THE SPANISH-CUBAN BONDS

IN NO EVENT CAN THIS COUNTRY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

Opinions of International Lawyers to the Effect That Neither by Armed Intervention Nor by the Recognition of the Cuban Republic Can the United States Be Made Responsible to the Holders of the Bonds.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Whatever force the idea may have had that the United States could be liable to the holders of Spanish bonds issued upon the basis of Cuban revenues, in case it intervened to stop the war or recognized the Cuban republic, has been dissipated by the discussion of the proposition during the last fortnight. It never had the sanction, as far as can be learned, of any lawyer of prominence or repute; certainly none familiar with international law; and as was stated in these despatches a week ago, the discussion is believed to have been projected into the consideration of the Cuban question merely for the purpose of preventing a recognition of the existing republic.

In his very exhaustive speech on Friday Senator Spooner discussed the matter, taking the position that under no conceivable circumstances could the United States be held to accountability for the bonds. They were issued by Spain, he said, based upon the revenues of Cuba; but Spain's right to sequestrate those revenues depended upon her sovereignty over the island, and the exercise of that sovereignty depended upon a higher law than any man might make, the decrees of Almighty God that she should exercise it in harmony with the dictates of humanity, of civilization, and of Christianity. Unfortunately Mr. Spooner's speech, comprising an able legal argument of the question involved in the resolutions before the Senate, has not yet appeared in the *Record*, so that his full statement with regard to the possible liability of the United States for the payment of the Cuban bonds is not available. He dwelt at some length on this point, however, and quoted several eminent authorities, including W. E. Hall and Fred S. Woolsey. The latter, discussing the point of a nation's liabilities, with particular reference to the controversy with Spain, involving the ultimate question of Cuba's freedom, says concerning the liability of a new Cuban Government for the debts of Spain, based upon the hypothecation of Cuba's revenues:

"Here are circumstances when a change of Government may dissolve prior obligations. It is where a despotical Government has contracted debts against a nation attempting to recover its liabilities. The Government is de facto in possession of authority, and thus its acts are lawful. Nevertheless, obligations entered into to subjugate the people must be regarded in this extreme case as pertaining to the Government alone, and not as resting on the people."

Senator Hoar also discussed the point in his contribution to the debate last Thursday. His remarks on the subject are thus reported in the *Record*:

"I do not believe that the man who enters a house to put out a fire becomes legally responsible for every mortgage on the house, and I do not believe that a policeman who enters a disorderly house to subdue a riot or a fight, even if he has to take the proprietor into custody, becomes liable for every debt which the proprietor may have incurred. I do not think, if we take Spain into custody, if we put her off the island of Cuba, neck and heels, that we are in the least responsible for any mortgages she may have undertaken to put on the island."

Mr. Mason—Will the Senator from Massachusetts allow me to make a suggestion?

Mr. Hoar—I will yield to the Senator.

Mr. Mason—I do not care to interrupt the Senator, but I thought the illustration which he has made as to one entering a burning house should, in all fairness, have been carried to its legitimate conclusion.

Mr. Hoar—I beg that the Senator will not interrupt me to do so.

Mr. Mason—I wish to ask the Senator, after a man who enters a burning house has extinguished the fire, if he sets up ownership and says he will decide who shall run the house thereafter, whether he does not then incur responsibility?

Mr. Hoar—Nobody proposes to set up ownership and to prescribe who shall run that house hereafter. I have not heard such a proposition. Certainly not from my honorable friend from Illinois (Mr. Mason), and, as I said, I think the only effect of that utterance of those two eminent Senators to whom I have referred will be to give to some foreign Government or some foreign banker or broker or stock jobber a chance to make a claim against this Government. Mr. President, it is a pretty fine distinction between our liability if we go in there and turn Spain out without first recognizing the insurgent Government, and our liability in case we go in there and turn Spain out and do first recognize the insurgent Government.

But the authorities are endless, and with few and unimportant exceptions they are opposed to the contention hastily set up by the opponents of recognition of the present Cuban Government on the ground of liability for Cuban debts. Ex-Attorney-General Wayne MacVeagh of Philadelphia, now a resident of Washington, who is regarded as an eminent authority on questions of international law, was one of the legal advisers of the President in the consideration of the Cuban question. So was ex-Senator Edmunds of Vermont, now of Philadelphia. Both agree entirely with the propositions of Senator Spooner and with the authorities which he quoted.

Ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster is also a recognized authority on international law and practice. His opinion on the subject is clear. He said to-day: "The proposed intervention of the United States to put an end to the hostilities in Cuba cannot, in my opinion, make our Government in any manner responsible for the bonds issued by the Spanish Government, for the interest and principal of which by their terms, the customs revenues of Cuba are pledged. These bonds represent mainly the debt which the Spanish Government has incurred in its efforts to put down the present and former insurrections in that island. The intervention will result in all probability in the overthrow of Spanish sovereignty in Cuba and the establishment of an independent Government in its place. As well might Great Britain, at the close of our Revolutionary war, have demanded of France that she pay the expense of that war because she had intervened to recognize the independence of the colonies and had materially contributed to destroy the sovereignty of the mother country. Nor is the question of our responsibility established by the act of recognition of the independent Government of Cuba, whether it is made concurrently with the armed intervention or follows that act. Had Cuban independence been achieved by peaceful mediation the subject of validating the bonds in whole or in part by the Cuban republic or by the guarantee of the United States would doubtless have been considered in the negotiations, but diplomacy having failed by reason of the uncompromising attitude of Spain, and war being thereby precipitated, she has risked both her sovereignty and her bonds in the arbitrament of arms, and they must abide the result. The bondholders seem to have contemplated such a contingency, for they required not only the pledge of the customs revenue of Cuba, but also the guarantee of the Spanish Government. If, in the contest, the army of the United States is triumphant, and out of it an independent Cuba emerges, the pledge will have disappeared, but the Spanish nation will still remain to fulfil its guarantee to its creditors so far as it is able."

These views were concurred in by the Hon. John A. Kasson, special Reciprocity Commissioner, and a leading international lawyer and diplomat. "I know of no instance in history," said Mr. Kasson, "where an intervener nation in the affairs of another, in the interests of peace and good order, has been made to assume responsibility for the obligations of the nation affected by the intervention. If we go into Cuba to secure peace there, it is because the misconduct of Spain in the management of its affairs has produced such a condition of things that it is intolerable to us.

"Our internal economy is threatened by the existing evils in the island. The commerce of the country is disturbed. The Cuban question affects our political life. We find numerous reasons for intervention, but none of them nor the act of intervention can make us liable for Spanish bonds. Neither could the recognition of the Cuban republic by the United States affect the relations of Spain and her bondholders. They must still look to her for settlement. All history shows that whenever, subsequent to intervention or the recognition of a new Government, relations were established between the intervener and bondholders of the extinguished sovereignty, they were based upon principles that had no application to the matter of intervention or recognition."

FLYING SQUADRON'S SUNDAY.

The Jackies Visit Each Other, but Fail to Get Shore Leave.

FORT MONROE, Va., April 17.—The ships of the Flying Squadron had a very peaceful and quiet Sunday. The Massachusetts and Texas finished coaling and the Jackies had plenty of opportunity to do visiting among the ships, which compensated in a measure for the fact that shore liberty is not allowed. It was a beautiful day, and a big excursion came down from Richmond to see the ships, but visitors are not allowed to board them. The tugs Wampatuck, Lieut. Carl Junger, who was on the Maine, in command, and the Uncas, Lieut. Braynard, passed up to Norfolk. The torpedo boat Rodgers went out for a spin.

NEWPORT NEWS, April 17.—Work on the auxiliary cruisers at the shipyards here is being pushed forward as fast as possible. The hospital ship Solace will probably sail for Key West on Wednesday. The Yosemite is billed to sail on April 23, while the Dixie, which arrived on last Friday, will be ready for service in two weeks. The workmen at the plant of the immense shipbuilding company are working twenty-four hours in the day. Many of the men are putting in eighteen hours a day.

It was reported that work on the Kearsarge and Kentucky had been dropped in order to get the auxiliary cruisers out in time, but this is not true. A large force is constantly engaged in advancing these battleships, and it is by no means unlikely that they will be finished in time to take part in the Spanish-American war.

It is learned from an authentic source to-day that the auxiliary cruisers will not be armored. They are now nearly as heavy as cruisers of the Columbia's class, and the coal bunkers will afford a certain protection. Each of these vessels will carry a main battery consisting of ten 6-inch guns and a secondary battery of small rapid-fire guns. Some difficulty is being experienced in securing crews for the Solace and the auxiliary cruisers, and, unless some special inducements are offered, it is probable that the ships will be ready before enough men are enlisted to man them.

THE HAWK AND THE EAGLE SAIL.

The Hornet, the Scorpion and the Wasp Are Also About Ready.

The converted yachts Hawk and Eagle sailed for the South from the navy yard yesterday. The Hawk, which was formerly the Hermione, is in command of Lieut. Hood, formerly one of the officers of the Maine. She carries two 6-pounder rapid-fire guns, one aft and one forward, and two machine guns mounted on the bridge. She has no armor belt. The Eagle, formerly the Almy, has an armor strip of ⅞-inch steel plates, and carries four 6-pounder rapid-fire guns, two forward and two aft, and two machine guns on top of the deckhouse. She is in command of Lieut. Southerland. The Eagle passed the Battery about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and was saluted by every whistle that could be blown and cheered by a large crowd of excursionists and sightseers. The Hornet will probably be ready to sail to-day.

The gunboat Annapolis will sail as soon as ready. No instructions have been received as to the work to be done on the New Orleans. The last of the armor plates on the Scorpion and the Wasp were put in position yesterday.

