

this time, when they are arraigned before the tribunal of the civilized world, to acknowledge that they, too, have been a nnd against. Race prejudices and acts of violence are not peculiar to the Asiatic countries. Still, the cases are hardly parallel. The missionaries who go to China enter the country well equipped and spend large sums of money yearly in the localities where they settle—money contributed by friends in this country or England. Missionary stations are centers through which a part of the wealth of other nations flows into China, and by means of which that country is benefited from a pecuniary point of view, leaving out every other consideration. Can this be said of the Chinese laborers in this country? Generally they are considered channels through which the wages of the workmen are diverted from those to whom they rightfully belong, and sent to the far-away shore. In these facts lie the essential difference between the cases quoted. The *tu quoque* argument has really no force in the point at issue.

Justly the demand has gone forth for a vigorous policy in China, because without it that country will always remain closed to civilization and its millions may become a menace to other powers. Let there be light! The standard-bearers of civilization have a right and a duty to perform among all nations, and in the wise performance of that duty they should be sustained at home and abroad. The question of retaliation is unimportant if considered by itself, but the question whether barbarism shall triumph over civilization in China is the one involved in the recent occurrences across the Pacific ocean.

### THE CHOLERA SCARE.

On account of the prevalence of Asiatic cholera on the Pacific coast of Asia and its appearance in Hawaii for the first time, it is thought, in those islands, health officers on this side of the Pacific have been stirred up to laudable activity, to prevent, if possible, the dread disease from entering this country, or, if it should appear, to confine it within easily controllable limits. In the precautions taken the best guarantee is offered against the epidemic.

It is now generally understood that when cholera spreads from the centers where it is endemic or acclimatized, as it seems to be in certain parts of Asia, the vehicle of its transmission is in most cases the discharge of persons already affected. The disease germ may be diffused through currents of air or in the water of rivers, and by various other means find access to the bodies of healthy persons, but it seems to prefer low, marshy countries and above all neglected sanitary conditions. And it is positively known that among the predisposing causes rendering some individuals more liable than others to the fatal disease are an immoderate use of purgative medicines, unripe fruit, unhealthy food, drunkenness, personal uncleanness and living in overcrowded localities with unfavorable hygienic surroundings.

In this country the pestilence has never been able to gain much headway; nor is there at present any cause for alarm. But the reports of its ravages in other parts of the world should be a reminder of the necessity of adopting, at all times, habits of temperance in all things and bodily cleanliness, in order that the system may be kept strong and in a condition to overcome infectious disease germs of every kind. Habitations and their immediate surroundings should be kept scrupulously clean in order that decomposing vegetation and other similar matter may not offer a breeding ground for fatal sicknesses. Temperance and cleanliness are certainly the foundations of health and life.

### NOVEL LIQUOR TESTS.

A discussion as to the relative amount of intoxication to be derived from various liquors is one that would popularly be supposed to take place only in Kentucky or France, and even then not in the highest scientific circles. As a matter of fact, however, that very theme has lately been disturbing the learned equanimity of the Paris Academy of Medicine to an exceeding degree, without as yet having been satisfactorily answered. It cannot possess much interest save to a limited number; but a wider field of investigation, into which the discussion led, cannot but be of profit as a warning to the whole family of man. This related to the well-worn but ever important subject of the poisonous effects of spirits, champagnes and liquors, as the same are manufactured and used in France. According to the reports, one of the delegates declared that chemical analysis proves all these beverages, and particularly the more expensive, to contain a large quantity of the poisonous substance known as furfural and amylic alcohol. Of course this was quite a shock to the gentleman's colleagues; but he went on, and declared that it was safer to drink the ordinary spirits sold over the counter of a wine shop for a few sous to the workman than to take a comforting "petit verre" at a franc. To prove this assertion he had been dosing rabbits. Those to which the cheaper alcohol was applied suffered comparatively little. Those treated with "good old cognac" a \$2.40 a bottle all died. He maintained that real old cognac is no more wholesome than the average brand. Finally, a committee of seven was appointed to study the question. The tests of the effects of the various liquids are to be confined strictly to rabbits, and, besides the main issue of the investigation, abundant material should be forthcoming on the various kinds of inebriation of which an animal is capable.

### DEFENDER AND VALKYRIE.

The coming race for the America cup between Defender and Valkyrie III is remarkable for the compromise of ideas expressed in the models of the two contending yachts. The experience of the Vigilant last summer, when re-

peatedly beaten by the Britannia, indicated the necessity of modifying the American theory of the superiority of the centerboard, and the English idea of a boat with narrow beam and deep draft has also been abandoned in the Valkyrie. The result is that the two contending yachts this year resemble each other more closely than any formerly engaged in the race for the coveted prize.

According to the descriptions published, the four sloops preceding the Defender were noted for their breadth of beam and great sail-carrying capacity, with a marked tendency, however, toward an increased draft. The Vigilant is to all intents and purposes a keel boat when her centerboard is hauled up, as she draws fourteen feet of water when in that condition and twenty-three feet when the board is down. Then again she incorporates the British idea of ballast- ing, having the weight low on the keel. Each of the British cutters that have challenged for the cup have, however, borne the customary characteristics of British yachts—great depth of draft and extreme narrowness of beam—each one, if anything, looking slenderer than its predecessor on the challenge list, and with heavy weights on the keel. Furthermore, the challenging yacht has always entered the races with the same racing spar and canvas used by her in her home waters. Invariably the contrast between her and her American adversary, as to the spread of canvas, has been unfavorable to her. Sail carrying capacity has invariably won the race.

This year, for the first time in the history of the America cup races, the British have built a yacht expressly designed to sail in American waters in the fall weather of the Eastern coast. The Valkyrie III is unusually broad in the beam for a British yacht, exceeding that of the Defender by four feet, and she has a draft within six inches of that of the Defender. This gives her the power to carry an area of canvas unequalled by any British yacht of her inches ever before built.

### SPARROWS AND BEETLES.

An eastern exchange has the following to say about a certain bird occasionally seen in these parts:

Passer Domesticus is the scientific name for the common English sparrow that chatters so at early dawn, and has multiplied to such an extent as to induce some measures to reduce the bird population. In New York state it is a misdemeanor to feed or house them and they are slaughtered without mercy. But when men undertake to correct nature they make a mistake. New York city is now suffering from a want of sparrows and an overplus of caterpillars which are destroying the shade trees. A new species of devastating insect has made its appearance in the Hudson river valley, a cross between a lightning bug and an English beetle, which is making havoc of the noble elms which add so much to the scenery of that region.

Salt Lake City is not suffering from a want of sparrows, by any means; but we have an overplus of the identical "devastating insect" described in the foregoing, and for which the sparrow displays as much affection as a tramp