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WHOLE NO. 866.

Washington's Birthday and the Duty of this Country to Struggle with Cuba.

Sermon delivered by Rev. J. C. Cromer at the Congregational church, Owosso, Sunday evening, Feb. 21st:

"And he shall judge between many people and shall reprove strong nations afar off."—Micah 4:3.

We are celebrating Washington's birthday and instead of spending any time in lauding to the skies the man who loved liberty and led this great nation in the day of its weakness in the path to victory and freedom, I want this evening to note another struggle for that same priceless boon and to inquire for the path of duty for us who enjoy what Washington and his fellow patriots have won for us. I refer to the war in Cuba. Let me say in the very outset that I am a strong believer in peace; that I think the treaty between this nation and Great Britain should be approved as early as possible by the Senate; that the very last resort in every case should be to the barbarism of war. But while saying this let me also say that horrible as war is there are some things worse. A supine submission to wrong and injustice is worse. To sacrifice liberty to peace is a base exchange. Cruelty and the inhumanity of man to man is worse than war. It is not certain that a just God looking down upon the atrocities and nameless crimes committed in the past couple of years by the Turk against the Christians would himself have had the dogs of war turned loose upon the Sultan and his imp even at the expense of involving the whole of Europe in the affray. All honor to little Greece that she of all the powers has pluck enough to equip an army and send forth a fleet to smother the bloody hand of the Turk a few square miles of territory in Crete and dedicate it to a more humane and just rule. It may yet prove to be that the descendants of the heroes of Marathon and Thermopylae are the only people in these times of diplomacy and shall I say it, cowardice, who have the courage of the right and the bravery that is born of freedom. There is a great deal of the peace sentiment of our times which is born of the base love of money. To go to war will be to sacrifice some bonds and to disturb trade. Therefore we must howl for peace at all times and at the expense of honor. It has been this base god of gold which has kept the peace of Europe in the face of the atrocities of the Turk. Quoting from an editorial in the Inter Ocean "It were well if one could sing in praise of universal peace, but at present there is peace that is more cruel than war. There is the peace that is not peace, but that is the unwilling submission of the good to the bad, that is the plunder of the industrious by the indolent, that is the defrauding of the honest by the dishonest, that is the oppression of the Christian by the Mussulman; there is peace that is not repose, but a lethargy that is as St. Paul said, 'earthly, sensual, devilish.'"

European war at present can originate only in a spirit of resistance to the most obstinately unprogressive, the most wantonly cruel and the most inebriately brutish of all surviving despots. Peace in Europe at present can be maintained only by the acquiescence of the Christian powers in the continuance of iniquities and horrors that would have been held abominable in the middle ages. There is a peace that is heavenly and there is a peace so utterly ignoble, so wholly vile, as to give cause for reproduction of Gray's terrific satire:

"Hosannas rang through hell's tremendous borders, And Satan's self had thoughts of holy orders." But now from this more general reflection let us away to some considerations that would lead us as a nation to a different attitude to struggling Cuba. For two years the horrors of war have prevailed in that island, and deducting a reasonable amount from all that we read and hear about the cruelty of Weyler as he imprisons women and shoots down helpless people by the hundreds, we must nevertheless believe that the Spaniards are prosecuting such a warfare in Cuba as would make the stoutest hearts melt with pity. Richard Harding Davis, whose character for veracity is certainly above suspicion and who has been in Cuba recently as correspondent of the New York Journal, confirms all that has been said by other reliable men respecting the awful brutalities and indecencies of the Spanish troops and officers, and the indignities suffered by citizens of this country. He describes the present situation as exactly that which President Cleveland said would justify our interference on the ground of "higher obligations," namely, those of sympathy for outraged humanity. He says that if President Cleveland, "who must be convinced twice before he will act once, could make a week's tour through Cuba he would declare war on Spain by cable. No European power dare interfere. It lies with him, and with him alone, to give the signal. If he gives it now he saves thousands of innocent lives; if he delays just that many people perish." Now, as Richard Harding Davis is a personal friend of Mr. Cleveland and has been hitherto an admirer of his administration, these words are worthy of some sort of credence. But not to spend effort to show the brutalities of the war let us look to the causes of it.

