

The "curfew" idea is said to be getting very popular in Kansas towns, and, where tried, to have been effective of good results in the control of the young.

The German emperor wrongs Americans by imagining they doubt his expressions of friendship. But they are justified in a suspicion that he may see fit to take them back.

United States Consul Smith at Moscow, Russia, reports that the Russian government has already expended \$188,014,938 on the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway.

Angusti, the Spanish governor of the Philippines, offered a reward of \$25,000 for the head of Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader. The latter captured the governor's wife and children, whom he treated as tenderly as if they were his own. Perhaps this is an exhibition of the Philippine savagery that Madrid talks so much about.

The export trade of the Congo state is growing splendidly. In 1886 it was \$354,000. In 1889 it was \$859,000. In 1884 it was \$1,752,000, and in 1897 it was \$3,029,000. More than half the export trade is in rubber, which has increased in amount more than fifty-fold since 1886. And that increase is chiefly due to the enormous extension of wheeling. Thus does civilization get swiftly forward upon a bicycle.

The population of Cuba increased from 715,000 in 1825, to 1,631,400 in 1894. The population is much less now than it was then, owing mainly to starvation. About sixty-five per cent of the population is descended from the aristocracy and peasantry of Castile, Andalusia, Catalonia and other provinces of Spain. Most of the remainder of the population is mainly of African descent. Havana is about as populous as Washington, and until the war began was a very gay city.

It is hardly possible that the widow of the great English commoner who all through life declined ennoblement at the hands of the Queen will now fall to the bait, muses the St. Louis Star. She is the relict of Mr. Gladstone, and a space is reserved beside his body at Westminster Abbey for her remains. Mrs. Gladstone would read much more eloquently on the tablet than the Countess of Liverpool. Oh, no. Gladstone lived and died as plain Mr. Gladstone. His widow, if she reverts his memory, will live the balance of her life and go down to the tomb as Mrs. Gladstone.

The poverty and low state of social life and civilization of the Spaniards is indexed quite accurately by their wage rates, states Guntton's Magazine. For instance, the average weekly pay of a bricklayer in Spain (Malaga) is \$3.80; in the United States \$21.18; of a mason \$3.30 in Spain, \$21 in the United States; of a carpenter \$3.90 in Spain, \$14.35 in the United States; of printers \$4.50 in Spain, \$16.42 in the United States; of laborers, porters, etc., \$2.75 in Spain, \$8.88 in the United States. While rents, and possibly prices of a few native products are lower in Spain than in the United States, the difference comes nowhere near equalling the wide disparity of wages. Moreover, in a comparison of this sort the quality of the living must be considered as well as the nominal cost. Thus lower rents nearly always imply inferior accommodations, and, to the average Spaniard, most of the comforts and conveniences in ordinary use here are unattainable luxuries.

The president and the secretary of war had a delicate task in selecting 195 men out of 7000 applicants for appointment as second lieutenants in the regular army under an act of Congress providing for changes in the form of battalion organization. The selections indicate that the task was performed with rare discrimination. Eighty-nine of the men designated are college graduates, representing sixty-seven different institutions in which military instruction is a part of the curriculum; thirteen are enlisted men in the United States army, and the others are serving in various capacities in the volunteer service. The appointment of college graduates who have had a military training to serve as junior officers in the regular army can hardly be called an experiment, says the Chicago-Times Herald, for the methods employed by military instructors in colleges are much the same as those at West Point. The government is thus assured of a high degree of efficiency on the part of the new junior officers, who have the additional qualifications of learning and mental equilibrium.

### ONE SOLDIER DEAD.

A fair young mother calmly read,  
While one hand rocked the cradle bed  
Wherein her first-born slept away  
The twilight of a summer day.  
She carelessly the paper turned  
Till "Latest War News" she discerned;  
"Our loss was small," dispatches said—  
"A skirmish, and one soldier dead."  
They troubled not to give his name,  
Or of the troop from which he came  
For who, rejoicing in success,  
Cares if there be one private less?  
Only a soldier lying there,  
With blood upon his sunny hair,  
With no kind friend to raise his head  
Or treasure the last words he said.

