

are convinced that many of the working classes are led to dangerous drinking habits in this way. These men, it may be, would have gone to a temperance saloon, had it been convenient, in preference. Acting on this theory, a wealthy London tea merchant about ten years ago established throughout the Whitechapel district what he called Tee-to-tums. These were regular cafes, full of chairs and tables, offering a variety of daily, weekly and monthly publications and all kinds of games to visitors, who paid a small weekly fee for the privilege of using them. Everything except intoxicating beverages was sold at a very low figure. The rapid success of these humble clubs in London led to their introduction throughout all the English cities. They have become an important social fact. An attempt was made to establish this sensible temperance agency in New York, but for some reason, perhaps because public opinion was not marshaled behind it, it did not realize its English popularity. Perhaps it was not quite suited in detail to the American environment, but in the very logic of things institutions of this sort can be made far more potent factors in temperance reform than aggressive crusading.

A Frank Frenchman.

A prominent French author, M. Demolins, the editor of *La Science Societe*, has recently published a striking book under the title "To What Is Due the Superiority of the Anglo-Saxon races?" That a French writer should admit such a superiority is a marvel. That he should be able to analyze it with great subtlety and precision is less wonderful once the conviction had seized his mind. The French intellect is eminently lucid and direct when its X ray is not absolutely befogged with prejudice. M. Demolins proceeds at once to plant his reasoning on the thesis that the English speaking races always take their initiative in political, social and industrial life from the standpoint of the individual. He says in defense of his title:

It is useless to deny the superiority of the Anglo-Saxons. We may be vexed by this superiority, but the fact remains despite our vexation. We cannot go anywhere about the world without meeting Englishmen. Over all our possessions of former times the English or the United States flag now floats. The Anglo-Saxon has supplanted us in North America, which we occupied from Canada to Louisiana; in Mauritius, once called the Isle of France; in Egypt. He dominates America by Canada and the United States; Africa by Egypt and the Cape; Asia by India and Burma; Oceanica by Australia and New Zealand; Europe and the entire world by his commerce, by his industry and by his politics. The Anglo-Saxon world is today at the head of that civilization which is most active, most progressive, most devouring. Let this race establish itself anywhere on the globe, and at once there is introduced with prodigious rapidity the latest progress of our western societies, and often these young societies surpass us. Observe what we Frenchmen have done with New Caledonia and our other possessions in Oceanica and what the Anglo-Saxons have done in Australia and New Zealand.

He finds the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon to consist primarily in the mode of his education, which is directed in

an eminent degree to make him a practical, self dependent person, full of resources to conquer a home and living, however he may be circumstanced. But in making this just admission he does not quite account for the growth of that system of education. It could not have come at random. That was an outgrowth too. Our author does not sufficiently emphasize the fundamental racial spirit, lying behind all else. Even in feudal times the same independent masterful spirit displayed itself from baron down to peasant. It is this hereditary spirit which has evolved all the forms and agencies of superiority, which M. Demolins so envyingly praises and which he describes at length. Just why this peculiar union of intellect and temperament should have been crystallized in England and not in some other part of growing Europe, fermenting with forces similar to those agitating life across the English channel, is the taproot which the author fails to touch. Of course the question is academic, but it underlies the other.

There are many signs that financial distress in Japan is sharpening to a crisis, in spite of the large war indemnity which China has paid. Everything has been stimulated in an extreme degree in the enterprising empire, which is now threatened by one of those collapses which always follow great inflations of business. Japan has been expending enormous sums on her army and navy since her recent war in the ambition to become a great power in the western sense. She has built many railways, promoted and carried out vast public improvements, endowed college and school systems and been lavish without stint in spending money for excellent ends. The mercantile community in Japan are in great distress, and the government is unable to do aught to help them. The country is paying the price of an overweening ambition instead of waiting for slow and sure development. It was the same cause—that is to say, vast expenditures in public improvements and a too great hurry for civilization—which plunged Ismail Pasha and Egypt into bankruptcy. There is no danger of this for the energetic island kingdom. But certainly omens point to acute and prolonged financial trouble.

Merchants Versus Express Companies.

The suit proposed to be brought through the Merchants' association of New York against the express companies will determine an important question which has arisen under the war tax law. The country from one end to the other will find its interests affected. According to the wording of the law, the express company on receiving a parcel must affix and cancel the stamp, but at whose expense no definite statement determines. The carrier companies assume that the stamp cost shall

be paid by the merchants and refuse to accept business otherwise. Law is supposed to be the embodiment of common sense, and the evident intent is the rule by which such matters must be construed. The philosophy of taxation seems to be that a business pays for the privilege of making money in its special fashion and under the machinery of work which it has devised for that purpose. A receipt for a parcel is merely the acknowledgment of the express company that the property has been intrusted to its hands and the acceptance of responsibility therefor. That is a part of the essential machinery of the express business. It does not belong, one would naturally conclude, to the essential work and methods of the merchant. If this analysis is sound, the cost of the stamp should rest on the carrier company. The decision when given will involve many hundreds of thousands of dollars in the outcome. Most merchants do business now on a very small profit, and the receipt tax would be seriously felt by those of them who are obliged to use the express companies on a large scale in sending small parcels.

There is an unconfirmed statement that a Stuttgart publishing firm has bought the right of Bismarck's memoirs, written since his resignation as chancellor was demanded by the Emperor William II. We can fancy that the revelations in such a book, written when the Iron Chancellor's temper had been set on edge, might easily alarm one so sensitive to criticism as the emperor. It is intimated he will suppress the book, as he did his father's memoirs, then indeed by Bismarck's advice.

The Potato Field.

During the grain harvest the potato field is apt to be neglected. This was bad enough in the days when weeds were the only enemies to be feared. Since the potato beetle has become common, there should never a day pass when some one does not go through the field and destroy all the larvæ in sight. It is easy to see by examining the leaves whether eggs are numerous. If they are not, hand picking of beetles will suffice. A dose of poison applied, diluted with water at the rate of a teaspoonful of the poison to a pail of water, will kill the larvæ so soon as they get to work and prevent most of the damage. It is very difficult to have this done so promptly that part at least of the hills will not be stripped before the poison is applied. But in harvest time there are several hours of daylight early in the morning, when dew will prevent doing much in the harvest field. If this makes too many hours' work per day, take a longer nooning. If the grain harvest and the care of potatoes conflict, most farmers will be wise in giving the preference in care to the crop that is most profitable, and, concludes *The American Cultivator*, it takes several acres of grain to equal in value a large potato crop on one acre.