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### De Lome Resigns.

Senor Enrique Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish Minister to the United States, has resigned.

This sudden and forced change in the personnel of the head of the Spanish Legation was the direct outcome of the publication of a letter written by the Spanish Minister to his friend Canalejas, the Madrid editor, in which he commented with great severity upon the President of the United States, and made other utterances which were equally offensive to this Government. His comment upon the President was translated so as to read:

Besides the natural and inevitable coarseness with which he (McKinley) repeats all that the press and public opinion of Spain has said of Weyler, (the message) shows once more that McKinley is weak and catering to the rabble, and besides a low politician who desires to leave a door open to me and stand well with the jingoes of his party.

Investigation, informally entered upon by the State Department, resulted in the disclosure of the fact that the Minister would not deny the authorship of the letter. Thereupon Assistant Secretary Day went at once to the White House and spent some time in consulting with the President. Other conferences with the President followed, and finally Judge Day personally waited upon the Spanish Minister for some explanation. Mr. Dupuy de Lome stated, without reservation, that he had written the objectionable epistle, and also imparted the information that late on Tuesday night, after learning that it had become public, he had cabled his resignation to Madrid.

The State Department has asked the Madrid Government to deal with him as he deserves. If it neglects or delays to do so our Government will send him packing, and that very promptly.

He has been guilty of an act outrageous and insulting to the country in any case, and peculiarly outrageous and insulting at a time when relations between the two countries are strained almost to the breaking point.

His letter is not only undiplomatic. It is a vulgar tirade against the official chief of the Government to which he stands accredited. It is insulting and inexcusable in the last degree.

For such an offense on the part of a Minister recall is no proper atonement. There should be an apology from the Madrid Government, and that apology should be accompanied by the assurance that Dupuy de Lome is never again to be employed in the diplomatic service of Spain. Lacking such assurance, we should not accept any other Minister in his place, lest our Government be treated again with contumely and contempt.

As to Dupuy de Lome, the only wonder is that he was accepted at Washington as persona grata. For many years ago he vented in a book his contempt of America and Americans, and especially of American women, in terms which would forever have excluded him from diplomatic relations with the Government of any other country about which he had said such things.

There will be a "disavowal" by the Madrid Government, of course. That is polite diplomatic lingo for lying. It ought not to suffice. Until Dupuy de Lome is punished, and assurances are given that his successor will behave like a gentleman, we should receive no successor to him. We at least can get on without any Spanish Minister at Washington.

### Smooth as His Oil.

Certain of the pious youth of New York must surely still remember the instructive moment when Mr. John D. Rockefeller appeared before them with a well thumbed memorandum book in his hands and told them of the little earnings and modest benefices of his youth. They listened spellbound while he told of earnings of six dollars a week, and gifts of 25 cents to foreign missions, 10 cents to Bible societies, and various sums to diverse religious beneficiaries. And when the multi-millionaire, trying to look as if he yearned for the days of penury again, closed by saying that he held it the duty of every man to get all the money he could honestly, and then give it all away, his auditors felt that here indeed was a true guide for youth through life's thorny path.

When the Ohio Legislature is not electing corruptionists and bribers to the United States Senate it is usually engaged in investigating the methods by which Mr. Rockefeller gets his money—"honestly." It was so employed Monday last when John Teagle, an oil refiner, testified before it. Mr. Teagle swore that the agents of John D. Rockefeller tried to bribe his bookkeeper, with an offer of \$50 a week, to give the Standard Oil Company information regarding his shipments, prices, cost of manufacture, etc. The bookkeeper pretended to be complaisant, and actually received one payment for helping Mr. Rockefeller to undermine his employer's business.

