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Weather Forecast for Tuesday.

Washington, April 25.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Fair weather; southerly winds.

For Nebraska: Fair and warmer; southerly winds.

For Missouri: Fair Tuesday; warmer; northerly winds.

For Kansas: Fair and warmer; westerly shifting to southerly winds.

A RIGHTEOUS PROTEST.

The Democrats of the senate and the house have a right to protest against the treatment they have received in the framing of the war revenue bill. The bill itself is a wise measure. It places the war tax upon shoulders best able to bear the burden and shields the weak from overtaxation. But it is not a party measure and should not have been treated as such. The minority members of the committee should have been permitted to assist in its framing, as the votes of their party are expected to help in giving it speedy passage.

The Democrats of the senate and house, with some exceptions, have rallied to the call for Americanism and the subordination of partisanism in the present crisis. The president has been upheld. Intervention in the affairs of Cuba is now a fact. The resolution authorizing a declaration of war has been passed without debate. It is simple justice that while the administration party is calling upon the other wing of national politics for support in decreeing hostilities, due consideration should be given the minority in framing measures for the prosecution of war.

LITTLE FEAR OF YELLOW FEVER.

Dr. Walter Wyman, chief of the United States quarantine service, is of opinion that our armies in Cuba will not suffer from yellow fever as much as some people suppose. It has been authoritatively shown that yellow fever is never very prevalent on the high ground away from the ports, cities and swamps, and it has been established also that a close observance of certain sanitary rules brings immunity from the disease even in districts where it is ravaging. It is believed that the great losses in the Spanish army are due to causes which the Americans may avert by staying as much as possible in the high lands while living upon wholesome and nutritious food. The Spaniards have for the greater part been concentrated at the seaports, which not only are most directly exposed to the infection but also invite it by their total neglect of sanitary precautions.

Colonel Fred Funston, the Kansas man who served for nearly two years in the insurgent army, says yellow fever was not prevalent at any time in the insurgent camps, and he thinks this immunity was acquired through very simple sanitary measures which the natives have learned to apply. The first prime requisite is to keep the person dry. The insurgents never sleep upon the damp ground, but repose in simple hammocks suspended from the trees. That the war department is in possession of this useful piece of information is sufficiently indicated in the Saturday dispatches which relate that a contract has been let for a full supply of hammocks. The next essential is pure water. The germs of yellow fever are almost native to the water, and the method of getting rid of them is through boiling and filtration. Dr. Wyman is of opinion that a rigid rule will be established against the soldiers drinking water which has not been boiled and filtered, and, to make it practical, arrangements have already been completed for the apparatus required. The third requisite is clean, wholesome food, made up of fresh beef, well baked bread, and a large proportion of fresh or canned vegetables. The war department has already figured out a special schedule of rations for the Cuban expedition, and it differs in several particulars from the ordinary army bill of fare. As little as possible of fat meats will be used. The ordinary army ration of vegetables is one pound per day per man and 70 per cent of this is potatoes, the balance being canned vegetables. The Cuban ration will be composed of fresh onions, fresh tomatoes, fresh beets, fresh turnips, fresh carrots and fresh squash in the proportion of about 60 per cent, leaving but 40 per cent for the potatoes and other vegetables served out.

The war department is notified by the medical department that the use of alcoholic beverages of any kind is very dangerous in yellow fever districts, and an order will be issued absolutely prohibiting the presence of liquor in any camp. This will be something new in the history of armies, and it will form an innovation that bodes but little of prosperity for camp sutlers. The spectacle of an army of 125,000 men passing through a campaign without the use of liquor of any sort is one the world has never gazed upon before, and perhaps never will again.

One very gratifying circumstance in connection with the proposed campaign in Cuba is the ability of the government to supply its troops with everything needful. The army will be comparatively a small one, and at all times easy of reach. It is impossible that the circumstances of the civil war, when the soldiers oftentimes suffered for food, clothing, medicine, attendance and transportation, can be repeated. Nothing need be lacking to preserve the health and comfort of the expedition, for its demands will be ridiculously small when compared with the breadth of our resources. That the government intends to spare no pains in arranging for the comfort of the Cuban army was indicated by a little telegram from Washington which appeared in the Sunday papers, but which no doubt escaped the attention of the average reader. It related that a contract had been let for 1,000,000 yards of mosquito netting for the use of the war department, and this means that every soldier will be able to exclude the pests which otherwise would be sure to disturb his slumbers. However, it may be interesting to note that this mosquito-net provision is not solely for the comfort of the soldier, for it is part of the sanitary methods to be pursued. It is believed by medical authorities that flies, mosquitoes and other insects are able to carry about the germs of yellow fever, and it has been decided to protect the men for this reason.

All in all, the danger from infection is to be reduced to the minimum, and there is scarcely a probability that our army will be greatly decimated by the dread disease. This immunity seems all the more probable from the experiences had by the Spanish soldiers. With scarcely any attention to sanitary precautions the Spanish have lost but one soldier out of four during the two years and more they have been campaigning against the insurgents. If the government goes into Cuba strong enough to carry the island with a rush, it is quite conceivable that our army may escape fever losses entirely. In this connection it is worthy of note that, though the rainy season is practically on, there is little yellow fever anywhere about the island, even Havana being unusually free.

