

THRONE TOTTERS

In Italy as a Result of the Abyssinian Campaign.

THE PEOPLE AROUSED TO ANGER

As the News From the Seat of War Grows Worse and Worse.

WORST REPORTS CONFIRMED.

And the Scenes on the Streets of Rome Are Indescribable.

ITALIAN TROOPS SLAUGHTERED

By the African Forces--Now Believed that as Many as Five Thousand of Italy's Bravest Fell in the Battle.

Were Led into a Trap--Indignation Against the Government and Sorrow for the Fallen Mixed--The Whole Kingdom in an Uproar--Graphic Description of the Awful Battle.

ROME, March 4.--The kingdom of Italy to-day is in a condition of excitement, grief and anger almost beyond description.

Words cannot adequately portray the situation, for every dispatch received from Massowah adds to the gravity of the disaster to the Italian arms at Adowa, Abyssinia.

When the first news of Gen. Baratieri's defeat reached this city report had it that only 600 men were killed; then, yesterday afternoon, the numbers ran up to 3,000 killed with sixty pieces of artillery captured, and this morning's dispatches place the number of Italians killed at the battle of Adowa, and in the long harassing retreat which followed at 5,000, and it is believed that not even these figures tell of the full extent of the disaster.

These reports no mention is made of the wounded, and there is good reason, based on the reports of recent Italian defeats by the Abyssinians, that those who fell wounded during the retreat of over fifty miles met a more horrible fate than those who were killed on the spot.

Throughout the night the garrison here was kept under arms and mounted patrols traversed the principal streets. The masses, however, do not seem to have retired to rest. The streets were filled with people until day break, and after early morning every public place was crowded with excited men and women.

A number of disturbances which have called for police interference have occurred to-day, the indications are that people are assuming a most threatening attitude not only in Rome, but throughout Italy.

Popular Demonstration.

Demonstrations against the Crispi ministry and even against the crown are reported from a number of towns in the provinces. In spite of the fact that the authorities are straining every nerve to suppress all alarming news, it is said that the government was aware on Tuesday of the full extent of the defeat inflicted upon the Italians, but it was judged to be dangerous to allow the startling information to reach the public suddenly, and so first the report of the defeat was permitted to leak out; then the war office officials allowed it to be "rumored" that 400 men were killed; after this came the report "that 3,000 soldiers had fallen and now it is admitted" that 5,000 Italian troops were slain, in addition to severe loss among the native troops serving under the flag of Italy.

Under these circumstances, it is not astonishing that the wildest kind of rumors are in circulation and that in some of the clubs the number of killed and wounded is placed at 10,000. Exaggeration as these figures may turn out to be, they show the state of the public mind here.

All fetes have been indefinitely postponed, masses for the repose of the souls of the dead have been celebrated this morning in every Catholic church in this city and crowds of weeping women and sorrowing men are to be seen everywhere. The newspapers, in celebration of coronation anniversary of the pope have been dispensed with.

Rome, in a word, is to-day a city of mourning and of sullen anger ready to break out into fierce, open resentment. The government and the military authorities are alarmed, and the mismanagement of the Abyssinian campaign, and great indignation is expressed against the newspapers which have been goading Gen. Baratieri into action by taunting him with his inactivity.

The Awful Carriage.

It is also said now that the Italian commander was led into a trap skillfully baited by the report which was allowed to reach him that a number of the important chiefs of the Shoans, attended by a portion of the Shoan army, were attending the coronation of King Negus, at Axum, and that, hoping to surprise those who remained behind, General Baratieri ordered Generals Albertone, Arimondi and Dabormida to attack the enemy. The latter, it is reported, pretended to retreat before the Italian advance until the troops were well within the passes leading to Adowa, the capital of Tigre. Then the scene changed. The Shoans, armed with the improved French military rifle, it is claimed, and supported by modern artillery, directed by French officers, advanced upon the Italians in overwhelming strength, while the apparently deserted passes became alive with natives who hurled rocks down upon the trapped soldiers, while the others kept up a terrible wild direct fire upon the troops. Urged by the Italian advance until the troops were well within the passes leading to Adowa, the capital of Tigre. Then the scene changed. The Shoans, armed with the improved French military rifle, it is claimed, and supported by modern artillery, directed by French officers, advanced upon the Italians in overwhelming strength, while the apparently deserted passes became alive with natives who hurled rocks down upon the trapped soldiers, while the others kept up a terrible wild direct fire upon the troops. Urged by the Italian advance until the troops were well within the passes leading to Adowa, the capital of Tigre. Then the scene changed. The Shoans, armed with the improved French military rifle, it is claimed, and supported by modern artillery, directed by French officers, advanced upon the Italians in overwhelming strength, while the apparently deserted passes became alive with natives who hurled rocks down upon the trapped soldiers, while the others kept up a terrible wild direct fire upon the troops.

