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**THE FRENCH SITUATION.**

On the 11th of this month, the law separating church and state in France went into effect in Paris, as a beginning of its enforcement all over the country. By that law the state ceases to give financial support to the clergy, men of any denomination, and church property is to be owned and administered by societies under the control of the state, instead of by the church.

The Pope refused to accept the new arrangement, and when his encyclical containing this decision first appeared, a storm of protests arose in France. Even ecclesiastical dignitaries expressed the opinion that a mistake had been made, and the press was full of gloomy forebodings. French Catholics "deeply attached to their faith and worship" sent a "supplication" to "their father," and declared that the encyclical had had a painful impression in the highest Catholic circles. It was predicted by these supplicants that "Protestantism will occupy our churches and presbyteries, and will be enabled also to claim the souls of the faithful."

But, notwithstanding such remonstrances, the Pope remained firm. He takes the view that the law is the result of a conspiracy of philosophers "who have our politicians in leading-strings." And he is quoted as having said: "I am like the father of a family—I cannot permit outsiders to enter my house and regulate the interests of my children without consulting me."

One peculiarity of the situation is this, that now the entire church has accepted the decree of the Pope, and that the Catholic press is unanimous in applauding the stand taken by the church. Even the London Saturday Review considers the papal encyclical "the bravest thing in truth that has come to France from the Vatican since the day when Pius VI. hurled the 'divine constitution' of the clergy in the face of the men of the first revolution." The same paper is quoted as follows: "It should herald the dawn of a new era in the annals of French Catholicism, an era in which the church will abandon the Erastian superstition that has been her blight in the past, and set up against the Jacobin's enthusiasm for the tyrannical state the Christian's zeal for religion and orderly liberty."

From this distance it may appear that the church ought to have yielded to the pressure brought to bear upon it, and this the government seems to have expected. But the principle involved is this, has the state the moral right to deprive any church of the natural right of its members to administer its own affairs? In appearance the strife in France is the struggle of a church against the legal authority of the government; in fact it is a protest against what the Catholics consider the encroachment of the state upon the domain of the church. From this point of view the struggle in France is, as the London Saturday Review puts it, a conflict for "the cause of Christendom."

The government is as firm as the church. Instructions have been issued to the officials to sequester all church property which is not claimed under the law, and to administer it according to the law governing property whose owners are absent from France and to force the doors of the church upon the warden's decline to surrender the keys. The prefect of the Seine has posted notices throughout the city informing all families that after Dec. 11 they must apply to the mayors of their districts for the funeral trappings used in the churches. M. Briand has prohibited the collection of fees by cures for marriages or funerals.

If these provisions are carried out, it is probable that riots and violence will ensue. It is an unfortunate situation. It does not pay any country to encourage strife among the citizens, especially on religious lines. The French radicals will have to yield to the demands for modifications in the law, in the interest of harmony and safety. For the creation of internal strife in a state is a dangerous undertaking.

**CHRISTMAS CANDLES.**

The adherents of the Moslem faith do not celebrate Christmas in the same sense as their Gentile neighbors, but for a week, commencing on December 11, they observe what is called the feast of dedication. In memory of the dedication of the temple, after Judas Maccabeus had defeated Antiochus Epiphanes and re-entered Jerusalem. The first concern of that great Hebrew patriot and warrior after he and his followers had won the victory was the rededication of the temple, which had been defiled and polluted by order of Antiochus.

One of the features of this festival is the kindling of lights, which seems to find a parallel in the Christmas candles of the Christians. On the evening before the first day of the week's festival, we are told, one light is kindled in every synagogue and every home, and every following night the number of lights is increased by one, until the eighth night every house and synagogue has its eight lights all burning. The kindling of the lights is said to be in memory of the following incident from the Maccabean period of Jewish history:

"When the priests entered the temple to purify the holy places profaned by the Syrians, they could not at first find any ritually prepared oil with which to light the 'Ner Tamid,' or perpetual light. At last, by dint of much searching, they found a small cruse of consecrated and unpolluted oil which had been sealed and hidden for some such occasion as this. Through a miracle this cruse lasted for an entire week, until the new ritual oil could be prepared for the seven branched candelstick, or 'Menorah.'"

Undoubtedly the Christmas candles of the various churches are a reflex of these ancient Hebrew observances, though their original meaning has not been retained.

**SPEAKING OF A HOLY WAR.**

A dispatch states that the people of Morocco have been advised that a "Christian invasion" of their country is imminent, and that they must prepare for a "holy war."

For several years it has been predicted that France must compel Morocco to accept her advice on financial matters, and that hostilities will have to be resorted to. Has the time come? Is war in North Africa imminent? Will other nations become involved? These are questions suggested by the dispatch from Tangier.