First, note that in her earlier history Cuba was proud to own Spain as the mother country and took active measures to show that pride. The island had been discovered by Columbus in 1493 and a colony planted upon it later by this great navigator. For

centuries the island remained loyal, and even down to this century when in 1808 the royal family in Spain were deposed by Napoleon every member of the Cohilda (the governing body in Cuba) took oath to preserve the island for the deposed monarch. This being the history and the loyalty of the Cubans to Spain, what you ask has wrought the change? For answer it might be enough to catalogue the various kinds of taxes imposed upon the island as given in Britannica. There are "the Crown revenues of the island, including duties on imports, exports and tonnage, and the local or municipal duties levied at some of the custom houses. There is the tax on home manufactures, the sale of stamped paper, the profits derived from the lottery, and the impost on cock-fights. There are the imposts known as the royal ninth and the consolidated fund, the sinking fund, the annual and monthly revenues of the clergy, personal deductions, such as from the pay of public functionaries and the price of exemption from military service; miscellaneous receipts, as the produce of the sale of royal lands, the rents of vacant livings and of unclaimed estates, the produce of vendible offices; and casual receipts, including deposits, confiscations, donations, and the recovery of arrears."

Previous to the outbreak of the insurrection beginning in 1868 the total revenue of the island had reached to \$26,000,000, of which \$6,000,000 went direct to Spain and the other twenty millions met the expense of the army, navy and civil service of the island. Mr. Pierra in the Forum for February says that previous to 1895 the most of the planters "were paying the taxes and the Spanish official blackmail—for the two things always went together in Cuba—not out of their yearly net income, but out of their capital. Such was the case of all those who had no ready money of their own—about 90 per cent of the whole class—and had to depend upon the merchant for advances wherewith to carry on the operations of their estates. Money was worth on an average 18 per cent per annum. Those who enjoyed the best credit could not obtain it under 12 per cent, while not a few had to pay for it even 25 per cent. All the merchants and money lenders with very few exceptions were Spaniards. The planters to the extent of about 90 per cent were Cubans. It has been estimated that in order to meet the fiscal demands made upon them, the planters of Cuba during the last twenty years have been drawing upon their previously accumulated capital to the extent of six or eight million dollars annually."

When a country is thus made up of a ruling and alien class which is sapping the life-blood of the native and subject peoples to the extent of these millions of dollars annually over and above what they can produce, the causes for an outbreak are not very far to seek. Besides the island has been plunged into debt away beyond any possibility of ever liquidating the debt. As a result of the other war from 1895 to 1878 waged by the Cubans for their liberty, the Spanish government has multiplied its unjust measures to wring money out of the Cubans. For instance, a number of years the annual budget of taxes assessed to Cuba were forty-six millions and over. Each year the outside limit that could be extorted from the island was about twenty millions short of the budgets, and these millions all went to increase the debt until up to last year the debt of Cuba was \$295,707,394—or considering its population, the debt of Cuba is more than that of all the other American countries, including the United States. There is no shadow of justice in at least two-thirds or three-fourths of the debt. It has been trumped up from every quarter. A former deputy to the Spanish Cortes says: "In it are included a debt of Spain to the United States, the expenses incurred by Spain when she occupied San Domingo, those for the invasion of Mexico in alliance with France and England, the expenditures for her hostilities against Peru, the money advanced to the Spanish treasury during its recent Carlist wars, and all that Spain has spent to uphold its dominion in Cuba and to cover the lavish expenditure of its administration since 1868." Not a cent of this money has been spent in Cuba. It has not built a public highway or established a school. It has been going to line the pockets of Spanish officials with salaries ranging from \$50,000 of the governor general all the way down the list, and to pay Spain's bills incurred out in the wide world. Besides the senseless policy of Spain has destroyed the trade of the island. Spain has insisted upon carrying exports in Spanish bottoms, she has put heavy duty upon all imports from Cuba to Spain and taken off all duties on articles sent from Spain to Cuba. The island has been left to shift for itself, few schools, no literature, or newspapers, except three or four that are put out under the strictest espionage by the ruling Spaniards.