Then, it is added, began the most disastrous defeat in the history of African warfare, the triumphant Shoans pressing them down in great numbers in spite of repeated formations of squares. The troops, in these stands, are said to have behaved with the greatest gallantry, but all the reserve ammunition captured and the troops were captured and the Italian force sent against the Shoans reached Asmara in Italy.

Intense Excitement.

The opposition party and socialists are taking advantage of the situation. The latter, especially, are very bitter against the government.

Later in the day the news from the provinces became more alarming. It is stated that in a number of places the police have been unable to cope with the populace, and that the troops have been called upon to restore order. The soldiers, however, appear to have been as helpless as the police, and in several places the crowds have been

fired upon. At Milan, the troops after vainly trying to disperse a mob which was making a demonstration against the government, were obliged to fire. One man was killed and several were wounded. This increased the excitement, and report has it that the troops were ordered and had to clear the public square at the point of the bayonet.

Dispatches received here from Venice say that the most intense excitement prevails there, and there were a number of riotous demonstrations during the night. An immense crowd of people assembled at the Piazza St. Mark, and there speeches were made against the government, condemning the manner in which the Abyssinian campaign had been conducted and calling upon the military authorities to try General Baratieri by court martial. There was another popular demonstration against the government at Venice this morning, and the mob was only dispersed by the police, with the greatest difficulty, and after a number of arrests had been made.

Advices received here from Padua say that there was a riotous demonstration to-day and that the police had to interfere to restore order. A mob marched through the streets hooting the government officials and crying for the downfall of the Crispi ministry.

At Verona there was a similar demonstration against the government and a number of socialists were arrested for stoning the police and uttering seditious cries.

At Rovigo and, in fact, nearly every city of importance throughout Italy, the troops are confined to barracks to-day and every precaution possible is being taken to prevent disorder. It is believed however, that nothing short of the downfall of Senor Crispi and the dispatch of strong reinforcements to Africa will satisfy public clamor.

Shortly before noon to-day it was announced that General Baratieri had been recalled to Rome and that on his arrival here his conduct of the present campaign and defeat at Adowa would be inquired into. The socialists declare that the general should be shot as an example to others and that the minister of war should share his fate.

General Baratieri, who has assumed command of the Italian troops in Africa, is preparing a report on the battle of Adowa which will be forwarded as promptly as possible to the war department here.

The army reserves of 1892, numbering about 80,000 men, are being called to the standard; but, it is feared, that the men mustering in large bodies at their different centers. The people are murmuring greatly at being deprived of the heads of families who must now be placed under arms, and as each hour passes the situation becomes more and more serious.

The small advices reach this city to-day it is seen that the demonstrations against the government throughout the provinces yesterday were unparalleled in their fierceness and in the general character of the feeling of anger expressed at the conduct of the Abyssinian campaign, and the colonial policy of Italy. The newspapers suppressed nearly all such news. It is known, however, that the authorities are greatly alarmed and that further disturbances have taken place in a number of the large cities. Details are awaited with considerable anxiety.

Further details were received to-night of the defeat of the Italian army at the battle of Adowa, and they tend to confirm the most alarming reports circulated, although the exact number of men killed is not yet announced.

Gen. Baratieri's force consisted of sixteen battalions of white troops (Italians), six battalions of native troops and twelve batteries of artillery.