Another detachment of men arrived from Boston yesterday, and a detail of fifty-nine men was sent to the League Island yard for assignment to the vessels now fitting out there.

A gang of men will be sent to the Venezuela at the Morgan Iron Works to-day to take out her unnecessary woodwork.

Since the drafting of the Congressional Naval bill, which provides for the appointment of twenty-six acting assistant surgeons, between 600 and 700 applications for these berths have been received. A large part of these applications have passed through the Board of Medical Inspectors at the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, and while no complete examinations have been held, a number of the men who will receive appointments have been selected. As soon as the appointment is authorized the men selected will be examined. Proficiency in what are called "collateral branches" of general medical knowledge will be waived, and the applicant will be examined in surgery and the use of drugs only.

COAST SIGNAL SYSTEM.

Five Districts on the Atlantic and Two on the Gulf Coast.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Capt. Casper F. Goodrich, who has been slated to command the St. Louis, has perfected all arrangements for the new signal system by which quick and accurate communication can be carried on between vessels and shore stations. The entire coast line, from Maine south, has been divided into signal districts, nearly corresponding to the present lighthouse districts, with headquarters of the General Superintendent in New York city.

The first district comprises the entire New England coast and includes these light stations: Monhegan Island, Maine; Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Appledore Island, New Hampshire; Cape Ann, Cape Cod, Gay Head and Block Island. The second district, with headquarters on the receiving ship New Hampshire, in New York city, includes the light stations at Montauk Point and Iquoque, Long Island; Fire Island, Barnegat, N. J., and Cape Henlopen, Del. The third district will have headquarters at Norfolk, from which orders will be given for the conduct of the stations, which are at the lighthouses at Cape Henry, Point Lookout and Cape Fear. The fourth district will have headquarters at Charleston, S. C., and includes these stations: Charleston, Hilton Head, Tybee Island, and South Simons Island. The fifth district will have headquarters at Jacksonville, Fla., the first station being at the mouth of the St. John's River, the next at Cape Carnavaral, then Jupiter Inlet and Miami. The sixth district will be at Tampa, and will include stations all around the southern Florida coast. From Florida to Louisiana we will be another district. The semaphores and signal equipment have all been secured and are ready for distribution.

ACHING FOR WAR PAINT.

Cruiser San Francisco's Men Eager to Get Into Fighting Trim.

The United States cruiser San Francisco, which is lying at anchor off Tompkinsville, Staten Island, was overrun yesterday by visitors. Boatmen kept bringing people out to her, and a number of tugs came down from the Battery with excursion parties aboard. Capt. Richard P. Leary entertained the visitors in the afternoon by ordering out the band.

Commodore Howell returned from Washington on Saturday. He went there immediately on the arrival of the San Francisco and New Orleans. It was announced on the San Francisco yesterday that Commodore Howell would leave her to-day. It will probably be for good, for it is reported that the Navy Department is about to assign the Commodore to another command.

The officers and men of the San Francisco have got the fighting fever badly. They can scarcely wait to get their orders. An illustration of the sentiment of the men of the cruiser was given yesterday afternoon, when the torpedo-boat destroyer Eagle, formerly the steam yacht Almy, passed Tompkinsville on her way to sea. The Eagle looked pugnacious in her war paint, and, as a group of the San Francisco's officers looked at her, one of them remarked:

"Oh, I wish they'd hurry and give us some of those clothes and order us somewhere."

The Eagle signalled to the San Francisco with the new secret code. The flags read 181, which means, "We are proceeding under orders." The San Francisco will go to the navy yard to-day if room can be found for her there. She will get her orders as soon as she has been overhauled and painted war color.

Eighth Regiment Attends Church.

The Eighth Regiment, 600 strong, attended services yesterday afternoon at Holy Trinity Church, Lenox avenue and 122d street, where Dr. Charles De Witte Bridgman, the rector of the church and chaplain of the regiment, preached. The regiment, by command of Col. Henry Chauncey, Jr., marched from the armory at Ninety-fourth street and Park avenue to the church.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

Thomas Gibney, 50 years old, the night clerk in a lodging house at 243 Park row, was found dead in bed yesterday in his room. He was a consumptive.

ST. PAUL AND SIGSBEE OFF.

LINER GOES TO PHILADELPHIA TO FIT FOR THE NAVY.

The Maine's Captain, Who Is Aboard, Doesn't See How War Can Be Avoided—Thinks the Boat Will Be a Good Cruiser—Hopes Her Officers and Crew Will Serve Under Him.

