

THE NEWS.

Emanuel M. E. Church, Wheaton, Lancaster county, Va., was destroyed by fire, Rev. E. F. Hall, the pastor, held services in the evening at 7.30 o'clock, and the congregation was disbanded at 9. But little fire was left in the stove, and the origin of the fire is unknown. The church was erected about four years ago at a cost of about \$1,300. No insurance.

Fire broke out at Martinsburg, W. Va., in the kitchen of the house belonging to Mrs. William Shipley, and the flames spread to the property of Mrs. Henry Matthews, which adjoins. Both houses, together with most of the contents, were completely destroyed. The loss is about \$1,200.

A pool room in the Open Board of Trade building, Chicago, which is patronized by women exclusively, was raided by the police, and twenty women, who were betting on the races, were taken into custody. Many of them were richly dressed and two had babies in their arms. They were all released on bail later in the day.

Lawyer H. S. Scovel, counsel for Eli Shaw, was found not guilty of the charge of embezzling by a Camden (N. J.) jury.

Miss Jessie E. Parker has been elected Mayor of Kendrick, Idaho, after a spirited contest. Her opponent was one of the most popular men in the city.

Pennsylvania passenger train ran over a unknown man near Steubenville, Ohio. It was stopped and a freight train coming on behind crashed into it, wrecking three cars and injuring four passengers.

The Uncompagres around Ouray, Utah, are highly incensed at the allotment commissioners for their dilatory action. Indian Agent Cornish has left for the Willow Creek district to inform the Indians that the lands are open for settlement, and that the whites were entitled by law to squat thereon.

The annual election for Mayor and City Councilmen of Pocomoke City, Md., was held, resulting in the citizens' ticket being elected by a large majority. The following was chosen: Riley M. Stevenson, Mayor, 251 majority over E. G. Polla, Republican; Jas. P. Blaine, City Councilman, 160 majority over Hugh Venney, Republican.

A fall of coal in the Franklin mines, Westport, Md., instantly killed Frank Bradley, and probably fatally injured his brother Edward.

While driving near Bloomery, W. Va., Miss Annie Kent and George Ziegler were thrown out of the buggy. Miss Kent was hurled against a fence and instantly killed, her neck being broken.

William Rust was run over by an engine on the railroad at Martinsburg and instantly killed, his body being cut in two. He was about 65 years old, and had been employed in railroad yards for many years. He leaves a family of seven children.

Alfred Balleis, alias Wm. Bellwood, was sentenced to six years in Sing Sing prison, on conviction of having swindled the William E. Marcus Company out of \$20,000 worth of gems and jewelry. Balleis is alleged to have been one of those who were concerned in the financial ruin of Max Ledebaudy, the Parisian millionaire, who died bankrupt in 1896.

W. C. Jackson, United States Indian Commissioner at Muscogee, I. T., has notified Indian Agent D. M. Wisdom, that the Choctaws are much interested in the prospect of war with Spain, and that already two regiments have been formed, and are ready to move to the front on short notice.

Newport News, Va., is rapidly becoming one of the heaviest coal shipping points in the United States.

Mr. W. P. Walker, general traffic manager of the Chesapeake and Ohio Road, has been paralyzed, and is in a serious condition.

The New York Stock Exchange will be opened on Good Friday for the first time in years, owing to the possibility of war.

A snowstorm was general over the Middle States, and it is said to have done much harm to budding fruit.

MESSAGE DELAYED.

United States Consul General Lee Asks For More Time.

AMERICANS IN DANGER.

A Great And Final Attempt to Reach an Agreement is Reported to Have Been Made—Signs That Spain Will Yield, But Will Want The Concession Bought About So As Not to Humble Her Pride.

A despatch from Washington says: President McKinley did not send his message on the Spanish-American situation to Congress Wednesday as expected. The message probably will not be transmitted until next week and there is a possibility that it may not be sent then in the form in which it was written for transmission.

There were two reasons for withholding the message. Consul-General Lee advised the President that it would be impossible to get all the Americans out of Cuba before Sunday, and that they would be in grave peril if the message was sent to Congress before their departure from the island. The second reason was the President's hope, in view of developments at Madrid, that the differences between the United States and Spain could be adjusted without resort to war, the Spanish government having manifested a disposition to make concessions which it had heretofore refused to consider. The President is thought to be still the master of the situation, as far as Congress is concerned, and if further postponement is considered necessary it may be acquiesced in by Congress. There were expressions of discontent on the part of Republican members of the House at the delay in transmitting the message, and a conference attended by about fifty Republican Representatives was held after the adjournment of the House. Vigorous speeches denouncing the policy of delay was made, and it was decided to appoint a committee to watch the situation.