Now, this is Washington's birthday, and it seems to me that our fathers had a little trouble with England about certain taxation without representation. It also seems to me that in my school days I learned something about some people's down in Boston who got so extravagant as to go out one night and board a British vessel loaded with tea that lay in Boston harbor and dumped all that cargo into the sea, and by all the tenets of the higher critics along historical lines it has not yet been made to appear that that was not good tea either. All that these men had against it in the world was that the British wanted to put a little insignifi-

cant tax on it when they sold it. Now, of course a principle as big as the universe can be represented by a very small amount of tea, but if the Cubans had organized tea parties and raised rumpuses down there in keeping with the size of their grievances compared with that of our fathers, they would have long ago tumbled everything into the sea, including the island itself. Now there is a war on down there for which there have been reasons enough, God knows, and it has been going on for years. Just a little while ago the Spanish government announced to the world a great long scheme of reforms which they said they were ready to inaugurate in Cuba, if there were any of them left after Weyler got through, and as promptly and as loudly as he could thunder it forth from his camp in the heart of Cuba old Gomez has shouted back that he wants no more of Spain's reforms, but that the Cubans want their liberties and are bound to have them or the next best thing which under the circumstances is death. Who can blame them? For after the other ten years' war the Cubans were granted what seemed when put down on paper a pretty respectable amount of liberties, but in the hands of Spain these liberties all turned into chains. It makes one's blood boil to follow step by step the actions of the Spaniards in nullifying all that they promised Cuba as the result of the previous struggle for liberty, and now the whole machinery of the government is in the hands of the Spanish. It has been reported that President Cleveland has expressed the opinion that the reforms offered by Spain recently are sufficient, but if the President had had a trial of a similar scheme as the Cubans have had he might ask for more. But then with Spain's previous treachery on the one side, why should the Cubans accept the offers of reform? Judging from their past history certainly that is not the way to peace at prosperity. There are millions of dollars indebtedness piled up already as the result of the war. Spain can't pay it and certainly she will not if she can hold her greedy hand on Cuba. Taking the debt of near three hundred millions of dollars which has been unjustly put upon her since the war closed in 1878 as a guide, Cuba may be sure that somewhere about another three or five hundred millions is awaiting her as the result of this war. Why should the Cubans accept these offers of reform when as affairs now stand there is everything to gain and not much, certainly now any more, to lose in the direction of continuing their struggle for liberty. Spain is bankrupt, she has no more credit abroad and she is growing weaker every day. With the wonderful resources and productiveness of the island the Cubans can get enough to live on indefinitely, besides the Cubans have some three thousand men at work farming back in the island producing the food they need. They have driven all their cattle into the mountains where they are safe from the enemy. They are gradually acquiring the arms and ammunition they need and their raw troops are being trained into veterans. Supposing that the Cubans should be driven out of the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and the western part of Santa Clara, they can withstand the power of Spain in the eastern part of the island indefinitely. They can make raids upon the Spaniards, burning their crops and killing a few of them and trust starvation and the yellow fever to kill the rest of them. The whole situation in this fight between Spain and Cuba has seemed to me pretty accurately represented in the struggle between the great dragon and Ladurlad in the story that Prof. Moulton lectured from last week. You who heard the lecture will remember that the point of Kehama's curse was that nothing could hurt Ladurlad and that he could not die. You will remember that he went away down under the sea to the city of the dead where the witch had bound the Glendoveer by a chain to a rock and that a great dragon was set on guard. You will remember with what assurance the dragon set about it to kill Ladurlad. He wrapped his long tail about Ladurlad's body and squeezed him hard enough to crush out the life from a hundred men, but Ladurlad came through it serenely and lived on. Thus the light went on for days, but ere long the dragon got hungry, his enormous strength began to fail and he wanted sleep, and then it was that Ladurlad, supernaturally cursed, began to bestir himself to the fight and soon the dragon lay dead on the shore and the Glendoveer was set free. In the application the Cubans represent Ladurlad and if they have not been supernaturally cursed after the manner of the story, they have been cursed enough and they have in their little island and wrapped up in their own lives power of recuperation enough to see the old dragon dead sooner or later and their island set free.

