

CURRENT MAGAZINES

Japan's Policy in Korea:—Mr. E. Alexander Powell in the March *Atlantic*.

Gandhi and the Prince's Visit to India:—Sir Michael O'Dwyer in the Feb. *Fortnightly*.

India at the Cross-Roads:—Prithwis Chandra Ray in the Feb. *Contemporary*.

The Evasions of Washington:—Mr. Lancelot Lawton in the Feb. *Fortnightly*.

The Washington Conference:—Mr. Samuel W. McCall in the March *Atlantic*.

Democracy and the Future:—Dean Inge in the March *Atlantic*.

MR. Powell's article about Japan and Korea is one of extraordinary interest and instructiveness. The writer begins by reminding us how the war of 1898 between Japan and China, and the war of 1905 between Japan and Russia, were due to attempts first by the Celestial and next by the Muscovite Empire to gain such powers in Korea as would threaten the fundamental interests of the Japanese. Having thus fought twice to prevent other Powers from becoming dominant in that country, Japan was resolved to prevent the internal chaos which might afford a pretext for interfering to any foreign State whatever. Mr. Powell compares this decision to that of England regarding Egypt, and the reform of Korean administration to the Egyptian reforms of Lord Cromer. If, he says, the Marquis Ito had not been assassinated, "there is little doubt that he would have met with as astonishing success in rehabilitating the Land of the Morning Calm as Cromer did in the Land of the Valley of the Nile."

For Korea, when the Japanese interfered in it, had just two classes, the spoilers and the spoiled. "The Korean officials had forgotten more about graft than Tammany Hall ever knew. Tweed and Croker were amateurs at the game, when compared to the Korean *Yangbans*." The sternly just administration of the Marquis Ito became so irksome to the corrupt native officials that they had recourse to their traditional weapon, and Korea's best friend was shot. The consequence was the formal annexation of the country to the empire of Japan in 1910.

Then ensued a complete change of Japanese policy. The conciliatory regime of Marquis Ito was replaced by a Bismarckian

too are Members of Parliament, and that in their case a like anomaly exists. But the position of the American Senate is peculiar, owing to its special charge over foreign affairs, and to that strict divorce of Legislature from Executive which has always distinguished the Constitution of the United States from that of Great Britain. No doubt there are merits in each plan. Our guides in political science might use the occasion to explain to us what are the characteristic advantages and disadvantages of each.

TWO years ago the Dean of St. Paul's startled the world with a volume which he called *Outspoken Essays*. The essays were very outspoken indeed. They included one in which Dean Inge pled the cause of a falling birth-rate as a sign of national good judgment, and his critics pointed out that the Bishop of London was at the very same time denouncing this as a token of national decay. The more mirthful among them reminded us that the Bishop is a bachelor, while the Dean is father of a considerable family!

In the March *Atlantic* Dr. Inge has expressed his opinions about Democracy. He sees in this form of government a very great educational value, because it diffuses a knowledge of public affairs and makes people themselves responsible for their guidance. It rests on a broad base, and is thus not easily overturned. It makes the rulers conform to public opinion, and in this way enlists the public on the side of law and in support of national purposes. But the Dean doubts whether it produces a higher moral tone or makes the citizen act on better moral principles. He suggests that it brings a poor type of man to the top, that it favours the rise of those who are good mob-psychologists, that it is against liberty and promotes improper social interference with the person of unusual tastes. Its present world-success is, he thinks, yet another example of those violent reactions against the past in which Eucken found the master-key of history.

But, acknowledging these to be somewhat ancient and now platitudinous observations, Dean Inge goes on to give us something really novel. He says of Democracy; "The Western European is half puzzled and half amused by the reverential tones in which this word is uttered on the other side of the Atlantic." The ordinary European judges democracy to be for the present "the least bad of possible alternatives", but does not—like the American—"sing paeans over it." Dean Inge sees a widespread and growing revolt against it, and that revolt appearing specially among the proletariat.

"It is the educated class which now sings hymns to Democracy; the working man has no enthusiasm for it, and is more and more inclined to give it up."

The fanciful have detected some resemblance, both in style and in temperament, between Dean Inge and Dean Swift. The writings of both are gloomy, mordantly satirical, defiant of the spirit of the age. In each case the reader has at times to recall to himself with an effort that the book before him was written by a clergyman. It is only fair, indeed, to add that in the Dean of St. Paul's the religious note is dominant, while "the spirit of the natural man" obtrudes itself as an occasional variation, whereas in the Dean of St. Patrick's we have the "old Adam" almost everywhere, and a quasi-religious phrase introduced as a hasty and reluctant parenthesis. On the other hand the satire of Inge cannot compare in piercing acuteness with the satire of Swift. But here and there his epigrams do make us catch our breath. In the *Atlantic Monthly* article, for instance, he excuses himself from dwelling longer on the foolishness of those Americans who adore Democracy, on the ground that "it is bad manners to smile at our friends when they are at their devotions." Swift might have written this. But would Swift ever have written at the end of so slight a paper, bearing so pretentious a title, "I have made a diagnosis of the malady from which all civilized nations are suffering"? Would not his Irish humour have saved him?

H. L. S.