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THE INTELLIGENCER.

WHEELING, MARCH 20, 1899.

Otis and Spanish Red Cross. Marquis Vallalbos, president of the Spanish Red Cross, has cabled to Miss Clara Barton, at Washington, a petition which, when we recall certain circumstances of the war in Cuba, is somewhat remarkable, notwithstanding it naturally appeals to human sympathy.

The cablegram, which Miss Barton communicated to the war department, reads: "To Clara Barton, Washington, D. C. Negotiations begun for pecuniary ransom of the prisoners in the Philippines interrupted by General Otis, because he feared the sums offered would be employed against his troops. We pray you earnestly intercede with your government to insure triumph of humanity."

"With profound gratitude. MARQUIS VALLALBOS, President Spanish Red Cross."

It is probable that the president of the Spanish Red Cross is sincere in his request, and is prompted by worthy motives from his standpoint, but there are some things to be considered in connection with it. One is the position of General Otis. In the signing of the peace treaty and its ratification by both governments the status of the Filipinos is changed. They are no longer to be regarded as in rebellion against Spain, but against the authority of the United States, as, at least, temporary subjects of this country.

The situation is such at present that, according to official reports, not sensational newspaper stories, the farcial "government" of Aguinaldo is on the eve of being crushed, and the end is not far removed. The final peace between the two nations is a very great advantage to this country in the work, and matters are in such shape that our authorities will be able shortly to fulfill the pledge to secure the release of the Spanish prisoners, in order that they may be delivered to their government. At this stage of proceedings, with every advantage on the side of the Americans, it would be the height of folly for General Otis to permit any financial deal with the insurgents, by which their depleted coffers would be replenished, and furnished with "sinews of war," which would prolong the fighting and possibly render Aguinaldo able to recover his lost ground.

There is a better and more rapid method of securing the release of these Spanish prisoners than by making their captors stronger in their financial position. Spain has had enough experience with purchasing Aguinaldo, to teach her that he cannot be relied on. Aguinaldo has never kept faith in any deal he ever made with Spain or this country.

Another matter which weakens the demand of the president of the Spanish Red Cross at this time, is easily recalled. It has not been many months since our sick and wounded soldiers were being looked after against fearful odds by the American Red Cross in eastern Cuba, during the siege of Santiago, under the personal direction of Miss Barton and her heroic aids, at the risk of their lives. Where was Marquis Vallalbos then? Did any one hear of him while Spanish soldiers and shapshooters were firing from ambush on the ambulances loaded with our sick and wounded and under the protection of the flag of the Red Cross?

The terrible stories of how that flag was shown no respect whatever is still fresh in the American mind. We heard nothing of a Spanish Red Cross in those days. There does not seem to have been any co-operation with the noble American women and men who were sacrificing so much, while they were working among both Americans and Spaniards in humanity's interest. But this is only a phase of the question. The American Red Cross is not a revengeful institution. It bears no malice; neither does the United States government. But the memory of the sick and wounded who were fired upon and killed in the hospital tents and wagons under the Red Cross flag still exists among those at home.

The important feature, however, the position which General Otis takes, is the one to be considered at this time. General Otis and Admiral Dewey are doing and will do all they can to rescue the Spanish prisoners, but they can not be expected to agree to the Spanish payment of a large sum of money to the treacherous Aguinaldo at this critical stage.

The advance guard of the equinoctial disturbances came Sunday morning early accompanied by severe rains, winds and a snow storm, which combination resulted in making the day everything but pleasant. The streets, which were on Saturday night in good condition for pedestrians were first wet, then slippy, and then slippy in regu-

lar order and no one would suspect for a moment that springtime was within a stone's throw. We may hope for something better within the coming week, and the end of two remarkable months will give way to a condition that may remove the dangers that come with sudden and various changes to the healthfulness of the community.

A Veritable Fire Trap.