A special cablegram from Madrid states that a great final attempt at peace is on foot there. A surprise is said to be likely to develop out of the situation. An Associated Press dispatch from the Spanish capital gives a report current there but not officially confirmed, that the United States and Spain has arrived at a satisfactory settlement. The Queen Regent has practically taken the direction of affairs out of the hands of her ministers, and in her course there is hope of peace. The staff of the United States legation has left Madrid and Biarritz, Woodford's family is going to Biarritz, France.

It is semi-officially announced at Rome that the Spanish government has accepted the principle of an armistice with the Cuban insurgents as proposed by the Pope. Haratto R. Rabans, consul for the Cuban junta, says the Junta would under no circumstances accept intervention without a recognition of their independence. He charges that the governments of Spain and the United States had a secret understanding to force autonomy on the insurgents. Financial men regard the views of the junta as biased by considerations of bonds issued with a promise to pay for independence is assured by the Cuban government.

An ominous calm, according to the latest advices, prevails in Havana, and there are grave fears that a riot may be started at any time. A war fever has caught the city, and the volunteers hold frequent drills before the houses of people.

The fast merchant steamers Beverly and Brookline left Kingston, Jamaica, to carry American refugees from Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba.

A dispatch from London says that Great Britain, after having been fully advised of President McKinley's Cuban policy, is in full and complete sympathy with it.

The Washington representatives of the leading European powers had a conference at which was drafted a joint note offering the friendly offices of their governments, but not suggesting actual mediation. The note has not yet been delivered to the State Department.

It is reported that the United States has bought three torpedo boats in Italy and that Spain has secured the armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi.

THE MESSAGE WITHHELD.

Gen. Lee Fears Injury to Americans in Cuba.

The Cuban situation changed with unexpected swiftness Wednesday. The galleries of Congress were crowded, Senators and Representatives were anxious and agitated, and the diplomatic corps was in a ferment, awaiting a message from the President of the United States to the Congress of the American people that might mean war, when, with excitement at the very highest, like an electric flash, the word passed that there would be no message.

Its suddenness stunned the public, which heard the news in distorted form and amazed veteran members of Congress.

Ultimately it became known that not only would there be no message, but no message this week, and that it was at least a possibility that the message written and approved might never go to Congress at all.

The first reason for the delay was that the administration received advices from General Lee, at Havana, indicating that all Americans could not be removed from the island immediately and would be in grave peril if the message preceded their departure. The second reason was the hope of a peaceful settlement, owing to encouraging advices from Madrid.

Spain May Make Concessions.

This important news was that the Spanish government had decided to reopen the case, closed so far as this government was concerned, by the refusal of Spain to make satisfactory response to the representations made by the United States last week, and in order to avert impending war, had decided to make concessions heretofore refused.

What will be the final outcome, it is too early to say, but the aspect of affairs is more pacific and sufficient to renew the hope of the President in a solution of the Cuban question satisfactory to the American people and achieved without bloodshed. The details remain to be worked out, but it is expected that between now and Monday a clearer light will be thrown on the future by action at Madrid, of which one important feature is at least the declaration of an armistice by the Queen Regent of Spain. This armistice, it is expected, will lead to the ultimate independence of Cuba from Spanish rule, but by what intermediate steps perhaps even the governing powers do not at this time know. Much, it is supposed, will depend upon the Cuban insurgents and the people of the United States and Spain.

A Noticeable Improvement. The improved condition of affairs is reflected at the White House, among cabinet

officers and at the embassies and legations, including the Spanish legation. At the latter establishment Senior Polo said that while he could not disclose any of the information reaching him in an official character, yet he felt that the strain of a few hours ago was materially relieved and that the prospects for peace looked much brighter. He would not discuss the view entertained in other high official quarters that Spain is slowly but surely yielding, and confined his utterances to the general statement that conditions were improving.

The uncertainty following a great disappointment was the condition existing at the Capitol at the close of the day when the expected did not happen. Senators and members were at sea as to what was coming next.

