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Shall Cuba Be Free?

While strong hope is entertained that some peaceful solution of the impending troubles between the United States and Spain may be reached, all danger of collision has certainly not passed.

The popular feeling in the United States undoubtedly is that Cuba must be set entirely free from the dominion of Spain. It has found expression in resolutions submitted to both Houses of Congress, proposing that the independence of the island shall be recognized, and that a declaration of war be made against Spain to secure that

The situation has really been forced to the point where the necessity for Cuba's deliverance from the thraldom of old world nusgovernment must be conceded, and there seems to be little doubt that this result will be brought about in the near future. The only question is as to whether or not the independence of the island can be achieved without the shedding of blood by armed conflict between Spain and the United States. President McKinley the pay of the Russian Government. professes to believe that if he is given If the story is true, it is easy to imsense of her duty in this regard. The capitulated to Russian influence. It impression prevails in Congress, how- may be that Li Hung Chang is a ever, that Spain is but talking to gain thorough-paced mercenary, for it has time, and that judging by her past long been asserted that every Chinese treatment of the Cubans, she cannot be statesman has a price. trusted to carry out any promises that There has been much solicitation in sident McKinley unwilling to act on in the older civilizations, and we prethe aggressive, it would be next to im- dict that when the smoke clears away

Spanish feeling in the United States, exceptionally mild, and there there are and to tell the truth has inspired Can- signs of an early breaking up of snow for the Cubans, is the narrative of the has been remarkable for the absence of three United States Senators who re- extreme cold weather, and, up north, cently made a pilgrimage to Cuba. the occurrence of very heavy storms. These statesmen (Senators Thurston, All calculations, based on the experi-Gallinger and Proctor took a tour in ence of other years, has, according to the fair but ill-fated island, and made the Victoria, B. C., Colonist, been coma careful inspection of the conditions pletely upset this season. The condiexisting. Their narratives are a most tion of affairs here outlined has been thrilling exposure of misgovernment very favorable to the thousands of perand cruel warfare on non-combatants. sons waiting at the passes for oppor-The visiting Senators told their stories unity to start across. Many have sufin Congress, taking full responsibility fered, but they have got off lightly for their words. It is an awful story, compared with what would have been The number of deaths by starvation their fate if the winter had been very since the war began two and a half severe. years ago up to date is given by these statesmen and confirmed by United States consular reports, as 430,000, with every expectation that it will be between 600,000 and 700,000.

All civilization was shocked because of the Armenian horrors, but the deaths resulting from these massacres have been exceeded in Cuba threefold. In Armenia, they had the excuse for the Turkish soldiery that race and religious rancor dictated their action. But in Cuba there can be no such palliation. Spain is a professedly Christian nation. Her treatment of the Cuban population is part of a policy to reduce the country to subjection by means of starvation and death, if nothing else will do it. The people who tilled the soil were driven into the cities by Weyler, the Spanish commander, under the wild and remorseless policy of starving men, women and children to death in order that the strivers after independence might be without means of support. The reconcentradoes have been herded in the cities. There, amid almost unparalleled squalor, disease and degradation, many thousands have died, and large numbers are now dying. The trade of the country has been destroyed and Cuba's customers have been subjected to great injury. Yet, though Spain has lost 40,000 soldiers in the effort, the island is no nearer subjection today than it was when the outbreak against Spanish misrule began. Old world Christian nations were con-

temned by the people of this continent for their supineness in permitting the massacre of the Armenians. Is it any wonder that a movement is now proceeding with a force that can hardly be resisted, having for its object the abontion for all time to come of Spanish misrule and cruelty in Cuba? That beautiful land, situated within a day's sall of the American continent, may surely justly be regarded as the ward of the humane people of the neighbor-

Sir M. Bowell, Conservative leader in the Senate, last week professed to be very anxious to have the all-Canadian route measure voted on in that chamber, and Hon. David Mills said the vote could take place last night, which seemed to be regarded by the Opposition leader as undue delay.

The Big Deal in the East. There is no longer any doubt that

Russia has obtained from China what she has been after for years. The job has been accomplished by Russia receiving a lease of Port Arthur and Talien Wan and surrounding country, for a term of 25 years, and the construction of a branch railway from Petuna on the Trans-Manchurian line to both these ports. Though these concessions are made in the form of a lease, the expedient deceives no one. Russia has never been known to secure possession of any Eastern country, and let go voluntarily, and it may be taken for granted that she has obtained control of a rich section of the Chinese empire, and means to retain it. In this, however, Russia is not an exception. The game of land grabbing, as played by the European nations, is carried on with sole regard for their own selfish interests, and Russia cannot be too severely criticised for looking after No. 1. It is apparent that for the present she does not desire to render the situation too acute. She holds out all kinds of fair promises to her rivals that her only desire is to obtain an ice free terminus for her trans-Siberian railway and the opportunity to open up is trade with a large and fertile section to her reserves largely for home proof China. In the development of this trade, Russia says she will welcome the competition of other nations. By this means, she endeavors to disarm

