

MISCELLANY

INVOCATION.

For The Public.

Beware of those who bring
With the Sword the Psalms they sing,—
Ware the mighty hosts to whom Liberty
and God are one;

These are men who dream that He
Leads them through the crimson sea,
As He led the Saints of old, where the
Red Sea waters run.

And these Burghers, strong to hold
Faith in that great Arm of old,—
By the kopje and the veldt, be thou with
them in their thought;

God of Battles, if thou be,
Lead them through the crimson sea,
For they fight for God and country, as
the sons of Israel fought.

God in Heaven, who reigneth there,
Is that High Throne deaf to prayer?
Hath the Scepter lost its power when the
persecuted plead?

Are the laws of Sinal dead,
And the great High Judges fled—
Is God's covenant with His people lying
like a broken reed?

Doubt it not—He reigneth yet;
He it was whose Right Hand set
Every stone of Freedom's temple, and He
bade us keep it fair;

What its mighty walls surround,
Every foot, is holy ground;
They whose feet profane that temple, let
their craven Souls beware!

They who wage a war unjust,
May their bayonets break as dust,
May their cannon harmless rain shells
against the great hill-walls;
May their armies' onslaught melt
Like the dew upon the veldt,
May the oppressor's hosts be palsied
where the bolt of freedom falls!

Doubt it not—Prayer's answer comes,
Not, perhaps, with victors' drums,
Not, perhaps, as patriots willed it—yet
the answer comes, no less;
Liberty is never slain,
But her ghost shall rise again,
Rise to torture those who slew her, and
to conquer who oppress!

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

COMMERCIAL HONESTY OF THE CHINESE.

It is well known that there is very little mercantile law in China, and it is therefore the more remarkable that Chinese merchants are distinguished for the strict integrity and fidelity with which they fulfill their contracts. The word of a Chinese merchant is as good as his bond. Ex-Attorney General Rosendale, one of our most eminent Albany lawyers, who recently made a tour in the orient, tells us that it was the common testimony of Americans and Europeans transacting business there that it was so rare as to be almost an unknown thing for a Chinese merchant to attempt to defraud in either the quality

or the price of his goods, or in the payment of his debts. This is one of the most admirable traits in the Chinese character, showing a native honesty not to be found in some other of the eastern races, and probably accounting for the fact that there is very little Chinese mercantile law because there is very little need of legislation to enforce mercantile obligations.—Albany (N. Y.) Argus.

A FAITHFUL FRIEND.

Jerome Wendfelt and family, of Jasper county, one day during this week moved to a farm in Pulaski county. After all arrangements to start had been completed they placed in the charge of their oldest daughter for safe keeping a baby boy aged seven months. The daughter, in company with her younger brothers and sister, drove ahead of the remainder of the family.

Upon the arrival of the Wendfelt family at their new home the baby was missing. Farmer friends started back in search for the child.

As the sun was setting a Newfoundland dog came trotting up the wagon road carrying a basket in his mouth. He stopped before the grief-stricken mother, laid it down before her and lifted the cradle quilt with his paw, revealing the baby.

The oldest daughter had given the baby to one of her brothers to take to its mother. He laid the child down under a lilac bush and covered it with a quilt.

Ned, a Newfoundland dog that belonged to the family, discovered the sleeping child and brought it back to safety. Then he lay down and died of exhaustion.—Telegram to Chicago Chronicle, dated Winamac, Ind., June 12.

THERE ARE ALSO UNCULTIVATED PEOPLE IN AMERICA.

Suppose a stranger landing in New York for the first time were to proceed to the slums of that city, and were to reside exclusively amongst the lowest sections of the population. Suppose, after a stay of six months, he were to return to Europe and write a description of the American people, characterizing as average types those people with whom he had associated in the slums. It would be no greater libel upon the citizens of the United States than the repulsive anecdotes and reports which have been current in the different magazines and newspapers about the character, habits and conditions of life of the South African Dutch.

The Boers, like everybody else, are

subject to the law of variation of type. There are tall Boers and short Boers, though the latter are rare; educated Boers and some who are still unlettered, though I myself never met one who has not been able to read or write. The general charge of their being a dirty race is quite untrue. There are Boers who carry cleanliness to the point of absolute discomfort. I remember one place where we could not enter the house without finding the passages filled with the contents of a room that was being cleaned out. The floors were always being wiped or oiled, and the mistress of the house was such a martyr to cleanliness that she reduced her guests to a state of positive discomfort.

With regard to the Boers and education, I might say at once that the Dutch in South Africa are not cultured in the sense that is understood in Europe. They do not know much about Ruskin or Carlyle or Emerson, or any of the great English-speaking masters of prose and thought. But the better classes are all educated sufficiently well to read and write with ease, and to carry on the business connected with their farming pursuits. They have to think out the problems of life themselves, and one of the things that most forcibly strike anyone who does not look at things superficially is the wonderful reasoning power possessed by such men as President Kruger, Mr. A. D. Wolmarans, and other leaders of the Boer party. They rely upon their experience, and as they have had to think out every situation for themselves, they are full of resources in times of emergency.—Hon. Montagu White, in Harper's Weekly.

MR. BRYAN ON THE TRUST QUESTION.

William Jennings Bryan has an article in the current North American Review, which, in view of the universal belief that he is to be the democratic nominee for the presidency, will be read with interest alike by friend and opponent, as he deals with the issues as he believes his party will present them in the forthcoming campaign. In the course of his article Mr. Bryan unequivocally shows that he will not subordinate the currency question to any other. He states the issues to be, in the order of their importance: Bimetallism, anti-trusts and anti-imperialism. As to the first and last he covers familiar ground. Concerning the second he makes the following suggestion:

Instead of shutting a monopoly out of one state and leaving it 44 states to do

business in, we should shut it up in the state of its origin and take the other 44 away from it. This can be done by an act of congress making it necessary for a corporation organized in any state to take out a license from the federal government before doing business outside of that state, the license not to interfere, however, with regulations imposed by other states.

