

if any difficulty in locating the crime where it belonged. For many years a number of fugitives from justice have had a holdforth in the acclivitous heights of that part of the country, and from it the government itself has repeatedly tried in vain—disastrously so—to dislodge them. To this retreat the vicious and vile as well as those upon whose heads there was already a price have congregated and been able not only to sustain themselves but to sally forth now and then, in greater or less array, and pillage, plunder and devour as well as murder with the utmost freedom from capture or punishment. To this band or some members of it the cowardly killing of Mrs. McDonald was traced, and a number of law-abiding citizens in their justifiable wrath arose and went forth to capture or exterminate the miscreants, whichever might be necessary.

The one who prepared the dispatches relating to the matter has evidently lived on the American frontier in the dangerous days long since past, or has had his vocabulary reinforced by some who did so live. To call the men "avenging angels" who performed so signal and salutary a service for the state as the extermination of the Black Jack gang may be some people's idea of propriety, but it is tolerably certain that not revenge but enforcement of law and the compassing of justice were the objects aimed at. Even the killing, which according to all frontier codes would have been justifiable as soon as the outlaws were found, was made a matter of self-defense and followed the refusal to surrender and attempted resistance of the gang. To have delayed one second longer would have been for the pursuers to court if not meet their own destruction, the experience of the past having shown that the pursued were not only expert marksmen but unusually "quick on the trigger." Clearly one party or the other had to go, and it happened to be the right one that did.

The "Black Jacks" have been a greater source of dismay and loss to the people of the north Mexican border than was ever the Murrill band in Kentucky and adjoining states some time before the war. The predatory features of their career were dreadful enough, but these sank into insignificance compared with their bloodthirstiness and willingness to commit any manner of crime. The murder of Mrs. McDonald was but one instance out of many of their red-handed methods, and while their taking off reads at first something like a section of a cheap red-covered novel, it was all right as to method and unquestionably proper in its results.

CUBAN MISERY.

The real situation in Cuba is now beginning to be well understood in its appalling details. Among the so-called reconcentrados—peaceful Cubans driven away from their farms and homes by the order of a Spanish general—there are, according to actual count, 205,000 who are destitute and doomed to a lingering death, unless munificent relief is sent them from other than Spanish sources. The Red Cross society of America is doing splendid work, but 200,000 people is a large crowd to provide for.

Conservative estimates place the number of those unfortunate creatures who have already perished of hunger, at 200,000. About an equal number of Spaniards have been sent to Cuba during the war, and of these there remains 80,000 in service, the other 140,000 having died or become incapacitated. This would mean that the Cuban war, or rebellion, has now cost about 200,000 lives, without counting the insurgents slain in battle. The

Armenian outrages that but lately stirred the Christian world were not more horrifying than these Cuban butcheries.

A remarkable fact, however, is this, that notwithstanding the heavy sacrifices of the mother country to retain her precious possession and notwithstanding the stern cruelty with which the policy of her generals has been carried out, the rebels still remain the masters over the greater part of Cuba. There are, it is said, 30,000 Cubans under arms. They are operating in every province, including Havana, and seem to be gaining in strength. The prospects of Spanish victory seem to be more remote than ever. These facts have been vividly impressed on the public mind by the reports of the conditions given by people whose sound judgment, truthfulness and conservative views cannot reasonably be doubted.

It is no undue meddling in foreign affairs, when the people of the United States, through their representatives, look into these matters with a view of demanding their adjustment. Cuba is so near our own shores that her affairs have a special interest to us. For a strong man to remain inactive in his own house when aware that some atrocious crime is being committed, perhaps against helpless women and children, in the house next to his, would be criminal. The same principle holds good between nations. The stronger has always considered it a duty to act whenever it has been apparent that a neighbor had become too weak to maintain order and keep down anarchy within her borders. There may not be any desire to annex Cuba; the islanders may not want American citizenship, but that is not the issue. The real question is to restore order in the disturbed Spanish possession and give it such a government as shall be able to protect life and property. If this can be done by means of a friendly agreement, it is all the better; if not the sacrifice it would cost to bring it about would be an acceptable one in the sight of the whole civilized world.

NO "SCIENCE" IN THIS.

The death of Mrs. Frances M. Hoopes, which is reported to have occurred in this city yesterday, Monday, March 21, is one of those events in which the public generally is deeply interested on account of the attendant circumstances. According to the report the woman gave birth to a child, but the usual medical aid was not given her. "Christian Scientists" took the place of doctors, until it became evident that the sufferer was fast losing her vitality. Then a physician was sent for, who soon found that he had been summoned too late. Death came, and in the doctor's opinion, according to the report, it was the inevitable result of neglect at the beginning, as the case was originally a very light one. Had Mrs. Hoopes been given the attendance her condition demanded, her life probably would have been saved.

The frequent occurrences of a similar nature throughout the country ought to open the eyes of the adherents of so-called Christian Science to the fact that their system is founded on false assumptions. There may be some truth in the supposition that man's physical nature is to a large extent controlled by the forces operated by the mind, but that is not the whole truth. The body must be considered a wonderful and delicately constructed mechanism, the operation of which is sometimes retarded or entirely suspended by material obstructions, which can be successfully removed—barring miraculous intervention—only by those who have a thorough knowledge of the intricate parts of the system. To depend

for repair on charlatans, however enthusiastic, is extremely foolish, and, if life is at stake, criminal. What would be thought of him who should entrust a valuable chronometer to the tender experiments of a person that professedly has no idea of the various parts of a watch? And if the timepiece was not his own property but something held in trust, where would be the responsibility for the damage done by ignorant hands?

Christian Science has lately endeavored to engage public attention by claiming high sources of knowledge and unusual standards of morality. Many facts, however, are against them. In some so-called barbarous countries sufferers from diseases are allowed to die because their friends object to American or European physicians administering to their wants. Riots have resulted and doctors have been killed in those far-off lands. The natives are pitied for their ignorance and prejudices, but it is difficult to see wherein they, in this respect, differ from people nearer at home who for the sake of a "principle" refuse in cases of sickness such aid as medical science is capable of rendering, although they stamp their attitude as science, and "Christian" science at that. Divine healing is possible as has been demonstrated in numerous instances, even in cases beyond human skill, but Christian Science healing often appears to be but a poor imitation of the healing through the power of the Almighty. Many who have relied on it, have been cruelly deceived.

SOCIETY OF SEPARATISTS.

Nearly a century ago the village of Zoar in Ohio was settled by a religious community which called itself the Society of the Separatists, a name descriptive of what was intended to be its chief feature, which was a separation from the rest of the world so far as was practicable while living in the midst of its varied social, religious and political classes and divisions. The community owned its property in common, and originally numbered about five hundred souls.

But it has found the problem of self-perpetuation impossible to solve, and its numbers have dwindled until only ninety-two are left. It owns 7,000 acres of very valuable land and a lot of blooded live stock, besides other property. The surviving members of the society have agreed to disband, and a division of their common property has just been made. Thus terminates one more experiment in the way of communism, ostensibly modeled after the social order which the Apostles of the Savior established among the early Christians.

The dissolution of this society is not without features of sadness. Undoubtedly its original members were devout people who earnestly sought a better way of life than the contending sects that make up modern Christendom could teach them. They realized the necessity of subduing the selfishness that is innate in man, and according to the highest light they had they set about accomplishing this result. And they succeeded to a considerable extent, for the people of Zoar, who for nearly a hundred years have held all their property in common, have shown less of selfishness than have most professing Christians. But the superstructure of union and brotherly love they sought to establish has fallen to ruins.

The village of Zoar was a quiet and charming place. Its low, red-tiled cottages, its air of peacefulness and its many picturesque effects combined to make it a Mecca for visitors and especially for artists. But the days of its charms are numbered. Now that the lands on which it stands have be-