

damage. With all of man's mastery over the conditions of nature, there are some facts which laugh at him and his puny efforts. The most imperious one on the North American continent is named the Mississippi river.

Trial by Jury.

Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the distinguished lawyer, made the most important speech of the occasion at the recent congress of the American Bar association at Saratoga. It covered a range of topics touching the American methods of court procedure and incidentally comparing them with those of France, whose criminal judicature is organized to convict as much as a gun is built to shoot with. In reference to the Zola trial he said, "Every safeguard of personal liberty enjoyed in England and America for two centuries had been violated." We could not read the account of the trial without contrasting them with our own trial by jury or without the pious utterance from every lip, "Thank God, I am an American!"

Mr. Choate made an unnecessarily elaborate argument, one would almost think, for the jury trial system, as if itself were on trial, instead of being fixed in the bedrock of Anglo-Saxon institutions. Perhaps it is true that there is a tendency to supplant the jury method in certain kinds of litigation by other devices of legal procedure more simple and effective, to reserve it for great cases affecting life, liberty or property. This certainly is to dignify, not to cheapen it. With the diminution of jury trials comes the greater probability of securing intelligent jurymen. But who can wonder at the partiality of the great advocate, to whom the jury has always been the instrument on which the master player performs with such matchless skill.

American Iron and Steel.

The most lately compiled figures of the treasury department illustrate in a very interesting manner how great has been the growth of our steel and iron industries. Other important classes of products have also displayed an increase from year to year, but it is in the most essential of all, that which may be called the cornerstone of the whole industrial fabric, that the expansion of output is most startling. That is the only word to designate an increase which has been noted even more keenly by our foreign rivals in England and Germany than has been done at home. If figures are uninteresting in one sense, they should be full of eloquence when we see the pregnancy of meaning behind their arid phalanx. The exports of all articles of iron and steel, which in 1880 were \$14,716,524, had swollen in 1890 to \$25,542,208, in 1896 to \$41,160,377, in 1897 to \$57,484,872 and in 1898 to \$70,367,527. On the other hand, the imports, which were \$71,266,689 in 1880, had gradually fallen in 1898 to \$12,

615,913. During this period the population has advanced from 50,000,000 to what is estimated at 75,000,000. So that we not only make substantially all our own articles of iron and steel merchandise, but send to other countries at the rate of almost \$1 per capita. When we consider that 18 years ago we were forced to depend on foreign mills and factories mainly for these vital wants, it becomes a matter of the liveliest satisfaction that we have reversed the conditions. No other fact could better show how solid and stable the industrial development of the nation has been. It is specially notable that the greatest increase of exports and corresponding decrease of imports have been in articles of fundamental necessity, such as the partly manufactured metal which is the raw material of the more elaborate products classified as ingots, blooms, billets, slabs and bars, and as had in general been supposed of old to be largely dependent on enormous concentration of capital and low price of labor for economical production; and, secondly, in such highly artificial and specialized products as sewing machines, bicycles, electrical and railway machinery and the like. Our market for articles of the second category extends to every civilized and half civilized region of the known world. Asia, Africa and Australia as well as South America have shown the keenest appreciation of the superior lightness and strength which we put into our mechanical constructions without deterioration of enduring quality. It is in this feature of work, in itself cumbersome and heavy, that American skill has forged so amazingly to the head. We already hold the primacy in this line of production, and another decade is sure to place us much further in the van.

Army Reorganization.

If anything has been made clear by the lessons of a short war, it is that in some respects our military system needs a thorough remodeling. That system has never been scientifically made. It has grown up. In one direction more than any other reform is imperative to insure a well working service. That is in the reorganization of the staff. More than half of our recent blunders have sprung from lack of harmony inevitable to a staff system so antiquated. Mr. Hull, the chairman of the house committee on military affairs, has outlined his views on this subject, which will be included in the bill to be introduced into the next congress.

At present the staff of the army is made up of ten distinct bureaus, each presided over by a chief with the rank of brigadier general. There is no single head to enforce harmony of action. Each bureau feels its own importance and resents infringement of prerogative. In the German system, which with modification is designed to be the

model of our own, there is a chief of the general staff (such was Von Moltke's rank), charged with the whole administration and next in authority to the emperor. In our new system the chief of staff will be second in authority to the general in chief only, and every staff department will report to him and be under his direction. The department will include all officers performing other than line duties, and it is proposed to include in it only those promoted by virtue of fitness and special training. A staff college on the lines of the engineering school at Willets Point, N. Y., of the artillery school at Fort Monroe and of the infantry and cavalry school at Fort Leavenworth will be instituted, and with equally high technical instruction. In addition to this permanent staff will be the temporary staff, in which the officers can be shifted from one section to another, according to fitness and the requirements of the service. In time of war when an army is in the field or in the management of a department the general commanding that section of the army will have his administrative officer in a representative of the general chief of staff, who will hold authority over all officers of the quartermaster, commissary and medical departments in service there. This scientific gradation of the system is the real core of its value, as it holds every one in strict accountability to a single head. In other respects the military bureaus will remain as they are now. Such, stripped of its detail, is the proposed system, and it is certain to put new life into army administration. It will relieve the directing mind of a campaign or of a department of harassing details and make him free to give more time and study to the discharge of the supreme function.

Those who have followed closely the course of General Shafter's campaign need not be military students to perceive at once what a power such a system would have been in obviating the evils which made that campaign so open to criticism.

Salutamus.

The reception by the people of New York which welcomed the seven great warships that wrought so magnificent a work of destruction in pursuance of the grim duties to which they were dedicated was an event of the deepest interest and enthusiasm. A couple of millions of spectators roared themselves hoarse with acclamations. The great guns answered with the same voices which had roared such deadly arguments only a few weeks before. It excelled in picturesqueness perhaps other receptions in which the rejoicing heart of the people will welcome the returned warriors who will go back to their respective localities throughout the land. It did not embody, however, a spirit less eager and genuine than will make city and village ring with rejoicing