

HIS CUBAN POLICY.

LEADER SACASTA FAVORS AUTONOMY.

The Probability of the Island Being Sold Termed Grotesque—Never Doubted the Success of Spain's Military Operations in Cuba—Weyler and Gomez Clash.

MADRID, May 31.—When Senor Sagasta was asked in regard to his opinion of the possibility of Spain's sale of Cuba, he said:

"That supposition is so grotesque that I do not care to make any reply to it at all."

"Did you promise to give Porto Rico absolute autonomy on the Liberal party coming into power?" the correspondent asked.

"I did say to the autonomists that the Liberal party will give Porto Rico complete administrative autonomy."

"Will you give me some outline of the policy which the Liberal party proposes to follow in Cuba?"

"In all that concerns the integrity of the mother country there is no difference of opinion whatever among the Spanish parties or politicians. We are all resolved to maintain the national sovereignty in Cuba. Where I differ from the Conservatives is in the means of accomplishing the pacification and welfare of the island, since I am of the opinion that political and diplomatic action should have been employed co-jointly with military action. I believe so thoroughly in political action because I consider the material triumph of an armed force (and on this point I never entertained doubt) does not suffice to bring about that intimate, filial union of Cuba and Spain."

"Political action, besides being a powerful auxiliary of military action, is the only policy competent to restore things to the condition of moral quietude and this result will be attained. The laws bestowed on Cuba shall be such as shall cause all mistrusts to disappear and deprive the enemies of Spain of every possible pretext for affirming that the mother country does not govern Cuba in the spirit of freedom and justice. What I have said in regard to Porto Rico applies equally to the island of Cuba."

HAVANA, May 31.—An engagement at La Reforma, Sancti Spiritus, between the Spanish, commanded by General Weyler, and the Cubans, led by General Gomez, was fought early last week. It was the result of Weyler's scheme to crush Gomez by surrounding him with 20,000 men. The plan failed and the battle was reported here as an ordinary Spanish victory, without details.

It was the first time in war that Weyler and Gomez had faced each other. General Gomez, placing his men in the best strategic positions at La Reforma, awaited Weyler, and for six hours held him in check, although the Cubans numbered scarcely 1,000 men. Gomez ordered his best shots to pursue the Spanish general, but the latter never came to the front. When two fresh Spanish columns came up Gomez retired and the Spanish abandoned the field.

PALMA AND SHERMAN CONFERENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Senor Thomas Estrada Palma, head of the Cuban junta in New York, chief delegate in the United States of the Cuban government, called at the state department. Secretary Sherman in extending the invitation to Senor Palma, was obliged to do so unofficially and to receive him as an American citizen. The president was also unofficially aware of his visit.

The proposition that the Cubans buy the island was discussed by Secretary Sherman, Assistant Secretary Day and Senor Palma. It was indicated by Senor Palma that the insurgents are willing to purchase their freedom at a reasonable price. A full understanding prevailed that the necessary funds to float the bonds could be secured whenever Spain agreed to enter into negotiations looking to a sale of Cuba.

IRISH NOT TO TAKE PART.

Irish Parliamentary Party Will Have Naught to Do With the Jubilee.

LONDON, May 31.—John Dillon, chairman of the Irish parliamentary party, presided at a meeting of twenty-six Irish members of parliament who adopted a resolution declaring that the Irish parliamentary party is unable to take part in the celebration of the jubilee, on the ground that the demonstration is not simply commemorative of the private and public virtues of the monarch, but is mainly imperial jubilation over the development of the principles of self-government and the growth of prosperity, wealth, comfort, etc., in which Ireland has not shared.

The resolution then proceeds, to the extent of half a column, indicting English policy in Ireland and reciting the latter's wrongs.

Killed While Soliciting for a Social.

ANGOLA, Kan., May 31.—Mrs. S. M. Pitt, wife of a prosperous farmer living two miles north of here, was thrown from a cart by a runaway horse this morning and instantly killed. She had been out soliciting for a church social and was driving home when the accident occurred.

Overflow Committee Named.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Senator Frye, chairman of the Senate committee on commerce, to-day appointed a subcommittee to investigate the overflow of the Mississippi river under the terms of the resolution recently passed by the Senate. The sub-committee consists of Senator Vest, Gallinger, McBride, Nelson, Elkins, Berry and Caffery.

A Royal Betrothal.

BRUSKLA, May 31.—Le Soir announces the coming betrothal of the Princess Clementine, third daughter of King Leopold, to Prince Albert Leopold Clement.

