

Copyright In Religion.

The noble exclamation of Captain Philip of the Texas to his men in the midst of the naval battle off Santiago, "Don't cheer, they're dying," has elicited a complaint from a well known Jewish rabbi that this tender mercy for an enemy hors de combat has been claimed as a typical Christian exhibition. He calls attention to the fact that Hebrew teachings antedating Christianity display the same spirit. It may be readily conceded that the body of ethical truth, which Christianity more than any other religion incarnates, is eclectic in its variety and sources. Confucius, the Indian sages, Zoroaster and Socrates, as well as the lawgiver and prophets of Hebraism, taught much if not all of the moral truths essential in the creed of Christ. But Christianity, despite the evil and intolerance which in different ages have been imported into its practice, more than any other religious system has made moral power a living force. It has touched ethics with a burning coal, kindling them into a purifying flame. It has been the organic force in making and inspiring the modern civilized world. Working along all the lines of social and political morals, its most marvelous work has been the diminution of cruelty as between man and man. Pity, mercy, sympathy, the sense of human brotherhood, have fruited from it logically in a thousand diverse forms. Christianity claims no copyright on the divine spirit of charity. But it has been at its best the unsurpassed vehicle for its beneficent play. Therefore men's minds instinctively associate the beautiful utterance of Captain Philip with Christianity and the mandates of its crucified Founder.

An English writer in *The Contemporary Review* comments on the vast increase of what are known as "bachelor women" in Great Britain. This includes for the most part women of small income or those with some professional talent of which they can make use. The result, we are told, leads to a diminution of marriages of convenience. It may be so, too, in America, where the "bachelor woman" is a growing class. But she is as quick here to succumb as any other woman when fate pierces her in the form of Cupid's arrow, nor is she averse to the wound.

China since her war with Japan has suffered seriously as a "grab bag" for the European powers. But a new and possibly far more serious thing has come to the helpless and unwieldy empire. The insurrection making rapid progress in Kwang-tung, the province of which Canton is the capital, has all the show of a recrudescence of the terrible Taiping rebellion. It has started among the same turbulent people, vaunts the same symbols and warcries and propagates itself by the same methods. It has the look of being much more

than the mere local tumor always festering in some part of China. The Taiping deluge of slaughter and rapine, which devastated the country for 24 years (from 1841 to 1865), it is estimated by Demetrius Boulger, a well known authority, cost the empire \$500,000,000 and the loss of 3,000,000 lives. It planted a pseudo emperor, originally a Hakka schoolmaster, who professed at first to be a Christian convert, on a throne at Nanking for a period of 15 years. It came within a hairbreadth of exterminating the Mantchu dynasty and filled China with indescribable woe and horror. With the increased interest which European ambition has in China of course no rebellion could conquer such a headway now. But its further progress, unless it can be quickly stamped out by the Chinese authorities, without assistance, will make the further partition of China almost inevitable. It is one of those opportunities which Russia, Germany and France are naturally watching for and of which they would have no scruple in availing to the uttermost when the situation becomes ripe. Perhaps it is only the logic of history that they should do so, for civilization marches oftener with the sword than with the olive branch.

English author-readers do not meet with much success in this country nowadays. Mr. Le Gallienne has just left with empty pockets, as did Anthony Hope and Conan Doyle. Dr. Watson, the "kailyard" novelist, to be sure, carried off a little fortune, and is coming again fishing in the same waters, but he appealed eminently to the vast "Tupperized" public. Dickens and Thackeray gained immense returns in this way, but then they were Dickens and Thackeray.

Dr. Chauncey Depew thinks that the return of the Spanish prisoners to Spain will help the benighted people to understand the Americans better and so assist the coming of peace. The greater good, however, will be in the arrival of a powerful re-enforcement to sustain the government against revolution when negotiations are opened. That fear has been the great obstacle to Spain's public recognition of the facts of war.

European Dislike of the United States.

A cynical essayist once wrote a very suggestive article on "The Mutual Hatred of Nations." The very title puts the theory out of court, however wise and witty in some of its speculations. Hatred in a political sense simply means that kind of alienation which comes of opposed interests and ideals. Individuals may hate each other, but nations cannot in any essential way, unless it be as the temporary effect of a terrible humiliation. Yet the feeling of divergence may be so strong as occasionally to have some taint of the bitterness of private hatred. While this cannot be said to be true of the feelings of continental Euro-

peans toward the United States there has been for some time evidence of a growing jealousy, which Americans sincerely deprecate. For, as a people, we are very social and fond of the good will of others, however willing to criticize and be criticised.

The genuine root of this feeling involves no question of dislike to Americans as individuals. Foreign writers, to be sure, have always been easily tempted to sneer at American characteristics. That may easily pass as the natural instinct to find fault with habits foreign to one's own environment, and Americans themselves are not free from it. The cause goes deeper than the personal and links itself to political and commercial facts.

This country has always been the fountain stream of those complex influences which have tended to shake the old order of things in Europe. In the very nature of facts she is sure to remain so in increasing measure as her strength and bigness expand. Nations resting on ancient traditions cannot forgive this, for it presents a threat which tugs forever at foundation stones. To this political fact are added the tremendously expanding radius of our industrial energies and our keen competition with foreign producers at their very hearthstone as well as in the common field of export. Effective reason shows in this for European opinion and policy arming themselves against us. The recent aspect in which we have with or without grounds come to appear to Europe as a candidate for a still more assured position has been a forcing agent in an already strong sentiment. To be sure the continent feels similarly toward England, but in our case there is an added anger at the notion of an upstart people strong in its own sense of right and might moving with an assured stride in the race of nations. It is not magnanimous, but it is human nature.

The Russian editors complacently curl their mustaches with the remark that the American political status in the east apropos of the results of the war hangs on the verdict of St. Petersburg. The Muscovite press forgets that the world's accepted sea meridian passes through Greenwich, England, and not through the city of Peter.

It seems that only a portion of the harbor mines in our great harbors will be removed, though all danger from Spanish attack has ceased. Government evidently feels it imprudent to make every channel a fairway until all international outcome of the war has been settled.

"Justice is the bread of nations; they are always famishing for it," is the sentimental apothegm of a great Frenchman. We have been the great producers of breadstuffs so far, and we are now adding this new cereal to our export list.