

complainingly; he is absolutely faithful and honest. Brooke said that he could lend money to a Malay to carry on some commercial venture with the absolute certainty that the man would repay it. If he did not make enough the first season he would work a second season and not return until ready to pay his debt.

There are two or three millions of this interesting and, as it seems, misunderstood race in the Philippines. Undoubtedly centuries of misrule has developed their bad traits rather than any noble qualities of which they may originally have been in possession, but if the United States undertakes the responsibility for their future education, the task should not be considered an impossible one, in view of the antecedents of the race, and particularly in view of the rapid progress of civilization in Japan, where also, undoubtedly, Malay blood largely prevails.

#### COST OF STANDING ARMIES.

The advocates of European militarism might profitably consider the cost of the armies supposed to be needed for the maintenance of peace. M. Ed. Thery, editor of the *The European Economist*, has lately studied the subject and published his conclusions. He finds that in 1865 France, Russia, Germany, Italy, the Pontifical States, England, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland spent the comparatively large sum of \$514,850,000 on their armies and navies. After the battle of Sadowa France did not increase her military expenses much, and neither did Russia. The English and Italians cut down expenses, but the Germans spent more millions than ever. In 1869-70 the total military expenses of the nine nations enumerated reached \$524,000,000, but this was a beginning merely. After the Franco-German treaty all Europe was filled with apprehension, and armaments were the rage. Bismarck's hate for France grew more bitter, and in 1875, feeling that he had the power to win, he sought to force war. The intervention of the czar only prevented him from doing so. In that year the military expenses of Europe were \$653,400,000, an increase of \$124,500,000 since 1870.

The continued increase of armaments carried the total military expenditure of Europe up to \$765,400,000 in 1881. In that year France expended \$203,200,000, Russia \$174,400,000, Germany \$102,200,000, Austria (in German alliance) \$62,200,000, and England \$152,000,000. In the last twelve months of 1897-98 the total military expenses of the European nations have reached the sum of \$919,200,000. From 1865 to 1898 the annual expenditure has increased \$404,400,000.

These figures do not include money spent on strategic railways; nor the loss to the nations on account of retention of 3,121,430 men as soldiers in the standing armies—a loss which cannot well be calculated. They show a condition appalling enough to prompt even the czar of Russia to call a halt in the onward march of militarism.

#### THE DREYFUS CASE.

At last there is a chance for Dreyfus, the lonely prisoner of Devil's Island. The ministerial council of France has decided to appoint a special commission to investigate the case. This commission will be composed of eminent jurists and the matter will be approached in a strictly legal way, without sentimentality. As we understand it, the first question to decide is whether the trial of the unfortunate officer was fair. If the commission finds that it was not, a new trial will be ordered.

In view of the fact that nearly everybody not interested in the condemna-

tion of the prisoner believes in his innocence, the chances are that a new trial will be ordered and the guilt fastened where it belongs. This will be satisfactory to the condemned man and his friends, in case his innocence is established, but even then how can the country compensate him for the tortures endured, mental and physical, during years of imprisonment in an iron cage upon a lonely rock in the ocean? The Dreyfus case will remain a dark spot in the history of France, until it is blotted out by a herculean effort on the part of the nation to cleanse the Augean stable and deprive those in authority of the power to inflict further injustice in order to cover up their own iniquity. Under a republican form of government a Dreyfus case should be impossible. Else what is there to recommend a popular government in preference to despotism?

#### STUDY SPANISH.

Hon. Hoke Smith was once secretary of the interior in President Cleveland's cabinet, and is a man of sound judgment and considerable ability. He has recently evoked some discussion not altogether free from criticism because of suggesting to the boys of Atlanta, Georgia, that they at once begin the study of the Spanish language, not only to study but to master it. In view of the new territory abroad which is about to come under the control of the United States, and that in every one of those new possessions save one Spanish is the language most used, the advice would seem to be timely and proper. Trade and all kinds of communication with those places is already increasing, but after all the settlements relating to their occupancy and control are made, the increase will be in a much greater ratio than now. Under these circumstances, no argument should be needed to show us how useful—in some cases how indispensable—a knowledge of the Spanish language will be.

