

and successors among the family of princes, the Italian premier took occasion to dilate, with fine irony and exquisite diplomacy, upon the relief which the pope ought to feel and must feel at being relieved of the troubles of temporal rule. "He is now subject only to God," exclaimed the orator in a burst of eloquence; "as a temporal prince his authority would be diminished, for then he would be only the equal of other princes."

The superiority which comes of being bereft of power has heretofore been deemed a poor cause of congratulation or envy. But Crispi presents the case in a novel and effective way, and with a plausibility that is almost convincing. The part most effected, however, has yet to be heard from. We wonder if the pope himself shares the views so gently and adroitly expressed for him by the clever layman!

BEEF GUAGE AS TO "COPPERS."

A few days ago, in one of the cities of the East, there was an examination of candidates desiring to fill a vacancy on the police force. We do not recall how many applicants presented themselves, nor does it matter; in view of the decision that was arrived at, there were altogether too many; and with a view to preventing needless competition for the future—at least in places where the same criterion of eligibility is observed—we deem it proper to give the occurrence full publicity.

First of all, the successful applicant was found to be not less than five feet ten inches in height, and his weight was over 165 pounds. His leg measured so many inches at the calf, and so many more at the thigh; and his arm, as to wrists and biceps, was found to be equally gratifying in its proportions. His chest measure when the lungs were empty of air and also when they were full, was accurately noted; and the size of his neck as well as the color of his eyes went into the list of his qualifications. He was accepted by acclamation, and the remaining competitors were peremptorily sent back to their respective avocations or places of abode. Yet there is no intimation that the matter of this Adonis's nerve or judgment was looked into at all. The examining board made no inquiry as to his courage or the amount and quality of the gray matter under his skull. They seemed to assume that because he came up to the standard in the matter of avoirdupois, his mental attributes must be correspondingly perfect—and he was placed on the pay roll accordingly.

It seems to us that we have heard of similar tests of policemen's qualifications in certain western towns; with a shortsightedness almost puerile, the judges have declared that bigness was the object sought. Activity, bravery, coolness and common sense went for naught if the applicant did not tip the scales at a particular figure, or did not come up to the requisite height. Such judges have evidently forgotten the experiments of Frederick the Great and Napoleon. The former would have a pet guard regiment of six-footers and the latter wanted a corps with big noses. At the very first

engagement at close quarters both organizations ran ingloriously away; and the two great warriors thereupon concluding that fighting qualities depended neither on the length of the soldier nor the size of his nose, recruited their guard regiments with men who were not afraid of gunpowder and who would not turn tail and fly at the first volley of the enemy.

A large-boned, round-cheeked, portly police force may be a thing of beauty; but beauty, it seems to us, is less to be desired in such a case than utility. Beef is not the only desideratum in a guardian of the peace. The rules above referred to as constituting the qualifications of the eastern policeman would have barred out the very best officer Salt Lake City ever had—a man who could handle half a dozen ordinary six-footers, and who with his small squad of nifty little associates, could and did put lubberly giants, and many of them, to flight or in the "cooler." It should be the ounces of brain, not the pounds of bone and tallow, that receive consideration in selections for such positions. Any other rule is nonsense, and we hope nothing of the kind will ever be attempted here.

CUBA'S FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

The leaders of the Cuban revolution are working with zeal and with a unity of purpose that shows superior genius. On the island steps are now being taken to procure a little navy with sailing stations and sea ports. In this country and in Mexico, active measures are being pushed in order to obtain for the patriots recognition as belligerents, and even in Europe effective work is being done for Cuban independence.

The procuring of a navy is, according to international rules, an indispensable condition of official recognition. An armed force without access to the sea, without their flag flying at the masthead of a cruiser, has but little chance of such recognition even by its friends. In the struggle of 1869 and on, the Cuban leaders made many efforts to obtain possession of Cienfuegos, with the view to hold her as such a port. An American-bought ship—the *Hornet*—was prepared and expected to sail the gulf waters with the flag of Free Cuba flying, which proves that the need was a recognized one at that time.

Another requirement has already been met to some extent, in the establishment of a home government with power to send representatives abroad, but with all this, it is a question whether any power, friendly to Spain, can officially recognize Cuba as an independent country, until the insurgents have, by the success of their arms, compelled the Spanish generals to treat them as regular soldiers, in the matter of exchanging prisoners and otherwise observing the rules of modern warfare. Foreign governments can, of course, not treat with "outlaws." The status of the Cuban insurgents as such will first have to be removed by their own victories, and the question at present is whether, in the judgment of impartial powers, the movement for independence has assumed proportions beyond the exploits of a gang of desperadoes.

As already stated, the Cuban revolutionary leaders are actively at work in Europe as well as in this country, and according to all appearances, the struggle for the independence of the island is better organized than any previous one. It has been noticed lately that Spain has been the scene of an agitation in favor of republican ideas of government, quite troublesome to the rulers. The discovery is now said to have been made, that Cuban revolutionists have sent emissaries to Spain, charged with the mission of keeping the agitation alive, in order that the government may be compelled to retain its soldiers at home. This at least is claimed by the Spanish police, and they have accordingly notified the police officers of other countries to be on their guard. As a consequence, the arrest of thousands of Nihilists in Russia, and the renewed anti-socialist agitation in Germany, as well as the measures to repress the revolutionary bandits of Italy followed. It is well known that volcanic forces steadily are at work among the lower strata of society on the European continent, but all these simultaneous outbreaks in several countries are supposed to be accounted for only on the supposition that the Cuban agitators in Europe have had remarkable success in causing uneasiness among the governments. If this view be correct, the Cuban rebellion is no small matter, and the time cannot be far off when its leaders can claim as a right the recognition for which they are about to petition the United States government.

THE SIMPLE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

There is no getting around or away from the fact that "the machine" is on full duty in politics again this year, and in all the accustomed states is prepared to do business in the same old way and at the same old stand. The "bosses" have invariably come back into power, all the fresher and more daring by reason of their little rest, and the nominations next year for the Presidency are already receiving the notice and consideration of these distinguished managers. The revolt from boss rule that was anticipated and appeared so promising a year ago, has proved to be a mere flash in the pan; and the dear people, having obediently bowed their necks to the yoke, are once more in political bondage—this time probably more severe and galling than ever before.

It is a strange and anomalous tendency on the part of a free people—this willingness of Americans to be led around by the nose in their political affairs by shrewd and calculating and at times unprincipled men. It is moreover a grave menace to the permanence and integrity of American institutions; for from the boss-rule of the commonwealth to the Caesarism of the Republic is a step so short and easy that the wonder is that no one has yet essayed it. This toleration and desecration may not, however, be too long presumed upon; and when the daring dictator shall arise and make the venture, the query is as to how he shall be met and his bold purposes defeated.

The remedy is simple enough and it is easily at hand. Sporadic displays of virtue and brief spasms of patriotism