

ing them gradually back along a curve, we put a bowlder in the way. The switch might have made them help us go in the right direction with all the momentum they had acquired going in the wrong one. The bowlder makes a smash-up.

To put out "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," is not the best way of propagating new truths which conflict with prevailing habits of thought. That must be done in mapping out the ground. That must be done by the prophets who reveal the truth. But men who as agitators or legislators seek to erect a new truth among the institutions of a commonwealth, must take the public mind as they find it and not as they would like to have it and hope to make it. They must lay their foundations where their truth and public opinion coincide. To revert to the railroad simile, if they would lead a commonwealth forward in right directions, they must connect a switch with the track along which the train of the commonwealth is wrongly speeding, and so utilize its momentum for progress. Instead of inculcating or demanding the unqualified acceptance of the whole truth at once, they must inculcate such of its elements as are least hostile to prevailing habits of thought. "With the current we may glide fast and far. Against it, it is hard pulling and slow progress."

But inculcating only partial truths, a little at a time, as much as can be digested, is a different thing from inculcating untruths, either positively or by suggestion. While we do not teach our children the whole truth in mathematics at once, we are careful that each partial truth shall be a truth as far as it goes, and in harmony with what has been already learned and with what is yet to be taught. So with new truths of political or social relationships or of industrial adjustments, truths to be incarnated in political institutions. While we cannot, and with justice to our cause must not, attempt to "jam through" "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" all at once, neither should we distort the partial truths for which we are able to secure recognition. To do that would be both im-

politic and insincere. It would react degradingly upon ourselves, it would react disastrously upon our cause. So much of a new truth as may be put forth must be true as far as it goes, and must harmonize with the whole truth of which it is part.

With that caution, it is a sound rule of popular agitation never to feed a listener with more of a new truth at a time than he can digest. It may try the patience of those of us who, feeling in our inmost souls that we have the truth, are nevertheless restrained by deference to popular prejudice or the hostility of the influential or by other prudential considerations, from uttering it in its fullness and seeking complete and immediate acceptance for it. But patience, too, let it be remembered, is a virtue in those who would do more than merely see the truth—who would make the truth, even the whole truth, incarnate in human institutions. Men who fight the truth are shrewd and patient. Those who fight for it must not be otherwise. Without the wisdom of the serpent, the harmlessness of the dove would in this world of ours be in another sense harmless indeed.

NEWS

Nothing has been reported directly with reference to the Boer commando, which, according to last week's dispatches, had fought its way to the Atlantic coast at Saldanha bay.

The censored dispatches tell, however, of several minor skirmishes, and of one severe battle in the general field of the war. The battle was precipitated on the 24th by an attack by Delary and Kemp upon a detachment of Gen. Methuen's troops near the Great Marico river, in the western part of the Transvaal. According to the official British dispatch the Boers left 40 dead on the field, including Commandant Osterhuysen, while two British officers and 26 men were killed, and five British officers and 50 men were wounded. The Boer attack was repulsed, after hard fighting, but the assailants carried away eight British wagons.

With reference to the Philippines,

the administration at Washington is adopting a peculiar course, or else it is misrepresented by the news dispatches. One of these dispatches, dated the 25th, announced that at a conference on that day at the White House, between the president and the secretary of war, it had been decided to reduce the military force in the Philippines, instead of increasing it. Though troops are to be sent out during the next four or five months, this report explains, they are to take the place only in part of those whose periods of enlistment are expiring, it being intended to make a net reduction by the first of March of 7,000 men—from 42,000 to 35,000. A later Washington dispatch, the 29th, goes even further, and upon the reported decision of the president and the whole cabinet, announces that Gen. Chaffee's Philippine army may be reduced not merely to 35,000, but even as low as 20,000. This reported decision surprises military observers recently arrived from the Philippines. According to a New York Herald report of the 27th from Washington, 60,000 men will not be too many to maintain American authority. Reports confirming this view are to the effect that Gen. Chaffee has made official statements asserting that the whole people of the Philippines are engaged in waging war upon the United States, the "friendlies" being chiefly those who hold office and who can be depended upon only while they remain in office.

In further confirmation of this view of the Philippine situation are the week's reports from Manila. That city itself is said to be upon the verge of revolt, and all the troops there have been ordered to make weekly practice parades for the purpose of awing the restless population. A fight has occurred near Passi, Province of Iloilo, on the Island of Panay, in which 25 Filipinos were killed and three captured. Gen. Lorega is said to have surrendered his Filipino force in the Island of Cebu. Papers captured from a Filipino commissary have resulted in the arrest by the Americans of many of the best known presidentes and other civil officials of the Island of Leyte. The Island of Biliran, to the north of Leyte, is found to be "a hot bed of insurrection." A fight took place on the 30th at Taysom, province of Batangas, in the Island of Luzon, lasting a whole forenoon. The Filipinos were driven to the mountains, after which their barracks, with 8,000 pounds of rice and many uni-

forms and blankets, were destroyed by the Americans. Another fight occurred in Batangas on the 25th, at San Jose. The Filipinos attacked the American garrison there, and after a hard fight burned the town. On the 25th the Weyler reconcentrado policy was put in force on the island of Samar, the inhabitants being then notified, reads the Manila dispatch, "to concentrate in the towns, on pain of being public enemies and outlaws and treated accordingly." On the 30th advices were received at Manila from the capital of Samar, saying that small skirmishes take place daily in the island and that the capital itself was under fire on the 29th.

