

from young America to young France, La Fayette being but a mere youth when he came to this country and placed his ability and fortune at the command of the struggling Republic. But the line must be drawn somewhere and it was drawn here. Today the board of education was congratulating itself on the position taken. Even the members who voted affirmatively declare they did so over their own protest and say that the future will witness no more suspensions of the rule prohibiting collections in the schools.

We are by no means opposed to giving the children an opportunity of contributing to the monument in question, if they can be reached in some other way than through the public schools. Special gatherings of children for the purpose of giving them such an opportunity would meet with the approval of many who object to collections of money in the class room.

The idea of asking the pupils of the primary grades and districts schools to contribute money solicited from parents or acquaintances is suggested by the secretary of the La Fayette Memorial commission, but the suggestion can of course be carried out only where local conditions and sentiment are in its favor.

THE OMAHA EXPOSITION.

The managers of the transmississippi exposition announce that the enterprise has been a great financial success. There is now money enough in the bank to pay every dollar of indebtedness and to return to the stockholders a large portion of the stock subscribed. This is good news to all interested in the welfare of the Western country. It speaks volumes for the enterprise and public spirit of this part of our great Republic.

The exposition has yet the remaining part of October to run and the receipts are expected to be as large as at any previous time. On Monday, Oct. 10, the opening exercises of the "Peace Jubilee" will take place. This feature of the exposition will last through the week. There will be shown battles, fireworks, balloon ascensions, carnivals, military parades and similar attractions. Wednesday, October 12, will be the "President's day" on the grounds and addresses will be delivered by President McKinley and ex-President Cleveland. October 20 is set apart, we are informed, as Utah's day at Omaha and many of our prominent citizens intend going there for that occasion.

THE CHINESE SITUATION.

The chaotic condition prevailing in the Chinese empire, or more strictly speaking at the palace in Peking, is likely to hasten a crisis that has been expected ever since the nature of the disease of the state became better understood. Only by an immediate change to the methods of western civilization, whereby the safety of life and property is assured, can the partition of the country be prevented. But such a turn is not probable; perhaps not even possible.

The recent events at the palace are more or less clouded in mystery, but it appears, from the accounts published, that the late emperor was removed at the instigation of the dowager empress, Tsi An. One report is that he was poisoned, and another that he was strangled to death, while still another has it that he was subjected to torture, a red hot iron being thrust through his body. The crime of which he was accused was that he had showed a decided leaning toward Christianity and that as a result he had committed to the flames the classical works of Con-

fucius. It is further alleged that he had ordered high officials to don European clothes and that he contemplated various reforms.

It is about forty years since the lady who now is supposed to rule China commenced the intrigues that have led her to the highest summit of power. During that time many mysterious deaths have occurred within the palace walls. The story forms an exceedingly interesting section of human history.

The emperor, Hien Fung, died in August, 1861, and by his will left the kingdom to his six-year-old son, Tungche. In the following November the boy was brought to Peking. Plots quickly followed the introduction of the infantile emperor into the palace. Two women, Tsi Tshi and Tsi An, through Prince Kung, a brother of Hien Fung, deposed the regents and Prince Kung was given high honors in the state.

In a short time Tsi An had obtained co-ordinate power with Tsi Tshi, the dowager empress. She stripped Kung of his honors for the purpose of ending his ambitions, but after being humbled, he was reinstated.

In 1872 the young emperor had reached his sixteenth birthday. The empresses permitted him to marry Ahluta, a Manchu lady. Four months later Tungche announced in an edict that the two empresses had commanded him to assume the reins of power. He soon showed that he was desirous of being emperor in fact, and degraded Prince Kung, but the very next day their imperial majesty issued a decree restoring the fallen prince to all his former dignities. It was given out that the youthful emperor was still fractious. Rumors spread at the same time that his health was poor. On December 18, 1873, an edict appeared requesting the empress dowager to take personal charge of public business.

