

duction of other parts of Southern Asia. As it is, the native Cingalese are employed only to a limited extent. The natives from the mainland of Southeastern India furnish the bulk of the laborers. Both sexes are employed, and during the picking season a great many little boys and girls are enlisted. The women and children are far better at picking the leaves than are the men, as their fingers are more nimble and they are thus able to work faster.

There is one lesson that might be learned from the way in which tea cultivation is carried on in Ceylon, and that is the attention given to the growing crop and the care shown to gather it clean. The soil is well-worked and kept free from noxious growths, so that the entire field will give forth its full strength to the plant that is being cultivated; while the leaves are carefully collected and kept clean so there will be no loss by waste. These features go a long way toward securing a good return to the tea-grower, the price of whose crop depends largely upon its cleanliness and freedom from foreign plants and substances. A reputation for excellence in this regard is, (like a reputation for excellence in producing any crop or article of commerce,) an important factor in enabling the grower to dispose of his crop. Mr. Mackwood says the rowers in Ceylon have gained this reputation, therefore there is no difficulty in their finding a good market, even in these times of depression. Meanwhile the tea-drinkers in Utah and elsewhere are contributing of their means to a much greater extent than is essential for their welfare to the piling up of fortunes for tea-growers.

CHINA AND FRANCE.

The dispatches state that there is danger of trouble between China and France that will bring other nations into the controversy in such a way as to destroy the peace of Europe. There is a feeling of intense indignation among the inhabitants of the Flowery Kingdom at the French aggression in Siam. It is said the Chinese are not averse to a quarrel with France, whose forces they feel confident of overpowering. The recent dispatch of several Chinese warships to Menam is regarded by the European powers as significant, as was shown by British, Russian and Spanish war vessels quickly following the Chinese squadron on the occasion referred to, and watching for developments.

There is no doubt that the Chinese military force is greatly superior in numbers to that of France. Precisely what the army of the empire aggregates in available men is not definitely known. The regular army consists of 6,459 officers and 650,000 men, with an estimated available strength in the nation of 4,000,000. France cannot put anything like such a force in the field, much less transport it to southern Asia. But the superiority of the French as fighters will go a long way toward making up for the disparity in numbers, though the Chinese evidently believe that the training their troops have received under English and American officers, and the recent improvements in the equipment of the

army, place the advantage on their side.

While it seems hardly probable that the Chinese will provoke a quarrel with France or will find it profitable if they do, it may be interesting to note the condition of the French military preparation now compared with what it was previous to the last great war in which France was engaged. Since the war of 1870, the republic has spent on its army over three billions of dollars, exclusive of a vast amount for pensions and the construction of strategic railways. Of this amount about one-fifth has been employed in the reconstitution of *materiel*, while the remaining four-fifths has been devoted to the maintenance of the different arms of the service.

With this great outlay it is hardly to be wondered that France has improved her armament beyond what it was in 1869. Then it consisted of 25,005 officers and 380,372 men, with 89,702 horses. The recent report of the army shows that now it is composed of 28,382 officers and 484,015 men, with 140,879 horses. Whereas in 1869 the regular army practically represented all the troops at the disposal of the government, the case is very different now. With the addition of the territorial army, and without taking into account the reserves of the latter—which amount to 850,000 men—there are 1,650 battalions of infantry, 600 squadrons of cavalry, and 750 batteries of artillery, representing a force of over 2,000,000 men that can be brought into the field on brief notice. The Lebel rifle, with which the troops were armed in 1892, can send, at a distance of 2000 meters, or 2200 yards, a bullet through an oak board three inches in thickness; the magazine of this gun contains eight cartridges, and can be emptied with great rapidity. Besides this the army is supplied with new cannon which carry twice as far as did the old pattern and throw projectiles which have a much greater destructive force than those in use in 1870. There is also as marked an improvement in other arms and equipments.

This showing for France makes it plain that she is a very powerful antagonist in a conflict close at home, and in a tussle with the Mongolian the latter would have his hands full if he provoked the quarrel and the sympathetic support of the French were thereby unitedly brought to bear in a warfare against him. It does not seem probable that Chinese diplomats fail to realize the gravity of the situation in which their nation would be placed by the precipitation of such a conflict. A shortsightedness in this respect is not in accord with the history of Chinese diplomacy, for however stupid and incompetent the Mongolian rulers may be from the standpoint of Western civilization and enlightenment, they have not afforded the world heretofore an opportunity to accuse them of undue haste or rashness in international complications.

STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY.

Undoubtedly sane, as the world views sanity in reformers, and yet most woefully unpractical in his

theories, is the veteran Count de Chambrun, whose essays on sociology in certain French newspapers, and collected in pamphlet form with the title "*Mes Conclusions Sociologiques*," have reached the exchange table of nearly every important newspaper in this country. They furnish rather entertaining reading, and yet they excite almost pity for the aristocratic, senile dreamer who writes and evidently believes in them.

The present work, "*My New Conclusions in Sociology*," has followed by only a year "*My Conclusions in Sociology*," and is sent forth upon a distracted world from the peaceful retreats of the Auvergne mountains. In it the good old nobleman retracts nothing of his former views; his diagnosis of the ills of the times and their remedy is adhered to implicitly. Abstract and vague as are his "conclusions" in general, their drift may be understood from a brief summary: "In the world of industry the factory or the mine is to be the self-governing unit. The Chamberlain will have nothing of co-operation or participation in profits. A council elected by suffrage of the employed is to adjust all disputes with the management. The revolution of '89 upset the tyranny of the crown; that of '48 the tyranny of the stock jobbers; the tyranny still remaining to be upset is that of the wage payer."

That our author's scheme, as elaborated in his book, involves the entire reorganization of the social order, naturally does not in the least militate against the favor with which his effusions are received by the socialist press in Paris. Indeed, he tells us that there are more than a hundred Parisian periodicals devoted to the discussion of the principles of "machine civilization," as the new era may not improperly be called. And while he would doubtless be shocked at the suspicion that his propaganda can only be made effective through anarchy and ruin, he curiously fails to grasp the coincidence that the stormy days preceding the fall of the Bastille were heated to the point of fury by just such a restrained sedition and tolerated anarchy as chief from the columns of the press.

The legitimate fruit of such agitation—though the old Count de Chambrun may mean only well—is seen in the mutterings of anarchy which fill the air of western Europe. Paris stands upon the thin crust of a seething volcano—any day may see her wrapped in its fiery embrace. Spain is shaken to its very center, and plot and murder lurk in every shadow. Italy has not escaped the blight—assassination defies detection and threat is open as the day. The Latin races are in the throes which until lately were deemed peculiar to the Teuton and the Slav. Alas, that philanthropic souls should unconsciously add to the terrors of the case by childishly playing with and yielding to the monster; that instead of hounding the enemies and eradicating the evils of society, they should caress the one and build fantasticality upon the other, until in some dark hour the whole social fabric comes down in tumult, ruin and death! A reformation must indeed come; but it will the easier be wrought, and ought universally to be more desired, by the white, stent wand of Order