It is said to say that if the Sultan of Morocco, Mulai Abdel-Aziz, proclaims a holy war, it is because he is compelled to do so by the fanaticism of his subjects who are ignorant of the military strength of the European powers. He himself is a young man educated in European style and far from belligerent. In fact, his taste is said to be for automobiles and blondes, and not for the hardships of war. But some of his faithful subjects are capable of threatening to kill him, unless he undertakes to crush the European powers and to re-establish the supremacy of Islam. And he may have to yield to counsel backed by the arguments of fanaticism.

If the call to a "holy war" is issued, how far will it reach? Possibly over the greater part of the Mohammedan world. Morocco has 5,000,000 inhabitants. Algeria, Tunis, and Western Sahara have 8,000,000 more. All these believe in the authority of the Sultan of Morocco, whom they call "our lord." Even the rebellious tribes would fight for him, if the green flag of the prophet is unfurled.

It is generally believed that a holy war once started in any Muslim country would add fuel to its fire, as it spread. Tribal hatreds, class feuds and individual wrongs would be forgotten. In Northwest Africa fanaticism would weld together the different races, Moors, Kabyles, Shillahs, Negroes, Berbers, Bedouins, etc., even the Sahara's plundering Touaregs, would fly to arms. Algeria and Tunisia would revolt. These provinces are held now only by force. Their inhabitants must contrast their own condition, as subjects of France, with that of their free ancestors, who ruled the Mediterranean. Summoned by "God's lieutenant," stimulated by the hope of freedom, the Algerines and Tunisians would most assuredly side with their Moorish brethren. It is clear that no picnic campaign would suffice for the subjugation of these 15,000,000 subjects. But to their aid, it is supposed, would come the fanatical Mussulmen in Egypt, Turkey, and Arabia, and France would find herself with a tremendous problem before her. Islam, it is said, is reviving, and the French republic with its internal strife now threatening to break out, would not be in a position to pursue a vigorous war against an enemy fired with fanaticism and patriotism.

Bob Forrester bobbed up serenely after all.

A moving scene—the seas of mud in Salt Lake's streets.

The Colorado river is almost as hard to control as a trust.

Dubois must feel much better with all that bile off his stomach.

According to Dame Rumor along with skyscrapers go scraps.

Thought can be concealed as readily in the new spelling as in the old style.

Doubtless the postal system can be all that bile out of his system.

It seems that all the savages in the Congo Free State are by no means black.

The proposition to increase the pay of congressmen includes no back salary grab.

An elastic currency, like an elastic garter, is very apt to fall down at the very moment it should stay up.

According to the evidence, Cornelius Shea of the Chicago Teamsters' union was cut out for a first class terrorist.

The country already has an inheritance tax. It is paying public debts of all kinds that have been handed down from generation to generation.

There is a sentiment in Russia in favor of an entente with the United States for the control of the Pacific. Russia has learned that she cannot go it alone.

It is stated that the college fraternities have decided to bar out all Japanese candidates. As the matter is not specifically covered by treaty it can hardly become the subject of diplomatic representations.

Commissioner James R. Garfield thinks federal license will be the method which will control corporations and prevent monopolies. The great trouble with the corporations has been too much license, though it has not been of the federal variety.

Admiral Capps' contention that government navy yards can be built as good warships as can be built by contract may be correct, but the best built battleship the government ever had, tested by use, is the Oregon, a contract-built warship. No warship has ever equaled her feat in sailing fourteen thousand miles and engaging in a battle, and all without one single repair having to be made.

Representatives of the Orthodox and Reformed Hebrew congregations of New York have joined in a protest before the committee on elementary schools against the observance of Christmas festivities in the public schools. This is rather surprising and

can only bring these congregations into disrepute and furnish ammunition to Jew baiters. And then they should remember that after all America professes to be a Christian land, and Christmas is the great feast of Christendom.

**THE WAR IS OVER.**

With compliments fluttering back and forth between Washington and Tokio, and the senators and representatives from California expressing renewed affection for him whom Senator Perkins calls the great, patriotic President, the Japanese difficulty seems about to dissolve.

**JAPANESE IN UNITED STATES.**

The outcry of California against the Japanese makes the counts figures interesting. In 1899 there were 2,939 Japanese in the United States and 12,360 in Hawaii. In 1900 there were 24,326 in the United States, 61,111 in Hawaii, 279 in Alaska and 284 at military and naval stations abroad. Of those in the United States 23,376 were living in California, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico, as against 1,253 in 1899. The Japanese have been arriving in San Francisco recently at the rate of 1,000 a month. It is estimated that there are 50,000 in California, which had 10,181 in 1900 and only 1,147 in 1899. About 10,000 are in San Francisco, 1,000 being women.

**THE JAPANESE AS SEA KINGS.**

Worcester Gazette.  
 Although ready enough to praise the President's attitude toward the Japanese question, as regards their general principle, British observers are cautious as to how they express disapproval of the San Francisco program. Although Great Britain is tied to Japan by one of the most binding of international treaties, for offense and defense, the peoples of the two empires are by no means bound together. On the part of the British people at least, there is a growing conviction that the Japanese are far from being the harmless little men they were thought to be when the first Anglo-Japanese treaty was drawn up.

