THE VICTORY OF THE VANQUISHED.

HON. CHAS. A. TOWNE in the Arena.

At Heraclea, with the Romans in tumultuous retreat before him, Pyrrhus the Epirot took counsel of his prophetic soul and dreaded the repetition of such a victory. Things are not, necessarily, what they seem. Fabius, falling back again and again as his enemy advanced, was regarded by the camp followers of his pursuer as not only defeated, but disgraced. Subsequent observers have reached a different conclusion. To his routed soldiers fleeing before the impetuous onset of Charles XII, Peter the Great administered the consolation that the victorious Swede was but teaching them how to conquer him.

The political campaign of 1896 resulted in the apparent success of the gold standard. Its forces immediately entered upon an armed occupation of the country and began carrying out an elaborate program for making the conquest secure and permanent. They are multiplying and provisioning their strategic outposts, and their commanding officers display all the swagger and insolence of conquerors. In the latest operation successfully concluded by their arms the great state of Ohio surrendered at discretion, and the victorious satrap who had conducted the siege returned, flushed with pride and swollen with official plunder, in more than Roman triumph to the capital.

But the end is not yet. Those who are not blinded by spectacle and pageantry or deafened by the obedient shouts of hired retainers; those who have studied the motives of the combatants, the origin of the dispute, and the fundamental nature of the controversy, know full well that these demonstrations in the gold-standard camp are at least premature.

A great cause is rarely won in a single engagement. The final and decisive battle comes only after a long campaign of strategy and maneuvers, in the course of which many skirmishes between detachments of the main armies, and even some partial collisions of the latter themselves, will occur, and with varying fortune. Meantime, if one of the forces be composed of seasoned veteran troops, thoroughly disciplined, well appointed and provisioned, commanded by experienced tacticians, possessing unlimited resources, and operating on interior lines; while the other consists in large degree of raw levies, undrilled, supplied but poorly with accoutrements and commissary, under officers not bred to arms, with nearly empty war-chest, and attacking from scattered bases of operation; it may be well that for the former every conflict that ends short of the complete demoralization of their foe is a defeat, while for the latter every skirmish or collision that tries their valor, adds to their confidence, improves their discipline, and teaches them mutual reliance, is a victory.

The campaign of 1896 was not a final engagement. It was but the greatest of the series of preliminary tests of strength and courage that precede the death grapple. And yet it was a stupendous battle. It was a magnificent struggle. Little wonder that the supporters of the gold standard, who, anticipating an easy encounter with far inferior forces, found, when the conflict was over, that they had gained a decision over an army stronger by almost a million men —(Mr. Bryan received 6,502,925 votes. The largest popular vote for president ever before given to a candidate was Mr. Cleveland's in 1892, viz., 5,556,918.)—than any that had ever before gathered under the banner of a cause at an election, should at first magnify the importance of the event and regard the result as conclusive. But they are beginning to realize that error. After innumerable interments of the "dead cause of silver," and after ten thousand obituaries upon its splendid leader in that contest, an increasing number of the principal gold-and-monopoly organs are warning their partisans against over-confidence, advising them that neither bimetallism nor Bryan is dead after all, and adjuring them to prepare for the last great clash of arms that is to determine the fate of the country.

Before 1896 the line of battle between the cause of an appreciating money measure and its allied evils on one hand, and that of the general welfare of the masses of mankind on the other, had not been plainly drawn. An approximately clear definition of that line is the first and greatest victory for the people growing out of that campaign. For many years the cunning of those who have been planning to subdue the republican party into an obedient instrument of the purposes of the selfish interests of the world was able effectually to disguise both its ulterior designs and the gradual steps by which the party was being led into a practical championship of them. For a long time the language of its platforms was permitted to breathe fidelity to principles which its actual administration of the government was constantly discrediting. For example, in 1888 that party in its national platform ranged itself on the side of the people in the two following pronouncements, the one for bimetallism, and the other against the trusts:

"The republican party is in favor of the use of both gold and silver as money, and condemns the policy of the democratic administration in its efforts to demonetize silver."

