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Our Navy's Prize Money.

The large earnings in prize money already secured by all of Admiral Dewey's war vessels and by some of the vessels of Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley have naturally attracted public attention. Hostilities, however, will have to last a long time before the navy can equal its prize winnings from 1861 to 1865, which amounted to nearly \$12,000,000, derived from hundreds of captures, including many blockade runners.

It may seem strange that sailors who capture a ship by firing a blank shot across her bow should read a rich reward therefrom, while soldiers who reduce a town by an assault that may cost a thousand lives get nothing. But the rule denying to the army a share in the spoils is due to the abolition among civilized nations of the ancient sacking and looting of towns. The old time incentive offered to prowess on the seas has remained to this day.

The rule is that if the prize is of equal or superior force to the vessel or vessels making the capture all the net proceeds go to the captors; if of inferior force, one-half to the United States and one-half to the captors. Half the value of a neutral merchant ship trying to run the blockade or of an enemy's merchantman taken on the high seas, may seem a very large reward for the captors, since this kind of work is usually easy. But, like the moiety to informers under statute law, it rests on ancient usage, and that, in turn, on the value of an extra stimulus to vigilance. No one will dispute that while such a rule exists regarding captured merchantmen, one other provision as to an enemy's warships is just. This is that a bounty is given to a ship which sinks or otherwise destroys an enemy's war vessel in an engagement. This bounty is \$200 for each person on board the enemy's ship at the beginning of the engagement, if she is equal or superior to our own force, and \$100 if she is inferior. If she is destroyed in the public interest immediately after capture, the bounty for each person on board at the capture is \$50.

Sometimes the question of inferiority or superiority and also of the enemy's complement may have to be one for judicial opinion. In dividing the total prize money, either for the merchantman or the warship, the division is made proportionate to the pay of officers and men, except that the commander of the squadron or fleet gets a twentieth part, and the commander of a single ship one-tenth of his ship's share, unless acting independently of a superior officer, when he gets three-twentieths. For fleet captains and commanders of divisions there are also special percentages.

It may be doubted whether prize money, as now reckoned and paid, will last through the twentieth century, as through centuries in the past. If the powers that took part in the Declaration of Paris of 1856 had acceded to our country's proposal for the exemption of private property at sea from capture, prize money would have received, in one of its applications, a hard blow. But even in blockade running and in battle it does not seem likely to be perpetual, and when it goes Jack will do his duty, like his brother in the army, for nothing but his regular pay.

Meanwhile he will certainly win his prize money all through the present war, and a good deal of such money has been accumulated during the last six weeks.

The Balance Sheet of Monopoly.

Summing up his "wheat deal," which is now approaching completion, "Joe" Leitersays: "When all the May is closed up I shall have handled approximately 40,000,000 bushels." The speculator's banker estimates the profit of the "deal" at \$7,000,000.

There is no more wheat in the world than there would have been had Leiter been so poor as to have to wait in line at midnight to get his loaf from a charitable baker. His operations have not added a bushel of wheat or a dollar to the world's stock of wealth. He has not made money—he has taken it. His \$7,000,000 acquired in one year is not the fruit of productive industry, but the spoils of a high wayman.

That wheat would have gone up during the winter and spring may be admitted. Conditions favored higher prices than had prevailed. But it mounted day by day until bakers reduced the size of their loaves or raised the price of bread, women and children went hungry, order was dethroned in Italy by a famished populace and a young man in Chicago pocketed \$7,000,000 profits. That was not a rising market caused by natural conditions. That was an extortionate market controlled by a monopolist.

How artificial was the price forced by Leiter is shown by the fact, chronicled by a sympathetic historian of the deal, that at one time "he was compelled to buy 7,000,000 bushels in three days." Compelled by what? By fear that the natural law of supply and demand, if left to operate untrammelled, would break down the extortionate price he was maintaining and enable the people to get bread-stuffs without paying the tribute he exacted. And Tuesday Leiter's brokers sold May wheat at \$1.45, though Saturday they demanded and secured \$1.75. In brief, they put a purely arbitrary price on what they had to sell. That they designed to grant a lower price was purely a work of benevolence—leading up to some new spoolation. We should beware of the Leiters bearing gift.

