

that doctrine to abandon their faith and come over to his position. If his conscience smote him so that he could not sleep well because of his first attitude, was he better able to quiet that conscience on the second occasion, when he invited to apostasy the Mormons who established their claim as Christians so firmly that he felt constrained to apologize for his first remark? Upon his own statement that a Christian is "a believer in Christ," who declares that "he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also," of the two parties immediately concerned in the episode related, which is the Christian?

THE PLAGUE IN HONG KONG.

The black plague which for the past four months has decimated the population of some places in China and all but destroyed the magnificent commerce of Hong Kong is said to have its permanent home in one of the poorest and filthiest districts of the empire. The plague came from Meng-tzu or from Pak-hoi to Canton, and from there it spread in various directions.

The two cities mentioned are, according to all reports, situated in one of the most unhealthy parts of China. The climate is hot all the year round and the atmosphere heavily charged with moisture. Decaying matter forms a large proportion of the soil. The water is bad, frequently containing as much as 1,500 grains of solids to one gallon. The population is exceedingly poor, laborers working for from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cents a day. They live in small, unclean hovels unfit for human beings. European visitors often become sick within a day or two after their arrival in these disease-stricken cities and villages.

Here, it is said, the black plague is a yearly visitant and has been from time immemorial. But as heretofore intercourse with the people has been very limited, the epidemic has been mostly confined to its own home. After the annexation of Tonquin by the French the district has been opened up to commerce, and with the facilitated communication, it is feared the plague will be a regular visitor to Canton and from there proceed on its deadly march to other places.

Some important facts have been learned in regard to the terrible disease. One is that the germs do not appear to travel like those of cholera or yellow fever, but to be stationary and confined to the patient and his immediate surroundings. The malady invariably, as far as has been ascertained, is brought by a sick person from place to place. Another discovery equally important is that the plague microbe, whose period of incubation is from eight to nine days, seems to thrive in dilute carbolic acid, while it died when exposed to a low temperature in which other microbes would live.

The efforts made to conquer the disease in Hong Kong were crowned with success. Volunteers formed brigades and visited every house in the city. The habitations were scoured from roof to cellar and every spot disinfected. Sick, dying and dead were removed and furniture and rubbish burned. Steamers and junks were inspected

and every avenue of ingress closely watched. The deadly foe had carried off probably 10,000 victims, but it was conquered at last by the energetic and systematic application of sanitary regulations. The city had suffered immensely, however, and it will take a long time for it to fully recover. On May 1 the population was estimated at 230,000 while two months later it had scarcely 100,000. Hundreds of stores had been closed and hundreds of residences were abandoned. All this was caused chiefly by the inefficiency of the government officials and their tardiness in dealing with the matter. With more prompt action at the outset a great commercial center would have been saved from ruin.

The experience with the Asiatic plague this time and its appearance shortly after the invasion of the French in Tonquin, suggests the necessity of some international measure for the conquest of disease germs. It is well enough to open up new countries for commercial purposes and for the spread of civilization, but if such new countries are breeding places of epidemics, it should be the duty of the advancing representatives of civilization to look to it that the regions are thoroughly cleaned and drained. The black plague has not recently spread terror outside of Asia, but cholera is yearly finding its way to Europe from places where sanitary regulations are almost unknown, although they are in constant communication with the outside world. It is more than probable that with intelligent effort on the part of those concerned, epidemics could be almost stamped out from the earth, and countries like China and Asiatic Turkey ought not to be allowed forever to remain sources of danger to the rest of mankind on account of their slowness to comprehend the necessity of cleaning their cities and villages.

THE CASE OF EZETA.

The question of what to do with Antonio Ezeta, ex-president of Salvador, is one of much interest at present. When the ex-president found refuge on board the Bennington, the new government of the republic had not been recognized by the United States. Shortly after, it was formally recognized, however, and made a demand for the extradition of Ezeta, charging him with murder, arson and many other crimes. It is understood that our government has agreed to allow extradition papers to be served upon the fugitive before a writ of habeas corpus in his behalf can be served upon the captain of the Bennington, and that the vessel therefore is kept outside the three-mile limit and not allowed to enter the harbor until this arrangement shall have been carried out. The principal question involved is whether a political fugitive who as such has found an asylum on an American man-of-war can be delivered up to a foreign government on criminal charges preferred afterwards and evidently for the sole purpose of having him returned and tried on charges of a political nature. As the government at Washington has decided to give the ex-president every oppor-

tunity to show cause why he should not be extradited, it is expected that the discussion of this question will lead to a final decision of some very interesting points of international law.

According to the regulations of the navy department the commander of the Bennington was justified in taking Ezeta on board, for according to these regulations, United States ships were to be made a place of refuge for persons, other than criminals, including political refugees, "as the claims of humanity may require." To avoid trouble in the future in cases similar to that of Ezeta this regulation has now been changed and the right of asylum restricted to "extreme or exceptional cases, such as the pursuit of a refugee by a mob." By this regulation, the policy of granting the right of asylum is entirely reversed. It is stated that it has no foundation in international law but rests entirely on custom.

BRITISH DECADENCE.

The decline of Britain from her boasted supremacy in the manufacturing industries has caused her statesmen and political economists much worry, and though natural vanity makes them loth to admit that their country is being passed in the race, they are occasionally compelled to do so by the stern facts presented. Another instance now comes to the front, and one that seems to be particularly galling to British pride, judging from the remarks of the London *Ironmonger*, an influential journal among tradesmen. This paper announces that there are many branches of metal manufacture in which the Germans and Belgians, as shown in the Antwerp exposition, excel the English, and regretfully accepts the view of its correspondent who is "decidedly of the opinion that British supremacy in manufactures is slowly but surely vanishing." The *Ironmonger* adds that "it is as well that the view should be emphasized, lest by inertness, inattention and over confidence we go down the incline with unnecessary rapidity."

As a means of checking this tendency, the *Ironmonger* approves the policy now adopted by many British manufacturers of refusing to exhibit their products at international fairs lest they be copied by rivals. This is a direct confession that the paper lacks confidence in the ability of the Briton to maintain his own in the open field. There was a time when he was more than anxious to display his handiwork in expositions, being confident that none could surpass him. But now that is changing, and while he might bear being outrivalled by his younger relative on this side of the water, to be beaten by the continental manufacturers is, in the opinion of the paper quoted from, rather more than should be submitted to in public at least.

"SCOTCH OFFICIAL corruption wherever found!" shrieks an exchange; to which may well be added, "Irish, English, German, American and every other kind of official corruption wherever found should be not scotched but killed."