

sion, then, simply means world problems of the Color Line. The color question enters into European imperial politics and floods our continents from Alaska to Patagonia.

This is not all. Since 732, when Charles Martel beat back the Saracens at Tours, the white races have had the hegemony of civilization—so far so that "white" and "civilized" have become synonymous in every-day speech; and men have forgotten where civilization started.

For the first time in a thousand years a great white nation has measured arms with a colored nation and has been found wanting. The Russo-Japanese war has marked an epoch. The magic of the word "white" is already broken, and the Color Line in civilization has been crossed in modern times as it was in the great past. The awakening of the yellow races is certain. That the awakening of the brown and black races will follow in time, no unprejudiced student of history can doubt.

Shall the awakening of these sleepy millions be in accordance with, and aided by, the great ideals of white civilization, or in spite of them and against them? This is the problem of the Color Line. Force and Fear have hitherto marked the white attitude toward darker races; shall this continue, or be replaced by Freedom and Friendship?

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## THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT IN OREGON.

C. E. S. Wood in the *Pacific Monthly* for August.

The woman suffrage amendment to the constitution was snowed under. The good men and women worked hard against it because only the bad women would vote—the good women would be too modest. And the bad men and women voted against it because the good women would always be in majority (thank God) and would want to reform things (God forbid). So the "liquor vote," whatever that hateful animal is, worked against it lest Portland be made too good, and the Ladies' Association for Preserving Civic and Female Virtue (I forget the true title) worked hard against it because woman-ridden Denver is a wicked city, and they feared the woman vote would make Portland—vile as she is—still worse, and we are too near the earthquake belt and the personal wrath of God to risk that. For did he not ruin San Francisco because of its sin? Not sparing even his own temples and his own followers. This fate has been spared Portland—thanks to the defeat of woman's suffrage. Portland will not now become a metropolis whose sin would make Sodom and Gomorrah seem like rustic villages, as innocent as Eugene or Salem—woman shall not corrupt the purity of our ballot.

She is good enough for the washtub and the factory, but not for the polling booth. She is intelligent enough to read the stars, write our poetry and our novels, manage colleges and keep books, but not intelligent enough to understand the mysteries of masculine politics so clear to any man, even when he is a babe in arms—or an imported article. She is good enough to be the mother of men, but she is not expert as an admiral or a general—and war is the real occupation of man and the process by

which he acquires all his wealth and comfort and civilization. I say, though it is a foolish thought, we may remark that admirals and generals are rarely the mothers of men.

But woman suffrage has been badly beaten. Womanhood has been saved. Purity of the ballot has been saved. The Republic still lives.

Meanwhile, ye stern matrons of the crusade, let me once more whisper in your ear—"Begin with the girls." "Teach the women." When the women know what they want they will get it. They know now. They want that sweet helplessness, that winsome ignorance, that unalloyed femininity which marks the ladies of the Orient.

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## THE PASSING OF AUTOCRACY.

Editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* of Oct. 9, 1906.

The feudal Empire of Japan has become a limited constitutional monarchy, the White Czar has begun the experiment of summoning his people to take part in his deliberations; and now Persia is about to enter upon an era of representative government. The approach of Russia from the north, England from the east, and Germany from the west has made clear that the days of oriental despotism dependent upon isolation have ended. The Empire of Persia must be bound together by a patriotic sentiment, a feeling of pride in a common country, or the land will be divided among the great powers. The most effective way to rouse this national sentiment seems to be to give the people a voice in the conduct of affairs, and the shah has proclaimed the law by which a parliament is to be chosen.

Every male Persian between the ages of 30 and 70 who can read and write and has not been convicted of a felony may cast a secret ballot for a member of parliament if he lives in the Teheran district or for a parliamentary elector if he lives in one of the twelve other districts into which the Empire is divided. Parliament will consist of the sixty members of the Teheran district, chosen directly by the voters, and ninety-six members chosen by the twelve electoral districts. The members are elected for two years and are to be paid salaries at a rate fixed by parliament itself. The limitations of parliamentary authority are not fixed with great definiteness, but the natural tendency of such a body will be to encroach gradually upon the imperial prerogative and to become more and more powerful if Persia is at all fitted for self-government.

It has been frequently asserted that the oriental character is such that an arbitrary form of government is the best for Asiatic nations. The startling progress of Japan towards a democracy is considered an exception. The Persians, however, belong to the Aryan race as truly as the Germanic nations. They are not oriental in the same sense as the Turks, the Tartars, the Chinese, and the Malays. With a fair opportunity, and with some allowance for the blundering inevitable at the beginning, the Persians ought to develop a capacity for self-government. The experiment cannot fail to have the best wishes of the civilized nations of the world, among which Persia ought to take her rightful place instead of lingering among backward barbaric despotisms. Under autocracy Persia is prey for the spoiler; under parlia-