It seems that Bibles are not the only books which interest Mr. Rockefeller—the books of his competitors also engage his attention. And perhaps in his memorandum of charitable disbursements now he puts down the sums benevolently paid to indigent employees of his business rivals in consideration of their treachery to their employers. At any rate, Mr. Rockefeller is living up to the first part of his counsel to aspiring youth. He is getting all the money he can. We note that the dividends paid to this eminent churchman and philanthropist from his Standard Oil holdings alone in 1897 are estimated at \$7,500,000—and still the man who wants to make a living refining oil must be fought with weapons ranging all the way from corruption to explosives!

### Amending the Raines Law.

A bill is pending at Albany to amend the Raines law. It reduces the tax for wine and beer dealers and is advocated by the original sponsors of the Raines law on the ground that "we must recognize public sentiment."

But the right thing to do with the Raines law is to repeal it. Its fault is not that it taxes wine and beer sales too high, but that it robs the cities of revenues that properly belong to them and gives the money to the rural districts. It makes the dwellers in cities pay the taxes of the countrymen, and the only "public sentiment" that supports this law is that of the chattering beneficiaries of this shifting of taxation.

The law is vicious in other ways. It operates unjustly and oppressively between different classes of dealers. It invites fraud, false pretense, evasion and trickery. So far from lessening it has increased drunkenness.

The only thing that would cure its defects would be its repeal.

### The Captain Should Explain.

Captain Mahan is undoubtedly a luminous authority on all problems involving naval warfare, so it is hoped he will add an explanation to his dictum that we need the Sandwich Islands for the protection of our Pacific seaboard from naval attack.

What seems to the merely lay intelligence to need elucidation is this:

Just in what way would the task of defending the Pacific seaboard without the islands be diminished if added to that task we had also to protect the Sandwich Islands?

Or— If we had say ten ships available to aid in resisting a sea attack on San Francisco harbor, would five of them do more effective work after the other five had been detached for the defense of Honolulu harbor?

THE trouble in the Zola case seems to be that the court is primarily concerned to prevent the telling of the whole truth. French methods of jurisprudence could not exist for a day in any English speaking country, because they represent the utter denial of justice and fair play.

### Incidents of the Wilkesbarre Trial.

Probably Judge Woodward, who complains that the newspapers are garbling the reports of the trial of Sheriff Martin and his murderous deputies, will not deny that he permitted this body of men, indicted for manslaughter, to go in perfect freedom, unsecured even by bail bonds, from Saturday to Monday. This is a matter of court record which no newspaper dare falsify, and which the Judge responsible for the suggestive piece of favoritism cannot deny—though we can readily imagine he would like to. Could a miner under indictment for stealing a fitch of bacon from a company store secure from Judge Woodward the benevolent treatment he extended to men who, in the service of corporations, committed a score of homicides?

Monday the Court, under pressure from the prosecution, fixed the bail for the entire body of indicted men at \$340,000. This may be regarded as a pretty cheap price to put upon the pleasant Pennsylvania practice of shooting strikers. If we regard the bail as fixing the measure of responsibility of each man indicted, we find that about \$4,000 stands as the court's estimate of the price to be paid for joining in a wholesale massacre. Or if it represents the value which the Commonwealth puts on its citizens who have been murdered, we discover that each dead miner is appraised at \$17,000—that is, if we discard the wounding of more than fifty as a factor in fixing the amount of bail. However, this latter calculation is obviously absurd. In the palmy days of slavery a "nigger" was worth only about \$1,200, and the wages a Pennsylvania coal company pays to its miners would scarcely pay interest on more than half of \$17,000.

It is a curious fact that the gross amount of this bond—\$340,000—was put up in cash in one lump. The Sheriff and his deputies seem to be very fortunate in their friends. Not men of large means themselves, they are defended by an army of high priced lawyers. The discomfort attendant upon their trial is mitigated by their being entertained at the best hotel. Bail is speedily found for them, and in cash. The cash feature is significant. Sometimes money doesn't talk, despite the old saw. It can be employed as security for a bond without betraying the identity of him by whom it is deposited. The Sheriff's friends are modest. They don't want to schedule real estate and thus disclose themselves, so they go down into the accumulated savings of a lifetime of thrift and bring out a little pittance of \$340,000 for his use. Fortunate Sheriff! Happy deputies!

