

name and misfortune of Major Andre on the spot where the latter was made the victim of military justice. This was in spite of Andre's association with a treason which Americans detest so bitterly as one of the darkest blots on their history. It makes no difference that some vandal in the dead of night defaced and overthrew the monument. Mr. Field's act was approved by Americans as a piece of generous and kindly appreciation, pity for the fate of a noble spirit involved in the toils of a colleague who committed a colossal crime. There could be no finer test of the rapprochement between Great Britain and the United States if, under the recommendation of Lord Herschell and his associates, the Quebec municipality authorizes this erection of a Montgomery memorial.

#### The Dreyfus Scandal.

No disgrace more ignoble in her history has ever attached to the French name than that involved in the Dreyfus scandal. It was sufficiently palpable at the time of the trial to those who followed the case that the unfortunate victim of anti-Semitic prejudice and of the spirit of militarism was condemned on evidence which in England or America would have been hooted out of court. But it was felt that there were mysteries in the case which made the guilt of Dreyfus possible. In view of the methods of French courts, both civil and military, which give the prisoner the least possible chance to prove his innocence, a certain condonation was allowed to a verdict that chained the poor wretch, like Prometheus, to a barren rock. Further light filtered gradually on the facts, making his guilt still more questionable. Later followed the Zola and the Picquart episodes, proving that the French government was so far at the mercy of military dictation that it preferred to do flagrant wrong with its eyes open to the risk of offending its uniformed oligarchy. The spirit which dominated the treatment of these two men was more odious even than the tyranny which had organized the conviction of Dreyfus. It was the malignant bitterness which turned what might have been an honest mistake into a fixed determination to subvert all the principles of civil liberty and justice. So blinded, too, was public opinion in its rage that none but a few resolute spirits dared to lift a voice of protest. It raised the query, "Is the modern Gallic mind so blind in its perversity once its national animosity is aroused as to be impenetrable to every ray of justice?" Certainly the whole history of the monstrous affair in its various phases up to that time would indicate this.

The French government has been given another opportunity to show that it is not beyond repentance and reclamation. New evidence practically nullifies not only the conviction of

Emile Zola and justifies Colonel Picquart, but knocks away the most substantial prop of the incriminatory evidence against Dreyfus. Colonel Henry, a French military official of the war bureau, has been led to confess that a letter which was the very cornerstone of the professed belief of the justice of the Dreyfus conviction, was his own forgery, deliberate and cold blooded. He was arrested and at the earliest practicable date committed suicide. No amount of punishment of those primarily responsible for the Dreyfus wrong will expiate that unless the Faure administration makes the most profuse amends. A seat on the stool of repentance and the cry of "Peccavi!" will alone satisfy the world that there is still latent in France any sense of righteousness.

The coronation of Queen Wilhelmina, the charming young queen of Holland, at the Nieuwe kerk of Amsterdam, the Westminster of the Dutch kingdom (one had almost written the Dutch republic, remembering the splendid career of the Dutch under that form of government), on Sept. 6, was an auspicious occasion. The placid and sluggish Hollander might well find excuse for an unwonted enthusiasm in the accession of a beautiful and high minded girl. Wilhelmina comes of that heroic Orange blood which has furnished a shining muster roll of great statesmen, warriors and patriots to the Netherlands. Since the age of William the Silent no European family has been starred with such an array of celebrities as this princely house. The young queen will probably have no occasion to display the more striking qualities of her ancestors, but it is a fact endearing to the Dutchman's heart that she inherits her dignity from such forbears.

#### An Imperial Peacemaker.

Mingled with the iron in the blood of the Romanoffs there runs a current of idealism and sentiment which every other generation has shown itself in extraordinary fashion. Alexander I, inflamed by his sympathy with the new spirit of the age, was when a young man full of the most ardent plans for the regeneration of his people and a passionate admirer of his contemporary, Napoleon. He afterward became intensely Russian in his policy, domestic and foreign, while his enthusiasms exhaled in philosophical dreams, fed by his egiria, Mme. Von Krudener. His grandson, Alexander II, who was slain by a nihilist bomb, moved by humanitarian political ideals, freed the serfs of Russia about the same time that Abraham Lincoln freed our slaves. But the second Alexander finally became intensely reactionary and an incarnation, by force of the iron traditions which reasserted their sway, of the spirit to which his earlier years had given the lie. Now

Nicholas II, his grandson, displays a noble idealism and invites a peace congress of the leading nations to consider the best means of securing universal peace. Among the preliminary steps he suggests a cessation from further armament by the powers.

The manifesto is a document of great strength of statement. Its spirit is not only lofty in the recognition of moral truth, but its grasp of the practical conditions as a question of international economics such as to increase greatly one's respect for the young czar's intellectual powers. He cites the fact that in the professed desire to guarantee peace the great states have developed their military forces in an unprecedented degree, and still continue in the same path. But all these efforts have failed to bring about the desired result. He says:

"Economic crises, due in great part to the system of armaments a outrance, and the continual danger which lies in this massing of war material, are transforming the armed peace of our days into a crushing burden which the peoples have more and more difficulty in bearing. It appears evident, then, that if this state of things is prolonged it will inevitably lead to the very cataclysm which it is desired to avert, and the horrors of which make every thinking being shudder in advance. To put an end to these incessant armaments and to seek a means of warding off the calamities that are threatening the whole world is a supreme duty which today is imposed on all states."

This promulgation of opinion, so often preached by irresponsible political thinkers and moralists, comes with the most vivid power at such a time and from such a source. If the current notion as to the political ambition of Russia is true, the czar's stand indicates that he has snapped all leading strings and takes plain issue with the policies which have hitherto guided Russian statesmen. But the other day the world read of a plan for an extraordinary increase of the imperial navy. The same papers which recorded his invitation to a peace congress also bristled with comments on the resolute and skillful strategy of his servants in the march toward the dismemberment of China and the imminent chances of a struggle with Great Britain—on the one side facts threatening to let loose all the dogs of war; on the other, an inspiring humanity, worthy of the finest souls who have adorned human history.

The whole episode strikes the mind with wonder and sets it to speculating how such a thing could have come about. That Nicholas is sincere in this enthusiasm for peace, advocated with such practical directness, is beyond doubt. We cannot suspect him of any *arriere pensee*. That the nations will respond to the invitation may be considered certain. That there will be any