**MONEY FOR SCHMITZ.**

Portland Oregonian.  
 A number of millionaires are said to be rallying to the defense of Mayor Schmitz, who, from all accounts, is in rather a serious predicament. One of these wealthy adherents is quoted as saying: "I will give 1,000,000, if necessary, to help him out." If Schmitz is innocent, as we must presume he is until the jury decides otherwise, it ought to be unnecessary for him to use large sums of money in establishing his innocence. San Francisco citizens, as a rule, are not unfair, and they can do well on by taking enough interest in the case to prevent its being used improperly. No great amount of money is required anywhere, even in San Francisco, to get an innocent man out of the toils of the law, and the millionaire friends of Mayor Schmitz may aid him most if they keep well in the background.

**CANAL TO LAKE NIPISSING.**

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
 An immediate step to be taken in the gigantic canal projects of Canada is the opening of Lake Nipissing to the navigation of the large boats of the Great Lakes. This is but a small section of the work that has been outlined, including a canal from upper Georgian bay to the Ottawa river and another from lower Georgian bay through Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario. The Nipissing canal, however, is an undertaking of "use" importance that it is understood that the Canadian government will commence operations in the near future. In fact the preliminary work of survey has already been completed, and it is not improbable that ground will be broken in the spring. Lake Nipissing is near the famous Cobalt country, so rich in mineral wealth. This district is handicapped at present by its remoteness and the difficulty of transporting ore to the smelting centers. With Lake Nipissing connected with the Great Lakes these drawbacks will be to a large degree eliminated, and the Cobalt district will become one of the great ore producing regions.

**JUST FOR FUN.**

Modern Prophecy.  
 December magazines are out with the apparently authentic information that Christmas is coming.—Chicago News.

Distance Didn't Lend Enchantment.  
 He—I see Prof. Korn of Munich claims to have telegraphed pictures a distance of 82 miles.

She—Now I come to think of it, those last pictures I have taken looked as if the photographer was away off—Yonkers Statesman.

Storm Specialist.  
 From a new novel: "A dark cloud gathered on her brow. In freezing silence she left him." He knows enough now to apply for a job with the weather bureau.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Low View of Aeronautics.  
 Instead of getting up individual airplanes, why doesn't Santos Dumont content himself with inventing some sort of a parachute that will rob a slippery spot in the pavement of its terrors?—Denver Republican.

They Didn't Ring the Bells.  
 Dick—I know a girl who accepts rings from men she doesn't know.

Clara—I don't believe it. How could she?

Dick—Why, she has to, you know; she's a telephone girl.—Tit-Bits.

A Yellow Politician.  
 "Am I a slave?" belittled the political orator.

"You're under the yoke," remarked a small boy, in as much defiance as he let fly an egg.—Princeton Tiger.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS.**

In fiction, special articles, illustrations, and departmental work the Home Magazine for December is essentially a Christmas magazine. The exquisite cover design by Howard Chandler Christy is indicative of the selections of interesting matter throughout the number. "The Finish," a tale of Christmas eve and a lumber camp, by Bradford R. Daniels, is a thrilling narrative which is splendidly illustrated. "A Christmas Dinner," by Walker Kennedy, with illustrations, by Howard Chandler Christy, is a delightful little story dealing with the Christmas day in a great city, while "Irish Cherries," by Albert J. Kline, is an amusing story that furnishes humor enough for the whole magazine. "The Ring Song of the Sea," by Catherine Markham, and "The Lullaby Ship," by Margaret Brooks, are representative of the poetry in the Christmas number. The departments, mainly about people and places, interviews, are of more than usual merit this month; while the departments, versatile American women, cookery, floriculture, and gardening are well sustained and highly instructive. For the feminine mind "Original Recipes for Christmas Dinners," by Elizabeth Morrison, "Dainty Gowns from Paris," with photographs, by

Loisette Kargo, Beauty and Health, and two pages of designs for home-made Christmas gifts, form an interesting and helpful variety of subjects which are highly appreciated.—The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

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 Modern Vaudeville.  
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 Mlle. Alexandra and Mons. Bertie,  
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 Pero & Wilson, Kinodrome.  
 Every evening (except Sunday) 10c  
 2c, 5c, Box seats \$1.00. Matinee  
 Daily Except Sunday and Monday, 5c  
 2c and 10c. Box seats, 7c.

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**TONIGHT.**  
 Matinee Saturday, 1:30 p. m.  
 A magnificent production of the  
 beautiful rural drama,  
**THE LITTLE HOMESTEAD**  
 A play every mother and daughter  
 should see. Superb cast. Elaborate  
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 Coming Next Week  
 "UNCLE JOH PERKINS."

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 The Lyric Stock Company in The  
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