Capt. Charles D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., who commanded the battleship Maine when she was blown up in the harbor of Havana, boarded the American liner St. Paul at 8 o'clock yesterday morning at her pier in this city to take her to Philadelphia, where she will be made over into a United States auxiliary cruiser. There was no ceremony about it. Capt. Sigsbee went aboard accompanied by Clement A. Griscom, Jr., manager of the American line in this city; Capt. Brewer, the superintendent of the pier, and Vice-President Wright, shook hands with Capt. John C. Jamison, who has commanded the St. Paul since she joined the American line fleet, and said that he was ready to start for Philadelphia whenever the ship was.

The St. Paul had been ready for three hours, and no time was lost in getting her out into the channel and starting her down stream. Capt. Jamison said that he would hurry to Philadelphia as speedily as the St. Paul's engines could carry her.

The St. Paul was manned by her own crew, 250 strong, comprising engineers, able seamen, firemen, and stokers, who will decide after they reach Philadelphia whether or not they wish to become members of the United States naval force. Her silver and crockery and all the other property of the International Navigation Company on board of her will be taken off and stored away in warehouses to await her return to the American line fleet.

In Philadelphia Capt. Sigsbee will be met by Lieutenant-Commander Driggs, U. S. N., and Ensign Wat Tyler Cluverius, who were with him on the Maine. They are the only officers, Capt. Sigsbee said, who served on the Maine who have been assigned to the St. Paul. The assignment of other regular naval officers to the ship would depend wholly on the success he had in persuading the St. Paul's regular officers to accept billets under him. "I want all of them I can get," Capt. Sigsbee said, "and shall do my best to induce them to stay by me. The Navy Department knows that they are all competent men, and they possess the additional advantage of knowing the ship. I have not had a talk with any of them as yet, but we will discuss the matter on our way to Philadelphia."

Capt. Sigsbee said that the Navy Department wanted the crew of the St. Paul as well as her officers, and that a proposition would be made to them when they arrived in Philadelphia. He would not say what the terms of that proposition would be. Most of the men are anxious to serve under Capt. Sigsbee, and one of the St. Paul's officers said yesterday that he expected to see every one of them enlist at once. The only thing they wanted was the same grade and the same pay they have been getting from the International Navigation Company, and it is said by persons who are in a position to know that the Navy Department is willing to accede to their desire.

The news that the St. Paul had been impressed into the United States naval service reached her officers and crew on Saturday when she passed Quarantine, and the work of unloading her was hurried as it had never been hurried before. She was emptied before 6 o'clock yesterday morning, and an hour later had been cleaned as bright as a new dollar for Capt. Sigsbee's reception. The American line officers received word from Washington that Capt. Sigsbee would arrive on the early Pennsylvania through train, and they expected him before 6 o'clock. Mr. Griscom, Manager Wright, and Capt. Brewer were at the pier to receive him. The officers and crew all rigged themselves out in their best clothes and waited impatiently for his arrival. When it was learned that he had not come in on the 5 o'clock train he was expected on the next one, which was due at 6:53. This train was late, and Capt. Brewer wore a smooth path over the cobble stones between the American line pier and the Pennsylvania depot in making trips backward and forward for information. It was nearly 8 o'clock before the belated train arrived, and Capt. Brewer happened to be at the American line pier. The news that Capt. Sigsbee had come was brought to him by a runner, and he rushed out to meet Capt. Sigsbee half way. Capt. Sigsbee wore ordinary street clothes, and his only attendant was a Pennsylvania porter, who was pushing a truck on which his trunk had been strapped. He looked tired and sleepy, but greeted Capt. Brewer pleasantly, and surrendered his satchel to him. Capt. Brewer bustled him into the shed, where he was hastily presented to Mr. Wright and Mr. Griscom.

"Are you ready to go on board?" Mr. Griscom asked, glancing at his watch; but before Capt. Sigsbee could reply, he added, "perhaps you would prefer to get breakfast first?"

"Oh, no," replied Capt. Sigsbee, "I'll go right on board. I would prefer to get started at once. We haven't any time to lose."

"The ship's been ready for more than an hour, sir," said Mr. Griscom.

"Yes, I know, and I'm sorry I kept you waiting, but I really could not get here any earlier."

Mr. Wright led the way to the upper pier and on to the ship. Capt. Sigsbee followed, chatting with half a dozen newspaper men.

"What do you think of the prospects of war?" he was asked.

"I don't see how we can avoid it now," Capt. Sigsbee replied; and he added: "I hope a decision will be reached soon. This suspense is trying."

Capt. Sigsbee was asked what kind of a cruiser he thought the St. Paul would make, and his reply was: "A very good one." He said that he would inspect her thoroughly on the trip to Philadelphia and send a report as to her condition in to the Navy Department without delay. He said that the workmen assigned to the task of dismantling and arming her would be waiting at the Cramps' yards when she arrived and that the work would be pushed forward with the greatest expedition. It was suggested to Capt. Sigsbee that the big target the St. Paul made might impair her usefulness as a warship. He said that her speed would tend largely to offset that disadvantage.

"Besides," he added, "she won't be such a big target when we get through with her."

