

ings upon its selfish designs, and national sentiment is, alas! only too ready to spill its blood in the diabolical cause without regard to the rights or wrongs of the quarrel? These are some of the prominent features of the present age, and they are so familiar to us that one has almost to apologize for mentioning them.

Yet, why should familiarity with evil slacken and dissolve our resolution until we become part of the evil itself? That is the great danger—the indifferentism that comes from familiarity. Men talk of wars in progress and wars about to be declared with as much indifference as if they were talking about the weather or the theater. The idea of slaughter entirely escapes their notice. Yet the same people would be shocked with the details of a single murder. For murder on a wholesale scale they have no compunction. All the same the murders that are being committed by the orders of fallible or corrupt governments with the approval, more or less, of the misguided peoples they rule, are identical in moral texture with the isolated cases which excite the indignation of ordinary citizens.

The guilt may be more difficult to localize, but it is there. Every one of these murders is committed in violation of the principle none the less true because it is not recognized—that the highest interests of the peoples of all nations are identical. It is a principle written clearly on the face of nature. England to-day, for instance, cannot injure the Boers without injuring herself. The war that will annihilate the two republics will also cost England the lives of 40,000 or 50,000 of her subjects, and (what is of more importance to the capitalist mind, for blood is cheap in these days of foolish patriotism), £60,000,000.

In the same way a nation cannot enrich itself by trade without enriching the nation with whom it trades. Cobden taught the English people the sound doctrine of the interdependence of nations, and with remarkable success, too, for his time. By his efforts he brought about greater freedom of trade between England and France, to the mutual benefit—till political ambition stepped in and usurped the place of common sense—of both countries.

There is, in short, no natural quarrel between the German and the Frenchman, between the Englishman and the Irishman, between the Russian and the Pole; the interests of all alike, being to live and let live. But there is a natural quarrel between me and the man who—be he foreigner or fellow countryman—takes away my right to live, or prevents me from buying and selling with my fellow man in any part of the world.

War has its uses in this world, but it must be a war not for the furtherance of personal or political ambition, nor for vengeance, nor for swelling the gains of capital, but for the defense of some clearly defined human right which is endangered. We have too many wars of the former class, and not enough of the latter. We want to declare war against monopoly and privilege and against all those artificial ordinances which place equal beings upon an unequal footing in the race for life. We want men who will carry the banner of political and economic truth and disentangle its teachings from the illusions of a spurious and hypocritical patriotism. We must bestir ourselves if we are what we say we are. Falsehood and Fraud can find millions of soldiers to fight for them, and why not Truth.

Liverpool, Eng.

T. SCANLON.

NEWS

At the close of our last report of the progress of the British war in South Africa, Lord Roberts had begun to advance with his center from Kroonstad northward toward Pretoria, and had reached the Rhenoster river, about half way between Kroonstad and the Vaal, the Boers, apparently outflanked, retreating in good order before him. This was on the 23d. For two or three days thereafter Lord Roberts was delayed at the Rhenoster, the stream not being fordable. A pontoon bridge was thrown across, however, and on the 26th his advance proceeded. The advancing line was 30 miles long, with Gen. French's cavalry on the left and Gen. Hamilton's mounted infantry on the right. Before this long line the Boers continued their retreat, apparently unable to cope with the vastly superior force that confronted them, either by concentrating, since that would expose

their flanks, or by extending their line, since that would fatally weaken it. On the 26th they had withdrawn to the north side of the Vaal. A crossing had already been effected by the British left at Grobler's drift, which is not far from Parys, a Free State town a few miles west of the railroad. At that time little news of the situation had been received, the censorship having been tightened; but it is now known that Roberts's force of 50,000 men crossed the Vaal on the 27th without opposition and was moving over the desert upon Johannesburg, 50 miles to the north, a suburb of which it occupied on the 29th. There was no serious fighting. The Boers continued their retreat, carrying their guns and supplies with them, and every effort on the part of Lord Roberts to surround and capture them failed. This is the situation from authentic sources of information as we go to press (May 31); but from unauthentic sources it is positively reported that both Johannesburg and Pretoria have been surrendered by the Boers, without the slightest resistance, and that President Kruger has fled from Pretoria to Waterfalboven, a small station on the Delagoa bay railway some 120 miles east from Pretoria.

On the 28th Lord Roberts formally declared the Orange Free State a British colony by right of conquest, under the name of the Orange River colony.

The British war office has decided to send 11,000 more troops to South Africa in June. The number already sent there is in round numbers 300,000, including colonials. No reports of British losses have been recently cabled, but the estimates of correspondents vary from 15,000 to 70,000.

