

influences." They submitted even in spiritual matters to his final determination. For the first year the effect of his efforts was better than was expected, and at last he even attempted to centre public conscience on himself. The imperial catechism repeated daily by the boys and girls of each parish, gravely commented upon by priests at each morning and evening service, began as follows: "We specially owe to our emperor, Napoleon, the first love, respect, obedience, military service and tributes ordained for the preservation of the empire and his throne; for God has raised him up for us in times of peril that he might restore public worship and the holy religion of our fathers and be its protector." What was the final result of this? His success was only temporary. He could make no one religion predominant, and if he accomplished anything at all, it was the inverse of what he intended. He aimed to subjugate the pope, and he led the pope on to omnipotence. For fifteen years he struggled incessantly with all his extraordinary genius to sunder the ties of the Catholic hierarchy, the only effect being to bind them more closely together and hasten their completion.

CURRENT COMMENT.

One of the most important as well as interesting events of recent date is the proposed establishment of the commonwealth of Australia. Representatives from seven of the states met at Sidney in New South Wales and formed a constitution which only require the approval of the assemblies of the various states to complete the confederation. The system of government decided upon is much like that of England. There is to be a parliament consisting of two houses, a senate and house of representatives. Though there is as yet no idea of separation from England, when the appointed time comes it will be no unpleasant task for the governor-general to assume a position analogous to that of president of the United States. It is in this fact that the importance of the formation of the confederacy lies. It may be the first step towards a complete separation from England. The Australians have shown themselves to be one of the most progressive peoples in the world, as well as the most far-sighted and who knows what this new departure may portend. Though as yet the queen may, when she desires, appeal to her own council, still this could be easily overruled when occasion demanded. The Australians in their endeavors receive the approval and encouragement of the people of the United States.

There can be no doubt that the number of tenement farmers in this country is becoming enormous. This is a fact to be deplored; not because the tenant farmer is an objectionable individual, for on the contrary no one but a very industrious man could live in his precarious position. But it is a thoroughly un-American idea to think of a man tilling the soil on shares or paying a high price for the privilege. It may be a good system for Europe, as exemplified by Ireland, but in America some measures ought to be taken to avoid the repetition of such troubles as those that have risen in the Old country over the land tenant question. There are not less than a million farmers in America to day who till rented and leased lands. They rent farms for a year for the most part, struggle along with machinery bought on credit, and depend entirely upon the success of the year for their sustenance during the year, or rather for the year preceding, for most of these men live a year ahead of their income. Go into the country in any of our western states on the first day of March and you will be met at every turn by men moving their families and personal effects from one farm to another. One

evil result of this constant moving is the lack of a permanent home. There are no ties that so bind families together and are so productive of good citizens as the associations of home. Nowhere else in the world is home so sacred and so elevating as in America, and it is a deplorable fact that this system is spreading so fast and securing so firm a clutch upon that best and most honest class of citizens—the American farmers. It would be difficult to discover all the causes of this evil-boding system, and yet more difficult to provide a remedy were the causes known. Yet here is a question that is fast becoming a serious one, and every day is adding to its difficulties and rendering the extent of the custom greater. Perhaps one of the most evident and prolific sources of tenant farmers is the wide-spread evil of farm mortgages. This one evil is enough to puzzle our most skillful statesmen for time to come, but there can be no doubt that the farmers themselves are alone to be trusted to find a solution to these questions, which, though of interest to all, are of most vital importance to the farmers. There is work for the alliance to do in this line. Let us hope that some means may be found by which the million farmer tenants of America may become land owners and possessors of permanent homes, so that the source of our strong, sturdy farmer boys, who have always formed the nucleus of our best citizens, may not be stopped and this class be replaced by the ignorant or criminal class that will be the certain resistant of an oppressed tenant class.

The whole state of Nebraska has for a long time been in a state of anxious expectation. It has been a matter of much speculation whether the supreme court would retain Boyd in the gubernatorial seat and if he were to be ousted who would succeed him. All doubts about the action of the court were dispelled on May 5. There was but little doubt in the minds of all that Boyd, though legally elected, had unfortunately for himself and friends, failed to become a citizen in time to qualify him; yet many, knowing the friendship that existed between him and certain of the supreme judges, were fearful that they would forget the position of trust and faith that they held and be overcome by personal interests. Their action has proved all their suspicions unfounded, but the supreme court holding the position that it does in the state is certainly to be censured by public opinion for delaying this decision too long. For any one who remembers how one of the present judges undoubtedly, and all of them probably, owe their nomination and election directly to the interference of railroads in the past in the political arena, it is hard to lay aside the suspicion that this delay was for a purpose, and that purpose was to wait until the legislature had adjourned, in order that all railroad legislation could be voted by the instrument of corporations that has for some time past sat in the governor's chair. When it is possible, for no one questions the possibility of the supposition, for railroad corporations to thus control legislation and even the highest tribunal of the state, it is evident that there is a weak place somewhere in our legislative and judicial system. This weakness does not lie in the fact that railroads are permitted to interest themselves in politics, for it is certainly the privilege of every individual and of every corporation as well to try by all legitimate means to secure legislation that will be favorable to his or their business interests. Certainly such a vast property as is represented by the railroad interests of Nebraska has the right of representation as well as the individual and more private business interest. It would be eminently wrong for the railroads to be excluded from the politics of the state. Evidently the danger lies in the fact that corporations may so easily approach our legislative and judicial bodies after they have been elected and wield so