Generals Albertone and Arimondi and their brigades are also missing and it is believed they have been annihilated. It is almost impossible to describe the state of excitement in Rome this evening and no such scenes have been witnessed since the occupation of this city by the Italian troops.

The whole population seems to be in the streets, and the entire police force as well as all the troops of the garrison are on duty.

In the main thoroughfares shouting crowds assemble every now and then calling for the downfall of the ministry, only to be dispersed by the police. Numerous arrests have been made and the police escorting the prisoners to the different depots have been in several cases handled roughly by the mobs.

To-night there was a serious conflict between the police and a mob which seemed bent upon making a demonstration before the palace. The national flag was carried draped with crepe, and there were cries of "Down with the Ministers!" "Death to Baratieri!" "Crispi!" "Death to Baratieri!"

The excitement will not diminish to any appreciable extent until an official statement has set at rest the alarming rumors in circulation or definitely establishes the real facts in the case.

All the opposition deputies who could attend were present and while the measures necessary to sustain the honor of Italy, it is understood that the government will be subject to the most fierce attacks and that its colonial policy will come in for the strongest condemnation.

"Down with the Government." The newspapers report that the cabinet meeting held this afternoon the ministers resolved that it would resign rather than face the crisis. Premier Crispi, it is further reported, subsequent to the cabinet meeting informed King Humbert of the decision arrived at.

Further details are being received this evening of violent scenes enacted to-day at different points all over Italy, which the government has sought in vain to prevent the publication of.

The most serious demonstration was indicated in the early dispatches, which it was permitted to send to Milan, where 30,000 persons took part in the disorders, amounting to a popular uprising.

In Rome there was less violence but the public indignation was almost equally high.

Papers containing pictures of Signor Crispi were burned in the public streets with every accompaniment of contumely and wrath expressed against the premier. Crowds were parading the streets everywhere shouting "Down with the government!" "Down with the murderers!"

At Favia the population turned out en masse to protest against the dispatch of further troops to Africa. Some of the reinforcements destined for the relief of the Italian army in Abyssinia were to depart from that city to-day, but they were taken possession of bodily by the rioters, in whose ranks included Italian women and children. The rioters were forced out of the cars in which they had taken their places preparatory to departure and the mob then tore up the rails along the track and made the soldiers promise not to leave the town.

It is stated to-night that the resignation of the ministry will be formally announced to parliament to-morrow. After this has been done, both houses will adjourn and await the decision of King Humbert upon what action he will take.

A President in Filibuster Cases. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 4.--Attorneys for the Cuban filibusters arrested on the Horsa at Philadelphia last week have written George A. Burt, of this city, in regard to his case of five years ago. Mr. Burt fitted up the Italia for the Chilian revolutionists

He was prosecuted by the United States government and won his case. By the precedent, he established the Cuban filibusters will doubtless go free.

HULLING KILLED IT.

He Makes a Fight which will be Appreciated by His Kanawha Constituents. What Our Representatives Are Doing. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, March 4.--Representative Huling, of the Third district, has just done the Kanawha country a substantial service, which his constituents will doubtless appreciate, in having re-committed to the committee on rivers and harbors, a bill introduced by General Walker, of Virginia, amending section 6 of an act making appropriations for the construction, repair and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors.

The act as it stands makes it unlawful to place, discharge or deposit, by any process or in any manner, ballast, refuse, dirt, ashes, dredgings or any matter of any kind other than that flowing from streets or sewers, in the water of any harbor or river of the United States, for the improvement of which money has been appropriated by Congress. This law makes provision for other protection to the rivers and harbors, but that in which Mr. Huling's constituency is interested has been embraced in a single sentence at the close of a quotation of the act as now in force, making the law "not applicable to New river or its tributaries in the state of Virginia." This exemption would have permitted a continuance of the discharge into New river, one stream of two forming the Kanawha, of the polluting refuse from the ore mines of Putlask county, which has been so damaging to the waters of the Third district.

Mr. Huling immediately objected, making the point that the purpose of the measure was not to improve either rivers or harbors, and was therefore not privileged. There is no known precedent for this course, but the point was decided to be well taken.

