

had no comprehension of the fact that laws that produced fairly good results within the narrow limits of a Grecian republic or of old Rome, might work sad havoc when used to govern a great nation like France. Believing implicitly in the existence of a Lycurgus or a Romulus, they found therein support for their belief in the efficacy of paper constitutions drawn up by some omnipotent hand. Enough has been said to show that the extreme credulity of Robespierre and his contemporaries with reference to the post, colored all their speculation and had a direct influence in bringing upon France the horrors of anarchy.

In the vast upheaval that resulted in the destruction of institutions that had existed for centuries in France, many strange personages are met with: a Mirabeau, personally so corrupt, yet arousing one's admiration by his unsurpassed native ability and his manifest desire for his country's welfare; a Marat, a madman, the instigator of a general massacre; a Danton, of massive energy, the organizer of committees afterward so infamous, a man who, nevertheless, had a heart; and lastly a Napoleon, beholding the way prepared for his comprehensive dictatorship. But none of these developed so dangerous a policy as did Robespierre. Marat was too repulsive, too blatant, to be allowed to wield for any considerable time the supreme power. Mirabeau and Danton were not, like Robespierre, an idea incarnate; each had human sympathies which often checked them. Napoleon knew other ways of governing than by the aid of the guillotine. But the wily Robespierre, so "incorruptible" so assiduous in his flattery of the mob, built up for himself a power more pernicious than any other man was capable of wielding. With reference to him all mankind cannot help being of one mind; he was a monster whose daily food was human beings. May his like never be seen again.

CURRENT COMMENT.

A late invention by a young Italian engineer has succeeded in settling the question of submarine navigation. The Italian has invented a spherical vessel that may be moved about on the surface of the water or sunk to any depth in the sea. The machinery, placed in a room inside of the vessel, makes it possible to propel the boat, to steer it, to sink it or to raise it to the surface of the water with perfect ease. That those inside may see to guide the boat, it is fitted up with lenses that enable them to see submerged articles. To enable them to fasten onto these articles, grapnels and hooks are fastened to the outside, but are manipulated from the inside. The first trial of this wonderful vessel was a success. It performed its duties with great exactitude and precision. Science has for a long time been striving to attain success along this line, but all previous attempts have failed. Scientists are at last victorious and they may well exult in their achievement.

The question of reciprocity is at present demanding a great deal of attention in our political world. Although we are not opposed to reciprocity we would like to say a few words in opposition to the amendment proposed by the senate on the reciprocity bill now before congress.

To secure reciprocal trade with foreign countries producing the following articles, viz: sugar, molasses, coffee, tea, and hides, the amendment proposes to exempt these articles from duty. This is all right as far as it goes.

The amendment states farther that "After the first day of July 1891, whenever and so often as the President shall be

satisfied that the government of any country producing and exporting sugars, molasses, coffee tea and hides raw and uncured, or any of such articles, imposes duties or other exactions upon the agricultural or other products of the United States, which, in view of the free introduction of sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides into the United States he may deem to be reciprocally unequal and unreasonable, it shall be his duty to suspend by proclamation to that effect, the provisions of this act for such time as he shall deem just and during such suspension duties shall be levied, collected and paid upon sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides as follows."

It will be seen from this that to one man is given the right to impose duties on certain articles when, in his opinion, he shall deem it necessary. It is left to the judgment of one person alone, and is this right, even though he be the president of these United States?

Men are not perfect, no matter to what political party they belong. The president, with this additional power conferred upon him will have unlimited opportunities to take advantage of his position for personal gain, or, in order to realize some radical party scheme.

A law may be made with reference to the happening of some future event. If this event never comes to pass then the law becomes null. This amendment does not, by any means, come under that law. Reciprocity, or the imposition of duties upon certain articles does not depend on whether a foreign country transgresses the laws of trade or not, it depends on whether, in the judgment of one man, the foreign country has done so.

The tariff question is a weighty one and will be very hard to solve. We will not attempt to say which is the best way of deciding it, but if reciprocity be the best way of deciding it, let us have reciprocity, but let it not be controlled by one man.

In regard to the recent strike on the New York Central railroad we do not wish to enter into a discussion of the merits or demerits of the strike. Suffice it to say that the strike was between the New York central railroad and the Knights of Labor organization.

Powderly says "The noble and holy order" of Knights of Labor exists for the purpose of seeking "educational and legislative advantages." If this be true it stands to reason that the order should not be characterized by revenge as it was during the recent strike. If the purpose of the order is as Powderly claims why are so many men needed to protect the property belonging to the railroad? Surely in this age when disputes are settled by arbitration, violence is a very poor instrument with which to accomplish the sought for end.

There was absolutely no cause for the wreck of the Montreal express by certain Knights of Labor, simply to "get even" with the railroad company. They did not take into consideration the innocent men, women and children they were sending to death; they simply had a desire to revenge themselves. Such actions are characteristic of savages in the lowest stage and are to be deplored when found in men professing to be civilized.

This would not have been so bad had the order to which these men belonged denounced this action, but they did not. They tried to shield them and thereby made themselves guilty as were the men that committed the crime. There is certainly something wrong about an order that will act in this manner and the sooner a change is brought about the better it will be for the community at large. An institution conducted in such a manner does more harm than good.