

Some may say loss of religious belief. Others, the increase of personal ambition under the impulse and opportunities of modern democracy. Both these causes have their influence; and the latter is indeed the half of the fundamental cause.

Under the impulse and opportunities of modern democracy we have vastly increased the range of individual aspiration; but the trouble is that we have only half done our work. We have not given opportunities enough. We have given sway to aspirations in a world preempted by vested rights. We are bees buzzing in a garden where the most and the best of the flowers are encased. We have a fettered democracy which cannot move with freedom; and we have not learned that the cure for its failings is more democracy.

In this lack of freedom lies the main cause of the strain and stress that are affecting the whole of society, begetting in every sphere of life the fearful dread of not "getting there," of "getting left."

A distinguished writer has recently said that the fear of not securing a living is in the heart of nearly every worker. It is this feeling, existing in spite of the boundless resources of the earth, which is, I think, chiefly responsible for the anxious restlessness which distinguishes the modern worker, who is free, and yet is not free to use the resources that belong to freedom.

Granted this spirit in the great body of industrial life, it is easy to see how it may affect all pursuits and all ages. All of a people's activities are more or less colored by the prevailing spirit which animates that people.

As to the part which religion, or the lack of religion, is playing in our mad dance of industrialism and anxiety to get ahead, this may be said. If religion had its former hold, it would go a long way to quiet men by making them more careless of their present lot. But in the absence of the former religious belief that the present counted for little, there is no such restraint as once existed from this source.

So the gist of the matter is this:

Our subconscious feeling is that we are here to get the most possible out of the Here; that this most possible is measured by visible, material possessions; and the fact is that in the race for material possessions most of us, though nominally free, are strictly limited by the preemption of the sources of wealth.

Most of us do not see this fact because in most instances the effect is so indirect and remote; but we would see it, if we would stop to consider the difference between a new and small population and an old and large population, the difference between an open country and a country whose resources have become monopolized. In the progress of civilization we have now arrived at a point where it is necessary for us to see that the curse of freedom is half-freedom.

J. H. DILLARD.

## NEWS

The formal proposals from England and Germany for submitting the Venezuelan question to arbitration (p. 579), were received by the American secretary of state on the 24th; but they have not yet been made public. According to newspaper reports, however, the proposals did not insist, as it had been supposed they would, upon President Roosevelt's acceptance of the responsibility of arbitrator as a condition of arbitration; and, taking advantage of their intimation that if such acceptance might possibly embarrass him a reference of the quarrel to The Hague tribunal would not be altogether objectionable, he urged that disposition of the matter. To this all parties are reported to have virtually agreed. But it is still feared that the settlement may fall through because of conditions imposed by both Germany and Great Britain—such as preliminary payments, guarantees and apologies—with which Venezuela cannot or will not comply.

It was reported from Willemstad on the 23d that the Venezuelan revolutionists (p. 599), "strengthened by the inability of the government to suppress the smuggling of arms and ammunition into the country, and by the fact that it has no longer any fleet at its disposal," had regained courage and were indisposed to re-

spond favorably to a proclamation from President Castro calling upon all parties to sink their differences and unitedly turn their arms against the invading foreigners. Gen. Hernandez is the only important revolutionary leader who has assured President Castro of his support in this foreign war. The Willemstad dispatch also described a three-column movement from the Orinoco river northward upon Caracas. One column, 2,500 strong and under the leadership of Gens. Ramos, Antonio Guevara, Urbaneta and Penalzoza, was about to march by way of the Guartice river; the second, under Gens. Antonio Fernandez, Osio and Crespo Torres, and also 2,500 strong, was to move from Camanagua; and the third, of the same strength and under Gen. Rolando, was to go from Atagracia. Gen. Matos was still at Curacao, but was expected soon to leave to take immediate command of the revolutionary forces in Venezuela. The armistice between the Venezuelan government and the revolutionists expired on the 24th, and on the 27th a brisk battle occurred near Coro, which is in possession of the revolutionists. The government force did not succeed in dislodging them. It was more successful at Barquesimeto, capital of the State of Lara. This city, which has long been in the possession of the revolutionists, was recaptured by the government about the 28th, after a bloody battle. San Carlos and Tinaquillo have also been taken from the revolutionists.

Meanwhile, the European powers maintain their warlike blockade of Venezuelan ports (p. 598); but its effects are damaging chiefly to British and German merchants in Venezuela, who complain that they are likely to lose more by the blockade than the financial interests at home would lose if the Venezuelan liabilities they are seeking to enforce were abandoned.

Signs of an ominous political disturbance in Mexico are plainly noticeable. Mexico has been free from political turmoil for 20 years, President Diaz having been reelected to office term after term since 1876, and no partisan division in national affairs having occurred. But opposing parties, representing extreme theories of government—plutocratic and democratic,—are now massing. The crisis was precipitated by the reig-

nation of Gen. Reyes from Diaz's cabinet.

