

**BOGUS GEN-
EROSITY.**

Allowing Cuba a mere 20 per cent reduction in tariffs is like offering a famishing man a glass of water and a toothpick. The tariff would be as burdensome and depressing after such a reduction as it is now, for it would still be practically prohibitive, and when the prohibitive point has been reached an addition of 1,000 per cent would not have the least effect one way or the other. Cold figures show that a reduction of at least 50 per cent is necessary in order to insure a reasonable, living profit to the Cuban planter; to offer him less is but to mock him with a shallow pretense of generosity. The real motive which guides those who furnish the most bitter opposition to the concessions is not so much commercial as political; more a desire to force Cuba to the policy of annexation than to protect domestic producers of sugar. And there will be another "tidal wave of patriotic enthusiasm" when Cuba, having been starved into subjection, drags her emaciated body into the Union.

**CONTEMPT
OF COURT.**

A learned wearer of the ermine robe has decided that a person criticising a legal decision is not in contempt of court, when the criticism is passed after the decision has been made. Just how a person can criticise a decision before it has been made is not made clear, but we presume the rule should be interpreted to mean that only those comments which have a tendency, or might have a tendency, to influence a jurist are punishable. That the dignity of the bench must be upheld and its occupants protected from threats, intimidations and ridicule calculated to influence them in reaching a decision, is patent, but just where to draw the line is a matter which has puzzled the most eminent lawyers of the past, and is still in dispute among the judges of the present day. From a layman's point of view it would seem that contempt shown for a judge's decision after it has been published, would be as apt to influence his future acts as would a direct expression of advice at the time the issue is pending. It is for the purpose of instilling respect for law, and those who interpret and execute it, that the law protecting courts from being ridiculed or interfered with, has been passed. True, it is the bench, not the man, which is to be respected; yet it seems as reprehensible, as destructive in effect, to belittle the action of a judge after he has arrived at a decision, as it is to offer suggestions to him when he has taken a matter under advisement.

EXCLUSION.

San Francisco has a Chinatown and a labor union. The union dislikes Chinatown, and the citizens like the union and dislike Chinatown—and therefrom comes a wail against the Chinese that reaches the Atlantic coast. After assimilating Turk, Hun, Pole, Italian, Indians, Negroes, etc., a Chinaman gorges in the throat. Minister Wu admits that the coolies have no place in this or any other country, but before you lay much stress on that statement, it would be well to look up references and see just what a coolie is. As to the higher grades of Chinamen, they are making a supreme effort to shake off the superstitions which have trammled their people, and step out into the sunlight of modern development. America offers the best field in which they may expand their ideas, and, returning to their native country, give their fellows the benefit of their experiences in the land of the free. The Chinese students in America are industrious, studious, energetic and extremely tractable. They harm nobody, and attend to their own affairs in a quiet manner which many Americans would find it profitable to emulate. Each one of these, upon his return to China, does more for the upbuilding of his race than do all the missions in his province. Instead of sending missionaries across to be butchered, and to cause others to be butchered, would it not be better to keep our missionaries and our money on this side and simply encourage China to reform herself by treating her as a sister, not as an outcast.

**A CRISIS
PASSED.**

Prince Henry having arrived, and the nation's dignity having been preserved during the trying ordeal of his reception, the excitable ones in and out of congress may heave a great sigh of relief and turn their attention to saving the country in some other way. There was no kissing of the Prince's hand; nobody's trousers are worn at the knees on account of an humble position assumed by the wearer in the presence of His Highness; but, on the other hand he was not met at the landing by a single person who saluted him with "Hello there Hank, old man; come in and have something on me," as some seem to think he should have been in this democratic country.

The truth is that Americans realize that while royalty must be respected, and treated with the consideration due to its position in its own country, it must not be worshiped nor unduly catered to.

In a word, the Prince is here, the flag still waves; the constitution is intact, and we have noticed no one wearing a brass collar as yet.

SENILE SPAIN.

From a strike in Barcelona threatens to arise a revolution in Spain. General Weyler has been given a free hand, and has promised to pacify the country at once. Should he prove no more successful as a pacificator at home than he was in Cuba, there may be just ground for the often-expressed prophecy that Alphonso will never ascend the throne.

It is to be hoped that no genius in the American congress will discover that, having destroyed Spain's navy, crippled her army and drained her exchequer, it is now the imperative duty of the United States to protect the Spanish home people from ruin and anarchy, as it has protected the residents of their insular possessions. It is no longer "bleeding Cuba" or any other isle; it is "bleeding Spain." Here is another golden opportunity to expand, by the "sacred duty" process.

**KANSAS PRO-
HIBITION.**

The Conservative takes little part in the prohibition discussion, but contends that in the end each community adopts its own method of treating the traffic, without regard to the statutes of the state, or the opinions of individuals in other communities. Topeka, Kansas, has recently been hatcheted, and the result faithfully advertised as a glorious victory for the cold-water cause. In her lecture at Lincoln, Mrs. Nation laid particular stress upon the good work she had accomplished at Topeka, and promised to go back and do it again, should it become necessary. The following cold-blooded statement from the mayor of Topeka indicates that Mrs. Nation is about due for her return engagement there:

"Yes, it is true I am licensing saloons in Topeka. I am turning about \$300 a day into the city treasury. If my plan as mayor is not approved by the people, let them turn me out at the next election. I am tired of hypocrisy; particularly of the Topeka brand. I am doing my best to promote the best interests of Topeka. I am not a friend of the joint keeper, but have adopted the Atchison plan because long experience has shown that it is better than the Topeka plan."

In the mayor's statement can be found the power which governs the liquor traffic in every city in the land: local public sentiment. When he says, "If my plan is not approved by the people, let them turn me out at the next election," he tells the whole story. He knows that his plan will be approved or he would not adopt it. In other communities where the opposite sentiment preponderates, the opposite course would have been pursued; so it is apparent that, no matter what the law may be, each state is to all intents and purposes under the local option system.