

And so say all of us. Unlike the sectarian plan of our Bible-in-schools League, the principle is good in ethics, sound in policy, fair all round, and applicable to every country from China to Peru.

### French Passive Resisters

There are myriad ways of suggesting blame—from the slightest arching of the eyebrows to the blow of a knobkerry. Some newspapers that are cautious in their editorial matter, are much given to praise or damn in headlines. A number of New Zealand dailies adopted this method of inflicting a journalistic anathema maranatha upon the men and women who opposed a passive resistance to the Government's tyrannical invasion of the churches of Paris—the first step towards their consecration to the State. The Paris correspondent of the New York 'Evening Post,' a well-informed writer who was an eye-witness of the proceedings, puts the matter in a different light. He says in part:—

'The nucleus of the agitation is made up of young men from twenty to forty, of respectable family, regularly university-bred, able, and looking to the future—a new generation. Irresistibly they remind one of Gambetta's young men in the agitating years that closed the Second Empire.

'Marc Sangnier, the leader of the young Catholics and working in unity of views with such older laymen as Brunetie and Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, is a good sample. He is neither aristocrat, royalist, politician, nor Apache: but he was present to protest in his church.

'There is no doubt that the older Catholic laymen are following these younger men. In the churches during the troubles were such of them as Denys Cochin, deputy, disciple of Pasteur, the fourth generation of a family associated with the charitable institutions of Paris for two centuries, and himself universally respected by all parties. One of the arrested was M. Odelin, "Jesuit plenipotentiary," as the London 'Times' calls him (he was president of the civil corporation of one of their colleges), but he is in reality a man of property and municipal position, and brother of the Cardinal-Archbishop's Vicar-General. Francois Coppee perhaps feebly represents the Academy among the Resisters; but there were more than a dozen members of Parliament and of the Municipal Council in the trouble, and some of them incurred arrest. Christian de Tocqueville, third in descent from the author of "Democracy in America," got off with three nights at the Police Depot and a forty days' prison sentence. Before foreigners pronounce, it would be well to know who is on this side, sure to be beaten down for the present, yet bound to surprising Jack-in-the-box resurrections in the future.'

Here is the verdict of the New York 'Daily News' regarding the sham democracy in which the whole electoral machinery is controlled, through removable and obsequious prefects, by the Minister for the Interior:—

'Undoubtedly, if there could be held in France tomorrow a fair and free election, in which the form of the government was to be determined, the people would choose a monarchy. The leaders would not. They would choose what they have at present—a hybrid thing, supported by the gold of the Rothschilds and the trickery of the diplomats. They called it into existence, and have made it their plaything. When they feel like slapping it hard they do so, in the face of mankind.

'It is impossible to exaggerate the scorn of the French Deputies for their Republic. The present moment is critical for France. It looked at one time as if the Kaiser had made up his mind to war over Morocco. The diplomats of Europe were not sleeping nights in their labor and thought to prevent a rupture. Yet this is the moment selected by the Deputies to upset the Ministry, which is done with a laugh. The people observe the proceedings with indifference. The air of the Chamber of Deputies, however, had on that day the strong scent of blood. In defending church property against the vile mob that sought to desecrate it, a Frenchman had been slain. The Catholics were furious, the Radicals more furious still. The scent of blood roused feeling against a feeble Government, and the Ministry perished.

'It is the stimulus of blood which France needs to do away with its present form of Government. Had every parish resisted the imitation Republic in its at-

tack on personal liberty, it would not be a Ministry, but a fake Republic that fell the other day. Had every parish offered up one of its members in the cause of freedom, President Fallieres would be sending for the Commander-in-Chief to defend him, and not for the head of a new Ministry. It is impossible for us to realise the injury done to the cause of liberty, and particularly to the popular form of government called a Republic, by this wretched imitation Government, called the French Republic.'

This is severe. But it closely corresponds with Lecky's studied verdict on the instability, intellectual poverty, tyranny, and corruption of the swiftly-passing series of administrations that have afflicted France since its year of disaster, 1870 ('Democracy and Liberty,' vol. i.).

## A TERRIBLE DISASTER

### EARTHQUAKE AT SAN FRANCISCO

News was received in this Colony on Thursday that San Francisco had been visited on the previous day by a violent earthquake, which ruined the greater part of the business quarters of the city, this being followed by fires which broke out in various directions, causing immense destruction of property. Owing to the destruction of the cable and telegraph offices only very fragmentary items of information were available at first, and the estimate of the number who perished was given at 1500 persons. In times of panic the losses of life and property are almost invariably exaggerated, and it was thought such was the case on this occasion, but unfortunately it turned out to be the reverse, as later messages set down the loss of human life at 10,000 persons, and the damage is estimated at £60,000,000, a sum sufficient to liquidate the public debt of New Zealand. As the disaster occurred between five and six o'clock in the morning, most of the residents were asleep, and they rushed from their beds into the streets in their night attire. At this time buildings were tottering and crashing, while there were showers of falling chimneys, cornices, and walls, crushing and mangling many people. The terror and excitement are indescribable. It only took three minutes to turn a great part of the city into a mass of debris. The first shock was so severe that tall buildings rocked like poplars in a storm. The gas-works blew up with an awful report, and the escaping gas and the sewage from the broken mains created a fearful stench, which it was feared would cause an epidemic. The escape of gas caused fires to start in various directions, and owing to the bursting of the water mains the authorities were powerless to arrest the progress of the conflagration, with the result that hundreds of buildings that withstood the earthquake shocks succumbed to the fires. The firemen tried to stop the progress of the fires by dynamiting whole blocks of buildings, but, owing to a strong wind and want of water, their efforts were of little avail. The business quarter, with its immense warehouses, hotels, banks and public offices, and the cheap tenement quarter, with its crowded population, were the first to fall a prey to the conflagration, which in a short time had extended over an area of eight square miles.

The following are the latest details:—

The havoc extends everywhere within a radius of 100 miles from San Francisco.

Many of the richest banks and commercial houses in Montgomery street were burned, and hundreds of people were roasted in the debris.

Reuter states that it is impossible to trace individuals in the present confusion, but the Englishmen and foreigners who were staying at the big hotels are doubtless safe. The casualties so far are confined to the poorer tenement section.

General Funston has telegraphed to President Roosevelt stating that 250,000 people are homeless, and that food and tents are scarce. All the Government buildings have been destroyed.

Every building in the business part of the district and nearly half the residential section are destroyed. No large building is left standing. The greatest loss of life occurred in South Market street. Six hundred bodies have been recovered.

The Jesuit Church and College of St. Ignatius, which cost 2,000,000 dollars, were demolished.

The 'Daily Mail' publishes an Oakland despatch stating that 10,000 people have been killed and an equal number injured.

**THE SIGN OF SATISFACTION** in Tea is the name "Hondai Lanka" on the packet. It's superb.

**THE PREMIER TEA** in Dunedin is "Cook o' the North." A luxurious Tea for picky people.