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Weather Forecast for Monday.

Washington, April 17.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Showers; colder in northwest portions; southerly, shifting to northerly, winds.

For Missouri: Showers in northwest portion; variable winds, becoming northerly.

For Kansas: Partly cloudy weather; showers in southeast portion; colder winds, becoming northerly.

For Nebraska: Partly cloudy weather; colder in eastern portion; northerly winds.

A DECLARATION OF ALTRUISM.

The Davis amendment to the senate resolution, if preserved in the joint resolution of the two branches of congress, will do more than all other disclaimers the United States will be able to make to answer the European imputation that the war against Spain is for the purposes of territorial acquisition.

The amendment has the merit of national justification and diplomatic value. It is an especially fitting and potential declaration when used as the last clause of the resolution. It is as follows:

"That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof; and asserts its determination, when this is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

The inspiration of American intervention in Cuba rises above the assertion of commercial rights and has nothing to do with a desire for national aggrandizement. It has its origin in the humanity of a Christian people. It is provoked by conditions that are intolerable to modern civilization. It is the noble impulse of the strong and free to succor the weak and oppressed. The embodiment of our primary motives and ultimate purposes in one salient clause of the nation's expressed policy will have an exalting influence upon the people of this country and should have a salutary effect upon the powers of Europe.

THOSE CUBAN BONDS.

We confess an inability to understand how the United States could be held accountable for the so-called Cuban debt in event of our dispossessing Spain of the island. This debt is in reality an issue of Spanish bonds and therefore a debt owed by Spain, and its character cannot alter simply because Spain has pledged the revenues of Cuba as security.

Spain has resorted to all sorts of expedients to sustain her waning credit. One of them was the issue of a lot of bonds secured by the customs receipts in Cuba and the Philippines. The issue on account of the Philippines now amounts to $40,000,000, and the issue on account of Cuba amounts to more than $200,000,000. In 1883 the so-called Cuban debt was only $50,000,000, but the Spanish government has made Cuban credit bear the expenses of the Cuban war and thus increased the debt to its present enormous proportions. In both instances these bonds were issued by Spain and the proceeds were used by the Spanish government. The ordinary bonds of the nation would not float in the markets, for the national debt had already been forced beyond safe limits. To convince the bond buyers that they would receive their money, the Spanish cortes pledged the customs receipts in the two provinces to the payment of interest and the creation of a sinking fund. The transaction was exactly the same as that of a business man who hypothecates his accounts for the payment of his debts. It would not be argued for a moment that the business man could escape his debts if the accounts should prove worthless or inadequate, and it cannot be argued for a moment that the Spanish bonds become less a Spanish debt because the security has vanished.

Another expedient recently employed by Spain to raise revenues takes on a character scarcely to be found outside the realm of comic opera. During the domestic troubles subsequent to 1873 the government became largely indebted to the railroads. The newly established regency believed it would be good policy to grant the railroads a subsidy in part cancellation of this debt, and so, in 1896, the government financiers provided for the issue of $200,000,000 in bonds which were to be jointly guaranteed by the government and the railroads. The proceeds of this loan were to be divided between the railroads and the treasury department. It was thought this double guarantee would float the bonds in foreign markets, but the plan utterly failed. Not a dollar was taken anywhere abroad, and the government was at last forced to have recourse to the home market, where the fervor of patriotic feeling floated $75,000,000.

This plan of raising the revenue is very suggestive of an anecdote related about Daniel Webster, who, like many another man of genius, was deficient in financial credit. One day in Washington an acquaintance came to him and asked for his indorsement upon a note for $500. "My dear fellow," said Webster, "I will gladly indorse your note, but there isn't a bank in Washington that will take my indorsement." "Oh, yes, there is," responded the acquaintance, "that new bank down on the avenue says it will be all right if I secure your indorsement." Webster struck a meditative attitude for a moment and then said: "Fact is, I myself need $500. Make the note for $1,000 and then we will divide." This procedure was accomplished and the money was divided, and it never occurred to the borrowing acquaintance that Webster had not done him a great favor until he was called to the bank by the expiration of the borrowing period and had to pay the whole $1,000. The railroads of Spain are finding themselves in precisely the same dilemma. Though the government got a portion of the money, it is leaving the railroads to hold the bag.

For many years the Bank of Spain has been unable to redeem its notes and they now circulate at a discount of 23 per cent. The reason for this is that the government has demanded advance after advance from the bank until its note issues now amount to three times its total combined capital and reserve. In round sum, the bank has advanced $300,000,000 to the government, secured in part by straight Spanish bonds and in part by pledges of the Philippines customs. The Philippines bonds are regarded the best of all the national issues, though at the breaking out of the insurrection the Cubans held the highest place. In 1895 Cubans were quoted in Paris at 91; to-day they are less than 50. Spanish straights are standing, or, rather, falling, below the Cubans. This strength in the Cubans may perhaps be accounted for in an article recently published by a French financial journal which declared that if the United States destroyed the security standing behind these bonds the United States would become liable for their payment, a proposition that surely cannot stand the test of law and custom.