SECRETARY SHERMAN'S RETIREMENT.

The retirement of Secretary Sherman from President McKinley's cabinet will be advantageous alike to Mr. Sherman and the state department. Mr. Sherman's physical condition is no longer compatible with the onerous duties of the office he has been holding, and in such a crisis as the present it is particularly desirable that the leading positions in the cabinet should be filled by men of vigor and endurance. For some time the duties of secretary of state have devolved almost wholly upon the assistant secretary, Judge Day, Mr. Sherman's part in their discharge being little more than nominal. That Mr. Day will be promoted is a foregone conclusion. There will consequently be no disturbance of order in the official family through the resignation of Mr. Sherman.

The retirement of Secretary Sherman will end the public career of a distinguished and representative American statesman. The personal character and public services of John Sherman have left their impress upon American history. Mr. Sherman comes of illustrious stock. Inheriting taste and talent for public life, he developed both through close, devoted and tireless application. He was dependent from early boyhood upon his own efforts, and the career that he made is but another striking example of the possibilities afforded by the government and institutions of this country.

Mr. Sherman took his seat in congress in 1855 and as early as his second term was the recognized leader of the house, being an able speaker on nearly every issue that came before that body. He succeeded Salmon P. Chase as senator in 1861. While he did not resign his office to enter the active service, he served for a time on the staff of General Robert Patterson, and on the fall of Fort Sumter organized a brigade, largely at his own expense, consisting of 2,300 men. This body served through the entire war and was known as "Sherman's brigade."

Mr. Sherman's public services as a financier have entitled him to the undying gratitude of the American people. It was largely through his guidance that the crippled finances of 1860 were repaired by the passage of the bill authorizing the issue of treasury notes. He was of inestimable service in providing ways and means to strengthen public credit and provide for the support of the army during the civil war. It was he who made the treasury notes legal tender and it was through the force of his arguments that congress mustered up courage to set a date for the resumption of specie payments. As secretary of the treasury from 1877 to 1881 he had large scope for his financial policies.

Mr. Sherman was several times a formidable candidate for the presidency. His strength before the conventions was his admirable statesmanship. While he failed to receive the greatest honors within the gift of his country, his achievements as a senator and as a cabinet officer gave him a place in the highest ranks of statesmanship. It would have been gratifying if President McKinley's effort to round out this noble career could have been realized; but Mr. Sherman's failing health has made this impossible. However, the fact that the retiring secretary is unable to fill the duties of the position he has just vacated cannot dim the luster of his past services. In all probability the public career of John Sherman is concluded.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

Poor old Spain is to be pitied, but she is also to be punished. Her crimes are greater than her misfortunes.

It can be said for the American people that they rush to defend the country as enthusiastically as to fill its offices.

In regard to those 125,000 volunteers, it may be remarked that there are plenty more where they are coming from.

Our European critics are inclined to look on the McKinley doctrine as an aggravated form of the odious Monroe doctrine.

It is understood that Senator Elkins has not put in a claim for the pen with which the president signed the war resolutions.

Russia and Germany will be interested and impartial lookers-on, but Great Britain will go a little further and hold our coat.

Admiral Sampson must be strongly tempted to throw a few tons of steel into Havana merely as an evidence of good faith.

If the Spanish fleet will come within fighting distance our navy will give a still better evidence of war than a formal declaration.

Senor Polo seems to have stopped in Canada for the purpose of airing the peppery views he was compelled to keep corked up while in this country.

Yesterday seems to have been rather a dull day with Admiral Sampson. Only about half a dozen Spanish prizes were captured.

Minister Woodford might escape from his reputation as a strenuous pleader for peace by offering to raise a regiment and lead it to the front.

Every hour or so one of our ships happens to remember the Maine, and dashes out to chase a Spanish merchantman down the Cuban coast.

It is unnecessary to say that the regiments which the president has asked of Missouri and Kansas will be chock full and crowding the limit.

The report that the Topeka had foundered appears to have been without basis. If there is anything the matter with the Topeka it is probably nothing more than a little drug store dizziness.

The skies of Spain are as sunny as those of Kansas, which shows that sunshine is not all that is necessary to make a country wideawake and progressive.

A sensational rumor was afloat yesterday that a Kansas City minister had preached a sermon on some other subject than war. It was quickly discredited.

Indications are strong that if the Spanish squadron at the Philippines is not speedily removed it is going to get caught in the worst hailstorm ever seen in those waters.

KANSAS TOPICS.

Having caught the Pedro, it is only a question of time when we will also count up high, low, jack and the game.

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Bill Morgan pleads with his readers not to become despondent when news comes that the Spanish have caught an American vessel. In fly time there are bound to be some specks on the window pane.