Mr. Huling contended for it, and caused the bill to be sent back to committee. This will end its consideration for the session.

Representative Dovenher has introduced a bill granting a pension to Charles M. Hainey, of Pine Grove.

Representative Acheson presented petitions from four Pennsylvania organizations of United American Mechanics, in favor of an amended immigration law; also petitions of citizens of Allegheny county, Pa., asking for amendment to the pension laws; an appeal of Charles H. Holden, for the passage of house bill 308; resolutions of the council of the historical society of Pennsylvania favoring the publication of records and papers of the continental Congress and resolutions of the national association of manufacturers favoring consular inspection and report on condition of foreign trade and commerce.

Congressman Danford, presented to the house the petition of W. R. Allison and others for favorable action on the bill amending the postal laws.

Two of the West Virginia members are absent. Mr. Dayton left to-night in obedience to a telegram calling him home on important business and Mr. Miller has not yet returned from his business trip to the Fourth district. Neither is expected back this week.

ARCHBISHOP KENRICK DEAD.

The Venerable Prelate Dies in His Eighty-Eighth Year.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 4.--Peter Richards Kenrick, who for nearly half a century prior to three years ago

was Catholic archbishop of this diocese, died at 1:30 o'clock to-day in the eighty-eighth year of his age. The old gentleman had been in very feeble health for several years and about two and a half years ago, Bishop John J. Kahn, of Wheeling, was elected to an archbishopric and sent here to relieve him.

MILLIONS LOST

By the Floods in New England--Maine the Greatest Loser.

BOSTON, Mass., March 4.--With the subsidence of the waters, which, during Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday, overwhelmed a greater part of New England, figures of losses sustained are coming in. From those received, it is apparent that total damage in the section will be considerably more than \$2,000,000. This does not include the wages to thousands of laboring men and women through suspension of manufacturing and other industries. Six lives have been lost.

The many financial losses are divided between the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and Maine bears about half.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

President Bacon, of the B. & O. Southwestern, says that road is solvent and is not affected by the B. & O. failure.

The Iowa senate suppression of intemperance committee decided to report the bill allowing the manufacture of liquors in Iowa.

The Kansas temperance union refused to denounce Governor Morrill for his failure to enforce the prohibitory law, but favored a continuance of constitutional prohibition.

It is thought the collections for home missions, resulting from Tuesday night's Presbyterian meeting, over which President Cleveland presided, will aggregate \$25,000.

In the German Reichstag Herr Steudtger urged a direct tax on sugar and energetic action against the United States, which he claimed did not give fair treatment to German sugar.

All six of the congressional district Republican members of Arkansas and the Seventh district of Illinois (situated in Chicago) elected delegates to St. Louis yesterday and instructed them for McKinley.

Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, has issued an appeal to Nebraska Republicans to send a solid delegation for McKinley. He says General Manderson's candidacy is in the interests of a combine against McKinley.

RAGING FLAMES

At Johnstown, Pa., Destroy Everything Before Them.

THE SCENE OF WILD CONFUSION

Only Equalled by that During the Great Flood of 1889--Great Amount of Property Burned in a Short Space of Time. Employees of a Newspaper Obligated to Run for Their Lives--The Wolf and Hannan Blocks Among Those Burned.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., March 4.--At 9:30 this evening fire broke out in the basement of the Nathan Miller block, in the most central part of the town. At midnight the whole business part of the town is threatened and the fire still burns fiercely. The Hannan block, valued at \$75,000, is now a total loss, the grocery store of Nathan Miller, where the fire started, is a total loss, which is estimated at \$5,000.

The Democrat office, on the second floor of the building, was totally destroyed, together with all the fine new machinery and equipment of that firm. Their loss is placed at \$30,000. Nothing whatever was saved, even the employees, who were preparing the morning edition, fleeing for their lives. The H. M. Benshoff book bindery on the second floor, is also completely destroyed, with a loss of \$4,000.

The third floor was the Neuman League Club rooms, one of the finest in the city, and all their furniture and paraphernalia, which is estimated at \$1,000, is lost. The hardware store of John Hannan, also on the first floor, is destroyed. His loss is placed at \$2,000. The E. L. and J. T. Udegraves millinery establishment, also in the Hannan building, is destroyed, with a loss of \$3,000.

