

in connection with all the regular soldiers in each state.

Has Mercy Fied The Earth?

AS one, month after month, reads the war news, he is more and more reminded of Col. Roosevelt's description of his months of hunting in equatorial Africa. There, since a time to which the memory of man runneth not back, there has been a constant warfare between the myriads of animals great and small, animals, reptiles, birds of prey—the savagery of the animal life that is teeming there on plain, in morass and forest. All the myriads of the deer family, the zebra, the different species of antelope and the eland have fled before the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the leopard and the lion. The lion has been lord, only fighting shy of the rhino and the hippo.

The contest has been unceasing, the cormorant and the raven have followed in the trail of the perpetual killing. The serpents have kept up with and joined in the savagery, and it is difficult for men, contemplating the perpetual suffering and fear, to understand why such everlasting cruelties should have been ordered; and all the time the sun has been shining brightly, and the songbirds, when not menaced by birds of prey, have been singing, and the landscapes have been brilliant with light, with tropical green and a wealth of flowers indescribably beautiful. The impression it all gives is one of sadness, if the observer has any sensibilities, and he keeps asking over and over, why all that suffering and all that fear should have been ordered. The low races of men and women existing there are not much advanced over the beasts of the field. Where a little bit civilized, the Colonel tells that in one place in a few weeks prior to his being there, a man eating leopard had killed two or three women, and five or six boys who had been guarding their little flocks of sheep, and it was a frequent occurrence for a hungry lion to steal into their slight houses at night and carry off some member of the family. In those regions, he himself slept with camp fires around him every night and his gun by his side. If one cannot comprehend why that should be so, to turn to the European battlefield and see how similar the conduct of men has been to that immemorial contest in the wilds of Africa for untold ages, it is difficult to fix the place where the acts of men are much improvement over the savageries of the lion, the hippo, the leopard, the buffalo, the cobra and python. We are taught that the world was given to man that he might subdue it, that he might subdue the wild beast, convert the wilderness into fruitful fields, subdue himself until he became a creature of order and of law, that he might drain the swamps, make smooth trails over the hills and finally with the order established, bring to himself comforts and luxuries, and at last establish justice and build temples to learning and awaken his own soul until the atrocities of this world should be disposed of. Finally, in the procession of the years, the Saviour came, and for nearly two thousand years his teachings have been calling on the children of men to do away with their savageries and to learn the blessing of peace and good will, but suddenly, in the most enlightened centers of the world, where there was the most ostentatious worship of the Prince of Peace, the nations all at once sprang to arms, and now, for wellnigh eighteen months they have adopted only the method of the lion and the leopard, the rhino, the cobra and the python of barbarous Africa. It is not a good outlook for humanity. It shakes one's faith in the ultimate humanity and salvation of mankind. For the strong to prey upon the weak has been the rule from the beginning, and though the intelligence of men has greatly increased, the methods of nations seem to be the same as in

the wilderness with the wild beasts; the strong prey upon the weak. The struggle of the financier in the great city, while different in method is not different in principle from that of the lion in the wilderness when he springs upon the prey. Europe is one vast house of mourning, and if the powers there do not swiftly come together and adjust their differences, the effect is liable to be to make millions of men and women believe that there is no God in heaven, no justice on the earth.

The Progressives

THE Progressives are in full evidence again, and as has been foreshadowed, they come with an ultimatum. It is to Republicans, "nominate Theodore Roosevelt for president, or we will elect Mr. Wilson again." That was the notice served by Colonel Cecil Lyon of Texas, in Chicago on Monday last. Mr. George W. Perkins gave the delegates a banquet on Monday night. He admitted that as in all great moral struggles, "We have had many discouragements." The only objection the average citizen will find to that is that he cannot see first where the moral comes in. In 1912, to begin the moral struggle, Mr. Perkins put up a stack of money to stuff the primar-

ies, to vote Democrats to elect Roosevelt delegates to the Chicago convention. Arrived there, the manipulators put up a job to contest the election of enough Republican delegates to nominate with what was left the Colonel. The rules that governed when the Colonel was nominated for vice-president, and four years later for president, were not good enough to govern, and when the transparent fraud failed, then the baffled conspirators claiming they had been wronged, bolted, called a new convention, and nominated the Colonel. The result was the election of Mr. Wilson, who has been president three years, less two months. The administration has not suited the progressives, least of all Colonel Roosevelt, but now another convention is on foot, and the sentiment of those now gathered in Chicago, as expressed above by Colonel Lyon of Texas, "You Republicans nominate Theodore Roosevelt, or we will give you Woodrow Wilson for president for another four years," is evidently Colonel Lyon's idea of how to coax the great old Republican party to go back to Theodore. In his speech at the banquet, Mr. Perkins declared that leadership was needed, leadership with vision, courage, patriotism, in order to reach a wise solution of the problems confronting us and that the Demo-

January

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