

CUBAN MESSAGE SENT TO CONGRESS.

(Continued from First Page.)

The island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar Del Rio and carried havoc and destruction up to the walls of the city of Havana itself had relaxed into a dazed struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish army regained a measure of control in Pinar Del Rio and parts of Havana, but under the existing conditions of the rural country without immediate improvement of their protective situation. Even thus partially restricted, the revolutionists held their own, and their submission, put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace, seemed as far distant as at the outset.

GRAVE PROBLEM PRESENTED.
In this state of affairs, my Administration found itself confronted with the grave problem of its duty. My message of last December reviewed the situation and detailed the steps taken, with a view of relieving its acuteness and opening the way to some form of honorable settlement.

The assassination of the Prime Minister, Canovas, led to a change of Government in Spain. The former administration which pledged subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform involving the wider principle of home rule for Cuba and Puerto Rico.

OVERTURES OF THIS GOVERNMENT.
The overtures of this Government made through its new envoy, General Woodford, and looking to an immediate amelioration of the island, although not accepted to the extent admitted by mediation in any such matters, were met by assurances that home rule in an advanced phase would be forthwith offered to Cuba, without waiting for the war to end, and that more humane methods should thenceforth prevail in the conduct of hostilities. Incidentally with these overtures, the Government of Spain continued and completed the policy already begun by its predecessor, of testifying friendly regard for this nation by releasing American citizens held under one charge or another connected with the insurrection, so that by the end of November not a single person remained in any way to our national protection remained in a Spanish prison.

RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS.
While these negotiations were in progress, the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The success which had attended the limited measure of relief extended to the suffering American citizens among them by the judicious expenditure through the consular agencies of the money appropriated expressly for their succor by the joint resolution approved May 24, 1897, promoted the humane extension of a similar scheme to that great body of sufferers. A summary of this work was acquiesced in by the Spanish authorities.

On the 24th of December last I caused to be issued an appeal to the American people, inviting contributions in money or in kind for the succor of the starving sufferers in Cuba. Following this, on the 8th of January, by a similar public announcement of the formation of a Central Cuban Relief Committee, with headquarters in New York City, composed of the members representing the American National Red Cross and the religious and business elements of the community, the efforts of this committee have been untiring and accomplishing much. Arrangements for free transportation to Cuba have greatly aided the charitable work.

The President of the American Red Cross and representatives of further contributory organizations have generously visited Cuba and co-operated with the Consul-General and the local authorities to make effective distribution of the relief collected through the efforts of the Central Committee. Nearly \$200,000 in money and supplies have already reached the sufferers, and more is forthcoming. The medical and nursing staffs of the hospitals are admitted duty free, and transportation to the interior has been arranged, so that the relief, at first necessarily confined to Havana and the larger cities, is now extended throughout most, if not all, of the towns where suffering exists. Thousands of lives have already been saved.

WEYLER'S ORDERS REVOKED.
The necessity for a change in the condition of the reconcentrados is recognized by the Spanish Government. Within a few days past the orders of General Weyler have been revoked, the reconcentrados are, it is said, to be permitted to return to their homes, and to resume the self-supporting pursuits of peace, public works having been started to give them employment, and a sum of \$600,000 has been appropriated for their relief.

PROPOSITIONS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE.
The war in Cuba is of such a nature that, short of a military victory for either side seems impracticable. The alternative lies in the physical exhaustion of the one or the other party, or perhaps both—a condition which in effect ended the ten years' war in the case of Zanzibar. The prospect of such a protraction, and conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, and least of all by the United States, affected and injured as we are, deeply and intimately by its very existence.

Realizing this, it appeared to be my duty, in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, who have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end I submitted, on the 23rd ultimo, a result of much representation and correspondence, through the Minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish Government looking to an armistice until October 1st, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the President.

In addition, I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration, so as to permit the people to return to their farms and the needy to be relieved with provisions and supplies from the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief.