I am no prophet, but I will risk my reputation on the assertion that little Cuba is going to win out in this fight. She is going to win because it is right that she should win. The very stars in their course will fight for Cuba, no matter if we never do anything for her. She is going to win because God hates meanness and oppression, and will see to it that right prevails. But it may take time and cost many more lives. The last war which the Cubans waged for liberty, lasted ten years, and we have seen but two of this one. Now the question which comes home to us, and which, on this the anniversary of Washington's birthday, I wish to urge, is, what of our obligations in the matter. I shall say nothing of our

grievances, of the destruction of property in the hands of Americans, and of the disturbance of trade, for a pulp that can't lift itself into something higher than money considerations, when talking to the question of freedom for some million and six hundred thousand people, has certainly lost its wings. But in passing, let it be simply noted that everything in the line of future advantage in trade is on the side of the freedom of the Cubans. I shall say nothing about the brutality with which many of the citizens of this country have been treated by Weyler, for that is not so great a count in the situation; and I suppose, after having to submit to the indignities and insults of American citizens, put upon them by the Sultan of Turkey, we have all gotten more or less hardened to that sort of thing, and by and by it won't mean much to be an American citizen if every bully or tyrant can give you a kick ad libitum, and destroy your property without ever making so much as an apology for it. I shall not say anything about the possibility of a war with Spain in the event the United States acknowledges the belligerence, or even the independence of Cuba, nor enter into that silly question as to whether Spain could defeat us in a passage at arms. After a couple rather heavy tussles with John Bull, a really superior power in Europe, and coming out on the right side (that is the top side) both times, I suppose we need not be worried so much about the outcome with Spain. I shall not say much about the good results that would come if the United States would exert a positive influence on Spain to grant freedom to Cuba. But this much is apparent: If the war could be stopped now, it would save thousands of lives; it would prevent the utter destruction of the means of production in Cuba, and spare the people the worse demoralization, which a long continued war and enforced idleness always breeds. And if the interference of the United States transferred the war from Cuba to us, so far as general considerations go, it would not be much worse; there is war now, in its crudest, most barbarous form, and which as Richard Harding Davis says, would have disgraced the middle ages. Perhaps it might be a good thing for us to have a little war, if for no other reason than to give chance to train some of our seamen so that they may know how to maneuver these heavy iron clads, which we have been building at the expense of millions of dollars, and with which they try to clear out all the rocks along the coast, because of their awkwardness or lack of seamanship. No, no, none of these things shall be heard here, tonight. There is a higher voice that should speak. This is Washington's birthday. We are going to close our banks and our schools tomorrow, out of honor to the father of this country. But I would that we do better than that; that we even drink afresh of his spirit; that we catch again that glow of enthusiasm, which rang out from those patriot guns of Lexington; that we feel once more the touch of discouragement for the cause of human liberty, which floats across the years from the winter at Valley Forge and then stand once again with happy hearts at Yorktown, while Cornwallis lays down his arms and acknowledges the inevitable freedom for which these Americas were destined of Almighty God. Yes, I would that we catch the spirit of Washington. And then I would that we look down yonder at Cuba, and to reach which you need only go to the end of Florida and jump across to her shores. See her struggling against a tyrannical power, which has exploited her for the last dollar that can be wrung from her wretched pockets. Look at Cuba as she pleads with us for what we enjoy—liberty. See Cuba, bleeding and torn, but determined and ready to die for her freedom. And while all Cubans are not saints, by any means, they know when they are trod upon. They have proven thus far in their noble struggle that they know how to stand together. And after these years of bitter struggle with Spain, and the longer years of wrong endured, they can never, no never, yield to Spain again. In the illustrated America there is a picture of a noble warrior, with sword in hand, mounted upon his charger and galloping over the plains, and over the whole picture the white spirit like covering is cast, and below it the words, "Macao's soul is marching on." Yes, the soul of Macao, like that of John Brown, will go marching on to victory. And this great free country ought to be brave enough if bravery is needed, or brotherly enough, if sympathy is called for, and display faith enough in both God and man, for these are certainly wanted, to step into the breach and prevent the further struggle and carnage of war.