Every man of the St. Paul's crew who could be away from his post of duty was out where he could see when Capt. Sigsbee appeared at the gangplank. The officers, with Capt. Jamison at their head, were waiting on the main deck. As Capt. Sigsbee stepped aboard Capt. Jamison saluted. Mr. Griscom presented him, and war Captain and peace Captain shook hands.

"I am under your orders," said Capt. Jamison with a bow.

"Not at all, not at all," hastily returned Capt. Sigsbee. "This boat is yours until we arrive at Philadelphia. Even then I hope you won't leave it. The Navy Department wants you and all of the St. Paul's officers it can get to remain."

"We will talk about that on our way to Philadelphia," replied Capt. Jamison.

As soon as Capt. Sigsbee was aboard Capt. Brewer hurried ashore every one who was not going to Philadelphia, and the St. Paul was cut loose from her moorings. Assisted by two tugs she backed sluggishly out of her slip, turned her prow southward, and steamed majestically down stream with the house flag of the International Navigation Company fluttering from her mainmast and the Stars and Stripes fluttering aft. As she moved away from the pier Capt. Brewer dipped the pier flag to her, and she acknowledged the salute. A crowd of Custom House officers, pier workmen, and immigrants cheered Capt. Sigsbee, who was leaning over the rail of the main deck talking to Capt. Jamison, and he acknowledged the compliment by raising his hat and bowing. As the St. Paul steamed down the North River she was saluted by the whistle of every ferryboat and tug stirring.

The officers of the St. Paul said that they hadn't the slightest doubt that the big steamship would prove a valuable addition to the United States fleet of commerce destroyers.

"When they get through with her at Cramp's," one of them said, "she will be able to make twenty-two knots an hour and show a clean pair of heels to anything there is in the Spanish navy. If war should break out to-morrow we would not have the least fear for the safety of the St. Louis, which is on the way across the Atlantic now. Her officers would discover any prowling Spaniard and she could keep ahead without trouble."

It will not be necessary to drydock the St. Paul at Philadelphia. Her bottom and sides were scraped six weeks ago, and she can go six months before it will be necessary to clean her off again.

WILMINGTON, Del., April 17.—The St. Paul, which left New York at 8:45 A. M., passed in at Delaware Breakwater at 5:30 P. M.

Killed in a Railroad Accident in a Mine.

HAZLETON, Pa., April 17.—A peculiar accident, by which one miner was killed, two injured mortally, and six others more or less bruised, occurred to-day at one of the local collieries of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. A mine locomotive pushing two trucks on which were twelve miners was on its way from one slope to another when the forward truck jumped the track. The momentum of the second carried it over the fallen one, and the locomotive piled on top of the two. All this took place so quickly that the men had no time to jump and were caught under the trucks and the locomotive. One man had the life crushed out of him immediately, and two others had arms and legs broken and sustained internal injuries which will prove fatal.

No Hope for Edward Bellamy.

DENVER, Col., April 17.—Edward Bellamy, the author, who came to Denver several weeks ago for his health, has grown worse, and is now confined to his bed with consumption. His recovery is impossible.

WERE THEY KILLED IN THIS FEUD?

Report of a General Slaughter Between the Howards and Bakers in Kentucky.

BARBOURVILLE, Ky., April 17.—News of another and more terrible battle between the Howards and Bakers in Clay county has reached here. Ance Baker and his brother Al, who were accused of the murder of Wilkes Howard and a man named Steward, were under arrest, but were guarded by their friends. They escaped two nights ago. The Howards organized a party to follow them. When the Bakers were overtaken they turned and fought. The report comes that ten men were killed and three wounded, but the names of none were learned.

The feud between the Howards and Bakers is only about ten days old, and if the report is true that ten men were killed yesterday the record of the ten days will be thirteen killed and fourteen wounded. The two families were friends up to two weeks ago, when trouble arose over a business transaction, in which members of both families were interested. It was shortly after the trouble that A. B. Howard, the father, and ex-Sheriff of Clay county, his son Wilkes Howard and a laborer named Stow were waylaid and the son and laborer killed. The elder Howard escaped with a wound in the shoulder.

The day following the shooting Jim Howard, County Assessor of Clay county, and a brother of Wilkes Howard, who was killed, started to the scene of the tragedy. He stopped at the Coldion store, two miles from the ambush. In the meantime G. W. Baker, the father of the Baker boys, and an ex-county attorney, heard that his sons had been accused of the shooting, and also started to the scene of the tragedy. He reached the Coldion store about an hour after Howard got there. Howard walked out of the store and shot and killed Baker. He then jumped on his horse and escaped to Nelson county, where he still is.

The Bakers refused to be arrested unless they were allowed to carry their own arms and unless they had a guard composed of their friends. These requests were granted, and as a result a guard of about 100 armed men are with the Bakers. The death of Circuit Judge A. H. Baker, who was in Clay county at the time of the tragedy, is said to have been indirectly due to the feud. The parties to the feud all belong to well-known families. The elder Baker, who was killed by Jim Howard, had been Special Circuit Judge on different occasions, and was father of A. W. Baker, a prominent attorney of Manchester, and at one time a candidate for Congress.