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It is said the Pops will campaign on the plea that Governor Leedy made Fred Funston a colonel. All right, but never forget that the Republican party made Fred Funston.

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There is a Spaniard living in Iola who proposes to avoid the necessity of taking his passports. He got the Register to print a piece last Saturday in which he declared he was for the Yankee side and would enlist if called upon.

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Every ship captured by a gunboat means a lot of money to her crew. It is said that S. C. King, the Atchison rich man, got his start with prize money earned during his naval service in the war of the rebellion.

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"Dis isn't goin' to be no cakewalk," said one of the soldiers in the colored regulars at the Topeka depot. "Dat's right, Eph," responded one of his comrades, "but hit looks pow'fully like a Spanish run."

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An Atchison girl who had changed her name from Mary to Marie changed it back last week when she found that Marie was always the Spanish form of the word.

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An Atchison jeweler was ordered to engrave "Remember the Giver" on a gold ring the other day, but he was so preoccupied with the war situation that he engraved, "Remember the Maine."

• • •

"Rah for 'Nited States of 'Merica!" shouted an old booze who was leaning up against a joint in Topeka. "My friend," said a passerby, "Getting drunk is a mighty poor way of showing your patriotism." "Tis, hey? Well, I (hic) guess you hain't heard 'bout that new tax on beer."

• • •

Perhaps the last American citizen out of Cuba before the blockade commenced was Miss McLaughlin, of Ottawa, who sent word on Saturday that she was safe on American soil. She was visiting her brother-in-law there. He is in the employ of the Spanish government and intends to remain at Havana.

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"Well," said a Topeka man as he finished perusing the dispatch about the capture of that lumber vessel, "it looks as though we had the dead wood on Spain."

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It was eminently the proper thing to call Colonel Funston to a high place in the service of his country, but he should have been assigned to the staff of the commanding general rather than placed in the line.

• • •

A tramp at Wichita remarked to the colored man who acts as flagman in the Santa Fe yards: "I hope those troops will get it just as the Maine did." When the ambulance came to carry the tramp away the colored flagman was still trying to kill him.

• • •

"I'll bet a dollar the United States gets licked," said a boy at the Wellington depot. "You say that again and I will slap you," said a girl who was standing near. The boy said it again and the girl gave him the worst scratching and thumping he ever received in all his born days.

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Among the regular soldiers who passed through Lawrence the other day was J. R. Stanley, who is a graduate of the law department of the state university. He enlisted several years ago.

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Ed Feist is the name of a prominent Fort Scott young man who astonished his friends by making it known last week that he had been married for nearly a year to Miss Hattie Brower, the daughter of a well known citizen. He made the matter public, he said, because he felt that he might be called to the war and wanted to leave the records straight.

• • •

The late Judge W. C. Webb never talked about his soldier pedigree, but he had a good one. His grandfather was a private in the Revolutionary war, and both his father and his grandfather served in the war of 1812. Himself and his oldest son served in the war of the rebellion, and in the same regiment were three of his brothers.

• • •

"Remember that Spain is a gold standard country," says the Stockton Alliance Signal in the course of an article justifying those Populists who are going to war. Now that Spain has returned to free silver the Signal will no doubt expect the Populist soldiery to lay down their arms and come home.

• • •

"Is it a fact that the Spanish refused to sign McKinley's multilumen?" inquired an old codger of a reporter for the Ottawa Herald. "It's a fact," responded the reporter. "Consarn 'em, then," said the old fellow; "I hope McKinley will go over to Cuba and run 'em all into the Mediterranean sea, the ignorant cusses!"

• • •

Captain Eastham, of Baxter Springs, communicates his indignation to the Columbus Courier over the fact that not a preacher in his town has yet offered up a prayer for the success of the American arms, and the Courier adds on its own account that not a Columbus preacher has yet asked the Lord to permit the Yankees to kill every Spaniard who stands up before them. Preachers have got to be mighty savage to suit the Kansas war sentiment.

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Speaking of preachers, we observe that Evangelist Lane, of Larned, has written a letter to President McKinley offering to raise a regiment composed exclusively of church members. He says that "armed with the strength of the Lord such a regiment is certain to march on to victory." However, it is quite probable that the sinful and doubting war department would insist upon arming Parson Lane's regiment with rifles and cartridges also.

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Some of the militia boys at Iola got their first taste of the army discipline last Friday night. Captain Stover, of the local company, had ordered a drill for that night, but some half-dozen of the privates took their girls and went to the theater instead of appearing at the armory. In the midst of the show a sergeant and file of men appeared in the theater and put every derelict under arrest. There was profound astonishment in the audience when the young fellows were marched away from their girls to their duty.

• • •

The Atchison Globe is so intensely practical that it will not allow even a hero a little latitude in the direction of hyperbole. Fred Funston said the other day that for every foot of the military road from Puerto Principe to Havana a Cuban patriot had yielded up his life in battle, and the Globe figures out that the road contains 11,080,000 square feet. That would be a surprising lot of men to kill out of a total population of less than 2,000,000.

