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If Weyler is the patriot his words imply, now is his chance to give over to his country's bankrupt treasury the millions he is credited with having swiped in Cuba.

Teaching Us Planners.

The German Kaiser is again quoted as having in an informal way made a patronizing and contemptuous allusion to "American meddlesomeness," and the necessity of teaching Americans manners. The remark may have been made, or even if accurately reported it may have meant nothing in particular. But the fact that in several European courts a sentiment of uneasiness at the broadening dimensions of American competition and political influence should be developing simultaneously, as may be perceived even from this distance, is not altogether without significance.

In spite of their proneness to fickleness and inconstancy in matters of domestic concern it is notably true that in foreign relations the American people are inclined to be conservative. Had Cuba been an island eighty miles from the border of Germany and in such a relationship to that country as she is toward us, who can doubt that intervention would have been a matter of weeks or at latest of months? Had the request for annexation been made by Hawaii to England or France or Germany, who believes that either nation would have played fast and loose with it for more than five years and then, when it had to be answered decisively, one way or another, put on the air of extraordinary gravity and proceeded to deliberate over it as if it were a subject involving well-nigh national life or death? Our foreign policy, in spite of the Mugwump cry to the contrary, is the very antithesis of jingoism; it is fateful and hesitant and cautious to an extreme; a policy that by its very dilatoriness does not command for its opinion among more determined nations which is revealed in the tone of the German emperor's little remark. It is this very spirit of conservatism, which, being mistaken for lack of national vitality, may some day induce an exasperated foreign power which our people have fairly vanquished in the peaceful competitions of trade to resort to the indiscretion of trying to fetch us a rap on the jaw. "To teach us manners."

Then look out for trouble.

It would be interesting to know what Sagasta thinks about Secretary Gage's figures on the flourishing question.

Eminent Spanish Testimony.

It appears from a translation in the Sun of some recent correspondence from Havana in El Heraldillo of Madrid that Spain has at least one journalist worthy of the name, Senor Canalejas, El Heraldillo's editor. This distinguished Spaniard lately undertook on his own motion to ascertain the exact condition of affairs in Cuba. With this purpose in view he first visited the United States, sending home to Madrid, through his secretary, Senor Saint-Aubin, uncommonly fair and intelligent representations of American sentiment, and then he proceeded to Cuba, venturing as far from the Spanish stronghold in quest of information as he dared.

A recent issue of El Heraldillo gives some of the fruits of Senor Canalejas' observations. We quote from the translation in the Sun:

"All that has been said about the depopulation of the country, the destruction of wealth, and the awful sufferings of the Spanish soldiers, nothing when compared with the dreadful truth. More distressing than anything that has been said are the ruin of commerce, the failure of the next crop, the death of provisions all over the island, the ravages of epidemics, and the dire misery of the inhabitants in the principal cities and towns. The spectacle is more sad when we recollect the optimistic Spanish predictions that have been uttered. About the insurgents he says: 'They were the pardons offered to them and reject autonomy. They burn the sugar cane fields, threaten the sugar estates, and concentrate their military forces in the mountainous west. In the east, 20,000 well-armed men maintain by force the civil organization of the so-called Republic of Cuba. Our troops have not damaged them during two years, and that is their main argument for demanding from the United States the recognition of their legitimacy.' What will be the result? This Spanish journalist and former minister does not dare to say. He only points to the fact that General Blanco's mission in the island of Cuba is 'full of difficulties.' The situation," he adds, "is so dark that it is hard to foretell the issue."

There can be little doubt that these admissions are conservative in view of the subsequently reported victories of the Cubans in the field, which even the Spanish authorities at Havana are compelled to confirm. It may be that the purpose of Senor Canalejas in presenting to Spanish readers for the first time the naked facts in the problem is to stir up a sentiment likely to reinforce the Sagasta ministry with money and troops. On the other hand, he may aim simply to prepare the way for the Liberal administration to confess to the impossibility of holding Cuba and on that plea to open negotiations for the island's abandonment to the insurgents. But whatever the motive, the fact itself is certainly significant. It is an eloquent testimonial to the vitality of the insurgent cause that an ex-minister of Spain and one of the present premier's closest friends should publicly admit in correspondence to his own paper the undiminished strength of the Cuban insurrection after nearly three years of the costliest war that Spain has ever waged.