In this connection it is interesting to note that by far the greater portion of the Cuban bonds are owned by Spaniards and held in Spain. It is estimated that not more than $23,000,000 of the entire $200,000,000 are held abroad. What could be more preposterous than asking or expecting this country to pay the losses of the Spaniards in a war provoked by themselves?

The same rule that would exempt the United States as an interfering nation will exempt Cuba as an independent nation. These bonds are a Spanish debt, not a Cuban debt. Of course, if Spain can conquer Cuba she may make her own contract good with the bond buyers by continuing the mortgage upon Cuban revenues, but the whole question has now been relegated to an arbitration by arms and if Cuba wins she will be entitled to wash the slate clean. The Cubans have a war debt of their own contracting and this they must pay. If Spain should win she would not become responsible for the Cuban war debt, and Cuba can not be held responsible for the Spanish war debt. There is nothing in international law to justify the reverse of either of these conclusions.

TO-DAY'S CONFERENCE.

One week ago the president of the United States sent a message to congress which, if its recommendations were adopted, meant war with Spain. The day following the transmission of the message the house of representatives passed resolutions going still further than the president advised, but practically conforming to the administration's policy. After several days of earnest debate, the senate passed resolutions embracing the conclusions of the house but also embodying a clause recognizing the independence of the Cuban republic, against which recognition the president had earnestly counseled.

The first period of national suspense has been passed. The policy of the government, so far as its attitude toward Spain is concerned, is clearly defined. It remains for the house and senate committees to reconcile the resolutions of the respective bodies, but the conflictions are not so great as to obscure the inevitable effect of the joint finding.

The main point of difference is the recognition clause. Let us earnestly hope that the joint resolution, which will probably be agreed upon at to-day's conference, may be a substantial acceptance of President McKinley's views.

The arguments against recognition of Cuban independence at this time have been clearly, logically and eloquently presented. They have not been successfully rebutted. The point is one of momentous gravity. It concerns the unvarying policy of our history and touches the future stability of our government. A precedent may be established to-day that can be turned against us to-morrow. We may suffer the embarrassments of years through the indiscretions of an hour.

The president may stand upon his constitutional prerogative and deny congress the privilege of performing an executive function in recognizing the independence of Cuba; but it would be vastly better that such a denial should not be necessary. The president's policy thus far has been wise and admirable. His suggestions for the future are fraught with far-seeing statesmanship. He has proven himself worthy of trust and he ought to be sustained.

BUSINESS AND WAR.

The bank clearings for the past week show a handsome incease over those of the corresponding week of last year. The business of the country is evidently not seriously disturbed by the menace of international hostilities. The commercial agencies report surprisingly stable conditions on the markets. Here in Kansas City, for example, there is no sign of depression. On the contrary the prosperity inaugurated some time ago seems to be gaining with its own momentum. Building permits for private residences, averaging about ten a day, are being issued, and there are plenty of other evidences of uninterrupted growth.

The stability of business under such general excitement as prevails in the country at this time is the best possible evidence that the people have the greatest confidence in the national administration and its policies.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

The question of recognition is of no particular interest to Spain. Spain is good for a licking in any case.

Will Uncle Sam have to shoot, or will the Spanish coon come down? The outlook is for a mangled varmint.

So far as we have been able to ascertain from the data at hand, Spain is not carrying a membership in any "Don't Worry" club.

Spain and Austria are much displeased with Mr. Bull's attitude. Mr. Bull will neither intimidate the pugnacious Yankee nor permit anybody else to.

The evening newspaper is a good thing in its way, when properly conducted. It gives the public a hint of the feast that is going to be served next morning.

Things are settling down to a more rational basis. Editor Medill has quit declaring that "war exists" and is calmly discussing "The Impending Conflict."

Years ago—about the time of Grant's second election, for instance—it would have been difficult to persuade people that "Dixie" would ever be played as a national air in this country.

It is unfortunate for the Spanish government that danger of revolution will not permit peaceful surrender of Cuba, because the alternative is of large caliber and is loaded to the muzzle.

There is still a contention as to who blew up the Maine, but when the war cloud rolls away there will be no room for two opinions as to who punished the perpetrator of the crime.

Havana papers speak of General Lee as "a Yankee frightened out of Cuba." It will not be a great many days until somebody else will be frightened out of Cuba, and it will not be Yankees either.

Luckily the kind of craft our navy stands most in need of can be quickly provided. It requires only a few weeks to convert tugs and other small vessels into torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers.

