rests in the conviction that the foundations of righteousness are eternal.

ELWOOD S. CORSER.

Minneapolis.

NEWS

Interest still centers upon the South African situation. But reports from there are very meager, and such as leak through are of doubtful veracity, so strict is the British censorship. Kitchener has almost completely shut off the news. Of only one thing is there absolute certainty. The Boers have invaded Cape Colony, and the British are in hourly fear of a rebellious uprising among their Dutch subjects in that quarter. Thus the principal seat of action has been transferred to British territory south of the Orange river.

When we wrote upon this subject last week, it was understood that two bodies of Boers had crossed the Orange river into Cape Colony, one between Colesburg and Kimberly, and the other at some point near Alawal North. Of the movements of the latter, there were then no particulars, but the former was known to have penetrated as far south as Philips-town. Regarding the body that crossed near Alawal North—the more easterly point of invasion—the British war office has announced that on the 16th it came over the river and moved towards Burghersdorp, but turned westward to avoid a British force which had followed it, and on the 18th occupied Venterstad. On the same day it evacuated Venterstad upon the approach of British troops, and marched towards Steynsburg. Nothing further has been heard regarding this invasion, except in a press dispatch to the effect that it has been repulsed at Steynsburg and fled to the Zuurberg mountains. The same war department announcement says that the

more westerly invading force crossed at Sand Drift, and made for Colesburg, but upon learning that British troops were in pursuit diverged to the west, and on the 19th occupied Philipstown. Later, according to an official dispatch of the 22d, it occupied Britstown (which it has since abandoned) and cut the railway south of De Aar Junction on the line from Cape Town to Kimberley. According to press dispatches, this cut has been repaired, and trains are running irregularly. On the 24th Lord Kitchener arrived in person at De Aar, having gone from Pretoria, though he had previously reported not only that the Dutch in Cape Town were quiescent, but that the invasion from the north had been checked. An Associated Press message of the 25th from Cape Town tells of fighting near De Aar, the particulars of which were then not obtainable; and one of the 26th reports the capture of a force of British yeomanry which had followed the Boers from Britstown and fallen into a trap.

In consequence of this Boer invasion the British "treason court," established for the purpose of trying Boer sympathizers among British colonial subjects, and sitting at Colesburg, has removed with its records hastily to Cape Town. For the same reason the banks of 18 towns in the Orange river region have removed their cash and papers to Cape Town. To assist in preventing a rebellious uprising, martial law has been proclaimed, the districts affected being Britstown, Victoria West, Richmond, Hanover, Maraisburg, Graaf Reinet, Middleburg, Aberdeen, Steynsburg, Cradock, Torka and Molteno.

The transference of the principal seat of action to Cape Colony, has by no means put an end to fighting in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. One battle in the neighborhood of Pretoria is reported from British sources, Gen. French having, it is said, routed 2,500 Boers on the 19th at Thornvale, about 16 miles northwest from Krugersdorp. At last accounts he was pursuing them. Gen. Clements, however, in the same general region — the Magaliesberg — is quoted in London dispatches as reporting that "it was considered advisable not to force the Boers from their positions." An attack was made by the Boers upon Zunfontein,

near Johannesburg, on the 18th, but repulsed. With the exception of Pretoria and Johannesburg, the whole of the Transvaal and the largest part of the Orange Free State are reported by German volunteers just returned to Berlin to be in the hands of the Boers. They say that the Boer army is larger than the English wish to have known, and is spread over the whole theater of the war. These reports are confirmed by American volunteers who have recently arrived home from South Africa. They are confident, also, that Great Britain cannot subdue the Boers. The seriousness of the whole situation is further indicated by the nervous efforts of the British government to strengthen Kitchener. A large draft of horsemen is to leave England for South Africa on the 6th. All the available cavalry at Belfast, Ireland, has been ordered to prepare for service in South Africa. An increase of pay is offered the imperial troops, from 28 cents to \$1.25 a day. The colonial police is to be increased to 10,000 instead of 5,000, as intended last week. The colonies have been appealed to to furnish all the mounted troops they can muster. Volunteer corps are organizing in Durban. And in London the probabilities of "conscription" are freely discussed in military circles.

China next engages attention. The joint note of the foreign powers, upon the terms of which their representatives agreed on the 19th, as reported last week at page 585, was formally signed at Peking on the 21st. The text was made public on the same day at Washington. It begins by reciting the outbreak last summer of disturbances in the northern provinces of China, "in which atrocious crimes, unparalleled in history, and outrages against the law of nations, against the law of humanity, and against civilization were committed under particularly odious circumstances," and follows with an enumeration of the principal crimes referred to. They are four in number, namely: (1) The assassination of the German minister by soldiers of the Chinese army acting under orders; (2) the prolonged attack upon the foreign nations by regular troops, acting under orders from the imperial palace; (3) the assassination of the chancellor of the Japanese legation by Chinese regulars, and the torture and murder by regular troops of other

foreigners; and, (4) the desecration of foreign cemeteries at Peking. The note then refers to these occurrences as necessarily leading the foreign powers to dispatch troops to China, and complains that during their march to Peking they "met with resistance from the Chinese army, and had to overcome it by force." Reciting next that "China has recognized her responsibility, expressed regret and evinced a desire to see an end put to the situation created by the aforesaid disturbance," the note concludes with the assurance that "the powers have determined to accede to her request upon the irrevocable conditions" which it enumerates as follows, in substance:

I. (a) Apology to emperor of Germany for assassination of his minister, to be made at Berlin by an extraordinary mission headed by an imperial prince. (b) Erection on the spot of the assassination of a suitable monument inscribed in Latin, German and Chinese with an expression of the regrets of the emperor of China for the murder.

II. (a) Severest punishment for the persons designated in imperial decree of September 25, 1900, [Prince Chwang, Prince Gih, Prince Tuan, Prince Kang-yi, and Prince Chao Schuchiao] and for others to be designated by the powers. (b) Suspension for five years of official examinations in cities where foreigners have been murdered or otherwise outraged.

III. Honorable reparation to Japan for assassination of chancellor of her legation.

IV. Erection of expiatory monuments in every foreign cemetery which has been desecrated.

V. Non-importation of arms and munitions by China.

VI. Equitable guaranteed indemnities to foreign governments, companies and individuals who suffered during the late occurrences, and to Chinamen who suffered in consequence of their being in the service of foreigners.

VII. Privilege to foreign powers to fortify and guard their legations, and to exclude Chinese from residence in diplomatic quarter.

VIII. Destruction of forts which might obstruct free communication between Peking and the sea.

IX. Foreign military occupation of points to be designated for the maintenance of open communication between the capital and the sea.

X. Publication for two years by China in all sub-prefectures of an imperial decree—(a) perpetually prohibiting membership in any antiforeign society; (b) enumerating punishments; (c) holding local officials responsible for order within their respective jurisdictions and removing and