

The Volunteers.

This title does not allude to our gallant fellows who have given America fresh cause to be proud of her heroic children, but to the Volunteers who wage daily and nightly war against "the world, the flesh and the devil." It is said that Ballington Booth, their leader, proposes to abolish all difference in garb which distinguishes them from other American citizens and put them on the basis of ordinary missionary toilers. The boom of the drum, the squeal of the fife and the other fantastic usages which they have in common with the Salvation Army workers are to be discontinued. With the abolition of the picturesque elements of method and appearance one fears that something of the effectiveness of the organization will also go. Mr. Booth, it may be his desire to diverge as far as possible from the ways of the organization made by his father and to assimilate his religious machinery to American notions overlooks an important consideration. The special value of the Salvation Army and of the Volunteers who seceded from it is found in its appeal to the lower classes. In this field the reformatory and religious work done has been immense. It is a field which peculiarly needs this grade of missionary influence. Anything which can attract attention and heighten the force of appeal has a peculiar fitness. Grotesque as the whole thing may be from the standpoint of good taste and even of the higher religious intelligence, the fantastical features of these nondescript apostles are well adapted to the end in view. Shorn of them, they would sink to the commonplace. Mr. Ballington Booth risks a great mistake if he plucks the plumes and changes the methods of his marching and singing bands. It was that great man and profound student of human nature, St. Paul, who desired to be all things to all men that he might win souls.

Nobility For Sale.

The commercial spirit is the great characteristic of the age. To buy and sell in the best market seems to be the spirit of the intellectual and social market as well as that ruling the mart of material products. Many of the phases of this merchandizing are necessary, many are repulsive, and some are ludicrous. Some again are both repulsive and ludicrous. To the latter category belongs the revelation of social rotteness in London made by the speculator and promoter, Ernest Hooley, in his examination before the bankruptcy court. This typical business buzzard was not many months ago reputed to be a multimillionaire, and he has told the story of his rocketlike rise and downfall with a cynical frankness which is naive. The promotion of wind bag schemes, whereby the hard earned money of the great public is beguiled into the pockets of cunning and unscrupulous promoters—

that is an old story in every country where speculation is rife. The feature which gives the Hooley confession its vile smack is the shameless indifference with which men of the highest rank and social status have sold their names for great sums to be used as lures to tempt the honest investment of money into worthless or greatly overcapitalized enterprises. The British masses, in spite of their democratic tendencies, dearly love a lord, and the bourgeois class, the shopkeeper and his kind, bow down before him as before an idol. It is easily conceivable, then, that such names may have a considerable financial value on the prospectus of a company. Hooley and his kidney have long known it and worked it as astutely as professional card sharpers. Impecunious noblemen have found it out to the great advantage of their bank accounts. And the public have discovered it, too, with widespread results of misery and disaster.

Of course there is no reason why a man with a title should not go into business as the honest trustee of a stock company. But there are few pieces of disreputable scoundrelism more vicious than the act of one who vends his honorable name as a means of swindling the public. If the Hooley statements are one-half true, and the defense against them seems to be somewhat feeble prevarication, it is time that these titled sharpers should be held to the strictest account. What makes the accusation more plausible is the well known fact that the use of distinguished names as figureheads for a consideration has not been unknown before in London finance. The Hooley transaction is only an extreme case. Noblemen should draw the line with selling their name for millionaire wives.

Hawaiian Politics.

The people of the Hawaiian Islands, white and brown, are already beginning to feel the political fever hot in their veins. The commissioners appointed to formulate the basis on which they will come to the United States in territorial form are now on their way to Honolulu. It will probably not be later than October when they will have finished their labors, and congress will doubtlessly dispose of the matter by proper legislation early in the session. The fact that President Dole is not much discussed in political circles as the probable new governor of the territory is significant. It is known at Washington that though on general consideration of personal fitness and experience he would be the right selection no choice could be more distasteful to the majority of the islanders. The cause is not far to seek, and it carries with it the whole Iliad of recent Hawaiian history and the seed of what is to come. Mr. Dole was the representative of the white man's, or "missionary," party, so called, and as such the most influential

in causing the late revolution. That party, though the agent of a most important and progressive work, was very small in numbers if large in wealth and influence. However the native Hawaiians may rest content or even rejoice at the latest change of status they do not carry pleasant memories of the chief agents.

Of course the commissioners can only settle on the broadest base of suffrage in determining that question at the outside. It will be for the territorial legislature later in Hawaiian evolution to define conditions more accurately. Here, the indications show, will be the first great political battle. The white man's party will unquestionably struggle obstinately to establish ultimate suffrage on a property qualification sufficient to exclude many of the natives. The brown man's party will insist on a qualification not more exacting than the ability to read and write at the worst. This promises the first great collision. A second issue already looms up, which may split the whites among themselves. This will be the problem of the contract employment of Asiatics, of whom there are already 10,000 in the islands, invaluable to the planter and the country interest, detested by the merchants, mechanics and artisans. It is the Pacific coast issue with the Chinese even more seriously complicated. These are two of the questions, though the most ominous at present, which will soon set the Hawaiian pot of politics boiling over.

Discussing the death of Prince Bismarck, the leading Socialist organ of Berlin, Vorwaerts, repudiates the notion that so called men of genius are ever of any use to the world. It says: "We Social Democrats no longer believe old wives' tales about great men sent by Jehovah or Providence or the police to guide poor humanity in the way it ought to go. These superhumans are just ordinary men who owe their adaption of the collective labor of nameless millions not to their personality, but to chance conditions arising in obedience to fixed laws." Nothing is truer than that it is the collective labor of nameless millions that makes great men possible. But great men are the conduits through which these forces are obliged to run, the trumpets through which their dumb, perhaps scarcely self recognized, aspirations blow ringing notes. Bismarck embodied in a colossal form the patriotic longing of millions of Germans for a united fatherland, and his genius realized it. The great poet gives back to the world its vague ideals and craving of beauty in exquisite forms. So on we may run through the whole gamut of examples, finding that the really great man is he who interprets to those who are without power the things which lie deepest in their own hearts.