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Spain can thank her stars that she had the president of the United States and not the emperor of Germany to deal with.

The Conviction of Van Horn.

Seldom has a case of deliberate murder been so clearly established in a Pennsylvania court as was done by the presecution in the trial of Van Horn, and seldom has the threadbare expedient of the temporary insanity defense been more ineffective to becoud the public judgment as to the prisoner's guilt. Van Horn has had the benefit of a fair trial and his conviction will be viewed by the community as a notable vindication of justice in a court which once erred on the side of too much teniency in its jury room.

It is gratifying to observe that the juries of Luckawanna county are beginning to place by their verdicts in cases of hemicide an adequate estimate more the sanctity of human life. We do not on principle believe in capital purishment. But so long as this remains the penalty of the state for first degree murder it is clearly to the best interests of the community that the law should have its way. More harm by far would come from its evasion than from its resolute and undinching The gallows may not realize expectations as a deterrent of the gravest of crimes, but it is more likely to work for good order than a direction of the knowledge that emotionalism in the jury room would offer in its place victuelly a premium upon

Apart from the verdict in this case, the testimony made public by it ought in a rightful interpretation to work for The case in its entirety supplies a wholesome warning against the includence of lilicit passion, with its inevitable train of miseries culminating in rule. We sometimes incline to the belief that public teachers of morality do not place enflicient stress upon the doctrine, approved by all human experience, that the wages of sin, and especially of sexual sin, is death, Here is an object lesson which should not be permitted to escape the thoughtful study of the public

What a pity that Mr. Bryan disliked the message:

Pensions.

The article elsewhere on this page from the pen of the veteran union roldier and Washington correspondent, General H. V. Boynten, maker an aualysis of certain conditions which the best judgment of the country cannot fail to approve. General Boynton has fought heroically with his pen for justice at the hands of the government in behalf of needy survivers of the Civit Lension rolls crowds out a comrade in need or adds an unnecessary burden upon the backs of the people is deserving, not of honor but of shame

in every community are men drawing nensions who ought to be ashamed to accept from the government aid which they do not need, while other men, their superiors in valor and deserving, need ald but are too proud to ask for it. It is not easy to undo this inequality but congress should at least try to undo it. It has never yet made the attempt, and until it shall have tried and failed there will be no relevancy in the assertion that the matter earner he right of.

Coperal Boynton argoals to the veterros themselves to take the initiative in this demand for a just revision of the rells, and it is a wise suggestion. As a class they have more than the average man's contempt for the camp follower and the bounty jumper. They also realize that while no real American begrudges a penny in pensions justly placed, it is dangerous to the Whole pension system to have the opinion strengthened from year to year that the pension rolls are not as they should be. An administration is now in power which would conduct a revision of the rolls fairly and without prejudice against deserving enrollments. Such a revision would allay popular discatisfaction in the premises for general because

One remedy proposed is the publication of all the names on the roll-nearby L000.000. It would be a formidable task, but it would doublless accomplish much good. Publicity barms no honest man but it carries dismay to

William McKinley, let it be said to his credit, is not a mere phrase-maker,

The Situation in Cuba.

Quotation was made in yesterday's Trillane from a letter in the Washington Star from Havapp, written by Charler M. Pepper, a correspondent enjoying the entire confidence of all who know him. The same issue of the Star which centained the president's message presented also another letter from Mr. Pepper giving additional details of the failure of the autonomy pro-

In substance, Mr. Pepper says that the conservative Spaniards in Cubn are sullenly hostile to the Sagasta reforms, not fighting them openly but under cover doing all they can to block offective progress. The Cubans who have espoused Blanco's cause represent chiefly wealthy residents of Havand who have had no atternative save banishment. They argue that independence will come soon anyhow, and that since they cannot without impossible sacrifice join the insurgents in the field, the next best thing is to make a show of acquiescence in the Sagasta programme, pending the complete failure of the Spanish cause. Mr. Pepper

adds: tioneral Bianco's plan of conciliating or persuading the men who have been in revolt against Spean's authority to quit for a consideration must be measured by results. So far these are not encourag-

