

of his physician, that his years will be shortened, unless perfect peace and tranquillity of mind can be secured to him.

The history of Bismarck is in every respect a remarkable one and many are the lessons it will convey to coming generations. Prominent among these is the evanescence of glory built on brute force even when directed by great human intelligence. Iron and blood may be powerful for a time, but as foundations for greatness they are not likely to last a generation. It is the achievements of peace, the products of industry, arts and sciences, that give worth to their promoters and lasting prosperity to mankind, and in history they will be remembered long after the deeds of conquerors are placed in the shade of oblivion. It is to "the peace makers" that divine titles are attributed; it is "the meek" that have promise of inheriting the earth.

HERESY HUNTING.

In the defense of Professor Henry Drummond by local readers of his great works on "Natural Law in the Spiritual World" and "The Greatest Thing on Earth," and the expression of sympathy that so good and pure a thinker should be hunted down and branded as a heretic by narrow members of his church, they have curiously failed to inform themselves as to what the nature of Prof. Drummond's alleged heresy actually is. Surely if anything in the two works named could be construed as anti-Calvinistic, then so much the worse for Calvinism, for the bigotry of those who could find fault with the ideas advanced and prosecute their author. For, as one admirer says, those books abound "in faith and hope and charity, in the doctrine of light and life and comfort and peace, and are devoid of threatenings and terrors and torments and darkness;" their style is simple yet strong, the whole treatment of the case is exalted and beautiful.

But unfortunately for the critics of Prof. Drummond's "persecutors," these are not the works for which he is to be called in question. Another notable book has emanated from his study, and forsooth it bears that very suggestive and precarious title, "The Ascent of Man." We believe it will be generally agreed that most of those who have written on that subject have necessarily come into collision with a fundamental idea of Christianity—no matter what its sect or creed. As we understand it, Prof. Drummond is not an exception to this rule. He not only accepts the Darwinian theory as such, but when he finds it insufficient to account for various moral phenomena, he goes a long step further than even that iconoclastic scientist.

An understanding of these facts is necessary to an intelligent criticism of the action of the Scottish church in marking the professor for "its prey." There is nothing very intolerant or surprising about their conduct; on the contrary they could hardly have done anything else under the circumstances, for "advanced thought," when it clashes with recognized dogma, especially when the latter is of prime and fundamental importance, and is ad-

vanced by a leading light of the church, cannot be passed by without comment.

REGULAR AS THE CLOCK.

A recent number of the *Scientific American* has an interesting article on the regularity of ocean liners, in the course of which it is shown from post-office records that these great carriers are, considering the distance they travel, even more reliable and regular in their departure and arrival than railroad trains. Navigation has been reduced to such accuracy that a steamer may be expected almost on the hour. In 1893 the *Campania* of the Cunard line made eight trips, and her average voyage was 5 days, 20 hours and 18 minutes. Last year she made ten trips, and her average was 5 days, 20 hours and 17 minutes, only one minute less than in 1893 in a voyage of 2,770 miles in all sorts of wind and weather. It is shown that even this astounding regularity is not exceptional; for the *Teutonic*, of the White Star line, made twelve trips in 1892 on an average time of 6 days, 4 hours and 8 minutes; in 1894 she made eleven trips, and her average was just a trifle slower—6 days, 4 hours and 17 minutes. And, looking now to the American line, it is found that the *New York*, though not the fastest, has the best record for regularity of any of the Atlantic fleet. Her average time has not varied for years, and she can be expected almost on the minute every voyage. She has crossed the Atlantic more times and has carried more passengers than any other steamer of her age, and has been more regular about it. The *New York* made fourteen trips, west-bound, in 1893, with an average time of 6 days, 21 hours and 31 minutes. In 1894 she made fifteen trips, with an average of 6 days, 21 hours and 45 minutes. Her sailing distance was 2,770 miles. In 1893 she made thirteen trips, east-bound, with an average of 6 days, 20 hours and 30 minutes, which was just one minute faster than her west-bound time that year. In 1894 she made fifteen trips, with an average time of 6 days, 20 hours and 24 minutes. Thus, in crossing the ocean fifty-seven times in both directions at all seasons of the year, her widest variation for two years was only 1 hour and 21 minutes.

NOT EXACTLY RIGHT.

If reports are true concerning the political plots hatched in this country by foreigners, the United States is placed in a position not exactly in accordance with international regulations. Cuban rebels have just had an election of president conducted in this country, and shielded by the graceful folds of the Stars and Stripes, he is ready to commence his operations against our friend—Spain. Palma, the rebel president, seems to be in New York. In San Francisco another rebel president, Antonio Ezeta, is said to be planning an armed attack against Salvador, also a friendly republic. Ezeta contemplates enlisting a force of seventy-five Americans, good fighters and reliable men, and with this army effect a landing in Salvador and conquer

the country. Of course, he expects to be joined by friends in the Central American republic, but his North American followers, though but a handful, he considers sufficient to overthrow a government. Simultaneously rumors are rife of expeditions to Hawaii, fitted out in this country for the rescue of the ex-queen and perhaps the overthrow of the friendly government of that republic. Surely, Spain, Salvador and Hawaii have cause to question the sincerity of the friendship of the United States, if such plots cannot be overthrown.

Switzerland at one time used to be the gathering place of political refugees from various parts in Europe. Under the laws of the country they were able to gather in conferences and lay plans against the lives of the monarchs whose jurisdiction they had escaped, or to spread literature of a dangerous tendency among their own countrymen. But finally the Swiss republic was compelled to withdraw her protection from refugees of that class and refuse them an asylum. Pressure was brought to bear upon her by the friendly powers of Europe, and it would have been as much as her independence was worth to refuse compliance with the suggestions offered.

The United States fortunately stands in a position where no such pressure can be exercised by the three powers mentioned, but it is nevertheless inconsistent with our friendly relations to those nations to harbor their adventurers when they openly and avowedly labor for revolutions. Were the case reversed and it became known that Salvador, for instance, harbored a band of desperadoes who prepared themselves for an armed invasion in the United States, buying up arms and ammunition and enlisting men for that purpose, the proper plan to follow would be pretty clear. It should be no more obscure because the countries concerned are small and unable to enforce their demands. Precedents are often troublesome and sometimes dangerous.

MRS. O'LEARY'S LIBELLED COW.

The death last Wednesday of Mrs. O'Leary, whose cow is supposed to have kicked over the lamp which kindled the fire which laid Chicago in ruins, revives interest in that conflagration, that bovine and that story. With the latter we have only to do at present, and must embrace the opportunity to declare once more that it is a myth pure and simple, a falsehood out of whole cloth. When it first started on its rounds, within a few hours after the great fire blazed out, Mrs. O'Leary branded it as untrue, and she reiterated the charge off and on until her death. The cow, poor thing, has long since gone the way of all beef, but she lived long enough to see a mountain of evidence piled up in her exoneration of the unruly plot attributed to her. The story has gone on blithely, however, and notwithstanding all contradictions, it comes up as smiling, now that Mrs. O'Leary is dead, as if it was every word true. It all illustrates how prone the world is to hang on to a good tale.