Vernon.
The Misses Isabelle Garrison and Isabelle Goodall are visiting in Canada—Mrs. Elwood and daughters, of Flint, visited at J. Emple's on Monday—Mr. Hearn is on the sick list—Mrs. G. Ticknor is sick—Misses Emma and Elsie Goff are at Byron this week—Mrs. Julia Wallace visited here this week—Mrs. Rose, who has been visiting at G. Clark's, returned to Chicago this week—Frank Tilden is still unable to get out on account of rheumatism—Mrs. Lare, of Deer Creek, is visiting at G. Ticknor's—Mrs. George Clark was in Detroit the first of the week—Miss Georgia Tilden visited at Durand the first of the week—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Whelan contemplate moving back to their farm soon.

Burton Farmers' Club.

The February meeting of the Burton Farmers' Club was held at the residence of C. R. Woodin.

J. W. Hibbard made a very graceful speech on accepting the honor the club conferred upon him in electing him president, and in his committee and other appointments, he exhibited great firmness by accepting no excuses or shirking of those appointed, from the duties assigned them.

"Better Methods of Farm Management," was discussed by the gentlemen. D. Thorp recommended more thorough cultivation. Elmer Warren, of the Meridian Farmers' Club, who was a guest of the day, said the variation of the seasons has much to do with poor crops. The very hot and dry seasons, followed by extreme rainy seasons, as in the past summer, he regarded detrimental to the farming interests. He would feed the coarse grains and hay upon the farm. He does not think it necessary for the soil to rest; would cultivate often; and for mulching, would have something green to plough under. Timothy, he regards poisonous to the soil and the bean crop exhaustive. C. R. Woodin said we have had better crops for the past ten years than we did fifty years ago; that we raise more now than we raised ten and fifteen years ago. We have good hay, good corn, good wheat, good oats, good everything, he would raise more stock and would not buy fertilizers; with Mr. Warren, he believes that timothy and the bean crop is bad for the soil. Mr. Rose would raise and keep more cows. L. S. Bowles believes in the old fashioned summer fallow, thorough cultivation and feeding the coarse fodder, hay and grain upon the farm.

Mrs. Derendorf read a paper upon "How have Inventions Aided our Home Life." She compared the present, with its numerous inventions with the past, when simplicity in all things, was the rule. She spoke of the iron horse invention, which makes long distances short with its speedy and easy mode of travel and transportation; of the farmers' labor-saving machinery, by which the work can be more quickly done with fewer hands, thereby aiding home enjoyments—tho' not by relieving the mind from the anxiety of debt, nor by turning men out of employment into the road to tramp. The work of the factories has diminished the spinning wheel and home spun clothes; the sewing machine helps in the family sewing; the cook stove has supplanted the brick oven for baking, and the freplace for cooking, but she misses the chimney ventilator, which was ever ready to take the odor of cooking and the steam from the kitchen. These and other inventions have aided home enjoyment by making its labors lighter, and though there are added superfluities, constant toil through the day and late in the evening, need not be the rule, and the time gained by the use of these inventions should be improved in acquiring knowledge of both past and present events. She closed her paper by calling attention to the inventions—tho' not of recent origin—of converting grain and fruit, by a process of decay, into a destructive drink, and dwell at length upon its causing pain and want, and scattering death and destruction by the way, instead of its being a blessing and a means of home enjoyment.

Miss Gullford, after mentioning a few of the numerous inventions and their uses that aid in our home enjoyments, said that they raise us above the savage, the mound builder, the cliff builder; they make us a civilized people; they facilitate the household duties, and give us more leisure for mental, moral, physical and religious culture; they give us means by which we can make our homes pleasanter, brighter, and happier; they make better men and women of us and better christians.

Representative F. M. Shepard, with a little care wrinkle in his forehead, came from Lansing for the purpose of attending this meeting. He wished the opinion of his constituents, regarding the several bills, in which they were interested, which should be presented to the legislature. He referred to the best sugar bounty bill; the capital punishment, by electrocution, bill; the bill to abolish the gathering of statistics of farm products, and the county salary bill. The last mentioned bill he read in full, as he had assisted in its framing. The gathering statistics of farm products created quite a discussion. As each supervisor is allowed ten dollars for that branch of his work, and as some of our members do not see any benefit resulting from it, a petition was drawn up and circulated, asking that the law be abolished. A remonstrance was suggested, but failed to materialize.