The Wolf block, which adjoins the Hannan block, took fire from the burning building and is at this hour given up as a total loss, and the fire is still spreading down the street. In this block, which is also valued at \$75,000, were a number of lawyers' offices, all of whom had very fine libraries, and which are almost totally destroyed. The lawyers are: City Solicitor F. D. O'Connor, Oliver E. T. McNeelis, O'Connor & Grieswald and County Surveyor F. G. Pettegrew.

The American club room occupied the third floor, and they had one of the finest clubs in the city, their loss on furniture alone being estimated at \$1,500. Lawyer William Ellis was also on that floor, and his loss is total. Mr. E. M. Marlan occupied the first floor with a grocery, and he succeeded in saving a part of his stock, and his loss is now placed at \$2,000.

The fire is still raging and has now extended to Lincoln street, where the residence of Mr. Wolf, the owner of the Wolf block, is now burning. Mr. Wolf is one of the leading merchants in the city, and at present it looks as though he would lose all he possesses.

The fire companies, twelve in number, are all on the scene fighting the fire, and at this hour have not succeeded in getting control of the flames. Several of the firemen are already reported hurt, but no names are obtainable at this hour.

The night seems to be the wildest confusion, such as have not been witnessed since the terrible night of the flood in 1889.

The fire finally spread to Morris Wolf's residence, on Lincoln street, where considerable damage was done. It was only by the most persistent efforts of the firemen, of whom several were injured, that the whole square which represents the principal business portion of the city was saved.

At 1:45 a. m. the fire is about under control.

DR. BROWN'S CASE

Miss Overman Undergoes a Rigid Cross Examination.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.--Deacon Williams subjected Miss Overman to a severe cross examination at the evening session of the council before which Rev. C. O. Brown, of the First Congregational church, is being tried on charges of immorality. He asked her among other things if she had not felt for some time that her feelings for Dr. Brown had been such as to tempt a virtuous woman should not entertain toward a married man. Miss Overman replied with much apparent indignation that she had felt no such thing. She admitted, however, that she did not wait for the pastor to tempt her, but fell of her own accord.

Mr. Williams led her through a long lane of misty, hasty questions, beginning with the meeting December 19 and ending with her entry into the doctor's study the same afternoon when the alleged blackmail of Mrs. Davidson was revealed to her. Mr. Williams wanted to know if the old feeling came back in the darkness of the room. The witness, however, did not get an opportunity to reply to this, for Dr. Pond interposed a strong objection to what he termed unnecessary cross examination, and said it was continued, he would certainly withdraw from the deliberations of the council.

Rev. Mr. Slink wanted to know what her feelings toward Dr. Brown are now. "Sincere pity, and that only," was the reply.

The members of the council came to the conclusion that Miss Overman's story, without corroboration, is insufficient. They have decided that Mrs. Tunnell is a necessity. She has been telegraphed for in the name of the council and upon her word hangs, in a measure, the fate of Dr. Brown.

GERMANS EXCEL

The British in the Iron and Steel Trade in Many Respects.

WASHINGTON, March 4.--Frank Mason, consul general at Frankfurt, in a special report to the state department tells how the Germans are steadily mastering the English metal workers and he suggests that in the story may be found a lesson for American steel and iron workers, especially in that part relating to the systematic cultivation of foreign trade. The report is based upon the findings of a commission of British iron and steel workers, which has made a most exhaustive examination of the factors in the competition and the facts developed are not forth by Mr. Mason are of the greatest importance to all manufacturers.

Briefly summed up, it appears that the Germans enjoy distinct advantages over the British iron and steel workers in more disciplined labor, highly educated and competent management, harmonious relations between operators and assiduous success in the cultivation of foreign markets, low royalties, rents, a protected home market and, above all, far cheaper inland transportation. In all these respects the Germans exceed American manufacturers in the same degree that they do the British.

Many Miners Perish.