• • •

In a fit of patriotic ardor M. D. Bennett, of Ottawa, offered to buy a bright new uniform for every colored man who would enlist in the army. In less time than it takes to tell it thirty young colored fellows offered their services, and by night of the same day almost a full company had been organized. Mr. Bennett was somewhat surprised at the fish he had landed, but he stood resolutely on the bank and gigged for more.

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While these soldiers were enlisting at Ottawa an old two-pound cannon was brought out and planted in front of the recruiting office. This piece has something of a history. It was captured by the Union soldiers at Lookout mountain in 1863, and the Illinois company which made the capture desired to send it home as a trophy. So they dismounted the piece from its carriage and enclosed it in a coffin, sending it over the railroad as the dead body of a soldier. It came into the possession of Mr. A. J. Diehl after the war, who brought it to Ottawa when he moved from Bloomington, Ill.

• • •

O. C. Banister, a Santa Fe brakeman, was declared insane by a jury at Newton last Friday. His mania is that he has been sent for by the authorities at Washington to come at once and take command of the cruiser New York.

MISSOURI POINTS.

Charley Green credits Congressman Bodine with a practical monopoly of the support of the "war-hoss" politicians and the "tid-bit makeshifts" in Linn county.

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Sturgeon's level-headed city fathers enacted an ordinance recently which prohibits, under a severe penalty, any loitering or loafing on the street corners. Another blow at silver?

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There is much enthusiastic rejoicing among his friends as well as dismay among his enemies over the confirmation, after a hard fight, of Henry Haughawout as postmaster at Webb City.

• • •

Captain Hallburton, Jasper county's candidate for the Democratic nomination for the supreme court judgeship, may have to fight Spaniards instead of political rivals. He is judge advocate of the Second regiment.

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Brookfield's new mayor strongly favors municipal improvements, and recommends the imposition of a $2 poll tax and a tax on bicycles as a method for securing the additional cash needed with which to pay for them.

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There is a man in Milan who ought to be given an officer's commission when he goes to the front. He wrote a letter to President McKinley the other day begging the privilege of fighting for his country as a private.

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The members of Brookfield's militia company with scarcely a single exception greatly regret the disbandment of the organization a few months ago, and like the genuine patriots that they are talk of reorganizing and tendering their services to President McKinley.

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A reverend gentleman who responds to the ominously suggestive name of Chew is the rival candidate for the Democratic nomination for the state senatorship in the Madison county district against young Frank Farris, son of the gubernatorial aspirant from Laclede county.

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It was recently learned that L. W. Mize, formerly editor of the Baptist Missionary at Peirce City, who disappeared last fall as mysteriously and completely as if the earth had swallowed him, is located in Southern Texas, where he is superintendent of a ranch. His explanation is that he wanted rest and sought it in the way indicated.

• • •

Editor Denslow, of the Spickard Gazette, who having capably represented his district in the lower house of the legislature two terms is now seeking the state senatorial nomination, has reason to be proud of the splendid indorsement given him by his fellow Republicans of Grundy county whether he succeeds in capturing the prize or not.

• • •

Editor H. C. Timmonds, of the Lamar Democrat, whose nomination by his party as its candidate for the judgeship in the Vernor county circuit is now practically assured, made a noticeably strong though unsuccessful race for the nomination for the attorney generalship two years ago. He will undoubtedly fall heir to Judge Stratton's ermine, as the district is hopelessly Democratic.

• • •

"Possibly one of the most striking spectacles ever witnessed in this or any other country," suggests the Brookfield Gazette, "was that of Sergeant-at-Arms Ben Russell 'toting' the mace down the aisles of the hall of the house of representatives the other day to convince some of the members that they ought to behave themselves. It was a solemn occasion; it was a wonderful spectacle; but of course no great historical painter was present to fix Ben and the mace on the canvas forever."

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Osteopathy seems to constitute the bone and sinew of Kirksville's boom. The population of the town has increased to 8,000 from 5,000 within a comparatively short time. One of the infirmaries presided over by the "bone doctors" is treating 600 patients, and another one 300, while instruction is being given to about as many students by each institution. Nearly every family in town is keeping boarders or roomers, and every arriving train brings invalids, among whom are represented there every state in the Union. Kirksville realizes that it has struck a "good thing" and is pushing it along with unremitting zeal.

• • •

Bethany is likely to be the scene before long of the first legal execution in the history of Harrison county. At a special term of the circuit court recently held Freeman Cochran was convicted of murder in the first degree, and the judge sentenced him to hang on the 3rd day of June. The murder was committed last August. Cochran killed a man named George Stanbrough at a farm house near Ridgeway. The two men had some misunderstanding, when on the fatal day Cochran went to where Stanbrough was at work with the intention of settling the difficulty. He was drunk or at least under the influence of liquor, and swore that he was going to horsewhip Stanbrough. He took his shotgun along to make himself safe. The two men fought first and Cochran got the worst of it. He shook hands with Stanbrough and pretended to be satisfied with the settlement, but without any warning to his victim procured his shotgun and shot Stanbrough twice. The only defense he made at the trial was that of self defense, but the jury considered the murder unprovoked and returned their verdict accordingly.

