

first that of providing bread for all; secondly, of providing education for all, and then to secure a universal brotherhood.

Civilization alone, however, will never solve these problems. Without the divine force it is as powerless as are apparently the rays of the sun striking the surface of the moon, where the atmospheric conditions are not favorable to the production of life. Morality is the most powerful factor in the progress of mankind. It has been demonstrated repeatedly in the past and it will be demonstrated again that no structure of civilization, however artistic in its architecture, will remain, unless the foundations are laid in obedience to divine law.

### BAD TOMATO CATSUP.

Last week more than a dozen prominent San Francisco grocers were cited to appear in court and answer to the charge of selling adulterated tomato catsup. The prosecution was instituted by the board of health, in its endeavor to prevent the sale of impure foods. Out of twenty-three samples of catsup tested, twenty-one were found to be adulterated; the means of adulteration varied, but salicylic and boracic acid were found in nearly all the samples, and twelve of them had been artificially colored with coal oil colorings. The adulterated catsup was from manufacturers in San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Camden, N. J., and Shrewsbury, N. J.; the samples represented fifteen different makers of catsup.

A glance over the list of brands condemned and a comparison with catsups sold in this city shows that the brands are identical with those of many kinds sold by grocers here. Notwithstanding the fact that local manufacturers of catsup put up a pure article, and could supply the greater part of the market if the patronage came to them, yet consumers seem to prefer the impure importation, judging by the relative demands for the home and outside product. Of course, if people want the inferior article, which goes at the same price, they have their choice, which in this instance does no credit to their desire for the best food products. If they rely on the local provisions against impure foods to protect them from imposition, their trust is in a broken reed. A note of the San Francisco tests may direct the attention of some to the fact of many food adulterations being in the market, and may suggest that customers would add to their own safety by discriminating between the different brands of canned goods they purchase.

### THE WARSHIPS OF 1896.

In its Saturday issue the Scientific American gives some attention to the progress made in the nations that are augmenting their war armament on the high seas, and points out that the close of the year 1896 sees no abatement in the craze for naval shipbuilding which has taken possession of the nations. England, France and Russia continue to make enormous expen-

ditures on their fleets, and Germany, on a smaller scale, is maintaining her activity of the last few years. Speaking generally of the designs, it is remarked that there is a tendency to sacrifice armor to armament and speed. This is very noticeable in the latest battleships of the English navy, known as the new Renown class, which, with a displacement of nearly 13,000 tons, will have only eight inches of armor on the sides, six inches on the bulkheads and ten inches on the turret. On the other hand, they will carry nearly 2,000 tons of coal and steam about nineteen knots. It will thus be seen that the dividing line between battleship and armored cruiser is gradually disappearing. Regarding the progress made in increasing the rate at which vessels can be forced through the water, attention is called to the fact that one of the most sensational events of the year was the speed attained by the torpedo boat destroyers Desperate, of the British navy, and Forban, of the French navy, both of which exceeded thirty-one knots an hour. As to the naval progress of the United States, that of the past year has been altogether unprecedented. The most notable feature has been the completion of that powerful trio of battleships, the Indiana, Massachusetts and Oregon, which are universally conceded to be the most powerful fighting machines afloat. Each of them considerably exceeded the contract speed at its trial, the Oregon touching seventeen knots an hour; the Brooklyn was nearly two knots ahead of its trial speed of twenty knots, and this vessel also enjoys the distinction of being the most effective ship of her class afloat; the monitors Monadnock and Terror, the ram Katabulu, and the torpedo boat Ericsson also have been accepted. By these accessions to its naval strength, the United States has now moved up to sixth place, and before long will be ahead of Germany on the list, if the present activity continues.

### LEGISLATIVE HONOR.

It may be a clever way to reflect upon the members of an assembling legislature to express a disbelief in "the sense of justice or appreciation of high purposes of modern legislators," but the reflection analogically is quite unfair. No doubt there are many persons who attain to membership in modern law-making bodies who are not the soul of honor, and who do not regard their highest duty as legislators to be the welfare of the whole state; many who do not esteem the public good to be above considerations of individual selfishness. But to insinuate that legislators of modern times are deficient in the sense of justice or appreciation of high purposes, as compared with the legislators of eighty or a hundred years ago in their being thoroughly representative of the people electing them, is to deny a patent historical fact. If there be degeneracy, it is that of the whole people, not especially of those elected to office; for legislators today are as representative of their constituency as were those of four-score years ago of the people then. And to say that the people have retrograded is to assert that the civilization

they have maintained is a deteriorating influence. The record of legislative criticism is that so far as circumstances permitted it the law-maker of the beginning of the century was relatively as much an object of adverse comment as the legislator of today; but the lapse of years has cast a halo around the former which for the latter will not appear except to coming generations.

From the ordinary legislature of today the people may expect as perfect an expression of the popular will as was given in an earlier period in the nation's history. There may be exceptionally bad legislatures, as there may be exceptionally good ones; but as a whole it is with the representative as it is with the represented — the fountain gives forth that which is typical of its own condition. And if the people of a state affect a distrust and a doubt of the integrity of their chosen representatives, they may be sure that such a course will bear fruit of its kind. In popular government, mutual confidence between the people and their agents is an essential to successful administration. The expression of a high sense of honor and appreciation on the part of the people calls for response of a similar character from their servants. In the case of legislators, it inspires the latter to forego everything of a narrow, selfish character, to rise above individual preferences or animosities, to maintain principle rather than have recourse to temporary expediency, and to act for and in behalf of the state as a whole and in a manner that will insure to present and future good for the state; if the response to proffered confidence and esteem be below this standard, then the culpable party must sink into deserved odium. It is not optimism for the people to anticipate the exhibition of relatively as high sense of honor and patriotic duty in legislators and other officials nowadays as in any period of our nation's history.

### THE TOWEL DANGER.

Since the custom of supplying office towels from a general depot came into use, the alleged increase of skin diseases thereby has attracted attention from leading physicians in the East, and boards of health are urged to give the matter careful consideration. The danger to which persons in offices and who frequented public baths were exposed, were discovered, it is said, by a New York physician, who had a case of infectious disease for which he could not account. The doctor was curious as to the source of the infection. He learned that in the same office where his patient was employed was a janitor who was suffering from the same disease. He dropped in at the office one day and secured the soiled towels, in which was found a flourishing colony of bacilli of the sort he was seeking. This was an incentive to further research, and the clean towels were examined. These were furnished by a company that supplied thousands of towels all over the city. Half a dozen were examined, with no results beyond a few harmless microbes, but later a very innocent-looking, clean