When a level-headed newspaper takes the public into its confidence and gives the assurance that it is the most enterprising publication in the United States—but then no level-headed newspaper ever does that.

There is nothing so despicable as tyrants who starve helpless women and children to death, unless it be members of congress who assail the character and motives of the country's president at a time like this.

Having thoroughly frightened and cowed the Spaniards with their thundering oratory our statesmen at Washington, it is said, will speedily adjourn and leave the perfunctory work of winding up the war to the president.

Spain is counting on doing a big business in the privateer line. Somebody who has the private ear of Spain should persuade her to give up that idea in the interest of her own health. The American trade of the European powers is too important to interfere with safely.

MISSOURI POINTS.

With appropriately impressive ceremonies, which will include an oration by Dr. Quayle, of Kansas City, the cornerstone of Cameron's new $12,000 Methodist church will be laid to-morrow.

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The Canton Press graphically sets forth the availability of Missouri's Coburn, Colonel Rippey, of the board of agriculture, as a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, and strongly urges his nomination.

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The Republic lists Lloyd, Cooney, Robb, Cochran, Bland, DeArmond, Clark, Benton and Cowherd as the Democratic congressmen in Missouri who are likely to have no opposition for a renomination.

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General Horne's paper, the Marshall Democrat-News, very naturally gives vigorous support to the candidacy of Judge Valliant for the place on the supreme bench now occupied by Appointee Marshall, the governor's candidate.

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Practically all of the able-bodied Democrats in Jefferson City who have not decided to seek the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth or who are not otherwise provided for, are said to be chasing the nomination for sheriff of Cole county.

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Champ Clark unfortunately finds himself with nothing but the seeds of discontent left for his clamorous Pike county constituents, his allotment of congressional "garden sass" having been entirely exhausted in supplying other portions of the district.

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A fossilized rattlesnake, of unusual size and said to be more than 300 years old, has been placed on exhibition in the window of the Herald office, in Columbia, but the saloonkeepers in the neighborhood are protesting so vigorously that it is likely it will have to be removed from view.

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Talk of resources! Why the little town of Maryville, up in Nodaway county, it is claimed, can contribute the full membership of a complete company of militia from among the applicants for the street commissionership there, and still have enough material from which to select the required official.

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The annual address before the university will be delivered by Dr. William B. Smith, formerly of the Columbia faculty, but now professor of mathematics in Tulane university, at New Orleans, on May 31. The commencement day address will be by Editor William V. Byars, of the Mississippi Valley Democrat.

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Secretary Lesueur and Treasurer Pitts watched the gathering of the war cloud at Washington last week. Both of these state officials were gallant wearers of the gray in the civil war, Treasurer Pitts having lost an arm, while Secretary Lesueur saw hard service in charge of a battery under "Pap" Price.

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Dr. Tyler, the ex-mayor of Joplin, charged with performing a criminal operation upon Clara Patterson, of Neosho, which ultimately resulted in her death, was discharged Saturday at the conclusion of the preliminary examination at Joplin. The case occupied four days and was very sensational, but the prosecution failed to make a case against the physician.

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"What do the Democratic voters of Gentry county know about this scheme? What do the friends of grand old Cockrell think of doing to prevent such a diabolical outrage," shrieks the Albany Ledger by way of comment on the Republican's story of the diabolical plot through which little Lonnie is said to be scheming to steal his seat in the senate from the venerable promoter of vegetation.

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Skidmore came near having a disastrous conflagration recently as a result of a fire that was started in a singular manner. Some boys were playing with a sun glass, through which a lot of rubbish was ignited. The boys became frightened and ran away without extinguishing the flames, and it was only through chance that the fire was discovered and put out in time to prevent serious damage.

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George W. Burroughs is a Columbia man who has made a success of raising the finest of English mushrooms in a modest way in his kitchen garden. He purposes going into it extensively if the market promises well. The method recommended by the horticultural department at the university was the one pursued with such favorable results by Mr. Burroughs in his culture of the mushrooms.

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The announcement is made of the approaching marriage of Dr. J. S. Blackwell, of Columbia, to Miss Edith Katherine Hardin, formerly of Kentucky, but now of Philadelphia. Miss Hardin has spent the last ten years in Europe studying music, art and the languages, and is now at Nice. The marriage is to take place at the American legation in Paris, or perhaps in Camden, N. J., some time this summer.

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The Tri-State Press Association gathering at Eureka Springs, Ark., May 25, 26 and 27, promises to be an interesting and well attended affair. The Texas and Arkansas editors will meet their Missouri brethren there, and it is said to be purposed that a bond of fraternal union shall then be perfected among them, even though it may exhaust the entire available supply of liquid cement in that region for the accomplishment of so felicitous a result.