The balance sheet of this young monopolist in yet to be struck. He credits himself with \$7,000,000 and with having distributed some \$100,000,000 among the farmers—for like Dick Turpin, Leiter likes to brag of his benevolent disposal of his plunderings. But charged against him are poverty made harder, famine, riot and death. Some day monopolists of the stamp will find the balance, despite their apparent profits, is on the wrong side of the ledger.

A Lesson in Americanism.

The critics who talk with a superior air about the folly of newspaper advice on the conduct of the war expose their ignorance of the first principles of American government. One of those principles is the subordination of the military to the civil power. A general knows, or ought to know, how to plan a campaign and fight a battle, but it is not his business to decide upon the objects for which the war is to be carried on. He is quite likely to be less competent to decide such matters than the civilians who are entrusted by the Constitution with the duty of settling them.

Now, one of the chief objects of the present war is the rescue of the starving Cubans. Looking at the matter from a purely military point of view, a general may say: "I can carry on a much more scientific campaign by waiting until the Cubans are all dead. The weather will be better then; I shall have a larger and better trained army, and I can conduct operations with more eclat and less loss."

To such reasoning the untrained civilian intelligence can merely reply: "We bow to your superior judgment. We admit that the war could be scientifically improved by waiting until its objects had been sacrificed, but as we have interfered in Cuba to save the Cubans we wish to save at least some of them, even at the risk of impairing the professional perfection of the campaign. If you can't save all of them, save a part. If you haven't troops enough to occupy the whole island at once, occupy as much of it as you can. But get food to the Cubans somehow, and at once."

This is not a matter of strategic detail, but of purely civil policy. It is one on which every citizen of the United States has a right to have and to express an opinion, and on which it is the duty of every newspaper to speak its mind.

The Philippine Islands.

The islands, says the *Scientific American*, were discovered by Magellan in 1521, and Manila, the capital, was founded by Legaspi in 1571, and since that time they have been under the dominion of Spain. Their conquest and retention was in marked contrast to the usual Spanish methods of dealing with conquered people, methods of which Cortez and Pizarro are the chief exponents. Legaspi with six Augustinians and a handful of soldiers accomplished the wonderful work of conquest. Without greed for gold and without any exhibition of cruelty or persecution, these devoted men labored among the docile people until they won their confidence, so that the islands were seized with little bloodshed and no massacre or depopulation. The name "Islas Filipas" was given by Legaspi in 1567. Contests with frontier rebellious tribes, attacks by pirates, earthquakes and typhoons serve to break up the monotony of an otherwise uneventful history. Manila was captured by the English under Draper and Cornish in 1762, and ransomed for 5,000,000 dollars, but was restored in 1764. The present insurrections in the islands were put down with an iron hand and many atrocities were committed, so that it is little wonder that many of the inhabitants look upon the arrival of the Americans as a deliverance.

While none of the islands have very high mountains (the highest, Apo, in Mindanao, being over 9,000 feet), still all the islands may be described in general as mountainous and hilly. Volcanic forces have had a large share in shaping the archipelago, but few of the peaks are now volcanic. In 1814 a terrible eruption destroyed 12,000 people at Camalig, Budiao, Albay, Guinobatan and Daraga. In 1867 the same district was visited with another eruption. The Philippines are also notorious for terrible typhoons. In 1876 one of the storms burst over Luzon, pouring down the sides of the mountain Mayon, bringing destruction to a number of cities, completely ruining 6,000 houses. Typhoons on the coast are also common. The third great evil which the islands are treated are the earthquakes, which visit them so frequently that they affect the style adopted in the erection of buildings. The most violent earthquake occurred in 1880, destroying an immense amount of property, including the cathedral. The Philippine Islands are peculiar in having three seasons—a cold, a hot and a wet. The first extends from November to February or March. The winds are northerly and woolen clothing and a fire are desirable, the sky is clear and the air bracing, and Europeans in this strange climate consider it the pleasantest time of the year. The hot season lasts from March to June, and the heat becomes oppressive and thunderstorms of terrific violence are frequent. During July, August, September and October the rain comes down in torrents, and large tracts of the lower country are flooded. * * * * *