military operations, in reality to arrange terms with the rebels to whom overtures had been made. After a week in the field the surrender of the Cuervo brothers with 109 of their followers and the promse that 200 more would come in was reorted. A reputable eye witness of that surrender," an American, gave me en count, of it. He counted just twenty-ve men in all and be heard of no others the were expected. When the event was est reported the insurgents sought to discount it by saying that the Cuervo brothers had never operated with them. This was untrie. The force of the surrender of the Cuervos was weakened, however, by the fact that General Gomez had ordered them to report for courtmartial for some breach of discipiline in

theneral Paralo has since been to other arts of the island and is continuing his military operations. The telegraph may carry occasional tidings of his successes and here and there the yielding of a Cabe-cilla, or chief of a small band, may be reported, but until Gomez and Callato Garela give the word there will be no end to the insurrection as such. Picking end to the insurrection as such. Picking it apart piecemeal by persuasion or otherwise scene a fruitless method. The results secured are not lasting. Treachery has caused some bands to be broken up. General Custillo, who was in command of the insurgents in Havana province, was unloubtedly betrayed to his death a few weeks ago. Other officers have fullen in the same way, yet there is always some one to take their place.

The reported surrenders are also deceptive. The insurgents are taking advantage of the same way is the same way and the same way are taking advantagents.

ive. The insurgents are taking advan-age of the invitations of General Blanco o resume their allegiance by having their ck for whom they are unable to care ve themselves up. Moreover, the pro-ntales, or persons who give themselves up, do not always stay presented. Often the men go out in the field again, though these men are not numerous enough to make a serious difference on either side. In going through the official reports I have been able to find no change from the cyler regime. The presentation are still telly made up of women and children, or men "sin armas"-without arms. The are worthless as an index of pacification or acceptance of autonomy. The insur-cents so regard them, Their reply of gents so regard them. Their reply of Blanco's overtures was to burn the can-fields within sight of Havana. This has been stopped under orders from head-quarters since New York parties opened negotiations for grinding the sugar cane on the payment of a fixed sum. Even the Cubans whom Blanco has

released from prison take no stock in pacification. Most of the pardoned uspects, according to Mr. Pepper, "are treasuring the memory of a great wrong, and many of them, too, of great suffering. They do not seem to look upon their release as giving the government a claim on them. Instead, they want restitution. A group was pointed out to me this morning, all of those members were just back from Africa. A chance introduction to one of them later gave me an opportunity to ask his purposes. I had assumed that he would support the new policy You are mistaken,' he said, 'two years ago ! was an autonomist. For that I have had twenty months' imprison ment. Weyler was responsible for it. but Weyler was Spain. He may be Spain again. Why should we talk of autonomy when we are so near independence." Others are asking the same question. I do not think, however, that many of those who have been released will take the field with the insurgents. The majority of them are likely to remain passive.

So much for the political success of autonomy up to date. "In the meanwar and dependents of soldlers killed time," adds Mr. Pepper, "while waitin service or through disability con- ing to give autonomy a fair chance, a tracted while in service; but he will long wait is not necessary to judge be sustained by every honest fellow the results of the promised policy of veteran in his contention that the well- succoring the starving people. No conflicting or antagonistic elements have lief. That is a matter of good adminan emergency which concerns human lives. Both are lacking. The palpable evidences that the decrees and orders for the benefit of the reconcentration They are still dying of hunger and disease due to neglect."

> This is the testimony of a competent and trustworthy observer. It is not encouraging to the Spanish dream of peace. But a few weeks hence it will be possible to judge more confidently of the fruits of Spain's new programme, If the United States is to remain passive pending the outcome of the autonomy experiment it might do worse than to utilize the interval in preparing for decisive intervention when the failure of Spain to restore peace shall, as seems inevitable, soon secome manifest.

The endless chain, the endless drain and the endiess chin all ought to be regulated by congress, especially the endless chin.

An Admirable Selection.

The acceptance by Governor John W. Griggs, of New Jersey, of the presi dent's invitation to become attorney general of the United States in place of Joseph McKenna, who is to be nominated for the Supreme bench, will add strength to a cabinet in need of strength at this very point.