SPAIN'S REPLY.
The reply of the Spanish Cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the proposition thereto to the concurrence of parliament, inasmuch as the usual department that body would be necessary to reach a final result, it being, however,

understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central Government are not lessened and diminished as a result of the Spanish Parliament does not meet until the 15th of May next. The Spanish Government would not object, for its part, to accept at once a suspension of hostilities, if asked for by the insurgents from the General-in-Chief, to whom it would pertain, in such cases, to determine the duration and condition of the armistice.

The propositions submitted by General Woodford and the reply of the Spanish Government were both in the form of brief memoranda, the texts of which are before me—and are substantially in the language above given. The function of the Cuban parliament in the matter of "preparing" peace and the manner of doing so are not expressed in the Spanish memorandum; but from General Woodford's explanatory reports of preliminary discussions and the final conference, it is understood that the Spanish Government stands ready to give the insurgent Congress full powers to settle the terms of peace with the insurgents, whether by direct negotiation or indirectly by means of legislation, does not appear.

THREE UNTRIED MEASURES.
With this last overture in the direction of immediate peace and its disappointing reception by Spain, the Executive was brought to the end of his effort.

In my annual message of December last, I said: "Of the untried measures there remain recognition of the insurgents as belligerents, recognition of the independence of Cuba, and intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants and intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression."

Thereupon I reviewed these alternatives in the light of President Grant's measured words uttered in 1875, when, after seven years of sanguinary and destructive civil war, the President of Cuba, he reached the conclusion that the recognition of the independence of Cuba was impracticable and indefensible, and that the recognition of belligerency was not warranted by the facts existing in the case of Cuba. I compared the position of the latter aspect of the question, pointing out the inconveniences and positive dangers of a recognition of belligerency which, while adding to the already onerous burdens of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend to the territory of hostilities.

PRECEDENT FOR RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENCE.
Turning to the question of recognizing the present insurgent Government in Cuba, we find safe precedents in our history from an early day. They are well summed up: In President Jackson's message to Congress December 11, 1835, on the subject of the recognition of the independence of Texas, he said:

"In all the contests that have arisen out of the revolutions of France, out of the disputes relating to the crews of Portugal and Spain, out of the separation of the American possessions of Florida, and out of the numerous and constantly occurring struggles for dominion in Spanish America, so wisely consistent with our just principles has been the action of our Government that we have avoided all most critical circumstances which would have exposed us to either evil than that produced by a transient re-estrange-ment of good will in those against whom we have been, by force of evidence, compelled to decide."

"It has thus been made known to the world that the uniform policy and practice of the United States is to avoid all interference in disputes which merely relate to the internal governments of other nations, and eventually to recognize the authority of the prevailing party without reference to our particular interests or views, or to the merits of the original controversy. But in this, as on every other occasion, safety is to be found in a rigid adherence to principle."

"In the contest between Spain and the revolting colonies, we stood aloof and waited not only until the ability of the new States to protect themselves was fully established, but until the danger of their being again subjugated had entirely passed away. Then, and not until then, were they recognized, and our course in regard to Mexico herself."

"It is true in regard to Texas that the civil authority of Mexico had been expelled, its invading army defeated, the chief of the republic himself captured and all present power to control the republic organized by the Government of Texas annihilated within its confines. But, on the other hand, there is, in appearance, at least, an immense disparity of physical force on the side of Texas. The Mexican Republic under an ally is allying its forces under a new leader against its lost domain."

"Upon the issue of this threatened invasion, the independence of Texas may be considered as suspended, and were there nothing peculiar in the situation of the United States and Texas, our acknowledgment of its independence at such a crisis could scarcely be regarded as consistent with that prudent reserve with which we have hitherto held ourselves bound to treat all similar questions."