A few months afterward the emperor died. It has always been believed that he was murdered. His death was speedily followed by that of his widow, Ahluta.

The empresses selected as the successor Tungche Tsal Tien, a son of Prince Chung, who was proclaimed emperor under the name of Kwangsu. Kwangsu was born in 1871. He was a mere infant when declared emperor, which was a fact convenient to the two feminine intrigues.

After the province of Il was restored to China by the treaty of St. Petersburg in 1881 Empress Tsi Tshi died. She was the nominal superior of Tsi An. Her illness was remarkably short in duration. Death was attributed to heart disease. In 1884 a former secondary wife of Hienfung was in absolute power. She deprived Prince Kung of power and sent him into an obscurity where he remained for eleven years. Thenceforth Prince Chung, father of the young emperor, and Li Hung Chang were wax in her fingers.

Prince Chung died in January, 1891. His ally, Marquis Tseng, died a few months before. The manner of their deaths has been a similar secret in China.

Kwangsu married Yehhonal, the daughter of a Manchu general, in 1889. She still lives. Upon the celebration of the marriage Tsi An announced her retirement from active participation in public affairs, but she ruled the young emperor as before.

Li Hung Chang has always been his favorite and on more than one occasion he has saved his head. It was his removal from a seat on the Tsungli-Yamen that is said to have precipitated the palace a revolution which ended in the death of Kwangsu.

It is evident from this little bit of Chinese history, as given in the New York Journal, that imperial power in

the Mongolian empire is used merely for the gratification of those who by chance, or fortune, are invested with it, and that human life is counted for nothing, if it happens to stand in the way of insatiable ambition. No wonder that the people hate the dynasty and that numerous secret societies exist with revolutionary aims! No wonder that the methods of these are those of the assassins! When assassination is taught from the secret recesses of the palace, the people are sure to profit by the lesson. In the atmosphere of tyranny, the poisonous fungi of revolution thrive.

It is believed that the European powers must be prepared to interfere. The warships of Great Britain and other powers are already in the gulf of Pechili or on their way there, and two of Dewey's ships have also been ordered to Chinese waters. This is as it should be. If it comes to a partition of China, the United States has a right to be consulted. American citizens have suffered in the recent riots at Peking and elsewhere. American trade with China demands as much consideration as that of some other powers, especially Germany, and the navy that destroyed Spain's fleet in the most remarkable victories on record is a power not to be ignored.

THE COMMISSIONER'S WORK.

An important dispatch regarding the action of the American peace commissioners at Paris was received last night and modified somewhat this morning. The former was to the effect that our representatives had determined to demand the cession of the whole Philippines group to the United States; the other appears in the "News" telegraphic service today and is in substance that the commissioners had decided to claim the island of Luzon and had invoked the report of Admiral Dewey in support of their claim, his report being that Manila without the remainder of the island would make it necessary to maintain there a strong army and naval force. This is a newspaper account, but being from a Paris journal, Le Gaulois, appears to have good foundation.

The two reports do not apparently conflict, they simply vary in magnitude. If it should prove to be the case that the first one is correct it would not necessarily oppose the other, because the demand for the group entire would include the demand for Luzon; but if the second shall be found the proper representation of what has been done, it will unquestionably be the case that all territory outside of Luzon is to be left as it was. It is simply an international action for damages, in which the fundamental rule regarding such actions as applied to individuals obtains—one may get less than he sues for, but he cannot get more.

At the hour of writing, nothing further than is herein spoken of has been received, although indications are that the work is well in hand and going on. It is useless to hope or suggest or speculate; it is all in the hands of the commissioners. They are known to be wise, cool-headed, patriotic men, and there can be no doubt that the nation's honor and interests will not be lost sight of at any time. It is a matter of the most profound importance, and we can all afford to wait without impatience for the consummation.

In order to understand fully what is involved in the Philippine question, it must be remembered that their geographical position is such that in the