The Army Investigation

During the week the President has practically completed his Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of the War Department. Eight members of the Commission have accepted appointment, and the name of the ninth will probably be announced within a day or two. As at present constituted, the Commission includes Major-General Grenville M. Dodge, of New York State, who served with great credit in the Civil War as a Major-General in the Army of the Tennessee; Colonel J. A. Sexton, of Illinois, Colonel Charles Denby, of Indiana, General James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, and General Woodbury, of Vermont, all of whom also saw service during the Civil War, while General Beaver and General Woodbury have been Governors of their respective States, and Colonel Denby has a fine record of service as Minister to China for many years; Major-General J. M. Wilson and Major-General A. M. McCook, of the regular army; and Captain E. P. Howell, the well-known Georgia journalist, who served in the Confederate army with gallantry. The various utterances of Secretary Alger the past week indicate a change of attitude. Instead of making the broad declaration that there have been no avoidable deficiencies, Secretary Alger now seems inclined to admit that there have been many defects, but to assign responsibility for the failures to subordinate officers in the Medical and Military Departments. Thus at Camp Poland Secretary Alger said, "The commanders of camps are responsible for the condition of their camps," and "Had the War Department been acquainted with the conditions said to have existed at Chickamauga, the troops there would have been moved long before they were." It is hardly necessary to point out that, if the War Department was not acquainted with the conditions in its camps, it should have been. At Chattanooga Secretary Alger spoke of the "incompetent officers in charge of some of the camps," and in an interview held at Cincinnati he said, "General inexperience and reckless exposure to unnecessary risk is the real cause of all our army trouble." At Lexington, Kentucky, Secretary Alger's repeated request that officers should feel free to point out defects met a response in the public statement of General Wiley that he had over and over again made requisitions for stretchers, but had failed to receive them, and that when men fell in the ranks under the heat "they were forced to lie exposed to the hot sun for hours with no medical attendance." General Wiley also pointed out that the Medical Director at Chickamauga was a veterinary surgeon with no military training whatever, who, when he was asked for a disinfectant for the sinks, said that disinfectants were not needed, and that "such stuff never keeps off typhoid fever." We are pleased to see that since these statements of General Wiley this Medical Director has been forced to resign. Notwithstanding General Wiley's straightforward criticisms, Secretary Alger, in his final address to the soldiers, congratulated them on the excellent care which they had received. A correspondent calls our attention to the fact that every one of the members of one Illinois company which has been in Porto Rico has signed for publication a statement that the only food served to them for weeks at a time was pork and hardtack, both in a condition unfit to eat, although transports were at the dock full of good food. Such incidents as this, and those pointed out by General Wiley, will undoubtedly receive careful attention at the hands of President McKinley's Commission. It is sufficient here to say that, while it is perfectly obvious that subordinate officers, and especially those in the Quartermaster's Department, have been criminally ignorant and careless, this fact by no means removes the ultimate responsibility from the head of the War Department.
An did not give up its reality. She continued to rule with relentless energy. Li Hung Chang had long been her ablest ally, and probably owes it to her protection that to his recent losses of rank and office was not added the loss of his head. Three years ago, through the intervention of the Empress Dowager, Li went to Russia to attend the ceremonies connected with the coronation of the Czar. Since that time he has been the steady ally of Russia, and the representative of Russian influence in China; and it is at this point that the Great Powers appear as actors in this intricate State tragedy. Li Hung Chang has been recently restored to some of the posts which he was forced to give up. The young Emperor, under the influence of the Cantonese reformer, Kang-Yu-Wei, and undoubtedly in accordance with his own instincts and desires—for he has shown a very definite purpose to familiarize himself with Western methods—had apparently thrown off entirely the influence of the Dowager Empress, Tsi-An, and was probably responding to English influence in the series of edicts which he has been making public. Whether the abdication of the Emperor, which is not unlikely to be followed by the news of his death, means that an ambitious and unscrupulous woman has again taken the reins of power into her own hands, or that Russia has determined, by a masterstroke at the palace, to consolidate her own power in China, and to prevent the reorganization of the Empire along modern lines, no one outside a very limited circle knows. The progress of China will not be stopped by these intrigues, but its lines of movement and its methods may be entirely changed.