The public has had but one chance to gauge the capacity of Attorney General McKenna, and upon that occasion the test did not result satisfactorily. those whose characteristics require His opinion upon Section 22 of the Dingley bill was neither clear in wording nor satisfactory in its import. It read like the work of a mind habitually subject to confusion. In this respect Governor Griggs presents admirable credentials. His messages, speeches and academic papers have been notable for the clarity of their English, the sweep and directness of their logic and the riperess of their common sense. Among many examples which occur to mind we recall with especial distinctness the paper read by Mr. Griggs before the American Bar association at its last annual meeting-a paper considering the tendency of American sidering the tendency of American state legislatures to legislate not wisely but too much. It was by all odds the best paper read at that assemblage of the brightest lights of the legal profeesion; and while it dealt with an infeesion; and while it dealt with an infeesion; and while it dealt with an infeesion; and while it dealt with an infession; and while it dealt with an intricate problem it showed powers of o-ordination and digestion such as appear to be needed badly in the office

of attorney general. In other respects Governor Griggs fulfils the requirements. He is an American of culture, breadth and firmness, and a Republican who has won fair claim upon Republican admiration and esteem. New Jersey by his promotion will lose a fine executive, but the national administration will gain a recruit destined, we believe, to occupy a large place in the determination of its efficiency and popularity.

A letter sent by Rev. D. J. Jenkins. of the Charleston, S. C., Colored Or-

og. General Pando was to carry out the phanage, to the Truth reveals a pitic-lans. He took the field estensibly for the shortage in the financial resources

which the president openly charges upon Spain during more than two years of the Cuban war? Do we in a rightful view of the case owe to Spain a punctiliousness of neutrality such as has made us passive witnesses of her programme of wholesale extermination? The trouble with McKinley's Cuban policy is that his own statement of it convicts him of having sparred for time when the necessities of the situation called for a knock-out blow.

In the president's opinion, the government of Sagasta has "entered upon a course from which recession with henor is impossible." The same is to be said of the government of Maso. "The burglar, folled of his villainy, is not the man to place in charge of the bank he would have ruined." Spain, after indorsing Weyler for two years, is not to be trusted to continue in sovereignty over Cuba.

The Mexican Herald, commenting on McKinley's message, says it was fortunate for the American colonies, in the revolt against Great Britain, that the French king did not take the same view of their belligerency as does the president of the United States of the Cuban patriot cause. Why not also the

reassure the rational portion of the public that it must be all right.

Is the president certain that civil ervice reform is in favor with the peo-

A yawp from Weyler is next in order, and then a revolution in Spain.

Need of Revision of Pension Rolls

General H. V. Boynton in the Sun POR the first time since the pension appropriations began to assume enormous proportions it seems cer-tain that the subject will receive tain that the subject will receive proper and cornest attention from congress. It begins to be seen that a pension list which thirty-two years after the close of the war closely approximates half the total number of three-year culistments, and which is still rapidly growing, demands serious consideration. It is a case where the assistance is needed of the veterans who sprang to arms in 180 before pensions or bountles were talked of or thought of. Their aid is a patriotic duty, now as then. They owe it to themselves to frown upon unworthy pensioners on the rolls and unworthy applicants.

membership of all of them-Grand Army of the Republic, Union Veteran Legion, Union Veterans' Union, Military Order of the Loyal Legion. Society of the Army of the James, Society of the Army of the James, Society of the Army of the Tennessee, Society of the Army of West Virginia, and the Society of the Army of the Cumberland. Turning from contemplation of numbers to the con sideration of the cost, it appears that next year's expenditure for pensions will require more than half the yearly receipts as calculated upon those of the month just closed. The present estimate is that the roll will cost \$150,000,000. To put the matter in still more striking form, this annual outlay will require \$32,000,000 more than the total receipts from customs, estimated upon those of the month of November last as an average. If this annual expense be compared with the insome basis, it is found that the entire revenue from this source, with the excep-tion of \$12,000,000, will be required to pay the pension roll. Looked at in another shape, if a line could be formed equal in length to one made up of all the three-year veterans of the war and every other man should be advanced a pace to the front, the numbers in either lind would then but slightly exceed those on the pension roll, and more than every other dollar of the government revenue would be required to pay it.

