

**War's Cruel
Aftermath.**

The New York *Evening Post* boldly proclaims to its readers by the publication of a letter from Havana, the terrible results of the recent war, and the paper's caustic comments are calculated to set some people seriously a-thinking of the responsibilities of governments.

"Our friends the reconcentrados of Cuba are still dying of starvation. One of the Red Cross officers, who went to the island last April said to President McKinley that if war was declared they would all starve to death within a week. This was an exaggeration in point of time only. It would have been better, perhaps, if they had starved to death within a week, instead of lingering, as some of them have, to the present time. A private letter from a trustworthy observer, which reaches us from Havana, November 11, says:—

"Misery stares us in the face here daily. The country people not having employment in the country are now in the cities, and beneath the portals every night you can see crouched together men, women and children. There is more misery and death now than during the blockade. The fearful indecision of the Americans in regard to this fertile country is doing more harm to it than the match of the insurgent. The food that was sent here after the blockade by the Americans as a good stroke of business is lying rotting on the wharves. In Matanzas the deaths have been 90 and the births 3 in a day, and this applies more or less to all the cities. What the Commission is doing here I cannot tell, but they must be aware of these facts. Col. Williams died yesterday morning of yellow fever, and his servant also."

A letter from Admiral Sampson, published in the *Sun*, gives details in confirmation of this hideous condition of suffering and misery, which ought to make every American heart bleed. Whoever may have been to blame before the war, whoever may have been responsible for the horrid sights that Senator Proctor described in his speech, we are responsible for what is taking place there now, and the Recording Angel will so write it in his book. It is sheer quibbling to say that the island is still under Spanish rule. Spain has not sought to prevent us from feeding our friends, our wards, our allies in Cuba, if we have any. If she exacts customs duties on food sent there in the way of charity, we can pay them and collect the amount back hereafter. At all events let us feed those whom we went to war for. They stood for Humanity and Duty on our escutcheon, and they are now starving to death under our eyes."

A telegram from Ottawa published a few days ago stated that "the Government has received a cablegram from the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, conveying the thanks of the British Government for the prompt and gener-

ous action of the Canadian Government in responding to the call for help for the sufferers by the recent disastrous hurricane in the West Indies. Acknowledgment and thanks have also been received from the Governments of the several islands affected." It was eminently fitting that Canada, after having borne so prominent a part in inaugurating what might be termed the New Imperialism should have been the first to give practical proof of the strength of the patriotic sentiment, which not only binds the colonies to the motherland, but binds them to one another. The promptness with which the Canadian government responded to the call for help for the sufferers in the West Indies by remitting to them \$25,000 will doubtless have the effect of inducing the imperial government to make the grant in aid about which it has so long been hesitating. The London Mansion House fund for the relief of the West Indies sufferers has not yet reached \$200,000, and is growing very slowly, although it was at first expected to produce \$1,000,000 in a few weeks.

Reference was made in a previous article to Jamaica's splendid manifestation of patriotic affection for the "old land," when she sent the latter a gift of \$5,000,000, to be used for the purpose of defraying some of the expenses of the war with France, which was going on a century ago. Barbadoes was not unmindful of the needs of England at the same period; as this passage in Schomburgk's "History of the Barbados," shows: "The Legislature of Barbados voted on 15th May, 1708, the sum of £2,000 as a contribution towards enabling his Majesty to prosecute the war. Subscriptions were opened in every parish, and upwards of £13,000 sterling were collected and remitted to the Bank of England for the service of the government. Three years previously, in 1705, the Barbados Legislature had voted £2,000 for the same object, and had, in addition, hired the armed brig, "Lord Hawkesbury," for a space of four months, to assist in blockading the French ports."

In view of the precedents which exist, it is difficult to understand the dilatoriness of the imperial government in coming to the assistance of the West Indies. When, in 1780, a hurricane devastated Barbados, the British parliament, although England was at that time engaged in a very expensive war, promptly voted \$400,000 to alleviate the consequent distress; and in this connection it is interesting to be reminded of the fact that the citizens of Dublin raised \$100,000 for the same laudable purpose—an act of generosity which was remembered when the terrible famine visited Ireland, for, in March, 1847, the Barbados legislature unanimously voted \$10,000 to be sent to that afflicted country, this sum being trebled by private subscriptions. After the hurricane of 1831, the British parliament voted \$500,000 for the relief of the sufferers in Barbados, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia; and granted a loan of \$5,000,000 in Exchequer bills, to be applied to the relief of the sufferers in Jamaica from insurrection, and in Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia