IN THE FAR-OFF PHILIPPINES

LIFE IN THE FOURTEEN HUNDRED ISLANDS

How Magellan Came to Take the Philippines in the Name of Spain Instead of Portugal—A Country in Which Cock Fighting Is the One Great Passion—Philippine Poker or Progressive Euchre.

The great victory of Commodore Dewey at Manila is due to a smart little quarrel which Magellan had nearly four centuries ago with the ruler of Portugal. Magellan was looking for "good things" out in the Pacific, and because of this quarrel he made the discovery of the Philippines in the name of the Spanish crown. This was in 1520. Of course, if Magellan had been on good terms with his king, there would have been no cause for Dewey to go to Manila bay in April, 1898.

Magellan had more "nerve" than good sense, but with six vessels and 234 men he made his bluff good, and took the Philippines, 1,400 islands, which lie five degrees off the equator, a little south of Formosa and off the southern coast of China. The islands are the richest in the world. Even Magellan found the natives wearing silks made from the silk worms of the native forests.

The Philippine archipelago is about 900 miles in extent from north to south and 550 miles from east to west. A range of irregular mountains runs through the center of the whole. Those known by the name of the Caraballos, in Luzon, are occupied by unsubdued races of idolatrous Indians and extend for nearly 180 miles.

PRETTY POOR WEATHER.

Several large rivers have their sources in the Caraballos. At the top of Mount Cabunian, whose ascent is difficult, there is a tomb worshipped by the pagan Igorrotes. There are large lakes in several of the islands, and during the rainy season some of them become enormously extended. These inundations are naturally favorable to luxuriant vegetable growth by fertilizing vast tracts of land.

The climate of the Philippines, now as in the days of Magellan, is described in a Spanish proverb thus:

"Seis meses de polvo, seis meses de lodo, seis meses de todo."

"Six months of dust, six months of mud, six months of everything," though it may generally be stated that the rainy season lasts one-half and the dry season the other half of the year.

Magellan converted the natives and induced them to recognise the sovereignty of Spain. In return he aided a ruler in fighting his unconverted enemies in a neighboring province. The illustrious navigator was seriously wounded and died within a year. Then the leading men of his expedition were invited to a feast and assassinated. The expedition had experienced disaster from the time it left Europe. Three vessels were lost in the China sea. The next Spanish fleet of six vessels, with a trading ship, was lost.

Still another fleet, commanded by Hernan Cortez, was destroyed in 1528. It was followed by a fourth fleet of three ships and two trading vessels, commanded by Villalobos. This time the islands were reached and named the Philippines in honor of Prince Astunas, afterward Philip II. Terrible fevers, together with the hardships of a wild, tropical life, proved disastrous, and it was necessary to send out a new expedition—this time, to quote exactly from Spanish chronicles, to "conquer and pacify" the people. It was the same kind of pacification that was employed in Cuba centuries later.

MANILA AND CAVITE.

Five ships, carrying 400 seamen and "civilizers," sailed from Mexico for the Western Isles in 1564. Commander Miguel Lopez de Legaspi had ample powers for the office of governor, and on arriving at the Philippines he was "nominated" and placed in office on the Island of Zebu. He took possession of Manila, which was then but a fort and trading post, in 1571. He too could not endure the malarial rigors and barbarism of that heavenly climate, and succumbed.

From a military post Manila soon became the capital, and in due time was renowned for the splendor of its religious processions and the excellence of its long cigars, called cheroots. Presently swarms of Chinese appeared on the scene. They took possession of different parts of the islands, as did the Japanese, costing the Spanish government millions for warfare and defense. At one time it was reported that a Chinese army of 100,000 was about to invade the islands.

The windows of the houses of the better class, the villas in the suburbs and the country mansions are made of oyster shells—those wonderful transparent pearl-like shells of the Oriental seas which admit light, but not the glare of the sun, illuminating the interiors with the soft radince of a cathedral. A great window filled with these sprays of pearl shows the colors of ten thousand rainbows.

Until a few years ago it was a singular fact that, while so many pleasure resorts abounded, among the wealthy Europeans there were no yachts or sailing boats even in the magnificent dreamlike harbor of Manila.

And how do they live in that tropical city in the sea? M. Mallat, the author, exclaims: "Enchanting city, in thee are goodness, cordiality, a sweet, open, noble hospitality—the generosity which makes our neighbor's house our own! In thee the difference of fortune and hierarchy disappears. Unknown to thee is etiquette. Oh, Manila! a warm heart can never forget thy inhabitants, whose memory will be eternal for those who have known them."

A DREAMY LIFE.

Another writer, De Mas, thus describes daily life in Manila:

"They rise early, and take chocolate and tea (which is here called cha); breakfast composed of two or three dishes and a dessert at 10; dinner at from 2 to 3; siesta (sleep) till 5 to 6; horses harnessed and an hour's ride to the pasco, returning from which tea, with bread and biscuits and sweets, sometimes homeward, sometimes in visit to neighbor; the evening passes as it may (cards frequently); homeward for bed at 11 p. m.; the bed a fine mat, with mosquito curtains drawn around; one narrow and one long pillow, called an abrazador (embracer), which serves as a resting place for the arms or legs. It is a Chinese and a convenient appliance. No sheets—men sleep in their stockings, shirts and loose trousers (pajamas); the ladies in garments something similar. They say people must always be ready to escape into the street in case of an earthquake."

They have queer customs in those distant sunny isles which now, for the first time, truly belong to civilization. The Filipinos are very careful of their ponies and horses. They never allow them to drink pure water if they can help it, and invariably mix it with honey. The result is that no European can go on a horseback jaunt without a bag of sugar or honey. The native horses will not drink from the purest mountain brook unless it is sweetened. This shows the power of horse education, even on the other side of the world.

THE RIVER PASIG.

Sir John Bowring, formerly governor of Hong Kong, gives a pleasing description of a Philippine village festival at Samaloc, the Filipino name for tamarinds. "Bright illuminations adorned the houses, triumphal arches in the streets; everywhere music and gayety and bright faces. There were several balls at the houses of the more opulent mestizos or Indians, and we joined the joyous assemblies. The rooms were crowded with Indian youths and maidens. Parisian fashions have not invaded these villages—there were no crinolines—these are confined to the capital; but in their native garments there was no small variety—the many colored gowns of home manufacture, the richly embroidered kerchiefs of pina, earrings and necklaces, and other adornings; and then a vivacity strongly contrasted with the characteristic indolence of the Indian races. Tables were covered with refreshments, coffee, tea, wines, fruits, cakes and sweetmeats; and there seemed just as much flirting and coquetry as ever marked the scenes of higher civilization. To the Europeans great attentions were paid, and their presence was deemed a high honor. Our young midshipmen were among the busiest and livellest of the throng, and even made their way, without the aid of language, to the good graces of the Zagalas.

"The river Pasig is the principal channel of communication with the interior. It empties into the Bay of Manila, passing between the commercial districts and the fortress. Its average breadth is about 350 feet, and it is navigable for about ten miles, having a depth ranging between three and twenty-five feet. Three miles from Binondo, on the right bank of the Pasig, is the country house of the captain general, where he is accustomed to pass some weeks of the most oppressive season of the year. It has an attractive garden, a convenient movable bath, which is lowered into the river, an aviary, and a small collection of quadrupeds, among which I made acquaintance with a chimpanzee."

PHILIPPINE WOMEN.

The roads of the interior are often near to impassable, but generally picturesque. On special occasions the villages are decorated with colored flags, richly embroidered handkerchiefs and the roadways made beautiful with bamboos and flowers. Even the pretty bridges are of bamboo, and, though light and airy, are strong enough for ordinary travel. Almost every variety of tropical production is found in such villages as Santa Cruz. The forests are full of game, and as the traveler approaches the mountains the scenery becomes wildly beautiful. But in places the roads are so bad that the Indians have to chop bushes and branches for filling in ruts and mud holes. In the mountains the young women are beautiful and graceful. In their gay mountain dresses they flirt and slant their tropical eyes toward the traveler in a way that makes him forget the depth of the mud and hardships of the valleys below.

The Philippine islands are but vast volcanic upheavals belched from the ocean. Many of the volcanoes are nearly or quite extinct.

The Indian women who inhabit these lovely regions clean their long black hair with lemon juice and make it shine with cocoanut oil, delicately perfumed by infusions of mountain flowers. The belles and mountain beauties cleanse their hands with pumice stone. They allow their thumb nails to grow to great lengths, which assists in playing on the guitar. The girls also blacken their eyebrows, paint their nails with vermillion and wear false hair. In eating, the native uses his thumb and with the long nail conveys the food to the mouth; then with a refined movement, the fingers push the food down their little red throats.

The Indians believe that the mountains, especially the volcanoes, are full of precious minerals. In the great earthquake years of the past lakes have been thrown into the sky by volcanic upheavals, hurling floods of water into the valleys below. Fish, crocodiles, sharks, serpents to the extent of millions of tons were belched over the country land in many places ravines were filled to the level with living flesh, often scalded by the hot waters and steam from the volcanoes. The Philippines are not very far from the district that was destroyed a few years ago in the Bay of Sunda, when mountains rose from the depths of the sea, and other mountains, with towns around them, disappeared, and a new ocean rolled above them. Everything in that part of the world is vast and strange.

Earthquakes have greatly changed the Philippines. Hundreds of churches and public buildings have been destroyed in Manila alone. Seas have become mountains and mountains lakes, but the islands still remain. Business flourishes and the tax gatherer reaps his millions. In the earthquake of 1627 one of the most elevated of the mountains of Cagayan disappeared. In 1675 in the island of Mindanao, a passage was opened to the sea and a vast plain was submerged. Successive earthquakes have brought upon Luzon a series of calamities. Since 1601 ten notable earthquakes have shaken the islands.

Endemic diseases are rare in the Philippines. Intermittent fevers and chronic dysentery are among the most dangerous disorders. There have been two invasions of cholera—in 1820 and 1842. Elephantiasis, leprosy and St. Anthony's fire are the scourges of the Indians, and the wilder races of the interior suffer from a variety of cutaneous complaints. Among the Indians vegetables alone are used as medicaments. Chinese quack doctors have much influence. In the removal of some of the tropical pests no European can compete with the natives.

The author, M. de la Gironiere, who lived in the Philippines twenty years, tells many curious tales of his experiences there. He speaks of great feasts in the interior, where the delicacies were human brains, steeped by young girls in the juice of sugar cane, of which his servant drank.

He also describes how eggs were hatched by men especially engaged for this purpose. He saw so many ducks and ducklings on the Pasig river that he was puzzled to account for them until he discovered that they were hatched from the shell by vagabond Tagal Indians, who lay upon the eggs placed in immense nests of ashes.

It was a strange sight for any European to behold. These dark-skinned incubators eat, drink, smoke and play cards while they are hatching out eggs, taking care all the time not to injure the fragile shells. As fast as the ducklings are brought into life they are removed, but the hatching goes on until the last baby bird has been hatched out of its shell. It is claimed that the Frenchman drew upon his imagination, as millions of ducks along the river are hatched by artificial and mechanical means.

The great mass of indigenous population of the Philippines may be divided into two principal races—the Tagals occupying the north and the Bisayos the south. Of these, all who inhabit the towns and villages profess Christianity and are much under the influence of the regular clergy. It is said that the Indians employed alphabetical writing prior to the arrival of the Spanish, and five alphabets are declared to have been used in the different provinces. The characters are something between our ordinary American shorthand and Arabic.

MYTHICAL MONSTERS.

Wild superstitions have long prevailed on the islands. A monster named Osuang was supposed to torment children and live on human flesh. A bird always announced his coming. To keep this demon away from one's premises a native must mount the roof and brandish swords. Another monster enveloped in flames could only be extinguished and driven away by some victim being put to death and his liver properly removed, his body clad in white during the surgical operation. Witches and sorcerers have always been as thick as autumn leaves in that strange land. A native entering a forest must immediately go through certain ceremonies in case he found a snake in a newly built hut or other evidences of devils being in the neighborhood.

Money cuts a large figure in keeping the unseen Philippine domain in order. Devils, women you want to marry and others you want to get rid of, nagging mothers-in-law and officious cutthroat papas are bought up and hired to go away to bother some other man. Peace with an enemy is made by mingling blood with wine, each drinking the fruit of another's veins until the blood of families is well mixed in the veins of friends and their recent enemies. In this way all become of one blood and there is joy for miles around.

Many of the natives are extraordinary eaters. They are not afraid of food or death. A devout friar says: "Did all mankind hang on a single peg, and that peg were wanted by an Indian for his hat, he would sacrifice all mankind." The natives have no fear of death. Even in the presence of the dying they discuss the solemn event with as little concern as if it were a wedding or a banana feast. On the scaffold, with manila hemp around their necks, they exhibit smiling indifference.

GULLIBLE NATIVES.

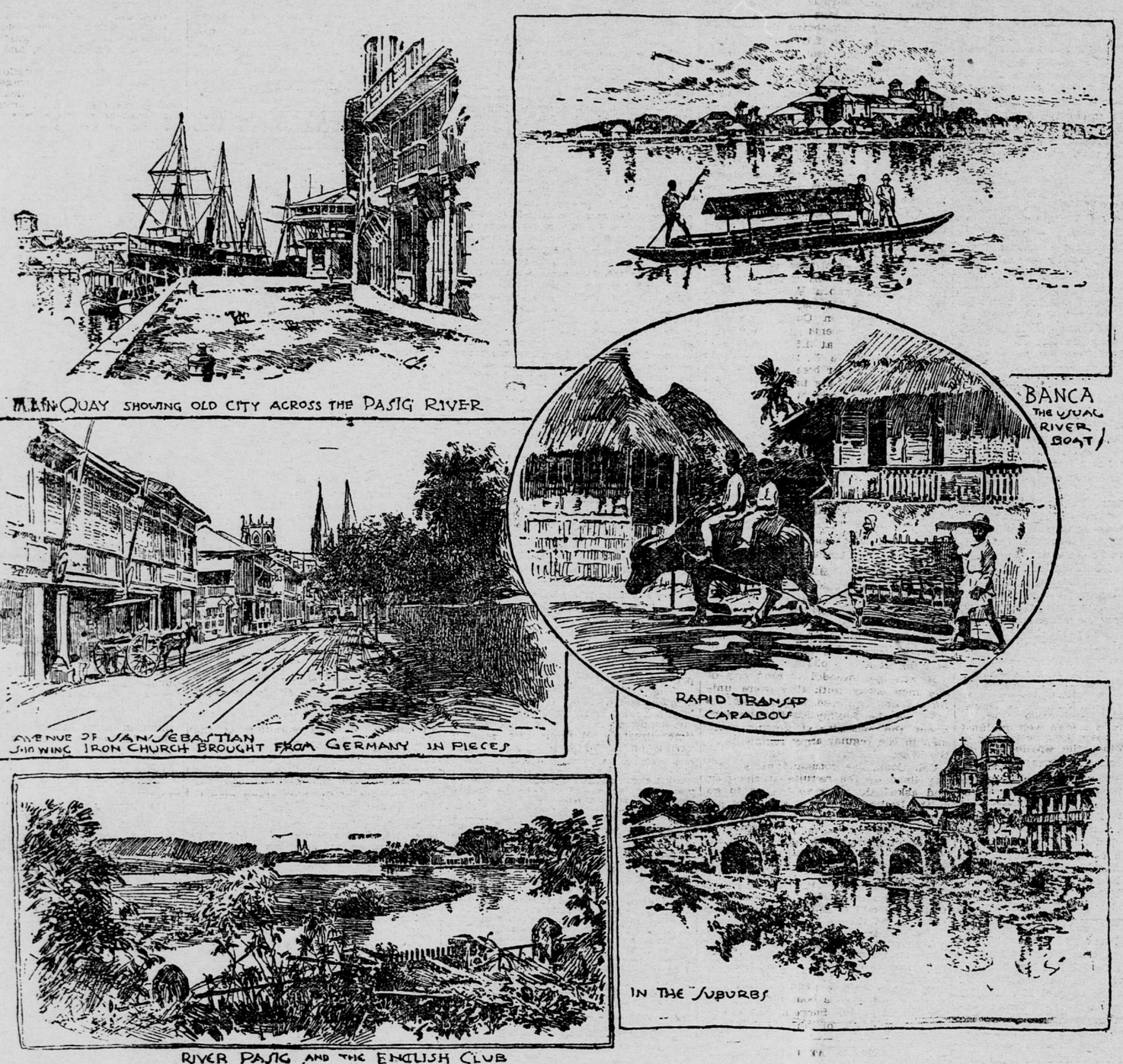
They smoke their cigars, crack jokes and discuss their affairs as tranquilly as if they were to live a thousand years. When sentenced to execution they take it as an incident in life which they cannot help; and they sleep and eat their three or four meals a day until the execution.

The Indians will believe anything. If told that Americans are honest and all politicians saints from heaven they would believe it.

In 1832, when the report was spread that the king of Spain had ordered all the children of the Indians to be collected that their blood might be spilt on the Spanish mines to make them more productive, the mothers fled in a body to the Spanish ladies in Manila, pleading for mercy. The men armed themselves with spears and rushed wildly up through the city. It was with difficulty that they could be calmed, even after the hoax had been explained.

Bathing is the universal delight of both sexes. They bathe together in the same place, innocently and without scandal. The Spanish authorities have vainly attempted to abolish this ancient custom.