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Chicago Chronicle: Senator Money, who hails from the state of Mississippi, is a fighter. He regrets the affair in the senate very much, not because he called Wellington a liar, but because of the place in which it occurred. Some years ago when Money was a member of the lower house, he had a "scrap" with a fellow member from Missouri named Hall. It occurred in a certain committee room. Money called Hall a liar and Hall responded by throwing an inkwell at Money.

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In declaring without foundation the story published a few days ago as to the purpose, suddenly abandoned, however, of some of the Albany jingoes to burn President McKinley in effigy, the Ledger of that city, stalwart Democratic though it is, takes occasion to say: "The fact is, nearly every business man is better satisfied with McKinley's so-called slow action in dealing with the war question than with the demagogic congressmen who have been doing their best to get the country into a war for no other purpose than political advancement for themselves."

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A singular and distressing phenomenon occurred last week in Callaway county shortly after the death of Mrs. Thomas Allen. The interment was to take place in Vandalia. When the appointed day arrived signs apparently of life were manifest on the body, drops of perspiration appearing on the forehead. The funeral was postponed, and several physicians were called in for consultation. The husband was almost beside himself and the whole neighborhood was horrified at the narrowness of what seemingly was an escape from burial alive. After careful examination and deliberation, however, the doctors pronounced the body lifeless, and the interment took place the next day. The physicians say they can offer no explanation of the strange circumstance.

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Mrs. J. J. Osborn, of Brookfield, received a letter Saturday, the Gazette says, from her son, Ollie, who left Cameron August 5, 1897, for Alaska. The letter was written November 20 at Rampart City, on the Mynook creek, a town of 400 inhabitants. It is located 940 miles from Dawson City. It required $1 to get the letter carried from Rampart City to Circle City, and at the latter place it came over the regular mail route, starting December 1. Ollie says he is well and rugged, but has had enough experiences and hardships to fill a volume; that he wouldn't advise anyone to come; that Rampart contains eight or nine women, and not one of them but what would probably give all the gold in Alaska to be back home again, but that for a man who can stand privations and hard work, with prospects of millions ahead, the situation is not so bad. He states that all the members of his party were well; that they had taken up town lots at Rampart by paying the recorder's fee of $2.50, and had built cabins thereon; that they have located gold claims on Mynook creek, and that old miners say the prospects are better at that point than they were at Dawson City in the beginning of the gold excitement; that they would remain there until June, anyway, and would probably know by February as to how their claims would turn out. He says an Indian who had just arrived from Dawson City reported the people of that place on the verge of starvation; that 10,000 people have gone over the pass without provisions; that flour was $600 per sack, bacon $40 per pound, candles $2 each, potatoes $1 each and everything else in proportion. Mr. Osborn, who has had the advantage of extensive travel in foreign countries, says the scenery of Alaska is grand and compares favorably with any he has ever seen; there is a stillness and freshness in Alaska to be found in no other country. The night before he wrote the thermometer was 38 deg. below zero, but still he was so well provided with wraps that he had not suffered from cold up to that time. He says the sun was then rising at 9 and going down at 3 o'clock, and that the days would soon be so short that the moon and stars could be seen at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

FEMININE FACT AND FANCY.

Forty-seven women have just been added to the number of New York city lawyers.

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In the natural order of things comes the agitation, started by a certain class of New York women, for women's smoking apartments in railway cars.

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"This getting married," remarks your bachelor friend, "is like renting a door for the purpose of keeping a wolf from it."

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Says one who knows: Woman is deliberately cruel; man thoughtlessly so. man needn't pat himself on the back and immediately conclude that he possesses the less cruel form of cruelty. To be thoughtlessly cruel carries more heartaches with it, more disappointments, more discouragements, than deliberate cruelty. One knows how to meet and fight a woman who is deliberately cruel, but one never knows what to expect from a thoughtlessly cruel man.

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The oldest married couple in the world is believed to have been Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller, of Niles, Mich., who died this month within a day of each other. Their respective ages were 107 and 109 and they had been married eighty-nine years.

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A rather trying situation is that in which Madame Patenotre, the American wife of the French ambassador at Madrid, finds herself. Madame Patenotre has just sailed for Spain, and it has been suggested that about the time she is paying her respects to the queen regent the American fleet may be bombarding Havana, while her father, who is James Elverson, of the Philadelphia Inquirer, is helping to keep up the war spirit at home through the columns of his paper. Madame Patenotre refused to speak for publication before sailing, but her brother speaks for her: "You can readily understand," he explains, "as the wife of a diplomatic agent she cannot speak for fear of committing her husband. She is an American girl, with American ideas, and if she is at Madrid during possible complications between Spain and this country her position will be most delicate. Of course, as the wife of a Frenchman, she is now really a Frenchwoman, and whatever her sympathies may be she is, diplomatically, a subject of France."