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"As the war scare grows," cynically observes "The Crank," in a disquisition on "Liars" in the Mexico Tribune, "my attention is naturally turned toward the soldier liar. We have in Mexico men who describe such charges as Tennyson never dreamed of, or his poem on Balaklava would be a more fiery production. They have had blood-chilling personal experiences such as never befell "Three-Fingered Pete, the Hero of Rattlesnake Gulch." It is a wonder they never got into history. A fellow would naturally think it a wonder it took so many men to put down the rebellion; he would conclude a dozen such men ought to have done the work, until he talks with the other side and finds that the same kind of intrepid soldiers were there enlisted also. I know one who was is nearly every battle of the civil war. His omni-presence was almost infinite. He was at Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg, although they were synchronous. I at last staggered him by asking him if he was at Marathon. This was a new one and he fought shy, but responded: "No; but my youngest brother Bill was killed there." This showed the strength of the old man's memory, which vividly recalled a younger brother killed 2,400 years before the old man's birth. Then we have the technical liar; the doctor with his marvelous cures; the mechanic with his feats of building; the printer with his day's work, and the gambler with his streak of luck. The liar is not always bothered by the consciousness that his listener knows he is lying. I haven't space for samples but will give one. There is a carpenter here who lived on the Missouri river. One day he observed something floating down the river and on examination he found it was a well. A man had dug a well close to the river and lined it with cement. The river had bitten off considerable shore and the well caved in and was floating with about ten foot of water in it. The carpenter and a friend towed this well to shore and landed it high and dry. People came for miles to see the curiosity and he sold the water at a good price as a keepsake. Should you dispute this story you would get licked."

Satolli's Great Mistake.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Even the best of motives may be misunderstood. Evidences of European misunderstanding of the purposes of the United States in the Cuban matter have not been wanting. They have been mainly attributed to the natural dimness of vision at long distances and lack of acquaintance with this country and its people. But as a proof that these are not the only cause for European failure to appreciate a nation's impulse, now comes Cardinal Satolli, late papal ablegate, who declares that he foresaw the present situation three years ago; that it is due to an American ambition to assert new national character, and that the war is unjustifiable and a menace to Europe.

Evidently Mgr. Satolli did not improve his opportunities to observe American characteristics to the fullest extent when he was in the United States, or else, being of monarchical birth, breeding and training, he was unable to imbibe the true democratic spirit. He is biased by the belief that the United States is waging a war of conquest and that annexation of Cuba is the object. He was here when the Venezuelan incident was large in public attention and mistook the reassertion of the Monroe doctrine for a new nationalism, with suzerainty over all America.

There is no need, however, for the United States to fear the hostile attitude of Europe, which the prelate predicts. Having pure humanitarian motives for its intervention in Cuba, it can speedily demonstrate to the world its disinterestedness. By adhering to its rejection of Hawaiian annexation it can more completely disprove the charge of ambition for territorial aggrandizement. There is no thought of the annexation of Cuba at the present time, nor at any other time, unless annexation shall be requested by a popular vote of all the people of that territory. The only considerations are of humanity, civilization, human freedom and permanent peace. For these we are ready to fight, leaving to time the task of educating Europe to appreciate such motives and get rid of its idea that national sacrifices can only be made for selfish ends.

Poor Spain!

From the New York Post.

Pobre Espana, wrote unlucky Minister De Lome, and "our poor Spain" is the common phrase on the lips of Spaniards, officials and others, who speak of the thickening perils confronting their country. Even in the queen regent's speech, with all its fine display of national pride and courage, there was audible a note of profound melancholy, as of a nation conscious that its inspiring past and its most desperate efforts would not keep it from taking one more step in a decadence probably without historical parallel. Glance only at a map of the Western hemisphere and see the vast possessions which have been sheared away from Spain within a hundred years, and you will begin to understand her passionate clinging to Cuba, "the ever-faithful isle," as Spaniards have delighted to call it, as the last visible token of a vanished grandeur. Yet Spain's leaders cherish no illusions as to the result of the conflict upon which they are now entering to retain Cuba. They know that they will lose the island, that their lingering prestige in Spanish America will disappear in its last vestiges, and that Spain will be plunged deeper than ever in miseries. No wonder that, even in the same breath with their bravest defiance, they whisper, "Poor Spain!"

During the past twenty years, or since the close of the last Cuban insurrection and the return of the Bourbons to the throne, Spain has had a breathing spell. Perhaps it might be said that she was then given by fate her last opportunity. She had peace at home, after fifty years of endless revolts and pronunciamientos and dictatorships and changes of government. She increased rapidly in population and in wealth. She even, under the lead of Sagasta and the Liberal party, accomplished many reforms in legislation—the suffrage was extended, religious freedom established, trial by jury obtained, and so on. But all the while the real disease from which the nation was suffering was insidiously strengthening, and when the Cuban trouble flamed up three years ago, Spain was discovered to the world weaker than ever. With all her splendid energy of race still existing, administrative capacity seemed to have deserted her. The more desperately she struggled, the more she seemed to flounder helplessly in a quagmire of executive and military incompetence.