The Danger in France

The Dreyfus mystery deepens, and the political situation grows more threatening. Colonel Picquart, it will be remembered, was an officer in the secret service of the French army who some time ago announced his belief in the innocence of Captain Dreyfus as the result of certain investigations which he was directed to make by the War Department. These investigations suddenly ceased; Colonel Picquart found that his correspondence was being examined; and he was unexpectedly ordered to service in North Africa. There was every appearance of a determination on the part of the War Department to stop
the investigation which he was carrying on. The charge of revealing documents concerning the national defense was some time ago brought against Colonel Picquart, and on Wednesday of last week he was placed on trial before the Correctional Tribunal on that charge. The public prosecutor promptly asked for an adjournment, on the ground that General Zurlinden, who had just resigned the position of Minister of War, had ordered the prosecution of Colonel Picquart on charges of forgery and of using forged documents. General Zurlinden brought these charges while Minister of War; he then resigned and was appointed Military Governor of Paris; in that capacity he is now practically directing the prosecution which he ordered as Minister. Colonel Picquart was promptly transferred from civil to military jurisdiction, and the sensational element which has pervaded this extraordinary case from the beginning was supplied when he rose and declared that he was probably speaking in public for the last time; that he should sleep in a military prison, and that he wished it understood that, if he should be found there dead, with the strangling-cord which killed Picard or the razor which destroyed Colonel Henry, the fact would be evidence of murder and not of suicide. Picard was a detective concerned in the Dreyfus matter, and was found hanged about a year ago, under very peculiar circumstances. Colonel Henry committed suicide three weeks ago. Colonel Picquart has disappeared from view. His friends are not allowed to communicate with him, and do not know where he is. Esterhazy, who is believed by many to be the chief villain in this remarkable drama, is still in London; is alleged to have made a confession in which he assumes responsibility for the forgery of the original bordereau or memorandum which was the principal evidence against Dreyfus.

This brief statement of the events of the week deepens the mystery of a case which promises to become as complex, as widespread in its implication of well-known people, and as disastrous in its results upon established reputations as the famous scandal of the diamond necklace in the reign of Louis XVI. The mystery which surrounds the case is one of its worst aspects. The whole country is plunged into moral perplexity and confusion by it. There is universal distrust and suspicion. The French do not know whom to trust nor what to expect. Nor does there seem to be any immediate prospect of solution of a mystery which will destroy the Government and perhaps overthrow the Republic if it is not cleared up. The Commission appointed by the Minister of Justice, under the direction of the Cabinet, to consider the question of the revision of the whole case is not able to make a report, because it is evenly divided. But on Monday, at a Cabinet meeting at which all the members were present, it was resolved that a revision of the case should be had. The special commission headed by M. Sarrien, the Minister of Justice, had been evenly divided on the question of revision, so that the final decision fell upon the Cabinet after all. The decision refers the case and all the documents connected with it to the Court of Cassation, to which also has been referred the petition of Madame Dreyfus for the granting of a new trial for her husband. This decision was not reached without prolonged and hot discussion, if the reports of the meeting of the Cabinet are to be trusted; and the resignation of several Ministers may be anticipated. These are all, however, matters of minor importance. If the Government has determined to reopen the case, to abandon arbitrary methods, and to publish all the facts to the world, France is again on the highroad to health and strength, and will recover the respect which her treatment of this matter has forfeited. Whether Dreyfus is guilty or innocent has become a subordinate question. The real question is whether the French Government is willing to submit to the dictation of the army. So far, every step in the history of the Dreyfus case has been marked by violence, secrecy, arbitrary interference, and disregard of judicial methods. The peril of the situation lies in the attitude of the army and in the apparent subservience of the Government to the general staff. The arbitrary transference of the case of Colonel Picquart from the civil to the military authorities, and his secret confinement in a military prison by the direction of the Military Governor of Paris, show that the French Republic has practically ceased to exist; for such methods are absolutely incompatible with self-government. The military power has usurped the civil power, military methods have taken the place of judicial methods, and France is to-day under a tyranny in the form of an irresponsible power behind the Government. The lack of frankness and courageous leader-
ship in public affairs makes it possible for
the leaders of the army to suover the
processes of law and to terrorize France;
for France is to day repeating the Terror in
a modified form.