One curious statement in the telegrams is the expression of the belief that Li Hung Chang, the famous Chinese leader who visited Canada eighteen months ago, while professing to be a strong supporter of Chinese

the criticism and opposition of rival

she may now make under threats from Great Britain as to how her interests the United States. The prevalence of were to be affected by the new strugthis view will either force the president gle for territorial aggrandizement in to early action, or the passage of the the East. The motherland has always belligerent resolutions by Congress may taken care to have her full share of follow, in which case, even were Pre- the advantages arising from changes possible to prevent conflict, if Spain it will be found that the old land has

A letter from Lake Bennett, dated anything to the strength of the anti- March 7, says the weather has been adians with the strongest of sympathy travel. The winter on the whole coast

> Some of the United States Congressmen are determined to have war with Spain, if they have to fight to get

The Franchise Act Doomed. The Dominion House of Commons last night passed the bill to repeal the Dominion Franchise Act, and re-establish the system that worked so well from Confederation till 1885. A majority of 49 was obtained for the measure, which insures that the bill, with such changes as may commend themselves to the good sense of Parliament, will become law at the present session. Now that they are out of power, we do not believe that the majority of the Conservatives will seriously regret that the vexatious and costly system has been set aside in favor of lists compiled by the municipal officers.

The gerrymander, the twin iniquity of the last regime, will go next.

Mr. Arthur Harvey, lecturing in Toronto on "The Mouth of the Thames," said that he foresaw the time when he farmers of Essex and Kent-if the St. Clair Canal was built-would have telephonic connection by means of their barbed-wire fences. And if the farmers of Kent, why not those of Middlesex, Lambton and Elgin? The possibilities of electricity are far-reaching.

A Timely Warning.

With the recurrence of grip on both sides of the Atlantic, there are published many ready-made "cures," so-called. The practice of adopting these cures without knowledge as to the necessities of the person attacked, has become so alarming in France that great professors of science, like Huchard and Landouzy, have taken up the matter in the medical press of Paris, and pointed out the dangers of using certain drugs which afford temporary relief. These scientific men declare that all the coaltar preparations, such as anti-pyrine, phenacetine, anti-kamnia, and the rest, are extremely injurious if persistently used by persons who do not understand their effects on the system. The abuse of these drugs in Paris, it is When last night came, however, the said, has resulted in many deaths. In insisting that the all-Canadian route out skilled advice may easily prove small Pill. Small Dose. Lee Hing Laundry

SPAIN'S ARMY.

[New York Sun.] From an officer of our army we have received an interesting statement of Spain's military strength. On the first of October last, 201,000 troops were reported to be in Cuba and Porto Rico, and 37,000 in the Philippines. Since then reinforcements, a few thousand strong, have gone to Cuba, but there have doubtless been far more than counterbalanced by the losses in Gen. Blanco's campaigns, while Senator Proctor has recently set forth the enormous difference between nominal and effective strength in Cuba. For the home strength, or that which

preceding year, being those of Von Lobell's report on military progress and changes in various countries. This shows available for mobilization in the Iberian Peninsula, with the Balearic and Canary Islands and North Africa, second and 56 third buttalions and 10 rifle regiments of infantry, in all 124,000 men; 28 regiments of cavalry, 19,600; 14 field and 3 mountain regiments of artillery, with 9 fortress battalions, 41,035. Add 6 engineer regiments, of which 4 are sappers and miners, with the pontoon and the rallway, and the signal corps, and we have 13,754 more men, making the combatant force 198,-389, supplemented by 4,845 men in the administrative and sanitary forces. There were also, it is said, in March, 1896, available reserves 141,968 strong, of which 112,000 were infantry. But it to be remembered that Spain looks tection, with hundreds of thousands of her active troops out of the country, further, that the campaigns of the last two years must have drawn upon the forces which Von Lobell gives as then in the Iberian Peninsula. It is certain, also, that the patriots of Cuba will give all the Spanish forces that can be spared for the island more than they can do in the effort to conquer it.

FOR ANOTHER PURPOSE. [Washington Star.] The delegate was approached by a newspaper representative. He was a breezy, enthusiastic delegate, one who seemed to be fairly bubbling over with good material for an interview. "What do you think of the situation?" the reporter asked. "What do I think? Young man, you utterly mistake the nature of my employment. I am not here to think. I'm here to holler."

PREMONITORY. [Boston Courier.] Spring is coming, Spring is coming! I can feel the lum-te-tumming Of that metric ebullition that the season inundates-Feel the lyrical vibrations That in limitless creations Every editorial sanctum and the balaam bag o'erfreights.

