

amount to operate these two establishments during the year they have been in operation.

Much work has been done in London under the scheme. Two million cheap meals have been furnished to persons not members of the colony. Large amounts of fuel and food have also been sold at reduced prices to suffering families at their homes. Shelters for men and women have been established where lodgings can be obtained at 2 cents a night. Rescue homes for girls and women and for discharged prisoners have been opened. There has been a great amount of philanthropic work performed, but the expenses of administration have been enormous.

However, it is resolved to prosecute the scheme further. The city colony will be continued, and deserving persons sent from it to the farm. From the latter will be selected material for the prospective Over-the-Sea branch and a practical effort will be made to show whether or not the aimless, purposeless London pauper can be made a self-sustaining citizen. The Booth scheme is not promising well in that direction.

PECULIAR MARITAL COMPLICATION.

THE question of a national divorce law is again prominently before the public. This time New Jersey has furnished a case which affords material for reformers in the matrimonial line. The court of chancery of that State granted a divorce with alimony to a woman resident in New Jersey, while the husband was a resident of New York. He was not served in New Jersey and did not appear in the action. An endeavor was made to force him to recognize the divorce, and to pay the alimony and costs as decreed by the New Jersey chancellor. The matter was taken to the New York court of appeals, and has just been passed upon.

The decision is rather peculiar, inasmuch as it states that the woman is legally divorced in New Jersey, while the husband is to all intents and purposes a married man in New York. Furthermore the inference is drawn from the court's decision that if the man should marry again in New York, he could be prosecuted for bigamy. But it is also the judgment of the court that he cannot be held for alimony and costs. He is placed in a rather peculiar position. While in New York, he cannot marry again without rendering himself liable to a prosecution for bigamy. He must keep out of New Jersey, or else run the risk of liabilities for his wife's alimony and costs. But should he take up his

residence in some other State, though the court does not say so, it is probable that he would be free to marry again, and also be exempt from the financial consequences of his former wife's action. Still he would be under the necessity of keeping outside of New York and New Jersey.

In view of this complicated system of divorce which now prevails, it is little wonder that the attention of Congress is being directed to it. Senator Kyle, of South Dakota, has introduced a bill providing for a uniform divorce law to be administered by the Federal government. Of course, the Kyle bill avails naught, because Congress can do nothing in the matter without a special amendment to the Constitution. But it will have the effect of awakening the nation at large to the anomalies and contradictions in the laws of the States. Children in one State may be legitimate, and illegitimate in another. In the same manner men and women may be divorced persons in one State, while in the adjoining one they are still married, and in the event of re-marriage both would be liable to prosecution for bigamy.

Uniformity should be arrived at by mutual consent of the respective States. It is not likely that a constitutional amendment putting marriage and divorce within the jurisdiction of the General Government would be consented to by a sufficient number of States to make it part of the national organic law. It is a subject that needs attention from our leading statesmen, and something ought to be done about it without delay.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN AFRICA.

THE dispatches a few days ago had some startling suggestions in relation to the Anglo-French misunderstanding relative to Morocco, which lies in that portion of Africa immediately adjoining the Straits of Gibraltar. It is one of the Barbary States, but is an independent empire, governed by a Sultan. It adjoins the French State of Algeria. England has large interests there in the way of commerce. Its population is estimated variously at from five to eight millions.

South of Morocco is the great desert of Sahara. In the northern part of the desert is the oasis of Touat. This with several other oases in the region has about 200,000 inhabitants, entirely independent, but observing some tribal forms of government.

The Touats and Algerian French have never been friends. But Touat is a resting place for French caravans from Algeria to Senegal, and a railroad is contemplated between both places.

The Touats applied to the Sultan of Morocco for assistance some time ago. He wanted to annex their country, but they only desired protection. The Sultan promised to comply with the request and sent his officers among them to collect taxes. The French objected to this, and sent a force to seize the Territory. Then disturbances commenced, in which several of the Sultan's officers were killed. The British consul at Tangier, deeming the interests of his country in danger, made a demand on the governor for adequate protection. Meantime two British war ships "The Grappler" and "Thunderer" were ordered to Tangier; thereupon the French newspapers called upon their government to dispatch the Mediterranean Squadron also to the same point.

If the French should seize Touat and the country adjoining, complications will ensue. Morocco has an army of 10,000 infantry, commanded by an Englishman. It has also some artillery and cavalry, but there are so many semi-independent tribes that the Sultan's power in some contingencies virtually amounts to nothing. It is believed that England contemplates taking part of Morocco in order to head off France. The latter country is greatly exercised on the subject, but is not prepared to take any step that would lead to a rupture with Great Britain.

MEXICAN TROUBLES.

THE situation in Mexico is somewhat peculiar. The contradictory character of the dispatches involves the matter still deeper in mystery. One account describes Garza as slim, delicate effeminate, another portrays him as an athlete, a scholar and a soldier. In one place it is stated that there is no revolution imminent; that the trouble is merely the excitement caused by a gang of bandits. On the other hand, it is stated that Mexico is on the verge of a dreadful civil war, and that the people are ripe for revolution.

We have heard nothing as yet from our Minister to Mexico, who, by the way, is a Mr. Ryan of Kansas.

It is unfortunate that Mexico should at present be involved in domestic anarchy of the kind usual in Latin-American countries. She was on the eve of an era of progress and advancement unparalleled in her history. President Diaz has been, in a measure, a savior of his country, as he faithfully followed up the work initiated by Juarez. But he has incurred the enmity of a powerful party, and it remains to be seen whether his people are enlightened and progressive enough to sustain him.