

Every day brings intelligence over the wires, that some building has been blown up by explosives placed in or near it by the hands of civilized savages, and life and property are destroyed by that infernal process, involving the acme of barbarism and the height of perfidy. It is becoming a favorite method for the wreaking of private vengeance. Thus it will be observed how nearly the paths of civilization and savagery run together in parallel lines in their more forbidding aspects.

Recourse to explosives is, if possible, more reprehensible in affairs of private vengeance than in questions relating to public issues, although we fail to see any specially redeeming features in the matter of its use for destructive purposes in any case. Doubtless, however, the Nihilists of Russia imagine that their ultimate object is humane, even if the means by which they seek to attain it are inhuman. This forms no apology for resorting to secret murder by the most atrocious method of any times, involving the assassination of the innocent as well as those presumed to be guilty, because it is claimed that they stand in the way of human progress. There are two essential ingredients to every undertaking. Without them the element of wrong enters into the transaction. First, the object must be sound. Second, the means by which its attainment is sought must be of the same character, the one condition running parallel with the other.

Whether the Apostle Paul had prophetic reference to such circumstances as those that every little while startle the better class of mankind because of their atrocity, when he said, "In the last days perilous times shall come," may not be quite clear. It is a demonstrated fact, however, that times of that uninviting nature are at the doors. The premonitory symptoms are cropping out in every corner of the globe. If the symptoms are bad, some conception may be formed as to the repulsive character of the malady.

Is it not true that history teaches that when civilized peoples reach the culminating point, without direct and accepted guidance from a Divine source, they turn the crest of the hill of advancement and decline toward the point of barbarism? This is a lesson taught by the records of the past, together with the accompanying truth that the climbing process was immeasurably slower than that of sliding downward.

## BOULANGER ON TOP.

THE TENACITY with which the French people hold on to and support General Boulanger is wonderful. Of late he has been victorious in all the districts in which his strength has been tested by elections. The French are much given to hero-worship and they insist on making Boulanger the object of their present adoration. The tide of popular favor turns toward him in spite of the blemish cast upon his name by the imputation that he was in some way connected with the scandalous traffic in military titles. His defeat in a duel with a civilian has not detrimentally affected his popularity a particle. It is enough for the French people that in a remarkably short time Boulanger effected a revolution in the military department of the nation, bringing it up to a point of efficiency in discipline and effectiveness of armament that had not heretofore been reached. This touched the tender place in the French heart. The military glory of the country is the chief ambition of that erratic people. They have lost prestige in that line by the terrible thrashing inflicted by Germany. An impression has obtained that Boulanger is the man of destiny who, in the next struggle, will lead the French armies on to victory, and nothing but another drubbing will destroy it. This expectation appears to be the secret of Boulanger's popularity.

## THE HAYTIAN MUDDLE.

CAN it be that Germany and France, whose territory not only joins but is for some distance undivided by any natural or artificial line that can be seen, have been holding off the dogs of war during all these years to finally strike at each other in the Caribbean Sea? It begins to look like it. And if there be anything in present appearances, the United States has not yet emerged entirely from those waters, which lave the western and southern shores of the Haytian Republic. It is now well known that President Legitime, the *de facto* President of that little nation, was about to sell the United States merchantman which bears the name of his country when he was interfered with by this government; that he and some of the diplomatic representatives there looked upon the short work made of its replevin as an abuse of power on our part, and he was on the eve of

calling on France for assistance; that recent events have shown a disposition on his part to form an open alliance with that power, and that it is quite willing. Reneching out for unprotected and comparatively helpless insular territory is the prevailing mania among the European nations just now, and none of them have the fever quite so badly as Germany; and of course her desire for any such territory is greatly emphasized when it is known at Bismarck's headquarters that France has designs in that direction. Add to all this the most significant fact of all in this connection—that German steamers cruising around in that neighborhood looking out for the main chance have been fired on by Legitime's gunboats several times of late, and we see a complication resulting whose solution suggests the contingency mentioned in the question commencing this article.

If Hayti were not in the throes of a civil war which threatens to be a long and destructive one, whereby she is becoming weaker and poorer every day, perhaps neither Germany nor France would think of such a thing as active intervention in its affairs. The fact that transfusion of resources and population may have to be resorted to to keep it alive makes those two nations in particular extremely desirous of rendering the needed assistance; but while the island, or that portion of it comprising the republic in question, might under certain circumstances be happy with either, it could scarcely escape a worse condition than is now upon it with both of them pouring in their deeds of kindness and disinterested regard. And then the situation is brought more nearly to a sharply-defined one by the recent leaning toward Germany which Hyppolite, the leader of the rebels, has shown. It is very much the counterpart of the Samoan difficulty, with France substituted for the United States and England.

This is a complication with a vengeance. As previously suggested, this country is not well out of it, though so far showing no disposition to take a hand any further than the protection of our own people and interests require. Germany is not yet in a position to clash with us there, but France could lend considerable gravity to the case in the twinkling of an eye by rendering, or offering to render, active assistance to the Legitime government before that long-detained vessel is taken away from Haytien.