Making every allowance for the enormous difficulties in the way of campaigning in Cuba, the failure of the 250,000 soldiers sent there to subdue at the most 40,000 insurgents is simply unparalleled and colossal. Authentic stories of wretched equipment and inadequate supplies and bad leadership show to what a depth of inefficiency the service had fallen. Moreover, a good deal of the military strength of Spain in Cuba was merely on paper. She sent there, for the most part, only conscripts, mere boys. Her very last reinforcements, some 16,0000, sent to Cuba since the 1st of January, are described by the correspondent of the London Times as largely "boys of 15 and 16 years of age." Her best troops, some 70,000 or 80,000 seasoned men, Spain kept at home "in case anything should happen" (para lo que ocurriere). That is, the lurking fear of a Carlist uprising or a republican outbreak tied the hands of the government.

But how about the Spanish navy? We are more concerned with that just now. In what state of efficiency has the government kept the navy? Well, we can only judge by scattered indications, but those, we must say, confirm the opinion of Mr. Goldwin Smith that the Spanish naval service is in as bad a state as her military, and that the "Spaniards have hardly mechanical skill enough to handle the new machines" which have supplanted the ships of the old style. In the naval war which Spain waged against Chili and Peru in 1865-66, she cut a lamentable figure in gunnery and seamanship. She was able to bombard defenseless Valparaiso, but in the one naval action she was practically defeated by an improvised and inferior fleet. During the present Cuban war she has been unable to prevent filibuster after filibuster from landing men and cargo. Her loss of the fine cruiser Reina Regente, four or five years ago, was one of the most frightful and disgraceful calamities that ever befell a navy. This warship was sent to carry the Moorish ambassadors from Cadiz to Tetuan. Her captain warned the authorities that she was unstable unless heavily loaded with coal; but there was no coal to be had at Cadiz; the Reina Regente was ordered to sea, ran into a gale coming back, incontinently upset, and now lies at the bottom of the sea with all her crew.

This Spanish habit of trusting to luck and improvising everything at the last moment has, we believe, marked Spain's preparations for war with the United States. Although that war has been pointed to unerringly for two years past, it bursts upon her sadly unready. Her troops in Havana are so unsupplied that the correspondent of the London Times, writing from Havana on March 26, said that a blockade would reduce the army to starvation in "a very few weeks." And there is reason to credit the reports that the Spanish fleet and coaling stations are grievously short of coal. For a year or two now coal has been very expensive. It takes hard cash to buy coal, and Spain has been living from hand to mouth in both cash and coal. She can now command cash, but finds herself, on the verge of a naval war, without adequate supplies of coal and with none obtainable in sight. But battleships without coal are helpless hulks. This circumstance, together with her disadvantages on the score of distance from the probable scene of the war, makes the odds against Spain simply fearful.

Travelers in Spain report that intelligent middle-class Spaniards will admit every charge of incompetence which can be brought against the conduct of public affairs. "Yes, we have a wretched government. In any other country somebody would be shot for this." There is the hopeless, fatalistic creed of the Spanish bourgeois; the government is detestable, and killing somebody is the only remedy. It is surely a great mystery—this creeping paralysis, this accelerated decadence of a noble race. None of the off-hand explanations offered really explain. A clever writer in Blackwood's is thrown back upon the conclusion that all you can say is, that "there is something Spanish in the Spaniard which causes him to behave in a Spanish manner." Whatever the cause, we are no doubt about to witness the final extinction of Spain as an American power. The mysterious ways of Providence in abasing a once exalted nation are not made less mysterious, in this instance, by the choice of an instrument to execute the divine decree. It would be rash to conclude that because Spain has apparently lost the favor of heaven, we are securely established in it.

Red Cross Societies.

From the Chicago Record.

It is a gratifying sign of the advance of civilization that in the expected engagement with Spain the services of a very strong and humane society will be enlisted.

The necessity of taking some steps to lessen the horrors of war was seen by the powers so long ago as the civil war, and in 1863 a conference, in which a number of celebrated jurists participated, was held at Geneva. The government of Switzerland, which, on account of its absolute freedom from entangling alliances, has always been looked upon as a safe arbiter of international questions, approved of the project for an international compact. On August 22, 1864, what are now known as "the articles of the Geneva convention" were signed by the representatives of France, Prussia, Italy, Spain, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Wurtemberg, Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt.