Leaders Summoned to the White House. While the message was awaited there came a hurried summons of leaders of the Senate and House to the White House and they were informed that the message was to be withheld upon the information received from Consul-General Lee. The reasons he gave were deemed entirely satisfactory by all, and Senator Davis informed the Senate, while the House leaders carried the news to that body. That the danger to American life was considered sufficient reason for non-action appeared in the postponement of all proposed meetings to consider the situation.

The proposed armistice Spain injected another feature into the discussion of the situation, and while some were very hopeful that a satisfactory solution of the problem might result from it, the general feeling was that the conditions in Cuba, the determination of the insurgents to continue fighting until independence was recognized and the sentiment of this country in favor of Cuba's independence of Spain, possibly made overtures on this line too late.

PERILLED BY HUNDREDS.

A Levee Breaks and an Indian Town is Swept by Floods.

A despatch from Evansville, Ind., says: At six o'clock in the afternoon the levee at Shawneetown, Ill., broke a mile above the town, and from all the information that can be secured it was learned that a great part of the place has been destroyed, and that, perhaps, a large number of citizens has been drowned. Shawneetown is seventy-five miles below Evansville on the Ohio River. It is situated in a valley of extremely low land, with hills skirting it in the rear, and with a twenty-five foot levee in front, ranging from hill to hill. The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way, a mile above town, under the pressure of a very high river, the water shot through a twenty-foot opening, and struck the place like a hurricane, sweeping everything before it.

Houses were overturned and tossed about like boxes. The people were not warned of the break, and for that reason so many were caught. Those at home sought refuge in second stories and on house-tops. Those in the streets were carried before the avalanche of water, and probably the majority were drowned.

Citizens came from the place by skiffs to a telephone seven miles away and asked for aid from Evansville. They said that more than two hundred people were drowned, and they had reasons to believe that it would reach 500 or even 1,000.

The water stands from twenty to thirty feet all over the town.

There are, of course, no fire or light in the place, and total darkness envelops the desolate scene.

All telephone and telegraph wires are now down, and outside communication appears to be impossible.

A special to the Chicago Record from Cypress Junction, Ill., says: Two hundred and fifty persons were drowned by the inundation of Shawneetown, six miles from this place.

The north levee broke at 4.20 o'clock A. M., and the Ohio river flowed over the town many feet deep.

Scores of houses are floating about, and many persons are clinging to the wreckage. In the hope that rescuers will soon appear with boats to take them to places of safety.

All communication with the town is cut off. Trains cannot reach there, and telephone and telegraph wires are down.

The first report that reached here was that the entire population had been drowned, but this is not confirmed.

FIELD OF LABOR.

Colorado claims 45,000 unions.

Canada's pottery trust has been reorganized.

Connecticut ice dealers have a State Union.

Detroit chairmakers, earning \$1 a day, struck.

Deb's Social Democracy is represented in thirty-two States.

Michigan embalmers formed a State organization.

The land tax (single tax) is the only legal tax in China.

All union men in St. Louis building trades are employed.

A Denver lawyer was disbarred for criticizing a judge.

Montreal cigar-makers, earning from \$5 to \$8 a week, struck.

WAR THE ONLY OUTCOME.

Spain Will Not Yield Her Sovereignty Over Cuba.

ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE.—These two words have conveyed to Minister Woodford, at Madrid, the exact position of the United States government with reference to the end of Cuba. If his mind was not entirely clear, owing to lack of familiarity with diplomatic terms, or if the Spanish authorities did not wholly comprehend the attitude of this government, these two words have removed all doubt. And here the case rests, with the issue made up and definitely closed. The most optimistic advocate of peace can hardly look forward to the possibility of a compliance with our terms. Spain chooses the alternative of war with the United States and defeat, rather than yield her sovereignty over Cuba and be plunged into conflict with her own subjects at home.

The joint note presented at the White House Thursday by the five European powers was in effect a formal expression of friendly solicitude, and a hope that peace may yet come in Cuba without war. It was in no sense intervention. No pressure is being or will be exerted to have this government recede from its position. President McKinley's reply is unequivocal and conclusive. The note of the powers does not affect the situation at Washington in the slightest degree.

Consul General Fitzhugh Lee will leave Havana on Saturday. Minister Woodford will depart from Madrid about the same time, although it is not felt that he is in any peril. The recall of Consul General Lee will be a practical announcement to the world that war is at hand.