The exquisite sense of smell among these Indians seems marvelous. It is claimed they can distinguish the dress of their masters and mistresses by this sense alone. The state of one's affection is determined in the same way. If a man has an enemy he can tell instantly whether he is friendly by the scent of his silken garments, though always scrupulously clean. A bit of lace from the neck of the beloved one, tells the young Indian whether his adoration is returned. A wise Indian once said: "What is the use of European brains when our noses are so much more intelligent and gifted with genius?"



SCENES IN MANILA, CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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SPAIN TO SUE FOR PEACE

SENOR CASTILLO FULLY CONVINCED IT IS NECESSARY

His Motive for Refusing to Accept the Foreign Secretaryship in the New Spanish Cabinet Made Clear—Powers Interested Will Not Permit Spain to Prolong a Losing War—Sagasta's Policy a Sham.

MADRID May 22.—One point in the reconstruction of the cabinet lies in the obstinate refusal of Senor Leon y Castillo, the Spanish ambassador to France, to accept the foreign secretaryship. Every consideration has been brought to bear in vain. His first reply to the premier's request expressed the conviction that the interests of Spain would be best served by his remaining at Paris. Senor Sagasta answered, pointing out that the head of the government was the best judge of the interests of the fatherland, and insisting upon the ambassador's acceptance. To the surprise of everybody, the ambassador persisted in his refusal, and promised, in a personal interview, to prove to Senor Sagasta that it would be a very grave mistake for him to leave Paris. The ambassador's motive for refusal was the following:

SAGASTA'S POLICY.

Senor Sagasta's cabinet is, by its own formal declaration, determined to carry on the war with all possible vigor, whereas Senor Leon y Castillo is aware that Spain's friends among the powers, France in particular, are resolved to insist upon her suing for peace at the first favorable moment. France possesses a two-fold interest in having peace concluded—financial and political. The former would be severely damaged if Spain were utterly ruined, and the latter would suffer if the United States retained permanent possession of the Philippines.

The leading idea which actuates the statesmen responsible for the political scheme favored by Senor Leon y Castillo is that as Spain must be worsted, in the long run, it is advisable to save as much as possible from destruction, and that the sooner peace is concluded the more tolerable will be the terms acquiesced in by the United States. The most important of these terms, in the eye of Spain's friends and protectors, is the possession of the Philippines, which can be utilized for further political combinations later on.

CASTILLO IS SHREWD.

To become a member of a war cabinet, therefore, at the very moment when the friendly great powers are resolved to press upon Spain a speedy peace, appears imprudent to Senor Leon y Castillo, who is in possession of all the threads of the negotiations. Senor Sagasta's cabinet is certainly desirous of regaining popularity with the country by prosecuting the war to the bitter end, but it is highly improbable that, having heretofore implicitly followed the advice of the continental powers, it will refuse to accept counsels of peace proffered under the promise of future help, especially if the United States waives all claims to the Philippines.

Spain's importance as a political factor in the far East is now thoroughly understood, and everything possible will be done to gain time and profit by it. Her position as a Mediterranean power, her influence in Morocco, her disciplined land and sea forces and, above all, her possession of the Philippines constitute the political aspect of the question. The first and most important step at present is to utilize the most propitious moment for concluding peace on the basis of Spain's retention of the Philippines. When that time has come—and it is believed to be very near, now that the Spanish squadron is at Santiago—Spain will be asked to propose pour parleurs, and friendly efforts will be made to induce the United States to rest satisfied with Cuba's independence or with annexation and to abandon the scheme of ruling permanently or occupying temporarily the Philippines.

These are the grave considerations which determine Senor Leon y Castillo, who is a party politician and usually submissive to the head of his party, to insist upon remaining as ambassador at Paris.

CASTILLO AND SAGASTA.

Senor Leon y Castillo, the Spanish ambassador to France, who was recently offered the portfolio of minister for foreign affairs, had a long conference today with the premier, Senor Sagasta.

Absolute reticence is observed as to the matters discussed.

FRENCH ELECTIONS.

Socialists Gain and Moderates Lose Seats.

PARIS, May 23.—3 a. m.—So far as known at this hour the Moderates have lost twelve seats in the second balloting in the parliamentary general elections, the Socialists gaining four and the Monarchists six. One hundred and sixty-nine results show the election of 66 Moderates, 59 Radicals, 34 Socialists and 10 Monarchists.