It may be several days before the loss of life at the Windsor hotel fire, in New York, can be estimated. The number of dead grown, but a much larger number is still reported as missing. It was in some respects one of the most terrible disasters of this nature chronicled in this country for years. Aside from the many killed and missing, a number of the fifty-seven persons who were badly injured may either die or be crippled for life. It is now said that even the roof of the building was crowded with people viewing the St. Patrick's Day parade. Additional details increase the horror. They do more than that, they show that the disaster was somewhat inexcusable, and that somebody is responsible.

The circumstances and the results of the fire are in themselves an awful warning, such as comes with the consequences of neglect and the lack of foresight in the construction of some public buildings. This New York building was not the only one in the country in which such conditions exist, according to statements that have been made since the calamity of Friday. While the fire is said to have been started by the carelessness of someone who lit a cigar and threw the match on a lace curtain, this incident is not so directly responsible for the effects as the fact that such an incident could cause so terrible a disaster as the spread of flames throughout an immense building occupying an entire block in the daytime, when the structure was filled with people wide awake.

According to the dispatches, the fault was with the construction of the building, which was built years ago when the laws of New York did not require precautions against just such an emergency. It is stated by the commissioner of the department of buildings in the city that this big, fashionable hotel was absolutely unprovided with precautions against such a disaster. He declares that it was a veritable fire trap, as are many other New York public buildings built prior to 1893, including theatres and hospitals.

This is an astonishing statement. It appears that in the cases of many of these hotels the interiors are of wood and filled with inflammable draperies, and are ripe for similar disasters. The laws previous to the date above mentioned gave too much liberty in this respect, which fact is not creditable to a great metropolis like New York, or any other city where the most stringent requirements for the safety of life are ignored. An investigation of the New York affair, however, will show whether the commissioner is right or not.

Couldn't Overcome Malice.

An editorial in Saturday's Register denounces as hypocritical the comments of "northern newspapers" on the shooting of the prisoners in the Palmetto, Georgia, jail, while they are "apathetic about lynchings of colored men when done by white men in the north." The Register so habitual in the matter of misrepresenting things that it couldn't help saying that. It is the only newspaper, perhaps, in the country, that has conceived such a thought as it expressed. We would like to know where the Register gets its idea that the newspapers of this country, that is, respectable papers, wherever they may be published, north or south, justify mob law, wherever committed and under whatever circumstances?

This matter of taking the law out of the hands of the courts and the law authorities, when prisoners are locked in jail and awaiting trial, is not a sectional one. No newspaper having the country's welfare at heart, whether published in Maine or Mississippi, ever endorsed such a thing and the Register knows it. Instead of joining in the general denunciation of what the governor of Georgia has described as a "disgraceful outrage," our contemporary ignores the real question involved in order to make it appear that everybody who happens to live in a northern state, and who agrees with the southern governor and southern newspapers is a hypocrite.

Will the Register name a single instance in which mob law has ever been upheld in any part of the north by the press and the authorities. And can it not lay aside its own mean sectionalism long enough to tell the truth. Is the Register the organ of the members of the mob for whose capture the good Democratic authorities of Georgia have offered big rewards, or is it in business to provoke sectional feeling, when southern men themselves are decrying it?

Greater Fairmont held its first municipal election Saturday under its new charter which incorporates the towns of Fairmont, Palatine and West Fairmont into one city. The result was the election of the regular Republican ticket over an independent or non-partisan ticket composed of members of both parties. The Intelligencer trusts that since the new city starts out on its career under a Republican administration it will be a creditable beginning.

England has witnessed the partial success of a new flying machine. The usual "uncertainty-of-steering" objection was the chief fault. And so it always is. This problem seems unsolvable.

The southern states have had the worst experience in years during the past two months. They received more than their share of cold waves and blizzards in February, and yesterday's news from Alabama, Georgia and Mis-

issippi told of storms that cost many lives. In one county in Alabama more than seventy persons were killed and towns were wiped out by the winds. Those who went south to escape the northern conditions seem to have jumped from bad to worse.

