

WARS OF CONQUEST.

If wars carried on openly for conquest are dishonorable, what measure of contempt should history accord to a nation that practices deception and subterfuge to extend territorial limits, and, posing as a doer of humanitarian deeds, appropriates the property and lands of another?

AMERICAN INFLUENCE.

If the Cubans were fit for independence in 1898, and we declared they were, is it to our credit that they should have become unfit after three years of contact with our civilization and a more intimate acquaintance with our political ideals?

CHRISTIAN INDEMNITY TO CHINA.

Commenting upon the Christianizing crusade of the powers in China under the command of the noted missionary Von Waldersee, the Central Christian Advocate says:

"Even the boxers themselves have been outdone by the lust, the outrages and the rapine of the foreign soldiers."

The Advocate also quotes an eye-witness who says:

"For a century to come Chinese converts will consider robbery and vengeance to be Christian virtues."

If the death penalty for all boxer leaders and \$600,000,000 in cash are a proper measure of the indemnity for boxer transgressions, how much should the foreign powers be required to pay China because of the misconduct of their soldiers who have exceeded the boxers in lust, outrages and rapine?

A MARKET FOR LABOR.

The man who has labor to sell must have a market. The more men with money — men denounced as capitalists — he can find who wish to employ, the better the market and higher the wages.

If there were no capitalists with money to pay for labor, how could labor exist?

If instead of one rich man in a thousand, we had in Nebraska one hundred men out of each thousand worth a million of dollars would the market for labor in this state be worse or better? When wage-earners outnumber capitalists a thousand to one, are employment and good pay more easily attainable? When capitalists are numerous and all demanding more laborers, do wages decline or advance? What good comes from the diabolism of discontent, promulgated by the mouth-workers who teach laborers to hate employers? The laborer and the capitalist are interdependent. One cannot thrive without the other.

CUBA.

The senate amendment to the army bill empowering the president to insist that the Cuban constitution define the relations that shall exist between the government of Cuba and the United States recalls a promise made by our government three years ago. The president, in his war message of 1898, declared that "in the name of humanity the war in Cuba must stop," and in the island there should be established a "stable government." It is to be noted that the president used the word *stable* and not *independent*. In his opinion stability should be an indispensable requisite of the government to be established in Cuba and independence only an incidental characteristic.

This view of the president's policy is corroborated by the speeches made by senators in its behalf. Senator Platt of Connecticut, said:

"The duty of putting an end to existing conditions is no more imperative and no higher than the duty of seeing that order shall be maintained there in the future and that a government shall be established which shall give the United States and the world no more cause for complaint."

Senator Caffery of Louisiana said:

"He shall intervene there * * * and establish such a government as will secure permanent peace. That ultimately some kind of government of the people will be established there is without question; but that is a most delicate operation, involving a practical acquaintance with the local conditions, involving a knowledge, in short, a complete inquiry as to the social and political conditions of the island."

It is quite evident that the president was opposed to committing our government to any specific recognition of immediate or ultimate independence of Cuba. This policy was carried in the house but was opposed in the senate. Senator Teller moved to amend the war resolution with an express stipulation in favor of an independent as well as stable government in Cuba. The resolution as amended passed the senate and house and was approved by the president. The text of this was:

Independence.

"That the people of the island of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent."

"That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof and asserts the determination when that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

The speech of Senator Teller removes any doubt as to the meaning of this

resolution and the spirit in which it was intended:

"I want the senate to say to the world in the most emphatic manner possible, that we do not intend in any way or manner to derive benefit from this intervention * * * I propose to make it clear to the world that it shall not be said by any European government, when we go out to make battle for the liberty and freedom of Cuban patriots, that we are doing it for the purpose of aggrandizement for ourselves or for the increasing of our territorial holdings."

Unselfish.

Referring to the Teller amendment, Senator Allison said:

"They passed a resolution that Cuba should be free; that there should be an independent government there * * * There is scarcely a senator on the floor and there are few people in the United States who are not in favor of seeing Cuba free and independent, and of using the army and navy, if need be, to make it a free and independent state."

Senator Jones makes the distinction between the presidential and senate policies all the more apparent:

"There was a sense of disappointment that the word independent was not mentioned in the recommendation made by the president, and the only recommendation made by him about the establishment of a government in the island was that there should be a stable government. Stable seemed to imply that the government of the United States should exercise the power of supervision there to prevent an overthrow, to maintain, to uphold, or sustain whatever government might be established in the island. That was precisely what many of us did not believe ought to be said."

The foregoing clearly shows the obligations assumed by the congress of the

A Promise.

United States in the adoption of the war resolution. The honor and faith of the government were solemnly pledged to establish a stable and independent government in Cuba.

The treaty of Paris, by which peace was concluded between Spain and the United States, contained the following stipulation in regard to Cuba:

"And as the island is upon its evacuation by Spain to be occupied by the United States, the United States will, so long as such occupation shall last, assume and discharge the obligations * * * for the protection of life and property. It is understood that any obligations assumed in this treaty by the United States with respect to Cuba are limited to the time of its occupancy thereof."

In accord with this treaty, a military government was organized in Cuba with

Pacification.

General Wood as governor-general. In due time he called a convention to be composed of