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SINCE our last issue incidents of such extraordinary character and events so important in the complications which may follow have occurred, that the beginning of a crisis in international affairs seems to be at hand which may end in the redistribution of the nations of Europe. Nor have these events been confined alone to affairs of the "Powers" of Europe. The United States, after a long period of seeming indifference in their foreign relations, have taken a stand in regard to the disputed boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana which tends toward the enunciation of a national foreign policy, the logical outcome of which no man can foresee. On December 1st, with the exception of the atrocities in Armenia and a couple of land grabbing expeditions, one by the British in Ashantee, and another by the Italians in Abyssinia, profound peace apparently existed throughout the world. On December 17th President Cleveland's bellicose message to Congress led to the beginning of that series of complications which has since involved almost every nation of Europe. As between the United States and Great Britain the newspaper campaign that followed, with no apparent advantage to either side, was remarkable for its acerbity and showed no sign of abatement until Jameson's raid gave the American press a chance to vent its surplus steam and the welcome diversion of the Kaiser's letter turned the thoughts of England in another direction. The inside history of Jameson's expedition will probably never be made public, but coming just as it did, at the

moment when the British press was printing reams upon the subject of American jingos and pointing with pride to British virtue in minding their own affairs, the opportuneness of this piratical raid is little short of providential. The unanimous outburst of hate which immediately showed itself against England has, we believe, finally settled any question of war between us, and furthered arbitration upon the Venezuela dispute, for it is manifest that with all the world in league against her, England cannot afford to stake if not her national existence at least her natural prestige in a war with us upon any grounds so trivial. From all this controversy two apparent advantages have been gained: First, the thorough investigation of the boundary of Venezuela has been set on foot and by the publication of many documents, long kept from sight in state archives, the constant shifting of the British claim always to Venezuela's detriment has been shown. Second, a discussion by press and people of the United States and a clearer definition of what constitutes the Monroe doctrine. Before this controversy arose few people understood the Monroe doctrine and to most it was a name signifying in a general way a safeguard against encroachment of foreign powers in the Western Hemisphere. The result of the discussion may be said to be somewhat as follows: The Monroe doctrine is not a part of International law. This is clear, because Christian nations have without exception, we believe, failed to recognize this doctrine, and International law consists of those rules of National conduct which are prescribed by the common consent of Christian nations and which regulate their intercourse one with another (I. Bl. Comm., pp. 44-58; I. Kent Comm., Lect. 1, pp. 1-4; Woolsey, Int. law, § 5). But still it may be well considered a part of the settled policy of the United States which we have followed pretty consistently since its promulgation and intend to follow in the future. The questions which naturally arise as to the expediency of such an extension of the Monroe doctrine as is contemplated by the Davis resolution now before Congress are two: First, whether such an extension will not virtually constitute us the protector of all the squabbling little Republics of Central and South America; and second, if it does not embody at least a tendency toward the formation of those "entangling alliances" against which Washington warned us.

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THE catalogue of the Law School, which has appeared since our last issue, formally announces the lengthening of the course

of regular study here to three years. Beyond all doubt this is a capital move in the right direction. Every condition favors this action now; the enlarged opportunities and attendance of the school, the vigorous growth of our graduate life—all work in together. It is noticeable that of late older members of the Bar all over the country are appealing for a higher standard in the profession, and are bewailing the hosts of new recruits that are rushed into service with such machine-like rapidity. No man willingly upbraids his own branch of the service, but for this very reason we can hear a peculiar ring of sincerity in the recent words of Judge Field, of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, when he noted the great advance in the standard of other lines of work, and then added with considerable sadness, that this was not true of the Law. It is just here that all our law schools are doing their utmost to create better conditions—and none more vigorously than the school here. There has been of late years a striking growth of graduate life at Yale,—a circle independent of the undergraduate life, a community of men who are trying to do more thoughtful, mature work. The added year of law study falls in very aptly with this tendency. A man who means work may look at a law school course in just two ways—as a sort of manual training school which will carry him through to the bar in the fewest months, or as a period of thoughtful theoretical study which will give him a really deep foundation. Fortunately our schools at Yale and Harvard are making for the latter ideal with a success which is wholly impossible in the rush of a large city like New York.

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THE first decision by Mr. Justice Peckham since his appointment to the Supreme Court embraces a new application of the law of Eminent Domain. During its last session, Congress appropriated money for the preservation of the entire battlefield of Gettysburg as a national park. Various land owners and an electric railway which had received a franchise from the state of Pennsylvania to extend its line upon the field and had actually done so, contested the constitutionality of the act. The case caused a division upon the Circuit Court and was heard in the Supreme Court. Mr. Justice Peckham holds that the act is constitutional on the ground that the battle was a great lesson in military science, that the government desires to perpetuate the lesson and that it may legitimately do so under the power it has to maintain armies and to teach them military science.

THE annual catalogue of the University shows a most encouraging increase in the attendance at the Law School. It also suggests the remarkable growth within the last decade. The number of students enrolled in 1886 was sixty and the faculty consisted of six regular professors and eight special instructors and lecturers. The present membership is two hundred and twenty-five students and the faculty has been increased to ten regular professors and twenty-five special instructors. In view of the proposed extension of the course it is gratifying to note the substantial gain in the number of candidates for the degree of M. L. The range of representation covering nearly every State in the Union is much broader than formerly. This growth has been accomplished with a continually advancing standard of admission. Contemporaneously with its rapid development the School has extended and increased the courses of study, added to its library, established premiums and removed from cramped and unsuitable quarters to its large and commodious building. The object of these comparisons, suggested by the recent catalogue, is simply to emphasize to the friends of the University how splendidly the Law School is justifying its foundation and how worthy it is of their aid and coöperation.