Lieutenant Thomas J. Keith, of Company B, Twenty-sixth Indiana Volunteers, although a clergyman earning only \$100 a year, has returned to the government \$49,586 in pension money on the ground that he is not morally entitled to it, having recovered from

the ailments upon which its issue was based. He said in his letter to the commissioner of pensions that he knows of one Presbyterian elder who draws \$20 a month for alleged deafness while in charge of a long distance telephone station, and adds: "God judges nations that wink at perjury and reward fraud." There ought to be a number of Keiths in each community.

The battleship Kentucky, over whose forthcoming christening at Newport News so much fuss was recently made, will be the most powerful war craft afloat. In each of its two turrets are two guns each with a calibre of 13 inches, and each capable of firing an explosive projectile the size of an average pumpkin a distance of 13 miles. Fifteen 5-inch quick-firing guns, twenty 6-pounders, six 1-pounders and four machine guns complete the ship's death-dealing equipment, the most formidable of any yet devised. Spain, et al., will take notice.

Demagogism.

The Philadelphia Times administers a scathing but just rebuke to an inconsiderate contemporary in the interior of the state which had intimated that undue influences might be brought to bear in behalf of Sheriff Martin in the event that his case should be appealed to the supreme court. It characterizes such insinuations not only as cowardly but also as vicious in their poisonous influence upon ignorant classes in the population who, without the ability to think the matter out, accept at face value what they hear in derogation of the courts and are thereby betrayed into ruinous misconceptions of American government.

Unquestionably the Times is correct, but it could have gone even further. It could fairly have charged upon the spirit of demagogism the whole responsibility for the shooting at Lattimer as well as for all the industrial life of the American people. It was demagogism leavening with chronic unrest the pioneer miners that in first place forced the early employers of labor in the anthracite fields to consider the experiment of introducing a low grade of alien labor. Again it was demagogism which enabled this importation to be effected—that demagogism which in several single heretics was worst not many years ago to contend that America was the open asylum for the oppressed of all nations and that the man who should dare to propose a restriction and an intelligent asserting of immigration would be in effect a traitor to the glorious principles of American liberty. Thanks to this stupid bombast, the foreign in-pour kept up until the whole circle of industry was disarranged, but still demagogism was not abashed.

It again set to work, now to poison the old immigrants or their sons against the new, and anon to start fermentation among the alien classes themselves. The describing observer who has been brought into close range with the bulk of the rougher types of recent immigration into the anthracite region cannot have failed to note the pacific and honorable disposition of the masses of these aliens when their ignorance has not been worked upon by human fire brands for some ulterior purpose. Had the inevitable been accepted manfully by the communities in which these aliens settled, and influences been set to work upon the newcomers to lead them gradually into union with their surroundings, it can scarcely be doubted that instead of Lattimer and Homesteads we should even at this early day be well along toward the assimilation of this now irritable body of foreigners into a quiet and tranquil part of the national matter, some disgraced member of the house said, "that about all the lower branch of Congress is doing at the time was treating the members to 'Tom and Jerry'." No formal action has been taken by the leaders of the house as to the course of legislation in the future, although a sort of mutual understanding has been reached by which the appropriation bills shall be proposed as fast as they are ready for consideration. When these are out of the way the bankruptcy bill will be given the first opportunity.

The committee on foreign affairs held its first meeting Friday, and outlined the work by the special committee to deal with Cuban and Hawaiian affairs. What the general line of policy will be in regard to these matters will be not indicated by the chairman, Mr. Hill, of Illinois, the time of the committee being given to the question of sealing in the Bering sea.

The Democratic caucus which is to be held at an early date, is believed to be essentially for the purpose of settling the issue with the administration and the speaker of the house on the Cuban question. The leading issue in this movement is from the standpoint that by their side insisting upon the consideration of the pro-Cuban resolution, the president and the speaker of the house are to be made by a vote before the country. They believe, with good reason, that the country is strongly in sympathy with the Cuban insurgents, and that a large number of the Republicans in the house have similar sympathies. If therefore they can draw enough support from the Republican side to defeat the speaker and the Republican managers, they can profit by an attitude of friendliness to the Cuban insurgents, an attitude, the negative course of the administration, which they believe to be extremely unpopular at the present time.