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The followng decree of Miss Frances E. Willard, whose remains have just been cremated, was found inscribed in her autobiograph: "Having the purpose of helping forward progressive movements, even in my latest hours, I decree that the earthy mantle which I shall drop ere long, when my real self passes onward into the world unseen, shall be swiftly enfolded in flames and rendered powerless harmfully to affect the health of the living.

"Let no friend of mine say aught to prevent the cremation of my cast-off body."

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Women are to be permitted this year to enter the annual bicycle century run of the congress of wheelmen of Newark, N. J., which will be held late in May.

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Dr. Mary Walker, of Washington, D. C.: "I have been arrested thirteen times 'for wearing men's clothes,' but the 'soft impeachment' has been false. How can clothes be 'men's' when a woman is the wearer, the owner, the purchaser? I confess to be so lacking in brains that I cannot comprehend man's ownership of my garments."

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"A pioneer of higher education for woman" is the title bestowed upon Mrs. Emma Willard, the founder of the Troy Female seminary, by the compilers of the story of her life, soon to be published under the title, "Emma Willard and Her Pupils." Mrs. Willard is also known as the composer of the words to the song, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," and as the editor of many textbooks which were compiled for use in the seminary. It is said also that many distinguished women of to-day owe their careers to the training which they received at the old Willard school. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the well known advocate for woman suffrage, was a member of the class of '33. Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, the famous novelist, was another distinguished pupil. Mrs. Cyrus McCormick was known in 1854 at the Troy seminary as Nettie Fowler. She has been a most liberal patron of educational institutions in Chicago.

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It is reported that there is something new in the belt line for the college girl, or rather the girl who has a fondness for college students. It is a belt made of the flags of the leading universities and colleges in this part of the world. These flags are linked together by silver chains, gilded, and the effect is as gay as a happy college boy's heart. The blue emblem of Yale waves side by side with the crimson of Harvard, and Columbia, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rutgers and all the others are represented.

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The marriage question, after all, is one of considerable interest, and so are the following statistics which some one has been kind enough to dig up: Between 15 and 19 only one girl out of seventy-three marries. Marriages used to be much earlier, and Miss Austen's delightful Marion Dashwood maintained that after 24 a woman could no longer expect to be loved for herself. In the old novels 19 was about the extreme limit of age for a heroine and 17 was perhaps the most popular.

Between 20 and 24 one girl out of thirteen marries, but the most-marrying age for spinsters (one in eight) is between 25 and 29, after they have "coiffed St. Katherine." After 25 young ladies were called "thornbacks" by the much-marrying Puritans of New England, who preferred widows.

Widows throughout life have a greater chance of remarrying than girls have of marrying. The elder Mr. Weller has prophesied in vain, "A little widow is a dangerous thing," probably because it is easier to glide into confidences with a lady who has known affliction. Widows from 20 to 34 are especially noted for what, from the point of view of girls, is mere poaching.

A widower remarries more than bachelors marry. A widower thinks he knows the worst and marries again at large. "Appetite grows with eating," as Bluebeard may have remarked. A widower from 25 to 34 belongs to the most-marrying group in existence, except perhaps tutors of colleges.

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The following is extracted from a long letter received at Chicago from a Cuban woman refugee in this country:

"We Cubans want to be trained like Americans. We want freedom, and do not want to be treated worse than slaves. We want to be treated like men and women—not like dogs. We want to be treated like human beings, as you are in this country. The Spanish don't treat us like that. If we earn a dollar a day, 60 cents of that goes to the home government; then 20 cents out of the other 40 cents goes to help the Spanish soldier, to keep him fat and strong to kill you when he is ready. You have 20 cents left to keep yourself and family. Now, suppose you have two or three children, very often many more, for my countrywomen marry very young; but, suppose, as I said before, you have two or three; how are you going to bring them up as you do in this country? It can't be done, as a father and mother wish to bring up their children as they should be raised.

"Please, senor, be kind enough to let me know when you start for Cuba, as I want you to do me the favor to tell Gomez about me, and I want to know if he has my oldest boy with him yet. The only thing that is keeping me alive is the hope of seeing my boy again, and to see him some day in his father's place—a man of honor and a fighter for his country and people; for that is a Cuban's heritage from one generation to another until we tear down the murderous flag of Spain from the land. We want wars and wars, and we will either have independence or death.

"God bless and keep you and your gallant fighters, senor, is the prayer of a poor, crippled Cuban woman, who has suffered from Spanish rule or misrule. Yours respectfully,

"ANTONIA H. MACEO HOLLIS."

Edison on War With Spain.

From the New York Press.

