

# CURRENT TOPICS

A STRANGE example of race merit reappearing is cited by the St. Louis Post Dispatch. That newspaper says: "It is well known that Field Marshal Oyama is the descendant of an Irish king named O'Yama, who left the green isle several hundred years ago. Oku is a member of the famous O'Keough family. These are facts familiar to antiquarians. But that Kuropatkin was anything but a Russian will be news even to students of the origin of things. In 1691 Sir Dermott Carew left Ireland and went to France. His son Patrick Carew, became a general in the French army. His son Patrick Carew went into the Austrian service, distinguished himself in battle with the Turks and was granted large landed estates in Hungary by the grateful emperor. This Carew had a son, also named Patrick, who entered the Russian service. In Russia the surname is placed before the Christian name. He was known as Carew Patrick, which readily yielded to phonetic requirements and became Kuropatkin. The present general is eighth or ninth in descent from Sir Dermott Carew, 1691. It is a strange example of race merit reappearing. And remember that, since the Irish are the ten lost tribes, it follows that the heroes of the war in the east, victors and vanquished, are of the blood of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Truth is, indeed, stranger than fiction. Happy is he to whom it comes in forms of pleasing surprise."

THE BAPTIST church manual contains the following: "The moral tone of the entire membership may be lowered by the bad example of one member. No opportunity should be afforded to one guilty of misdemeanors to shield himself behind some graver offender who remains in the church unrebuked. A further aim (of church discipline) is to save others in the church who may be tempted into sin or corrupted by the evil example of one already guilty."

REFERRING to these provisions, the New York correspondent for the Denver News says that certain exponents of the Baptist doctrine declare that the heads of the Fifth Avenue church to which John D. Rockefeller belongs will not be faithful to the church law if they do not institute proceedings against their wealthy associate. These persons further declare that it is the imperative duty of Mr. Rockefeller, according to the law of the Baptist church to demand an investigation. The News correspondent adds: "Those persons who have made a study of church law, and have followed the Rockefeller case from the beginning of the \$100,000 gift controversy, are wondering whether the members of the Fifth Avenue congregation will meet the issue boldly or dodge it. No one who knows Mr. Rockefeller and his dislike for notoriety believes he will court an investigation. It is more to his liking to be silent and let time heal his troubles."

A. PROUTY of the interstate commerce commission delivered an address in Chicago on the evening of April 12. Mr. Prouty said that there had been great discrimination practiced by the railroads in making rates to shippers, and that the greater part of this discrimination had been effected by the rebate system. Some progress had been made, he declared, toward the eradication of the evil, but there must be an amendment to the present law, and it must include the private car lines, the terminal railroads and the elevators. He declared that six railroad systems had control of 55 per cent of the total mileage and two-thirds of the gross receipts from traffic throughout the country and that they were practically a monopoly. A railroad monopoly, he said, was the most injurious matter of its kind that the citizens of this country could have to contend with.

ON THE SAME OCCASION, George R. Peck, general counsel for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, spoke on the subject of rebates or discriminations. Mr. Peck declared that rebates were no longer given. He added: "Bear in mind, giving preference to one shipper over another is not illegal at common law. Competition is the one thing favored, and competition never gave equal advantages to all. Its very foundation is in preferences. The anomaly of the present situation is that the law requires competition and

prohibits the steps necessary to procure it. If railways compete they are seized by the interstate commerce law—if they do not compete they fall into the hands of the anti-trust law. The reductio ad absurdum is; that therefore the interstate commerce commission should make rates."

MR. PECK brought forward the constitutional objections to government control as anticipated in newspaper dispatches several weeks ago. He said that the power to regulate commerce, conferred upon congress by the constitution, was subject to the limitation that no preference should be given by any regulation of commerce to the ports of one state over the ports of any other state. He contended that under this limitation it was inevitable that government rate-making could only be carried out upon the basis of a distance tariff, which, while it would be within the provisions of the constitution, would be hopelessly destructive of the commercial and industrial fabric of the country, which has been built up under the adjusted systems of tariffs, under which a scientific attempt has been made to equalize the disadvantages of geographical location, and place the different producing sections of the country on as near an equality in the markets to which they ship as possible.

THE prudential committee of the American board of foreign missions voted on April 11 to accept the \$100,000 offered by John D. Rockefeller. This action was taken by the full committee. It will be remembered that several weeks ago a sub-committee recommended the acceptance of the money but the general committee postponed final action until April 11 when the gift was formally accepted. The committee issued a statement, which, after discussing the objections of the protestants, declares that they are not sufficiently strong to justify the board in refusing the money.

