

Simple "Mister." It is reported that the variety of titles used for the officers and professors of different degrees in the University of Chicago result in so much confusion and complaint that by general consent the old fashioned designation of "mister" is to be employed. Titles do not by any means make the man or the teacher and it is not a bad sign when even the professors of Mr. Rockefeller's famous school return to the good old fashioned designation of "mister."

The King's Spiritual Advisers. When the present King of England ranked as the Prince of Wales, one chaplain and four honorary chaplains looked out for his religious welfare. Now, as King of England, this same man is the proud possessor of sixty-five spiritual guides. Two "reverend deans of the Chapel Royal," four "reverend clerks of the King's Closet," two "domestic chaplains," fourteen "chaplains in ordinary," thirty-three "honorary chaplains," five "priests in ordinary," and five "honorary priests in ordinary,"—these, aggregating sixty-five clergymen, serve as guides, philosophers and friends to the king of England on the religious line.

It is difficult to understand why a man divinely appointed to be the ruler of other men needs so many clergymen to keep him in the straight and narrow path.

At all events, if King Edward is not "good" he will have only himself to blame. Certainly no effort has been spared in the arrangement of the theological attachment of his court to snatch "a brand from the burning."

The Concentration of Wealth. In 1893 an article appeared in the Political Science Quarterly for December, written by George K. Holmes, from which a few extracts are here made. His conclusions are obtained after the most careful investigation and examination of all the reports available and the correctness of his conclusions are backed up by several pages of statistics. He says:

"Ninety-one per cent of the 12,690,152 families of the country own no more than 29 per cent of the wealth, and 9 per cent of the families own about 71 per cent of the wealth."

Further on he says:

"Among the 1,096,265 families in which 71 per cent of the wealth of the country is concentrated, there is still a further concentration which may be indicated by taking account of the wealth of the very rich. The New York Tribune's list of 4,047 millionaires affords the best basis for this. Without going into details, the conclusion adopted in this article is that the 4,047 millionaires are worth not less than \$10,000,000,000 or more than \$15,000,000,000—say \$12,000,000,000—or about one-fifth of the nation's wealth. We are now prepared to characterize the concentration of wealth in the United States by stating that 20 per cent of it is owned by three-hundredths of 1 per cent of the families; 51 per cent by 9 per cent of the families (not including millionaires); 71 per cent by 9 per cent of the families (including millionaires), and 29 per cent by 91 per cent of the families."

Another writer in the Arena for September, 1897, shows that in 1890 one-half of the wealth of the country was owned by 125,000 persons. There is no easy way of ascertaining the exact wealth of Mr. Rockefeller, but it has been es-

timated by some as high as \$500,000,000. That it is the greater part of this, no one doubts. If it is a fact that he is worth \$500,000,000., there would have been wealth enough in the United States in 1890 for only 120 men like Mr. Rockefeller.

The Boers Still Fighting. James S. Stowe, United States consul general at Capetown, recently arrived at London.

In an interview Mr. Stowe said that the South African problem is undoubtedly difficult and complicated. In a diplomatic way, he pointed out that Great Britain was having enormous trouble in her efforts to conquer the Boers, and he did not hold out much hope for an early termination of the war.

It is very probable that the world has no conception of the exact condition of South Africa. The telegraphic lines are controlled by the British and it is not at all likely that they permit anything to pass the censor that is extremely disadvantageous to the British cause; but once in a while a bit of real information creeps out.

Consul Stowe's interview, although carefully guarded because of his official position, tends to corroborate the suspicion that the half has not been told concerning South African affairs. It is not difficult to believe that if the British ever do conquer the Boers it will be, as President Kruger said it would be, at "a price that will stagger humanity."

Mr. Knox and the Steel Trust. Attorney General Knox declares with well developed symptoms of anger that he is

not officially aware of the existence of a steel trust. Of course a high official with place in a presidential cabinet would not deny anything without being honest about it. The existence of the steel trust may be an official secret to Mr. Knox, but its existence certainly is known to the ex-attorney of the Carnegie corporation who is now Attorney General in the McKinley cabinet. Perhaps Mr. Knox is like the South Carolina father who had so many children he found himself unable to provide names for all of them. After the twelfth was born he had recourse to numbers, and gave each child a number. When asked how many children he had the proud father replied:

"I ain't no good at figures. When I done run out o' names I begin numberin' 'em from 1 up. If I knew how many of 'em had names I might add up and tell yer."

It is possible that Mr. Knox has been connected with so many trusts that he has had recourse to numbering, and the steel trust, being among the latest, may be without a name in his mind.

He Can Stand Such Criticism. Commenting upon the address delivered by Mr. Littlefield at Dover, in which he criticised the insular decisions, the New York Sun says that there is no statutory law which prevents any American citizen from doing what Mr. Littlefield did. The Sun insists, however, that there is a well defined pro-

vision in the code of American humor which makes it a misdemeanor of the second degree of ridiculousness for a lawyer, probably a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court, to stand all alone before the American Bar Association and solemnly and on his own hook overrule the Supreme Court in so important a matter as that involved in the insular cases."

If it were true that Mr. Littlefield stood alone in his position it would be all the more to his credit that he dared state his opposition. The fact is, however, that instead of standing alone, it is very evident that Mr. Littlefield's position is supported by a considerable majority of the lawyers of the country. The very fact that the issues involved in the insular cases are of the utmost importance makes it all the more necessary that men who believe the decision to be wholly wrong and destructive of the very fundamental idea of our government should enter their protest against such a construction, even though the construction was made by men on the highest bench in the land.

Notice.

The following notice appeared in the last issue of the National Watchman:

The last number of The National Watchman, issued July 11, contained an announcement that commencing September 1 The National Watchman would, thereafter, appear as a monthly journal of thirty-six pages instead of a weekly of sixteen pages. When the announcement was made it was our purpose to materially enlarge the scope of the paper by introducing new and attractive features calculated to interest every member of the family. It was thought that the proposed change would prove acceptable to our readers. But in this we were doomed to disappointment. Letters have been received, numbering thousands, from our patrons in all sections of the country urging that we reconsider our purpose of discontinuing The National Watchman as a weekly by converting it into a monthly publication.

The need of a weekly journal especially devoted to the discussion of public questions and national politics was urged with argument and logic that seemed to us to be unanswerable. But on account of the diminished interest exhibited by the people at large in questions bearing upon national politics, owing to the fact that a presidential election is three years distant, The National Watchman during the present year failed to receive the support necessary to the proper maintenance of a weekly journal conducted on broad and comprehensive lines.

Therefore, we are constrained to believe that the cause of the people, for which The National Watchman has so zealously worked, will be best subserved by merging The National Watchman with Mr. Bryan's paper, The Commoner, which comes nearest The National Watchman's idea of filling the requirements of the times of any paper published in the nation. To this end arrangements have been completed with Mr. Bryan to take the subscription list of The National Watchman and send The Commoner to all subscribers for the unexpired period of their subscriptions. Where a National Watchman subscriber is also a subscriber to The Commoner his subscription to The Commoner will be extended by adding to it the unexpired portion of his subscription to The National Watchman. We feel that this arrangement gives ample protection to all subscribers and we trust that they will extend to The Commoner the same confidence and support which they have given to The National Watchman.

With a heartfelt appreciation of the endearing tie that has bound together The National Watchman and its readers during the years in which they labored so zealously for the cause of true democracy, and with a firm and abiding faith in the ability of the plain people of America to surmount all obstacles in the pathway to a complete realization of a government resting upon the equality of all men before the law, we bid our friends an affectionate farewell and Godspeed.

THE NATIONAL WATCHMAN.