Representative Grosvonor, conservative and cool, who speaks with the full knowledge of the gravity of the situation, announced to Congress Thursday that war could not now be averted. The Senators who have been conspicuous advocates of peace, and who have been hoping against hope for that result, no longer expect a peaceful solution.

Counsel Reubens' ill-timed manifesto, announcing that the Cuban insurgents would fight the United States troops unless our intervention was preceded by a recognition of the independence of the so-called Cuban Republic, has materially changed the sentiment of Congress on the independence proposition. There is every reason to believe that both the Senate and House will promptly authorize and direct IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION, as recommended by the President, without a recognition of independence at this time.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In the British House of Commons Sir Charles Dilke made a motion containing an indirect attack on the cabinet for its general foreign policy. Mr. Balfour replied to him.

It is announced in Vienna that the Austria-Hungarian government will ask for about \$24,000,000 for increasing the strength of its navy.

The German government has recalled its order expelling Miss Lona Barrison through representations of the United States embassy.

Arthur Orton, famous as the claimant to the Tichborne title and estates, died in England.

Mrs. Della Stewart Parnell was buried beside her son, Charles Stewart Parnell, in a Dublin cemetery.

Prince Bismarck celebrated the eighty-third anniversary of his birth by giving a banquet at Friedrichsruhe.

The Portuguese government has authorized the importation of large quantities of wheat.

The steamer Iceland arrived at St. John's, N. F., after having taken 25,000 seals. Other vessels are reported to have taken large numbers of them.

An Anglo-Egyptian reconnaissance found the derwishes strongly entrenched eighteen miles from Atbara, Nubia.

Japan is rumored to have asked the United States to co-operate with Great Britain in supporting Japan's refusal to withdraw from Wei-Hai-Wei.

Sir James Westland, financial member of the legislative council of India, states that the reopening of the Indian mints is now impossible.

Great Britain has demanded that China lease to her the port of Wei-Hai-Wei as soon as it is evacuated by the Japanese. China is expected to yield.

Charges have been made to the Chinese Emperor that Li Hung Chang and the Chinese foreign office have received large bribes from Russia.

Archbishop Boudini, of Lima, Peru, is dead.

Eighteen of the crew of the German steamer Magnet, which sank in collision with the bark Maine, were drowned on the English coast, were drowned.

The French Court of Cassation has quashed the sentence of M. Emilie Zoia for making alleged libelous charges concerning the Esterhazy court-martial.

The Anglo-Egyptian force operating on the Nile has captured the town of Shendi, routing the derwishes and cutting off the main body of their advancing army from their base of supplies.

An official statement from the foreign office announces that the port of Tai-Lien-Wan, leased from China will be open to foreign trade.

The average pay of skilled masons, carpenters and other tradesmen in China is 7 cents a day.

"SPAIN BLEW UP THE MAINE."

Senator Butler Says the Majority in Congress Regards the Case in This Way.

Senator Butler says, "The majority in Congress looks at the situation in this way. Spain blew up the Maine and murdered our sailors. That is sufficient cause for war and an act of war, therefore there cannot be any compromise of the Cuban question which would leave out the Maine."

"The United States would not allow the Cubans to compromise their differences so as to prevent war or leave out war, even if they wanted to. It is the duty of this country to see that this whole Western hemisphere is under a republican form of government as soon as courtesy to the supposed rights of other nations will permit it."

"Spain's mismanagement of Cuba and her treachery and infamy in blowing up the Maine are sufficient cause for the United States government to tell Spain to get off the Western hemisphere, and get off it must."

POWERS FOR PEACE.

Foreign Embassadors Present a Joint Note to the United States.

A despatch from Washington, D. C., says:—The powers of Europe have spoken on the Spanish-American crisis, spoken directly through their Ambassadors, Ministers, and Charges d' Affaires, to the President of the United States, and from him have received with equal directness the views of the United States government concerning the Cuban conflict and the attitude of Europe toward it.

The representatives of the six great powers of Europe—Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, and Italy—gave official form at noon Thursday to their recent conference in the interest of a peaceful solution of the Cuban problem. They called in a body at the White House, presented an address to President McKinley in the Blue Room, received his reply, and then proceeded to the State Department, where, with solemn punctiliousness, they were received by Assistant Secretary Day in the diplomatic room.

