

Current Topics.

IT IS PROPOSED BY A NUMBER OF AMERICAN citizens of Polish birth to erect in the city of Washington a statue of Count Pulaski. In a general way the people of today know who Pulaski was, but if the American people generally were thoroughly familiar with the history of this great man the effort on the part of American citizens of Polish birth to erect a Pulaski statue would very soon be reinforced by the vigorous efforts of Americans generally. Pulaski was born for service in liberty's cause. He was but 22 years of age when he joined with his father and two brothers in a struggle against despotism. Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the best judges of men, formed Pulaski's acquaintance, and being apprised of the character of the struggle in America, Pulaski offered his services to the cause of the American colonists. In 1777 he enlisted in the colonial army. At the battle of Brandywine he displayed fine courage and ability and after this battle he was made brigadier general and placed in command of cavalry. Later he commanded a corps of light horse and infantry known as "Pulaski's Legion." At the siege of Savannah, October 9, 1779, Pulaski was mortally wounded while leading an assault. At the age of 32 years he died, having offered his life on the altar of liberty. In the city of Savannah, a monument has already been erected to his worthy memory, and it will be strange, indeed, if, at a time when we are accepting at the hands of foreign friends statues of kings for display at our national capital, there will be serious difficulty in securing funds for the erection in the city of Washington of the statue of a man whose life was devoted to liberty's cause.

THAT "AN EDITOR EARNS HIS SALARY by the things he keeps out of the paper rather than by the things he admits to the paper," is well understood in newspaper circles, and this rule was well illustrated by a recent publication in the Prague Official Police Gazette. The people of Vienna opened wide their eyes with astonishment when in the Official Police Gazette for July 11, they read this remarkable notice:

"A dangerous madman, hitherto under the care of Prof. Von Buelow, escaped recently from Berlin. His name is Kaiser Wilhelm. He is the son of Kaiser Friedrich, deceased, in Berlin. He was last seen in rages of eloquence in Marienburg.

"Notice is given that he shall be searched for and delivered up in this office.

"IMPERIAL POLICE DIRECTION,
"Prague."

Every one connected with the Gazette appears to be at a loss to know exactly how this strange pronouncement crept into the columns of that publication. On its face it is shown to have been written by a bitter enemy of the emperor, and a cablegram to the New York World says:

"The public is wildly excited over this notice, which will have grave consequences for the Prague police, as it must be attributed to the negligence of the officials."

SENOR SAGASTA, PRIME MINISTER OF Spain, was at one time society reporter on a Madrid paper. Finally he was assigned to report the proceedings of the Cortes, and gradually he became active on his own account in politics. Sagasta is now eighty years of age and yet it is said that there are few men thirty years his junior who can dispose of as much work or whose counsel is more readily relied upon by his associates.

IT WILL PROBABLY DEVELOP THAT THE heated controversy concerning the presence of the friars in the Philippines is not at all of serious import. The letters exchanged between the war department and the vatican are of that tone that one is impressed with the notion that nothing really serious may result from the discussion. The war department is anxious that the friars withdraw voluntarily or be withdrawn by their superiors. The ecclesiastical authorities do not desire to condemn the friars by directing their withdrawal from the islands. The war department will find it difficult to discover authority whereby the friars could be expelled, and unless Mr. Roosevelt shall conclude to adopt radical measures, the result will probably be that the friars will remain.

INDEED RECENT WASHINGTON DISPATCHES indicate that "the negotiations in the vatican will shortly lapse as a closed incident." Contemplating this situation, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, who

is generally well informed on administration questions, says:

"The case will then stand that the friars will remain in the Philippines under the displeasure of the United States. They will be afforded the protection of the treaty of Paris, but this will not avail to release them from the difficulties incident to their peculiar position. The titles to their lands are good, but against the obstacles which the expressed displeasure of the government would create the friars could not realize the value of their holdings, and question of actual title will arise in many instances. These vast estates would, therefore, be frittered away in litigation, and every sale of property by the friars will be under clouded titles. In this respect, while the friars win on the face of the negotiations, they lose the substantial fruits of their victory, as their great possessions will be depreciated in their hands, and their existence and tenure in the Philippines will be that of foreigners who are obnoxious to the existing government. The outlook for the friars is not bright, while the United States may retire from the present negotiations with the simple statement that a plain business bargain was proposed, the conditions of which were not acceptable to Rome."

THE EXACT STATUS OF THE ISLE OF Pines has not yet been determined and while there is considerable newspaper discussion concerning it, it is not at all probable that any serious difficulty between Cuba and the United States will arise because of the title to this particular territory. In the treaty with Spain, the Isle of Pines was not mentioned and yet there was in that treaty a general cession to the United States of "the island of Porto Rico and other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies." Concerning Cuba Spain, in the treaty, relinquished its claims of sovereignty. It has been generally accepted that the Isle of Pines was properly within Cuban territory, but in the Platt amendment, which Cuba accepted, it was provided that the Isle of Pines "be omitted from the proposed constitutional boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto being left to future adjustment by treaty." It will probably develop that Cuban statesmen will insist upon Cuba's authority over this territory, and if the United States shall be careful of their honor, it may be depended upon that the Cuban claim in this respect will be conceded.