These articles were designed expressly for "the amelioration of the condition of the wounded of the armies in the field." They require that the army which wins the victory must take care of the wounded among the enemy. So patent was the justice of the theory that a soldier who is disabled from further combat should be protected that in but a short time the other civilized powers accepted the conditions of the convention. Great Britain, Turkey, Greece and Mecklenburg-Schwerin joined the convention in 1865. One year later Austria, Bavaria and Saxony adopted the merciful policy outlined at Geneva, and in 1867 Russia joined in with the other powers. The conference at Geneva was attended by a minister of the United States government, but owing to the presence of civil war in his own country he was unwilling to join the agreement, although the rules laid down by the convention were practically followed by the Federal forces until the close of the war. In 1881 the International Association of the Red Cross, which takes its name and its emblem from the Swiss flag, made an appeal to President Arthur to join the convention and, with the sanction of the senate, a treaty was drafted and signed in the spring of 1882. Already Red Cross societies had been organized in nearly every European nation, and the United States society was formed and incorporated in 1882, with Miss Clara Barton as president. The people acting as leaders in the Red Cross movement comprise some of the highest sovereigns of Great Britain. In case of actual hostilities every hospital corps wearing the red cross will be exempt from fire, and every battleship acting in hospital service and bearing the same flag will be immune from attack. By the terms of the Geneva convention any power whose officers should direct their fire upon a red cross will be subject to the immediate and severe condemnation of all civilized nations.

Britain's Improved "Majestics."

From the New York Sun.

With the putting into commission of the Illustrious, the Majestic class of battleships, the most formidable devised by British constructors, has been completed, and the nine vessels comprising it have been added to the British navy in the space of three years. They are the Caesar, Hannibal, Illustrious, Jupiter, Magnificent, Majestic, Mars, Prince George and Victorious. Each vessel is 14,900 tons burden, is 390 feet long and seventy-five feet in beam, has a draught of twenty-seven and one-half feet, has triple expansion engines of 12,000 horse power, giving a speed of seventeen and one-half knots, and is propelled by twin screws. The main armament consists of four forty-six ton wire bound twelve-inch guns that are almost quick firers, twelve six-inch quick-firing guns, five torpedo tubes, and thirty-eight small and Maxim guns. They are the largest war vessels afloat except the Italian battleship Italia and Lepanto, and cost $4,500,000 apiece.

They and the Italian ships, too, will be surpassed, however, by the three vessels whose construction has just been begun by the British admiralty, the Formidable class, described as improved Majestics. The keels for three of these battleships have been laid, that of the Formidable in the Portsmouth dock yard, that of the Implacable at Devonport and that of the Irresistible at Chatham. They are 400 feet long, ten feet longer than the Majestic, of the same beam, but of nine inches less draught, and of a displacement of 15,000 tons. The engines will be much more powerful than those of the Majestic class, indicating 15,000 horse power and insuring a speed of eighteen knots, an increase of half a knot an hour. The armament will be the same as for the nine vessels now finished. The cost of each ship will be $5,000,000. If constructed as rapidly as some of their predecessors the three new battleships should be in commission by the end of 1900.

Entirely Different.

From the Chicago News.

The Daily Chronicle of London voices English sentiment at the present moment in these words: "It was easy to coerce Greece, but America stands in a different category. She is a very great power, intensely proud and entirely self-contained. Her fate has been to undertake a task peculiarly arduous and thankless. She is not going to be bullied by the heroes of the Cretan blockade, and if the movement against her is pressed too far she will be compelled, in her own interest, to clear the situation."

An Unpardonable Sin.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"My wife and her neighbor used to be inseparable, but they don't speak now."

"What's the trouble?"

"She persuaded my wife to buy a silk gown that turned out to be part cotton."

Intensely Unanswerable.

From Life.

"If you insist upon knowing, there are two reasons for my refusing you."

"And they are?"

"Yourself and another man."

The Penalty of Success.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"Why is it that they call Oily a shark, Grumpy?"

"Because he has always had a great snap."

SPRINGTIDE IN THE SOUTH.

The reign of the Frost King is over
And the catbirds are gay by the rill—
The thrush is a musical rover
'Mid the verdure of valley and hill;
No longer the North wind is storming
The haunts of the bird and the bee,
And the down of the thistle is forming
Like surf on a magical sea.

The breast of the lark in the meadow
Upgathers the gold of the morn
And light is divorced from its shadow
When his wings through the ether are borne.
The delicate bloom of the hedges
By the plumes of the redbird are lit,
And through silvery depths of the sedges
The sparrows in ecstasy flit.

The mocking bird seems in his singing
A troubadour gallant and free,
And his lyrical love notes are winging
Their flight to his mate on the tree.
The cups of the blossoms are spilling
Their perfumes so subtle and fine,
For the spirit of bloom is fulfilling
The pledge of her vintage divine.

The owl in his dark nest reposes
And the clear streams in melody glide,
As I watch the young hearts of the roses
And the dogwood arrayed as a bride.
Tyrannical Winter is banished
By the green resurrection of grain,
And where his grim footsteps have vanished
I revel in songtime again.
—William Hamilton Hayne, in the Bookman.

A MORNING SONG.