Speaking of "expansion," we may now expect certain captious critics to have a few words to say in regard to the announcement in fashionable circles that larger hats will be the favorites with the ladies during the coming season after the close of Lent. Such a campaign will be instructive to the anti-expansionists, for they will find the American Queen a sure victor, and experience is a good teacher.

CAUSES OF SPAIN'S DECLINE.

Various Facts and Opinions from a Paper in Westminster Review.

Chicago Times-Herald: "Now that the Spaniards have been vanquished, many pedantic Europeans pity them, and call down all sorts of curses on the Americans, whom they accuse of violating right. Nevertheless, the fate of Spain is a historical necessity. The Americans are only the instruments in the law of cause and effect."

So says Paolo Zendriani, a writer for the Westminster Review, in an article on "The Spanish Decline," which refers the fate of Spain to the Spanish character, and gives a curiously interesting analysis of the latter. Nature—that is, the nature of the country—is first held responsible for the Spaniard. The climate, dry, fierce and changeable in temperature, makes it impossible to work during the whole of the day, and "encourages among the people an irregularity and instability of purpose which makes them choose the wandering calling of the shepherd rather than the more settled pursuits of agriculture."

From their mode of life follows a love of adventure and the spirit of romance that give tone to the popular literature. People thus influenced are prone to superstition, and here again nature comes to the aid of the priesthood. The peninsula, rugged and mountainous, has been the scene of disastrous earthquakes, which appeal to the imagination of the ignorant and fill them with superstitious terrors.

Perhaps the singular fanaticism of the Spaniards might be better explained by the long religious wars against the Moors. But there is no doubt, as this author points out, that the clergy found it to their interest to direct it to the support of the crown, and that it resulted in unreasoning loyalty. Even to this day, the people, as a whole, have no understanding of civil liberty, and within the last quarter of a century they have tried an experiment in republicanism which made their best republican leaders confess that they were unitted for self-government.

One of the stumbling blocks in the way of reform is the prevailing ignorance which is common to all classes of Spaniards, in spite of honorable exceptions. "Their inactivity, both bodily and mentally," says Zendriani, "would be incredible were it not proved by every variety of evidence." He then tells an amusing story by way of illustration, which proves that even the learned bodies of the kingdom are conspicuous for their lack of learning. Once when the University of Salamanca decided to send an address in Latin to Pope Pius IX it labored long over the work, and then submitted it to Prof. Hueber of Berlin, for correction. So bad was the Latinity that that erudite German was forced to do it all over.

There was always the densest ignorance in the colonies. Although Spain held the Philippine Islands for three centuries, they have been studied by only one Spanish scientist. The laborious paths of knowledge are repugnant to the race, whatever the field of research. Thinking peoples seek in physical spectacles for the inmost and profound idea. "The Spaniard, on the contrary, plunges into his imagination so thoroughly that he changes it into a sensation or a feeling. So bad was the substitute for knowledge is an inordinate pride, of which some curious examples are given. This fortifies ignorance, and with it prevents progress. "While human intellect has been making the most prodigious and unheard of strides, while discoveries in every quarter are simultaneously pressing upon us, Spain sleeps on, unroubled from its passive, receiving no impression from the rest of the world, and making none upon it." So long, therefore, as she puts forward world pretensions, the historic necessity for her downfall was obvious.

Railroad Across the English Channel.

The English parliament is considering the plan of connecting that country with France by railway. Engineers say a road bed can be laid on the bottom of the English channel and by mounting trestlework on wheels, so that it projects above the water, the railway can be operated. This seems beyond belief but it is perhaps no more remarkable than some of the cures accomplished by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in bad cases of dyspepsia, indigestion and constipation. This is an age of wonderful achievements.

THE "Blackbird Ballet" in "Jack and the Beanstalk" is the greatest novelty on the stage.

OLD King Cole and his fiddlers three are with "Jack and the Beanstalk," Wednesday next, at the Opera House.

Piano Tuning.