MR. GLADSTONE'S CONDITION.

His Son, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, Requests Prayers for His Father.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 17.—During the service at the Hawarden Church this morning the rector, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, a son of the old statesman, requested the prayers of the congregation for Mr. Gladstone. The rector was much affected as he made the request in behalf of his father and his hearers also showed emotion.

The request is taken to mean that the end is very near. To-day's bulletin says that there is very little change in Mr. Gladstone's condition. He passed a fair night, but was not comfortable this morning.

PREMIER MELINE'S SPEECH.

He Talks of International Matters, but Doesn't Allude to the Spanish Crisis.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, April 17.—Prime Minister Meline today made an important prelection speech at Remiremont. He eulogized the foreign policy of France, which, he said, had prevented the Graeco-Turkish conflict from becoming a general conflagration. The present Ministry, he added, had obtained a solemn and definitive consecration of the Franco-Russian alliance, which gives incomparable force to France's foreign policy.

M. Meline studiously avoided any allusion to the Spanish-American crisis.

CRISPI RE-ELECTED.

His Constituents Give Him the Vindication He Sought at Their Hands.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, April 17.—Ex-Prime Minister Crispi, who recently resigned from the Chamber of Deputies in order to seek vindication from his constituents for the censure passed upon him by the Chamber in connection with the bank scandals, has been re-elected in Palermo.

$1,000,000 FIRE IN BOSTON.

600,000 Bushels of Wheat and a Grain Elevator Burned.

BOSTON, April 17.—The grain elevator of the Fitchburg Railroad Company, on Water street, Charlestown, was destroyed by fire early this morning, and almost the whole of shed 4, which extends from the Charles River nearly to the navy yard, was also consumed. The elevator contained about 600,000 bushels of wheat, most of which is a total loss, the entire damage amounting to almost $1,000,000.

The fire started at 3:30 A. M. with a tremendous explosion, which lifted the entire roof from the structure, and was followed by an immense burst of flame shooting high in a column of fire above the surrounding buildings. The shock was terrific, and was heard and felt all over the city proper, as well as in Charlestown and the adjacent territory, giving rise to apprehension of a disaster at the navy yard or on board some vessel there. Other buildings near by were unroofed, and great damage resulted in all directions. The whole mass of inflammable grain was soon ignited, and the long chutes which carry the grain from the elevator to vessels at the dock conveyed the flames to the freight sheds, and the entire system, including the Wilson & Furness-Leyland line piers seemed doomed.

Five alarms in all were sent out, and the efforts of the firemen were hampered by the difficulty of access on the water side of the elevator, the engines being able to work only on the street side. The fireboats, however, were able after a time to get streams on the water side, and from then all danger of spreading was done away with. After four hours' hard fighting the blaze was under control.

The Warren line steamer Cambroman was at the docks when the fire started, but was towed out into the stream before the flames had reached her. The marines at the navy yard were called out to protect the Government property, but were ordered back when it was seen that no danger was imminent. The two watchmen in the elevator were badly injured, and people in the neighborhood were struck by flying missiles and broken glass.

The elevator building was worth $600,000, and the grain destroyed $250,000. Damage to the amount of thousands of dollars was done to adjacent property. Letter of Chicago is said to own a quantity of the grain.

KILLED BY A STREET CAR.

A Boy Jumps from One Car and Is Run Over by Another.

Charles Kear, a son of Sergeant Frank Kear of the East Eighty-eighth street station, was run over and killed yesterday afternoon by an Eighth avenue horse car. The accident happened at Sixty-first street and Central Park West. The boy, who was 8 years old, had been with his 12-year-old brother Frank to call on their uncle, Police Captain Stephen Brown, who lives at High Bridge. Coming home the boys took an Eighth avenue horse car. When the car reached Sixty-first street Charles jumped off the back platform. He failed to notice an uptown car, and jumped in front of the horses, which knocked him down, and the wheels passed over his body, killing him instantly.

His brother was about to jump after him, but was held back by the conductor. The driver of the car was arrested.

Joseph Norveck, 12 years old, of 302 East Houston street, was run over by a horse car of the Grand and Forty-second street line yesterday afternoon. The boy was playing in the street, and is said to have run into the car. The rear wheel passed over him, breaking both his legs, and causing other injuries, which it was thought last night might prove fatal. The driver was arrested.

Few "Sooners" Move Into the Blackfoot Reserve.

HELENA, Mont., April 17.—The opening of the ceded strip in the Blackfoot Reservation on last Tuesday was a tame affair. Less than 100 "sooners" crossed the line when the word was given at noon. They hastened into the mountains to locate mining claims, encountering several feet of snow.