BERLIN, March 4.--Fire broke out to-day in the Cleopatra coal mine at Kattowitz, Prussian Silesia. The bodies of twenty-one victims of the conflagration have already been recovered, but the fate of the miners entombed, numbering about 100, is still uncertain.

A FIRE THIS MORNING.

A Blaze in Erskine & Allison's Law Office at an Early Hour--Caused by an Overheated Stove.

But for the vigilant attention to business of Officer Knabe, of the city police force, Wheeling would have suffered a disastrous fire in the heart of the business district a little after 1 o'clock this morning. A natural gas stove in which the gas had been left burning in Erskine & Allison's law office, over J. D. McFadden's store, on Market street, became overheated, and set fire to the woodwork. When Officer Knabe discovered the fire the whole interior of the office was a mass of fire and smoke. He rang in an alarm and then kicked in the door. The department arrived in good time, and the chemical and island engines put the blaze out with some difficulty.

Nothing could be told at the time as to the amount of damage, but there was a considerable part of the floor and other woodwork burned. The smoke was exceedingly dense, and hampered the firemen badly in their work. A match lighted in the room would not burn on account of the amount of smoke.

McFadden's gentlemen's furnishing store and hat store and the B. & O. express office are beneath this office, and Mrs. Hart's school is overhead. So far as could be seen the stores and express office escaped damage, but the school was pretty thoroughly smoked.

It was in all respects one of the luckiest escapes ever seen.

A pretty bad hole was burned in the ceiling, reaching into the third story, and the partition between the main office and private room was destroyed. Chief Healy kept the firemen from throwing hose streams, and the blaze was put out by the chemicals only. This no doubt saved a great deal of damage to the stock down stairs.

Fortunately when Officer Knabe discovered the flames Bob Kline was with him, and he gave valuable assistance in putting out the flames before Chief Healy reached the scene, his experience as foreman of the chemical engine teaching him how to use the engines to the best advantage. Both the police and fire department won new laurels by their prompt and discreet management.

GOV. GREENHALGE DEAD.

The Chief Executive of Massachusetts Expired at an Early Hour this Morning.

LOWELL, Mass., March 5.--Governor Greenhalge died at 12:30 o'clock

this morning. He has been seriously ill for several days and the end was not unexpected. Governor Greenhalge was re-elected last fall by a majority of 700. His death will be mourned throughout the state.

A BOY'S CURIOSITY.

Wanted to See How Close He Could Stand to a Track Without Being Struck by a Train--He Found Out.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER. SISTERSVILLE, W. Va., March 4.--A boy named Lee Martin whose parents reside near the railroad track, near the Ohio River railroad company's depot at Sardis, was struck by the north bound train which passed here at 12:25 p. m., and fatally injured. It appears from what can be learned of the accident that the boy was trying to see how close to the track he could stand without being hit, and would probably not have been injured had the coaches been of uniform width, as he escaped until the parlor car, which is slightly wider than the other coaches, came along, striking the side of his head and knocking him a considerable distance. Dr. F. P. Lowther from New Martinsville, was sent down by the first train, but it is thought the boy cannot recover.

William J. Campbell Dead. CHICAGO, March 4.--William J. Campbell, the Republican national committeeman of Illinois, and for years prominent in the councils of the Republican party, died this afternoon of pneumonia after a short illness. The circumstances surrounding his death are peculiarly sad, as his wife and father are also at the point of death, and it was neglect of himself in watching them that brought about his fatal attack.

PENITENTIARY ITEMS.

The Board of Directors Meets--Prisoners Received--Another Pardon.

The state penitentiary board of directors met yesterday at Moundsville; with the exception of Mr. Gallaher, who is sick, all the directors were present. There was nothing save the regular routine of matters to be considered.

Two prisoners were received yesterday. One, John Jenkins, from Wayne county, two years, for grand larceny; another, Hegnan Smith, Lincoln county, seven years, for murder in the second degree.

W. W. Walters, a prisoner brought from Monroe county about two years ago, on a ten year sentence, died and was buried in the prison graveyard. This is the sixth death since last August.