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Having in our employ thorough and competent workmen, we respectfully solicit the care of your piano.

Piano Moving.

Should you desire your piano moved, we fully warrant safe delivery.

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POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

But few collisions occur on the paths of virtue.

No man ever thinks he is as homely as he really is.

Conscience enables people to feel sorry when they're found out.

The man who changes a counterfeit bill returns good for evil.

Too many men salt away money in the brine of other people's tears.

Lots of girls are single not from choice, but because they were born so.

The more revenue we derive from an ugly sin the better looking it becomes.

Drowning is a terrible thing; it would kill most people to die that way.

It is easier to keep off the grass than it is to keep off the park policeman.

The majority of men are unknown to fame and fortune—and are likely to remain so.

A man can lay claims to greatness when his private affairs begin to interest the public.

The silent fisherman is the most successful. Girls should remember this when angling for husbands.

The world is but a fleeting show to which all are admitted free—but it sometimes costs a lot to get out.

Some doctors remind one of patience sitting on a monument because of the monuments sitting on their patients.

The spring poet should confine his efforts to the advertising columns and sing of the automatic spring that shuts the door.—Chicago Daily News.

Young America Abroad.

Judge: Among the crowd of fashionable folk in Rotten Row stood little Lolie with her mother, eagerly watching for the coming of the royal carriage—for the rumor had gone abroad that her majesty would drive in Hyde Park this day. "Mother if the queen sees me, will she speak to me?" asked little Lolie.

"Oh, no, dear."

"Why, mother? Is the queen so shy?"

When she was here, the sun shone bright, The poplars jested on the hill; The star-sparks lighted all the night That joy made grave and still. The sky was bluer and more near, And life was full, when she was here.

When she was here, fate's buffets were But little things to give us glee, For I was everything to her, And she was all to me. And every day was deep and dear, And living sweet, when she was here.

When she was here! 'Twas yesterday, And 'twas a weary march of years— So little time since I was gay, So long to count by tears! Oh, all my leaves of hope gone, That blew so green, when she was here! —Post Wheeler.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.

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WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's family Pills are the best.

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Easter Kid Glove Sale.

50 dozen Ladies' Two Clasp Kid Gloves 68c a pair.

Colors: Brown, Tan, White, Blue, Green, Red and Slate.

The Celebrated Clementina Kid Gloves in blacks and colors.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, NEW YORK.

Amusements.

OPERA HOUSE Monday, March 20. First Appearance of Hoyt's A Stranger in New York.

Company includes Mr. Joe Coyne and Miss Lena Merville. Prices—\$1.00, 75c and 50c. Seats on sale at C. A. House's Music Store Saturday, March 18.

OPERA HOUSE Tuesday Evening, March 21. Second Annual Concert ORPHEUS MALE CHORUS.

Assisted by... The Louise Brehany Ballad and Opera Co.

Miss Louise Brehany, soprano; Mr. Walter Wheatly, tenor; Miss Jessie Waters, contralto; Mr. George Dethlefs, basso; Miss Agnes Pringle, violinist; Mr. W. Guillaume Sauvlet, pianist.

Reserved seats—Lower floor, \$1.00. Admission, 75c. Balcony, 50c. Seats on sale at F. W. Baumer & Co.'s music store.

OPERA HOUSE Matinee and Night, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22. Klav and Erlanger Present Their Famous Operatic Extravaganza.

THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF JACK AND THE BEAN STALK. Original Company and Production. 50 People in the Vest Coat. Brilliant Ballets. Gorgeous Costumes. Superb Scenery. Electric Wonders.

Prices—Matinee, \$1.00, 75c and 50c. Night prices—Reserved seats on lower floor \$1.50; admission \$1.00. Reserved seats in balcony \$1.00; admission 50c. Seats on sale at C. A. House's Music Store Monday, March 20.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20, 21, 22. Matinee Wednesday. The Legitimate Irish Comedian, DAN'L SULLY, in the Great Play, O'BRIEN, THE CONTRACTOR.

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