The National University Movement.

Among the arguments advanced in behalf of the establishment in Washington, of a genuine, national university, as desired by Washington and the early presidents, one alone is ample to clinch the project in public favor. It calls attention to the fact that on an average of \$3,000,000 is expended annually by congress in maintaining federal departments of scientific inquiry that could readily be grouped within the university's limits. Within reach as university aids are the congressional library, "the largest," says Mrs. Calvin S. Brice, "in the world, housed in the finest building for that purpose in the world; special libraries, the Smithsonian, with 250,000 volumes; a law library of 50,000 volumes, covering the jurisprudence of the civilized world; the naval observatory, which may not rival the Lick or Yerkes in star-gazing appliances, but sufficient to teach the whole science of astronomy; the National Museum, with its twenty-two departments, each under a curator, and a library of 20,000 volumes; horticultural and agricultural departments; and the Cooper Art Gallery, with its splendid endowment of a million dollars, and its classes of painting and drawing."

The fact that 4,000 young Americans on an average go to Europe each year to pursue in the German or English universities post graduate courses of study for which there are insufficient facilities in their own country adds an incentive to the present movement to supply the deficiency and at the same time to round out the American system of free public instruction which now, save about the revolution of a fully-educated citizenship. The national convention of patriotic women, having this movement in charge will

assemble in Washington tomorrow and its three days' session will be observed with sympathetic interest by all who have at heart the higher interests of the American republic.

Every person relieved to learn that the funds recently reported as missing from the accounts of A. R. Spofford, the veteran librarian of congress, have been discovered in an old desk, amidst a confusion of letters and papers. Mr. Spofford may not be a model of business precision, but he is a public servant whose long usefulness to this nation and to civilization outweighs by far any habits of carelessness which he may have acquired within a lifetime given up to the study of books; and his entire vindication, while not surprising, is doubly gratifying in that it promises to restore to Mr. Spofford the savings which, at the time of the discovery of his apparent default, he insisted upon turning over to the government for its reimbursement.

It is astonishing what a marked difference of opinion there is between the railway presidents and the interstate commerce commissioners as to the vitality of the present interstate commerce act. The former seem to think that the latter are clothed with more power than is desirable, notwithstanding that the latter claim virtually to be helpless. It is unlikely, however, that the railway influence will succeed in foisting any considerable number of the people.

Editor Kohlsaat has issued his ultimatum to congress. Unless it adopts currency reform he declares that the next house shall not be Republican. This is a poor way to coax recalcitrants into line.

Some Glimpses at Congress at Work.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The fifty-fifth congress of the United States is again in full blast, the wheels that move the ponderous machinery which grinds out the legislation of the nation from time to time having been set in motion Monday last by the joint rapping of gavels in the hands of Thomas Brackett Reed, of Maine, and Charles A. Tamm, of New Jersey. The roll call revealed considerably more than a quorum of the membership of both branches of the federal legislature, and ready to do business. Both chambers of the great capitol building showed marked evidence of the skill and handiwork of the official band-leaders, in the bright new carpetings that greeted the eyes and the feet of the congressional wayfarer as he returned to his respective chambers after the extraordinary session in July last. The smell of new paint which pervaded the capitolian atmosphere to a pleasant extent, seemed to have an enlivening rather than depressing effect on the returning pilgrims if the self-satisfied expression which spread over their faces as they cordially greeted each other with hearty handshakes and pleasant words of welcome, was any indication by which to judge.