RECENTLY IT LEAKED OUT THROUGH the newspapers that General Bragg, consul general to Havana, had in a letter to Mrs. Bragg made this statement: "Uncle Sam might as well try to make a whistle out of a pig's tail as to try to make something out of these people." General Bragg has not made an explicit denial. In a cablegram to the editor of the Chicago Tribune General Bragg said he had no recollection of writing such a statement, and he said also that the publication was entirely unwarranted. He added: "However, what I write my wife I consider as private and no one's business but our own." In other dispatches it is explained that what General Bragg really wrote was that when Uncle Sam got through trying to make a whistle out of a pig's tail, he (Bragg) would report whether he could make an Anglo-Saxon out of a Cuban.

THOSE WHO ARE WELL ACQUAINTED with General Bragg appear to believe that the consul general made the statement attributed to him, and yet even though it should be admitted that Bragg wrote the statement one or two interesting questions would arise. In the first place, men in the consular service are not presumed to be diplomats; in fact there is a clearly defined distinction between the diplomatic service and the consular service, and where diplomatic agents would be held rigidly to account for their utterances, the statements of the consular agents would be passed by lightly. And yet men in the consular service have an intimate relation with the country to which they are assigned and while they are not charged with the duty of delivering messages from the one country to the other, they are nevertheless expected to be careful lest their actions or their utterances give offense. Level-headed consular agents are therefore generally very careful as to the things they write and the things they say and it may be that the president will find it necessary to recall General Bragg unless the Cuban authorities shall intimate to the representatives of this government that they do not regard General Bragg's remark as at all offensive.

ANOTHER QUESTION THAT MIGHT BE raised is, "May the letters of a husband to a wife be used to the husband's detriment?" But this latter question will probably be solved in the solution of the former question. If it shall be

determined that consular agents must be as careful as diplomatic agents in their actions and their words, then the fact that General Bragg's offensive statement was contained in a letter to his good wife will not serve in the least as a defense. On the whole, however, one might be inclined to the conclusion that if General Bragg entertains for the Cubans the poor opinion which his words might imply, his usefulness as a representative in Cuba of this government, in any capacity, is practically at an end.

MARCONI'S LATEST TEST IN WIRELESS telegraphy was a marked success. For some time he has been engaged on board the Italian flagship, the Carlo Alberto, near Cronstadt, Russia, in experiments. Recent advices from Marconi state that he has received signals from the Cornwall station, a distance of about 1,400 miles. It is true that portions of these messages were received overland, but it is also stated that complete messages were received for a distance of 850 miles.

JUSTICE ALTON B. PARKER OF THE NEW York court of appeals has recently delivered an interesting opinion in what has come to be known as the "Right of Privacy" case. Miss Roberson brought suit against certain parties, alleging damages because they had used her picture to advertise a certain brand of flour. The New York court of appeals, speaking through Justice Parker, says:

"The so-called right of privacy is, as the phrase suggests, founded upon the claim that a man has the right to pass through this world, if he wills, without having his picture published, his business enterprises discussed, his successful experiments written up for the benefit of others, or his eccentricities commented upon either in hand bills, circulars, catalogues, periodicals or newspapers, and necessarily that the things which may not be written and published of him must not be spoken of him by his neighbors, whether the comment be favorable or otherwise.

"While most persons would much prefer to have a good likeness of themselves appear in a responsible periodical or leading newspaper rather than upon an advertising card or sheet, the doctrine which the courts are asked to create for this case would apply as well to the one publication as to the other, for the principle which a court of equity is asked to assert in support of a recovery in this action is that the right of privacy exists and is enforceable in equity, and that the publication of that which purports to be a portrait of another person, even if obtained upon the street by an impertinent individual with a camera, will be restrained in equity on the ground that an individual has the right to prevent his features from becoming known to those outside of his circle of friends and acquaintances.

"An examination of the authorities leads us to the conclusion that the so-called 'right of privacy' has not as yet found an abiding place in our jurisprudence."

ON JULY 16, THE ONE HUNDRED AND twenty-third anniversary of the capture of Stony Point by the American forces under "Mad Anthony" Wayne was celebrated by the dedication of the Stony Point battlefield. This battlefield comprises 33 acres of land. It is 12 miles south of West Point, and has been set aside as a state park. The New York legislature in 1897 appropriated \$25,000 for the preservation of this historical spot. It will be remembered that in June, 1779, General Clinton held Stony Point with a garrison of 600 men. General Washington summoned "Mad Anthony" Wayne, and asked him if he could take Stony Point. It is recorded that the impetuous American general replied, "I can storm hell if you plan it." On the night of July 16, 1779, Wayne, in command of several hundred men, attacked Stony Point. In the assault Wayne was wounded. Twenty Britishers were killed, 74 were wounded, 58 were reported missing, and 472 were taken prisoners. The total American loss was 15 killed and 83 wounded. General Wayne's assault went into history as one of the boldest exploits of the revolution and the battle of Stony Point was one of the decisive battles of that great contest.

THE RETIREMENT OF LORD SALISBURY and the succession of Arthur James Balfour was the interesting bit of news to which the people of the world were recently treated. No particular surprise seems to have been occasioned by the change, although there were some who believed that in the event of Salisbury's retirement, Joseph Chamberlain would succeed to the premiership. Doubtless Salisbury's retirement was due to a desire on his part for rest. There will be no radical changes in the policies under the new premier. Indeed, Balfour himself has said that he would be