M. Clovis-Hogues, M. Monior, Prince D'Arenberg and M. Daniel Wilson and M. Cassagnac are among the elected. Among the defeated are Comte de Perigorde, Comte Rochefoucauld, M. Reno Goblet, M. Emile Flourene, M. Andrieux, M. Jean Darlan, M. Lebon and M. Jules Develle.

RUMOR IS PREMATURE.

And Yet the Anglo-French Agreement May Be Signed.

LONDON, May 23.—The Times this morning editorially dismisses as premature the rumor to which the Paris Fiargo gives credence that an Anglo-French agreement has been signed with reference to the West African complications, but it says an agreement is evidently near completion, and that the statement of the Figaro is doubtless derived from trustworthy sources.

NO DAY DREAMS!

We Live in a Real World, Let Us Have the Real Truth.

A tonic has been described by Dr. A. E. Budger, of London, as a therapeutist's daydream, a scientific absurdity. Merely to lash a sickly body into spasmodic activity to be followed by utter exhaustion is the worst medical practice in the world. But nine patients out of ten cling to their illusions, and when the collapse comes, they attribute it to almost every cause on earth but the right one.

There is no real strength except in digested food; the problem is to get the food digested. If the stomach is tired, along with the rest of the body, it cannot turn the food over and over so as to expose every part of it to the action of the gastric juice. The victuals will lie and rot unless the stomach gets help. For this purpose a whiskey of undoubted purity is ordered by the most enlightened physicians. Some of the stuff sold as whiskey is utterly unfit to be swallowed, and no sane man would put it into his stomach if he knew what it was made of.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey has stood the most severe tests by chemists and is endorsed by physicians.

You cannot safely trifle with your digestion. If you feel a sense of weight and fullness after eating, you need the help that Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey never fails to give in turning bread and meat into bone, blood and muscle.

TROOPS ASSIGNED.

Orders Issued From the Department of the East.

NEW YORK, May 22.—Gen. Royal T. Frank, commanding the department of the East, today made further assignments of volunteer troops to assist in the coast defenses.

Five companies of the Second Pennsylvania are ordered to Penns Grove, N. J., to guard the powder works there, four battalions of the Third New Jersey, under Col. Lee, are ordered to Compton Lake to receive the Second Pennsylvania; the heavy battalipon of the Maine volunteers is ordered to Fort Patham, Me.; the First regiment of Connecticut infantry is to be split up, one-half to go to Camp Niatic and the remainder to be divided among the various New England camps; the two battalions of the First regiment of Maryland are udner orders to report at once to Fort Monroe, Va., and the Ereekville battalion of Connecticut heavy artillery was also ordered to Fort Monroe.

BOUND FOR MADRID.

Autonomist Leader Amblard in Vera Cruz.

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KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 22.—Senor Arturo Amblard, the autonomist leader and senator and secretary of justice in the Cuban cabinet, arrived here today from Vera Cruz on the French steamer Lafayette, which left Havana May 9.

Senor Amblard is bound for Madrid.

HAS A DAY OFF.

Secretary Long Evades Some Leading Questions.

BOSTON, May 22.—Secretary John D. Long, when asked by a reporter today about the location of the fleets, replied:

"Since leaving Washington on Saturday I have not been in touch with the department and know no more about it than the newspapers. This is a day off."

The reporter told Mr. Long of a reported battle near Santiago de Cuba, and asked if it were probable, to which the secretary replied:

"It is probable. That is all."

Mr. Long returns directly to Washington tomorrow.

FATAL CELEBRATION.

Ohio Enthusiasm Over the Reported Naval Victory.

LORAIN, O., May 22.—During a celebration of the supposed naval victory last night a hose cart in a procession ran over two men.

Peter Snyder is dead, and another man, whose name is unknown, is dying.

Columbia Goes to Sea.

NEW YORK, May 22.—The United States commerce destroyer Columbia, which has been at anchor at Tompkinsville, coaling and provisioning, after a tour of duty with the North Atlantic patrol, weighed anchor and proceeded to sea tonight.

Naval Reserves Ready.

BALTIMORE, Md., May 22.—One hundred and eighty additional members of the naval reserves have been mustered into government service and are quartered on the receiving ship Dale, awaiting the formation of the Chesapeake bay mosquito fleet or other assignments from the navy department.

Maryland Volunteers.

BALTIMORE, May 22.—Orders were received at Camp Wilmer today for the First regiment, out of which the two battalions of infantry to complete Maryland's quota of volunteers were formed, to proceed to Fortress Monroe. The company will leave here Wednesday.

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