"I can produce a light," said Thomas A. Edison in his laboratory at West Orange yesterday, "that will render absolutely harmless Spain's terrible torpedo flotillas we read so much about. Science has found a way to destroy the mines Spain has planted in the harbors of Cuba. More important still, science tells us how we can march our armies from one end of Cuba to the other this summer, and in the rainy season, too, and lose hardly a man from the dread malarial and yellow fevers."

As to certain published statements to the effect that Mr. Edison had invented electrical apparatus that will work all kinds of destruction in case of war, he said:

"All such statements are imaginative. No such things are needed, nor does science do its work through any such methods. Science does its work in legitimate and straightforward ways, and it stands ready to-day to afford the United States army and navy just what it needs.

"As to the light that renders absolutely harmless these terrible torpedo flotillas? Well, the torpedo boat is a demon of darkness only. It is an enemy that creeps upon its foe in the night. In the daylight it is as useless as the eyes of an owl. In the daytime it can be seen and blown to pieces before its gets near enough to do any damage.

"In order that an object may be observed distinctly the light must be behind it. It must appear in silhouette. Ignite a bonfire behind a tree, for instance, and you can see its outline distinctly.

"By the use of chemicals which ignite and produce a light when brought into contact with water, the ocean can be lighted up for about four square miles about any of our vessels. That is an ample distance to render a torpedo boat useless, for the moment the latter appears within the horizon of the little span of day thus made she becomes easily visible, and within two minutes she can be riddled by the modern rapid fire guns.

"The chemical I suggest can be thrown out from the ship or fleet it is to protect from guns of peculiar construction. It is all very simple and not so expensive as might be imagined."

The wizard was asked to elaborate on his idea of protecting the health of the army of occupation in Cuba.

"Science can do a great deal for that army," he replied. "I am willing to lay a wager that I can take 100 men into Cuba and spend the summer in the worst districts of the island and not lose a man, no, not one. And the same thing can be done for the army.

"How? The solution is as simple as standing the egg on end. All that is necessary is care and a little knowledge. Let nothing go into the stomach of any man that has not been boiled; nothing that has not been subjected to 212 degrees of heat. The problem is easy. Yellow fever be ——! Excuse my emphasis, but it is as easily whipped as yellow soldiery."

Mr. Edison said he had no plans for the destruction of the mines in the harbors of Cuba. He would leave that to the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius and the dynamite cruiser Nictheroy, which, it has been reported, the United States is to buy from Brazil. How these little vessels can make a harbor safe by literally blasting a way for our warships has been told in the Press. Besides, the army engineers are well up in countermining. Mr. Edison thought he could not help the army and navy much on mines. He said we would have a great advantage in the mine question because Spain has no boats like the Vesuvius and the Nictheroy.

Mr. Edison said he had no doubt that electricity would play an important part in the war, and he pointed out that the Spaniards have little or no inventive genius. In this particular, he said, the Americans would have a great advantage.

All in all, Mr. Edison isn't worried a little bit about the outcome of a war with Spain.

An Overland Sailor.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Charles H. Walker, a shipwrecked whaler, has come to Edmonton, beyond Manitoba, in British America, with news of four crews that he left dismissed in the Arctic ocean. He had traveled 3,000 miles overland, occupying five months in the journey, and reaching a station in the very heart of the Northern wilderness. It seems a strange course for a shipwrecked sailor.

And yet it was the only feasible one. Our ideas of the continent's magnitude, and even of the continent's geography, may be disturbed, but a little study of the map will set the matter right. The whalers were frozen in, crushed and abandoned when off Point Barrow, the very northernmost land in Alaska. There was little hope in crossing Alaska to the settlements of Sitka or those nearer ones beyond Cook's inlet. No one at those places could go to the relief of the whalers, and there is no telegraph by which the world could be notified. So the intrepid sailor turned his back on the sea and addressed himself to the task of piercing a continent. At Herschel island he found a dog team and natives, and struck at once up the course of the Mackenzie river. Through the highway afforded by that and by the Athabasca he avoided mountain ranges, and so came to the most northerly telegraph station.

His "owners" are in San Francisco, and he is but little over half way to them. But the problem of his rescue journey is solved, for the telegraph gives him speech with the world and the trains can carry him swiftly.

Incidentally the journey of Sailor Charles Walker shows the feasibility of the overland trip to the Klondike country. He has held to the east slope of the Rocky mountain range. But there are numerous passes by which the western slope may be reached. Indeed, the source of Mackenzie river lies west of the Rocky mountains and very near indeed to the lake source of the mighty Yukon. Such highway as a frozen stream may afford is provided nearly all the way from Edmonton to the mines.

The sailors for whom he made this perilous trip had, with short rations, provisions for six months. There will be haste to meet them with food at the open water of Bering sea.

Why Not Recognition?

From the Philadelphia Press.