ACTION TAKEN AS TO TEXAS.
Thereupon Andrew Jackson proceeded to consider the risk that there might be imputed to the United States motives of selfish interests, in view of the former claim on our part to the territory of Texas, and of the avowed purpose of the Texans in seeking recognition of their independence as an incident to the incorporation of Texas in the Union, concluding thus:

"Prudence therefore seems to dictate that we should stand aloof and maintain our present attitude, if not until Mexico itself, or one of the great foreign powers, shall recognize the independence of the Government, at least until the lapse of time, or the course of events shall have proved beyond cavil or dispute the ability of the people of that country to maintain their separate sovereignty and to uphold the Government constituted by them. Neither of the contending parties can justly complain of this course. By pursuing it we are but carrying out the long-established policy of our Government, a policy which secured to us respect and influence abroad and inspired confidence at home."

independence by a neutral State to wit: that the revolted States shall constitute in fact a body politic, having a Government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of stability and forming de facto, if left to itself, a State among the nations, reasonably capable of discharging the duties of a State, has imposed for its own governance in dealing with cases like these, the further condition, that recognition of independent Statehood is not due to a revolted dependency until the danger of its being again subjugated by the parent State has entirely passed away. This extreme test was in fact applied in the case of Texas.

The Congress to whom President Jackson referred the question as "one probably leading to war," and therefore a proper subject for "previous understanding with that body by whom war alone can be declared," and by whom all the provisions sustaining its perils must be furnished," left the matter of recognition of Texas to the discretion of the Executive, providing merely for the sending of a diplomatic agent when the President should be satisfied that the Republic of Texas had become "an independent State." It was so recognized by President Van Buren, who commissioned a Charge d'Affaires March 8, 1837, after Mexico had abandoned an attempt to conquer the Texan territory; and then there was at the time no bona fide contest going on between the insurgent province and its former sovereign.

DOES CUBA POSSESS ATTRIBUTES OF STATEHOOD?

I said in my message of December last, "It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses beyond the attributes of Statehood, which alone could merit the recognition of belligerency in its favor."

The same requirement must certainly be no less seriously considered when the graver issue of recognizing independence is in question for no less positive test can be applied to the greater act than to the lesser; while, on the other hand, the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal policy of the recognizing State, which form important factors when the recognition of belligerency is concerned, are secondary if not rightly eliminable factors in the real question whether the community claiming recognition is or is not independent beyond peradventure.

NOT WISE TO RECOGNIZE INDEPENDENCE.

Nor from the standpoint of expediency do I think it would be wise or prudent for this Government to recognize the present insurrectionary Government of the so-called Cuban Republic. Such recognition is not necessary to enable the United States to intervene and pacify the island. To commit this country now to recognition of any particular Government in Cuba might subject us to the obligation toward the organization so recognized. In case of intervention, our conduct will be subject to the approval or disapproval of such Government; we would be required to submit to its direction and to assume to it the mere relation of a friendly ally. The question of intervention, if there is within the island a Government capable of performing the duties and discharging the functions of a nation, and having as a matter of fact the proper forms and attributes of nationality, such Government can be promptly and readily recognized by the United States with such nation adjacible.

FORCIBLE INTERVENTION JUSTIFIABLE.

There remain the alternative forms of intervention to end the war, either as an expedient, or as a means of national compromise between the contestants, or as the active ally of the one party or the other.

As to the first, it is not to be forgotten that during the last few months the relation of the United States has virtually been one of friendly intervention in many ways, each of them distinctly exclusive, but all tending to the exertion of a potential influence toward an ultimate pacific result, just and honorable to all in this concerned. The spirit of all our acts hitherto has been an earnest, unselfish desire for peace and prosperity in Cuba, unattained by direct action between the United States and Spain, and unstained by the blood of American citizens.

The forcible intervention of the United States as a neutral to stop the war, according to the large dictates of humanity, and following by historical precedent, would be equally equitable to all our interests, so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined by the principle of right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy in the light of the obligation this Government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity. Sure of the right, respecting the honor of our country, and actuated by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by a passion nor selfishness, the Government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies the restoration of the honor and independence of Cuba.

SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS.
If it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization, and to humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because necessity for such action will be apparent. It is not our duty to act in the name of the civilized world.

CUBA MUST BE PACIFIED.
The long trial has proved that the object for which Spain has waged the war cannot be attained. The fire of insurrection may flame or may smoulder with varying seasons, but it has not been extinguished by the methods used, and the only hope of relief and repose from a condition which cannot longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in the belief of endangered American interests which give us the right to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop.

In view of these facts and these considerations, I ask the Congress to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full termination of hostilities between the Government of Spain and the insurgent Government of the island the establishment of a stable Government capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations, insuring peace and tranquillity and the security of its citizens as well as our already pointed out military necessities. The United States as may be necessary for such purposes; and in the interest of humanity and to aid in preserving the lives of the starving people of the island, I recommend that the distracted and distracted condition, and that an appropriation be made out of the public treasury to supplement the charity of our citizens.

tional heart with inexpressible horror. Two hundred and eighty-eight brave sailors and marines, and two officers of our navy, reposing in the fancied security of a friendly harbor, have been hurried to death—grief and want brought in their homes and sorrow to the nation.

That the naval port of inquiry, which is necessary to send commands the unqualified confidence of the Government, was unanimous in its conclusion that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an exterior explosion, that of a submarine mine. It did not assume to place the responsibility. That the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine, by whatever exterior cause, is a patent and impressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable. That condition is thus shown to be such that the Spanish Government cannot assure Havana or any other port of a vessel of the American Navy in the harbor of Havana on a mission of peace and rightfully there.

Further referring in this connection to recent diplomatic correspondence, a dispatch from our Minister to Spain dated the 31st ultimo contained the statement that the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs assured him positively that Spain will do all that the highest honor and justice requires in the matter of the Maine. The reply above referred to of the 31st ultimo also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to arbitration all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish Minister at Washington of the 10th instant, as follows:

"As to the question of fact which springs from the diversified views between us, beyond the limits of the Spanish boards, Spain proposes that the facts be ascertained by an impartial investigation by experts, which decision Spain accepts in advance." To this I have made no reply.

NON-STANDING MENACE.
President Weyler's policy of increasing the phases of the contest as it then appeared, and its hopeless and apparently indefinite prolongation, said:

"In such event I am of opinion that other nations will be compelled to assume the responsibility which devolves upon us. The only remaining measures possible, mediation and intervention. Owing, perhaps, to the large expanse of water separating the island from the peninsula, the contending parties appear to have within themselves no depository of peace. The only way to suggest freedom when passion and excitement have their way, and thus assume the part of peacemaker. In this view, in the earlier days of the contest, the good offices of the United States as the mediator were tendered in good faith. The only real purpose in the interest of humanity, and the promotion of friendship for both parties, but were at the time declined by Spain, with the declaration, nevertheless, that at a future time they would be indispensable. No intimation has been received from the Government of Spain, that time has been reached, and that the conflict continues, with all its dread horrors, and all its injuries to the United States and of other nations. Each party seems vitally capable of working great injury to the other, as well as to all the other interests dependent upon the existence of the island, and which but they seem incapable of reaching any adjustment, and both have thus far failed of achieving any success whereby one hardly shall possess and control the island to the exclusion of the other, and in the circumstances, the agency of others, either by mediation or by intervention, seems to be the other alternative which must, sooner or later, be invoked for the termination of the strife."

In the last annual message of my immediate predecessor during the pending struggle it was said: "When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection had become manifest, and it was demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of her rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment was going on, and the result of which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligation to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher considerations, and we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge."

In my annual message to Congress in December last, speaking to this question, I said: "The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace just attainable to all our interests, so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined by the principle of right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy in the light of the obligation this Government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity. Sure of the right, respecting the honor of our country, and actuated by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by a passion nor selfishness, the Government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies the restoration of the honor and independence of Cuba."