"We declare our opposition to all combinations of capital, organized in trusts or otherwise, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens; and we recommend to congress and the state legislatures, in their respective jurisdictions, such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue charges on their supplies, or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market."

Again, in its platform of 1892, it reiterates these positions:

"The American people, from tradition and interest, favor bimetallism, and the republican party demands the use of both gold and silver as standard money.

"We reaffirm our opposition, declared in the republican platform of 1888, to all combinations of capital, organized in trusts or otherwise, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens. We heartily endorse the action already taken upon this subject, and ask for such further legislation as may be required to remedy any defects in existing laws and to render their enforcement more complete and effective."

Meantime the clutch of special interests upon the party and upon the government, and that, too, regardless of what party was in power, was becoming tighter and more relentless. By plain administrative usurpation a pretended construction of the law was made whereby the government surrendered its option to pay its demand obligations in either gold or silver, and gave to the holders the right of compelling payment in gold; and in every conceivable way the attempt was made to eke out by the interpretation and violation of statutes whatever the law lacked of having put us absolutely upon the gold standard. At the same time, under the impetus of declining prices and reduced consumption resulting from the appreciation of gold, and with the encouragement and favor of government, the trusts and monopolies continued to grow in numbers and in power.

When the republican national convention met in 1896, the gold-and-monopoly interests thought themselves sufficiently strong to take a great step forward in the assertion of their purposes. It was not deemed quite safe to go at one bound from the direct and positive promises of bimetallism of 1888 and 1892 clear over to unadulterated gold monometallism. The process must be a little more gradual than that. A sort of half-way resting place was needed, and this was found in a weak and transparently dishonest declaration for an international agreement for the free coinage of silver, intended to quiet the suspicious but predisposed-to-be-deluded bimetallists, followed by an emphatic and unambiguous assertion in favor of the gold standard, designed as an assurance to the creditor interest of the world. Here is the familiar plank:

"The republican party is unreservedly for sound money. It caused the enactment of the law providing for the resumption of specie payments in 1879, and since then every dollar has been as good as gold. We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to debase our currency or impair the credit of our country. We are therefore (sic!) opposed to the free coinage of silver except by international agreement with the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote; and until such agreement can be obtained the existing gold standard must be preserved. All our silver and paper currency must be maintained at parity with gold, and we favor all measures designed to maintain inviolably the obligations of the United States and all our money, whether coin or paper, at the present standard, the standard of the most enlightened nations of the earth."

It cannot be regarded as a mere coincidence that this platform, which has signalized the capture of the republicans by the British money standard, should have had never a word to say on the subject of trusts and monopolies, which are the offspring and adjunct of that standard. It is wholly appropriate, and, indeed, inevitable, that a party that had ceased to "demand the use of both gold and silver as standard money," should also cease its "opposition to combinations or capital, organized in trusts and otherwise, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens." And it was also natural that, in the campaign that followed, all the trusts, monopolies and unrighteous combinations of capital in the country should rally, as they did, to the support of the party that had become their vassal, and should place at its command their uncounted millions of money and theire unparalleled coercive terrors.

The disreputable methods by which the contest of 1896 was notoriously won, the vast and infinite detail of intimidation and corruption with which the perfect organization of the republican party covered the entire country as with a fine-meshed net; the contemptuous frankness with which the large financial concerns, the gold brokers, the leviathan bankers, and the oppressive combinations of wealth allied themselves everywhere with the republican propaganda; the general mendacity and brutality of the metropolitan gold press; these and many other similar influences served to solidify the forces that fought for popular rights, to encourage them with proofs of the justice of their contention, and to inspire them with that high moral conviction without whose sanction no great cause was ever yet victorious.