Oh, happy mother, do you know  
That not so many years ago  
That soldier was a baby, too,  
With face as sweet and eyes as blue  
As those within you cradle there?  
And know a mother's tender care,  
Who now must sit alone and weep  
Because he wakes not from his sleep?  
And other thousands also said:  
"Only a private soldier dead,"  
Without a passing thought that he  
Might one of nature's nobles be,  
Or that the words that lie contained  
Would wreck a life that yet remained.  
His mother waits for him in vain,  
For he, her only child, is slain.  
—Jean Paul Wayne, in the Chicago Post.

## WHY I LEFT SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

BY A CABLE OPERATOR.

I was the only American operator in Eastern Cuba in February and March, 1898, when they were very busy months in the cable office at Santiago, where I had been for four years. In the early part of 1895 we seldom handled more than 30 messages a day, but after the insurrection began the number rose to 90 and 100 daily, increasing a little every month.

The cable from Santiago to Spain goes under sea first to Kingston, Jamaica, thence to Puerto Rico, thence to St. Croix and from there to Pernambuco and Pernambuco in Brazil. Cables from Pernambuco cross the South Atlantic to St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands, and from St. Vincent other cables extend to Madeira, thence to Lisbon and onward to Madrid. There is also a less direct cable from Pernambuco to St. Louis in Senegal, Africa, and thence to the Canary islands and Cadiz.

Beside myself, there was but one other operator in the Santiago office, Lavrin Merode, a young Spaniard, who had learned cable work at Lisbon. We thought that 100 messages daily made work enough, but over 800 passed the day after the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor. Four more operators were needed, and we called to Havana for help; but no notice was taken of our appeal, and, rather than desert our posts and leave the company's business undone, we slaved night and day, always hoping the pressure would moderate.

One day we sent 13,742 words in over 1100 despatches, yet we were two hours "back" at midnight, with Havana fuming at us over the land wire and still hurrying messages through the Cienfuegos cable. There were Spanish government cipher messages from Sagasta to Blanco and Blanco's cipher to Sagasta; reams of bombast from the Cuban correspondents of The Imparcial and Correo for Madrid, followed by more cipher to Weyler at Barcelona from his brother officers at Havana, and then the bankers and merchants quoting, selling and ordering!

To add to our vexations, the "mouse mill" of the siphon recorder gave trouble constantly, and the clockwork that carries the record tape broke down every day or two. Now a Spaniard is utterly without native ingenuity. Merode was a tolerably good operator, but when it came to rectifying faults of the instrument he was an infant, and all such tasks fell on me.

Anything like clockwork I can "inker," but the mouse mill that works the siphon pen is a very delicate bit of mechanism, which assists the faint electric impulses that come great distances through the cable to move the ink point of the recorder to and fro on the tape.

I suppose I had taken the record tape clockwork and mouse mill apart 20 different times, and on the evening of the second of April, after Merode relieved me, I set to work to wind a new motor coil for the mouse mill, which had worked so very badly all day that, rather than struggle with it longer, I had determined to sit up all night and build a new "mill."

The cable-house at Santiago is a most lonesome place, particularly at night; but a Spanish sentinel was supposed to pass the door every three minutes. These poor fellows were rarely paid and often looked in at the door to beg a cigarette. So when the outside door opened behind us that evening, I supposed the incomer was the sentinel, and I did not even look around till an amused voice exclaimed: "Aha, señors! Buenos noches!"

A Spanish sentinel begging a cigarette does not speak in that tone, so Merode and I faced round with a jump. There stood a rather tall, good-looking young fellow, in a white duck suit and white cap, regarding us keenly; and a step behind him was a typical Cuban rebel—sombbrero, long mustaches, broad belt, long boots, revolver and machete.

In an instant Merode was on his feet and shouted, "Sentinela!" at which our unexpected visitors laughed good-humoredly, and the Cuban said: "I must beg the Señor Telegrafero not to distress himself concerning the worthy sentinel, for that watchful soldier is now lying comfortably on his back outside, with a gag in his mouth, and his hands are tied to his feet."

"Well, who are you, and what do you want here?" I exclaimed, in Spanish.

The young man in white duck laughed. "You are an American; anybody could tell that by your Spanish. Oh, I know about you. Speak English."

formation," I replied. "Besides, all these Spanish government messages are in cipher, which I am not supposed to know anything about."

"Don't let the cipher trouble you," he replied, laughing. "I have the key to their cipher all right."

"As to who I am," he continued, "my name's Macomber. I am the correspondent of the ———." He named an American journal. "News as to the whereabouts of the Spanish torpedo boats and those cruisers would be valuable just now, not only to my paper, but to the American navy at Key West. Now you are an American and a good patriot, I dare say. Will you not help us out?"