Secondly, it is to be noted that the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes, that action will be determined by the principle of right and duty. It will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy in the light of the obligation this Government owes to itself, to the people who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor, and to humanity. Sure of the right, respecting the honor of our country, and actuated by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by a passion nor selfishness, the Government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies the restoration of the honor and independence of Cuba."

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ISSUE NOW WITH CONGRESS.

The issue is now with Congress. It is a solemn responsibility. I have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition of affairs which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the Constitution and the law, I await your action.

Yesterday and since the preparation of the foregoing message official information was received by me that the last decree of the Queen Regent of Spain directs General Blanco, in order to prepare and facilitate peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities, the duration and details of which have not yet been communicated to me. This fact, with every other pertinent consideration, will, I am sure, have your just and careful attention in the solemn deliberations upon which you are about to enter. If this measure attains a successful result, then our aspirations for a speedy and peace-loving people will be realized. If it fails, it will be only another justification for our contemplated action.

(Signed) WILLIAM McKINLEY. Executive Mansion, April 11th.

A POWERFUL MICROSCOPE.

To Make a First-Class Magnifying Glass for a Few Cents.
While almost everyone has heard of the wonderful powers of the microscope, yet few have ever had an opportunity to look through one, and fewer still have been able to possess a really good instrument. A simple pocket lens is in itself sufficiently wonderful, but one who has only looked through a magnifying glass can have but a faint idea of the enormous magnifying powers of a microscope. The high price of the instrument will always prevent its common use, for a serviceable microscope cannot be purchased for less than \$25, while the more expensive ones cost several hundreds. And yet a very excellent little microscope may be made at home in a few minutes by anyone and at a cost of next to nothing.

First of all, from some dealer in optical goods, a small quantity of Canada balsam and a dozen cover glasses should be bought. These cover glasses, as they are called, are used in mounting objects for the microscope, and are about as large around as a cent and as thin as a sheet of writing paper. This is all that requires to be purchased and should cost but a few cents. Anyone who has noticed how water spilled on a tablecloth magnifies the fibers of the cloth will understand the principle upon which these lenses are to be constructed, only we shall use the Canada balsam instead of water.

To make a microscope, take a clean cover glass, and in the center place a small drop of balsam. Your microscope is now complete; that is, the part that does the magnifying is finished. It is therefore very important that this part should be well done. It is best to use a common steel needle for the operation. Dip it well into the balsam, and on raising it you will find that the balsam runs slowly toward the point, very much as molasses would. The drop thus formed should be placed carefully in position, and great care must be taken to make it exactly round. A number of these microscopes should be made of different sizes. Each one will then have a different magnifying power, the rule being that the smaller the drop the more it will magnify.

The microscope, as thus made, can be used just as it is, but it is best for ease in working to have some kind of a mounting. A very good mounting may be made by using a piece of small circular hole, not quite as large as the drop of balsam. Paste this on the reverse side of the cover opposite the drop. This forms what is called a diaphragm, and prevents the light from the edges of the drop interfering with the accurate working of the lens. Next make a small circle of thin wood, and in the center of it bore a hole a little larger than the drop. Gum the cover glass on this so that the drop shall come on the inside; thus you will not only be able to handle the delicate cover glass safely, but you will also protect the drop from dirt and touching with the hands while hardening.

After having made your microscope, the next question is how to use it. For examining mounted transparent objects or slides, it may be used by placing the microscope in position, and the distance between the object and the lens focused very close to the lens. These mounted objects, however, although very beautiful, are apt to be rather expensive, and to the average student will not be half so interesting as the means of studying the life of animals and plants to be found in common pond water.