Events that have succeeded the election have only emphasized these results. The conduct of the administration has thoroughly unmasked the attitude of those republicans who denounced that platform as a disguised gold-standard device, and left the party because of it. I am aware of the fact that Senator Wolcott recently, in that speech in the senate toward which persons of all classes of opinion look to with so much anticipation, to which they listened with so much disappointment, and which they recall with so much regret, was careful to the verge of painful solicitude to show that, at every step in the unsuccessful negotiations of the international monetary commission, it had enjoyed the support of the president of the United States. But the same speech that praises the president excoriates his secretary of the treasury. The senator, in specifying certain obstacles that had interfered with his negotiations in Europe, referred to "pretended statements in letters and interviews from the secretary of the treasury, to the effect that there was no chance for international or other bimetallism, and favoring the permanent adoption of the gold standard."

But in his catalogue of embarrassments he studiously refrains from listing what everybody of common information knows to have been the most serious embarrassment of all, namely, the special message of President McKinley of June 24, 1897, wherein he distinctly endorses the proposed plan of the so-called Indianapolis sound-money convention, which that convention itself, in January preceding, had formally declared would embraced three fundamental features: 1. The permanent establishment of the gold standard; 2. The retirement of the greenbacks and treasury notes; 3. The erection of a huge system of banks of issue.

Why be at pains to mention a long list of petty interferences with the progress of negotiations, while keeping silence as to the thing which, even if it had stood alone, must effectually have damned every proposition of the Wolcott commission? What could have been the estimate of our sincerity formed by the great European cabinets, when, in the very midst and at the most crucial point of negotiations for an international agreement for the free coinage of silver, entered upon at our instance, the cable flashed across the ocean the text of the president's astounding special message to congress in emphatic recommendation of the gold standard? Is it to be wondered at that the "statements of representatives of New York bankers in England," of which the senator complains, should have been believed when, as he says, they ascribed to the president views favorable to the gold standard?

Senator Wolcott also, and very properly, reprobates the statement of Secretary Gage before the banking and currency committee of the house, that the first object of his currency plan is to "commite the country more thoroughly to the gold standard," a plan which, the senator carefully observes, "the president's message specifically does not endorse." It would be more accurate to say that the message "does not specifically endorse" the secretary's bill; for, aside from the fact that the secretary is the administration's finance officer, even the president's annual message, despite its halting and evasive method, carried, in effect, a recommendation not materially different from the secretary's.

But, for one, I wish to record my excessive weariness of this carefully practiced policy of distinguishing between the president and his chosen and sworn official subordinates. It is not only discrediting to the chief magistrate to assume that he is not in control of his own administration, but it is an insult to the intelligence and common sense of the country to attempt to make it appear that on the overshadowing question of the hour the president entertains one conviction and his secretary of the treasury a diametrically opposite one. This is especially true when it is remembered that the very question of their respective views on the subjects of coinage and currency has recently been made the theme of criticism and of acrimonious controversy in congress and in the public press; and that the secretary's resignation, laid before the president because of this very criticism, was not accepted. The secretary's views are the president's views. If this had not been the case he would never have entered the cabinet. If not the case today he would have been allowed—yes, he would have been requested—to get out of it. Mr. Gage's opinions were no secret before his appointment, and he has not disguised them since. He has the courage of his convictions. Moreover, he is a man of too much personal independence and too much self-respect to occupy his high official position, and one of such close confidential relations to the president, under false pretenses. If Lyman J. Gage were not in accord with his chief's policy on a question deemed by himself to be of dominating importance, he could not be kept in office. He is in harmony with the president, and it is no violation of confidence to say that he has so stated.

It is certainly a gain of very large dimensions that the campaign of 1896 and the developments that have followed it, have clearly defined the issue that must be decided by the electors of the country before the unrestricted and legalized reign of gold-and-monopoly can begin. The republican managers declared in their campaign text-book of 1892 that "nine-tenths of the people are bimetallists." It was undoubtedly true then, and it is true today. No man of information doubts that in 1896 a plain and honest declaration for the gold standard would have met the indignant rebuke of an overwhelming majority of the voters of the United States. Upon such a declaration the republican party will be driven to make its fight in 1900, with the open, and probably avowed and defended, alliance of the trusts and combines. Then no subterfuge will avail them. The people will see clearly and will strike unerringly. The decisive battle will be joined in 1900, and we shall win it.

