

It is, then, sincerely to be hoped that the rapprochement may continue and produce practical results. The proposition to agree upon a treaty of arbitration by the terms of which the two countries bind themselves to submit all possible differences to an international court might be reconsidered. When that is secured the question of a formal alliance might come up. It is tolerably certain that even a treaty of arbitration between the two countries would be a moral force in the world and a good introduction to the coming era of peace.

#### OF INTEREST TO THIS COUNTRY.

It is now asserted in Berlin that an understanding, amounting in fact to an offensive and defensive alliance between Germany and Turkey, is the result of the pilgrimage of Emperor William to the Holy Land. Germany, it is said, undertakes to support the integrity of Turkey's possessions in Asia and receives in return certain commercial and other privileges in that part of the world. This means virtually the supremacy of German influence in Constantinople, since Emperor William cannot undertake to guarantee the integrity of the Turkish empire except on the condition that the sultan submits his future policy to the direction of the German government.

The United States has some interest in this matter. Oscar S. Straus, our representative to Turkey, has recently reached Constantinople with important demands on the government. This country insists on the right of the United States to appoint consuls at any of the ports of the empire and on the removal of the difficulties regarding the recognition in Turkey of naturalized citizens of the United States. It also insists on the payment of an indemnity for the destruction during the Armenian massacres of property belonging to American missionaries. Turkey has refused to pay on the ground that the property was destroyed by irresponsible mobs, while our government holds that it was done by government soldiers whose duty it was to guard and protect the property. With the new relations between Germany and Turkey it is conceivable that the attitude of the sultan towards this country will depend on advice from Berlin.

It is believed that Germany now is very friendly toward the United States whatever may have been the sentiment at the beginning of the war with Spain, and if this is true, we may hope for a peaceful settlement of the Turkish questions, notwithstanding the fact that Minister Angell, our former representative at the Ottoman capital, expressed as his opinion that no indemnity can be collected except by force of arms.

#### HARBINGERS OF LIFE.

With the advent of the ice king, whose breath turns the golden autumn hues to silvery frost and bedecks the hills with snow, one is reminded of the changes and vicissitudes of life, not only of men but of nations. Carlyle has said, in effect, that an eternity waits before birth and an eternity after birth, both bearing upon the interim, the latter existing in degree of happiness or regret because of what has been done or not done during life. In the little round of the seasons, when desolation and death are seen to be the harbingers of life, we observe that just as verdant and balmy as has been the spring, so usually the blossom and fruitage of summer and autumn will be; and in the latter time the tints and hues on tree and hill will be all the more glorious because of the richness of the past. So

it is that, in the career of humanity, when men are blessed with a springtime of gladness and youth blossoms into a manhood beauteous with the flowers of virtue and truth, then surely is the harvest and grandeur of the autumn of full maturity made all the richer and more magnificent; and when the blight of the shadow falls and the sap of life begins to dry, the blasts of the land of cold may wither and kill, but the end is in accord with nature and a springtime will come.

A similar comparison may also be made in regard to the birth and life of nations. Usually from out of the throes of pain and suffering they emerge into existence and grow in strength and majesty according to the soil from which they sprang and the environment and influences that surround their incipency. If the soil were watered with the tears caused by oppressor's hands and imbued with the blood of patriots, and if the struggle resulted, as it did with us, in the "survival of the fittest" and the triumph of freedom, if the foundations were laid upon the rock of liberty, truth and justice, then that nation must needs have a gladsome springtime and give promise of a glorious summer of existence. It is unfortunate, however, that few of the nations of the earth that have reached the zenith of power and fame have maintained their glory and grandeur undefiled. The zenith has marked the beginning of the end; progression has ceased and decay begun. Maladministration of public affairs and corruption in high places, resulting at times in the oppression of the people, are usually the cause and the winter of a nation's life sets in. When a government places an autocracy of wealth paramount to the will of the common people from whence its chief and only lasting power is derived, and the icy hand of oppression is thereby placed on the brow of labor, freezing the life blood of a nation, then the end of that government is near. But there is some consolation in the fact that the inexorable law in the regulation of men and nature will prevail whereby, after the storms and tempests of winter and maybe the blighting by death, springtime will come through the travail of birth, and a new life under better conditions be commenced for the progress of humanity and the salvation of the race.

