

"obedience" of woman. It was urged that "women must be given the right to determine the circumstances under which they choose to fulfil the duties imposed upon them by matrimony." The ladies assembled in Stuttgart demanded easier access to divorce and full control over their own property.

It is not necessary to criticise these various propositions. It is evident that they aim at the dissolution of family ties and the state as at present organized. They strike at one of the foundations of morality, and the mere consideration of them is apt to make enemies among that class which the friends of emancipation can least afford to lose. If this is a fair representation of the aim and demands of the European defenders of that cause, it is no wonder that progress there is slow.

It cannot be denied that legislative adjustment of the relations between man and woman is one of the needs of the age. The laws owe their origin in some details to conditions of society no longer existing. They were undoubtedly well adapted to the time in which they were framed, but they are as much out of date now, as some of the modern statutes would have been impracticable then. "Equal rights," for instance, could not be thought of at a time when about all the "rights" there were consisted in defending the home and country from the encroachment of wild beasts and the incursions of hostile hordes. It is different when a state has attained a certain perfection; when government professedly is carried on by the people and when intelligence, knowledge, statesmanship, morality are more important to the state than physical strength. Then the "equal right" question demands attention in the best interests of all.

The essential thing in the matter is to recognize the equality of the sexes in everything wherein they really are equal, and the superiority of woman, wherein the man is inferior, as well as man's superiority wherein woman is inferior. Any movement on this line is as much needed as it is legitimate. But when the demand is made for the abolishment of matrimony and the inauguration of a rule of licentiousness the agitation is carried beyond the legitimate. It is really an attempt to accomplish the ruin of the human family.

#### A CHICAGO INSTANCE.

One of the beauties of partisanship in municipal affairs is depicted in Chicago, where an official in one of the city departments is just now engaged in levying a tax upon his subordinates with which to defend certain election officials, who, for the unlawful zeal they took in helping his stripe of office-seekers to win, are now under trial for fraud. This, we believe, is carrying the "boss" policy and "machine" rule to a point a little further in shamelessness and infamy than even the most radical partisans in this part of the country are familiar with. It is not merely the forced collection of funds from place-holders with which to continue their superiors and presumably themselves in office; it is an attempt to extort money from public servants with which to hamper and if possible defeat the ends of justice. The blind goddess's halting pursuit of political criminals is tedious enough under the best of circumstances. The element introduced into it by this venture of the Chicago inspector is manifestly not calculated to accelerate the pace with which she sets out to secure the conviction and punishment of the wrong-doers.

Happily the fellow is of a type of party boss now going rapidly into dis-

favor. Either from fear of the consequences, or because public sentiment has grown more potent, the majority of officers possessed of the appointive power have become shy of giving place and profit to selfish supporters or unworthy party friends. Subordinates, too, are less timid about refusing to be plundered and held up by official highwaymen; they are growing to resent and refuse the requests to disgorge, and popular approval goes with their independence. At the same time, there is too much of the feeling that to the victors belong the spoils—too pronounced an inclination to make the civil-service and honest tenure-of-office acts a dead letter upon the statute books. The inevitable result of it all is incompetence if not corruption in the affairs of government; and the great surprise is that when in municipal affairs, where questions of state or national politics cannot possibly enter, the people are given an opportunity to clean out the whole official nest and place in power tried, true, honest and courageous public servants, they do not rise in their might, from one end of the nation to the other, and redeem at least their cities from the thralldom into which so many of them have hopelessly fallen.

#### THE AUSTRIAN CRISIS.

The situation in Austria-Hungary is still serious: the attention of the diplomats of Europe is focused on the dual empire by the Danube as upon a storm center, as if there were a fear that any moment might bring the news of a revolution in the relations between the two countries, which would necessitate great changes in the political map of the old world. According to late dispatches, the Hungarian Diet sent the premier a kind of ultimatum; he was given only a few days in which to state positively whether he expects the bill providing for the prolongation of the compact between Austria and Hungary to pass; if not, the latter country would commence a line of independent action.