Taking the present congress all in all, Democrats, Republicans, Silver men, Gold-bugs and Straddlers, they are a pretty jolly lot of intelligent men. There seems to be less sectional bitterness and less feigning of friendship in the present congress than in any other since the close of the war of the rebellion. There is a disposition on the part of the Lion Reed to be down with the little lamblike Confederate general Joe Wheeler, of Alabama, and to allow the sockless straggler from "Hickory Knolls," Hon. Jerry Simpson, to occupy a position at the foot of the bed provided he keeps quiet and doesn't shock their sensibilities with a clamorous war whomp of despair. But Jerry is a good fellow and everybody likes him. He is not, by a large majority, the veritable mascot that he is represented to be, but an intelligent, jolly and pleasant gentleman. During the extra session when Jerry was attacking the ratings of Speaker Cannon in regard to the three days' adjournment matter, some disgraced member of the house said, "that about all the lower branch of Congress is doing at the time was treating the members to 'Tom and Jerry'." No formal action has been taken by the leaders of the house as to the course of legislation in the future, although a sort of mutual understanding has been reached by which the appropriation bills shall be proposed as fast as they are ready for consideration. When these are out of the way the bankruptcy bill will be given the first opportunity.

ODE TO THE WING.

You may talk about the tariff, and protection, and free trade, And party panaceas for oppressing human ills, And "improving trade conditions," and the boom that wheat has made, But the way to stir up business is to pay your little bills. If you owe the grocer twenty, and he owes the butcher ten, And five more to the coal man, and to the hardware store, and to the miller, Your payment of the twenty helps along three business men, And the payments they can make in turn make other people thrive. Idle money in your pocket doesn't do you any good; Unless your bills are all paid up in full it isn't yours. Just pay up all you're able, as you wish that others would; That's the recipe for hard times that invariably cures. If you pay what you owe others, others will can then pay you. It's the circulating dollar that the pulse of business thrills, So set your money working, and then watch what it will do. For the way to stir up business is to pay your little bills. —William H. Hills, in the Sun.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

What is more acceptable than a nice piece of

China, Cut Glass or Bric-a-Brac, Umbrella Stands, Jardiniere and Pedestals, Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets.

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The Messrs. Reynolds, stationers and engravers, Hotel Jermy building, Wyoming avenue side, extend to you a cordial invitation to inspect their line of holiday goods.

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by his successor in the presidential chair. They think he should have turned the reins over first, and then made every man subsequently appointed to the vacancy undergo a civil service examination, as originally contemplated by the law. Until that is done, legally, and not by extension of covering in orders—without examination—there will always be opposition to the system, which will be carried into the elections, as it was in the recent election in Maryland, by which a civil service amendment was crowded under by fifty thousand majority. I believe the divorcement of officials, spolia from politics, will result in ultimately creating and fostering a large independent element that will gravitate toward the party who offers the greatest hope of reward.

There is some talk abroad today indicating that there will be an effort made to defeat the confirmation of commissioner of immigration, Hon. Terrence V. Powderly, but the friends of Mr. Powderly are prepared for the fight and confidently predict that it will not be successful. Mr. Powderly has made too good a commissioner from nineteen years solely on account of personal differences in his official capacity with either organizations or individuals, and his friends are prepared to stand by and see it done without a struggle.

Your representative from Lackawanna county, Hon. William C. Adams, prominently in his seat when the ponderous hammer of official authority, in the hands of the only Tom Reed, descended with its mighty force on the sounding-board of the speaker's desk, precipitating in an instant a quietude so dense that you could cut it with a knife, while in a deep cheery tone, arising out of the gloom, a stately, sepulchral voice can be heard deliberately uttering these words: "The House will be in session on Monday at ten o'clock. Various matters of legislation for the benefit of his district are under contemplation with a view to their early introduction in the house."

Stratton.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ALWAYS BUSY.

HAS WON A HIGH PLACE. From the Dilectant Record.

The Dilectant Record neglected to make any mention of The Tribune's Greater Scranton issue on November 27. It is not too late, however, for us to say a word about our neighbor's enterprise. The Scranton Tribune has always been meritorious and has won a high place in the newspaper world. Various matters of legislation for the benefit of his district are under contemplation with a view to their early introduction in the house.

A PRACTICAL TEST.

From the Criterion.

There is only one satisfactory way to test the fighting qualities of a man, and that is to shove at her before she leaves the stocks. Try her with the biggest guns. If she stands, launch her. If she goes to pieces charge the loss to the contractor.

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