#### A CASE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

The death in Great Britain of Harold Frederic, the journalist, previously noticed in these columns, has aroused a storm against the adherents of so-called Christian Science. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against a member of the household of the deceased man and also against the Christian Scientist who treated him according to the rules of the sect instead of giving him medical aid. These two women will now be placed on trial on the grave charge made against them. Without doubt the case will be followed with interest both in Great Britain and here, owing to the prominence of Mr. Frederic as well as to the great number of believers in the "Science," of which it is supposed he was a member.

Opinions may differ as to the right of the law to dictate to patients in the matter of medical treatment, but on the folly of the philosophy that calls itself Christian Science, at least as far as it endeavors to account for the existence of physical ailments, there can be no two opinions. Here is a scrap of that Science:

"You say a boil is painful; but that is impossible, for matter without mind is not painful. The boil simply manifests your belief in pain through in-

flammation and swelling and you call this belief a boil. Now administer mentally to your patient a high attenuation of truth on this subject, and it will soon cure the boil. The fact that it can not exist where there is no mortal mind to feel it, is a proof that this so-called mind makes its own pain—that is, its own belief in pain."

The theory may not be the concern of the law and the courts, but if a theory is carried out in practice and it is found to involve a danger to the community, it becomes the proper subject of legislation and certain restrictions will be considered necessary. Public opinion in Great Britain has been aroused lately against Christian Science on this ground, and the probability is that there will be much opposition.

#### DECLINING CHRISTIANITY.

In a Theosophical magazine published in New York some interesting statistics are given, which are made the foundation for the conclusion that orthodox Christianity is on the wane, and that in 700 years more that form of religion will belong only to history. Figures, of course, can be made to prove everything, and arguments based on statistics, as a general rule, are not accepted without close scrutiny. Still the figures presented on this subject are highly interesting. A summary of the article appears in the Literary Digest of Nov. 5, from which the following is borrowed:

"The American almanac for 1833 estimated the population of the world at 653,000,000. The number of Buddhists in the world at that time, according to Maite-Brun and Graberg, was 150,000,000, Brahmanists 60,000,000, Mohammedans 110,000,000, Jews 4,000,000 to 5,000,000. Maite-Brun gave the number of Christians at this time as 228,000,000. Graberg, Pinkerton, Hassell, and Balbe gave the number from 7,000,000 to 38,000,000 higher. The number of heathens, that is, of those outside the great religions, was put down by these authorities at 100,000,000. So that out of the 653,000,000 population of the world in 1833, 35 per cent were Christians.

"Robert Baird, in the Christian Retrospect and Register, published by Dodd, New York, 1851, put down the population of the world for 1850 at 1,000,000,000, of which 342,000,000 were Christians and 658,000,000 non-Christians, which shows the Christian population to be rather more than 33 1-3 per cent, a decline of nearly 1 2-3 per cent since 1833.

"In Schaff and Herzog's Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge for 1883, Holtzmann M. Zoepf gives the figures for 1882 as: Buddhists, 697,000,000; heathens, 118,200,000; Mohammedans, 195,100,000; Jews, 5,000,000 to 7,000,000; total, 1,016,900,000 non-Christians. The number of Christians he estimates at 406,250,000, and the population of the world at 1,423,150,000. Thus in 1882, the number of Christians in the world had declined to 28½ per cent of the whole population.

"Harper's Book of Facts for 1895 gives the population of the world for 1890 as 1,450,000,000. Of this number, 400,000,000 were Christians, going to show that in eight years the proportion of the Christian population had declined 1 per cent."

That is, in the period from 1833 to 1890—a little more than half a century—there was a decline in the number of nominal Christians from 35 per cent of the total population of the world to 27½ per cent. And this, it is asserted, is the best showing possible, notwithstanding the millions spent yearly on missionary efforts at home and abroad.

It is suggested that a combination of