PARSON JONES TO RESIGN.

CONGREGATION REFUSES TO APPROVE HIS REFORM SCHEMES.

He Asks His Flock to Adopt a Resolution of Confidence and They Vote It Down by a Big Majority, Much to His Surprise—He's a Free Silver Man as Well as a Social Reformer.

The Rev. F. C. A. Jones, who has been the pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Belleville avenue, Newark, since its foundation twelve or fifteen years ago, is to resign. After a stormy meeting with the members of the congregation last Thursday night the pastor grabbed his hat and left the church, saying as he went that he would never darken its doors again.

Five or six years ago Mr. Jones became identified with the Christian Citizenship movement, which was organized for the purpose of securing a better observance of the Sabbath. He took an active part, with the Rev. S. Edward Young, recently called to Pittsburg, and the Rev. Oldknow Millington, who left Newark a year ago, in obtaining evidence against saloons and disorderly houses. When the free silver craze seized upon a portion of the community Mr. Jones became imbued with its principles and proclaimed himself a Bryanite. His congregation has always admired him for his sincerity, but for upward of three years there has been more or less dissatisfaction over the methods which the pastor took to promulgate his doctrines of reform.

Two weeks ago, at the weekly prayer meeting, Pastor Jones produced a set of resolutions which he said he wanted the congregation to indorse. These resolutions set forth that the congregation believed that there was work in the church for the pastor to do; that that work was still unfinished, and that its completion would redound to the spiritual benefit of the church. The resolutions also made any one who voted for them say that it would be unwise for the pastor to leave until the spirit of the Lord should clearly direct that it was meet and fitting that he should go.

The pastor had been cognizant that there was an opposition spirit at work against him, and he wished, evidently, to put an end to it. It is to be presumed from the tenor of the resolutions that he expected they would be indorsed, and that the element that was in arms against him would be easily vanquished. After the resolutions had been gone over by the congregation at the prayer meeting, the pastor asked that they be voted on at once. Such officers of the church as were present advised, however, that more time be taken to consider the matter. It was therefore decided to put the voting off until last Thursday evening, when a large gathering was present. To the surprise of Pastor Jones, when the resolutions were voted on the vote was very large against them, and when the result was announced Mr. Jones left the building in manifest displeasure.

The officers of the church followed the pastor to his home across the street, hoping that they might get him to reconsider his determination to leave the church. He declined to see them, however, and yesterday the pulpit of Mount Pleasant church was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Fisher. Since last Thursday the feeling against Mr. Jones has grown, and members of the church say that the pastor's action in trying to force them to vote for resolutions commending him was very inopportune, since it had served rather to crystallize the opposition to him that has been growing for two or three years. Mr. Jones made matters much worse than they might have been by speaking in strong terms of condemnation against members of his congregation just before he took the vote on his resolutions last Thursday night. He accused these members of conduct highly unbecoming to churchgoers.

Mr. Jones declines to talk about the situation. He said, when questioned, that the proceedings of the church were secret, and that it would not be proper for him to disclose them. A meeting is to be held next Thursday night, however, when it will be definitely determined whether the pastor is to go or stay. At that meeting the pastor will formally present his resignation, and, judging from prom present indications, it is very probable that it will be accepted.

PLATT'S TRIBUTE TO HACKETT.

A Loyal Republican, Safe Adviser, and Delightful Companion—The Funeral.

Many expressions of regret were heard yesterday among Republican and Democratic politicians alike at the unexpected death on Saturday at Palatka, Fla., of Charles W. Hackett, Chairman of the Republican State Committee. Senator Platt said:

"Mr. Hackett was for many years intimately associated with me in politics, and we were warm personal friends. He was as dear to me as a brother, and if he had been one of my own family his sudden death could not have affected me more. I am pained and shocked beyond expression, although I knew the condition of his health.

"Mr. Hackett's genial manner made him a delightful companion, and his practical knowledge made him a safe adviser. He was the soul of loyalty, and his devotion to his party and his friends gave him a firm hold in the hearts of all who knew him. His death is a loss to the State, and to me it comes as if he were one of my near kinsmen."

The funeral of Mr. Hackett will probably take place from his late home in Utica on Thursday. Col. Fox, Clerk of the State Committee, received a telegram from Mrs. Hackett last night saying that she would leave Palatka with the body at 5 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Benjamin B. Odell of Newburg, who is Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, will act as temporary Chairman of the State Committee until the next meeting of the committee, which will not be held, in all probability, for several months.

LADIES AT THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

A Continuation Yesterday of the Reception to Richard Croker.

The reception which was given to Mr. Croker in the Democratic Club on Saturday night was continued on a limited scale yesterday. The magnificent decorations were left undisturbed, and from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until 5 the house was open to the inspection of the women friends of the members. More than 150 ladies took advantage of the opportunity to view the new portrait of Mr. Croker as well as the lavish floral display. Each of them received a bouquet of roses.