Gen. Reyes had been governor of Nuevo Leon, and President Diaz, who is very old, was understood to have looked to him as his own successor in the presidency. Pursuant to that purpose, as was supposed, he called him into his cabinet as secretary of war and marine. But when the president came recently to contemplate a trip to Europe, it was semiofficially announced that in the exercise of his right to fill the presidential vacancy which his leaving the country would create, he would name another member of his cabinet, Senor Limantour, the secretary of the treasury, instead of Gen. Reyes. This announcement sent a thrill throughout the republic, for Reyes, though a military man, is looked upon as representing the democratic, in contradistinction to the plutocratic, tendencies which in Mexico as elsewhere over the civilized world are coming into collision; whereas Limantour is a "scientific," which means that he stands for those "scientific" theories of political economy that may be summed up in the one English word, "exploitation." He represents, in other terms, the new monopolizing trend of the financial, commercial and professional elements of Mexican business life.

An attack upon Limantour was forthwith made by the opposing elements. The animus of this attack was the plutocratic exploitation policies that Limantour stands for. But the specific objection to his being made temporary substitute president by Diaz's appointment was the point that he is not a native-born citizen, his parents having been foreigners temporarily resident in Mexico at the time of his birth. Some success crowned the efforts of the opposition, for it was soon semiofficially announced that President Diaz had reconsidered his intention to visit Europe during his term of office. This announcement implied, of course, the abandonment of his plan of appointing Limantour as his substitute and was hailed by the opposition as a triumph over Limantour. But the victory was evidently not complete. Reyes soon afterward resigned from the cabinet, his resignation was at once accepted, and Gen. Francisco H. Mena has been appointed in his place.

Two political parties have thus

been evolved in Mexican politics, led respectively by Reyes and Limantour, and a quiet succession to President Diaz, for which he has planned and financiers have hoped, is now quite improbable. The circumstances make it almost certain that a bitter contest will ensue when Diaz dies or retires; and it is within the probabilities that this contest cannot be settled with ballots alone.

It will surprise most American people to learn that their exploitation of Porto Rico, as a dependent colony of the United States, is not regarded with satisfaction by representative Porto Ricans. Yet this seems to be the fact. Despite rose-colored official and newspaper dispatches, all indicating that the American administration in Porto Rico has been wonderfully successful, reports from other sources go far to show that it promises to prove a humiliating failure.

One of these reports comes through Erving Winslow, of Boston, secretary of the Anti-Imperialist league, who makes the following presentation through the columns of the Boston Post:

The last issue of the Porto Rico Herald contains a protest of the executive committee of the American Federal party, reinforced by editorial statements, of the fraudulent and violent conduct of the last election, supported by a large number of detailed incidents. The accusation is distinctly made that under Governor Hunt and "under the flag of the United States a despotism a thousand times more odious than that of Spain in Cuba, that of England in Ireland, that of Russia in Poland and that of Turkey in Armenia" has been set up.

The committee of the American Federal party makes this declaration:

The American Federal party, recording in this document its most energetic protest against the numberless outrages, violence and illegalities committed with impunity in the present election without the least opposition from the government, does so because it wishes it to be understood every time and by everybody that it does not submit to that mockery and robbery, and especially against the insinuations of the American press, which, when informed of the riots and disorders which reigned supreme during two months and a half, instead of investigating the true cause of the phenomenon, pointed out such facts as proof that we are not qualified for the exercise of civil and political rights.

Nevertheless the committee goes on to state:

During the last 20 years of Spanish rule in Porto Rico repeated proofs of our competence were given in the solution of the most complicated social and political problems to such an extent that it brought forth from the lips of the learned ministry of the crown that beautiful expression that

"there never was danger in Porto Rico making any reforms."

The committee adds that—

while heretofore such important events could have passed without disorder and riot, the election period of 1902 has carried to the homes of peaceful citizens terror, hate and death, therefore the American Federal party, in the name of honest Porto Ricans who feel and think as Porto Ricans, highly valuing their good name, also protest once and a thousand times against those gratuitous statements and respectfully invite the honest newspapers of the United States to study the causes and details of the phenomenon which has attracted their attention and then state honestly if the responsibility of these deeds belongs to the people, or whether it lies with the leaders of the movement and to the officials who through laxity and partiality have consented and encouraged it.

An impressive confirmation of these quotations which Mr. Winslow makes from the Porto Rico Herald, was furnished at Cornell university on the 27th. It came in the form of a college oration by Martin Travesco, of San Juan, Porto Rico, a nephew of the chief justice of Porto Rico and a senior in the Cornell law school. This young man, who is described as one of the brightest students in the senior law class, was recently asked by his instructors in oratory to write an original speech on some subject in which he was interested, to be delivered before the class. Complying, he chose for his subject "The American Administration of Affairs in Porto Rico," and he is reported to have scored Gov. Hunt and his party severely. He said the reports which come to this country telling of a wise, just and economical administration of affairs in Porto Rico are utterly false, and that "the island is prostrated because of the baneful effects of a policy which is more tyrannical than any Spain ever dared impose." He declared that Gov. Hunt "lives in a luxurious palace, with no regard for the suffering of the people, while unscrupulous politicians rule the land;" and that "the courts are corrupted, and crimes committed by members of the governmental party go unpunished." Following the same general line of criticism he continued:

It is now over four years since the blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor, which forced Spain to abandon her new world possessions, and soon the red and yellow flag was lowered, and in its place was hoisted the flag of liberty, "The Star Spangled Banner." It was a great day for Porto Rico. The American soldiers were cheered from end to end of the island, for we thought the days of tyranny were over and that liberty for the first time was to be enjoyed in our island. We had read and heard of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and other immortal Ameri-