The elections of 1897 proved how valuable to the opponents of the gold standard had been the lessons and discipline of 1896. Despite the facts that business conditions had somewhat improved, to a small extent as the result of the stimulus to certain industries afforded by a tariff which they were permitted to dictate, and to a much greater extent due to a demand for our staple exports caused by the Indian famine and the unprecedented shortage of all food-product crops in Europe; that the whole claque of subservient newspapers were constantly engaged in bolstering confidence with glowing pictures of prosperity; that the republican managers concentrated in a few states the large remnant of the millions of unspent campaign funds of the preceding contest, together with the other means and methods that made the campaign of 1896 so infamously memorable; that the administration massed its place holders in the critical localities and employed its prodigious patronage with unexampled skill as an instrument of "practical politics"—yet the opposition to the rule of gold and monopoly had more than held its own.

In Iowa a plurality of 65,552 for McKinley in 1896 fell to 29,587 for the republican candidate for governor in 1897. In Maryland the corresponding republican pluralities were 32,224 and 7,109; in Massachusetts, 173,265 and 85,543; in Ohio 47,947 and 28,165, while the legislature stands as follows: Senate, 17 republicans, 19 opposition; house, 62 republicans, 47 opposition. In Virginia the Chicago platform received a plurality of 19,341 in 1896, while in 1897 the plurality of the democratic candidate for governor was 52,815. In New York McKinley's prodigious plurality of 268,469 was changed into one of 60,889 for the democratic candidate for chief justice. Kentucky, which, after a campaign of tremendous tension wherein the full power of the republican national committee was supplemented by that of a friendly state government and the aid of the Watterson-Carlisle democracy, had given McKinley a plurality of 281 in 1896, came back to the opposition, as Mr. Watterson himself now avows, with the emphasis of 17,804 plurality. In Nebraska, where every characteristic machination of the enemy was employed in the desperate hope of dealing a fatal blow at the prestige of Mr. Bryan, the fusion plurality of 13,576 in 1896 was more than maintained, the figures rising to 13,819 notwithstanding a falling off of thirty thousand in the total vote as compared with the presidential election. These results, everything considered, were most encouraging.

Since the campaign whose result was to seat Mr. McKinley in the White House, no political contest has been waged in the country whose outcome was watched with so much interest as that wherein Marcus A. Hanna was struggling to secure his return to the United States senate from the state of of Ohio. The significance of this contest lies not so much in Mr. Hanna, although he is a remarkable study himself, as in what he represents in our civilization and politics. So far as I know it has never yet been contended that he possesses any special ability beyond what is rather vaguely implied by the designation of "successful business man," which may mean a great many things, some of which, admirable and common as others may be, would be thought very slight qualifications for a senatorship. He has no professional training, no learning, no legislative experience, unless the assiduous pursuit of ranchises and special privileges through municipal councils and state and national legislatures can be said to have furnished it. He is simply a man of coarse and strong fibre, masterful, ruthless, not given to fine humanitarian distinctions, who has fully comprehended, not by mental process, but by natural sympathy, the material ideal of end-of-the-century success, and has pursued it until he has grasped it and made it his own. In this pursuit he seems to have become thoroughly familiar with the "business methods" of our era; the power and eloquence of money, and how to make it work and talk; the resistless force of combination to destroy competition, absorb markets and wring profits from necessity; the unhappy weaknesses of human nature, and its stops which circumstance puts under the hand of the unscrupulous "to sound what note he pleases;" the advantages of a vicarious corporate responsibility; the convenience and sufficiency of a business conscience. By the nature of his interests and the character of his methods he is distinctly a personification of the gold standard and its concomitants, the trusts and monopolies.