The Church missionaries and settlers in Mexico and other places where Spanish is almost exclusively spoken have in many cases acquired the language with facility and correctness. It is not nearly so difficult as French or German and is more musical than either. Studying it is many removes from a hardship and once entered upon a desire to proceed seems to be acquired. No doubt Mr. Smith's suggestion will meet with more favor than opposition, although the latter is quite prevalent in places, largely due, no doubt, to the foolish prejudice which has been created against anything Spanish.

The noted writer Edgar Saltus gives the subject his facetious attention. He thinks it a beneficent Providence which has enabled man to despise that which he does not appreciate. There is an adage which holds that another language is a second purse. It may be, says Saltus, patriotic to speak English incorrectly, but otherwise there is nothing treasonable in writing Spanish well. Spanish is not merely the tongue of the enemy, it is the language of Latin-America. In addition it possesses a literature which is varied if not vast. At present production is slack. In contemporary Italy the most considerable contributions are bad translations of cheap French trash. It is the same thing in Spain. Native novelists are scarce. Neither at home nor abroad do they supply the demand. In Spain, and particularly South America, "there are audiences large, voracious and unfed. It would be strategy to supply their needs. Our crop of novelists, always abundant, suffers greatly from lack of transport. There are markets, here is the product. Mr. Smith is quite right.

Let the lads learn Spanish, the girls too; let them learn to write it as well. Then when they deploy for action, after conquering with the sword, we shall conquer with the pen."

Sound reasoning, notwithstanding the unique manner in which it is expressed; so is the suggestion that Tagalog may come in handy. Reference was previously made in this article to an exceptional case in which Spanish is not the language chiefly used, and Tagalog is the exception. This is the native tongue of the Philippine islander, and like himself is an offshoot of Malay, with which in some respects it is identical. This language is said to be even easier to learn than Spanish, but we are at liberty to regard such a statement as at least doubtful. Of course much depends upon intuitive ability; some would learn Spanish easier than any other language, while others would have great difficulty in picking it up at all, and a few perhaps would have to give it up altogether. These would doubtless be very few, and it is justifiable in any one who has the time making the attempt at least.

An English court has decided a case which ought to be of interest to the traveling public in any country where the seat grabbing in railroad cars is the rule rather than the exception. A traveler, having occasion to leave the car at a way station for a few moments, left his umbrella on the seat until his return. Another passenger took the seat and refused to vacate until forcibly ejected. Counter suits were brought, and the case was decided in favor of the original occupant, the presiding judge holding that he had a right to eject the intruder by the use of reasonable force, if necessary.

The assassination of the Austrian empress has resulted in retaliation upon Italians. In Gratz an Italian peddler has been lynched, six deaths have occurred at Trieste, and hundreds of Italian laborers have been dismissed from the public works. To ordinary people it is extremely difficult to understand that vengeance belongs to the Supreme Ruler of men. They do not realize that the evil doer is under the curse of debt to those he has wronged, until the latter cancel the debt by committing new acts of injustice, new crimes.

Gen. Corea, Spanish minister of war, says Gen. Toral should be court-martialed for his conduct at Santiago. The war minister has got the wrong name. Corea and Blanco should be court-martialed for the shameful failure to furnish the troops in Santiago with the supplies and reinforcements which could have been sent them while the American attack was being planned.

It is clear that uncleanness on the part of Spaniards is a more powerful weapon against Americans than even Mauser rifles. This has been established both at Santiago and in Porto Rico; but Manila seems to be determined on adding an additional testimony to the fact.

Now the news comes that the Philippine islanders have perfect confidence in the Americans, will ask for a protectorate, or will do almost anything the Americans desire. There is one prominent feature in all this, viz: Spain cannot rule the Philippines any more.

The Turk has decided to yield to the demands regarding the disarmament of Mussulmans in Crete. Now that he has got his hand in the yielding business, it might be profitable to the Constantinople gentleman to pay that little bill of Uncle Sam's without delay.