Mr. Croker intended to sail for Europe on Saturday. It is now said that he will not leave the country if war is declared with Spain this week.

CITY CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

The Local Commission Has Not Yet Complied with the Law of March 31.

ALBANY, April 17.—The New York City Civil Service Commission has not yet complied with the law, signed by Gov. Black on March 31, requiring that the rules and regulations formulated by the commission to govern appointments in the civil service of New York city shall not become operative unless approved by the State Civil Service Commission. The State Commission will meet here on Tuesday, and then not again for several weeks. No appointments to positions in New York city embraced within the civil service classifications can be made legally until the local regulations have been approved by the State Commission.

STRONG DAMNS QUIGG

And Remarks That the Way to Beat Him Is to Get More Votes.

The Committee of Fifty-three issued a manifesto yesterday urging upon all independent Republicans the necessity of enrolling under the provisions of the new Primary law so that they will be in a position to give battle to the "machine" for supremacy in the new county or general committee, the character of which will be determined at the primary held on June 7. When asked if he thought the independents would win ex-Mayor Strong said:

"We will certainly win if we succeed in getting out more votes than the other fellows. And as for Quigg, damn him, we will make a hard fight to beat him."

RECEPTION TO JOHN DALY.

The Irish Patriot Tells the Story of His Imprisonment in England.

The Clan-na-Gael Association of Kings county gave a reception to John Daly at the Brooklyn Park Theatre last night. T. Grattan McMahon presided. Congressman William Sulzer said he had come all the way from Washington to pay his respects to one of the great apostles of freedom and liberty.

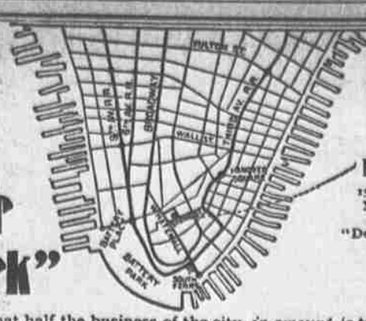
"The spirit of liberty is spreading," he said, "and to-morrow I will be in Washington to vote for Cuban independence, if Reed will give me the chance."

State Senator P. H. McCarren spoke, and then John Daly was introduced. He told the story of his twelve years' imprisonment in England for being a political agitator in the interest of Ireland.

A Broken Axle Delays Bridge Trolley Traffic.

Travel was delayed on the bridge for twenty minutes shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The delay was caused by an axle breaking on trolley car 203 of the Court street line at Fulton and Washington streets, Brooklyn.

"Lesser New York"



Hale Co.
15 Stone Street,
Next Produce Exchange.
"Desks at Export Prices."

It is estimated that half the business of the city, *in amount*, is transacted in "Lesser New York," or New York below Fulton Street. This section includes the banking, insurance, stock exchange, export, cotton, grain, tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco, drug, chemical, metal, machinery and jewelry districts. It is the home of the lawyers. It contains most of the office buildings, and the Sub-Treasury and Custom House. Convenient to all is the Hale Company, 15 Stone Street, where they sell desks at export prices.

WINDOW TO JEFFERSON DAVIS.

A Memorial Unveiled in a Richmond Church—Greeting to Gen. Lee.

RICHMOND, Va., April 17.—A memorial window to Jefferson Davis, secured by contributions throughout the South, was unveiled today in St. Paul's Episcopal Church near the pew where Mr. Davis sat every Sunday while President of the Confederacy. Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Hayes, her daughter, occupied the pew today, and the Rev. Dr. William Dame of Baltimore preached the sermon, which was largely devoted to incidental history. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, now the oldest living Major-General of the Confederacy, unveiled the window. A musical programme was rendered, and the sacrament administered. At an early hour the church was filled, and many hundreds were turned away. Greater than all other attractions was the announcement that Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Miss Evangeline Cisneros would be present. The pretty Cuban girl was accompanied by Mrs. Lee and her daughter, Miss Ellen Lee. The streets outside the church were thronged with people, and for squares Gen. Lee moved only a few steps at a time, being stopped to shake hands as he passed along.

The young Virginia girl and the dark-eyed Cuban senorita by her side were the targets of thousands of curious eyes and for a half mile the young ladies passed through a line several deep as they walked homeward through Franklin and Grace streets, the fashionable residential streets of the city.

Gen. Lee called on Mrs. Davis at the Jefferson this afternoon, and for two hours held an impromptu reception there. Miss Cisneros went to the Jefferson also in a carriage with Miss Ellen Lee, Miss Hayes, the granddaughter of Mrs. Jefferson, and Mr. Carbonel, a Havana bank cashier, who personally conducted her escape from the Havana prison. A number of well-known Cubans are here.

HAD MR. CROSS ARRESTED.

A Nephew of the Late W. H. Vanderbilt Locked Up Because of a Driving Mishap.

Corn