When Mr. Hanna became chairman of the republican national committee and took personal charge of the campaign of 1896, it was his boast that he brought "business methods" into politics. He unquestionably spoke by the card. The conduct of affairs speedly exhibited the fact. The colossal machinery that was at once erected, not more vast in its extent than minute in its detail, perfect in its adjustment, and noiseless in its operation; the immense amount of money raised, beyond the "wealth of Ormus or of Ind," and utterly out of comparison with any previous campaign fund; the comprehensive organization that attended to the manufacture of news and the circulation of literature, the instigation and management of spontaneous excursions of clamorous patriots to Canton, the exercise of bland persuasions by the banks, the gentle methods by which necessitous workmen were cajoled or coerced and mortgaged farmers convinced or compelled; these and a thousand similar things were the marks of a "business campaign" without an approach to a parallel in all our previous history, and destined to have but few successors if the republic is to endure. The popular imagination, quickly and powerfully impressed with the unique personality that seemed to be responsible for these phenomena, has epitomized them in a name fated to a melancholy immortality. Let me be the first to write it as a common noun: hannaism.

And so hannaism was at stake in the Ohio senatorial election. It is not yet time nor is this the place to write the full history of that election. With a republican majority in the legislature of 15 on joint ballot, Mr. Hanna was chosen by a vote of 73, exactly a majority of the membership of 145. A loss of one vote would have beaten him. This narrow escape was due to a revolt among the republicans against hannaism, and the election has resulted in fastening upon that party for seven long years more the increasing burden of that terrible incubus. In the absence of the power to choose a member of the senate whose vote and influence would have been against the present policies of the republican party, it is tantamount to a victory for their oponents to be able to point to the new senator from Ohio as a "terrible example" and evolution of those policies in operation.

That no fitting circumstance might be wanting to the ceremonial of so ominous an installation, fate ordained that it should be preceded by an infamy and followed by a sacrilege. During the session of the house on the day of, and just before, the meeting of the joint assembly to ballot for senator, a member of the house of representatives arose in his place, and, referring to well known and circumstantial charges of bribery in the interest of Mr. Hanna's candidacy, charges made by the member himself, demanded that those accusations be investigated before proceeding to the election of a senator. Said he, in part:

"Mr. Speaker: I rise to a question of privilege, a question both affecting my character as a legislator and related to the proper performance by this body of its duty in the election of a United States senator.

"I am aware, sir, that the house yesterday refused to pass a resolution to suspend the rules and proceed to investigate certain charges preferred by self against a leading candidate for this great office. But, sir, I made those charges upon my honor as a man, and in response to my duty as a representative. If they are false I ought to be expelled from this body. If they are true, that candidate ought to withdraw from this contest. Either I am not fit to be a member of this house, or he is not fit to be a senator of the United States. He must himself admit this. He, as well as I, ought to demand a vindication. How can he refuse to submit himself to the same test as I invoke? One of us is guilty; which is it? or my own honor and reputation, I demand that you ascertain and declare the truth. Why does not he also demand it?"

He then offered a resolution of investigation. What ensued is told in the following extract from the report of the proceedings in a Columbus gold standard newspaper. Note the unconscious humor of the sentence I have capitalized:

"On a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of the resolution, the vote staad 52 ayes, 56 nays. On the motion being lost there were cheers on the republican side and in the galleries. The vote was precisely the same as all the votes yesterday and the two ballots for the short and long terms for senator. There are 109 members of the house. THE 56 HANNA MEN ALWAYS VOTED SOLIDLY."

This was the infamy.

Now note the sacriloge. When the bribery charges had been contemptuously brushed away and the destined goal scantily won, the beneficiary of the event sent the following telegram:

"Columbus, O., Jan. 2.—Hon. William McKinley, President, Washington: God reigns and the republican party still lives M. A. HANNA."