### Abroad and at Home.

Of course, the difficulties which Zola is having getting his defence before the French court are revolting to our free American ideas. That French officers having knowledge of a case so profoundly affecting the national honor would refuse to enter the witness box is certainly shocking. Nothing of the sort could occur here. No indeed! Here we are all for justice, for plain speaking, for turning on the light at any cost.

But stop a minute. Wasn't there an occurrence out in Columbus, Ohio, a week or two ago, which nearly parallels the court procedure in Zola's case? A committee of the Legislature was investigating a matter which touches more nearly the heart of our political system than do the issues of the Dreyfus case that of France. It was trying to discover whether Mark Hanna had been elected to the United States Senate by bribery, as has been widely charged and as is generally believed.

A man charged with offering a bribe to a representative was called to the stand. "I decline to answer," was his reply to every question. The manager of a telegraph office was called. "I decline to answer," was the parrot-like refrain. Two other witnesses set at naught the authority of the committee and covered up the truth in the same way.

In Paris Zola is trying to prove that a traitor is being shielded and an honest man martyred by the action of a corrupt military ring. The ring exerts its power to suppress his evidence. In Ohio Democrats are endeavoring to show that an essentially corrupt man has been put in a position of national trust by bribery and corruption. The forces which made Hanna Senator are now employed to defeat the purposes of the investigation. The two incidents are almost parallel.

Let us not throw any stones at France lest our glass house suffer. But as we contemplate the efforts making for the defeat of justice in the Zola case, we can form some conception of how some of our political trials must look to foreign eyes.

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### A Conspiracy to Tax Knowledge.

The principal paper manufacturers of the country have formed themselves into a trust, with \$55,000,000 capital. The purpose is to monopolize the business, raise the price of paper \$3 a ton and levy upon the newspaper and book readers of the land a tax of not less than \$4,000,000 a year.

There are seventeen mills in the trust, and they purpose to drive all the other mills out of existence, so that they may charge what price they please for the paper on which newspapers are printed.

This is a conspiracy to tax knowledge, to levy tribute upon education, to blackmail intelligence itself.

Unfortunately the tariff duties aid the conspiracy. They not only prevent Canadian and other foreign competition in the sale of paper, but they exclude Canadian wood pulp. The free admission of wood pulp and paper would go far to crush the conspiracy.

What is to be done about the matter? Will any Attorney General enforce the laws against such conspiracies in restraint of trade? Will Congress seem clearly that the paper and pulp duties thus aid and abet robbery, repeal those duties? Or is cheap paper to become a thing of the past, and all its benefits to the people in the way of cheap newspapers, cheap magazines and inexpensive books to be lost?

These questions closely concern the most vital intellectual interests of the nation.

### Secret Sessions.

Secret or "executive" sessions have an irresistible fascination for two varieties of the current legislative mind. The first variety is the mind that moves by such devious ways to such doubtful ends that publicity is as hateful to it as is daylight to the "foul and pestilent shades of night." Like all other creatures of the predatory type, it hides when the sun is abroad and prowls and pounces in the stealthy security of darkness.

The second variety is the mysterious loving mind. It fancies that it can drape about itself the mysterious cloak of night its trivial operations will assume in the popular imagination vast, vague and formidable shapes of fear and awe. Wherever there are legislative bodies, whether in the Capitol at Washington or in the City Hall at New York, these two varieties—the wicked and the weak—seem to be together in the majority.

A secret session of a body of public servants in a democratic republic is either rotten or ridiculous.

### The Defeat of Leprosy and Loot.

The Hawaiian treaty is in effect defeated in the Senate. Mr. Teller has admitted so much. The two-thirds vote, he said, is impossible.