SQUABBLE OVER GLASS.

Efforts to Reduce the Tariff Rates Lost—Mr. Jones Heard From.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The Senate resumed its work at noon to-day with its usual calm prevailing after the stormy events of yesterday. The tariff bill was taken up on motion of Mr. Aldrich and considered from the point reached yesterday, paragraph 100.

An agreement was reached striking out the provision that all fluted, rolled, ribbed or rough plate glass, when ground or otherwise obscured, shall be subject to the same rate of duty as finished cast polished plate glass unaltered.

On the paragraph as to unaltered cast polished plate glass, small size, Mr. Jones of Arkansas moved to reduce the rate from 8 cents to 5 cents per square foot. In this connection Mr. Jones declared that the increase of duty on all classes of plate glass was astounding. In one case, he said, the rate was increased 83 per cent above the high rate of the McKinley act, which, he asserted, had been repudiated by the people because of its high rates. This was an attempt to raise the price of mirrors in cheap furniture for poor people, while the large sized glass bought by people of wealth had its rates reduced. This was the peculiarity of the whole bill, as though the Senators in charge of the bill had in mind the old proverb: "To him who hath shall be given, and to him who hath not shall be taken away," etc.

When Mr. Jones referred to the enormous dividends declared by the plate glass trust, Mr. Platt of Connecticut stated that no dividends had been declared in the last three years. Mr. Vest of Missouri added that the entire plate glass trade, with a few trifling exceptions, was controlled by the combine which met annually at Pittsburgh, to fix rates, etc. Mr. Jones presented a statement showing that the plate glass combination had made profits of about \$2,500,000 in twenty-two months, on a capital of \$2,000,000. Mr. Quay of Pennsylvania read a letter from the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company, declaring that any statements that it was a trust combine in restraint of trade was untrue.

After a lengthy debate on the plate glass schedule the motion of Senator Jones of Arkansas to reduce the rate on rough plate glass from 8 to 5 cents, was defeated—yeas 21, nays 29.

Senator Quay made a motion in the Senate this afternoon to adjourn over Monday in honor of Decoration day. The motion was discussed at some length, a number of Republicans saying they thought the tariff bill should be pressed.

The Democrats supported the motion. Senator Morgan, discussing it, said he regretted that the Republican House of Representatives was compelled to meet Monday by the autocratic ruler of that body. He said the House of Representatives was compelled to follow the dictates of one man, and Congress was dishonoring itself by being subject to one man.

TURKEY OPPOSES ANGELL.

He is Obnoxious to the Sultan—Too Anti Mohammedan.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The sultan of Turkey objects to receiving James B. Angell as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States in Constantinople. Though, as a rule, a government is not bound to state reasons for considering a minister persona non grata, the objections to Professor Angell are said to be based upon his connection with missionary societies in this country. It is understood that Mustapha Bey, the Turkish minister here, in formally lodging the protest of the sublime porte with the secretary of state, said that the objections of the sultan were based upon Minister Angell's "membership in a Christian order whose animosities against the Mohammedan religion were extreme." It is not known which order Mustapha Bey referred to. It is likely that in Constantinople some confusion exists as to the true nature of the work of the missionary societies in which Prof. Angell has for many years exhibited a lively interest.

Professor Angell is in town, and has been at the White house in consultation with the President. Presumably an attempt will be made to remove the unfavorable impression created in the mind of the sultan and his advisers by the selection of Minister Angell and to convince him that, though a friend of missionaries, the appointee of President McKinley is a clever and experienced diplomat, a man of affairs and a gentleman. If the attempt to remove this prejudice against Minister Angell should prove unsuccessful, there is no remedy for him.

KING FEARS A MOB.

Royal Family of Greece in Danger of Popular Fury.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 31.—To-day the embassies received word from their respective ministers at Athens that the position of the Greek royal family is now critical. King George is practically barricaded in the palace, and it is reported that he is making preparations to leave Athens in order to evade the fury of the populace.

Decoration Day at Topeka.

TOPEKA, Kan., May 31.—Memorial Day was observed in Topeka by the usual formal decoration of graves of dead soldiers in the forenoon and a parade and speeches in the afternoon. Colonel J. H. Gilpatrick of Leavenworth delivered an address.

A Kansas Bank in Liquidation.

ST. PAUL, Kan., May 31.—The Bank of Osage Mission of this city has gone into voluntary liquidation, and is paying off the depositors in full. The stringency of the late banking law is said to be the cause.

SECRETARY GAGE SPEAKS.