Manila lies on the western side of the island of Luzon and is about 600 miles from Hong Kong. It has one of the most spacious and beautiful harbors of the whole world. The shores are low and inland can be seen the outline of mountains. The city of Manila resembles a dilapidated fortress surrounded by stone walls 300 years old. There is also a wide shallow moat. The gates are never closed and it is doubtful if the city could make any defence. There is also an old fort. Several creeks branch off from the landlocked bay and afford a means of communication with the suburbs. These creeks are crossed by innumerable bridges, and canoes thread their way through these narrow waterways, which somewhat resemble a tropical Venice. Around the walls and edge of the bay is a fashionable drive lined with almond trees. It is here that the well-to-do inhabitants walk, drive and meet their friends. Of nearly 300,000 in the province there are not more than 5,000 Spaniards. One of the most curious sights to the traveller who comes from China are the large two wheel drays drawn by so-called water buffaloes. They are guided by a ring through their nose, to which is attached a cord leading back to the driver, who either mounts on his back or rides on the shafts. The weight of the load is borne on the neck by means of a yoke. The beasts are docile and their chief delight seems to be to wallow in the mud, and to submerge themselves so that only the

nose is out of water. The water buffalo is particularly valuable to the inhabitants as a beast of burden, as it can drag a plough and can walk when knee deep in mud. The milk of the female is very generally used instead of cow's milk, but its meat is unfit for food. In the two best streets of Manila there are excellent stores in which goods of all kinds can be purchased at moderate prices, many of the merchants being Chinese. The churches must have been imposing buildings years ago before they were shaken and in some cases wrecked by earthquakes. They contain no works of art of any value. The inhabitants are very faithful to their Church, and the archbishop possesses almost unlimited influence with the inhabitants. It has often been said, if the priests were taken away the natives would be ungovernable. The dwelling houses in Manila are constructed with a view of shutting out the intense heat of the summer. The houses are rarely more than two stories in height, owing to the ravages of earthquakes. Glass is of course unknown, as the earthquakes would shiver every pane.

Strange to say, life in the old city does not present many points of interest to the traveler, for the streets are narrow and the houses solid and gloomy. It is a marked contrast to the businesslike cities of South America. The Spaniards born in the Iberian Peninsula look down upon those born in the islands, so that class distinctions are very closely drawn. This has resulted in the failure to make political combinations. Hatred and jealousy of the foreigner are carried to extremelimits, the Chinese coming in for a large share of their disfavor. The theatres are poor; concerts are rare, and there is no library, and their amusements are mostly limited to hearing the band play, attending balls on Sundays and cock fights. The cockpits are licensed by the Government, and, though the betting is limited by law, the citizens will not hold to it. The revenues of the island are furnished by direct taxes on every Indian, halfbreed and Chinese. The dress of the natives is exceedingly picturesque and is never adopted by the Spanish. Cigar makers in and around the city of Manila number 23,000, and they are all girls and women except about 1,500 men. They present a picturesque appearance with their native costume and huge hats intended to protect them from the rays of the sun. They make their cigars squatting on their heels or sitting on bamboo stools two inches high. They frequently come from considerable distances, going back and forth in boats. Tobacco has always been and probably will continue to be the most important product of the Philippines; and, according to the old laws, the Indians were compelled to raise tobacco in quarters which were not adapted to growing it, even to the exclusion of other crops, but in 1883 the laws were repealed, and the result was the securing of finer tobacco and better cigars, for they are now made at a higher rate. The wants of the natives are few and are easily supplied. They live on the banks of the rivers in huts made of bamboo and cane thatched with palm leaves. Some of the views in the suburbs of Manila are enchanting.

A Tax for the Trusts.

The interest of the session in the Senate last Wednesday centered in the action taken upon the amendment of Senator Gorman, of Maryland, levying a tax of one-quarter of one per cent. upon the gross receipts of all corporations doing a business exceeding \$250,000 a year. By a direct vote upon it the amendment was rejected 27 to 34.

Senator Pettigrew offered the Gorman amendment with the clause containing the \$250,000 exemption stricken out, but it was defeated by a vote of 25 to 37.

Senator White, of California, then proposed the Gorman amendment so modified that it levies a tax of one-quarter of one per cent. upon all corporations engaged in the refining of sugar or petroleum. The California Senator explained that he desired to see a tax levied on the American Sugar Trust and the Standard Oil Company. The amendment prevailed by a vote of 33 to 26. It was supported by 23 Democrats, 4 Republicans, 5 Populists, and 2 Silver Republicans; and opposed by 24 Republicans and 2 Democrats.

OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

ENGLAND.

THE DIVISION OF THE BALKAN STATES.
An agreement has been entered into it is rumored between Austria-Hungary and Russia at the time of the visit of the Emperor Francis Joseph to the Czar last year, whereby the two States, by a continuous contract, divided the Balkan States into two spheres of influence, in which each is to maintain tranquility and preserve the status quo.

Standard—London, May 17.

The treaty suggests even more than it reveals. It seems to bring within measurable distance another stage of the partition of Turkey. Serbia, it is true, is an independent kingdom. But Bulgaria is subject to the suzerainty of the Sultan; and the other regions in which overlordship is to be exercised are integral parts of the Ottoman Empire. What will Turkey and the peoples who are to be watched and policed by their great neighbors say to this comprehensive scheme for keeping them well behaved? They are only too likely to see in it, not merely a precaution against disturbances such as those that were threatened in the Balkans at the time of the Greek war, when the treaty was made, but also a step towards their ultimate incorporation. Minor States with a treaty such as this made over their heads can have no real independence, no true liberty. It will be incumbent upon us to see that one of the objects of the treaty—the maintenance of the status quo—is not departed from. If the compact really means that Austria and Russia intended, if possible, to settle the Eastern Question by themselves, to the exclusion of England, our statesmen have a new problem to confront.

Daily News—London, May 17.

The secret treaty between Russia and Austria is, if authentic, a document of first rate importance. Two qualifying remarks must be made. The first is that the treaty is on the face of it a scheme not for dividing up Turkey, but for preserving the status quo. For the time being, this, we do not doubt, is the real object of the treaty. It indicates spheres of influence to be furnished to the petitioner's legal advisers. The lady, whose statement as to Druce's intimacy with a Madame Elise was printed a few weeks ago, has since looked over a number of old papers, which she says confirm her belief. She adds the following: "My father, Mr. — (the name is in our possession, but the lady does not wish it published at present), was the factotum, and indeed intimate friend, of the man whom both he and I knew to be the Duke of Portland, and who, to the knowledge of us both, passed under the name of 'Thomas Charles Druce.' Meanwhile, under the terms of the reported treaty, Roumania, by far the most promising of the Balkan States, may ask, 'Where do we come in?' A Russian sphere of interest in Bulgaria hems Roumania in on both sides, above and below. It would be a last state worse than the first, under which the old Russian protectorate proved an intolerable tyranny. Roumania was created as a buffer State between Russia and Turkey, but it would only be a buffer between two Russian provinces if Bulgaria were handed over to the Czar.

Morning Post—London, May 17.

If the two powers made an agreement last year of the kind suggested, the last twelve months have sensibly altered both the conditions under which Austria-Hungary and Russia work and the situation of the territories which are the subject matter of the suggested agreement. Moreover, there is some reason to doubt if Germany would cordially acquiesce in a scheme which must involve the disappointment of her hopes for the Turkish market, and ultimately shut her out from the strong commercial position at Constantinople to which, in spite of Prince Bismarck's famous dictum, she now aspires. If the agreement exists, however, and has taken the form of a treaty, it can only be said that it could not be admitted as valid until it has received the consent of Turkey, France and Great Britain. The Porte would certainly oppose such an arrangement with all its force, while Great Britain could not possibly recognize Russian influence at Constantinople without the most clear and material reserves. Turkey is not dead yet, and neither the Porte nor the British Cabinet could agree to the policy of prospective vivisection which is adumbrated in the telegram before us. We trust that an official pronouncement on this point will shortly be made in this country.

Morning Advertiser—London, May 17.

The Tsar of Russia has now been just over three years and a half on the throne, and by this time the world has had the opportunity of making up its mind about him. No one now believes, as some did at the outset of his reign, that he is a ruler of great ability, or that he possesses any very marked characteristics of any kind. But no one can deny that, owing to the skill of his advisers and the mistakes of their opponents, his empire has made immense progress in power and influence during his brief period of rule. It is well known in Russia that the real power behind the throne is the Dowager Empress, who, for instance, in the case of Prince George's candidature for Crete, has carried her son with her. At the present time Russia has quite regained her old influence in the Balkan Peninsula, which the mistakes of the last reign had lost to her. She has Montenegro, as ever, as her outpost on the Adriatic; Bulgaria, or rather the Bulgarian Government, is a satellite of the Tsar, and Roumania, for the first time for the last twenty years has shown signs of being friendly with the Power which so cruelly abandoned her claims after the last Russo-Turkish war.

