

last Winter with a Republican legislature to prevent the repeal of a Republican law making county offices fee offices instead of salaried offices, they were confirmed in their distrust; for Salen, as county clerk of Cuyahoga, is in receipt under the fee system of perhaps \$40,000 a year, and Johnson is known to be strongly opposed to that system.

It was easy, therefore, for Johnson's friends to believe that a breach had occurred when they found Salen at the convention last week opposing radical contests and in some cases apparently denying Johnson. And when Salen instead of Johnson was elected as one of the four delegates at large to the national convention, the newspaper men generally jumped to the conclusion that this meant war between the two, and they have ever since been spreading irritating gossip about the matter.

The main facts are very clear. Johnson was not a candidate for delegate-at-large to the national convention. He and Clarke, who had been the party candidate for U. S. Senator, had agreed weeks before that it would not be good policy for them to go upon the delegation at large, and both refused to be candidates. They did become candidates, however, for district delegates to the national convention and both were elected by the 21st district convention. Salen also was elected as a district delegate, by the convention of his own district, the 20th. It is true furthermore that Johnson opposed Salen's becoming a candidate for delegate at large, which Salen did not do publicly until the State convention met. But Johnson's opposition appears to have been only advisory, on grounds of wise policy, and was not improbably prompted by the fact that Salen had fallen under suspicion of having made a corrupt compromise with Bernard, the Cincinnati boss and McLean's lieutenant. In the face of this suspicion Salen's candidacy was certainly well calculated to bring both himself and Johnson under suspicion of making the kind of deals that Johnson is opposed to. But Johnson threw no arbitrary obstacles in Salen's way. He acted against him frankly as a fellow delegate and not arbitrarily as a boss. It is becoming better known that Johnson never does act as a boss. He controls his honest following by advice and argument; and as to the dishonest, he refuses, when convinced of their dishonesty, to cooperate with them either openly or secretly. What Johnson did regarding Salen's candidacy was simply to lay the matter candidly before the Cuyahoga delegation. Telling them of the situation, he advised them that they need not oppose Salen's candidacy on any such theory as that it was a personal affront to him, for both he and Clarke had been urged to become

candidates and had persistently refused. So far, therefore, as he was personally concerned, the field was open to Salen. But he also advised them that he thought Salen's candidacy bad policy. I am assured that Johnson could have carried the delegation unanimously for himself, but as between Salen and an outsider, a considerable majority were for Salen. The minority were still for following Johnson's advice; but, as I am informed, Johnson suggested that they vote in the convention with their colleagues in order to prevent ill-feeling in the delegation. He and Clarke, however, voted against Salen, in protest, as Johnson explained at the time, against what they regarded as Salen's doubtful policy. Johnson moreover nominated and supported Jephtha Gerrard, of Cincinnati, a radical of the Bigelow wing of the party in that city.

The belief among Johnson's friends that Salen had made a bargain with the reactionaries, through "Boss" Bernard of Cincinnati and "Boss" Ross of Columbus, to secure a place for himself as delegate at large in return for using his influence against seating radical delegations, especially those from Cincinnati and Columbus, made his candidacy and his attitude toward those delegations particularly exasperating to Johnson's radical friends. This belief, while natural enough under the circumstances, seems upon the surface to have been unfounded, for both the Bernard and the Ross delegations, except five of the latter, voted on the floor against Salen for delegate at large. It is probably true, nevertheless, that Salen did lend aid and comfort to the reactionary delegations from those cities when their seats were contested.

From Cincinnati the reactionary delegation's seats were contested by Bigelow's radical delegation, and from Columbus the contestants were led by John J. Lentz. The Cincinnati contest appears to have been weakly supported with evidence, although it is a moral certainty that the contestants had been cheated by a combination between Bernard and the Republican boss, Cox. In point of evidence the Columbus contestants' case was much stronger. Mayor Johnson became satisfied that they ought to be seated, and although it is well known that he and Lentz are not friendly, he accordingly supported them. The credentials committee gave the seats to the contestants and Johnson secured the entire Cuyahoga delegation in support of that action. This was done against Salen's urgent opposition. In the Cincinnati case the committee had reported adversely to Bigelow, and nothing could be done to reverse that report.

Although these circumstances do indicate the possibility of Salen's having made an arrangement with the reactionaries, the strong probabilities are

that it was less objectionable considerations that influenced him to oppose the Lentz and Bigelow contests, and that bad judgment prompted by personal ambition caused him to ignore Johnson's advice as to the place of delegate at large.

One thing is certain. Johnson's friends know that he would have tolerated no deal with the reactionaries. Four years ago he declared that clean and effective politics in the Democratic party of Ohio demanded the expulsion of McLean from power in the party, and the overthrow of his Cincinnati ring which operates in collusion with the Republican ring. He has not yet been able to accomplish this. McLean may even get the national committee-manship for which he is planning. But Johnson has not abandoned the effort to make his party in Ohio represent principle instead of spoils and plunder. It is freely stated that he declared here during the convention that he had countenanced no bargain with the ring and would rather lose everything than do so; and whoever knows him well enough to understand his faith in clean and candid political methods realizes that he would rather break with any of his supporters than to wink at corrupt bargains.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, June 2.

The bloodiest battle of the Russo-Japanese war (p. 118) and one of the fiercest of modern times was fought on the 26th from Kinchow to the crest of Nanshan hill, the strongest of the outer land-defenses of Port Arthur.