In one of three conditions the United States must find Cuba when its military and land forces land there. Cuba must either be under Spanish sovereignty, in which case the United States proposes to wrest it from Spain, or it must be the territory of the Cuban republic, in which case our forces, like those of France during our Revolution, must be under Cuban orders while in Cuban territory, as Rochambeau was under Washington's orders, and General Miles would now be under Gomez' orders, or Cuba must be under the third condition, which President McKinley lays down, a territory in which Spanish sovereignty has ceased to be efficacious and no other authority has taken its place, so that some power must interfere to organize a stable government.

Under one of these three conditions the United States must act. Recognition selects and creates the condition most embarrassing for us from start to finish. Under it the United States enters the territory of a republic whose laws and officers its military forces must regard, respect and obey. With its constitution we must comply. With its courts, civil or military, we cannot interfere. If it enters on bloody Spanish reprisals or on confiscation and exile, with its independent action the United States cannot interfere because by its own act it has recognized the republic as de facto and de jure sovereign in Cuba, and this fiat sovereignty has its natural and legitimate defender and advocate in Bryan, the defender and advocate of fiat dollars.

Not satisfied with the difficulty of recognition, the senate resolution adds the absurdity of accepting Spanish government and authority as in existence by ordering the president to end it, and yet demanding the withdrawal of Spanish troops from a country which, in the same breath, we declare Spanish. At the proper stage, when Spanish troops prove in the way of establishing order, the United States would have a right to expel or disarm them, but it has a right to do this only in the course of the proper work to which it is called by the anarchy of the island.

Anarchy or loss of order, the third condition, in which the island is, in fact, and which a score of precedents recognize as good reason in law for interference, offers all the advantage and none of the obstacles presented by the other two. Assert that condition and recognize it and Spain's sovereignty is at an end, as far as our action is concerned; no other sovereignty is in the way, the military forces act to preserve order—a course and work for which we have precedents and on which our courts have passed—the United States is committed to nothing and has no perplexing issues of debt to decide. Its forces are there not as tenants but as policemen and firemen. They give peace and create order untrammeled by any sovereignty, and when this work is done Cuba creates its own sovereignty and deals itself with whatever debts and liabilities may exist on the territory concerned.

In short, by recognizing in Cuba only facts and no fictions, the United States enters Cuba with free hands to restore order, neither waging war on Spain nor as an ally of the "republic," and is free to do its proper work and incur no obligations whatever, past, present or to come, save those of civilization and humanity.

Comparative Fleet Power.

From the New York Sun.

One way of computing the comparative power of warships is to estimate the foot-tons of fire energy for three minutes' fire. True, the fire energy of one 12-inch gun for three minutes' fire would be 66,040 foot-tons while that of a 9-inch would be 31,500 foot-tons. This estimate takes no account of armor, and hence its usefulness as a mode of comparison is confined to ships of the same or similar classes. But this qualification is equally applicable to every other basis of comparison whatever. To illustrate, take the great cruiser Powerful with her 14,200 tons and her two 9.2-inch guns. It does not follow that she would be a match for a monitor of 3,000 tons and carrying a single 10-inch or even a single 9-inch gun. Yet the disparity indicated by relative weight of metal is far less than that indicated by tonnage, while as fighting units pitted against one another the monitor, so inferior measured by either of the foregoing tests, ought to prove the superior.

The Russian and English fleets now in Chinese waters are composed of ships of all classes, from those of the battle-line to protected cruisers; moreover the proportions in which the classes are represented are not so unequal as to call for any correction to be applied on that account. And it is interesting to observe that the Russians' fire energy for three minutes' fire is 3,242,824 foot-tons and that the Englishmen's is 6,116,336 foot-tons. The second, it will be observed, is nearly double the first, yet England seems not to have made any sensible draft upon her vast navy, while Russia's squadron leaves a distinct gap. Nine of the British squadron combine a heavier gun fire than that of the whole American fighting line; this is not saying that the nine English ships would be a fighting match for the American line; they would be nowhere near it on account of difference of type. But the comparison is not useless as suggesting a measure of the sea power which Britain has assembled in the Chinese seas, hopelessly overmatching that of her three rivals in the same seas, while they all know that her reserves will still spare squadrons exceeding in strength their entire fleets, and yet leave her coasts more than adequately guarded.

Hardships of a Patriot.

From the Chicago Tribune.

"William, you have made us wait supper for you nearly two hours."

"I've been reading the bulletins from Washington."

"And I've had to carry in the coal and kindling myself."

"That isn't anything to what I've had to suffer. I've had all my corns crushed, caught cold, and lengthened my neck four inches. We've all got to put up with some inconveniences when the country is in danger, Miranda. I wish you would warm these potatoes over and make some fresh tea. I'm hungry."

Work Wanted.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

Weary Watkins—"How would you like to gimme a job, my friend?"