How a man who had just passed through the sort of campaign by which he had been successful, pursued by memories of locked-in and guarded legislators and their harried and persecuted wives, of spies and informers, of devious and shadowy proceedings that were soon to shrink behind the counselled silence of unwilling witnesses in a bribery investigation, could affect to think Deity chargeable with any part of the responsibility, or that his election tended to establish the fact, doubtful, supposedly, till then, of the existence of the Almighty, is a question I leave to causists and philosophers. It is beyond me. One can, however, understand how the senator, after so long having his vanity fed by the sycophants who do his bidding and accept his bounty, and who constantly ascribe to him the entire vitality of the republican organization, should have reached a condition where the distinction between himself and the party was not quite clear, and in which his own election would seem like a demonstration that the party was not dead.

But this is not the measure of the senator's egotism. His ineffable presumption allowed him to recall, and by a petty paraphrase subject to his own ignoble use, that magnificent burst of inspired oratory in which Garfield, who could sometimes storm the very heights of eloquence, calmed and subdued the angry mob which, in the surprise and horror following the announcement of President Lincoln's assassination, was about to attack and destroy the office of one of the great newspapers of New York:

"Fellow citizens," cried he who was destined to follow the great martyr in both his high office and his martyrdom, "clouds and darkness are round about Him! His pavilion is dark waters and thick clouds of the skies! Justice and judgment are the establishment of the throne! Mercy and truth shall go before His face! Fellow citizens! God reigns, and the government at Washington still lives!"

He who, with impious hand, would have torn this resplendent jewel from the crown of Lincoln and set it jauntily among his own blurred and barren trophies, is a fit typification of that decadence which has changed the republicanism of 1860 into the republicanism of 1898. Such a demonstration is itself a victory, or who, ennobled by the memory of Lincoln, will long consent to wear the servile livery of Hanna?

Naval Office on a Checkerboard.

By a little checkerboard with miniature warships as the checkers, naval games by the big bugs of the American navy have been played at the naval war college at Newport, R. I., during the past three years, on a vast scale. Every naval campaign which it is possible to conceive the United States might be called upon to undertake, has been anticipated on this little board.

These plans have actually been worked up by what is known among American officers as the "naval game." The greatest secrecy has attached to all deductions made from these games, for on the outcome has depended the policy to be followed by the naval authorities in important operations.

Many of the most distinguished officers of the American navy here participate in these war games, and conspicuous on many occasions have been Captain Alfred T. Mahan and the present commander of the battle ship Indiana, Captain Henry Taylor.

In the work at the Newport Naval college a large chart, showing the actual theatre of war, is spread upon a table. Presiding over the game are three judges—officers of ripe experience. On one side the United States fleet is assigned to the keeping of an officer, say a lieutenant commander. A hostile fleet represented by yellow colors (the colors of Spain) is placed in charge of a second officer. Each officer is assigned a specific duty. In the case of the United States force the object aimed at is the destruction, say, of the port of Havana, to be followed by the effectual blockading of Cuban ports.

The yellow fleet is found at the outset on the coast of Spain. It is composed of a stipulated number of battle ships, armored cruisers, torpedo destroyers and gun vessels. Curiously enough, the make-up of the "yellow fleet" tallies with the exact composition of the present naval force of Spain.

The "yellow fleet" is charged with seizing the waters of Cuba and with clearing those waters of an enemy. The accomplishment of the object mentioned is deemed equivalent to opening all Cuban ports to intercourse with the outside world.

From now on the game is conducted on war principles. The "yellow fleet" can steam a certain distance at a certain rate of speed on the supply of coal carried in the bumpers. The officer handling that fleet must not move his force with a rapidity beyond practical limitations. In the workings of the game a day is set down as one minute.

It is contemplated that ten days will be required to steam the "yellow fleet" to Cuban waters, and still enable it to arrive with sufficient coal to enter action, so ten minutes must elapse in the making of the move. During this ten minutes interval the American fleet has been permitted to execute what is possible in ten days of work. Several ports have been bombarded, troops have been brought up from Florida and landed, and still other important operations consummated.

On the approach of the hostile fleet it is met by the heavy vessels of the United States squadron. At this juncture a chart looking very much like a great checkerboard is spread out upon the table. The squares represent 100 yards in distance, and assuming that the ships move at a fifteen-knot speed, the time necessary for crossing these squares must be adhered to. On this great checkerboard the two fleet commanders maneuver their ships the same as in real action. From time to time the judges rule out this vessel or that vessel, which, according to their judgment, has been long enough under fire to warrant the assumption that it has been placed out of action.

