

of Panama, which agrees to pay to Colombia \$2,500,000 in annual installments of \$250,000 for ten years as her share of the Colombian national debt. The United States agrees to furnish this money to Panama in accordance with terms of the existing treaty between the United States and Panama, the first payment to be made nine years after date of the treaty. The treaty also permanently fixes the boundary line between Colombia and Panama.

* *

The Italian Tragedy.

Earthquake shocks still continue in the Messina-Reggio region (p. 34), and fever has risen from the putrefactions of the demolished cities. Wonderful to relate, living persons were still being dug out from the ruins thirteen days after the earthquake of the 28th. An impressive funeral service was held at Messina on the 6th, when Archbishop Barrigo blessed the grave of 1,300 of the earthquake's victims. This monster tomb was 100 feet long and 30 feet deep. The bodies were piled on each other and covered with quicklime. It is reported that all earthquake orphans whose status cannot be established, will be called the children of the nation, and a bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies, to provide for them until they become of age. The Chicago Tribune's London correspondent who has just been at Messina, says that the most careful estimate he has been able to make of the death roll from information gathered in the afflicted area, and afterwards in official quarters in Naples and Rome, places the figures somewhere between 200,000 and 250,000. Seven hundred millions of dollars will be below the actual property loss. The Tribune makes the following summary, in American equivalents, of the relief sent to Italy from the various countries, up to the 10th:

United States ...	\$ 3,600,000	Russia	\$ 150,000
South America...	2,000,000	Belgium	160,000
England	600,000	Japan	84,000
Spain	400,000	Germany	60,000
France	500,000	Turkey	40,000
Egypt	22,000	Austria	32,000
Balkan states....	20,000	Italy (collected)..	2,000,000
Switzerland	180,000		
Australia	160,000	Total	\$10,228,000

* *

While the worshippers were kneeling in prayer for the souls of the Italian dead, a very ancient Swiss church at Sion, near Berne, collapsed on the 10th, carrying down something like a hundred persons to their death, in the crypt, under the heavy ruins.

* *

China Still Advancing.

A nephew of the Chinese reformer, Kang Yu-Wei (vol. xi, p. 801), Mr. Y. S. Wan, in an interview in New York on the 9th, said that it was a mistake to regard Yuan Shi-Kai, recently removed

as Premier in the Chinese government (p. 37), as a reformer. Mr. Wan says that not only is he not a reformer, but he has worked against progress; and that it was he who caused the failure of the progressive movement of 1898, betraying the Emperor's plans for advancement to the reactionary old Empress, who thereupon reduced the Emperor to a condition of helpless tutelage. Mr. Wan has supreme faith in the continuance of the forward movement in China.

* *

The National Congress in India.

Each year during Christmas week there meets in India an assembly of natives of India who desire for that unhappy country a stronger and more conscious national existence. Sharp lines of demarcation between the Moderates, who rely upon the British government for reforms, and the Extremists, who stand for home rule, broke up the Congress of last year, held at Surat (vol. x, pp. 948, 1019). Since that meeting the Extremists have suffered much, and their leader, Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, has been tried for sedition and deported. The Moderates, under the leadership of Dr. Rash Behari Ghose, were in entire control of this year's Congress, which was held at Madras, December 28-30 (vol. xi, p. 879). Two thousand delegates and visitors were present. Dr. Ghose was chosen president of the Congress. A telegram from the "grand old man of India," Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, approving of proposed reforms, was hailed with tumultuous applause. The Congress kept itself closely within lines which could not but be entirely satisfactory to the English government. In his opening address Dr. Ghose declared that the Congress had never faltered in its devotion to the Empire, and had refused to purchase unity at the cost of loyalty. He hoped that a future president of the Congress would be able to congratulate the country on the attainment of colonial self-government; that, however, was a very distant ideal. Recent proposals of reform in the government of India advanced by Lord Morley, Secretary for India (vol. xi, p. 923), were declared by Mr. Banerjea to go beyond their wildest dreams. Protest was recorded against the recent partition of the province of Bengal. A resolution urging the development of Indian industries, was carried, but no boycott on British goods (an Extremist plank) was declared. The next Congress is to be held at Lahore.

NEWS NOTES

—Walter R. Stubbs, Republican, was inaugurated as Governor of Kansas at Topeka on the 11th.

—Nationalism in Persia is still fighting, and a dispatch of the 10th from Berlin reports that Ispahan