The capture of Santiago was the end of a well-planned, well-executed military campaign, or was it made, despite the most serious blunders in generalship, through the desperate courage of private soldiers and their company and regimental commanders? The latter is the view taken by Mr. Richard Harding Davis in the current "Scribner's Magazine," and supported in other periodicals by Mr. Caspar W. Whitney, Mr. Stephen Bonsal, and, to some extent at least, by Captain Lee, the British military attaché who accompanied our army. Mr. Davis's article is more than a criticism; it is a personal indictment of General Shafter. The responsible and conservative character of the management of "Scribner's Magazine" makes it impossible to class this charge with mere sensational newspaper articles. Mr. Davis blames General Shafter because he did not ask to be relieved of his command when he was physically totally unfit for the task. "I am prostrate in body and mind," General Shafter is reported to have said just after the battle of San Juan. Yet, comments Mr. Davis, "so great was the obstinacy, so great the vanity and self-confidence, of the man, that, though he held the lives and health of thirteen thousand soldiers in his care, he did not ask to be relieved of his command." And, again: "His self-complacency was so great that, in spite of blunder after blunder, folly upon folly, and mistake upon mistake, he still believed himself infallible, still bullied his inferior officers, and still cursed from his cot. He quarreled with Admiral Sampson; he quarreled with General Garcia; he refused to allow Colonel Greenleaf, Surgeon-in-Chief of the army, to destroy the pest-houses in Siboney; he disobeyed the two orders sent him by General Miles from Tampa and again from Washington, directing him not to allow our soldiers to occupy the Cuban houses; he insulted all of the foreign attachés collectively, and some individually; and he related stories in the presence of boy officers which would have been found offensive in the smoking-room of an ocean steamer." Turning from General Shafter's personal conduct to his strategy, Mr. Davis declares positively that he did not know the situation at the front, because he did not or could not, except on one occasion, go near the front; that his orders were so absurd that they were disregarded before his face; that he was on the point of withdrawing from the position his men had gained (as shown by his published dispatch of July 2) when Cervera's attempt to escape made the surrender of Santiago inevitable. Moreover, Mr. Davis (and other critics agree with him in this) asserts that General Shafter's plan for the advance on El Caney and San Juan was quite impossible of accomplishment, and was abandoned by the generals under him only after it had caused terrible and avoidable loss of life; "he did not see the battle of San Juan, nor direct the battle of San Juan, nor was he consulted by those who did." In short—for we cannot here follow Mr. Davis's narrative in detail—at San Juan "a series of military blunders emanating from one source had brought seven thousand American soldiers into a chute of death from which there was no escape except by taking the enemy who held it by the throat and driving him out and beating him down. So the generals of divisions and brigades stepped back and relinquished their command to the regimental officers and the enlisted men." The result all know; and in a sense the victory excuses previous blunders; but if this account be true, that victory must be ascribed to individual courage, not to military science; and if General Shafter were, as charged, incapable
from any desire to escape paying taxes. Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff was renominated. The platform of the party dwells very largely on National issues. It congratulates the country, the President, and the people on the victory over Spain; declares positively for the retaining of all the Philippine Islands; commends the annexation of Hawaii; renews allegiance to the St. Louis platform; urges that a Democratic Legislature would mean another Democratic United States Senator, and would therefore help the cause of free silver; reiterates the adherence of the State party to gold monometallism; declares that the present protective tariff is conservative, and that "the revenue is amply sufficient to pay the ordinary expenses of the Government in times of peace;" commends the idea of State taxation of the liquor traffic; rehearses the recent legislation in the interest of labor; and makes the usual pledges of economy.

The nomination of Judge Augustus Van Wyck by the Democratic Convention was a complete surprise, not only to voters generally, but to most politicians. Judge Van Wyck was selected, it is believed, as a compromise candidate between Senator Hill and Mr. Croker, and practically the delegates to the Convention merely registered the choice of these leaders. Judge Van Wyck is a brother of Mayor Van Wyck, of New York City; is a man of education and cultivation, and has been a Justice of the New York Supreme Court for many years (his term expiring this year). Before he became a Judge he was prominent in Brooklyn politics, and was a follower and lieutenant of Mr. McLaughlin. All reports agree that the only incident which elicited anything like real enthusiasm during the Democratic Convention was the mention of Mr. Bryan's name. Notwithstanding this, the platform absolutely avoids any reference to the money question or to the Chicago platform. If two-thirds of the Republican platform is devoted to National issues, at least three-fourths of the Democratic platform is devoted to State issues. The platform congratulates the country on the termination of the war and on the heroism of individual soldiers and sailors, but accuses the President of "scandalous abuse of his power of appointment in scattering army commissions among inexperienced and incompetent civilians," and declares that a Democratic Congress, if chosen, would rigidly investigate the conduct of the war, and expose and punish all guilty persons. The platform naturally lays great stress on the canal scandals in this State; it urges home rule in excise matters, and the repealing of the Raines Law; local self government for cities; uniform election laws; economy in public expenditures; a low tax rate; a fair and just enforcement of the State civil service laws; the reorganization of the National Guard; the prevention of tax-dodging; provision for biennial legislative sessions; laws to prevent the giving away of valuable public franchises; and the enforcement of the present labor laws.

