

Palma and Cuba
PALMA AND CUBA. have agreeably surprised us. Palma's cabinet seems so well-chosen that many of his political enemies have felt constrained to express their confidence in him.

But even before the appointment of these good men to positions in the official family, Cuba's attitude toward Palma had changed wonderfully.

At the time of the election many of his adherents were in a purely negative frame of mind. They voted for him, not because he possessed their confidence and esteem, but because his opponents in the political field failed to win popular approval. Palma was the most unfortunate of candidates—a compromise. They voted, not for him, but against the others. Probably it was the joy of possessing a real, living, breathing, president of their own that thrilled the Cuban blood and converted the islanders into one vast group of merry-makers, singing their greeting to their first chief.

Whatever may be the cause, the effect of the universal expression of confidence in Palma is to strengthen the newly-laid foundation of the Cuban government, and, as he is well known to be friendly with the United States, to establish a mutual confidence between this nation and its off-spring.

Governor General Wood also receives his full share of adoration from the Cubans, and the friendship between himself and the new president does away with the possibility of any friction between America and Cuba, or Cuba and Wood, which is the same thing.

The president's cabinet is as follows:
 Diego Tamayo, nationalist, secretary of government, a new portfolio.

Señor Tamayo will have charge of the rural guard, sanitation, the administration of the postoffices and signal service. He was formerly an autonomist, but lately joined the rebellion; was head of the revolutionary board and has been secretary of state since the American occupation.

Carlos Zaldo, republican-autonomist, department of state and justice.

Señor Zaldo is a well known business man. He was at one time a supporter of Juan Gualberto Gomez, "the black revolutionist."

Emilio Terry, independent, department of agriculture.

Señor Terry is a wealthy sugar planter of high character.

Manuel Luciano Diaz, nationalist, department of public works.

Señor Diaz, who had charge of the works at Matanzas during the American occupation, is an engineer of ability.

Eduardo Yero, nationalist, department of instruction.

Señor Yero was superintendent of

schools during the American occupation.

Garcia Moneto, republican, a lawyer of standing, department of finance.

It was an exceedingly pretty tableau **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.** and the audience boisterously applauded until the stage manager ran the curtain up and turned on the red light to give them another view of the angel.

But the angel seemed to have some decidedly unangelical ideas about accommodating people for she wasn't there, and all the spectators saw was her wings tacked to a board, in front of which the stage manager had expected her to stand, as usual. The stage was set; the tinselled scenery, and glowing lights startled the observer with their brilliancy and magnificence; but the angel, the center piece, the only living figure, was missing, and the shallowness of the whole show was exposed.

The curtain will soon be rolled up, and the political tableaux of 1896 and 1900 will be repeated. The stage settings are to be as superb as ever, the light as glowing, but where once stood the life of the picture, will be seen only a pair of frayed and tattered silver wings tacked to a board.

The angel will be missing.

Our inquiry of the other day as to what became of the Russian thistle scare is easily answered. We learn that this thistle, once so dreaded as a pest, has all of a sudden become a crop staple. There is one definition of a weed, "A plant whose use to man has not yet been discovered." This seems to apply to the vegetable in question. Owing to its unprepossessing appearance and the rapidity of its spread, the Russian thistle was viewed with alarm by agricultural experts all over the country, but now they claim that it is a rival of alfalfa as a hay-producing plant. It is cut, wilted, bunched and stacked very much like alfalfa, and when cured it is said to be soft and green, and both acceptable and nutritious to cattle. The prediction is made that it will be a very valuable crop for the arid belt.

As this is the last issue of this journal in which matters political will be treated, it may be well to dispel all doubt about our position by saying that The Conservative has been and is opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one, either with or without the consent of any nation on earth,

POSITION DEFINED.

or all of them, or nations on any adjacent planet. We make this frank statement so that those who may have entertained doubts as to our position may cease idle speculating.

Mr. Nixon seems to be the one man **NIXON REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.** in the United States who has labored under the delusion that he, not Croker, was Tammany's chief. Having been duly enlightened upon this point by having one of his pets suppressed at the suggestion of the Lord of Wantage, Mr. Nixon promptly resigned and refused to receive a vote of confidence. Which proves that Tammany has had a man in the chieftain's seat who had the spirit of a born leader, and only needed the support of the club to make his administration one of great profit to the organization.

General Weyler **NEVER WHIPPED THEM.** has been heard from on affairs philippinistic. He dolorously predicts that the Moros will be hard to conquer, and adds that in his dealings with them they never know when they are whipped. Probably an explanation of this may be found in the fact that in his dealings with them they never had an opportunity to know that they were whipped.

Dr. Herbert Fish, **CAUSE OR EFFECT?** of Northwestern University, presents statistical proof of the alleged fact that students who smoke cigarets lose their moral and mental strength. He might better have said that students, losing their moral and mental strength, smoke cigarets. His theory is certainly groundless, for when a boy smokes cigarets that is prima facie evidence that he has no mental or moral strength to lose.

The military man-
PRECAUTIONARY EXECUTIONS. darin who leads the present rebellion in China, killed his family before launching the enterprise, for fear they would be punished in the event of a failure.

The political relatives of Senator Mason have killed him before entering into the state campaign, for fear they would be punished in the event of his failure. The American system is decidedly the better.

If you will have it that there was a heroic admiral at Santiago, why not **CERVERA NOMINATED.** Cervera? He took up his sword enthusiastically, wore it with credit, and, when the proper time came, surrendered it gracefully. What more could mortal man do with a sword?