Half- Truths and the Truth

One of the most difficult duties laid upon a
man is the balancing of his life between what
appear to be antagonistic tendencies. That
this is a duty is evident from the gravity of
a failure to secure this balance. All ill-bal-
anced character, extravagance of opinion,
excesses of energy, tragic toavings of force,
and the vast majority of those eccentricities
which betray a distortion of nature, come
from the failure to harmonize the diverse
tendencies which are in every man's heart
and the diverse forces which play through
every man's life. It is impossible to give
one's self up wholly to anything without
spiritual loss; even the pursuit of the high-
est virtues and the noblest ends becomes an
occasion of weakness if these virtues and
ends are thrown out of their normal relations
to the whole order of life. In order to attain
deep spirituality of nature one must be, in
a sense, separated from the world; and yet no
man can attain his full stature or greatly
serve his fellows who is detached in fact or
in feeling from the human brotherhood. One
cannot compass the richest spiritual growth or
attain the widest spiritual vision if he is
of the world; neither can one secure either of
these great ends unless he be in the world.
In order to lead his fellows one must attain
the independence of the great teachers whose
wisdom has always been the knowledge of
God; but no one can touch the hearts of his
brother men and guide them into higher
paths unless he is so completely one with
them in all the deeper experiences that he
secures also the wisdom of the knowledge of
man.

The ball of the earth, like all the other
stars that shine in the firmament, is in per-
petual danger of flying into its sun or of
rushing into space; and man, who lives on
this flying ball played upon by two apparently
antagonistic forces, must lose his life in order
to save it, deny himself in order to be happy,
and give all that he possesses in order to be
permanently rich. If he hoards, he wastes;
if he guards himself against sorrow by keeping
his affections at home, he impoverishes him-
self; if he strives to escape the dangers of
life by keeping out of the path of the tragic
experiences, he invites inevitable disaster.
At maturity he is told, if he longs to serve
God, that he must be born again; in old age
he is taught, if he longs to know God, that
he must become as a little child. The struc-
ture of his own nature seems to affirm that
the highest wisdom is the exclusive posses-
sion of those whose minds have had the most
complete training, and in whose memory
knowledge has found the ampltst home; and
yet it is written that out of the mouths of
babes God has ordained wisdom, and in the
hearts of the poor and humble there is a
light above the light of knowledge. When
the Infinite took on the conditions of morta-
tility and became a man, his place of birth
was obscure, his parentage humble, his edu-
cation slight, his divinity veiled by the low-
liest aspects of humanity. The greatest of
the apparent contradictions of life is the fact
that God has led a human life; and Christ
himself was a greater paradox than any of
the paradoxes he uttered.

In whatever field a man walks, he finds
himself confronted and surrounded by these
strange and confusing contradictions. He
has a deep instinct for order, and yet he is
born into a society full of the elements of
disorder; he has a love of beauty, but he is
encircled by ugliness in a thousand forms;
he has a passion for freedom, but if he
follows his own desires and surrenders to his
own impulses, chains of habit are fastened
upon him which are like bands of iron; and
he does not need to study long in the school
of life to discover that the only road to
liberty is through obedience, and that he who
would be a master must first be a servant.
And this is only the beginning of that edu-
cation which seems to reverse all the first
impressions of the normal order of things.
For the man learns not only that the earth
turns toward the sun instead of the sun ris-
ing upon the earth, but that the small things
are great, and the great things small; that
the sublimest duties are often the humblest
in appearance, the noblest opportunities often
the most insignificant at the first glance, and
the loftiest natures the most unassuming. If
he would be great, he must first become sim-
ple; if he would lead his generation, he must
be its foremost servant; if he would uncover
the beauty of the world, he must find the