There seems to be no way out of this dilemma. If the government is unable by the usual parliamentary means to maintain the union, it will be dissolved; if the emperor dismisses the parliament and establishes absolutism, it is forced out of existence. In either case the result is the same.

The trouble is due to the demands of the Czechs that their language be recognized equally with the German. This request has been made from time to time, but especially since 1870, when, after the Franco-Prussian war, the Germans thought they were near the realization of a pan-German empire. They obtained a decree that in the Bohemian, Moravian and Silesian courts and public offices all communications in the Czech language should be answered in the same tongue. Schools for the exclusive use of this language were established and the Germans became alarmed on account of the supposed danger to their supremacy. Too late they attempted to obtain recognition for their mother tongue as a legal means of communication. The Czechs passed a law requiring all officials to be familiar with the two languages, and Baden finally ordered that in Bohemia Czech alone should be used. It is a fight between the Czechs and Germans, but united with the former stand Poles, Servians, Slovenians, Croates and Ruthenians, forming a large and powerful party.

Since the beginning of the disorders 600 persons have been arrested; 300 persons have been wounded, besides sixty policemen and soldiers. In the capital of Roumania a mob 2,000 strong has been pillaging public and private houses and defied the police. Boys join

the ranks of the rioters and soldiers. Yet, the German faction declares that there can be no conciliation on any other basis than equal rights. The only remaining hope is that Emperor Franz Joseph may be able by his personal influence to restore temporary order; but with many the riots now going on mark a crisis in the long period of hostility between the different races, and the end of Austro-Hungary as a dual empire is regarded as a near probability.

#### CURRENCY REFORM.

President McKinley, in his message, points out the lines on which, in the view of the administration, monetary reform should be attempted. But some of the leaders of the Republican party express doubt as to the possibility of carrying out the program. Mr. Dingley, chairman of the committee on ways and means, is quoted as saying:

If the senate were republican and in harmony with the majority of the house on monetary questions, I should look for currency legislation, but with a free silver majority in the senate antagonistic to the ideas of the majority of the house as to what constitutes a sound currency system, I do not see how it is possible to secure desirable currency legislation of an important character until the senate is brought to harmony with the house. Possibly some desirable amendments to the national banking law might be passed by the senate. The house joint resolution for a joint committee to consider and report on needed currency legislation passed at the extra session is still in the hands of the finance committee of the senate and may be reported back and considered by the senate as soon as congress reassembles.

"Probably bankruptcy legislation will be the first to come up after such appropriation bills as may be ready.

"The voluntary bankruptcy bill passed by the senate during the extra session was referred to the House judiciary committee, which may be ready to report it back before the Christmas recess. The House will probably pass a substitute on the lines of the Torrey bill, as it did two years ago, and then the two bills will go to conference. Probably the conference committee of the senate and house will agree on a compromise measure which will become a law."

#### SOME FIGURES.

In a report from Washington on the exports of the United States for the months of August and September this year, considerable increase is shown over the same months the previous year. The exports to Austria-Hungary amounted to \$573,029 against \$223,801 last year; to Italy, \$3,906,542 against \$2,853,240; to Turkey during the same months this year, \$80,569 against \$13,363 last year; to Switzerland, \$40,293 against \$2,699; to Denmark \$1,396,349 against \$1,071,349; to Japan, \$2,147,616 against \$1,639,741; to France, \$14,250,439 against \$6,939,631; to Germany, \$19,133,697 against \$15,416,854; and to England, \$75,739,781 against \$70,013,494. That is, the exports during the months of August and September this year amounted to \$19,039,151 more than the exports during the corresponding months last year. Part of this is undoubtedly due to the bad crops in Europe, but it seems that exports of the manufactures increased as well as of farm products. In France and Germany this feature particularly is regarded as a menace to the industries, and in England the same view is en-