Those who wish to examine the water animals, as they are called, may use the following simple device. A plain slide may be made from common window glass about three inches long and one inch broad. A cell or round ring of wax may be easily made in the center with one of the circular glass covers and deep enough to contain a good-sized drop of water. This slide will answer all the purposes of a stage made of glass, and will be more. To use it put the drop of water that you wish to examine in the wax cell and drop a cover glass upon it, thus flattening the curved surface of the drop so that it may be examined without being image being distorted thereby. The slide may be viewed just like any mounted object.

The magnifying power, as has been said, varies with the size of the drop of balsam used. A drop one-quarter of an inch in diameter will magnify to about fifteen diameters; a drop half an inch in diameter will magnify to about one, two, or even three, hundred diameters may be readily obtained. When it is realized that the ordinary pocket lens rarely magnifies more than five diameters, the immense powers of these microscopes will be understood. In examining pond water, however, only the lower powers should be used, first using the lowest and increasing in power until the best results are reached. It is nonsense to use a higher power than is necessary to see an object well.

Appealing to the Record.
He—I'm tired of hearing about woman being the "better half." Look at Eve. She led Adam into sin. He never would have eaten the forbidden fruit if she hadn't eaten it first. How do you get around that?

She—The Bible says the Lord repented that he made man. He never repented having made woman. Get around that, will you.—Chicago Tribune.

About 26 per cent. of the people of Scotland are resident in the eight principal towns.

SPANISH HATRED FOR AMERICANS

Plainly Shown When Lee Was Departing From Havana.

Hoots and Calls of Insulting Nature Given Expression To.

Did Not Come Alone From People Lining the Shores, but From Spanish Gunboats and Soldiers at the Forts—A Cannon on One of the Warships Lashed Directly at the Fern as She Was Leaving the Harbor.

NEW YORK, April 11.—A dispatch to the "Tribune" from Key West says: Consul-General Lee went north via Tampa in the belief that his presence was wanted in Washington to give information about the probabilities in Cuba during the next fortnight. He did not receive instructions until he reached Key West. Vice-Consul Springer and Consul Barker of Sagua are also instructed to report at headquarters. This was construed as indicating the opinion in official quarters that an early reopening of the American Consulate in Cuba is not probable.

General Lee may be able to add some knowledge to what is already known regarding the plot by which the Maine was blown up, though not, perhaps, to the extent of fixing the conspiracy officially on the Spanish Government. After the departure of Captain Sampson and the court of inquiry, it was left to him to follow the clues regarding conspirators. While the board reported its inability to fix the responsibility for the explosion on any person or persons, it was well understood that the suspicion was placed on the Spanish Government. Had those received assurances that the Spanish authorities could be depended on to co-operate in the investigation, valuable evidence might have been placed in the hands of the latter. But with Spain holding to the theory of accident, the only effect of placing in their hands evidence as to the probable identity of the conspirators would have been its destruction. So General Lee continued his inquiries on independent lines. The result was to show the fallacy of some of the clues, but not of all.

Perhaps General Lee would not feel justified in making stronger assertions officially than could the board about the identity of the conspirators, yet he uncovered enough to satisfy him that a fanatic could not have fixed the mine which blew up the Maine in Havana harbor, or have fired as it was being fired, a shot which would have blown up the vessel. Attaché Sobral gave out in Washington an official statement that no mines had been laid in Havana harbor, evidence that this was a mistake was quickly accumulated at the Consulate, before the board had established that fact to its own satisfaction. Many of the junior officers who were stationed at the arsenal under Weyler were directly implicated in the plot may be a matter of individual opinion, rather than of demonstrated evidence.

On one point the information is definite. General Lee believes the letter of January last, attributed to General Weyler, in which Weyler speaks boastfully of having prepared Havana harbor so that Yankee ships could be destroyed, is genuine. Whether he has seen the original is not stated, but his opinion is that such a letter was written by Weyler in clear.