Frankfurter Zeitung—(Berlin).

The agreement between Russia and Austria-Hungary, arrived at on the occasion of the Emperor Francis Joseph's visit to St. Petersburg in April, 1897, is not a political agreement in the generally accepted sense of the expression, but a "State Treaty," signed by the Russian and Austrian Emperors, and countersigned by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Count Muraviev and Count Goluchowski). The treaty came into force on May 1, 1897, and remains in force till May 1, 1902. It is to remain in force for three years longer, and so on, by further terms of three years, unless one of the parties denounce it six months before the expiry of that term. Its main purpose is the maintenance of peace, tranquility, and the territorial status quo in the Balkan Peninsula. To gain this end Russia and Austria-Hungary divide the Balkan Peninsula into two spheres of influence, each of which contains an inner and an outer sphere. To Austria-Hungary's inner sphere belong Servia, the wider Macedonia and Bulgaria, inclusive northwards almost in a straight line to Kranja, Albania, except some districts bounded on the southeast by Montenegro. Bulgaria belongs to Russia's inner sphere. Her wider sphere comprises that part of European Turkey east of Austria-Hungary's sphere. The two States bind themselves to take care that no warlike complications occur in their spheres, and that no agitation affecting Turkey, and thus threatening peace, shall emanate from either of the States. To gain this end each of the two States will intervene in each sphere with or without previous agreement. Should friendly intervention prove futile, and Servia or Bulgaria wish to bring on war, the State to whose sphere the peace breaker belongs will be entitled to intervene in arms. The whole treaty was communicated to Germany, and Italy was informed of its purport, with the exception of the passage referring to Albania.

FRESH DISCLOSURES IN THE DRUCE-PORTLAND MYSTERY.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper.

While the secret of the alleged sham burial might be set at rest in a few minutes by opening the grave, there promises to be much further litigation before the requisite order can be finally obtained. Meanwhile, much remarkable evidence continues to be furnished to the petitioner's legal advisers. The lady, whose statement as to Druce's intimacy with a Madame Elise was printed a few weeks ago, has since looked over a number of old papers, which she says confirm her belief. She adds the following: "My father, Mr. — (the name is in our possession, but the lady does not wish it published at present), was the factotum, and indeed intimate friend, of the man whom both he and I knew to be the Duke of Portland, and who, to the knowledge of us both, passed under the name of 'Thomas Charles Druce.' Meanwhile, under the terms of the reported treaty, Roumania, by far the most promising of the Balkan States, may ask, 'Where do we come in?' A Russian sphere of interest in Bulgaria hems Roumania in on both sides, above and below. It would be a last state worse than the first, under which the old Russian protectorate proved an intolerable tyranny. Roumania was created as a buffer State between Russia and Turkey, but it would only be a buffer between two Russian provinces if Bulgaria were handed over to the Czar.

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"When I made her my wife she promised she would never use my coronet, and never come to Welbeck, and by God she never shall." He then, in my presence, cut the corners where the coronet was worked of each handkerchief, and threw on to the fire. I picked up, but not burned, and this I picked up, I have most carefully preserved in issue paper until this time. On the occasion of this visit he had altered his appearance a great deal in a variety of small details, and altogether looked smarter. One thing I wish to add, which, to my mind, explains many of his apparently eccentric habits, and that is, that, in my opinion, he was constantly filled with remorse for his behavior to his brother, Lord George Besselink. They were both in love with the same girl (Annie May), and it was about her that the quarrel between them took place. My father was present at the scene, and has often described it to me. Lord George showed a torrent of abuse upon his brother, and struck him again and again without retaliation, until at last the fifth Duke—then, of course, the Marquis of Titchfield—turned and struck back, once. Hours later Lord George was found dead, and though, of course, strictly speaking, no blame could attach to the marquis, I am sure that the latter never really forgave himself, and that his constant fear of discovery prompted many of his strange and mysterious actions.

Stripped of all technicalities the position of affairs at this moment is really this—The case will now be tried on its

Does America Hate England?