Governor MacCorkle has pardoned "Mike" Lee, who was serving a ten year sentence for murdering one of the Hattfields in Logan county. He had served about half of his sentence. The pardon was granted on account of the ill health of the prisoner.

Will be a Trunk Factory.

The firm of McCullom & Ely after inspecting a number of glass houses using the tank system, will commence work at once on the plans for Washington's new glass house to be erected by Brady, Beatty & Company, says the Washington, Pa. Observer. The plant will not resemble in appearance any of those now operating in Washington, as it will have three long and comparative narrow buildings. Although the dimensions are not absolutely certain they will likely be sixty feet by two hundred and fifty feet each. The work on the plans and other details will be pushed as rapidly as possible and it is not improbable that bids will be received for the erection of the plant in two or three weeks from this time. It is not yet certain that the buildings will be iron.

CASTILLO DENIES

That Spain is Negotiating with the Foreign Powers

AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Spanish Reports of Terrible Insurgent Defeat in Cuba--One Dispatch which Intimates that Gomez and Maceo Are Being Penned In--Two or Three Important Battles Fought--According to "Official" Advices all are in Favor of the Spanish Troops.

MADRID, March 4.--The Premier Senor Canovas del Castillo denies that Spain is negotiating with any foreign power with regard to Cuba.

An official dispatch from Havana says that the Spanish have obtained several victories over the insurgents. Gen. Bernald's brigade at Miamie, routed 3,000 rebels, killing thirty and wounding fifty and capturing 400 horses and a quantity of arms and ammunition and explosives. The Spanish loss was four killed and eight wounded.

HAVANA, March 4.--Maximo Gomez camped on Monday night at the plantation of Deloitte near Cardenas, province of Matanzas. A dispatch from Union de Reyes in the same province, says that Loret, the insurgent leader, is suffering from a bad ulcer, which was recently dressed by a surgeon near that place.

The insurgents have destroyed a bridge at Cocardillo, near Bolondrin, province of Matanzas, and have burned a bridge at Tinguaro and a railroad station at Retamal.

A numerous band of insurgents recently attacked the government guerrillas who were guarding the plantation of Lutgardita, in the neighborhood of Sagua la Grande, province of Santa Clara; but a column of Spanish troops arrived at an opportune moment, surprised the insurgents, attacked them in the rear, killed thirty of them and wounded many others. No further details have been received.

According to a dispatch from Plectas, province of Santa Clara, a number of insurgents recently invaded an estate near San Paulo, fastened five laborers to the pillars of the overseers house, and then set fire to the building and burned it. The unfortunate laborers were all burned to death. One of them was a volunteer.

At Fernandez XIII near San Nicolas, a party of guerrillas in the government service ambushed and killed a number of insurgents including their leaders, Sabas, Herrera and Emilio Sierra.

Lively musket firing was heard to-day at 8 o'clock from the town of Jaruco.

There is a report that Maximo Gomez is completely besieged by the troops. The small town in the vicinity of Guanabacoa, which is only about five miles out of Havana, have been burned by the insurgents. The troops are now pursuing them.

Maceo, Gomez and Loret are all supposed, according to the reports here, to be in a desperate situation. A letter has been seen from Antonio Maceo complaining that he is short of ammunition. The news of the death of Regino Alfonso has been confirmed.

IN THE SENATE.

A Conference Committee on the Cuban Resolutions--Bills Passed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.--In the senate to-day Mr. Sherman reported back the Cuban resolution and moved that the house amendment to the senate resolutions be non-concurred in and that a conference committee be appointed. The motion was agreed to and the vice president appointed Senators Sherman, Morgan and Lodge as the conference committee.

Bills were passed for the purchase of sites for public buildings at Hastings and Corfou, Nebraska; pensioning the widow of the late United States Senator Spencer as brigadier general at \$75 per month; to amend the state of Pennsylvania for money expended in 1894, not exceeding \$46,200, for militia called into the military service by the governor under the proclamation of the President of June 15, 1863; for the relief of St. Charles college, Missouri; approving certain acts of the legislative assembly in the territory of New Mexico, authorizing the issue of certain bonds of said territory; for a public building at Ferguson Falls, Minn., to cost \$175,000