

head of the war department they represent the situation."

Still he clung to his office. Secretary Alger may have reason for criticising a system that permits incompetent persons to acquire important offices, but if so the criticism falls on himself first. There undoubtedly is some exaggeration in the stories of the sufferings of the volunteers after the war, unnecessarily colored for political reasons; but there is enough in what has happened to suggest the necessity of keeping the army of the United States above the methods known to a certain class of politicians, and to commence the reform at the top. And then the question is whether there are not other branches of the government service that need purification, too.

ANARCHISM AND ITS CURE.

The fact that the Austrian empress was assassinated in Switzerland, a country where capital punishment has been abolished by law, has started anew a newspaper discussion as to the merits or demerits of that mode of dealing with criminals. On the one hand it is maintained that nothing short of killing is an adequate punishment for murder; on the other hand it is pointed out that the system of solitary confinement adopted by Switzerland is a great deal more of a punishment than any mode of execution. It is hardly possible to deny this.

In the discussion of this matter it should not be forgotten that the class of crime committed by the assassins of the empress and Carnot or Canovas cannot be suppressed by killing the criminals any more than by confining them to cells where they are sure to lose their reason and become raving maniacs. It is due to the teachings of societies consisting of lunatics who consider themselves reformers and martyrs, and as long as these societies are allowed to flourish, the result will be just such fiendish crimes. The idea that the murder of an aged lady could have any possible relation to the social reforms advocated by such societies is that of a lunatic. Something besides the rope or the guillotine is needed. Society must strive to right the wrongs that do exist and of which the lower strata are becoming conscious as a result of the rays of enlightenment that have commenced to penetrate their ranks. More light is needed and more justice in public affairs. Emperor William is said to have arrived at the conclusion that in Romanism only is to be found the bulwark against anarchy. But this cannot be admitted. Romanism has been a power only as long as the masses could be held on that level of enlightenment where blind obedience is possible. A much stronger power for good is that knowledge which prompts the individual to follow the paths of virtue as a result of free choice and with the full understanding of the principles upon which morality rests. In the degree that that knowledge becomes universal, anarchy and the hideous crimes associated with it will become impossible.

A SENATORIAL FORECAST.

The Chicago Times-Herald, a strong gold standard paper, predicts a good working majority for the supporters of the administration in the Senate of the Forty-sixth Congress. The estimate upon which this prediction is based is as follows:

"Counting the Oregon vacancy as filled by a Republican, the political complexion of the Senate is as follows: Forty-four Republicans, thirty-four Democrats, four silver Republicans, two

silver senators from Nevada and six Populists. One-third of these will retire on March 4 next. Of the vacancies occurring on March 4 fifteen are now filled by Democrats, eleven by Republicans and four by Independents. As the latter vacancies will be from Nebraska, Utah, Montana and Nevada, the elections there will make no change in the political complexion of their representation. The Republicans whose terms expire March 4 are: Aldrich of Rhode Island, Burrows of Michigan, Clark of Wyoming, Davis of Minnesota, Hale of Maine, Hanna of Ohio, Hawley of Connecticut, Lodge of Massachusetts, Proctor of Vermont, Quay of Pennsylvania and Wilson of Washington.

"Of their fifteen seats the Silver Democrats will doubtless retain Tennessee, Missouri, Virginia, Delaware, Texas, Mississippi and Florida, and will probably lose Maryland, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, California and North Dakota.

"If Colonel Roosevelt is nominated for governor of New York it is a safe prediction that a Republican legislature will be elected and Senator Murphy's successor will be a Republican. In Indiana the sound money adherents will make a determined effort to retire Senator Turple, and the nomination of an exceptionally strong state ticket gives promise that Mr. Fairbanks's colleague in the next Senate will be a gold standard Republican.

"If these estimates are verified by the election figures this fall and the Populists should succeed in carrying Washington, the Senate of the Fifty-sixth Congress will stand: Republicans, 51; Silver Democrats, 26; Silver Republicans, 4; Silverites, 2; Populists, 7."