The action of the powers was purely expressive of opinion, and not an attempt to intervene in the presidential controversy between the United States and Spain. No suggestion was offered of mediation, and one is not likely to be made.

Note of the Powers.

The undersigned representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia, duly authorized in that behalf, address, in the name of their respective governments, a pressing appeal to the feelings of humanity and moderation of the President and of the American people, in their existing difference with Spain. They earnestly hope that further negotiations will lead to an agreement which, while securing the maintenance of peace, will afford all necessary guarantees for the re-establishment of order in Cuba. The powers do not doubt that the humanitarian and purely disinterested character of the representation will be fully recognized and appreciated by the American nation.

SIR JULIAN PAINCEVOE, her British Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

VON HOLLEBERG, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Imperial Government of Germany.

JULIUS CAMBON, Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France.

LADISLAV HENSELMULLER VON HENSENBERG, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Austria-Hungary.

G. DE WOLLANT, Charge d' Affaires ad Interim, of the Imperial Russian Government.

G. VINCI, Charge d' Affaires ad Interim, of Italy.

The President's Reply.

The government of the United States recognizes the good will which has promoted the friendly communication of the representatives of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia, as set forth in the address of your excellencies, and shares the hope therein expressed that the outcome of the situation in Cuba may be the maintenance of peace between the United States and Spain by affording all necessary guarantees for the re-establishment of order in the island, and terminating the chronic condition of disturbance there, which so deeply injures the interests and menaces the tranquility of the American nation by the character and consequences of the struggle thus kept up at our doors, besides shocking its sentiment of humanity.

The government of the United States appreciates the humanitarian and disinterested character of the communication now made on behalf of the powers named, and for its part is confident that equal appreciation will be shown for its own earnest and unselfish endeavors to fulfill a duty to humanity by ending a situation, the indefinite prolongation of which has become insufferable.

SPAIN BUYS SMALL ARMS.

An Order for 200,000 Rifles Has Been Given to Vickers' Sons and Maxim.

Authoritative information was received at the Navy Department from the American embassy in London that Spain has contracted for the prompt delivery of 200,000 stands of small arms from Vickers' Sons and Maxim, and orders had also been placed for large quantities of ammunition for these weapons. It was told that the contract required hurried deliveries, but it is not thought the department expects that the entire number of arms can be delivered much under a year.

Why Spain needs so many small arms is a question which the authorities are asking themselves. It was suggested today that her purpose in acquiring so many was to have a stock on hand sufficient to equip the people in case the United States should attempt to make an invasion. It was pointed out to me that the Spanish troops in Cuba have an ample supply of modern Mausers, and the weapons to be secured cannot, therefore, be destined for their rearmament.

Besides contracting for small arms, Spain has been purchasing large shells for her great guns, located both on shore and on ship, and it is admitted by the authorities that she undoubtedly has ample ordnance supplies for offensive and defensive purposes for the present.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Jules Schulloff, the pianist, whose "Galop di Bravura" a generation ago was heard in every parlour, died recently in Berlin at the age of 73 years.

Mrs. Chapin, of Tampa, Fla., practically owns and operates the street railway system of that city, and is thoroughly familiar with every detail of the business.

An autograph letter, signed by Cora Ughat Potter, the actress, is quoted on a price list at four times the value of one signed by Bishop Potter, of New York.

The marriage of Naima Sultanah, a daughter of Abdul-Hamid, with the son of Ghazi Osman Pasha a few days ago, was a very quiet affair, contrary to the usual custom.

When the late General Rosecrans was stationed at Newport as a lieutenant 50 years ago he did more than any other layman in raising money for St. Mary's Church in that city.

Manuel Garcia, Malibran's brother, who sang the part of Figaro at the first performance of "The Barber of Seville" in New York 73 years ago, has entered his 94th year, and is still teaching singing in London.

The late Timothy Maher, of Philadelphia, bequeathed one-fourth of his fortune of \$150,000 to charitable purposes.

Fencing is the chief recreation of Sir Charles Dilke. At his Chelsea home he has a splendidly-appointed fencing room.

Miss Mildred Lee, the daughter of the famous Confederate General, was tendered a reception the other day in New Orleans by the Louisiana division of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Benjamin F. March, of Illinois, one of the most distinguished-looking men in Congress, rose from a private to a colonel during the war, served in nine States and was shot four times.