The fact that the Yellow Press of America has lately for almost the first time on record shown something like civility to the British nation, has let loose a stream of platitudes, and of less irrelevant comparison of the respective viscosity of blood and water. I do not wish for a moment to put any real hindrance in the way of more friendly relations between the two countries; far from it. But any one is surely justified in looking a gift horse in the mouth before he invests in an expensive set of harness. Most English writers and talkers about the United States fall into the mistake of treating them as a homogeneous whole; as if many Americans do the same. But one of the most startling features of the present crisis across the Atlantic is the recalcitrant attitude of the Silverites. In Spain the effect of the war has been in the main to unite the political parties. Clerical and Liberal, Carlist and Royalist have forgotten most of their differences in face of the common danger; and only the ultra-revolutionary sections stand apart. With ourselves, too, public danger has always meant an armistice of political hostilities. The Crimean vote of censure can not be regarded as a purely dodge; rather it was a genuine outcry against the inefficient conduct of the war. But in America the Bryanites, so far as they dare, have not scrupled to thwart and obstruct the Government, even when the immediate result of their action was to paralyze action and make the country somewhat ridiculous in the eyes of the world. Nothing could show more plainly the depth of the gulf that sunders West from East; the debtor agriculturist and the creditor capitalist. For this reason it is hazardous to speak of such a thing as "American feeling towards England," just as it is far from easy to define "English sentiment on the war." There is a feeling of Western America, and a feeling of Eastern America. Personally I believe little more in the lasting friendship of the West for England than I do in the real antagonism of the East. Britain and the Atlantic States have all to lose and nothing to gain by hostility. Their finance and their commerce are far too closely interwoven for war to be a possibility lightly considered. Neither do we desire a conflict. The West, on the other hand, regards with an impartial hatred both Old and New England—both capitalist, both receivers of interest and dividend.

It may be that the increase of prosperity in the West will heal this sore by removing its cause. The acquisition of material interest is a wonderful political sedative. Even here in Britain accession to a well paid office has been known to transform the most violent of agitators into the most respectable of white waist-coated churchwardens. In this respect the age of miracles becomes a reality. The supposed objection to an Anglo-American alliance contained in the mixed origin of the Republic's population is of little moment. Race counts for nothing besides language. Many of the numerous foreigners who settle down as British subjects or American citizens may feel no affection for the country of their birth; and those who do seldom transmit it to their children. The immigrant of the second or third generation, either in England or America, rapidly assimilates to the national type, becomes English or American; and only his name perpetuates his origin. I disagree entirely with Mr. Christie Lurray that the assimilative capacity of the United States is exhausted, or that individual nationalism is there a serious menace to the Commonwealth. The Irish problem I have always considered as economic and agrarian, rather than racial. Language is the most potent tie. The American, Colonel Hay and other notable Americans in their person as well as speech have so often insisted on their kinship with a joint literary heritage, Shakespeare and Milton he regards as his equals with ours. He quotes with approval, "Hiawatha," the people of "Poker Flat," "The House of the Seven Gables," and "Sleepy Hollow," as real and homely as the creations of Hardy or Dickens. Moreover, is not the very existence in our midst of the proof that the two great Democracies think very much alike?

When an Englishman meets a Frenchman, the two usually become mutually ridiculous. Most of us are bad linguists; and no man looks dignified when he is tormenting his reluctant tongue to encompass alien syllables. Hence follows, on either side, a certain lack of mutual respect, to say nothing of the fundamental differences of thought and mental attitude engendered by the radically conflicting tones of two literatures. Few Englishmen can really enjoy a French play, even at the Palais Royal; and Bullier and not really amuse him much. When an Englishman meets an American, two on equal terms, or nearly so, although we claim a greater knowledge in the conceptions of the product of the domestic hen coop. The American is distinctly more intelligent than is your acclimatized Scotchman, even if he lack the latter's grace of humor. When two nations can appreciate each other's jokes, they are fairly beyond the reach of misunderstanding. The *Pink Leaf* sells well in America; and the *Police Gazette*, I am told, has its vogue in England. These are the things that weigh.

MODERN ARMS IN MOUNTAIN WARFARE.

London Spectator.