The curtain fell on the last act in the McKinley tragedy early in the morning of the 29th, when Leon F. Czolgosz, the murderer of the late president, was put to death in the electrical death chair at Auburn prison, New York. The prisoner refused the offices of a priest, and asked that there be no praying over him when he was dead. He wished to make a public statement before execution, but that privilege being denied him he refused to make any statement at all until the officials were strapping him in their death chair. Then, within the minute and a half that elapsed between his appearance in the death chamber and the first terrific electric shock to which he was subjected, he said, in the presence of the 20 official witnesses:

I killed the president because he was an enemy of the good people—of the working people. I am not sorry for my crime. I am awfully sorry I could not see my father.

The first shock was applied at 7:12:30. Two more immediately followed, the electrical force being finally turned off at 7:15, when the prisoner was pronounced dead. The official autopsy was made by Dr. Carlos F. Macdonald, of New York; Dr. John Gerin, the prison physician, and Dr. E. A. Spitzka, who reported that—the autopsy occupied over three hours and embraced a careful examination of all the bodily organs, including the brain. The examination revealed a perfectly healthy state of all the organs, including the brain.

The dead body of the prisoner was buried in quicklime in an unmarked grave in the prison cemetery; the family having relinquished their right to it at the suggestion of the prison warden, who explained the dangers they

would incur of exciting a riot if they took the body away.

NEWS NOTES.

—On the 26th Otto Nordenskjöld's vessel, "Antarctic," left Falmouth, England, upon a south pole expedition.

—Rev. Dr. Hiram W. Thomas, for 25 years pastor of the People's church, of Chicago, has resigned the active pastorate.

—Hall Caine, the radical author, has been elected to represent the town of Ramsay in the Manx parliament by a vote of 458 to 191.

—Although a citizens' movement in Sedalia, Mo., was organized to prevent the holding there of the Socialist state convention, the convention met on the 19th and transacted its business without interference.

—Gen. Wade has issued a circular in southern Luzon doing away with the Spanish titles of address of "don, senior, senora and seniorita" and gives for those appellations the American equivalent of Mr., Mrs. and Miss.

—In the matter of reports during the week of trust organization, it is announced that with the beginning of the year a new steel trust will be born in Youngstown, O. A gold mine trust is spoken of to absorb the mines of the Black Hills.

—Judge Haney, of Chicago, has dismissed the quo warranto proceedings (p. 299) against the People's Gas Light & Coke company, of Chicago, brought to divest that company of its charter. He holds that the legislative act of 1897 consolidating the gas companies of Chicago into this company is constitutional.

—Caleb Powers was again convicted in Kentucky on the 26th of the murder of William Goebel (for first trial refer to vol. iii., p. 346). Powers, a Republican, was secretary of state of Kentucky at the time of the murder. The Court of Appeals had granted him a new trial after his first conviction and life sentence.

—Judge McLean, of the New York supreme court, has granted a certificate of "reasonable doubt" in the case of John Most, convicted of republishing an old article advising murder of crowned heads. Judge McLean expresses doubt of the legal validity of the conviction, and upon the basis of his certificate Mr. Most is entitled to bail pending an appeal to the higher courts.

—Henry Ancketill, one of the original single tax men in this country, and for several years an active single tax advocate in Natal, South Africa, has been elected to the Natal parliament as a representative from

Durban. One of the principal planks of his platform was a declaration that "economic rent is the natural revenue of every country." Mr. Ancketill had been defeated at a by-election last May (p. 195), but by a very small adverse majority.

—Three white men and 31 Negroes were killed in a race riot at Balltown, La., on the 28th. The riot originated in the appearance of a white posse at a Negro camp meeting ostensibly to investigate a charge against a Negro of keeping a restaurant without a license; but feeling on both sides was intense on account of the lynching and burning five days before of a Negro by white men, and the collision in consequence of the invasion of the meeting was spontaneous.

MISCELLANY

A TRIBUTE TO HERBERT BIGELOW.

For The Public.

"There is but one code of morals for men and nations."—Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow.

He speaks in prophecy; a man

With God's law written in his heart—
God's law, which he, God's partisan,
Cries daily in the crowded mart.

Who takes or adds a single word

Has half destroyed the virile strength
Revealed in every sentence heard,
In every cadence' measured length.

Long may he live to do God's will,

And prove the promise of his youth,
May nothing come in age to chill
His love for God, and man, and truth.

For in that heart and soul and mind,

And from that tongue so eloquent,
Spring thoughts to cheer and bless man-
kind,

And lead to human betterment.

STEPHEN BELL.

AN EFFECT OF THE CONQUEST OF THE PHILIPPINES.

For The Public.

Let me press home this thought to northerners—and many of them, I doubt not, will welcome it—that northern applause of the policy of shooting down weaker brown men in distant islands to civilize them, or even to "save their souls"—must inevitably plant seeds of bitter fruit for black men in the southern states of this country, and perhaps, nay, very probably, in all the others. I cannot believe I am mistaken in supposing that the lynching spirit has shown itself conspicuously bold and self-congratulatory in the northern and western as well as in the southern states of the union, since it became possible for the hoarse and brutal muse of Rudyard Kipling to sing the nation's policy and purpose. If millions of brown men across the thousands of miles of sea are the