More startling still does the magnitud of this pension payment appear when its amount is compared was the items of annual appropriations. These in round umbers were the appropriations for the

current fiscal year:	
Legislative	5 7,713,00
Executive, proper	200,00
State	2,169,00
Treasury	32,269,00
War accommons	59,978,00
Navy	33,554,00
Postoffice	539,00
Interior, except Pensions	15,012,00
Agriculture	3.188,00
Justice	
Labor	
Pensions	141,264,99
Total	\$362,585,00
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the library and the botanical garden, ex-pressed in the item legislative, and the agricultural department be taken out of the above column the pension for next year will equal the total cost of the re-maining government service. That is to say, the cost of pensions will, with the small exceptions noted, equal the entire salary list of the government in Washington and throughout the country, the White House and its salaries. A long array of prominent items, such as those for the coast survey, the life-saving service, the lighthouse system, the Indian service, the General Land office, the Marine hospital service, the National Soldiers' Homes, the customs service, which are included in the above figures, might be added to still further emphasize the

point under consideration. Pension reform has been a question which for years has been forcing itself upon the attention of congressmen. It has been put aside from year to year has been put aside from year to year because; from motives which are easily understood, and which have much to commend them, there was a general disposition to provide for the growing burden rather than seem even to be turning the cold shoulder to veterans. But with a pension expenditure requiring more than half the present yearly revenues, and at a time when these revenues.

phanage, to the Truth reveals a pitiable shortage in the financial resources of that admirable institution, which in seven years has cared for upward of 500 poor orphans and destitute negroes. While the people of the South ought to appare this and other institutions which are a legacy of its own maitreatment of the colored race, it remains for the charitably inclined citizens of the North to supply the funds which the South neglects to supply. Humanity should know no distinctions of race or section.

The president lays stress on our "friendly relations" with Spain. But should this republic, dedicated to liberty and humanity, strain duty in order to maintain friendly relations with a power guilty of the inhumanity which, the president openly charges upon Spain during more than two nues are falling many millions below the

If the pension lists could be printed every community in the land would be disgusted with its revelations. Wealthy men in large numbers would be foun upon it. Thousands would be reveale whose disabilities were only temporary whose disabilities were only temporary and so long since disappeared. A smal army of men would be discovered by whom their pensions are in no sense necessity. While this state of facts would appear, it should not be forgotten that there are men in good circumstances and many in public positions of hone and emolument, whose disabilities an persistent wounds are of a character to which no pension which the law provide persistent wounds are of a character for which no pension which the law provides can even approximately compensate. At every step they have found themselves handleapped in the battle of life. For such, and indeed for all of every rank and position, through ac various grades of disabilities, a pension is not only due as fully proportioned to the needs and deserts of the case as the government can afford, but it is also a badge of honor. To those who are not thus incapacitated for full effort in the struggle of life, and who do not need it, because of the comfortable life which they can command without it, a pension should be a badge of shame. These sentiments are rapidly gaining ground among men whose rapidly gaining ground among men whose friendship for the soldier never has been and never can be successfully disputed.

It is in the interest of every deserving pensioner and every self-respecting vet-eran that unworthy pensioners should be exposed, and the success of undesery-ing applicants should be prevented. The Cuban patriot cause. Why not also the president of Mexico? Mexico has not yet recognized Cuban belligerency.

The fact that the London editors and the Populist congressmen both disapprove the president's message tends to gressmen is that unworthy pension-creating among congressmen is that in the mature of the case, any presenting reform case, any proposition for pension reform should emarate perferably from the Republican side, and, more important still, from some prominent Union veteran, if one of sufficient courage can be found to lead. It is regarded as probable by those whose judgment in this matter should be good that unless revisionary or restrictive measures or both be soon adopted, the pension list for next year will reach \$150,000,000, and that in three years it will be \$170,000,000. case, any proposition for pension reform

THE MESSAGE.

From the Philadelphia Press. President McKinley's first annual me age thoroughly reflects the intellectual and moral qualities of the outhor. It is frank, direct, heid, carnest and wise. It is the product of a sincere mun, a clear thinker, a trained and experienced legislator and a practical and sagacious statesman. It will deepen the steadil of the first importance in demestic foreign affairs. He has met them with a The pension roll now far exceeds the membership of all the patriotic societies of veterans which the war created, in fact is considerably more than double judicious policy which finds place in this message will command a hearty response. He makes it plain that he has strong and earnest convictions which rise above the shifting currents of the hour, and that he will follow them with cour-age and fidelity under a deep sense of his public responsibility.

Humor of the Studio.

"I wish," said the artist, who had been o absorbed in his work as to neglect his cating, "that you would send our and get a nice large head of cabbage." "Certainly," replied his wife; "have you an inspiration of a new still life?" "No: I merely want it for a pot-boiler." -Washington Star.

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