The next move is to carry out the policy of leprosy and loot by bill, requiring only a majority vote in both houses. But even that movement seems likely to fail. It was reported that Speaker Reed would "jam it through," but that report is denied. Mr. Reed is not a fool. He knows that so far from helping the Republican party a procedure of this kind would be disastrous to it.

Speaker Reed is just now in charge of the Republican party's interests as well as of the conduct of Congress. It is in the highest degree improbable that he will let any annexation bill go through. In fact, the news is that he will oppose it with all his practically unlimited power.

Leprosy and loot seem to be beaten.

Rupees Transformed Into Nails. Here is a case which we are assured actually occurred recently in a district in the Northwest Provinces that shall be nameless. A certain Government servant, by defrauding his Government and the widow and orphan, managed to amass 12,000 rupees. This he packed in two boxes and consigned by railway to his home, marked as nails. The railway babu got wind of the affair, opened the boxes and took out the rupees, putting in nails according to the label. The packages duly arrived at their destination—Allahabad. Pioneer.

Florence will have a strange celebration next May for the 40th anniversary of the burning of Savonarola as a heretic. The Catholic clergy, headed by the Archbishop, Cardinal Bausa, will hold a solemn religious service in his honor.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

### ENGLAND.

#### THE DREYFUS CASE.

Daily Chronicle—London, Jan. 25.

Baron von Buelow, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, speaking "with extreme caution," affirmed "in the most positive manner that there had never been relations or connections of any kind between Dreyfus and an representative of Germany." But if Dreyfus did not keep secrets to Germany, who happened? One of two things he sold them to another country, or he did not sell them at all. The most reasonable conclusion to be sifted from the mass of facts and rumors that have been published, is that there has been no treachery at all—that the whole prosecution was either based upon a misapprehension in the first place, from which the Government had not the courage to retreat when it found itself in error, lest thereby it should be signing its own death warrant.

But the alternative is that Russia was the purchaser. The reluctance of the French Government to admit this is easily understood, for the Franco-Russian alliance would be destroyed by such a revelation of perfidy, and with the alliance the Meline Ministry would come to grief. Whichever alternative we choose, the act of the Meline Ministry appears to have been a cowardly one, as well as that worse act which we have already described. At any rate, Baron von Buelow's statement makes it absolutely impossible for the French Government to maintain its attitude of silence and secrecy. If it can really prove anything against Dreyfus in the light of day, it must do so now. If it does not produce its proofs at once, everybody will be perfectly certain that it does not possess any.

Morning—London, Jan. 25.

Doubtless Baron von Buelow shrinks from the suggestion that Germany would descend to the unfriendly meanness of employing a French officer as a spy, and shrinks with more than ordinary sensitiveness because it is so necessary that suspicion should fall on any Power but Germany. There are people who say that Russia was the offending Power. Baron von Buelow would not hint a suspicion that such is the case. But a little unpleasantness between France and Russia would not be unprofitable for Germany. The Baron's speech is not quite convincing but it is very timely.

Daily Mail—London, Jan. 25.

If the Dreyfus agitation were taking place in any country but France, it would be safe to prophesy revolution. As it is, even the Ministry there may survive. M. Zola's popularity is not of the order that should lead to the enduring passion for Jailing him. And the Government has shown that it does not intend to let any issues be raised, except such as it is sure to win on. In England anti-Semitism seldom gets beyond disowned elect on literature—as at Plymouth; but in France, as the popularity of M. Drumont's book proved, it is a real force.

Pall Mall Gazette—London, Jan. 25.

