

causes is responsible for this decline. Infidelity has been aggressive in this century as never before, appealing no longer only to scholars but to the masses. Its tenets have been preached through scientific treatises and more powerfully still through the so-called religious novel. Biblical criticism with its reckless disregard of fact has had an influence for evil, and then in some respects science has run against orthodox Christianity.

To the readers of the "News" it will be of special interest to note that modern Christianity, according to the figures presented, reached its high-tide mark about the time of the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The statistics commence with the year 1833. At that time the Church of God, reared upon the divine foundation had commenced to show its beauty and magnificent proportions to the world. It had received the promise that the "keys of the kingdom" should never be taken away. That was the bright dawn of a new day upon the earth. It was an indication of the near fulfillment of the promise, "Behold I make all things new."

Many religious systems have lived and succumbed with the civilizations with which they were associated. Christianity conquered the religions of Rome, Greece, the Scandinavian and other countries. Christianity is still destined to go on until the earth worships at the feet of its Redeemer, but the Christianity that will accomplish this work will be the religion of the Son of God, not an imitation thereof. Modern Christianity, orthodox Christianity may be waning, but true Christianity, guided by the light of revelation and upheld by the power of the Almighty, will remain. The coming world-religion is neither an eclectic system of doctrines and ethics, nor any old system reformed, but the Gospel of Jesus preached by authority from on high.

WAGES AND RELIGION.

In a pamphlet entitled Prosperity for Christ, the author endeavors to prove that high wages follow the course of the highest form of religion. In China, he says, the average wages are 10 cents a day. In India they are 11 cents a day and in Japan 12 cents. In Mohammedan countries, Persia and Turkey for instance, the average is 20 cents a day. In countries where the Greek religion prevails, the average of wages is higher. At St. Petersburg it is 24 cents, and at Athens, 27 cents. Roman Catholic countries range from 30 cents in Italy and Austria to 40 cents in France and Belgium. Thirty-seven cents is the average in Malta, the Azores, Mexico, Brazil, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. In Protestant countries wages range from an average of 40 cents a day in Prussia to \$1.00 a day in the United States. For Holland it is given as 45 cents; Denmark, 52 cents; England, 65 cents, and Canada 80 cents. The difference in wages, that is in national prosperity, the author of the pamphlet argues, is due entirely to the influence of the religious systems prevailing in the different countries.

THAT RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Judging from expressions, there is much indignation among the people around the railroad depot on account of the shocking accident by which poor little Annie Lidell met her death in this city yesterday, November 11. It is said there have been no less than five narrow escapes this week, and if this is true, it is no wonder if people now de-

mand that some effectual steps be taken for the prevention of the slaughter of innocents. The place where the accident happened is a public thoroughfare. Children on their way to the University have to pass there, and by some means or other, even at some expense to the railroad, the street must be made safe.

Railroad companies may have men who have lost health or limbs in their service, and it is to their credit that they secure for these some employment, but this does not justify them in placing incompetent invalids in important and responsible positions.

The funeral services over the remains of the little girl will be held tomorrow, Sunday. We hope there will be a large attendance of sympathizing friends. This will be some comfort to the broken-hearted parents.

ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

Now that Germany is specially interested in Turkish affairs, the condition of the Armenian Christians should command the attention of the government and people of the great fatherland. From recent reports it appears that the persecution continues. The national Armenian relief association, of which the Hon. David Brewer, of the Supreme court, is president, sends Public Opinion a translation of the article published in Germany by the Rev. Hans Fischer. Herr Fischer says:

Before the great massacres the Christian population managed to keep enough to live on. Now all is changed. The peasant must actually starve to death. A farmer can find no market. The Christian artisan finds no work. Only this summer, during my stay in Armenian territory, Armenian villages were attacked and the Christian inhabitants slaughtered. The village in which I passed the last night was on the following night leveled to the ground. Women who fled to our relief station were this summer maltreated in the most cruel manner. Priests of the Gregorian church were thrust into large beehives. Only this summer I have seen hanging in great flaps from a tree the skin of an Armenian village priest, which had been stripped from his living body because he would not denigrate Christ.

TO HOLD AND GOVERN.

The November Forum has an interview with ex-Minister Denby, who for a dozen consecutive years was our minister to China, on the Philippine question. During the record-breaking official residence abroad Mr. Denby had of course opportunities for learning of the adjacent countries and he seems to have improved them. He is of the opinion that if it could be ascertained today that an army would not be necessary, or that even a small body of troops would suffice for the purpose of looking after the islands, the opposition to their annexation would be diminished considerably. He thinks it the dread of a great force that the people shrink from mostly, and says we might pattern after Great Britain's East Indian policy in that respect with profit.

Mr. Denby thinks we have the right as conquerors to hold the Philippines, that we have the right to hold them as part payment of a war indemnity. This policy may be characterized as unjust to Spain; but it is the result of the fortunes of war. All nations recognize that the conqueror may dictate the terms of peace. The first answer he received to a telegram sent by him, asking on the part of China that peace

negotiations should be commenced, and offering to concede the independence of Corea and to pay a reasonable war indemnity, was: "Japan is willing to enter on peace negotiations; but she will dictate the terms."

Mr. Denby says he is in favor of holding the Philippines because he cannot conceive of any alternative to our doing so, except the seizure of territory in China; and he prefers to hold them rather than to oppress further the helpless government and people of China. He wants China to preserve her autonomy, to become great and prosperous; and he wants these results not for the interests of China, but for our interests. He states that he is not the agent or attorney for China and as an American looks not to the promotion of China's interests, or Spain's or any other country's, but simply of our own.

These are wise and patriotic utterances. The Philippines were designed for a different destiny from that which would have been theirs under the withering, crushing grasp of the Spanish oppressor, and the change must needs come through and by reason of, not merely American control but American ownership. When the whirlwind of flame swept Montijo's fleet out of existence it simply obeyed the fiat of fate; Dewey was the agent through whom a registered decree of Providence was given expression. It is quite useless to expend words or efforts in the endeavor to reverse the situation or make it different from what it is.

There must, there can be no steps backward. The islands have fallen into our hands, and it would be amusing if it were not at such a time annoying to have some one of those opposed to annexation point out by what means we could honorably and with perfect satisfaction all around let them go. Of course we could recall our forces and let the Spanish and natives resume fighting for supremacy until some other nation stepped in and took possession of the magnificent prize which honorably and properly fell to us, but we will not do anything of that kind. In the first place this would be to negative one of the principles to uphold which the war was begun and fought out—freedom from Spanish rule. The natives could not control themselves or form a government upon which other nations could rely for twenty-four hours or deal with equitably for any length of time, and the powers have no business there except in a purely commercial sense. They realize this themselves. No; the responsibility of giving good and stable government to the Philippines is upon Uncle Sam's shoulders and he could not if he would escape it.

WEALTH IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

The discovery of gold in the Klondike region and the existence of vast iron ore deposits in the northern part of Sweden have led to the belief that the Arctic regions will ultimately be populated though hitherto the inhospitable climate has prevented the establishment of large settlements there. Wherever wealth is to be found, people are sure to be attracted and the battle for existence will be commenced.

It has recently been advanced as a plausible theory that the precious metals of the world will be found in greatest abundance in the Arctic regions, because when the world was a molten mass, revolving on its axis, the tendency of all metals was naturally towards the axis or the poles, and that when the plastic mass solidified the gold and silver were concentrated near the poles. Should this theory be confirmed the finest deposits of the precious