The reader of modern newspapers is a spectator who surveys the warring kaleidoscope of the world; and lately he has been entertained by a series of war scenes. When this year began he was following with keen interest the phases of a fierce contest between one of the strong armies in Asia and a few thousand tribesmen, on the outer slopes of the Afghan highlands; the field of operations was narrow and obscure; the combatants were equal in nothing but courage; the odds were made even, for a time, by the difficulties of mountain warfare. To-day he looks on at the spectacle of two modern nations contending from distant continents on the vast open battlefields of the ocean. He has just seen Anglo-Egyptian troops ascending the Nile, and driving the Dervishes out of their entrenchment by one resolute charge; he is watching the enormous preparations of rival European States to break down the most ancient and populous Empire in the world; and he contrasts with amazement the tame immobility of China with the wild energetic patriotism of the Africa. Each of these scenes suggests curious questions as to the proportionate influence in warfare of the elements of race, national character, moral and material strength, superiority of armament, and physical environment; for in these days of restless human activity, the destiny of a nation, as formerly of a man, depends more than ever upon its ready power of self defence.

As between States, it seems clear that the loose, illorganized rulerships of Asia are becoming more and more incapable of resisting the concentrated forces of highly civilized governments. Except the Ottoman Empire, there is no Asiatic State which could defend itself against a European army; and that empire is partly European, and owes its safety mainly to the mutual jealousy of its European neighbors. All the other kingdoms of Asia are practically at the mercy of the Western Powers. As between races, the case stands differently; for under certain conditions and circumstances the balance still seems to lie even between the trained and the untrained fighting man. All military history shows that when a naturally courageous race has the advantage of position, where the people fight entrenched behind the natural fortifications of a difficult country, they are formidable for regular troops. The Turks could never, in the course of centuries, reduce Montenegro; the Russians took thirty years to subdue the Caucasus; it will have taken the English at least as long to pacify the Afghan mountains; while, on the other hand, undisciplined valor has almost always been useless against the scientific warfare in the plains, as in India, Central Asia and Upper Egypt. Even there the barbarian, who fights after his own fashion, as the Zulu did, may now and then score a victory, for the moment, against the regulars; but half disciplined armies, who awkwardly imitate the tactics of their opponents, have no chance at all.

The warfare between the plains and the hills, between powerful conquering rulerships who have swept level and rich countries with their armies, and the doughty tribes who make their stand behind mountain fastnesses, has gone on from time immemorial. The English marched up easily from the Indian seaboard to the Indus; but at the foot of the Afghan hills they came to a halt, and have since moved onward very slowly indeed. Where both sides use quick loading, accurate firearms, it seems probable that the balance of the advantage is with hillmen; and the Afghans have got rifles which they know how to handle. In a country where tactical movements are not much hampered, where discipline is steady, the fighting line, and troops can be concentrated or extended as need may be, equality of weapons does not save the barbarian, and the more you improve the mechanical armament the easier is the triumph of civilized force. It was with javelins and short swords that the Romans subdued the most warlike races of Europe—Gauls, Germans, Iberians, and Britons; they won entirely by drill and generalship, by steadfast effort at close quarters, as when Caesar writes of a sharp encounter that his soldiers setted the affair with their swords. The Macedonian soldiers could not have been much better armed than the Persian host; but Alexander led them without a check from the Hellespont to the Hyphissus; and probably he had no rougher adventures than among the hills where the English have just been fighting, in the Swat Valley and along the Cabul River. We may conclude, therefore, that as it was in the Roman days and has been in our own times, so it will be in the future the possession of improved war material will not help a soldier, with room for battles on a large scale, with room for manoeuvring, the trained military strength of Europe will continue to scatter Oriental armies. But among narrow passes and steep ridges the sharpshooter and skirmisher, the deadly marksman at long ranges, has evidently become much more formidable than heretofore; he has been bred to this work from his youth up; he represents the flower of his people in vigor and energy; he is contending as a volunteer against paid soldiery; he has at last found a weapon exactly suited to the system of guerilla warfare; and in consequence our latest frontier campaign has been the most severe of all those on record since 1842; we first drew our frontier along the skirts of the Afghan highlands * * * * *

The upshot seems to be that as between plain and mountain, between the attack and defence of natural fortifications, the improvement of long range weapons has now fallen upon the frontier war; and the scene is now changing from the hills to the sea, where the physical surroundings, the waves, the wind, and the weather, are exactly even for both sides. In such conditions it is probable that the best mechanical armament and scientific superiority must tell speedily and decisively. The difference in the hearts of men tells too.