

and the fruit gatherers would work this week in Montana and the next in Florida, or wherever the council should decide to send them.

One of the institutions would be the bureau of food preparation. This would be run on strictly scientific lines. Professors would superintend the preparation of everything cooked and eaten. There would be no adulteration of food, which Mr. Gillette says is one of the crimes of competition. With pure and wholesome food life would be prolonged and dyspepsia unknown. The slavery of kitchen women would be banished and the servant-girl problem solved.

Mr. Gillette has figured it out that the population of the country could live and be supported in a city sixty miles long and thirty miles wide and containing 36,000 dwellings of the kind described.

The only thing needed for the realization of this scheme, Mr. Gillette thinks, is capital. With capital he could cause a veritable cataclysm in the industrial world, compelling the laborers to flock to his center. It would cost no more than the Civil War. When he got those people together, he would start building his great air castle. It would take him twenty-five years to complete it and the human family would be saved forever.

The young enthusiast is ready enough with figures, but he is decidedly mistaken in the supposition that money is all that is needed for the establishment of such a model community. The chief thing required is a population consisting of thorough good and honest men and women. As long as much of the material is bad, no structure erected, however skillfully planned, can become permanent. The story is told about a young engineer with more theoretical education than experience, who endeavored to build a bridge but had the mortification of seeing the arches fall as soon as the supports were removed. He repeatedly drew new plans and summoned all his skill, but to no purpose. Finally one of his laborers picked up a brick and crushed it between his hands and asked the discouraged architect why he did not try some stuff that could stand the strain. The fault was not in the plans but in the material. Social reformers generally fail for the same reason. The best social scheme invented is inadequate without the regenerating influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### LAWS ON LIBEL.

An astonishing amount of editorial wisdom has recently been uncorked upon an unoffending nation by way of comment upon the conviction of a Philadelphia newspaper for having libelled an ex-mayor of that city. The editor of the mulcted journal is held up as a model of probity and truthfulness, his paper as a credit to journalism, and the laws and the court under which the conviction was secured as altogether lacking in fairness and sense. Occasion is also taken to go deeply into the libel laws of other states, definitions of the word "libel" itself, and disquisitions as to the equities involved, the freedom of the

press, the undue tenderness of victims of this freedom, and a great many other things of more or less interest to press writers generally but to press readers not particularly.

It may be all very excellent wisdom that is being thus ladled out to the public. In the case of the Philadelphia Times, its veteran and clever editor, and ex-Mayor Smith, who has won substantial damages in his suit, the economies passed upon the defendants and the strictures passed upon the plaintiff may be all proper and just. At the same time we beg to remark that the Times in the past has rather boasted of its libel suits; it welcomed them with every evidence of substantial glee; it acceded and maligned and insulted public officials and private individuals in a perfectly reckless way, and daring them to plant suit against it—apparently relying upon numerous past victories for the confidence that it was invulnerable against claims for damages.

Behold, how great the change, now that it has sustained a defeat! And how sudden the conversion to exalted ideas of honor and liberty by those who remotely see themselves affected by the Philadelphia precedent! But, alas, these high expressions of morality and courage and independence seem to fall upon an unwilling ear! Dare we suggest that they will never have much weight as coming from their present sources, until the latter shall show a little more consistency? In other words, complaints that date only from the time when victories cease cannot excite much sympathy: laws that were good enough as long as the newspapers were winners will, we fear, be popularly believed to be good enough now that the boot has got on to the other leg.

#### ASSASSINATION OF STAMBULOFF.

The death of Stambuloff, the premier of Bulgaria, is now announced. He died as the result of the wounds he received on July 15, when attacked by four assassins, on his way home from the club.

The main details of the cowardly assault have appeared in the telegraphic reports. Two of the murderers shot him with revolvers while the other two stabbed him. In endeavoring to ward off the piercing steel, his hands were nearly severed from the wrists and had to be amputated. One of his eyes was gouged out and the other was blinded. He was wounded in twenty places.

It is not altogether clear what caused this murderous attack, but it is known that Stambuloff as premier of Bulgaria made extended use of his authority to hunt down conspirators against the government, and that ever since his resignation in May, his opponents have made him and his supporters a mark of their persecutions. Special laws were passed during the famous night sessions of the Chamber. One provided for the appointment of a parliamentary commission to inquire into the acts of the Stambuloff cabinet, and this body placed the whole of his property under sequestration, although the labor of the commission was not rewarded with success in finding anything

against their opponent. The excitement was heightened by the arrival of political refugees, who during his administration had not dared to enter the country. Brigands and assassins became numerous, and the life of Stambuloff was threatened daily for a long time, a fact of which he and his friends were fully aware.

It is further claimed that the revival of the Russophile movement in Bulgaria, which he continued to oppose by protests and denunciations, strengthened his mortal enemies in their determination, and that the tragic end was further hastened on by his frequent attacks on Prince Ferdinand. It would therefore appear that he fell a victim to his efforts at preserving his country's autonomy against the influences at work in favor of Russian re-approachment, which ultimately would mean Russian annexation. The government is suspected of complicity in the crime, the official organ having violently attacked the statesman immediately before his assassination, accusing him of being a foreign spy.

What renders the matter of unusual interest to the rest of the world is the highly critical stage of the so-called eastern question at present. At Constantinople the affair has created a great sensation, and the prediction is already made that serious events are at hand. The Turks have been aroused to activity and are constructing fortifications on the frontier as if anticipating trouble.

It is a recognized principle that civilized nations are under the necessity of extending their frontiers by means of conquest until they come in contact with a nation strong enough to maintain order among its subjects. Internal dissensions, lawlessness and kindred disturbances are always considered valid grounds for the breaking up and the distribution of small states among their powerful neighbors. It follows that if the government of Bulgaria proves itself unable or unwilling to govern its subjects in peace and tranquility, the independence of the country, so grudgingly bestowed upon it by the great powers, is in danger, and as the overthrow of Bulgaria would mean the tearing up of the Berlin treaty of 1879, by which the Balkan problem was temporarily laid aside, and as the Ottoman empire, too, is in a state of chronic turmoil, it is clear that the apprehension felt in Constantinople that the final day of reckoning for the Turk is drawing near, is not entirely without foundation.

#### A "MILLERITE" REMINISCENCE.

The dispatches one day last week announced the death of Allen Pettibone of Connecticut, at the advanced age of 94, the said death being a result of suicide. The item caused no more comment at the time than would attend an incident so unusual as the taking of his own life by a veteran of nearly five score years; and certainly this was uncommon enough. But later reminders add a new interest to the case, for it is recalled that the deceased was one of the leading and most influential adherents of the so-called "Millerite" persuasion sixty years ago, and for a generation or more has been