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The Scranton Tribune strenuous struggle and waste and sac-P ublished Daily, Except Sunday, by the Tribune ub lishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month,

states,

The Tribune's telegraphic news is from three to five hours fresher than that of any Philadelphia or New York paper circulated in its field. Those papers go to press at midnight; The Tribune receives news up to 3 a. m. and sometimes later. All the news in The Tribune while it is new.

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The city of Scranton ought to be able to keep its asphalted streets in proper repair, and events will probably soon prove that it is able.

The Probabilities Favor War.

The president and his official advis ers are to be commended for their prudence in seeking by all honorable means to avert the necessity of going to war with Spain. Their course thus far has received not only the approval of the hest opinion in the United States but also that of the civilized world. It will be to our highest interests as a nation to so govern our future action as to retain this moral sympathy. Its retention would constitute a far finer victory for republican government than any which we could expect to win by jumping with our immensely superior strength upon ignorant and wasted Spain. That sentiment in this country which urges war for war's sake: which hungers for a scrap as the western desperado when in a belligerent mood electioneers for trouble, is not representative and is utterly discreditable. It does not reflect the contrelling opinion of the American people The intelligent and God-fearing masses in this republic abhor war, They know what war costs; what it costs in money, in the disruption of business, in the rude interruption of social amenities, in pain and suffering and anguish. They know that war is brutal and necessarily brutalizing; that it is the dearest price which a Christian people can pay for righteousness. They will approve of it only when it cannot without dishonor be longer avoided. Therefore they applaud and sustain their chief executive in his resolute endeavor to answer the call of humanity and justice in Cuba without bloodshed if possible. Though their patience has been stretched almost to the bursting; though their conscience tells them solemnly that this call of the starving thousands must not longer pass unheeded, yet in view of the awfulness of war they will stand by President McKinley while he makes his last and supreme attempt to free Cuba by moral suasion. At the same time, their judgment

tells them that this puble effort is foredoomed to failure. It does not seem possible that Spain, after the unex-

War Correspondent rifice could not subdue 30,000 poorly equipped Cuban rebels, though her soldlers outnumbered them at the outset from 8 to 10 to 1, is not in condition Mary Abbott in the Times-Herald. at this time, with her armses decimat-

HE correspondents of the American ed and her treasury empty, to do much T papers in Cuba have been placed under much unjust consure by their own countrymen; but in these days of naval board inquirles and senatorial investigations they are damage to a power like the United Those Americans who base their fears of a just war with Spain upon their exaggerated conjectures of enjoying their vindication. The public is gradually being impressed with the truth about Cuba; but one should not forget Spain's potentiality for mischief are disturbing their own equanimity quite unnecessarily.

that what Senator Proctor has learned and what everybody is beginning to know The assignment of "Fighting Bob" with certainty was reported long ago by a plucky lot of young Americans, who Evans to his old command on board went out to Cuba at the risk of their lives, sought the truth, found it, sent it to their people and were rewarded by the the lowa is the most welcome bit of naval news that has been transmitted in some time. "Fighting Bob" offendsneers of the cynical and the hatred of the case-loving and the selfish. They ed President Cleveland by volunteering, were veritable volces crying in the wild-erness, and they made a path which upon a certain occasion, to utilize the Iowa as an instrumentality for increaspresidents and congressmen are ing the Spanish population of hades, treading for the emancipation of Cuba A few months ago Grover Flint's "Note: whereupon Cleveland tools him off the on the Insurrection" were treated with lofty contempt as "sensational newspawarship and put him on the lighthouse board. But now that there is fair prosper reports." Today they are brought out with much dignity in book form and are introduced to readers by Professor pect of business for the North Atlantic squadron, Evans is just the man to be put in charge of our banner battleship. If it is in the calendar to make the Iowa fulfil its mission, Captain Bob

