

luded to by the English paper. If any feeling of caste exists in times of peace, it is completely burned away by the fierce flame of patriotism which blows across the country in time of war. The dude fought splendidly by the side of the cowboy in the ranks of the rough riders and the butcher boy by the side of college graduate in the storming of the heights of San Juan. War is almost worth making and suffering when it teaches a lesson so effectively that "a man's a man for a' that," no matter what kind of a coat he wears.

The Last Chemical Discovery.

One never knows when new and interesting discoveries will be scored by scientific research. Neither can one be sure that any such discovery, at first apparently of mere abstract or academic interest, may not soon prove to be of great practical importance. Professor Dewar in London about three years ago amused audiences by his experiments in the liquefaction of gases. It was scarcely to be prophesied that it would soon prove to be revolutionary in some practical processes of great value, a fact which now seems probable. Cooke's "New Chemistry" in 1874 specified the existence of 63 elementary substances, and five new ones have been rapidly added, the last three being helion, argon and metargon, gases which almost refuse to unite with any other substance. A few weeks ago the identification of another elementary gas was made known to the French Academy of Sciences by three Italian physicists, MM. R. Nasini, F. Anderlini and R. Salvadori. The discovery came about by the agency of spectrum analysis, that all compelling tool of chemical and physical research. For many years the green line in the solar corona, known to spectrum analysts as 1474 K, was attributed to the aurora, but it was finally believed to represent some elementary presence in the sun lighter than hydrogen, but nonexistent in the earth. The investigation, mentioned above, found the same line in the spectrum of the gases thrown off by the volcanic springs of Pozzaoli, and the inference was that it was the identical gas previously recognized in the sun. This, it is believed, will soon be isolated and prove to be the lightest substance known to man.

Commerce and War.

It is customary to think of wars in the past as having been in large degree the fruit of lust of conquest, of greed of territory, of religious hate, of wounded pride or of the chivalric desire to match the power of one nation against that of a rival power. The modern war is associated with the more prosaic and practical origin. A little study, however, shows that the commercial spirit has been in the earlier ages of the world not less potent than in our own as the radical inducement leading up to great conflicts, some of which have

shaken the world and molded succeeding civilization. Scanning remote antiquity, we find the Ninevite kings, impelled by the energy of their Assyrian subjects as active traders, to move forward in their most ferocious conquests. Athens offended the Great King by its attempts to protect the commercial interests of its kindred cities in Asia Minor, and so opened the way to the Greco-Persian wars, in which the fate of the world hung in the balance. The death grapple between Carthage and Rome was commercial in its inception. As an example, in the feudal period, the romantic and chivalrous epoch of civilization, we note the Hundred Years' war between France and England springing from a trade quarrel. This old famed struggle grew out of the monopoly of the London guilds in dealing with the woolen manufacturers of Ghent and Liege. So when we return to our contemporary period and discover England and Russia on the verge of a great war over the issue of the larger control of the Chinese trade we merely find the same old world's story in a modern form. People as nations indeed never went to war for the fun of killing each other.

Carlism.

So much has been said about Carlism in Spain and its relations to the Spanish monarchy that a clear exposition of just what it means and its origin will be of interest to many readers. When Bourbonism was stamped on Spain by the accession of the grandson of Louis XIV of France, thus leading to what is known as the "War of the Succession," the Salic law, as understood in France, was adopted. So the course of succession remained till the reign of Ferdinand VII, who, for a long time childless, permitted his brother, Don Carlos, to look on himself as the heir. But a daughter by a fourth wife was born, and the king induced the cortes to approve a revocation of the Salic law and restore the old pragmatic law of succession, which recognized female heritage of the crown. So the infant Isabella became queen under the regency of the queen mother, the infamous Christina. Don Carlos at once took up arms, claiming title by the double right of Salic law and the ancient hereditary law of Castile, Aragon and Navarre, under which a woman could inherit only in default of a male heir. This first Carlist war was a veritable pandemonium for Spain, when the most terrible cruelties were exercised on both sides, and the scenes of debauchery at Madrid were such as rivaled those at Rome under Claudius and Nero, so strikingly depicted in "Quo Vadis." The pretender, Carlos, was finally beaten, and he slunk out of the kingdom to die in disgrace as one who had shown himself a curious compound of coward and imbecile. With the growth of Isabella to mature years and her marriage to Don Francis

d'Assissi, her cousin, the licentious atmosphere of the Spanish court became even more rank than before, and high society at Madrid was the scandal of Europe.

Toward the end of Isabella's royal career came the second Carlist war. The new pretender was the son of the second son of the first, known to his adherents as Carlos VII. He secured the support of General Cabrera, who had also been the right arm of his grandfather and his uncle in their attempts to secure the throne, one of the ablest and the cruellest soldiers of his time. The war proceeded, with an apparently good chance of Carlist success, till Cabrera, who was as corrupt as he was able, sold his patron and betrayed his trust. So the accession of Alfonso XII was ultimately assured after the short lived experiments of an Italian king and a republic. As the moral influence of Europe is opposed to the present Carlos, as it was adverse to his grandfather, the first pretender, Queen Christina stands an excellent chance of keeping the monarchy safe for her son.

The work before congress cut out by recent events is more delicate and difficult than any burden laid on legislation since the reconstruction period. It has the advantage, however, of being free from that passion of exacerbated partisanship which made the debates of that time so extreme in their energy of expression. All parties can now join in discussion, however variant in their views, with a certainty of calm and impartial treatment. In view, however, of the subject in its different phases and the lack of accurate knowledge it is the growing conviction at Washington that it will be wiser to take more time and leave the new issues for an extra session. The forthcoming four months' session, it is felt by many, would better be devoted to the Nicaragua canal and ordinary business. The canal bill, indeed, may justly be regarded as an all important preliminary to an adequate settlement of the things beyond.

Mrs. Lynn Linton, the well known English authoress, not long dead, is the victim of some reminiscences in The British Weekly. In those she is said to have asserted her secret knowledge of unknown facts in the lives of Dickens and Thackeray, and that these great men could and did love deeply, passionately, madly. Both those great geniuses lived so much in the light and blaze of the world's eye that it seems hardly possible that any great romance of their lives could remain unknown.

The small worries of life wear out the spirit more than the great misfortunes. Against the one the mind rebounds and often gathers new strength. The attack of the other is the constant friction of the dropping water.