M. Meline has got his majority of nearly three to one, and we suppose he is happy now. "Chose jugée," "honor of the heads of the army," "all those who love France"—and there you are. Great is the power of phrases, when they jump with prejudices. There will be people who will say that the Chamber is, at any rate, as impartial a tribunal as any which has had to do with the Dreyfus matter; and there are Frenchmen—a majority apparently—who would take that as an all-around compliment. But there is no getting over the question put by M. Jaures, of all people. Was there a document at the trial not communicated to Dreyfus or his counsel? Yes or no? Dreyfus's alleged confession afterwards and all the rest are mere irrelevancies. But M. Meline declines to say Yes or No; the Dreyfus case cannot be discussed from the tribune. That is reserved for evasive Yeses to questions about the "declaration" of Captain Reynaud. Justice must take its chance.

Gazette—Westminster, Jan. 25.

We should not be surprised if the Dreyfus affair led, before it was over, to an outcry in France against England. M. Zola has asked Mrs. Crawford in the Daily News to convey his thanks to his English friends for their assistance in sending him the names of English graphologists. Thanks to his English correspondent "he has now got everything he wants." He has the pleasant recollections of his visit to London, but "the sympathy and helpful information he has just received from England has united him by lasting ties of sympathy with that great nation." Here is obvious material for those whose business it is to insist that M. Dreyfus was properly convicted. As we have pointed out, it is only a small section in France which is with M. Zola in this matter, and now M. Zola is actually found acting in consultation with English sympathizers!

Globe—London, Jan. 25.

Herr von Bulow's words cannot be kept from the readers of French newspapers, and M. Meline may expect them to be made the subject of inquiry in Parliament. Will he refuse to answer, or give the lie direct to the German Minister? In either case, he will convince no one. He is in a dilemma from which he cannot escape. Either Captain Dreyfus was condemned without cause, or his treachery was committed for the benefit of another Power than Germany. The latter is the explanation which is coming to be more and more generally accepted. If a Russian agent was the

instigator or accomplice, the nervousness of the French Government is sufficiently explained. But the truth, be it what it may, can hardly be kept from the country much longer.

Guardian—Manchester, Jan. 26.

After the speeches of M. Meline on Saturday and on Monday there is no doubt that the Government is resolved at any cost to burke inquiry into the Dreyfus scandal, and if it stakes its existence on concealing an illegal act done in 1894, it will certainly not scruple to resort to every sort of trick or evasion to defeat M. Zola next month.

Evening News—Manchester, Jan. 25.

If there is any foundation for the charges of treachery which Dreyfus was sent to penal servitude, it seems now established that the other party in the transaction will have to be sought for outside Germany. A good many shrewd critics have declared that it is towards St. Petersburg, and not towards Berlin, that the eyes of inquirers should be turned. But if that idea once gets fixed in the imagination of patriotic Frenchmen, what is to become of the beautiful Franco-Russian alliance about which they have been so proudly stirred!

China and the Powers.

Times—London, Jan. 26.

Our tender of financial aid to China is made upon certain political conditions. So, it may be assumed pretty safely, is any similar tender from other quarters. But the conditions upon which we are ready to make the advance are manifestly to the advantage and not to the detriment of the Chinese Empire. All that we desire to secure by its freedom of trade, and trade, as even the more intelligent of the Chinese officials must have begun to see, blesses him that buys and him that sells, to say nothing of the Government which derives customs from both. With this end we ask China to open certain ports, to refrain from alienating a portion of her dominion which there is not the least reason to suppose that she can wish to alienate, and to sanction the construction of an important commercial railway. Are those the sort of conditions on which Russia, or indeed any other European Power, is in the least likely to come to the financial assistance of China? Notoriously they are not. The aim of Russia is of necessity territorial acquisition and not commercial expansion. \* \* \* \* \* We want Chinese trade and Russia wants Chinese provinces. China must borrow from one or the other, and she will give a certain diplomatic advantage to the creditor whom she selects. \* \* \* \* \* It is for China to choose between the two prospects thus opened out to her. We cannot do more than see that she has a fair opportunity of making her election free from menace and unfair pressure. We cannot impose a benefit on her by force. If she deliberately rejects it, we shall regret her decision and keep firmly and steadily to the path we have resolved to tread.