Upon their double landing near Kinchow three weeks ago (p. 87) the Japanese advanced upon Kinchow, beginning their attack on the 21st. After taking it on the 26th they proceeded along the Russian railway toward Port Arthur, 32 miles to the south, and upon reaching Nanshan hill the same day they became engaged in the fearful conflict which is reported as making this day's battle the fiercest of modern times. Nanshan hill commands the very narrow neck of land just south of Kinchow and is 1,100 feet high. The Russians had covered the top with heavy guns and guarded the slopes with trenches, entangling wires and explosive mines. They believed their position to be impregnable. Up these slopes the Jap-

anese charged again and again in the face of almost certain death. In the earlier rushes every man was shot down before reaching the first line of Russian trenches. It was not until late in the afternoon, after having fought since dawn, that the Japanese drove the Russians from the crest. They then followed the retreating Russian army southward to its second line of defenses, near Nanwanling, and after having fought steadily and bloodily for sixteen hours, they halted. The losses are not accurately reported, but are said to be, as the circumstances would indicate, of enormous proportions on both sides.

Three days later the Japanese were reported as attacking Dalny, the docks and piers of which the Russians themselves had already blown up (p. 103). On the 30th Chinese and Russian refugees from Dalny asserted that the Russians had completely withdrawn from the place, and that the Japanese had taken possession on the 29th. The Russians appear also to have abandoned without a battle their second line of defenses at Nanwanling.

A blockade of the Liaotung peninsula by the Japanese was reported at Washington on the 28th by the American minister at Tokio. The blockade includes the entire peninsula south of a straight line drawn from Pitsewo on the east coast to Pulientan on the west. This line crosses the Russian railway at a point a little south of Port Adams.

In connection with the British invasion of Thibet (p. 118), a fight of 11 hours occurred near Gyantse on the 26th, which resulted in the expulsion by the British of the Thibetans from the neighboring village of Palla, a walled town where the Thibetans had started to build works to outflank the British position at Gyantse. A British lieutenant and three Sepoys were killed and three officers and nine men were wounded. The Thibetans are reported to have suffered heavily. Thirty-seven were made prisoners.

The discord in the diplomatic relations of France and the Roman Catholic church (p. 118) was a sub-

ject of discussion in the French chamber of deputies on the 27th. The premier, Mr. Combes, and the foreign minister, Mr. Delcasse, described the attitude of the ministry toward the Vatican, Mr. Combes explaining the character of the Pope's letter at which the French government had taken offense. He said it was a letter complaining to certain Powers of the visit of the President of France to the King of Italy (p. 55) as an insult to the Holy See, and also of the refusal of France to concede to the Pope certain "untenable prerogatives." Explaining the consequent recall of the French minister, Mr. Combes proceeded:

This recall signifies that we cannot allow the Holy See to interpret the presence of our ambassador in Rome in a sense favorable to its claims or to make use of this presence to justify pretensions which we reject. It also means that we will not allow the Papacy to intermeddle in our international relations, and that we intend to have done once for all with the superannuated fiction of temporal power, which disappeared thirty-four years ago.

The position of the ministry was sustained in the chamber of deputies by a vote of 427 to 95.

Religious news in the United States relates principally to the action on the Cumberland overture (p. 121) by the Northern branch of the Presbyterian church, the general assembly of which is in session at Buffalo. After consideration of this overture for reunion the general assembly voted on the 27th overwhelmingly in favor of acceptance. The vote was on the question of adopting a committee report declaring that—

the churches shall be united under the name and style of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, possessing all the legal and corporate rights and powers which the separate churches now possess. The union shall be effected on the doctrinal basis of the confession of faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as revised in 1903, and of its other doctrinal and ecclesiastical standards; and the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged as the inspired word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

This basis of reunion is to be submitted by both churches to their respective presbyteries, which are required to meet on or before April 30, 1905, to express approval or

disapproval; and reports of the presbyteral vote are to be submitted to the respective general assemblies at the meetings thereof in 1905, whereupon, in case of favorable results, the reunion becomes complete. Both the race question and the woman question are involved in this readjustment. The Cumberland church freely admits women to office, but discriminates against Negroes; the Northern branch makes no discrimination against Negroes, but does exclude women from ecclesiastical office. One of the dispatches says of the debate at Buffalo that—

Dr. Stevenson opposed the proposed union because of the difficulty in the way of administration, especially in regard to the boards of the church, and more particularly because the Cumberland Church has a good many women elders. The picture of a woman sitting as a commissioner in the general assembly caused a smile that ran into laughter and ended in applause.

In Methodism also the spirit of reunion is at work. At the conference of the Methodist Protestant church—the largest non-episcopal branch of the Methodist denomination in America—this body adopted a report on union, at one of its sessions in Washington on the 27th. The report provides that whenever the Methodist Episcopal Church shall appoint a commission to consider the question of union the president of the general conference of the Methodist Protestant Church is authorized to appoint a like commission to consider terms; and the president of the conference is given authority to call the conference together whenever any commission on union shall request it.

At the Methodist Episcopal general conference in session at Los Angeles (p. 73), the question of prohibited amusements (p. 106) was disposed of on the 27th. In the debate, lengthy and heated, the opponents of restriction argued that young people are kept out of the church by an unnecessarily severe restriction, which is not obeyed by many of their elders and cannot be generally enforced. The proposed amendment was voted down, 441 to 118, and theater-going, card-playing, dancing, etc., remain under the interdict of this church. Another important act by this conference