Since the Maine disaster is expected to be a feature of the general Cuban case instead of a mere incident, the Consul-General's presence in Washington to the memory of the officers and men with later details the information gathered by the court of inquiry. General Lee's personal opinion was indicated when the Fern was leaving Havana harbor Saturday night, and he pledged those on board with him a silent toast to the memory of the officers and men of the Maine "Blown up by a Spanish mine."

His was the first eye to catch sight of a cannon on a Spanish gunboat which was leveled directly at the Fern, and kept aimed for several minutes. It meant, for jest, it was an ill-timed jest indeed.

The number of persons who lined the water's edge on either the city or the Cabanas side did not exceed a few hundred. Nevertheless, their hoots and whistles and calls of "Fuera, fuera," which is Spanish for "get out," could not be construed as indicating a healthy sentiment toward Americans. General Lee's only comment was to call the attention of his voyage companions to the Spanish flag flying over Morro Castle, and to tell them that when they returned they would see another flag floating there.

Captain-General Blanco's refusal to see General Lee when the latter called at the palace on Saturday to say goodbye was an ostentatious affront. Blanco was transacting business and seeing various persons, but sent word begging to be excused on the ground of illness.

Secretary of the Congress openly insulting. In the harbor, when the vessels Evelyn and Olivette went out loaded with Americans, there were some evidences of ill-feeling, which were stronger when the coast survey steamer Bache followed in their wake, but the morning exhibition was when the Perry and Lee and his party left. The catcalls and hoots and whistles did not come alone from the populace lining the shore; they also came from the Spanish gunboats and from the soldiers at Le Fuercas fort and at Cabanas. The Spanish authorities had suspicion that Lee is going to Washington with the original of Weyler's letter about the mines in the harbor, as well as a full plan of the mines.

Havana itself for some time to come promises to be the most isolated community in the world. Probably, if there is no outbreak, and none is probable at present, a very little news of what is happening may be transmitted to the outside world. Nothing is permitted to be known of what is going on in either Madrid or Washington till General Blanco is ready to have it known. The contents of President McKinley's message and the subsequent action of Congress will probably be withheld for a week. The authorities have already reached the point not only of indicating what the papers shall not publish, but also of furnishing copy for them.

Havana knows that the American flag is down from the consulate; that Lee and all the other consulate officers have left, their affairs are in charge of the British Consul, and there have been an exodus of Americans. Next they will learn that all financial houses having connections with houses in the United States will do no further business while the present strained international relations continue and the vessels plying between Cuban ports have suspended their voyages, and that of this will soon be felt in the scarcity of provisions. It was anticipated on Saturday afternoon, when dealers all over the city began raising prices. In these circumstances even the Spanish classes in Havana may have a sober season of reflection as to the meaning of war with the United States.

The answer of the Cubans to the proposal of an armistice will be by large numbers of them joining the insurgents in the field.

SPANISH IN CUBA SLOW IN REALIZING THE CRISIS.
NEW YORK, April 11.—A dispatch to the "Tribune" from Havana says: The Spanish classes in Cuba have been slow in realizing that the crisis was really upon them, in spite of their patriotic ardor and their demand for war. They have not thought it would come to that point. The prospective withdrawal of Consul-General Lee and other American representatives from the island was known for forty-eight hours. Yet their actual leaving has been the first convincing evidence that the Cuban question could only be settled on the basis of independence. They the first time they realize the full significance of the action.

The withdrawal of the Consuls in advance of the sending of President McKinley's message to Congress is opportune. It prepares the public for the full meaning of the action, and the Congressional legislation that may follow, and lessens the danger of an outbreak. While the future in Havana is a blank, the probability is not of an immediate disturbance. With Lee and the Americans gone there are no persons on the island who are not known and can be visited. If war comes, the first news of Spanish reverses might cause an outbreak. But that cannot be foretold with certainty. The community may be so bewildered and benumbed that it will give no signs. The foreign consuls in Havana are not known, and serious uprising at any stage of the developments.

If any Americans who remain in Havana should suffer it will be their own fault. Both the National Administration and General Lee have done their full duty