

alized better than any of us that a vote against the caucus nominee to elect Mr. Thompson might cause serious trouble and be attended with some personal danger. He accordingly sent for his revolvers, and when the two revolvers were brought into the room, some of the republican members there were frightened out of their boots and began to weaken. They were quite ready to sell out the party for Thompson's benefit, but it never occurred to them that any personal danger would be connected with the act until they saw Fisher's revolvers; then they began to turn pale and one by one they quietly folded their tents and stole away into the legislative chamber and voted for Mr. Hayward."

Some times a little thing turns the tide of affairs, and in this case the senatorship of Nebraska was doubtless determined by the production of Fisher's pistols. We learn that Captain Fisher is a candidate for re-election. If he should be re-elected, Mr. Thompson should ask him when he comes down here to vote for him, to leave his pistols at home.

In Darkest Africa.

According to contemporary evidence, Richard Harding Davis has ceased to write stories. Instead, he tags the latest war and falls out with the officers. He went to the war in Africa convinced that the English had no case, and he says of the war in Africa that the Boer has as good a chance of winning now as he ever had. "The Boers have enough provisions stored away in the hills to last them a year and perhaps two years."

It is not queer that the English officers do not like Mr. Davis. If he had accomplished for the literature of the world what Shakespeare has, he could be no more conscious of the deference due him from the world. Englishmen are reserved and strutting will put a man out of it quicker than the commission of any ordinary misdemeanor. As a war correspondent, he is graphic, and the photographs of himself in assorted fighting costumes and attitudes, which he scatters through the sketches, enliven the report. He complained, however, in landing in New York that the British censorship was so strict that he could not get his news through it, and therefore he went to live with the Boers in Pretoria.

It is scarcely strange that the English were suspicious of Mr. Davis. Before leaving Marion, Massachusetts, Mr. Davis and his brother held a Boer celebration, raising the Boer flag and firing salutes to it. On his arrival in London, the news of the celebration had reached there and the club, where a friend had put him up, was in an uproar. Mr. Davis said his friend did not withdraw his patronage, but to avoid trouble, he told him to take down his name.

The trouble with the officers began as soon as he landed in Africa and reminds Americans of the trouble Mr. Davis had on the transport on his way to Cuba. He is as exigent as Emperor William. He has the air of something anointed, and all sorts of men, American and British, resent the call to worship of what has the appearance of only a man.

Mr. Davis' testimony concerning the dissipation among the British officers, their coarse treatment of and speech to the respectable Boer women, has not been impeached and is undoubtedly true. According to their own chronicler, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, the British officer and soldier are dissolute louts, presuming on their nationality and numbers to take what does

not belong to them and to laugh at ethical questions.

In peace the officer must maintain a portentous state, an expensive and varied ward-robe. Certain expenses, the total of which exceeds his salary, must be met. Therefore merit has not much to do with the making of an officer. The repeated disasters to the British army have shown the inferiority of the service, to the great mortification of the sturdy commoners at home, who are paying the bills and who are about to insist on its re-organization.

Human Freedom.

The difference between absolute freedom and anarchy is hard to define. The anarchists talk about God and how human beings have thwarted His purposes by making laws imposing order, and electing rulers or by submitting to kings. They ignore the cruel, rigorous laws of nature which enforce themselves and that no assassination can effect. The anarchists claim that we were meant to be free, but there is no Biblical or extra-Biblical authority for the supposition. Aguirre, the boxer and the anarchists claim divine direction for their deeds of violence, but most of the world deny their inspiration.

A writer on some celebrated murders in the August Cosmopolitan recites the attitude of society towards a murderer and the murderer's longing for the fellowship he lost when he killed. The murderer is isolated by the repulsion of society, though his crime be undiscovered. He is so lonesome that the author says he feels a relief when the hand of the sheriff touches his shoulder to conduct him to prison.

There are too many laws, but the clamor is for more. A little freedom, though dearly bought, is worth while, but it is not settled yet that perfect freedom is the highest good. Even the hierarchy of Heaven is under orders. In Heaven is no constitution, but a perfect absolutism. Slavery and the various forms of ascending subserviency of one man or men to another man or body of men is very unpleasant. There are many things we hate to do for no other reason than that we have been commanded to do them. But the rebellion is earthly and resembles the way of a mule more than the strivings of an aspiring soul after freedom.

A Neglected Text.

Merchants, when they have been robbed by clerks or by customers who had goods charged with no intention of paying, have had the subject of the prevailing dishonesty brought home to them, as the temperance lecturers say. They begin to inquire then why ministers do not preach more about honesty and less about faith in a spirit and loyalty to the laws of a future world. A sermon on overreaching, an exaltation of honesty, an exposition of the numerous ways of depriving another of his property without getting too near the penitentiary, might remind those who lay Sunday aside with their broadcloth Prince-Alberts, that faith without works is dead. No vice is so common, none so unexpected when discovered, and none so infrequently denounced as stealing. State treasurers, cashiers, postal directors and all kinds of public officers steal and set an example to less distinguished employes, and we are fast becoming a nation of thieves, yet not in school are the children warned that temptation to thievery will forever assail them. The schoolboy thinks of a thief as a pickpocket and knows his virtue safe against assault. He has

no intimation of the time when he may become a city or state or corporation official, with the money of others in his keeping, when a dozen safe schemes of misappropriation may be presented to him. Nor in church is the national crime very often alluded to. It is a negative virtue, this of honesty: only to refrain from taking what does not belong to us. But the neglect to insist upon it has let many a positive thief go unchallenged of his conscience.