Should one commander in the course of his maneuvers expose a ship within torpedo striking distance the chances are that the judges will quickly notice this point and declare the vessel to be torpedoed. That means that the ship must be at once removed from the table, or else left prone upon the board.

Again, in the process of maneuvering, the enemy's fleet may be found suddenly scattered. The opposing fleet commander has his ships well in hand, and launching them in close echelon formation, he executes a veritable cavalry charge upon the checkerboard. The effect of this charge is left to the judgment of those presiding. A judge may rule that the enemy's fleet has, as a result of the charge, been effectually broken up, and without a dissenting voice the victory may be passed over to the defending fleet.

Some of these operations may be fundamental in application. Only actual service can bring out important points and make clear the actual capabilities of ships and men. The German army maneuvers only serve to apply the principles laid down in the war plans of the great general staff, and at Newport what the great geenral staff does for the German army the Naval War College is doing for the navy of the United States.

The following incident took place in Bering sea, where "Fighting Bob Evans" was making a vigorous effort to stop poaching on the part of Canadian sealers. He was in command of the Yorktown at the time when a particularly active and elusive little Canadian sloop had given the big cruiser a long chase in the foggy weather, and was finally overhauled. As the big Yorktown steamed up alongside of the sloop she sent a shot across the bow of the sloop, whose skipper was seen upon the forward deck, wrapped in the Canadian flag, and gesticulating violently. Commander Evans started to go aboard the sloop, and as he got within ear shot the skipper could be heard denouncing the United States government and blackguarding every Yankee that ever drew the breath of life. The commander of the Yorktown stepped aboard the sloop, approached the owner and demanded an explanation. The little red whiskered Canadian, with the British colors wrapped around him, continued to hurl vituperative epithets at the United States. Every effort on the part of "Fighting Bob" to make his voice heard above the clamor of the grotesque and declamatory skipper was fruitless. He howled back at the Canadian until he was hoarse, and then, suddenly stooping over, picked up from the deck a piece of blubber of the consistency and pastiness of a jelly fish, and swung it around sharply, landing it plump upon the whiskered face of the defiant Canadian, knocking him, his enthusiasm and his flag clean over the bulwarks into the sea. When the Canadian came to the surface he was fished out by the sailors and landed on deck. He had lost his flag and swallowed a great deal of salt water, while all his defiance of the United States had disappeared.

A FIGHTING BOAT.

There is a steel fish floating in the Raritan dry dock at Perth Amboy, expected to shoot destruction into the Spanish fleet in case of war. It is scarcely as large as a steamboat boiler. It is but 53 feet long by 10 feet 3 inches in diameter, with a displacement of 75 tons. Yet this porpoise-like mass of metal, barely able to show its nose above water, is a monster of terror. It has a revolving tail and whirling fins. In action it is filled with dynamite engines of war. It shoots torpedoes fore and aft. When fired the torpedo gun pushes the boat back into the water and out of sight as it belches forth destrcution against the enemy.

Experts claim that this marine destroyer will revolutionize naval warfare. It is claimed that this little boat, single-handed, can protect New York harbor against any fleet of war vessels. It dives like a fish, can remain under water for several hours, going down to a depth of 50 feet, if necessary. A few days ago the boat left the shipyards of Lewis Nixon, at Elizabethport, ostensibly for a trip down the Kills. The Spanish warship was anchored off Staten Island, and the Spanish spies who swarmed the water front anxiously watched the maneuvers of the steel fish. The little fellow slid into the stream, but showing no more of its back than you see of a Florida alligator, when swimming down a river.