Evans will do it. He is worth a regi-

Annexation of Cuba ? No! Senator Gallinger's speech in the senate on Wednesday concluded with an expression of belief in favor of the annexation of Cuba to the United States. At one time this proposition would have ent time we believe it would be rejected by a large majority of the electors of the country could it be sub-

mitted to a vote of the people, and for the following reasons: (1). American sympathy with the struggle of the Cuban people for independence is unselfish and to a large extent disinterested. Denial is impossible of the fact that we as a nation would profit by Cuban independence. Trade with Cuba under the Spanish regime has always been hampered. Although in 1891 and 1892 under reciprocity our trade with Cuba attained large dimensions it was inevitable that Spain, realizing the natural antagonism between the system of government maintained by her in Cuba and the system prevalent in this country, should view with disfavor the growth in Cuba of American influences. Spanish antipathy to Yankee intrusion was marked even then, and the commercial foothold which we then attained was won only by dint of diplomatic pressure, which augmented our unpopularity in Spanish commercial circles. These facts explain why Cuban independence appeals to our selfish interest. But for all that, our sympathy rises superior to this interest and is akin to that which we felt for the French when they established republican institutions and for Hungary when it tried, although unsuccessfully, to effect its freedom. The prevalent feeling in this country to-

John Fiske, who is glad to emphasize the fact that the author of the bock is his son-in-law. Mr. Flint was well equipped for the work he undertook in the early part of 1886, for he had been a soldier on the western plains and had spent enough time in Spain to become familiar with the language and customs of the peo-ple. His purpose was to reach Maximo Gomez's army, and this he accomplished after varied experiences that lose none of their exciting quality by being de-At one time this proposition would have been exceedingly popular. At the pres-shrewd, rather humoreus, young American. He learned at the outset precisely what Senator Proctor found out two years later-that the Spanish controlled only the territory they sat on, and that in spite of the activity of General Weyler, then in command of the Spanish forces, the insurgent bands prowled on the heels of the grown's forces and were giving a good account of themselves in provinces officially reported to be "pacified." A rather mixed lot they were and are. Badly armed, badly clad, insufficiently fed, the best of them were mere raga-muffin soldiers, yet they were able to

take care of a much larger body of men. well provided with the implements of warfare. General Weyler's orders to the planters to resume grinding cane were in force, but the insurgents managed to prevent the grinding by burning the cane, and this they did under the very eyes of the Spanish soldiery. Of the personnel of the officers and troops Mr. Flint rode with before he came across Gomez there is much that is graphic. He found men of every class, from negro bandits and plantation la-

borers to fashionable clubmen from Havana and New York. At Savana Grand he met an old acquaintance, a "very swell youth, named Leonardo del Monte." whom he had envied "promenading Fifth avenue in a silk hat and a long frock coat, with the gait they call in England the cavalry stoop." As he came up to Fint "his left shoe was tied on with a string, because the upper part had giv-en way, and his right foot was bandaged in a sort of splint cunningly contrived from bits of cedar cigar boxes."

The picture Mr. Flint draws of Gomez is cruelly realistic, for this "sensational correspondent" takes nothing for granted, but writes down facts and impressions with admirable disregard for the feelings of individuals and with an in-difference to scenic effect that would day is that the Cubans who have borne the brunt of the present heroic upmake so-called conservatives blush for their enthusiasm. "Gomez," he says, "is rising, who during its progress have made sacrifices beside which those of our own revolutionary patriots were a gray little man. His clothes do not fit well, and perhaps if you saw it in a made sacrifices beside which those of inconsiderable in comparison, should be photograph his figure might seem old and left free to enjoy the fruits of their keen eyes on you they strike like a blow

Now Vindicated

variation by peasants of the neighbor-hood: On the approach of the Spaniards Mr. Duarte locked himself in his house -a small two-story frame building-lay dewn on his bed and wrapped himself in a French flag. The troops burst in the door, dragged M. Duarte outside and cut him to pleces. An indiscriminate slaugh-ter was now begun. Men, women and children were dragged from their houses and cut down in the usual brutal man-ner. The ingenio and ait the surrounding buildings, the storehouses and cottages of the plantation negroes were set on fire and the bodies of the victims, dead or dying, were thrown among the flames."

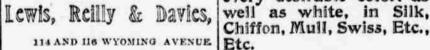
lying, were thrown among the flames." Many sketches of these ghastly scenes merely intensify the dramatic power of the plain writing. And all this was seen and reported over a year ago by a man-iy and honest American citizen, and the people of America refused to heed!