CLUBS.

A midsummer convention of direct interest to mothers closed on August fourth, in Chicago. The last day was devoted to a round of Chicago's libraries and visits to the Art institute and field museum.

The League of American Mothers is the outgrowth of plans promulgated by Mrs. Andrea Hofer Proudfoot through a series of kindergarten publications. She received so many inquiries from mothers all over the United States that the establishment of 750 leagues in various localities followed.

Talks and papers of the convention related directly to kindergarten principles and their practice applied to the home and the child. These are to be the foundation of a four years' course of study which members of the league will pursue. While the home is the central thought in the course, it will be taken in a wide and decorative course with relation to neighborhood environments and ways and means by which the Golden Rule may have most effective application.

Mrs. Lida H. Hardy of Topeka, the new president, brings to her office the riches of a long experience while in charge of the Mothers' union conducted by Dr. Sheldon's church. The other officers are:

Vice presidents, Mrs. Ellen Lee Wyman, Evanston, Ill.; Mrs. Helen Vance, Decatur, Ill.

Corresponding secretary, Mrs. Lucy Stewart Roberts, Longwood, Ill.

Recording secretary, Mrs. Alice Bierhaus, Vincennes, Ind.

Treasurer, Mrs. Frank Seiberling, Akron, O.

San Francisco has a lodge of women Elks. It is auxiliary to Golden Gate Lodge No. 6, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of America. Mrs. Lottie E. Rothman headed the list of thirty charter members and says that other lodges of women Elks will be established along the Pacific Coast. The San Francisco lodge consists mainly of the wives and relatives of members of the Golden Gate. But the women Elks are already encountering breakers. The B. P. O. E. No. 3 says that the Golden Gate charter has been suspended and that no women can belong to the regular Elks, even as honorary members, and also says that Jerome B. Fisher, a supreme judge of Jamestown, N. Y., and grand exalted ruler of the Elks, is coming out next month to familiarize himself with the laws of the state, so as to take steps to prevent the use of the name Elks by any organization outside of No. 3.

From an American standpoint the Women's congress in Paris is regarded a failure, and Prof. Gore, who had the congress in charge, is said to be responsible. It is alleged that this same professor is a "woman hater," and now somebody ought to explain why that kind of a man was any kind of a factor in a woman's convention. Mrs. Jennie June Croly

says that the congress was more of a national than an inter-national meeting. She was impressed with the French women's want of knowledge and sympathy for anything outside of themselves. The great majority know no language but their own and they are discussing among themselves primitive questions that are no longer of interest to American women.

Miscellaneous topics will make up the calendar of the Lawrenceville, Pa., New Century club for the coming season. This is the only literary club in Lawrenceville that does philanthropic work. Its sewing class for the poor last season proved immensely popular and it will be conducted this year on a larger scale, taking in more intricate braiches and adding the ornamental to the plainly practical stitch.

Utah's state federation of Women's clubs gave an outing at Saltair the other day. Of course everyone of the 1,500 women who went on the excursion was glad to see her friends, but the primary object of it all was to raise funds for the traveling library and for some educational projects in which the women of Salt Lake city are greatly interested.

More than this, the women who organize and take part in public movements in France comprise two distinct classes, the "Feminines" and the "Feministes." The first is the conservative element, and that was the class that controlled the July congress. The Feministes have their convention next month, and then the "advanced" party will "say things" about the legal status of women. Madame Jeanne E. Schmahl, a young English woman, the wife of a Frenchman, will be one of the leaders. It was Madame Schmahl who secured to the working women the right of her earnings, although, if the latter be married, she cannot deposit or withdraw them without her husband's signature. Mlle. Jeanne Chauvin, doctor of law, and Mlle. Augsburg, doctor of law, from Germany, will also be prominent in the September program.

An anti-suffragist said to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National Woman Suffrage association, that a point against the ballot for women was the fact that very little had been accomplished after a half century of agitation on the subject. Mrs. Catt replied: "The Nicaraguan canal has been advocated for the same length of time with everybody in favor of it, and yet it is far from being accomplished. But this does not prove that the canal project should be abandoned as a failure."

Robert J. Burdette, in his "Philosophical Observations of a Woman's Convention," makes this note: Mme. Rebecca Douglas Lowe of Georgia, does not wield a borrowed gavel. During a discussion over some intensely interesting and vitally important point of order, two delegates, arguing from opposite sides, triumphantly waved before the chair letters from Thomas B. Reed, sustaining both contentions. And the chair calmly waved them aside, reminding the convention that Mrs. Shattuck's "rules of order" was the manual which governed the deliberations of the biennial. Great is the czar; may his shadow never grow less. But, to paraphrase "Mr. Dooley," let us say it softly, the czarina might hear us. The convention was hard to handle. Any deliberative body of over a thousand delegates is unwieldy, be it a body of men or women. Even in a body of trained legislators like our House of Representatives, all the work of legislation is done in committee. One-third of the members of the House—possibly a larger proportion than that—might just