The boat was simply bound for deep water below Perth Amboy for experimental practice. But had it been in full war paint, with its guns loaded with dynamite, it could not have created more excitement. Spectators along the quays declared that the little monster threw its tail into the air, disappeared in the flood, and did not come to the surface more than twice during its fifteen mile trip down the river. In fact, it was not visible to any extent until it shot up from the depths in front of Perth Amboy. Reports went flying during its disappearance that it had gone to blow up the Spanish war ship Vizcaya.

So important is the character of this boat that the United States has its plans and experts are watching every development in its workings and tests. It may be said to be practically in the control of the navy department.

John P. Holland, the distinguished inventor of the torpedo boat, is a conservative, careful engineer, who will not allow his boat to make serious cruises under water until all her machinery is working perfectly. There has been trouble with the exhaust valve leading from the gas engine into the sea; also with the electric storage accumulators. The inventor's aim is to obtain the maximum capacity for storing electricity with the minimum weight. The batteries were found insufficient for the power required. But this is not surprising. Nearly everything of a mechanical nature required for the torpedo boat is a new invention of itself. The ordinary machines of commerce are not adapted moral in view, or simply to learn just to the bowels of the wonderful steel fish. Every joint, valve, socket, bearing—in fact, every part of the boat must be made to perfect line. A deviation in weight of the smallest apothecary scale or in breadth the width of a hair might prevent the perfect working of this little world of submarine mechanism. A watchmaker could not bring more patience and ingenuity into his work than has Mr. Holland in his years of experience in perfecting his navy annihilator.

The Fate of Cuba.

If the present crisis between the United States and Spain results in war and this country is victorious, what will become of Cuba?

General John W. Noble, ex-secretary of the interior, said:

"The question is entirely novel, as our history offers no direct precedents for our guidance. It has been our policy to refuse to become involved with other nations in disputes about territory, that does not adjoin our own except to prevent encroachments on our Monroe doctrine. We, therefore, have never had occasion to furmulate a policy to apply to a country which was separated from us by sea and whose status we stood in a position to fix and regulate, as in this instance.

"However, Cuba will either be made free and independent or annexed to this country. If she is given her independence, the United States will probably stand as her protector. An adequate reason why this government can take a position so novel will be found in the Monroe doctrine. Cuba will be very weak many years after peace begins to reign in her borders and the strong arm of the American republic will be necessary to her support. If left to bear her own burdens, the chances are that she would be torn asunder by revolution and seized by some European power. The Monroe doctrine, which, while not a part of the constitution, is almost as well established, can be invoked to defend the United States in the adoption of a policy which will guard against such an emergency.

"If Cuba is annexed to the United States she probably will be governed by the same system of laws by which we regulate the affairs of our territories. The cases of California, Texas, and Louisiana are in point. California was ceded to the United States by Mexico in March, 1848, and governed by territorial law until 1850, when its people adopted a constitution, under which it was admitted as a state. Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803, and, as the Territory of Orleans, was governed under territorial law until 1812, when it was admitted into the Union as a state under a constitution which had been adopted by its citizens. The history of the admission of Texas as a state is similar to that of California and Louisiana, except that it was received by treaty.

"If Cuba is annexed it will be dealt with in accordance with these precedents. It will be properly cared for. Yankee ingenuity and statesmanship have never yet failed to acquit themselves with honor and credit in handling the most difficult questions of national life and they will give a good account of themselves in making a disposition of Cuba."

"How much ink is used in Kansas City every day?" was asked of a prominent stationer. "I can't tell you without figuring a little," he replied. "Our firm sells an average of thirty casks of ink every year, and as each cask holds forty gallons, it makes a total of 1,200 gallons. Taking this for granted, it follows that it takes nearly fifteen gallons to carry on business in Kansas City one day. A peculiar thing that is not generally known about ink is that only about 10 per cent of the ink bought by consumers is used. The reason of this is that it evaporates so very easily and quickly. A traveling man for one of the largest ink manufacturing concerns in this country was in my store this morning," continued the dealer, "and told me that in the City of Mexico last week he sold to one dealer alone fifty casks of French copying ink. His total sales in that city amounted five carloads. I could hardly believe it until he convinced me by showing me his order book.