Pack, clouds, away, and welcome day;
With night we banish sorrow;
Sweet air blow soft, mount larks aloft,
To give my Love good-morrow;
Wings from the wind to please her mind,
Notes from the lark I'll borrow;
Bird prune thy wing, nightingale sing,
To give my Love good-morrow;
To give my Love good-morrow
Notes from them both I'll borrow.

Wake from thy nest, Robin-red-breast,
Sing, birds in every furrow;
And from each hill, let music shrill
Give my fair Love good-morrow!
Blackbird and thrush in every bush,
Stare, linnet and cock-sparrow;
You pretty elves, amongst yourselves
Sing my fair Love good-morrow;
To give my Love good-morrow
Sing birds in every furrow!
—T. Heywood.

THE AUDIENCE.

The world's a stage. Life is the play,
And every man's an actor in it.
The audience? Who wait their cue—
The players of another minute.
—Francis Churchill Williams, in the Bookman.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

"The remembrance of a kindly act done to the United States by an Englishman in a former row with Spain ought to revive our interest in the ancient legend that 'blood is thicker than water,'" said a Boston man the other day. "In the Virginius affair, when the Spaniards slaughtered some of the crew of that vessel, it was an English sailor who went to Santiago de Cuba and demanded the surrender of the survivors under penalty of bombardment of the city. He rescued our men, carried them to their own shores, and then, as modest as he was gallant, refused a public reception in New York city. As it was, leading citizens called upon him informally and presented him with a brick of silver, on which were inscribed the words, 'Blood is thicker than water.' The motto still holds good, and if the combined powers of Europe were to be against America in this or any other quarrel, it is safe to say that Great Britain could always be excepted. There will never come the shadow of war between the mother land and her powerful daughter."

The Bram trial, in Boston, has resulted in a verdict of guilty without the death penalty. It is one of the first of such verdicts reached under the new United States statute which congress passed in January, 1897, and which gives juries the right to inflict punishment for murder short of the death penalty. This is the second trial Mate Thomas Bram has had for the murder of the captain, his wife and the second mate of the brigantine Herbert Fuller on the high seas July 14, 1896. On the first trial, which took place in December, 1896, Bram was found guilty and was sentenced to be hung. This verdict was overruled by the supreme court, and a new trial ordered which has just resulted in a verdict of imprisonment for life.

A queer explanation of the failure of Mr. Gladstone's home rule policy and the rise of the liberal union faction is given in the London letter of the New York Tribune. It is that Joseph Chamberlain was always distrusted by Mr. Gladstone because he was a Unitarian. If he had been a Churchman, a Wesleyan or a Scotch Presbyterian, Mr. Gladstone could have borne it, but he couldn't believe in a Unitarian, and even when the member from Birmingham went into the cabinet, Mr. Gladstone could not give him his confidence. Mr. Ford reports this as the explanation among members of parliament, as he gets it in the smoking room of the best club in London.

A shock was given New York society last week when the declaration was made, without any proviso, that Mrs. Duncan Elliot, so popularly known as Miss Sallie Hargous, was about to institute proceedings for absolute divorce from her husband. There have been few greater belles than Miss Hargous was, her social fame having extended throughout the whole country. It was early in the summer of 1891 that Miss Hargous announced her engagement to Duncan Elliot, a man very popular in New York society, a member of leading clubs and related to families of great prominence in Philadelphia.

A Boston merchant, who has had a good deal to do with the Spaniards, both in Cuba and South America, sizes up the situation in this wise: "The Spaniards are accustomed to living on garlic, pineapples, guavas and cocoanuts. We want them to eat roast beef, but for want of experience in good living they do not take kindly to it. We are going down there and offer them the beef on the point of our bayonets. They will like it greatly, and once having got a taste of it, they will all want to stay in Cuba and become American citizens, and fight for our flag, if need be."

Judge Samuel Rice, of Alabama, who died recently, was one of the most vehement secessionists in the state. After the war he became a Republican, and one day, while making a bitter speech in a little town in the state, a countryman asked him if he did not make a speech there in 1861. The judge said he did. "And didn't you then say," continued the countryman, "that the Yanks wouldn't fight and that we could whip them with popguns?" "Yes," replied the judge, "I did say that, but you see they would not fight us that way."

A proclamation issued to the students of Columbia college, New York, says that any student who is obliged to abandon his work at the university in view of membership or enlistment in the national guard, or in the naval militia, if he is a candidate for a degree at the coming commencement, will receive the degree without examination if his academic record has been such as to enable the faculty to recommend him therefor; if not, he will have the opportunity to make good his record at a future time without disadvantage.

"This is the time of year," said the first woman, "when it is in order to quote that good old proverb—" "One swallow does not make a summer!" interrupted a second woman. "April showers bring May flowers!" put in a third, while a fourth paraphrased, "It's a long [illegible] that has no turning." "No, none of those," said the first woman; "the proverb I mean is: 'Stick to your flannel until they stick to you!'"

The proprietor of a cycle track at Coney Island reports that he has had 18,000 cycles stalled at his establishment on three clear Sundays so far this season.