Eat'nghouse manager—"I don't think you would do, unless you could get some more decent clothes."

"Oh, the rags won't cut no ice. I thort you might gimme a job of samplin' pies. A man that has had as many different kinds and brands of pie handed to him as I have in the las' fifteen year ort to be somethin' of a expert."

THE OLD MUSIC BOOK.

I turn with silent reverence
Its unknown pages o'er,
The dusky lines inspire a sense
Of something heard before,
In days long past in other lands,
Of ancient melodies,
Old harpsichords, and gentle hands
That touched the ivory keys.

The book a hundred fancies wears
On every yellow page,
Sonatas quaint, forgotten airs,
The notes all dim with age,
And variations long wore out,
And faded songs and old,
With frills and turnings all about,
And graces manifold.

Perchance in those old bygone days
My lady sat and played
In broidered stomacher of maize,
And flowered blue brocade.
Her lissome fingers dancing ran
Through many a florid strain,
Until Miss Belle behind her fan
Begged "that sweet piece again."

Perchance, when summer nights were long
And soft winds swept the meadows,
Some amorous youth poured out his song
To Chloe through the shadows,
Or beaux with belles of higher state,
In some well-lit pavilion,
Trod graceful through this minuet,
Or figured this cotillion.

So vagrant fancies through the mind
Play fitful now and then.
As, with a smile and sigh combined,
I close the book again.
I dare not touch its music old
In this rude modern day,
Hallowed by fingers long since cold,
And voices passed away.

—Washington Post.

CALLING THE FLOWERS.

Wake! daffy-down-dilly, tucked under the snow!
Turn softly, I pray, on your pillow of down;
Come! stretch your sweet limbs now, my pretty, and grow—
Grow fast, to the size of your yellow spring gown.

Little crocus, asleep 'mid the roots of the grass,
Come up for your mantle of purple or gold;
And, my dear, give the snowdrop a nudge as you pass,
'Tis time for her white frock, in spite of the cold.

The woodpecker plumes in the orchard his crest;
And there is a bluebird this minute! The dear!
Wake up, little blossom! 'tis time to be dressed.
Hurry up now, my pretties, the Spring is right here!

—S. W. Brooks.

"WHAT OUR WISE PHILOSOPHY?"

What is social economy
But a babbling summer stream?
What our wise philosophy
But the glancing of a dream?

—Christopher P. Cranch.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

For the mere pittance of $2,625 a year the London commissioners of inland revenue have licensed the "Omnibus and Tramcar Cigarette Automatic Supply Company," capital $500,000, in 100,000 shares at $5 each, to supply the public with cigarettes from boxes placed on the vehicles of the General Omnibus Company, the Road Car Company, the North Metropolitan Tramway Company, and Messrs. Tilling & Co., and by and by on the cars of the Central Electric railway. Over 150,000,000 passengers are carried annually by the General Omnibus Company alone. Four thousand machines in all will be used, the cost of the cigarettes for the same being $114,000, and the estimated sales, at the lowest possible calculation—1 penny per trip—$520,000. Deducting the expenses the net profits will be over 40 per cent per annum. A similar institution, the Automatic Sweetmeat Supply Company, with a capital of $1,500,000, pays 20 per cent, its $5 shares being quoted in the market at $20.

In statements regarding the common interests existing between Great Britain and the United States it is sometimes said that three months' blockade of American ports would reduce the United Kingdom to a condition of starvation. The current reports of the board of trade and the board of agriculture of Great Britain furnish some interesting statistics bearing on the subject. It appears from these reports that during the year 1897 ony 28.5 per cent of the wheat and wheat flour used in the United Kingdom was grown in Great Britain. And of the imported supplies, it is noteworthy that only 6.3 per cent was grown in British colonies and possessions. As to the remaining 67.2 per cent, or more than two-thirds of what is required, the United States furnished 43.9 per cent, Russia, 13.6 per cent, and other countries, 9.7 per cent.

One of the smartest mendicants in New York is called the "bread thrower." He is a professional, and his confederate is a smart dog, and his "properties" are bits of moldy bread. Here's his game: He slouches along a chosen street, and the first thing the passerby knows of his presence is when they see him jump toward the gutter with a wolfish cry, and the next moment he will be fighting with a mangy dog for a piece of dirty bread the latter has found on the sidewalk. This spectacle brings the quarters every time. He turned the trick on a crowded street one pleasant afternoon last week and made more money in ten minutes than some of the brokers in Wall street did between gavel and gong.

One of the stories that the late James Payn liked most to tell was about what he called an American duel, wherein two duelists, with one second, met within doors and drew lots to decide which should shoot himself. A was the unlucky man, and without a word he retired into the next apartment to carry out the purpose of self-destruction. B and the second, both very much moved by the tragedy of the situation, remained in listening attitudes