Addresses a Banquet at Cincinnati on the Tariff and Finance.

CINCINNATI, May 31.—The crowning event of the visit of the commercial clubs of St. Louis, Chicago and Boston was the banquet at the Clifton mansion of Alexander McDonald, who was host for the Cincinnati club. Lucien Wulsin, president of the Cincinnati club, opened the speaking with an address of welcome.

Secretary of the Treasury Gage was vociferously applauded as he rose to speak. He said, in beginning his remarks, that before coming he had called on the President and asked permission to say for the administration that there must be proper revenue raised, and there must be a sound system of currency established. The President said: "That is exactly what I want you to say." Mr. Gage continued:

"As to the great fabric now before Congress known as the tariff bill, I have nothing to say in detail. I want to bear testimony, however, to the good faith of those in both houses who have that measure in charge. They are fully conscious of their great responsibility and are working faithfully to discharge it. Nor do I think that the opponents of these measures are likely to oppose with willful and unjust obstructions the course of legislation. Protest there will be—more or less fencing for position must be expected, but having now come into contact with many of the representatives of the people in both houses of Congress, I deem it my duty to bear witness, so far as it may have value, to the honorable and patriotic motives that inspire the minds of the great majority, whether upon one side of the house or the other, and I prophesy an early result in the national councils to which this great committee question is now committed."

"I make these remarks, not to defend a body for which I hold no commission to speak, but to correct, in one direction if I may say, the operation of an injurious sentiment—a sentiment which is sowing its seeds in many directions. It is dividing classes, destroying unity and breeding hatred. The one word for that is 'distrust.' Faith and courage lead to conquest and victory. Distrust paralyzes and destroys."

"As to the financial question, to which I have already referred, I must content myself with few words. I am glad that they may be words of assurance. If any of you harbor the suspicion that the administration but just now installed into the responsibilities of high office, has forgotten the people whose vote in behalf of honest money and sound finances rang out loud and clear in November last, put that suspicion aside. It was unjust and unfounded. In good time and in proper order the affirmative evidences of my declaration will appear. The revival of industry is near, and, with the establishment of a revenue law sufficient to bring into the treasury an amount adequate to meet the reasonable needs of our government, and with the establishment of our finances on a sound and enduring basis, nothing now foreseen can delay the recovery of past losses, and the inauguration of a new forward movement along the lines of material advancement and social progress."

BIG WOODMAN GAINS.

The Biennial Meeting of the Order, June 1, Will Show Much Progress.

DUNQUE, Iowa, May 31.—The biennial meeting of the head camp, Modern Woodmen of America, to be held here June 1 to 7, promises to be one of the most important and largest attended ever held by the order. Many matters of vital importance to the organization are to be considered and there will be lively fights about some of them. This is especially true regarding the proposition to again order the headquarters moved from Fulton, Ill., to Rock Island.

The reports of the head officers will show that since the meeting at Springfield in 1890, the membership has increased from 40,000 to 240,000 and the number of camps from 1,100 to 4,800; that the death rate has decreased from 5.41 in 1893 to 4.60 in 1896, and the cost of management from \$1.62 in 1889 to 61 cents in 1896. The total insurance now in force is \$50,000,000.

PARNELLITES SUSPENDED.

Redmond and Three Others Ejected From the House of Commons.

LONDON, May 31.—John E. Redmond, the Parnellite leader, was suspended from the house of commons yesterday, owing to his persisting in an irregular discussion of the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. John J. Clancy, member for the North division of Dublin county; William Redmond, member for West Clare, and William Field, member for the St. Patrick's division of Dublin, for similar conduct, were removed from the house by the sergeant-at-arms.

An Elopement Arrested.

RICH HILL, Mo., May 31.—The police of this city have arrested Ira Davis and Mrs. Mamie Morris, who eloped from Northern Bates county two months ago. Both have families. Davis is Mrs. Morris' brother-in-law. They are prominent farmers and their elopement startled the county.

A Missouri Woman Kills Herself.

ANDERSON, Mo., May 31.—The wife of Felix Parson, a well-to-do farmer, six miles south of this place, committed suicide last night by hanging. She was about 49 years old and has been despondent many years. Her mother, Mrs. Anderson, shot herself about ten years ago. A sister, Mrs. Knowlton, lives in Kansas City.

Orders Mills on the Jubilee Embassy.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Ogden Mills of New York has been added to the special embassy to attend Queen Victoria's jubilee. He will act as secretary and attache to the embassy.

CYCLING IN TYROL.