Standard—London, Jan. 26.

A good deal will depend upon the sagacity of the Mandarins in estimating aright the comparative value of the two sets of arguments addressed to them. Russia, it would appear, appeals to vague fears of contingent unfriendliness. Germany has obtained the lease of Kiao-Chow on the terms desired, and has exacted from the Chinese Government overt acts of reparation for the wrongs inflicted on the missionaries, which must facilitate the growth of German influence in Shantung. If it has been agreed in Berlin that the port which has now been occupied, and over which the flag of the Fatherland is to float, is to be opened to the unshackled trade of the world, the end which the British Government have defined as the determining factor in their policy has been, so far, attained; and the merchants of Hamburg and Bremen, in availing themselves of the fresh opportunity for displaying their sterling spirit of enterprise, can count upon the hearty good will of their friendly rivals at London and Liverpool.

Daily Telegraph—London, Jan. 26.

Great Britain would only have been too content with the maintenance of the status quo in China, but events made it necessary to assert explicitly that if the existing condition of things were disturbed we should claim for ourselves all the advantages conceded to others. Whatever form this "compensation" will ultimately assume, the principle will be adhered to at all costs. There is nothing in this policy that is selfish, still less can it be described as mercenary. To say that we shall protect our legitimate and acknowledged interests with all the resources at our disposal is to utter a truism, but in politics—especially in foreign politics—it is sometimes expedient to emphasize even a platitude. We refuse to believe that Power or Powers will deny the righteousness of our claim—a claim made in the name of all—and so long as we are not challenged we shall challenge none.

Daily Mail—London, Jan. 26.

Whether our fleet in Chinese waters is quite as big as it might be, or not, whether St. Petersburg thinks we are only talking, or Berlin supposes we shall back down, the world had better understand at once that Great Britain has spoken word, and will act upon the spoken word.

Echo—London, Jan. 26.

The Chinese Government is once again negotiating with Russia for a loan, and France is said to be ready to find the money. Our Government was unwilling to negotiate before, until a newspaper agitation compelled them. When they took the matter up they insisted on two new treaty ports, which could only have been intended to irritate Russia and France. They have succeeded in this, and possibly in transferring the Chinese loan to Russian and French financiers. And this is called diplomacy! All we can say is this, that if a clerk in any house in the city were to do his business

as badly as this Government does the Empire's business, he would be dismissed at an hour's notice.

THE DISCOVERY OF IRELAND.

To-Morrow.

Ireland is, and has been for centuries, a land of contrasts. Incongruities abound in our institutions, as inconsequences do in our speech, and strangers have told us so often that such things are products of our nature that we, lisping their language, have repeated their words until we half believe them true; closing our eyes to the fact that what is absurd in our customs is caused by our having but half assimilated the manners of the alien people who dominated us; and that what is ridiculous in our speech comes from our clumsy use of the idiom which has supplanted our mother tongue. In truth, neither misgovernment nor mispronunciation are indigenous to Celtic soil. Perhaps poverty and misfortune might have been as unknown in Ireland had the Saxon not planted his foot in the land, as Irish bulls would have been if we had retained our language, but speculations on the unshapen past are idle; it is long since the Saxon came, and it has long been clear that he came to stay. When he swept the country as a conqueror, none could blame us for resisting him; while he remained an oppressor, none could expect us to do other than hate and thwart him; but now, when our foreign governor seems disposed to change his role, and inclined to attempt our subjugation by kindness, refusal of his proffered aid may seem mere perverse spite, and one can imagine the whole English press chrousing forth cries to gods and men to witness that we are the most impossible people on the face of the earth, if we reject the penances found for us. \* \* \* \* \*

