

NEWS

To go further is to involve society in greater dangers than the most virulent anarchists could possibly contrive. The safety of society demands that discussion shall be free, even though the perpetuation of the government itself be debated. "The right of the people," says Judge Cooley, "to change their institutions at will is expressly recognized by federal and state constitutions, and this implies a right to criticise, discuss and condemn." These rights are essential to freedom of conscience, and free government can rest only upon freedom of conscience.

But, as has been often and truly said, "freedom of conscience must include not only the freedom of belief, but also the freedom of unbelief." It would be absurd to say that we may discuss the wisdom of having this government or that, but must be silent upon the subject of whether government of any kind is just and wise. At this point intelligent and patriotic Americans will agree with Zenker, who, though utterly opposed to anarchy, has written a judicial and scholarly book on "Anarchism" (published by the Putnams), wherein he says that—

the right of freedom of opinion must not be confined merely to the forms of the state: one should be equally free to deny the state itself. Without this extension of principle, freedom of thought is mockery.

For ourselves we disagree with those who deny the state. We believe that their philosophy is unsound. While recognizing its force and accepting its principles in so far as they relate to matters of individual concern, we believe that there are matters of common concern which necessitate government. But if they are to be converted from their views, we hold that it must be done by argument and not by penal laws, by free discussion and not by censorship. We repeat and adopt the patriotic words of Father Thomas E. Cox, of Chicago, uttered at the McKinley memorial meeting in this city last Sunday, when he said: "America symbolizes liberty—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and a free press. If a republic cannot foster these and flourish, it cannot exist at all."

The funeral of the late President McKinley being over, attention turns to Leon F. Czolgosz, his assassin. As noted last week, the grand jury of Erie county, New York (the Buffalo county), found against Czolgosz on the 16th an indictment of murder in the first degree, for having assassinated President McKinley. Being immediately arraigned, Czolgosz refused to plead personally, and one of the counsel assigned to him by the court entered a plea of "not guilty." The trial was then set for the 23d, and on that day it began. Before the jury had been impaneled, the district attorney read the indictment to Czolgosz, in open court, and asked whether he was guilty or not guilty. In a low voice the prisoner replied: "Guilty." But in New York judgment cannot be pronounced in capital cases upon a plea of guilty; so the jury was impaneled and the trial proceeded as if the plea had been "not guilty," except that the lawyers for Czolgosz made no effort to secure an acquittal or reduction of the grade of crime. They concerned themselves simply with seeing that the forms of law were properly observed and that the jury was advised to act with discretion and not with passion. The trial occupied two days, the jury bringing in its verdict late in the afternoon of the 24th. The verdict was, "Guilty of murder in the first degree as charged in the indictment." Sentence will be pronounced on the 26th.

While Czolgosz was upon trial in Buffalo, Miss Emma Goldman and Mr. Isaak and his associates as publishers of Free Society, who had been charged in Chicago with complicity in the assassin's crime, were formally and unconditionally released from custody. The arrest of these people was reported two weeks ago, at page 361, and the circumstances were further explained and discussed at pages 369 and 375. At the last report (p. 375), all but Miss Goldman were before the court on habeas corpus proceedings, the hearing in which had been adjourned to the 23d. Appearing before the court at that time, the prosecuting officer consented to the discharge of the prisoners. He explained that they had been held in custody since their arrest upon no evidence whatever, but simply upon the telegraphic request of the police

authorities of Buffalo. On the following day, the 24th, Miss Goldman also was released, the committing magistrate having decided to allow the action in the other case to govern in hers. No attempts to molest any of the prisoners were made after their release, though written threats to murder them, coming from anonymous sources, had been made. A police guard which the authorities offered them from the jail to their home they refused.

A brief interruption of the Schley-Sampson inquiry (p. 375) occurred on the 24th. It was occasioned by the sudden death of ex-Judge Wilson, one of Admiral Schley's counsel. Proceedings were resumed, however, on the 25th.

Part of the aftermath of the steel strike, settled on the 14th (p. 376), is a statement of all the circumstances by President Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer attributes the failure of the strike to malicious misrepresentations by the newspapers, to treachery on the part of members of the Amalgamated association, and to the questionable loyalty of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Shaffer describes in this statement the terms of settlement, but they are too technical to be understood without a longer explanation than the circumstances call for in these columns.

In Chicago a movement has begun for the release, through American influences, of the reconcentrado prisoners held by the British in South Africa. This movement was started before the assassination of President McKinley, and has been delayed out of respect to his memory. On the 23d, however, a public meeting was held, which decided to call a large meeting at the Auditorium at an early day for the consideration of and action upon a series of resolutions which this initial meeting adopted. The resolutions quote from the London Standard the following news item:

At the end of July the total number of people in different camps in the Transvaal was 62,479, of whom some 10,000 were men, over 23,000 women and over 28,000 children of from one to twelve years of age. The total number of deaths in July was 1,067, of which 860 were children. In the Middleburg camp alone there were 342 deaths, mostly from measles. At Potchefstroom, where there is also

a very large camp, there were over 133 deaths, including 109 children.

Upon the basis of those facts the resolutions denounce the British for the "out-Weylering of Weyler's regime of Spanish barbarity in Cuba," which, to quote President McKinley, was—

not civilized warfare; it was extermination. The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave.