The club reporter believing that farmers should know the amount raised and all about the products of his state, his country and the world, in order to understand what and how much it will pay him to raise, and many other reasons, favored the remonstrance, but not being a voter, her opinion failed to count. Rep. Shepard was asked his opinion, not as representative but as a supervisor, as he had served the township in that capacity for many years. He replied that in many instances the farmer did not know the amount he had raised; in other instances he declined to make any statement whatever, and the supervisor was obliged to make his own estimate, which, at the best, was very inaccurate. The club reporter said when the farmer understands it is "the law" that he must know, and that he must make a correct report of the amount and kind, of all his crops raised, there will

be no ignorance nor declining on the part of the farmer to comply with the requirements of the law, and the crop reports will be reports that can be relied upon.

A committee, consisting of R. C. Shepard, F. M. Shepard and Miss Gullford, was appointed to draft resolutions, relative to the death of I. N. Alexander, and the following were presented and adopted by the club:

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Alexander, all whose good fortune it was to know him and to be associated with him in business or social relations, have lost a genial friend and wise counselor.

Resolved, That the deepest sympathy of the Burton Farmers' Club be extended to the widow, daughter, sons, and other relatives of the deceased, and that a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That these resolutions be recorded in the books of the club, and that a copy be presented to THE TIMES for publication.

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Place and Mr. and Mrs. Randall were elected members of the club.

The president appointed J. W. Rose chaplain, and L. S. Bowles and Mrs. D. Thorp to act with the secretary as committee on program.

Masters Levern and Chaney, sons of the house, each gave recitations which were received with cheers. Club adjourned to meet at the residence of F. M. Shepard the first Thursday in April.

S. C.

New Lothrop.

M. A. Herrick, of Farwell, has bought the goods in the Rolfe building and will continue the business there. He took possession Tuesday—Burnham, Stoppel & Co.'s agent, M. O. Watson, returned to his home in Detroit, Tuesday—A jewelry store will be opened next week in the Amidon building—E. C. Brennenman and O. J. Swartz, of Lainsbury, will open a clothing store in the Burpee building, March 1st—Frank Stewart, of Chesaning, will remove his stock of hardware into the Gillett store. He has also bought McKay & Beatty's line of hardware—Born, Monday, Feb. 23d, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Avery, a son—Revel services are being held in M. P. church every evening—G. Gillman, of Potoski, a young man lately in the employ of Dr. Brown, stole a watch last week from the residence of the Dr. He was suspected and arrested Saturday evening after an exciting chase, and brought before Justice Wilson and gave bail. Monday he brought the watch back and paid the costs and settled it up—On Tuesday while Jas. Fee was cutting feed with a horse power, the tumbling-rod became disconnected and flew up and hit him on the head, bruising it very badly—On Tuesday last Wm. Glazier was attacked by a buck sheep and bunted so severely that he was knocked down, breaking one of his legs in two places. Mr. Glazier had had his leg broken before in the same place, and as it had never gotten quite over it, this may make him a cripple for life—Chester and Ruth Walters returned to Corunna, Monday, having spent over a week visiting their father, Hiram Walter.

Byron.

There was a donation for the benefit of Rev. W. W. Benson on Friday evening at the opera house, resulting in the raising of about \$88.00—Mrs. Simonson is at present with her mother in Detroit—D. M. Tillman has been appointed deputy sheriff for Burns—Mrs. Emma Barnes is entertaining her mother, Mrs. K. Tyler—F. Savaze and daughter, Mabel, visited at Swartz Creek one day last week—Arthur Benson, of Fowler, spent Saturday and Sunday with his father and mother at the parsonage—A Housington, of Marcellus, is spending the week with his brother, A. W. Housington—Mrs. V. L. Stark is with her mother at Howell at present—Levi Shoemaker, of the soldiers' home, is making a visit in Byron, he having formerly lived here—Mabel Fosket was home from Corunna, Sunday and Monday—Harmon Boice was home from Ann Arbor for the 22d—An agent of the State Board of Pharmacy was in Byron and made one arrest for selling drugs without a certificate—Rev. Elsie, pastor of the Baptist church, is on the sick list, but is improving at this writing.

Frederick Bankaid died at his home in this city, Feb. 19, aged 70 years.

Awarded

Highest Honors—World's Fair, '89

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.