

Cuban Reconstruction.

One thing is becoming clear every day. The conditions of life and social order in Cuba are chaotic and need to be guided with a firm hand. It is vain to disguise from ourselves that our allies in the late war do not fairly represent the intelligence, the industry, the trained skill in doing things and the wealth of Cuban society. For the sake of the Cubans of every class, and the insurgents have as great a stake in the solution as their late opponents and the neutrals, we owe it to ourselves and the world to see that all the elements which make for a healthy reconstitution of affairs in the hitherto distracted island shall have full play. No one who has observed the bias of events can question for a moment that this can be accomplished in aught but one way. The United States must for the present exercise a thoroughgoing protectorate over judicial and political methods. To do otherwise would be to unleash horrors not less woeful than those which we have banished. It is natural that the better class of insurgents should suffer vexation at not being invested with the expected degree of power as builders of a new order of things. But a little reflection should teach men of this stamp that it is the part of wisdom to join hands with all those who frankly accept the new regime and forget the past as soon as possible. If Cuba is to be regenerated, it will be, too, in great measure by American money and enterprise. No thinking Cuban can blink the fact that this movement will be slow till the American has absolute confidence in the social order.

The bill introduced into the British parliament providing for loans to colonies under certain specified conditions is in accordance with the general policy of the country in binding its dependencies by the most genuine helpfulness. But it is difficult to see what practical end can be served. The same conditions which the proposed bill specifies are so confirmatory of the solvency of the borrowers that they would justify the easy sale of colonial bonds. If Great Britain wishes to help its colonies in this way, it would be a more easy and direct way to indorse the bonds, thus giving them still greater security. The same purpose would be effected in a way probably more acceptable to colonial pride. It looks as if this measure was an entering wedge for the revival of the great Chamberlain scheme, of which there was so much discussion a year or two since.

General Lord Wolseley is an enthusiastic Americomaniac. To Hiram Maxim, about to set sail for America to preach the new Anglo-Saxon alliance, he wrote: "I think your proposed 'campaign' would be worth to us far more than a dozen Wei-Hei-Weis or Sudans and to the United States far more than

Cuba, Manila and the whole kingdom of Ferdinand and Isabella thrown in."

"The moral amelioration of man constitutes the chief mission of woman," says M. Comte, the philosopher. True. And the pursuit has always been so tantalizingly elusive and bewitching that it has remained a labor of love with her from the first.

The real importance of an individual can only be judged by the effect his death makes. Yet great men survive the active period of their greatness, and the effect is purely sentimental and critical. Dead Bismarck and Gladstone! The world is not moved a whit except in curious contemplation. "Imperial Cæsar dead and turned to clay" becomes only good for Hamlet's moralizing over an open grave. The death of the biggest man, after all, makes a very small ripple in the ocean of life.

The retired officers of the United States army, constituting a large body of able and in many cases physically competent men, have not been encouraged in giving their services to the government in our recent needs. Hundreds of military offices have been filled by civilian appointments and the trained soldiers debarred. In the naval service this rigid exclusion has not been enforced. It is not easy to grasp the philosophy of the distinction.

The persistent snubbing which the new Prince Bismarck and his family have given the kaiser from the funeral to the present time should be wholesome discipline for the imperial young man. It is not often that he experiences such a shower bath. It is to be assumed that he forgets all thought of leze majesty as his anguished fancy dwells on a certain literary dynamite magazine in London.

There is no country in the world where such immense benefactions are given to institutions of learning, colleges and universities in especial, as are given in America. In England or Germany such a thing would instantly excite universal comment. Here it passes without a ripple.

The most enviable persons are not such as have the largest possessions. They are the happy spirits able to get the most out of the things they have who never suffer dyspepsia for lack of digestion at the banquet of life.

There are two significant "trade" terms, introduced of late years, which show vividly the modern tendency in doing and seeing things. The theatrical man always refers to a stage performance, whether tragedy or farce, as a "show;" the newspaper man designates every article of news or information as a "story."

Senhor Mendonca, the new Brazilian minister to Portugal, on his presentation to the king indulged in an unusually flowery outbreak over the glories of the Portuguese race. "When at the end of the century about to begin, the Portuguese language will be spoken by 100,000,000 of men," said he. If other races increase in proportion, there will be standing room only.

The Snowqualmie falls in Washington bid fair to rival the marvelous resources of Niagara as a fountain of electric energy to be distributed for purposes of lighting and motor force. It is estimated that 100,000 horsepower will be easily made available when the plant is completed.

There is a hackneyed apothegm which says, "Strike while the iron is hot." The man who finally clutches fortune by the hair is he who does not wait for the iron to be hot. He makes it hot by hammering on it.

A first decision of Commissioner Scott under the new war tax law decided that the rent payer must pay a tax stamp to be put on the landlord's receipt. This has been revoked since, and no stamp is necessary now. It is difficult to see how the most superserviceable official zeal could have come to the first opinion. It would at once discriminate between rich and poor. The rich man generally pays by check, which in itself acts as a receipt.

The most powerful personages in name and seeming are those who rarely have their own way. Monarchs are often helpless slaves of policy, of bureaucracy, of tradition. The Russian czar, for example, is an ardent lover of England and English ideas, yet circumstances make him pose as their formidable foe.

According to the veracious New York Herald, the newest Parisian fad among women is the hypodermic injection of perfumes that thin skins may reek with sweet odors. As the habit must surely be a swift road to the coffin it might save the expense of sweet smelling floral tributes.

An Emperor's Attic.

The winter palace of the czar surpasses any other palace in Europe. It is on the banks of the Neva and owes its existence to the Empress Catherine II, that most extraordinary woman, extraordinary in ability and in vice, the surprise of all her contemporaries and the wonder of all who have studied her character. The building is four stories high, of a light brown color and highly ornamental in architecture. It is a wilderness of halls, stairways and apartments. The Nicholas hall and the St. George's hall will never be forgotten by those who have seen them.

One of the most interesting rooms is that where Nicholas I died. It is in the