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ment of popinjays.

ampled atrocities which she has com mitted in Cuba, will be permitted by a just Providence to escape from the retributive consequences of her infamy upon terms so moderate. If ever the history of nations supplied an instance calling for the wrath of an inspired avenger it is here; and if ever pride and blindness presaged a nation's destruction it, also, is here. Whether we view this matter in the light of the philosophy of history or weigh simply the matter-of-fact circumstances of the immediate situation it seems to us that the probabilities point unerringly to war. That a nation which, in sheer cruelty, deliberately condemned onethird of her colonial subjects to assass. ination by concentration will now listen to the voice of reason or step back peacefully as our government moves forward on its contemplated errand of mercy is possible but most improbable. The logical result of Spanish vindictiveness, humiliation and chagrin is the dastard's blow which, once struck under present conditions, will bring on instantaneous and ferocious war.

We admit that this has not always been our view; but from the ripened situation we can deduce no other conclusion. And what a war it will be; a war in which every drop of American blood that is shed will be sanctified by the prayers and tears of Christendom; a war in which the angels in heaven cannot help but applaud the American flag!

With all due respect to the senators who continue to talk about Cuba, what the country wants now is action.

The Spanish Exchequer.

lents.

Three months ago an official statement of the Spanish debt placed it at \$1,709,303,582, while current government. al expenses, including interest on this debt, were \$105.637,031. This was an increase in indebtedness since 1895 of \$334,381,122 and, in current administration expenses, of about \$40,000,000-these increases being almost wholly due to the Cuban rebellion.

With the population of Spain estimated at 18,000,000 in round numbers, this place locally. means a per capita debt of nearly \$100 and a per capita annual administration expense of nearly \$6. In three years the war in Cuba has laid a government debt burden of over \$15 on the back of every Spaniard, and is adding to this burden at the rate of \$5 a year. While to Americans these burdens would not look fatal it must be remembered that for twenty years past Spain has been steadily going into the hole, her annual deficits during this period ranging all the way from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Once before she had to repudiate a part of her debt. Repudiation or revolution confronts her now. The exhausted internal resources of the kingdom offer no hope of recuperation The peasantry have been taxed to the limit of their endurance. Customs receipts and the government quick silver mines have been pledged for years as security for loans already spent. Every concession which the crown could sell to meet its dire necessities has been pawned and the proceeds disbursed. Spain is financially "busted." A country which in three years of

(2), Annexation even after Cuba is made free would be at best a dubious experiment. Cuba is not American in character and influences, as is Hawaii, It is peopled by a race fundamentally different from our own: a race speaking a foreign tongue and having few characteristics in common with us. To attempt forthwith the incorporation into our body politic of such an alien element save under the pressure of an imperious necessity would be, not statesmanship but rashness. Imperious necessity might in future compel such a hazard. Cuba's strategic relation to the American continent, on which we propose to continue supreme makes wise the keeping of annexation always in mind as a possibility of American defence in the emergency of a defensive war. But in the much more probable eventuality of unbroken peace our true policy toward Cuba would point in the direction of warm fraternal and close commercial ties rather than toward political union. Should Cuba in years to come by natural processes of evolution become Americanized in character, population

sudden death. and instincts, then the question of annexation would present another aspect. This, however, is a contingency that cannot prudently be anticipated. tions.

The issue today is that of the right of a persecuted but heroic people to receive in their desperate struggle for liberty the moral and, if need be, the material aid of the pioneer and paramount American republic. In giving this aid in the name of humanity we will not impugn our own motives by considering any thought of equiva-

A recent examination of several thousand school children in London disclosed the fact that fully 60 per cent, had defective eyesight. An effort will be made to institute in the schools

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of London a series of exercises calculated to strengthen the vision of the pupils. Judging from the abundance of the spectacles worn in Scranton, something of this kind would not be out of

It is not likely that anything new will be revealed by the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry. It would be difficult for the court to give any information that has not already been guessed by some of the enterprising newspapers who have been furnishing their readers war news "made to order while you wait."

The dogs of war will need to be furnished with new collars if they are kept in subjection much longer.

The season bids fair to furnish in spiration for the poets very soon in spite of the weather.

If the American Eagle is an early bird this spring he may catch something worth while.

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