

are employed or admitted to membership," and gave this advice to members of his organization:

I deem it important to direct your attention to article II of the constitutional amendment of the United States: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." This you should comply with immediately—every union should have a rifle club. I strongly advise you to devise ways and means to provide every member with the latest improved rifles which can be obtained from the factory at a nominal price. I entreat you to take action on this important question so that in two years we can hear the inspiring music of the martial tread of 25,000 armed men in the ranks of labor.

Nothing further is needed to show that Mr. Boyce does not understand the spirit of the people of Utah, if he hopes to gain their friendship by such un-American expressions and advice; or to prove that the gentleman is not qualified to stand at the head of an organization of liberty-loving citizens. He calls the National Guard murderers, but in view of the incitement to violence which his language contains, it will not be difficult for a thinking mind to deduce where some of the responsibility lies for the murderous work during the recent Leadville strike. The Constitution gives the people the right to keep and bear arms, but it has no toleration for armed clubs or organizations inimical to government existence and control. Mr. Boyce may or may not regret his utterances as yet, but surely every true American citizen who belongs to the federation of miners will feel to blush for shame at the agitator's speech delivered yesterday.

#### EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITINGS.

The investigations of Professor Harnack into the history and sources of early Christian literature lead him to the conclusion that the earliest documents are both genuine and authentic. This result is received with much satisfaction among the believers in the miraculous origin of Christianity, for the reason that the professor is unquestionably an authority upon this subject, and more particularly because he approached his task with a thorough disbelief in the accuracy of the orthodox views. After having reviewed all the facts and adjusted the chronological data he boldly states:

The oldest literature of the Church in all important points and in most of its details is, from the point of view of literary criticism, both genuine and worthy of reliance. In the whole New Testament there is in all probability only a single writing [the Second Epistle of Peter] that can be looked upon as pseudonymous in the strict sense of the word.

He even maintains that of the so-called apocryphical writings, those that are pseudonymous are surprisingly few, and that there are very few interpolations, most of which are entirely harmless.

Concerning the Pauline epistles he states that their dates are really four or five years earlier than the dates generally assigned to them by biblical scholars. The gospel of St. Mark is assigned to the years 65-70, that of St. Matthew

to 70-75, the Gospel of St. Luke [and the Acts of the Apostles] to the years 70-93. On this Professor Harnack remarks: "It is of the highest importance to be able to date within fifteen years a Gospel like that of Luke, which implies the existence of Mark's gospel and speaks expressly of numerous other books of the gospel already written."

Biblical scholars generally give the following dates to the gospels: That of Mark to some time between 48 and 65; Matthew, anywhere between 37 and 63; Luke, between 57 and 63, and John, about 97 A. D. Harnack's investigations furnish a remarkable vindication of these dates.

To the reign of Domitian, the professor says, belong I Peter (perhaps ten to twenty years earlier), the Epistle to the Hebrews (perhaps earlier), the Apocalypse, and the Epistle of Clement. The Johannine gospel and epistles are assigned to the Presbyter John, and are placed not later than 110 and not earlier than 80.

The admission of this scientific critic on this point is regarded as epoch making. It has been generally felt that if it were possible to separate the New Testament from the Apostolic age, the foundations of Christianity would be shaken. On the other hand the recognition of those writings as genuine will inspire new confidence in the divine origin of the Christian faith. The question has also an important bearing upon the Old Testament criticism. For when the reliability of the New Testament authors is admitted, the genuineness of the Law and the Prophets is beyond doubt.

Prof. Harnack's conclusions well illustrate the uncertainty of purely secular learning, such as that which modern critics rely on. What was held as truth and stated with certainty only a few years ago is now repudiated as falsehood. It is never safe to yield well founded faith to the dicta of worldly wisdom.

#### THE PART OF GREECE.

Since the Greeks have suffered almost overwhelming defeat at the hands of a Turkish army vastly superior in numbers, it has become quite popular to make uncomplimentary remarks concerning the courage and capability of the Greek troops; and certainly there seems to be good reason for the charge of poor generalship in the conduct of the war—a charge which the Greek troops and valiant under-officers such as General Smolenski, evidently believe to be true. At the same time there is another view to the situation than that of reproaching the Greeks, and this is presented in a forcibly and clearly in an editorial in the Springfield, Mass., Republican that we reproduce the article used:

There is a plethora of silly criticism of Greece floating about because she has failed to overpower the Turks. As if success or failure at arms settled the right and wrong of things! In this case the cause of Greece is as worthy of one's sympathy as it was three weeks ago. Her courage from first to last has been superb, and her honor will remain untarnished by rout, defeat or even annihilation.

So far as the military reverses of

Greece are concerned, who expected contrary results, supposing that the war were confined to Turkey and Greece? It was recognized at the outset that the main hope of the Greeks was to be aided by insurgents in Macedonia or by the Balkan states. But no aid has come to them. Secure in their rear, the Turks have been able to concentrate all their strength upon driving their army, like a wedge, through the heart of Thessaly. This result has been brought about by the great powers of Europe, which have used every influence to keep possible allies of Greece out of the contest in order that her defeat and humiliation might be rapid and complete. They have kept strong hands on Bulgaria, Servia and Montenegro, while openly aiding the Turks in blockading the island of Crete.

Greece, then, has been struggling single handed against the whole of Europe. When before has so small a power defied such a colossal force? It matters not how severely she is beaten, nor how quickly; the honor and glory of having taken such a stand cannot be taken from her, any more than the Turks, backed by almighty Europe, can claim the faintest title to honor and glory for having crushed a weakling to the earth. History will not measure the performance of Greece by her feats of arms; it will measure it by the initial righteousness of the position she assumed toward Turkish rule, and that is beyond reproach.

But how will Europe fare in the historian's pages? The acts of the concert in this tragedy will not be tested by the fact that the Greeks fled in disorder from Larissa; they will not be vindicated by the triumphant march of Edhem Pasha, directed at every turn by the ablest strategists of the German emperor. The course of Europe will be tested by the results of this affair upon civilization, and how Turkish victories and the triumphant invasion of Christian territory by Moslem hordes can in the end advance the best interests of mankind, remains a mystery.

No Greek has anything to regret for the course his country has pursued. Submission to overwhelming force will have nothing dishonorable in it; the role of the defeated in this case is far more glorious than that of the conqueror.

THE AMERICAN, Philadelphia, Wharton Barker, editor, has in its issue of May 8 many extracts from letters commending that journal's fearless and able course in behalf of the free coinage of silver. Senators Cannon and Rawls both contribute words of encouragement to The American. The editor, Mr. Barker, attended the bimetallic conference in Salt Lake City two years ago, and his paper has been doing yeoman service in the silver cause before and since then, holding a place in the very front rank. May its efforts be appreciated by substantial support, and may they continue to the triumph of the cause of bimetallicism!

THE GREEKS have been badly beaten in the war, yet their losses in men have not been half as great as those of the Turks, which aggregate 33,000 men up to date—more than the whole Greek army engaged in actual fighting.

Forget that the city of Brooklyn is no more. It is now Greater New York.