

tanking, with branches in all the leading commercial centers, so as to promote our efforts "to seek and occupy the markets of the world"! The idea of occupying the markets of the world by forcing our goods upon them and taking none of theirs in return, has jocular possibilities of considerable merit, but Mr. Moore was serious.

Among the statistical reasons that have been advanced to prove that the country is flooded with prosperity whether the ordinary man can see it or enjoy it or not, are the railroad reports of earnings. How, it is asked, can the railroads make these increased earnings unless times really are magnificently prosperous? But it now turns out that the continued increase in railroad earnings "is not altogether due," to quote from a railroad report in the Chicago Tribune of the 10th, "to a corresponding increase in business, as in many of the roads the business has not been nearly as large this winter as it was for the corresponding months last year," but to the fact "that the roads get much higher rates now"!

President Hadley, of Yale, strikes a blow at imperialism, the echoes of which reverberate over the country from ocean to ocean. This effect is not wholly due to his personality. Greater men have given warning of imperialism without making the country hold its breath. Nor is it due to any peculiar force in his way of putting the thing. Its whole setting is peculiarly weak. But he is important enough personally, and what he says is said with enough vigor, to give voice to a widespread sentiment that has been silently but rapidly growing since the imperialists in politics and the magnates of trust organization have openly accepted the verdict of the presidential election as a license to them. Of the fact that the public are appalled at the consequences of the indorsement they gave to imperialism and trusts by reelecting the great promoter of both, Mr. McKinley, better evidence could not be de-

sired than the disturbed interest which has followed and been apparently caused by Mr. Hadley's Boston speech.

We have nowhere seen so compact yet accurate a summing up of the meaning of the new steel trust as in the American Banker of the 23d. There is a good deal more in "this solidification of the scattered iron interests," says that important financial journal, "than the stupendous power of brains, money and trade which it exhibits; it is not one, but many interests that are here converging; it is steel, oil, coal, transportation and banking credit which form its various and far-reaching elements." Those sentences are like flashes of light. And in the picture they reveal one can see that privilege has almost reached the climax which portends a desperate struggle, on one hand for the extension of governmental functions, and on the other for their contraction. With the establishment of this gigantic industrial conspiracy, based upon a solidification of special privileges, popular respect for vested interests in privilege must die out. It is becoming too plain for question that those interests are the means whereby the rights of the masses are destroyed. When that is fairly realized there will be no dispute as to whether vested interests shall go. The question will be, How? Running in one direction, public opinion will demand the confiscation of all great accumulations of property, regardless of its character, and the transformation of the trusts into a vast governmental system. Running in another, public opinion will demand the abrogation of the privileges which make these unwholesome accumulations possible. These two currents of opinion will be the forces, and their divergency the issue, when the Gargantuan steel trust shall have sufficiently exemplified the pernicious character of the doctrine of vested interests.

From Washington it is reported that McKinley's political and corpo-

rate managers are preparing to run him in 1904 for a third term as president. This report sounds absurd now; but the idea of a third term is not nearly so absurd as many things Mr. McKinley has done would have seemed if predicted four years ago. A crown colony policy would have been jeered at then. But it is in full swing now, with more power over our crown colonies vested in Mr. McKinley than is possessed by any monarch over anybody. In comparison with this departure from national ideals and traditions, a third presidential term would be but a trifling sign of retrogression.

THE BARBARIAN IN CHINA.

When the problem of the Chinese Boxers thrust itself upon the outer world, in sensational stories of bloodshed and mystery, we ventured the explanation (page 149) that this terrible anti-Christian uprising was probably no different from the anti-pagan outbreak that would occur in the United States if the Asiatics were obtruding oriental civilization upon us as our race is obtruding occidental civilization upon them. We drew our inferences from the conviction that human nature is much the same in all quarters of the globe as well as in all periods of time; that differences of language and of habits of life, and even in the color of the skin and the angle of the eye, do not radically alter the affectional tendencies, but that emotions of love and hate are everywhere and always similarly excited by similar causes. Subsequent revelations have confirmed our inferential explanation. The Boxer uprising is now known to have been a violent expression of those emotions in the Chinese which correspond to what in Americans are called patriotism.

A little band of Chinese reformers unwittingly touched the match to the powder magazine. Their effort and failure was reported in this country (see The Public, No. 25, page 9, and No. 26, page 7) at the time, nearly three years ago. It now transpires that their aspiration was "China for the Chinese."