An indication of British sentiment on the subject of the war in the Transvaal is supplied by the by-election at South Manchester, held since our last issue, for the purpose of filling the seat in the house of commons of the Marquis of Lorne, who goes to the house of lords as Duke of Argyll in place of his father, the late duke. South Manchester was formerly a liberal constituency, but it was carried in 1896 by the Marquis of Lorne by a majority of 78 in a poll of 8,836. At the recent election the seat was contested by a radical, and the issue was distinctly jingo. The radical opposed subjugation of the Boer republics and

his jingo adversary favored it. Though nominated by the liberal party, the radical was opposed by Lord Rosebery's wing of that party. His election would have sounded Rosebery's political death knell. The jingo candidate was elected by a majority of 2,039 in a poll of 8,955, the vote for him being 5,497 and that for the radical 3,458: Though this minority vote indicates a strong sentiment against subjugation, it clearly shows that the subjugation sentiment is dominant; and for that reason the Tories are urging an early general election, so that they may get the benefit of the wave of war feeling before it subsides.

The Boer envoys—Messrs. Wesels, Fischer and Wolmarans—whose arrival in this country was reported last week, are next week to be in Chicago, where elaborate preparations are making for their public reception. A committee of 200, with Judge Dunne at its head, is arranging to receive them at a mass meeting on the 5th at the Auditorium and Studebaker hall, where Webster Davis, Judge Moran, Judge Brentano, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, John F. Finerty, Dr. Thomas, Clarence S. Darrow, William P. Black, ex-Gov. Altgeld and the envoys themselves will speak. Other cities to be visited by these South African representatives are Baltimore, Philadelphia, Providence and Boston. The envoys have succeeded no better with the senate than with the president. A resolution of sympathy was on the 29th defeated in the senate by a vote of 40 to 29. Mason, Hoar and Hale were the only regular republicans to support it.

News from the American expedition of subjugation in the Philippines, though meager, is full enough to show that the pacification of the islands is not yet complete. Aguinaldo was supposed to have been located in the mountains of Benguet province, Luzon, to the northeast of Lingayen gulf; but the American detachment which attempted to run him and his party down, has returned to Aparri without having found the slightest trace of him, although several forces of insurgents were encountered. From Manila comes the report that on the night of the 29th the insurgents "rushed" the town of San Miguel de Mayumo, 45 miles

from Manila, killing eight men, including a captain, and wounding seven. No Filipino dead were discovered. An engagement without casualties is reported from Masbate island. From Samar island comes a report of another engagement, but not without casualties. Four Americans, including a lieutenant, were killed near Catbologan on the 9th. It was from this island that an engagement at Caterma, was reported last week with an American loss of three wounded. The loss on that occasion is now reported to be one wounded and one killed. An escort party moving between Ilang and Silang, within 25 miles of Manila, was attacked by insurgents and three of the party killed. Other scouting engagements are reported, but with little or no detail.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to May 30, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900	2
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16,	23
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,872
Wounded	2,129
Total casualties since July 1, 1898.....	4,001
Total casualties reported last week	4,001
Total deaths reported last week.....	1,872

In American politics the most important partisan event of the week is a call by Chairman Jones for a full meeting of the democratic national committee at Kansas City at noon on the 2d of July. The democratic executive committee of Kings county, including Brooklyn, New York, has refused to recommend a pledge to support Bryan and the platform of 1896. Of nonpartisan events the important one is a declaration by the board of directors of the commercial travelers and hotel men's anti-trust league, pledging the league to support the Kansas City nominee, on the ground, expressed in resolutions, that the trusts, created by the republican party, have forced 50,000 commercial travelers out of employment and reduced the salaries of those remaining. A committee was appointed to arrange for a mass meeting of commercial travelers at Kansas City on the 4th of July. This action is pe-

culiarly important because in 1896 the commercial travelers as a body supported McKinley.

The amalgamation of the socialist labor party and the social democratic party (referred to in these columns, No. 101 at page 10, 102 page 10, and 105 page 5) is not likely to be perfected. As heretofore explained a plan of amalgamation was agreed upon in March by a joint committee of the two parties, which, however, was to be submitted to a referendum vote of each party. The referendum vote of the social democratic party discloses a negative majority. It stands for the amalgamation 939 and against it 1,213. In consequence of this unfavorable result a unity conference, composed of eight members from each party, assembled in New York. Three delegates from the social democratic party withdrew, however, for lack of authority to act; but the remaining 13 have extended the time for the referendum vote by both parties until June 26.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the dominance of jingo sentiment as indicated by the South Manchester election reported above, has given rise to rumors of a coalition between Rosebery and Chamberlain, both jingo imperialists with liberal followings, for the formation of a new party. The effect of such a coalition would doubtless be a realignment of both the great parties and probably the evolution of a pronounced radical party. In Italy the question of parliamentary liberty is before the people in what we in this country would call a "hot campaign" for the election of members of the chamber of deputies. Both sides claim to be guardians of parliamentary liberty, the party in power charging the other with assailing it by means of disorderly obstructions to parliamentary procedure, and the opposition charging the party in power with assailing it by means of arbitrary rules cutting off debate. Elections in Belgium were held on the 29th under a new system of proportional representation. They resulted in a reduction of the Catholic majority in the chamber of representatives from 102 to 85, the socialists gaining by the change. Another attempt was made on the 28th to break up the French cabinet. Count Castellane (Anna Gould's husband), a member of the chamber of deputies, interpellated the ministry upon the course it intended to take with refer-