Years of storm and stress, of famine and cruel partings, have torn from us much of poetry, the gaiety, and the old time simplicity which once were ours. The woodman has destroyed our forests, and Ireland is still a land of restful peace and of beauty. If the last of our traditions must vanish, if the fairy ring is to be trodden under foot of the hurrying crowd, can it not be for some worthy end? The playground of Europe, Ireland can never be. The storm vexed Atlantic which lashes our shore, the rain clouds which roll down our mountain sides, save us from that; but as long as we have the good sense and the good taste to remain as we are, our country shall always be a pleasure ground of those whose pleasure is worth ministering to. Cheap fares, vulgar pastimes, good cooking even, will not draw a thousand more tourists in the year to our island; and it would be well for them if hotel keepers and development associations realized this fact. Dublin is a charming city, the proper winter headquarters in restaurants and music halls of Brussels, and it would be as unavailing for the dwellers by the Anna liffy to attempt to out rival the Belgian capital, as it would be for Kingstown to vie with Dieppe, or Bray with Eastbourne. On the other hand, if we preserve what we have, neither restoring nor improving, but keeping fast hold of it, we may hope for an influx of strangers who, while adding to our scanty hoards of gold, will bring us treasure as welcome in honest friendship.

MARRIAGE AND MORALS.

Daily News—London, Jan. 27.

Ladies are becoming so learned and advanced that male comment must follow behind with a basket to pick up the fragments of institutions which are left. Here, for example, is Mrs. Mona Caird's "Morality of Marriage" (Redway). The work opens with the startling remark: "Fear, the ruling motive of primitive worship," "With my body I thee worship," says the bridegroom in the marriage service, and we are perfectly ready to grant that the married man's worship of his wife is commonly associated with fear, in quite a primitive way. He has, as Mr. Stevenson says, domesticated the Recording Angel, and the recording "Angel in the House" is an awful, though salutary presence. However, this is a modern development. We at once join issue with Mrs. Caird as to fear being the ruling motive of worship with our untutored ancestors. \* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Caird is nearer to modern level when she remarks on kinship having been, at early periods, reckoned through women. Smith weds Miss Brown, the children are Browns. Among certain Scotch fisher folk now, if John Smith marries Mary Brown, his name becomes John Smith Brown, though we believe the children are counted as Smiths. But we must not hastily conclude that where children follow the mother, women in the old phrase, rule the roost. The Australians, or some of them, have female kinship, but the women are excluded from the great religious services as rigidly as from Columbian monastic establishments. There is little doubt, however, from documents, that in ancient Egypt at one time the wife was legally very independent. On the whole, however, through polygamy and the patriarchal system, and improving morality, man soon began to think he knew better than woman (rather a compliment than otherwise to woman), and to rule his own hut or house. \* \* \* \* \*

Real freedom in the home, or anywhere else, we shall never have. Man or woman will rule, in each case, and, being sensible, they adopt whatever compromise seems easiest. Many a woman makes her brute of a husband live in London; many a brute of a husband makes his beautiful intellectual wife live in the horrid country, where there are no concerts, shops, ladies' clubs, society, or anything worth existing for. "The early to bed and early to rise" is a compliment to the children (rather a compliment to the children), and to the rule of the devil let loose among men for their destruction." This, of course, is notoriously the theory of the Gospels. In a little parable, Mrs. Caird conveys her opinions. A negro remonstrated with some one who had thrown him into a river. "You see what you do?" You drown Massa's black nigger." The parable is the matron who says to a "sup-

plant" "What right have I ever given you to suppose that I should be lax in protecting my husband's honor?" We do not know whether ladies usually say this in the circumstances, though in novelettes it is very probable that they do. Perhaps they think of their own honor, their husbands (to whom, absurd as it seems, many of them are attached) their children, the discomforts which still attend open adultery, and a few other things not included in the parable of the negro. Woman, as a rule, knows when she is well off. Any "liberty" which allows man to get away when he likes, while woman shares the same refreshing privilege, will be mightily inconvenient for woman.

A DROWNED CONTINENT.