Aside from any question as to the constitutionality of this proposition, though that is not unimportant, we think Mr. Bryan here advocates a system intended to develop a centralized government of the most dangerous sort. That there should be placed no impediment in the way of trade between the states by federal legislation, all citizens must insist, if we are to escape an "imperialism" right at home worse than any other. Already the people complain of encroachment by the federal judiciary. Mr. Bryan's plan would at once place under the jurisdiction of the federal courts all interstate business of corporations. And none would be better suited by this state of affairs than the corporations themselves. What more natural steps than these: First, a license from the government, which would bestow certain rights; then an appeal to the courts of the government to protect those rights, and, if need be, an appeal to the federal arms? It is not only a remedy for the trust Mr. Bryan proposes, but if he will follow out to its logical sequence his plan, he will discover that it will serve to perpetuate the trust. There is no remedy for the trust but to destroy its source. Its source and strength lie in special privilege; take away from it special privilege and the evils of the trust will disappear.—Farmers' Voice of June 9.

ON BEING STYLED "PRO-BOER."

Friend, call me what you will; no jot care I;
I that shall stand for England till I die.
England! The England that rejoiced to see
Hellas unbound, Italy one and free;
The England that had tears for Poland's
doom,
And in her heart for all the world made
room;
The England from whose side I have not
swerved;
The immortal England whom I, too, have
served,
Accounting her all living lands above,
In justice and in mercy and in love.
—William Watson, in London Speaker of
June 2.

"THE IMMORTAL ENGLAND."

Extract from an editorial in the London Speaker of June 2.

There are many who are thinking at this moment of nothing but the conquests of our arms, the courage of our troops, the roads, the mines which are

to be added to the empire. Others, and amongst them a great poet who has never shrank to the littleness of his generation, are recalling wars in which our soldiers had not to march to victory over the bodies of old men and children, the dead witnesses of unequal battlefields to our enemies' despairing passion for their perishing independence. The England to which they belong is the England of Fox, of Canning, of Byron and of Gladstone; the England which mourned for Poland, fought for Greece, befriended Italy, shielded Belgium, restored their Ionian patrimony to the Greeks and stood before the world as the hope of oppressed peoples. If demagogues who care nothing for England's history, and financiers who can scarcely speak her tongue, have duped a great nation into a hideous crime, it is no wonder they make haste to disown Mr. William Watson and other brave Englishmen. In trampling on the Boers they are trampling under foot the England of history, and on the day the Orange Free State ceased to be free, England announced that she had ceased to be liberal. After a century illumined by the victories of nationality we are busy on such a crime against nationality as the century cannot parallel, and in thus sinning against our traditions we have exchanged the respect of Europe for its curses.

THE "BOXERS."

China is honeycombed as no other country in the world with secret societies, embracing all classes, having an existence dating from the second century of the Christian era—an existence not of tradition, but vouched for by record. They are diverse in the elements of which they are composed in their rules and practices, although most of them, especially the Triad, which is the most important of them all, have such extraordinary analogy with western freemasonry as to imply a community of origin. The symbols and tenets are the same, the ceremonies of initiation are similar, the test questions bear a close resemblance thereto, and, in fact, the only foreigner who ever obtained admission to the Triad—namely, an Englishman of the name of Mason—achieved this feat on the strength of his belonging to the higher grades of the Scottish rite of Freemasonry. Originally a form of oriental mysticism, founded on moral and cosmogonical theories, these societies became political factors towards the seventeenth century, and until a year or so ago had in view as their principal object the overthrow of the Man-

chu or Tartar dynasty, and as watchword "China for the Chinese."

The Taiping rebellion of 40 and 50 years ago was fostered and promoted by the Triad, and came near overthrowing the Peking government, which it could doubtless have accomplished had it enjoyed the cooperation of the other secret societies.

To-day the meaning of the watchword of the various secret societies—namely, "China for the Chinese"—is changed. For the aim is no longer anti-dynastic, nor do they seek the expulsion of those 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 Manchus who for the last 200 years have imposed themselves as the ruling class over 400,000,000 Chinese, compelling them to adopt the Manchu style of hairdress—namely, a pig tail, in token of subjection.

To-day the secret societies have for their object the expulsion of the foreigner from the land. It is a mistake to believe that John Chinaman is a stranger to patriotism. Indeed, so passionately devoted is he to his native country that he makes arrangements for the return of his bones to the Flowery kingdom in the event of his dying in foreign lands. This fiber of patriotism has been utilized by that extraordinarily clever woman, the dowager empress, to rally the entire nation into the presentation of a virtually united front to the foreigner, to convert the secret societies from anti-dynastic into anti-foreign movements, and to achieve that which the Triad sought in vain to bring about at the time of the Taiping rebellion—namely, cooperation of all the secret societies, one with another, against the common foe, which this time is not the Manchu, but the white foreigner.

It cannot be denied that for more than a half century past China has been subjected to a degree of indignity, insult, extortion and bullying on the part of foreign powers which no Christian power would have tolerated. Treaties have been imposed upon her by force, her finest harbors seized, and vast stretches of her littoral successively placed under foreign rule. She has been compelled to consent to agreements providing for the transfer of her immense river trade to foreign flags, and for the gridironing of the entire land by means of foreign built and foreign controlled railroads, while for every concession made by her a dozen new ones have been presented by the foreign powers.

At length, exasperated beyond endurance and driven to the wall, the empress issued in December last a secret edict, addressed to the viceroys of the