

cible annexation as "criminal aggression," to adopting it as a species of patriotism; from the home market theory to the foreign market policy. But Mr. Bryan has never yet been even accused, villainously as his political enemies in both parties have attacked him, of the slightest infidelity to principle or unfaithfulness to his word.

From Washington comes the ominous information that American fruits are about to "invade" the European markets. At this announcement Europeans are expected to blanch with fear. But why should they? The world is full of people, and Europe must have her share of them, who would rejoice if American fruits or any other fruits were to "invade" their homes. Yet it is by invading markets that such things as fruits do invade homes. How strange it is that what we all work for, good things from everywhere, should when they come, be described as "invaders." Do the inventors of these ugly military terms for peaceful commerce really live in looking glasses where everything is reversed?

After electing a tory parliament with large majorities and a great flourish, in recognition of the tory triumph in South Africa, the people of England are beginning to realize, eight months later, that the triumph in South Africa is not yet secure, that the war is not yet at an end. "Theoretically," says the London Financial News, one of the most enthusiastic propagandists last year of the theory that the war ended with the fall of Pretoria,—"theoretically the war was already concluded at the time of the general election last October, but that was only a political fiction, concocted for political purposes; that purpose having been served, we might as well acknowledge the truth now, and the truth is that the war is not over and that if the present methods of conducting it are to be continued there is no probability that it soon will be."

MILITARY ETHICS AND FREE THOUGHT.

A Vienna paper reports that Arthur Schnitzler, novelist and playwright, has been expelled from the ranks of reserve officers in the Austrian army and "infamously degraded by a military court of honor" because of a recent novel in which he ridicules dueling. The fact that Schnitzler was an officer of the reserve must come as a surprise to those who have followed the career of this clever young writer, and it is strongly suspected that he held his position merely to make some such "public disgrace" possible, and thus expose the ridiculous ethics of the military code of honor.

Arthur Schnitzler, some five or more years ago, wrote a play which is the strongest arraignment of militarism and the spirit it fosters that modern literature has to show. Dramatic talent of a very high order, superb character drawing, thorough knowledge of the subject and the strength of feeling which carries conviction, make "Freiwild" (Free Game) a play which no serious thinker can forget. And, proving beyond a doubt how true were the poet's deductions, the very thing, the tragedy he had painted as a bare possibility of the system, occurred in still more tragic shape in real life, after his play was written and had been accepted by the manager of a prominent Berlin theater.

In his play, Schnitzler portrays the brutal shooting of a civilian by an officer, because the latter's demand for a duel was refused by his victim. The civilian had administered a public rebuke to the officer, when the latter, also in public, insulted a defenseless woman. He saw no reason for a duel. "I have chastised a brute; that is all there is to it." But the military code of honor will not permit an officer to take a rebuke, however deserved, so he shoots in cold blood the man who refuses "satisfaction."

Schnitzler saw with the poet's insight how easily the system of military ethics could lead to, and justify, a deliberate murder; and several months after the manuscript of his play had passed out of his hands Lieut. von Brusenitz, a Karlsruhe officer, deliberately stabbed to death a civilian who

refused to apologize abjectly for having accidentally jostled the officer's chair in a restaurant. None of the mitigating circumstances which the poet allows the officer in his play were to be found in the real life drama; it was the crassest, crudest murder, with absolutely no cause but the compulsion of a false "code of honor." This tragedy of the Karlsruhe restaurant and Schnitzler's play are both worthy of recollection by those who would talk of the "ennobling" influence of a military training.

Schnitzler has been a marked man with both Austrian and German military authorities since the performance of his play, but the Karlsruhe affair excited public opinion to such an extent that the powers that rule dared not take action. But military governments have long memories, and have scored at last against the fearless young writer. It is not to be supposed, however, that a man of Schnitzler's opinions will be much concerned about his "infamous degradation" at the hands of the military court, and the whole affair will probably result in another fine play or novel in which Schnitzler will deal more cruelly with the military authorities than they have dealt with him.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

NEWS

Political excitement in England has been raised to a high pitch by a speech of Herbert Harry Asquith, a liberal leader and at one time home secretary in Mr. Gladstone's cabinet. The speech was important because it virtually announced a split in the liberal party over the issue of imperialism. Ever since the South African war began, the liberal party has come far short of being a unit on this question. By appealing to British patriotism the conservative government loosened its political bonds, making a good many liberals, especially those with social affiliations or ambitions, uneasy about being denounced as traitors, and thereby driving a wedge into the party organization. An "imperial liberal" movement was consequently set on foot, somewhat upon the plan of the organization that Mr. Chamberlain made a bridge of several years ago, over which he and his followers passed into the conservative party. This "imperial liberal" move-