

with its outcome so uncertain, that when the end came, the Confederates had given up, and all the implements of war were idle, seemed to be a fitting occasion for such mental diversion as would amount to a long-needed tonic. He must have rest, and found it, not of the kind looked for, but one which no alarms of mortal strife ever disturb, one into which contentions and discords do not enter—the perfect though violently wrought calmness of a repose which is ceaseless became his. He died the following morning, surrounded by every token of affectionate regard which a stricken people could bestow, and his name wears a lustre which the corroding hand of time will never be able to destroy so long as books remain and man remembers.

A "SECEDED" MASON.

The Christian Cynosure of Chicago is a fanatically religious journal and makes a livelihood principally by "exposing" and arraigning secret societies. It seems to take special pleasure in publishing communications from former members of such organizations in which the writers reveal matters which the oaths they took on being initiated forbid them to disclose. In a recent issue it gives a letter from a "seceded" mason named John Nicoll, in which he confirms the truth of certain published statements giving some of the oaths that Mason's take, and declares that the exposures reveal masonry substantially as he received it in the lodge he joined.

To disclose the secrets of masonry is to violate sacred covenants; and to confirm the truthfulness of such exposure made by another, is to share the responsibility for it, and the guilt of the man who originally made it. The authors and endorsers of such exposures are obviously not entitled to credence. Their act in revealing lodge secrets is essentially an act of falsehood and perfidy, makes liars and traitors of them, and destroys their every claim to credibility. Nicoll says:

"When the leading infidel of the town was elected worshipped master, I gave up the lodge and never returned. . . . And there are hundreds of such witnesses all over the country, and nearly all of us have left the lodge for the sake of loyalty to Christ."

That sort of "loyalty to Christ" which impels a man to make of himself a liar and a traitor, is a kind of religion whose saving efficacy may well be doubted. Many clear-headed people will suspect that the infidel whose promotion in the lodge was the alleged occasion of Nicoll's defection is very likely the better Christian of the two. It is not intended to discuss here the merits or demerits of the Masonic order, but if it is to be condemned, the evidence on which condemnation is based ought to be stronger than the declaration of such creatures as Nicoll.

SPAIN'S HONOR AND DIGNITY.

The queen regent of Spain, Maria Christina, is reported to have said that she would abdicate should the Spanish cabinet decide to do anything contrary to the honor and dignity of the country—by which expression she evidently meant to convey the idea that so far the honor and dignity of the Spanish crown have been maintained both at home and in Cuba, but that yielding to the demands of the United States for the establishment of peace and a humane government in

the West Indian colony would be an indelible blot upon said crown. To ordinary mortals this view of the situation is beyond comprehension. The stre of the crown upon the queen's brow is already gone; its sparkling rubies and diamonds are covered with the blood of Spanish subjects and its gold reflects the pale features of death. Is it possible that the woman who temporarily wears that emblem of power has heard nothing about the 200,000 peaceful Cubans who had their homes destroyed by fire, their stock killed and finally died of starvation by order of a Spanish general? Or of the 460 women and children, some sick, some dying, some dead, who were thrown in a heap into a ditch like so many animals? Has she not heard of the sufferings in Sagua la Grande, where whole families were sleeping on the ground without bedding and without a single piece of cloth to cover their nakedness? If such conditions are not contrary to the honor and dignity of any civilized country on earth, nothing that the cabinet ministers can do need to disturb the tranquility of the ruler on the Castile throne.

Then there is the disaster to the Maine and the cruel murder of the American sailors who visited Havana harbor as the guests of the queen's nation and on an errand of mercy. Suspicion of foul play has from the first been strong, but lately evidence has been forthcoming turning suspicion almost into certainty. The story of Charles A. Crandall now said to be in the custody of U. S. secret service agents, to the effect that he himself at the order of General Weyler placed in Havana harbor the mine that destroyed the Maine bears all the marks of truth, and if so fastens the responsibility on some officials in the employ of the Madrid government. And yet, that government speaks of maintaining its honor and dignity!