EVEN MOUNTAINEERS HAVE CAUGHT THE FEVER.

Col. Waring Describes His Experience in Cycling Through the Dolomites—Heavy Wheels in Use in Mountainous Regions.



OL. George E. Waring, Jr., commissioner of street-cleaning in New York city, made a bicycle tour through the Tyrol last summer. Col. Waring has written for "The Century" two papers descriptive of his experience.

The second one, "Cycling Through the Dolomites," appears in the current number. Col. Waring says:

We found that the bicycle fever had reached even to our landlord, who was experimenting with an iron-rimmed wheel over which the saddle was supported by a pair of elliptic springs. I tried it, and said it went very well, though not so soft as the "pneu." I lifted it, and did not care to go farther. I told him it was too heavy. He said: "Mawknix; muss starker sein." Probably the extra weight of this wheel would not be considered in fixing the load that a Tyrolean peasant would carry over the hills from the fields, and need not be regarded as an obstruction to sport. The wheels here are all much heavier than ours, and much stronger. They can be sent up hill by the tougher thews that grow in this land, and for safety in going down hill they have very effective brakes. The best brake has two pieces of rubber, about two and a half inches long and three-quarters of an inch square, which are held flat against the two quarters of the tire. It holds very firmly, and its friction does not come on the part that is subject to the greatest wear. It is used, not with a steady pressure, but with successive light squeezes. When one becomes accustomed to it, it gives excellent control to any degree desired—even to holding the machine stock-still under any load and on any grade. Even the usual flat brake has a rubber face which holds better and lasts longer than metal. My American brakes were "not in it" on these hills, as compared with those of the local wheels I rode.

The use of the brake is exacted by law in all towns, and it is almost universal on country roads; so is the furnishing of the wheel with a bell, but the better riders in Innsbruck do not

somewhat to the annoyance of the rider, but it has a faint horse-car suggestion which keeps the public on the lookout. Nowhere in Europe did I see the brutal quadrupedal "scorching" that is such a nuisance and such a danger with us.

Another device I found to be in very general use in Tyrol. This is a snap-clip for holding the front wheel in line with the machine, so that it may be stood against a tree or any other support without falling. It is useful in pushing up hill with the hand on the saddle. The direction is changed by lifting the hind wheel to right or left. The clip is set or released in a moment.

As we left our lunching place we found the young towheads of the farm standing in mute and respectable wonderment about our wheels. We gave them a bit of a ride, two at a time, and left them enriched with the memory of a sensation they had never before known, and will never repeat—and will never forget.

GEORGE ELIOT'S HEROINES.

The Great Writer Had Felt the Want of Money.

George Eliot, since she was a woman, had probably needed money herself at times; and this may explain why she shows proper consideration for her heroines, letting few of them suffer life-long poverty, says Lippincott's. Romola's income enables her to care for Tessa and bring Vello up according to her own educational theories; Janet, having money, repents comfortably, being enabled to arrange a pleasant home for Mr. Tryan, to be near him in his last moments, and to erect a stone to his memory. Hardy's poor Tess, on the contrary, is not even allowed enough money to pay for the family monument. Gwendolyn Harleth had been used to ease; and it naturally followed that it was only when George Eliot injudiciously invested the family fortune with Grapnell & Co., "who failed for a million," that the faults in her character got the better of her. And Rosamond Viney—did she not make herself thoroughly pleasant as soon as George Eliot permitted her Tertius to provide his family with a becoming income by writing a treatise on gout and alternating in practice between London and a continental watering place? Who but George Eliot is responsible for the tragic career of Maggie Tulliver? Did she not fall to make suitable financial provision for Maggie's introduction into the society of St. Ogg's in the conventional fashion at the proper age, thus precipitating the affair with Stephen? With Mrs. Tulliver, I bitterly regret those "spot-the-clothes" and the china "with the

FRENCH INCIVILITY.

An English Lady's Charge Against Gallic Manners.

French politeness, as we all know, has passed into a proverb; yet, like many another proverb, it can only be accounted true in a rare and limited sense, says the London Graphic. When traveling in France one is struck by the extreme rudeness of one's fellow-travelers, who lose no time in making you as uncomfortable as possible, while it never occurs to any man to open the exceedingly awkward doors of a railroad carriage or to assist a lady in getting in and out. On one occasion I passed the Maison de Secours for cyclists, and asked the man in charge kindly to pump up one of my wheels, as I had no pump with me. He promptly declined on the score that I had no card of the touring club with me. In what desolate country lane of England, had one appealed to the veriest scorchers, would such a request have been bluffed and rudely refused?

