

faith of the Vatican should be of interest to the American people.

It is believed that the secular influence of Rome has been extending of late throughout the world. In Austria the clerical party is supreme, and in Germany it holds the balance of power. There are reasons for believing that its influence in France is growing, not to mention the United States. But it is almost certain that a time will come when unnumbered multitudes of Asia will acknowledge the supremacy of Rome. This event would result in the repetition to some extent of what took place when Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the state. That gave its officers power in the state. It furnished them the means of accomplishing by force what they were commissioned to do by gentle persuasion. It placed them in a position to use the sword as a substitute for the word. It is not unreasonable to believe that the adoption by the Asiatics of European civilization and with it the Christianity of Rome, would furnish the head of that church the needed means for achieving further conquests. If at present the Vatican has accepted the offer of the Protestant emperor of Germany to protect Catholic missionaries in China, as an equivalent for clerical support in the Reichstag of the enormous naval appropriation bill, it is clear enough that the Roman church has not lost all her temporal power and also that she is willing to use it for her own purposes.

WISDOM IN WAITING.

From the great lakes to the Gulf of California, from Puget Sound to Florida Keys, from the center of the land unto its most remote extremities, there is a tension existing that becomes more and more strained with each recurring day. It is such a state of feeling among the citizens of the American republic as must find a speedy conclusion one way or another. It can be terminated by either of two widely divergent courses—a declaration of war against Spain, or the admission on the part of our government that there is no foundation for the painful tensing and nothing therefore calling for belligerent action. The former course would end the trouble by passing it entirely and going away beyond and above it, would have the same effect that a bugle blast sounding the notes of a command to charge in force has upon veteran soldiers of the line; the rush, the struggle would be made while that which caused it would be the merest nothingness. The other course would be like pouring water upon a bed of glowing coals; there would be a flash and an upheaval, but the flash would be that which accompanies extinguishment and the upheaval would at once fall to the ground as the Dead Sea's fruit—ashes. One would be accompanied by a shout of exultation which would echo and re-echo throughout the entire domain, the other would have the effect of at once hushing the all-prevalent murmurs first into the slightest ripple of sound which would soon become so low that nothing could live between it and silence.

The martial spirit is rife and if the people could have their way the country would at once be plunged into a foreign contest the outcome of which cannot be conjectured, but which would inevitably result in the "death and misery of many souls," the destruction of countless millions of property, the unsettling of settled conditions, the expenditure of inconceivable sums of treasure and the increase of indebtedness to an awful extent. It would not likely, as some few seem to believe, be a short, sharp and decisive war by any

means, as would unquestionably be the case if we had to fight Spain alone. It is very doubtful indeed if that puny, bankrupt power could by itself be dragged by any kind of provocation into a war with the United States. Spain stands in the same relation to some of the other powers that a man does who owes his neighbors large sums of money which he cannot pay at present but still has resources which are at least promising; now if those creditors saw some outside parties preparing to seize the property and crush the debtor, does any one suppose the creditors would permit such proceedings without a protest followed up if necessary with antagonistic proceedings? Of course not. The Spanish kingdom and its people are indebted to the French republic and its people several hundred millions of dollars, perhaps to put it at a billion would not be an exaggeration, and the only hope of ever getting it is for the Spaniards to maintain their government intact and hold on to their colonies. It is idle to believe that the French would quietly permit the United States or any other power to pounce upon its neighbor-debtor when such attack, unless outside aid should be forthcoming, would mean the speedy conclusion of the war in which Spain is now engaged, the abolition of its present form of government and the loss forever of Cuba, its principal source of revenue. And France is only one out of several, although the principal one. Then, again, the queen regent of Spain is an Austrian and that government would not be likely to keep its hands off in such an emergency, especially when emboldened by France leading the way. Austria is one of the Dreilbund, which has Germany and Italy as the remaining factors, and these would sympathize more or less actively with their ally unless some very unusual circumstance were to arise. Then, further, there is a quasi alliance between France and Russia, and the latter would not be likely to oppose even if it did not aid the former. So there is the outlook with some but not all of its possible features brought into relief. It is not pleasant to contemplate, nor should its contemplation alone deter this country of ours from fighting either or all of them or all of Europe, if necessary, were our national honor assailed, our flag trampled upon or the life or property of any American citizen taken by authority of any one of them and full reparation refused. But it is a mighty, not a frivolous, emotional situation that would confront us in any event and not to be met because alone of the clamors of the dramatically patriotic or the sensationally heroic citizen.

When the masses see fit to rise they will assume such impetuosity as will make them a menace to all opponents at home or abroad. It is for this among other reasons that the administration is keeping down excitement as much as possible and giving encouragement to all classes the while by patiently and thoroughly investigating the latest trouble. The truly patriotic will strengthen the government's hands in this as surely as they will do so if the worst comes. Let it not be hastened until the deliberate conclusion is reached that haste is the order of the hour.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

To the methods employed by American colleges, the president of Hobart college raises an objection which appears to be but too well founded. He says that the entrance examination requirements have been continuously advanced, in imitation of foreign institutions, until college education begins and ends too late; as conditions now

are, the young man cannot become self-supporting until he reaches the age of twenty-eight or thirty years; during the whole period of life when character is formed, he is dependent, and this fact is liable to cripple him for life; the result is a number of educated men unable to make a living.

It is no attack on the school system to say that colleges should not attempt to imitate the higher institutes of learning. Their province is to lay a good foundation; to train the mind for further work, either in the direction of scientific research or practical life, especially the latter, since the vast majority of young men will either have to take up practical work, or utterly fail to be useful. But when colleges, instead of confining themselves to this important work, attempt to cover what really belongs to the universities, their utility is reduced to a minimum. The time must be approaching when that will be considered the "higher education" which enables the scholar to become a successful producer.

A GENIUS. BUT POOR.

According to the Chicago Times-Herald, Prof. Elisha Gray, the inventor of the telephone, is spending the evening of his life in poverty. He is now sixty-three years of age and is living in a humble house in the very shadow of the palaces of men whom his genius made millionaires. The story is pathetic.

Professor Gray, when he had any considerable amount of money, always thought it was enough to last him his lifetime. He spent a year in making one improvement on the telephone. It was bought up on sight for \$50,000. He thought this was enough, so he sent his family to Europe and they spent money for pictures and statuary. It was soon gone, and they came back home to live in extreme want.

The professor then undertook to send autographic messages by telegraph. He borrowed all the money he could get from his friends, and filled his barn full of wires and machinery. He became so absorbed in his idea that he left his home station in the cars from Chicago. His mind was in a perpetual dream. Now this genius is said to have lost all his buoyancy. He has closed his laboratory, and spent the last year working on a bicycle lamp. When it was finished he got but little for it. His financial hard luck has about crushed him.

DANGERS ON WAR SHIPS.

How narrowly serious accidents in our modern warships sometimes are averted is set forth in a letter from a naval officer to the Electric Review. The ship's crew were at target practice at sea, and the officer gives his experience as follows:

"As you probably know, the heavy guns in the turrets are fired by electricity, the gun being discharged simply by pressing a button. The officer in command of the forward turret on our ship during rapid-firing practice was just about to press the button to fire one of our big guns when a gunner's mate was seen to grab at something on the wall of the turret and then fall in a heap on the floor. The officer pressed the button, but the gun was not discharged. When the mate came to he was asked what had happened, and he informed the officer that the breech of the gun had not been locked and that what he grabbed at on the wall was the wires forming the electric firing circuit. When he saw that the officer was prepared to fire the gun and at the same time observed