The Dreyfus Case The Dreyfus case will now go to the Court of Cassation, and the Government will probably use its influence to secure a decision from that Court before the reassembling of the Assembly about the middle of the month. It is doubtful, however, whether the Court can finish the work before it within this brief period. The Court will probably summon all the witnesses who were examined four years ago. Its power is practically unlimited; it can summon before it whom it chooses, including all the highest officers of justice who have been connected with the case in its earlier stages. When its decision is rendered, it will be obliged to give the grounds on which it orders or refuses the motion for revision. If it declares in favor of revision, there must be a new trial by court martial, and much will depend upon the character of the men who are selected to make up the court. If the revisionists are in power at the time the court is made up, it will undoubtedly be composed of open-minded officers; if the anti-revisionists are in power, it will be composed of officers committed to the justification of the former trials. It is impossible to believe, however, that, even if the court martial were made up of officers who were the enemies of Dreyfus, they would dare again to conduct the trial with closed doors; nor would they venture to condemn Dreyfus upon evidence which neither he nor his counsel were allowed to examine. If it be true, as the enemies of Dreyfus are constantly saying, that they hold conclusive proofs of his guilt, they have only to produce these proofs and they will silence criticism; if they do not produce them, the world will
believe that Dreyfus is innocent. The matter has reached such a stage that the evidence can no longer be suppressed out of regard for international feelings. In case the present Ministry falls, M. Brisson, the Premier, will have the satisfaction of having acted like an honest and courageous man. It is not easy to see how the Chamber can overthrow him. Much will depend upon M. Cavaignac, the former Secretary of War, whose speech against revision was ordered to be placarded in every French commune. That speech was based largely upon the letter which Colonel Henry since confessed to be a forgery.

The ground, therefore, has been cut from under the feet of M. Cavaignac, and it is not easy to see how he can, without shifting his position, antagonize the Ministry for its attitude; but it is impossible to predict what will happen. An eminent Frenchman once described the French Senate as "a box of matches;" the Chamber of Deputies is even more inflammable.

The Chinese Tragedy

The probable course of events in China outlined in these columns last week has followed upon the deposition of the Emperor with tragic swiftness. Early in the week it was given out that the Emperor's health was failing rapidly, and leading physicians were summoned to his aid from the different provinces. This was followed three days later by the announcement that the Emperor had committed suicide. That he is dead there appears to be little doubt; that he committed suicide is very generally discredited. The mysterious fate which has swept away all those who have stood in the path of the Dowager Empress, Tsi-An, or who have in any way interfered with the working out of her insatiable ambition, has overtaken the man whom she selected to be her puppet, but who attempted to assert himself. The Emperor's adviser, Kang Yu Wei, who has probably had a good deal to do with the shaping of the reforms which the Emperor had in mind, would have shared his master's fate if the latter had not warned him in time to seek protection under the British flag.

The tragedy in the palace will not affect the country at large, because very few, relatively, in the entire population of China will ever know anything about it, and because the real ruling power in the Empire is not disturbed. The administration is conducted through two Cabinets, of one of which Li Hung Chang, who now comes back to position and authority, has long been the master-spirit. The real power behind the throne is the Dowager Empress, Li Hung Chang's faithful ally and co-worker. It must be remembered also that the Chinese care nothing for the ruling dynasty, the rule of which is still to them a foreign rule. The chief anxiety connected with this tragic episode is the influence which it will have upon the relative position of the Great Powers. It apparently involves a serious loss of English influence at Pekin, and apparently a great gain for Russian influence; and England is very anxious to know whether Russia has played any part in this tragedy. If she has been concerned in it, it would seem that, however sincere the Czar's recent peace manifesto may have been, he cannot count on the support of his own Ministers; nor can England rest in Russia's officially expressed purpose to work amicably with her in China on the basis of different spheres of influence.

A Notable Queen

The Queen of Denmark, who died at Copenhagen on Thursday of last week, although the sovereign of a small country, had filled a very conspicuous position in Europe, and had lived a most adventurous and romantic life. She was born Princess Louise of Hesse-Cassel in 1817; at twenty-five years of age she became engaged to Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. The early part of her married life was spent in a dreary old castle on the Rhine. Prince Christian was, in 1852, appointed in succession to the crown of Denmark, and the family removed to Copenhagen. They were not warmly welcomed, and the relations which existed in the royal family called for the greatest tact on the part of the young Princess. Prince Christian was so straitened in finances that he was glad to increase his income by furnishing designs for illustrated books and papers. The Princess, who was an extremely charming woman in appearance and in manner, showed herself a masterly housekeeper, taught her children to make and design their own toilets, and in every way proved herself a woman of extraordinary force of character. She was passionately devoted to music, and was regarded as one of the best amateur pianists and harpists in Europe. She was, in a very unusual