The resolutions consequently call upon the president—

to advise the British government that American public sentiment calls strenuously for the release of these non-combatant prisoners, to the end that they may find refuge in friendly lands where their needs may be relieved, their comfort provided for, and their lives preserved.

The Boers themselves are strengthening the impression that the war in South Africa, a victorious termination of which was celebrated in London a year ago, has revived, with prospects of a different ending. Some indications of this we gave last week at page 376. Further indications are now reported. Though Lord Kitchener tells of two or three British victories, the burden of the news is the other way. For one thing, a Boer commander met a party of Lovatt's scouts, and though prevented by them from crossing the Orange river, he caused them heavy loss, including the death of their lieutenant colonel. The British prisoners captured near Scheeper's Nek, which we reported last week, have been released, in accordance with the Boer custom. But the most discouraging news for the British relates to the uprising in Cape Colony, of which there have been indications, in spite of the censorship, for the past two or three months. A Cape Town correspondent of a London paper, the Daily Express, whose letter appeared on the 23d, declares that "the Dutch element in the colony is in revolt, and it is useless to disguise the fact." From Orange river to the sea, he explains, Cape Colony is in a condition of open or incipient rebellion. This is confirmed by advices from Boer circles in Holland to the effect that everything is in readiness for a Dutch uprising in both Cape Colony and Natal. Further confirmation may be found in the fact that the British government, which prorogued the Cape Colony parliament until August 27, so as to make the government free to

resort to martial law, has extended the prorogation to November 20; and also from the fact that the British cruiser Barracouta is on its way to Mossel bay, only about 225 miles east of Cape Town, with reinforcements for the trenches that defend the bay. Lord Kitchener has carried out the threat in his proclamation declaring the war at an end on the 15th, to the extent of permanently banishing from South Africa ten Boer leaders captured since that date.

Meanwhile friends of the Boers in Europe are working to secure peace on the basis of arbitration. The Dutch minister of foreign affairs has forwarded to the members of the administration council of the court of arbitration at The Hague and also to the legations, a copy of the Boer appeal for arbitration, with a notification that he intends to bring the appeal up for consideration at the first meeting of the council. A news dispatch of the 23d from The Hague intimates that the council will declare itself incompetent to deal with the subject; but action by the council has not yet been taken, no day for its meeting having been fixed.

The Filipino cause is less promising than that of the Boers, though pacification is certainly not yet established. Our last reference to this struggle was at page 344. The unsettled conditions at that time are apparently not improved. A mail dispatch to the Chicago Tribune, dated August 12 and just published, says that—

it is freely predicted that a renewal of guerrilla hostilities is to be expected. Malvar still has enough men to be troublesome. . . . There seems to be little doubt that the Hong-Kong junta is in communication with him and is still holding forth the hope of intervention.

Telegraphic dispatches of the 25th report that all the Filipino forces in the province of South Camarines have surrendered and that the province, therefore, is now pacified. An official report of casualties received at the war department on the 25th summarizes as follows:

Killed: Engagement of August 7—2.
Wounded: Engagements of June 10, 17 and 20 and July 27—8.
Died of disease, drowning and suicide: 30.

NEWS NOTES.

—A federal judge has decided that the anti-trust law of Nebraska is unconstitutional.

—Owing to floods in the Yang Tse valley, China, 10,000,000 persons are reported homeless.

—Simon Sterne, a prominent lawyer and distinguished publicist of New York, died on the 22d at the age of 62.

—The statue of Alfred the Great was unveiled at Manchester on the 20th, Lord Roseberry delivering the oration.

—The czar of Russia, whose arrival in France on the 18th we noted last week, departed on the 21st, after reviewing the French army. He did not go to Paris.

—A committee of the Marquette club, of Chicago, of which Congressman H. S. Boutell is chairman, has been organized to agitate for congressional legislation against "anarchist" doctrines.

—A socialist congress is in session at Lubeck, Germany. Two official stenographers have been assigned by the Prussian government to report the proceedings, for the purpose of making proof of forbidden utterances.

MISCELLANY

THE MENDICANT.

I.

Sakya-Muni, Gautama Buddha, what dost thou proffer of hope or of mirth?

"What shall I do to be saved" from the sorrow, passion and terror, and madness of earth?

What is thy gospel, O prophet of India? What hast thou left to me, child of the sun?

What is the balm for my pain thou hast promised me? What is the crown when the race hath been run?

II.

"What shall I do to be saved?" Thou hast answered it: "Labor not forever, but beg for thy bread;

Live as a mendicant; marry not; mortify flesh; let a life of Nirvana be led.

So shalt thou find in the depth of thy passions, growth of thy spirit, composure and rest,

Passing through indolent days of humanity on to intangible joys of the blest."

III.

Sakya-Muni, Gautama Buddha, bending I heed thee, but find in thy law Something that baffles me, doubtful consistency.—lo, in the web of thy wisdom a flaw—

Look to it, Gautama, Sakya-Muni, sweet is the bulb, but hollow her egg.

How shall thy gospel suffice for the many? If all men are beggars, from whom shall men beg?

—George Francis Savage Armstrong.

A GOOD CITIZEN.

When attention is called to the manly and able fight being made by the present mayor of Cleveland