

The Scranton Tribune

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The assertion is being very freely made just now that congress "should do nothing to fear war."

Unfair to Cuba. It seems to us that the objection made in various quarters to the rule laid down during the Cleveland administration, and not yet repealed, concerning the clearing of vessels for Cuba is well founded.

In a Nutshell. If the distress of six or eight hundred American citizens is such as to demand the immediate assistance of their government, what must be the condition of the tens of thousands of Cubans who have equally been driven from their plantations?

As to Vaccination. The case in this county some months ago of a parent who, being opposed on principle to vaccination, fell into conflict with the school law because in the one hand he made attendance compulsory and on the other denied admission to children not vaccinated.

When the South American provinces of Spain were in revolt during the administration of President Monroe, not only did recognition of belligerency follow quickly the established fact of belligerency, but throughout the entire struggle American commerce in articles not contraband of war proceeded without interruption with the South American patriots.

Why don't those who profited by the Andrews committee's work avert an embarrassing situation by volunteering to "pay the freight" themselves?

Other People's Troubles. The United States are not alone in the dilemma of having to do something to satisfy the spirit of discontent which is rife among the working classes. The cable has kept Americans reasonably well informed concerning the measures proposed by the emperor of Germany for the pacification of the Socialists.

Some time ago the Independent Labor party of Great Britain held a conference and formulated a "programme." It did not demand the free coinage of half-value dollars, but it did demand a maximum eight-hour working day; the provision of work for all capable adult applicants at recognized trades union rates.

General Bradley T. Johnson offers an interesting opinion on this Cuban question. "It looks to me," says he, "as if the administration were electioneering for a fight. This will relieve the tariff situation and retire the currency question. A war with Spain will last just thirty minutes. The white squadron will concentrate at Havana; the Spanish fleet will be forced to fight in front of that port, and thirty minutes will see every Spanish ship under the water."

W. E. Curtis, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record, says McKinley has gone as far in the Cuban matter as he contemplates going; and Walter Wellman, the Washington cor-

respondent of Mr. Kohl's Times-Herald, says in triple leads that the president intends ultimately to annex Cuba to the United States. It is evidently a case of pay your penny and take your choice.

There is no doubt that Cuba is a mass of festering misery, made so by the attitude of irresponsible and unscrupulous citizens of the United States.

The money coat, to date, of Spain's fruitless war against Cuban freedom, counting funds spent and property destroyed, aggregates nearly \$500,000,000. It is time to tell the Spaniard that his jig is up.

The business man's memorial to the president asking him to try to bring about an "honorable" reconciliation between Cuba and Spain forgets that Spain doesn't know the meaning of the word.

After all, was Mr. Kinley dismissed for cause or because?

Gossip at the Capital

Washington, May 18. The mass meeting held on Sunday last in Washington in behalf of the cause of Cuban independence was an event worthy of more extended consideration than was given to it in the American press.

Just after the invocation had been pronounced by Rev. Hugh Johnston, pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal church—the church that President McKinley attends—a notable thing occurred. Somebody started the national hymn, "America," instantly the entire audience arose to its feet, taking up the strain and swelling it into a majestic chorus which told better than any formal words, where the American people stand in relation to Cuba's right to freedom.

There are a number of things more terrible and injurious than war; for instance, the rights of humanity, the sacredness of life, and the stock in the American hysteria for Armenia, and the starving millions in India.

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When everything was in readiness for the terrible demonstration they sent a spy out to see what was going on at the American consulate. This spy found the consul, Mr. Barker, who was a Confederate soldier in the late war, sitting at his desk sipping a Winchester rifle, and scattered about him were about 500 cartridges. The spy hurried back with this report and the demonstration was specifically postponed.

But it was the speech of Senator Allen, the Nebraska Populist, that stirred things up. Said he: "I am glad to join in these expressions of sentiment regarding this struggle. This is no new war. A distinguished member of the senate, who is now a cabinet officer, then uttered words which brought tears to the eyes of his hearers. Now his tongue is bridled. What is the cause of this? It is the cold commercialism of a few cities on the Atlantic coast. I thank God that I come from a state where patriotism counts more than money. If the American people rise up on their knees and demand prompt recognition for the Cuban administration, how shameful would it be for Grover Cleveland to let the hands of Cuba when he might have assisted her in gaining her liberty. Human life sacrificed to commercialism. We must do something practical. It is useless to talk, and talk, and talk. Do something tangible. If the president would send a fleet of gunboats into the harbor of Havana, the war would cease in thirty days. Send them with the message that war must be conducted in a civilized way and the butchering of babies and women and sick men in the hospitals must cease, and Weyler's occupation would be gone. I have been and will be for the independence of Cuba. I want to see it as free as the United States, of which it is rightfully a part. The senate will come to itself soon, and do something to aid the Cubans."

These were the resolutions adopted at the meeting by a unanimous voting vote. Resolved, That the people of this city, and of the whole United States, do now most earnestly protest against the war between Spain and the United States, and that they will not support Spain in the war in Cuba. The brutality and savagery of the present contest in that unhappy island, on the part of the Spanish commander, Weyler, is, if possible, more horrid and uncivilized than was that waged in the Netherlands in the time of the Duke of Alva, under the orders of Philip II, King of Spain; and Resolved, That we declare that this government should at once recognize the insurgent Cubans as belligerents, and further, that it is the imperative Christian duty of this government to demand that Spain shall observe from this time to the close of the war the usages of civilized warfare; and Resolved, That Cuba has demonstrated by the valor and patriotism of her people that her manifest destiny is to become a free and independent American republic; and that, without the payment of one dollar of indemnity to Spain.

A queer fact was brought out by one of the speakers at this meeting, a Mr. Bonaparte, who read some extracts from what purported to be official documents. One was a letter sent by Mr. Rockhill, the assistant secretary of state under Cleveland, to a consul in Cuba, in which he said: "I advise you to make your reports less favorable to the Cuban insurgents, as this administration wishes to avoid any friction with Spain." The second extract was a letter sent to a consul, which was another one, where a consul, who had reported something favorable to the insurgents, was told to mark all future communications of the kind personal, so that they would not be sent to the senate when correspondence was called for. It is only another one, where a consul, who had reported something favorable to the insurgents, was told to mark all future communications of the kind personal, so that they would not be sent to the senate when correspondence was called for.

THE PROPER DOCTRINE.

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