

right up to it. The Spaniards' knees were knocking together, because they thought they were dead men, when suddenly he turned his army aside, and crossed the Trocha between two smaller forts, whose garrison had flown to the aid of the town. The movement was so sudden that the Spaniards simply stood gaping, open-mouthed, while the Cubans crossed the dreaded ditch, with flags flying and bands playing. That must have been a grand sight."

"If you remember, I told you about Venezuela, and how there was, for a little while, a chance of our having to go to war with England, because she claimed more land than belonged to her in Venezuela—which is a country in the north of South America."

In No. 4 is found the following: "We are helping the Spaniards, indirectly, now, you know, because under our treaty with Spain we must not give help to any of her colonies that are in revolt against her. It is therefore unlawful for us to send arms and men and supplies to the Cubans. In spite of the treaty a great many Americans are helping Cuba in this way, and boats are constantly going over from our ports carrying arms and men to Cuba. The government is bound to do all in its power to prevent this, and three of our revenue cutters are kept cruising up and down the coast, especially of Florida, to capture any vessels that are suspected of 'filibustering,' as this is called. So we are really doing police duty for Spain, and will have to keep on doing it until something is decided."

The children are never allowed to suspect that the main causes of the Cuban rebellion and sufferings are the machinations of American citizens.

SPECIMENS OF ANOTHER KIND.

Prof. Woolsey, of Yale University, on the Venezuelan settlement, the *New York Independent*, December 24th:

"If we compare the adjustment which has been, or rather promises to be adopted (for Venezuelan action has not yet been taken), with that which the President recommended a year ago, we shall find, however, an essential difference between the two. Let us recall the latter for a moment. The United States had suggested arbitration to Great Britain, but the latter had declined it, not, it is true, *in toto*, but as applicable to the entire region in dispute.

"Regretting the refusal of the British government to arbitrate, 'upon grounds which, in the circumstances, seem to be far from satisfactory,' he (Cleveland) proposed a United States commission to determine the boundary line. After this should have been laid down, he advised that any claim of Great Britain to territory

on the Venezuelan side of it, should be resisted by the United States by every means in its power. No sooner said than done. Congress as one man voted all that the President proposed. The commission was duly appointed. It was excellent in its make-up, and tactful and conservative in its actions. And may we not find the principal proof of this in the fact that it never made a report? For it became sufficiently clear before long that the commission was a white elephant on the hands of the administration. Had our government taken a single step toward carrying out its programme of forcing its own line down the throat of the British lion, it would have caused a great commercial panic, would have drained the treasury of its gold, and would have brought about national bankruptcy, or sunk us again to a paper basis."

"Great Britain, amazed and grieved rather than angry at our serious attitude, was by no means inclined to add to her burdens by war with the United States, and especially by war over a trifle. Thus everything made for peace and a settlement, and the settlement appears to have come, but it is not on the lines of last year's message. It recognizes the justice of the English contention, in behalf of their long established settlers, by exempting all who can prove fifty years' holding under the British flag from the operation of the arbitration.

"If we are to regard the Venezuelan settlement as a 'triumph of diplomacy,' as it has been called, in the light of the foregoing, it is a little puzzling to say which diplomacy has triumphed. Is it ours, which insisted on arbitration, and has got it, or is it the British, which refused arbitration unless the older settlements were exempted from it, and has accomplished that?"

"Satisfactory as this main fact (peace) is, there is yet something curious and anomalous in the whole matter."

Theosophy, *et al.*

We live, part of us, in the Middle Ages. Mrs. Besant is one of the mediævalists, if she does not belong rather to the time of Thales, when some wise fool would evolve out of his own imagination a theory of the universe, announce four primary elements, without the least evidence of his assertion, and their unquestioning disciples would accept their unsupported philosophy. Here Mrs. Besant comes and tells us a mass of theosophic nonsense, tells us of an astral body more subtle than ether, whose vibrations produce an aura of various colors—blue for devotion, yellow for intelligence, red for passion, brown for savagery. For all this there is not a particle of nineteenth century experimental laboratory proof. It is absolute imaginative invention. But she will find plenty of mediæval simpletons to believe her.—*Independent, New York.*

I find our journal very helpful, especially the notes on the natural sciences and English which appear from time to time.
E. D. G.