

with the colors in his hand at Chantilly; it is a narrative which it will do any American good to read. It shows a picture of one of our best types of men.

One of our bankers, Colonel Wilson, happened in as I was examining the books, and stopped to relate some incidents of Chantilly, and of General Stevens' military funeral, which he witnessed.

A. T. R.

#### THE CUBAN CASE.

The political problem of Cuba has been solved. The government of intervention, which has administered affairs here for the last three years and a half with such distinguished fidelity and success, is on the eve of resigning its trust. The new government, about to be installed, brings with it the assurance that peace will continue and that integrity will characterize its administration. It will receive at the hands of the American trustees a simple and workable system of civil government, with revenues ample for immediate requirements.

The municipalities of the Island have been reorganized and made self-dependent; their police protection gives security; their educational facilities, although new to them, are practical, popular and growing, and their sanitation is effective, if not yet complete. Contagious diseases, including the dreaded yellow fever, have been entirely eliminated. Hospitals are ready to receive the sick and afflicted, and charitable institutions are provided for the poor and helpless. For the Island itself there is the customs revenue service, scrupulously administered, and post offices and post roads have become general. The entire machinery of a modern, well-organized state is today in free and effective operation. The American administrators, directed by the tireless energy of the Military Governor, have done their part well, having earned the approval of their government, the gratitude of this people, and the commendation of the civilized world.

But the primary cause which led to war, to Cuban independence, and to intervention by the United States is not removed. Good government has ameliorated the conditions, but it cannot change them. The best government cannot long be maintained here, if the present economic conditions shall continue. There would have been no uprising in 1894 if Cuba had not been dependent then, as she is now, upon the production of sugar; and economically her people are no better off today than they were then. To leave her now, as it is proposed, without relief, but still the victim of the world's sugar tariffs and crushed by the appalling misfortunes which the last ten years have heaped upon her, would be to cast to

the winds every shred of the admirable fabric of free government which the Americans have created. American intervention cannot stop at this point. Good sense, business foresight, fair play and common honesty will all unite to prevent it. It is not the practice of the United States to let good work go backward, to miss opportunities for business advancement, to ignore her obligations, or to inflict needless suffering upon any people. And she would be guilty of all these if she withdrew from Cuba at this time without securing to the Island industrial as well as political freedom.

The United States has wisely exacted that this "government shall not assume nor contract any public debt, to pay the interest upon which and to make reasonable sinking fund provisions for the ultimate discharge of which, the ordinary revenues of the Island, after deducting the current expenses of the government, shall be inadequate," but her tariff laws make it absolutely impossible for this government to meet the ordinary expenses of the modest system, established by the interventors, let alone the obligations that will necessarily have to be met in carrying out the further exactions of the American government as prescribed by the Platt resolutions. This government shall guarantee by adequate sanitation the freedom from pestilence of the southern coast of the United States. Adequate sanitation does not merely involve the outlay of millions for the sewerage of every considerable town in the Island, but also the constant expenditure of millions in surface draining, hospital maintenance, scientific investigations and protective measures against epidemic from the outside.

This government is properly enjoined to maintain internal peace and to safeguard the property rights which Spanish and French, German and English, as well as American investors have already secured in the island; but who can insure peace and who can protect property when the people are in enforced idleness and hunger is their portion? Nevertheless it is guaranteed in the constitution itself, put there at the behest of the government of intervention, and this government must fulfill the pledge at the peril of being swept aside by a second intervention. Far better that the present admirable administration should be continued than that such a contingency should be allowed to rise.

It is also written in the constitution that Cuba shall grant the American government suitable sites, to be selected by the latter, for coaling stations, as bases for naval operations in defense of the vast interests which that country has both now and in contemplation in the Gulf of Mexico. The new government cheerfully acquiesces in this imperial grant, although it is realized that the

United States will equip and defend these stations with munitions of war far more powerful than anything that this island can hope to acquire. Literally, therefore, for all the purposes of war, this island and its nascent government will be part and parcel of the powerful republic which rightfully insists upon dictating the policy of "America for Americans." Cuba is grateful for the strong arm thus thrown about her; but she contends, justly and insistently, that an imposed protectorate carries with itself inevitably the moral obligation to insure to the weaker nation the means of carrying out her part of the enforced contract. It is idle to think or speak of Cuba as a free national entity. Cuba will no more be allowed to make a contract or a treaty with another nation, excepting the United States, than Florida or New York. She will no more have the right to declare war than Massachusetts. Cuba is a quasi-military department of the United States and her position will never be less restricted. To treat her, therefore, as an alien nation and keep up against her commerce a tariff wall as high as against that of the most dangerous commercial rival, would be a course on the part of the United States as singular as it would be reprehensible.

There are but two relations between nations. One is the relation of war, and the other that of peace; which latter in the twentieth century means commerce. Cuba has been taken willingly or unwillingly, into a union for war by the United States, and now she asks to be taken into a union for commerce. She makes this appeal, not in the attitude of a beggar, but as one who has a pro quid quo to offer. It is not free trade that she asks, for the necessities of the island demand that custom houses shall remain; but a reduction in the tariff rates of the United States upon her products, offering in exchange a similar reduction or differential in her duties upon imports from the United States. It means an even exchange. Cuba will pay dollar for dollar for many years, and the profits will be mutual. A golden opportunity for investments, not less than \$50,000,000 annually, will be the immediate share of the United States, while Cuba's portion will be the full development of her unlimited resources.

The sixty or seventy millions' worth of necessities which the 1,500,000 people of the Island have been buying during each of the last three years, and which the United States might have supplied for the asking, are merely the first poor offerings of a war-stricken people. Given reasonable time, some of the capital which the United States has in such abundance, and the American currency with which to apply the capital, and Cuba will triple her imports. Cuban credit has been strained to the limit, the deficit reaching \$42,000,000, or a fifth of the total import value, in