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE.

The belief that the lower animals are controlled and directed in their movements exclusively by instinct, that used to be well-nigh universal, is rapidly giving way and promises to disappear altogether in a short time. Prof. J. M. Baldwin has an article entitled the "Story of the Mind" in the Appleton Library of useful stories, in which a great deal of careful investigation and analysis of this psychic subject are disclosed. The professor is a believer in the doctrine that not only does the brute creation think and even reason, but that mind pervades all creation and cites as proof of this the additions made to the store of human knowledge by every great law that is discovered. He substitutes probabilities for chance and claims that "what we are to understand by a chance distribution is one in accordance with law, and one of the nature of which can, for all practical purposes, be closely predicted. If the universe be pregnant with purpose, as we all wish to believe," he adds, "why should not this purpose work itself out by an evolution process under law?—and if under law, why not the law of probabilities?"

The professor holds, in support of his conviction, that animals think and reason, that they are divided into two classes—perfect and imperfect. A perfect instinct enables an animal to perform intelligent acts in the processes of life without instruction or the benefit of example. Imperfect instincts are those which are but partially inherent, and require instruction or example for their development. The bird, for instance, may possess a spontaneous tendency to do certain things, such as singing, nest building, etc., but he will not be able to do them adequately or perfectly if left alone from his birth. These are among the things that he must learn how to do from other birds, and the instruction is usually imparted through example. Animal capacity to acquire and utilize this knowledge has

been the field of some of the most interesting research in animal psychology, and has led to a new view of the relation of instinct to intelligence. Whether the origin or instinct is in reflex action, organic selection or in reason, as has been variously contended, it is plain to the author that mind has had a positive place in its evolution.

The subject is one that appears on the surface to be very simple, but in reality it is abstruse to a vast degree. There be those who do not concede a soul or a mind to the animal kingdom because they do not concede it to the human family; and others believe in the spiritual existence of mankind but do not extend their belief to the brutes. Let the doubters and disbelievers ask themselves this and answer it in a manner consonant with their inclining—What is intelligence and from what is it derived? Is it a substance that man can create, or a condition created for all animate things by a Power superior to man?

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

There is joy in the ranks of the opponents of compulsory vaccination. After a long struggle against tremendous odds they have secured the abolition of the compulsory clause of the vaccination law of England. In future those opposed to vaccination will escape prosecution by declaring before a magistrate within four months after the birth of a child that they have conscientious scruples against the practice.

The Medical Record characterizes this as the most important event which has occurred in the English medical world within the memory of the present generation. And it certainly is significant that England, the home of Jenner, is the first European country to recede from the position first occupied by him. The result cannot but be felt in other countries.

The anti-vaccinationists have claimed for years that the evidence in favor of vaccination is negative and indirect; that the virus is a nasty poison, which often causes diseases and death; that its power to protect against small-pox is never proved and that when the inoculation is effective it often results in cancer, consumption or similar diseases. The medical profession, supported by public opinion, ascribes these allegations to ignorance. It seems, however, that the step taken by the English Parliament justifies the supposition that the evidence against vaccination is stronger than commonly known. At any rate it will be interesting to note the results of the legislative measure now adopted by England. Should small-pox again become epidemic there, public opinion would undoubtedly assert itself. On the other hand, if no dire consequences follow the first step of retreat from a long defended position compulsory vaccination is likely to be doomed for ever.

THE AMERICANS AT MANILA.

Some of our boys who were sent to Manila probably thought that a little partiality was being shown in sending them so far away over such a dreary expanse of ocean, while others were permitted to go to the near-by islands or remain on the borders of this country. No doubt by this time they are congratulating themselves on their good fortune. Even though separated from homes and kindred by many thousands of miles, in the land of a barbarous and inhospitable race and with climatic and other conditions pretty bad for a while, they still have fared well in the matter of general health, which is by far the