

the Liberals coming into power for some time. He thinks that the only possibility of regeneration for his country is annexation to the United States, though he is not prepared to say what effect the union would have on the latter country.

He regrets the fact that our pension list is assuming such enormous proportions, and thinks it augurs badly for our future. He says our pensioners cost more than the total sum expended to maintain the standing army of Germany. They even exceed the amount spent by Russia for military purposes.

Corruption in Canadian government circles during the past five years has exceeded anything practiced in New York even under Boss Tweed. And what is still worse, all the proceeds of this corruption went to sustain party interests.

ANOTHER "HERESY" DISPUTE.

FOR several months the reading public has had a rest from heresy squabbles in the various sectarian churches. Briggs, McQueary and others were beginning to be forgotten, but their names will be all brought before the public, by a new issue just started in New York.

The Rev. Lewis W. Barney of Grace Chapel, of the Presbyterian church, in New York City has been asked to vacate his pulpit owing to some heterodox doctrine propounded by him. He has refused to do so without first conferring with the session. One of the charges against Mr. Barney is that his views on the atonement are not in line with strict Presbyterian theology. He is also charged with permitting dancing parties in his parlors, and with countenancing frivolities that would have horrified John Knox, and that John Calvin would have punished with the faggot or the thumbscrew. Mr. Barney, in reply, says that the newspapers chronicle accounts of balls given by millionaire Presbyterian elders on Fifth Avenue which, as compared to his little socials, were but as the moon to the glow-worm. As to his doctrine the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst says:

"The point of difficulty is that Mr. Barney lays less stress on the fleshly elements of Christ's atonement than he does on the moral elements. Flesh and blood in their material sense signify less to him than to Presbyterians in general. I have great sympathy for the young man, for there was a time when I occupied almost the same position that he does today. When I was first settled in a Congregational church I laid almost no stress on the material side of the doctrine of atonement. I did not preach it, nor would I even give out a hymn that expressed it. If I had then been sat down upon, it would have driven me still further. I

was honest in my view and Mr. Barney is honest in his view. I think his belief does not cover the whole truth. His view is decidedly not the view that is taught at Union theological seminary. Where did he get it? Well, where did I get my views? I cannot tell; but I think it probable that Mr. Barney had been brought into connection with a man who has emphasized the carnal side of the doctrine to such an extent that it has caused a reaction in the mind of the young preacher. The attempt to couple Mr. Barney's name with that of Dr. Briggs is ridiculous. I wonder why the opponents of the seminary professor do not charge to him the guilt of original sin."

FAILURE OF THE INTER-STATE COMMERCE LAW.

THE Inter-State Commerce law which was passed by Congress some three or four years ago has had during its brief career a rather chequered existence. At first it was thought that this would prove the panacea for all railroad evils, and that the public, the corporation and the country would all be benefited. Senator Cullom of Illinois acquired some note as a statesman because of his connection with the law. However, from the first efforts at applying it practically, trouble attended its enforcement. Amendment after amendment followed, until really the original was no longer recognized. But the crushing blow was given it by the United States Supreme court a short time ago.

One of the provisions of the Inter-State Commerce act deals directly with corporations or agents who make rebates, and special rates on their own account. This feature of railroad traffic has been more or less the cause of pools, wars and competitions of a suicidal character in the past. The new law it was thought would practically settle this matter. To get evidence in a case of this kind the agent of the corporation must testify against himself, and the Constitution of the United States says: "No person shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself." The Supreme Court has just decided that this applies to offenders against the Inter-State Commerce law. The result is that if the law, which was never popular, does not fall into "innocuous desuetude" it will be blotted from the statute books altogether.

FREEMASONS IN MEXICO.

RELATING to the present excitement in Mexico the *Catholic Review* has the following:

"The government in Mexico is ruled by the Masonic lodges. It has decreed the suppression of monasteries. Last week a troop of its soldiers was sent to close four such religious institutions, but the people objected and stoned the guards. Thereupon the soldiers fired

into the crowd and killed and wounded several of them. The monks were then torn from the altars and ejected from their houses. Twenty-six priests were arrested."

The *Review* is a church publication which circulates largely among comparatively well educated persons. It is patronized by the better class of Roman Catholic laity, and is read by the whole of the dignitaries of the church. What can be its object in thus putting the Mexican question in such an absolutely false light? Its readers must know that it makes an erroneous statement.

The facts in this case is very simple: Under the presidency of Juarez the Mexican people decided that monastical religious orders were a danger and a menace to the safety of their country. A law was passed by Congress prohibiting, absolutely, assembling in communities of religious orders. Those orders that did not obey were expelled from the country. The number of professed religious persons who could assemble under one roof was limited to three. Though a large quantity of church property was confiscated, yet the religion of Mexico continued to be, and is still, Roman Catholic. Only the religious orders living in communities were interfered with. The regular clergy, that is those priests who do parish work, and mix with the people, were not molested in the least.

Puebla is said to be one of the most intensely fanatical of the Mexican States. It never took kindly to the Juarez reform. It connived at violations of the law in the past, but a few months ago it came out openly and recognized several of these religious communities, three of which threw off all disguise and opened their doors, thus defying the law. Of course soldiers were sent to close the monasteries and imprison the inmates. Many of the populace took sides with the monks and hence the rioting that caused so much excitement.

The *Catholic Review* should know that these are the plain facts of the case: If Free-Masonry flourished in Mexico to such an extent as to control the government, the Romish Church which opposes all secret societies, must have lost its influence in that country, which does not appear to be the case, and it is not likely to help its cause by misstating or misrepresenting the situation through its newspapers in the United States.

CHELSEA, Jan. 31. — There was another row with the socialists today, who were holding riotous meetings as usual. A large force of extra police finally broke up the meeting.