By the generating sonne By the talk of Easter bonnets And the resurrected seeds that pose in every market stall. By my overcoat's oppression, By the growing bike procession, I can certify that Spring's about to make its annual call.

And in full appreciation Of old Nature's propagation Of her programme that doth year on year her normal labor's sum, I've concluded, notwithstanding, My convictions so commanding, That I'd best resign my whims and let the thing proceed to come.

TOO LONG. [Roxbury Gazette.] Druggist-Here's something that will cure you when everything else fails. Customer-Oh, I don't want to wait till then.

A CLUB OF ONE Don't worry, pilgrim; what's the use? You'll only five to rue it; If 'tis a job that must be done Let folks around you do it.

WHY HE WAS HAPPY [Judge.] New Arrival (Dawson City)-You seem the only happy man in the town.

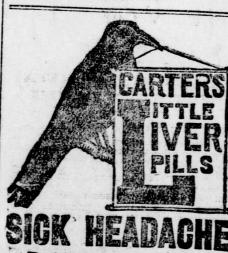
Native—I am, sir. I've got dyspepsia so bad I can't eat anything. SARCASM.

[London Punch.] Mrs. Skinflint-Here is a ha'penny for you, my man; and pray tell me how you came to be so miserably poor. Mendicant-Ah, mum, I was like you -too fond of givin' large sums to the

IT'S FATE, ANYWAY.

[Figaro.] Buried in a fur coat, with his hands deep in his packets, a man passes on the boulevard a man distributing handbills. Very politely, but without taking his hands out, he says to the distributor: "Thank you kindly, my friend. But will you have the goodness to throw it on the sidewalk yourself.'

A handsome little volume, published by Macmillan & Co., London and New York, contains Prof. Roberts-Austen's lectures on "Canada's Metals," delivered before the British Association at its meeting in Toronto last year. The book, which is illustrated by colored plates and a map, is of much value to everyone interested in the development of Canadian minerals. At the present time, when all eyes are on our gold, silver, nickel, iron and lead territories this plain expose by an expert will be especially welcome.



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A CANNON THAT IS NOISELESS.

Sets a New Pace for Inventors. The loosing of the dogs of war has furnished a new field for the inventive genius, and Colorado, although far removed from the seaboard and probable field of action, is not going to be over-looked in the rush. There are no navy yards, no dry docks, no battleships in Colorado to furnish inspiration in the invention of naval apparatus, but there are duck ponds and feeding grounds for wild geese, and in this matter, as in all others, "love will find a way." Robert Schindler, of Independent dence, Col., having seen the necessity is not employed in the colonies, the for a noiseless firearm while hunting statistics furnished us go back to the geese, and being duly inspired with patriotism, as should be expected of one living in a town with such a patriotic name, has taken out a caveat, and is now perfecting his patent for a noiseless cannon, one that would break more gently to the wily Spaniard the fact that the American navy was pummeling the life out of his navy. The Schindler cannon is a double-barreled affair, the first barrel being for jamming out the shot, and the second for jamming in the air, so that the war dogs of Uncle Sam will be quiet, hard-working beasts, able to do a whole lot of biting without emitting a single

The accomplish this end the Schindler noiseless cannon has a trapdoor somewhere on its insides, and by the mechanism of the extra barrel this trap is made to fit into the steel of the business barrel as snugly as a bug in a very hard rug until the cannon is fired and its missile of destruction sent out to do its duty. In passing out of the barrel the shot touches a trigger that releases the trap and allows it to cork up the business barrel of the gun in such a way that the inrush of air which makes Bicycles, the bang will be thwarted and there will be no bark. By the same action a valve in the second barrel is opened and the gas is allowed to escape through it. Schindler has written Congressman Bell all about the cannon and wants him to get a bill through congress making an appropriation for building a test gun after his model. He is confident that it will work, because he made a wooden cannon with a spring to throw out a ramrod, and it went off several times without a single pop after he attached to it his noiseless mechanism, while before that the "bang came out where the bullet went in," just like it ought to in any well-regulated pop-

The inventor of the Schindler noiseless cannon is but 24 years old. The idea of the invention, as has been intimated, came to him one day while out goose hunting. He discerned that the report of his gun frightened away the geese, and began to study the problem. Having decided that he had a gun that did not "shoo" every time he shot he could bag a lot more geese, he set about to overcome the defect of the gun. As the occasion has ever in the history of civilization brought forth the man to meet it, so the danger of a war between the United States and brought forth Robert Schindler.

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When last night came, however, the Opposition Senators kept talking, and other vote had to be postponed. Sir M. Bowell is one of those politicians who always finds fault with an opponent's course. This is his main reason for course. This is his main reason for course or too frequent use with—

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