Perhaps potentates have a standard of honor different from that of others. It is known that the queen regent, the niece of the Austrian emperor, became the wife of Alfonso for the sole purpose of perpetuating the Bourbon dynasty. It was arranged as a state affair, devoid of every feature of sentiment. The marriage was solemnized by proxy, the archduchess before the great event not even having seen the bridegroom, who was consumptive and died before the birth of the present boy-king. It was considered a matter of honor to a Bourbon to make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of the house, and it may be equally a matter of honor to risk everything in order to keep the shaky throne from collapsing before the present heir becomes big enough to occupy it. But when that involves the sacrifice of the lives of thousands of innocent subjects and methods employed only by cowardly assassins both the queen and those who for selfish purposes direct her policy ought to pause and consider their position. They ought to reflect that a speedy return to a policy of humanity and justice, peace and good will among men is the only step consistent with the national honor of Spain and the dignity of her rulers.

EGYPT UNDER BRITISH RULE.

Undoubtedly the events that led to the assumption of control of Egypt by Great Britain comprised a disguised blessing for that land, so long the scene of misrule, and so helpless to redeem itself by its own efforts. Upon this subject Bradstreet's says:

"An official return furnishing the statistics of Egypt under the British authority has lately been issued at Cairo,

which gives in a condensed form the facts and figures that go to show the material benefit of English supervision. In the period since 1882 it seems that the population of Egypt has increased about 2,900,000, or 43 per cent, but, on the other hand, while the area of cultivated land has increased 13 per cent, the aggregate land tax is \$425,000 less than it was when England assumed control, and the average tax on each "fadden" (the Egyptian land measure), which was then nearly \$5.50, is now less than \$4.40. On the other hand, tobacco, the taxation on which produced less than \$500,000, now yields a revenue of over \$5,000,000. Arrears of land taxes have practically ceased, and their collection no longer occasions distress to the native cultivators, while the general policy adopted has been to diminish direct taxes, covering any loss of revenue by an increase in indirect taxes, with a corresponding more even distribution of the burden. As a result, the taxation per head of population, which was \$5.54 in 1881, is now \$4.40, a reduction of 21 per cent.

"The return furnishes equally interesting figures in regard to the material development of Egypt. About 212 miles of new railroad have been opened in the past fifteen years, and there has been an enormous increase in railroad traffic. Second-class passengers have increased from 415,000 to 1,153,000 per annum, third-class passengers from 3,100,000 to 9,412,000, and merchandise from 1,275,000 tons to 2,796,000 tons, while the number of telegrams has grown from 688,000 a year to 2,498,000.

"As regards trade, it is shown that the value of the imports of Egypt has increased from \$39,500,000 to \$50,000,000 and notwithstanding the enormous fall in the price of cotton and sugar, the exports, valued at \$60,000,000 last year, are about the same as in 1881. As regards the debt of the country, new borrowings to the extent of some \$1,000,000 have been incurred, yet the redemption of the old debt has gone on so systematically that the aggregate outstanding, some \$490,000,000, is about the same, and the interest and sinking-fund charges have been reduced from \$21,000,000 to \$19,000,000 per annum. On these and similar facts the English financial administration of Egypt bases its claims to have performed a labor of decided economic benefit to the population of Egypt."

When the foregoing facts and figures are considered in connection with the stupendous irrigation schemes now materializing in Egypt, for the reclamation of its soil it will look as though the ancient fertility of that part of the world may, at least in some degree, be restored during the twentieth century.

ENGLAND IS OUR FRIEND.

The frank and cordial expression of Britain's friendship for America, uttered by the London Chronicle today, as recounted in the dispatches, cannot fail to create a responsive and appreciative thrill in the American heart. In part the Chronicle says:

"It was easy to coerce Greece, but America stands in a different category. She is a very great power, intensely proud and entirely self-contained. Her fate has been to undertake a task peculiarly arduous and thankless. She is not going to be bullied by the heroes of the Cretan blockade, and if the movement against her is pressed too far, she will be compelled in her own interests to clear the situation.

"Our present purpose is to insist that our government does its best by using every means in its power to defeat any anti-American combination. If there is any doubt about the feelings of the great majority of the nation, we shall