The fact is that true politeness, the kindly feeling of man to man, or man to woman, is far more developed in the English lower classes than it is among the so-called Gallic population. The manners of Parisian "cochers," "concierges" and officials have notably deteriorated since the advent of the republic, and any actual courtesy toward women consists only in words and the entirely meaningless fashion of lifting the hat. A Frenchman will always push and trample and shove past a woman, forcing her off the pavement and into the gutter; he will stare her out of countenance and follow her in the street to her annoyance and discomfort, but he will rarely extend a helping hand or take her under his manly and disinterested protection. When one remembers the admirable conduct of the British crowd in the street on the night of the illuminations in honor of the jubilee, one cannot but feel proud of one's countrymen's manners, from the highest to the lowest. Politeness without protestation might be their motto.

The peculiarities of French and English people also exhibit themselves in other ways. For instance, a French chambermaid once informed me that she preferred her English guests. "Why?" I queried. "Because they have fixed habits," she replied. "Habits they have, such as daily baths, open windows and abundance of hot water, but once you know these habits they are every day the same. They rarely ring the bell, except at stated times, and you easily learn how to serve them. Now, the French visitors never like the same things two days running. Today they are too hot, to-morrow too cold; today they sleep propped up with pillows; tomorrow they like their heels higher than their heads; and so they are difficult, capricious, changeable and hard to please."

THE MONASTERIES OF THE METEORA.



THE MONASTERY OF ST. NICHOLAS, THESSALY.

Barlaam is a very good specimen of these fifteenth century monasteries, but what makes this one of especial interest is that the rope is said to be the longest used for the purpose (340 feet). The ladders to this monastery are not so difficult to climb as some, but inasmuch as they pull out every time you grip them and oscillate frightfully, it is pleasanter to risk the net. The Monastery of Hagios Nikolaos appeared to be in a totally dilapidated condition and entirely deserted when we visited Meteora, while the ladders, which are seen in the picture rising from a neighboring peak and hanging from the bare rock, were impracticable. All these monasteries are under the Archimandrite, a man of commanding presence and saintly countenance. The village of Kastraki is jammed in between the outer rocks of this curious amphitheater, and in the slit of this rocky wall at the back of the village stands a most peculiar hourglass-looking monolith. The rocks on either side are perforated with strange holes, which in the fourteenth century were inhabited by the monks of St. Anthony.—From the New York Morning Journal.

Story of Spurgeon's School Days.

The late Mr. C. H. Spurgeon often related the following anecdotes, which was very characteristic of himself and his surroundings while he was a schoolboy: One extremely cold morning at school in the classroom, the lowest and least honorable place happened to be near a large stove, and as the grateful warmth seemed to be more desirable than any transient scholastic honors, the weary lad took care not to manifest that knowledge which would have sent him up higher into the cold. Questions continued to be asked him, which only remained unanswered; but being a shrewd observer, the schoolmaster presently detected where the shoe was pinching, and immediately ordered a wheel-round, so that the head of the column should be next to the stove. This unexpected stratagem had the looked-for effect, at once curing Master Spurgeon's unaccountable dullness. No sooner were questions asked than he replied to them, and he was quickly again enjoying the warm place by the fire.

Why She Was Happy.

Ella—is Belle happily married? Stella—I guess so; her husband is a sailor and is away three years at a time.—Town Topics.

PROVERBS OF THE SCORCHER.

A bicycle can do almost anything save climb a tree.
A drop of oil in time may save many a gallon of perspiration.
It shall be said of all bicycles that their way is the way of the crank.
It is a wise cyclistometer that shows its master an extraordinary day's run.
It can not be said of a bicycle rider that he begins in the way he should go.
As the handle bar is bent, so shall the spinal column of the rider be inclined.
A soft answer turneth away wrath, but a soft tire filleteth a man with evil thoughts.
The rider who pursueth his way with his head bowed runneth to his own destruction.
As the spoke is bent, so shall the path of the bicycle deviate from the straight and narrow way.
The oil cup that goes too long uncovered will become possessed of as much grit as the rider of the bicycle thereof.
It is not meet that bicycles should greet each other with clapping of hand. Rather let them pay a formal, distant greeting one to the other.
The bicycle hath wisdom which submiteth to the charge that it is at fault and not its master for running not 70 days alike during the week.
The man who looketh behind him in a crowded path would better be a pillar of salt.—New York Journal.

The wine production of the United States in 1896 was 89,700,000 gallons.