IT SEEMS that long before the committee acted, the board's representatives received the money and in fact disbursed some of it and one of the principal points presented in the statement made by the prudential committee is that the American board can not now legally return Mr. Rockefeller's money because the decisions of the highest court are to the effect that trustees who have once accepted a gift and assumed certain obligations have no power to return the gift and to absolve themselves from those obligations. The committee holds that by returning the gift, as suggested by the protesting clergymen, the American board would be made responsible not only to those for whose benefit the gift was designed, but also to the present officers' successors. This statement refers to the fact that the board has already used one-half of Mr. Rockefeller's gift which was actually accepted on February 14.

IN ITS PUBLISHED STATEMENT, the committee holds that the return of the gift would have been wrong, because it would have expressed "disapprobation and condemnation of a man when he was doing an act of benevolence. The committee says: "This would have been to confuse the issue and to act contrary to the Christian spirit. To prevent any man from doing good is a wrong way in which to condemn him for doing evil. It is as wrong to condemn him when he is doing a good deed as to commend him when he is doing a bad deed." The committee also contends that the board is not organized to decide questions of temperance, economics or socialism. An attempt at this, it says, would be an assumption of authority outside of its character. It is held that the return of the money would be the passing of judgment upon the character of the donor and the business methods he is alleged to have used and that this would be a wrong to the church of which he is a member. The committee adds: "Any accusation against him could not, in Christian countries, be acted upon until the case had first been tried before the church which indorses him as a member in good and regular standing."

WHEN informed of the final action of the prudential committee, accepting the Rockefeller gift, Rev. Washington Gladden leader of the protesting forces, said: "The prudential committee

has placed itself on the broad and intelligible position that all gifts must be received, no matter what may be the character of the giver, nor by what immoralities or crimes his gains may have been gathered. That is the testimony from such high authority. From this decision appeal will now be taken to the conscience of the Congregational churches and the conscience of Christians."

GENERAL FREDERICK D. GRANT delivered a speech in Boston recently. According to the Boston Herald, General Grant referring to the Philippines said: "You hear a great deal about the force necessary to keep those degenerate people in subjection. There are 12,000 soldiers out there. My department in the east maintains 14,000 men to keep you citizens of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other coast places in the straight and narrow path." Furthermore, he leaked this information: "As a matter of fact, there is one brigade mobilized in the Philippines ready to strike, I think, in favor of the open door in China, rather than against the Filipinos." The Herald makes bold to declare: "It is a pity that this General Grant has not inherited a portion of his illustrious father's discretion."

INDIANA has a new and novel marriage law. The Indianapolis correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "The state board has prepared a form and is now sending it to the county clerks. The day the acts are promulgated the state board will hold a meeting, approve the circular and telegraph the county clerks to that effect. There will be two separate forms for licenses, one for women and the other for men. Twenty-seven questions will be asked. The forms are alike except that the man is compelled to swear that he can support a family. This is something new in Indiana. Otherwise the questions are designed to get a statement of the whole moral, civil and physical history of the applicants. In the form prepared the questions are whether or not either of the contracting parties has been an inmate of a county poor farm or home for indigent women, whether either party is an imbecile, feeble minded, idiotic or insane, or under guardianship as a person of unsound mind, and whether or not either of the contracting parties is afflicted with epilepsy, tuberculosis or any other contagious or transmissible disease."

DON CARLOS MORALES, president of Santo Domingo, occupies a high position in the estimation of the Washington Post. The Post says: Formerly a priest, he soon saw the handicap of that profession in pursuing his natural bent, that of a bandit, and he doffed the spiritual robe. Prosperity smiled upon him from the first. From the petty looter of a barrio he rose to the presidency, with all its facilities for larger operations. When with 'wise and far-seeing statesmanship' he induced the United States to rake his chestnuts out of the fire, we perceived him to be an extraordinary man, but we did not know that he was proving himself to be the financial wizard of the hemisphere. Reports now come from London that in consequence of Morales' statesmanship the bonds of South American republics are going skyward. 'Stocks which a short time ago were spoken of as rubbish, and to be avoided by any one but the most hardened speculator, now apparently are regarded as rapidly approaching the position of gilt-edged securities,' says a dispatch."

COMMENTING upon this statement the Post says: "All this is due to the prudence and foresight of Don Carlos Morales. He is the savior of impecunious republics, and incidentally of the Foreign Bondholders' corporation. It was his bold initiative, his grasp of the situation, his recognition of a psychological conjunction, that lifted him at a bound above the revolutionists who administer the affairs of neighboring republics. A statute of Don Carlos Morales should be placed in the plaza of every southern capital, with this inscription: 'The man who made the big stick knock down the persimmons.' As for the Foreign Bondholders' corporation, if it does not send to Don Carlos a batch of gilt-edged Honduras bonds at 9 as a 'gratification,' it is a stranger to gratitude and sharper than a serpent's tooth."