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The New Empire.

The plea of the war with Spain having been wholly inspired by motives of humanity on the part of the United States is fast being scouted as having no justification in facts. Just as Cortés entered Mexico to civilize and christianize the people, but ended by conquering the country for Spain, so it is now being declared that the colonies of Spain have been seized, not, as was first proclaimed, to relieve the people from cruelties, but to enlarge the territories and promote the development of American commerce. This movement promises to be one of the great revolutions of history. The more its probabilities and possibilities are studied the more far-reaching in their influence on international relations do they appear. One effect will be to make the Monroe doctrine obsolete. Another will be to make the voice and the interests of the United States an influential factor in the foreign policy and politics of Europe. A further one will be the necessity of the States maintaining a navy and army proportionate to those of the great powers of the old world.

The Glorious Fourth.

The very general rejoicing throughout the United States on the glorious fourth of July, can hardly be participated in with any great degree of pleasure by even the most patriotic of fire underwriters. From early morn until the last rocket shoots heavenward, and falls through an open skylight, or the most belated fire-cracker finds its way through a grating into the cellar of a house or shop, the much-concerned underwriter must be far from happy and seldom free from anxiety. That the fire department of New York realized the unusual element of danger attending last Tuesday's celebration was evidenced by the issuing of the following bulletin:—

"The patriotic feeling of the people since the termination of the Spanish-American war seems to indicate that Independence Day, July 4, 1899, will be celebrated by an unusual display of fire-works, thereby likely to cause a greater number of fires than during the same period of previous years. The atten-

tion of all citizens is, therefore, called to the necessity of more care in the interests of the preservation of property. Citizens are particularly requested to keep all areaways clear of all accumulations of rubbish or combustible material of any kind; to see that all doors leading to cellars and areaways are kept closed, more especially in the business sections of the city; also, all windows or scuttles on roofs, where fireworks are likely to enter, should be closed and kept closed until after the display is over. To be prepared for any fire which might occur, I would suggest that pails of water be kept handy for instant use, and that the citizens should be cool and use good judgment, which may be the means of preventing a conflagration."

The Real Hero.

Under this heading the London "Times" expresses English admiration for the noble French gentleman, Colonel Picquart, and pays the following eloquent tribute to his straight, manly and courageous conduct in the Dreyfus case: "It is some consolation in the midst of so much perfidy and cowardice to recognize in Colonel Picquart the noblest type of loyalty and courage. It is to him more than to any other man that the unhappy Captain Dreyfus owes his escape from the terrible doom to which he was illegally condemned. Pure love of right for right's sake appears to have been the motive which led this brave and honest man to attempt to get justice for his brother officer. He seems to have had a dislike for the prisoner. He respected and believed in his chiefs. He was the youngest officer of his rank; he had a brilliant future before him, and all he had to do to secure it was to take the hint given him by his superiors and hold his tongue. He preferred to face hatred, persecution, exile, loss of rank and solitary imprisonment. He has never wavered. He has won for himself the admiration of millions, and has convinced them by the most striking of proofs that, despite all the baseness and all the corruption which have been laid bare, there are still in the gallant French army officers and gentlemen of whom any service might be proud."