Knowledge.

As many of our readers are doubtless aware, deep boring operations have been undertaken in the island of Funafuti, in the Ellice group of Polynesia, with the primary object of ascertaining the depth to which coral rock, or limestone of coral origin, extends. If it were found that such coral made material extended to depths far below the level at which living coral can exist, there would be evidence that the island on which the experiment was conducted had subsided. And if subsidence were thus proved to have taken place in a single island selected almost at random, the conclusion could hardly be resisted that the whole of Polynesia must be likewise a subsiding area, or, in other words, the remnants of a drowned continent, some of the higher lands of which are indicated by the atolls and other islands of the Coral Sea. It is, therefore, a favorable opportunity for a few words in regard to the permanence or otherwise of the great oceanic basins and continental areas of the globe. This subject, it need scarcely be said, has not only an intense and absorbing interest of its own—but it is difficult for any one except a geologist to fully realize that the solid ground on which he stands may have been buried fathoms deep beneath the water—but is also one of the utmost importance in regard to many puzzling problems connected with the present and past geographical distribution of terrestrial animals and plants on the surface of the globe.

Although it might well have been thought that opinion in matters scientific would be unlikely to veer suddenly round, and after trending strongly in one direction incline with equal force in the one immediately opposite, yet there are a few instances where the swing of the pendulum of opinion to one side has been more swiftly followed by its oscillation to the other than has been the case in the problem of the permanency of continents and oceans. When geology first began to take rank among the exact sciences, and it was demonstrated that most of the shells and other fossils found in the solid rock of many of our continents and islands were of marine origin, it was a natural, if hasty, conclusion that land and sea had been perpetually changing places, and that what is now the centre of a continent might compare favorably with the South America. Accordingly, when any difficulty in finding an adequate explanation in regard to the geographical distribution of the animals or plants of two or more continents or islands occurred, the aid of an "Atlantis" or a "Lemuria" was at once invoked without misgiving, and a few lines indicated across which the inhabitants of one isolated area could easily have passed to another. \* \* \* \* \*

As the result of the boring it appears, then, that there is a possibility that the communities of the South America and Australasian fauna may admit of being explained by means of a direct line connection between the two areas at a comparatively recent geological date. Even, however, if this explanation receive future support and acceptance, there are, as in all similar cases, still many difficulties with which to contend. One of these is the practical absence of all non-volant mammals from Polynesia, with the exception of the Solomon group, where a few civets and rats are found. But the case of the West Indies—where there is every probability that there was formerly a large mammalian fauna, the majority of which were drowned by submergence—may very likely afford the solution of the difficulty. Worms and slugs would probably find means of survival in circumstances where mammalian life would disappear. This explanation will, however, clearly not apply in the case of New Zealand, where, if mammals had ever existed, their remains would almost certainly have been discovered. It must be assumed then that, if Polynesia was the route by which the faunas of Australia and Patagonia were formerly connected, New Zealand was at that time isolated. And, indeed, seeing that the hypothetical land connection between the areas in question must have existed at a comparatively late epoch, it is most likely that the ancient Polynesian land was already broken up to a considerable extent into islands and archipelagos, so that the main line of connection may have been too narrow, and from time to time interrupted. Indeed, it must almost of necessity have been incomplete and of short duration after the introduction of modern forms of life, as otherwise the types common to Australia and Patagonia would be much more numerous than we find to be the case. Hence there is no improbability in the suggested isolation of New Zealand during the period in question.

But, putting these interesting speculations aside, the results of the Funafuti boring indicate almost without doubt that Polynesia is an area of comparatively recent subsidence, and it has already been mentioned that there are good reasons for regarding a large part of the basin of the South Atlantic as of very great antiquity, while the area of the Indian Ocean appears to have been considerably enlarged during the later geological epochs. Apparently, therefore, the great extent of ocean at present characteristic of the southern hemisphere is a relatively modern feature.