"I'm a good patriot," said I. "And I am also an honest man, employed here to do a certain duty, which I will not betray."

"You will not help me then? Very well, I shall examine your tapes by force."

"It is not my business to fight for Spain," said I. "I have no force to resist you, but I will not help you."

"Thanks. That's all I ask. Just you sit quiet."

"Do you think you can read our tapes?" I asked, incredulously.

"Sure. I was a cable operator three years."

"But where did you get your cipher key?"

"That's a matter that was arranged in Havana three months ago. Your tape bobbins for the current week are in the table drawer, I presume?"

"Look for yourself," I said. "But my fellow-operator here is a Spaniard. I do not speak for him."

"Señor Merode," I said in Spanish, "these gentlemen wish to see the record tapes."

Merode had stood listening, making out what we said with difficulty. "Nunca! (Never!) he exclaimed, excitedly, and made a jump for the big table drawer, with some notion, I think, of destroying the tapes. He was a plucky fellow, but the Cuban seized him by the collar before he could open the drawer, flung him violently backward on the floor and drew his machete.

"Don't hurt him, Luizi!" shouted Macomber, and then, after a steady glance at me, he stepped to the drawer himself and took out the rolls of tape.

"This will be a somewhat long and tedious business," he remarked, beginning to unroll one of them. "You might help me, if you would; but at least oblige me by turning up the lamp a little and placing it on the table here."

"Thanks," he went on, when I had complied and began rapidly unrolling the tape through his fingers. He read well and fast, and his running comment amused me.

"Oh, this is a dandy siphon of yours, isn't it?" "What ails your mouse mill?" "Say, friend, your record here looks like the teeth of an old dull buck-saw." "Your ink's congealed."

I sat back and quietly looked on. Merode still lay on the floor. The Cuban stood watching us both; if Merode stirred, he shook his machete at him. Thus, fully an hour passed; it seemed much more than an hour, indeed, before our American visitor found what he sought.

"Ah!" he exclaimed at last. "Here we are! So the Vizcaya and Oquendo left Puerto Rico for St. Vincent last Sunday. Good! Blanco is informed that the torpedo flotilla is going to St. Vincent, too, instead of coming to Havana."

"That's all I wanted to know," he continued, turning to me. "Sorry to leave your tapes in such a mess, but I really cannot stop to roll them up again, for I must be well out to sea before daylight. Oblige us now, both of you, by remaining quiet here after we bid you good night."

But just then there was a new noise outside. The door opening to the street was flung back, and there stood a Spanish lieutenant from the fort, with half a dozen soldiers at his back! For the Spanish sentry—a boy of 18—whom they had gagged and tied up outside the house, had proved more nimble than they had thought him. He had worked himself loose and had run to the fort for aid.

The Cuban turned instantly, killed the lieutenant with a swing of his machete and was at once shot down by a soldier who fired over the shoulder of his falling officer.

Macomber showed better judgment, if less courage; he dashed the lamp out and grasped me by the arm. "Help me out," he said.

It would be difficult for anyone to resist the appeal of a fellow-countryman at such a time. While the soldiers rushed in, trampling and falling over the slain men and Merode, I pulled the American after me through a door, back of the tables, which opened into our battery room. In this back room was a window looking out on the harbor side, from which Macomber swung in an instant and escaped without a word. I had

time to get forward into the cable-room before Merode, who had regained his feet, struck a match and relighted the lamp. Of the gruesome spectacle which the light revealed I will not speak.

After the manner of Spanish justice, both Merode and myself were put under arrest, pending an investigation, which showed that neither of us knew anything about the affair. Yet the commandant at Santiago suspected that I had planned it and sent me under arrest to Havana, by steamer, the following evening.

I expected to remain in Las Cabanas for the rest of my days, but was dismissed without trial the second day after arriving there and left Havana along with 180 Americans on the following Sunday.—Youth's Companion.

### MANUFACTURES AND COLONIES.

The Policy of Nations Who Make More Articles Than They Can Consume.

There has recently appeared under authority of the state department in Washington a table showing the relation which the colonies of certain European countries bear to the home country, and from it is seen that four of the governments of Europe—Great Britain, France, Holland and Portugal—have colonies larger in respect to population than the home country, while two other European governments, Germany and Denmark, have colonies larger in territorial area than the home country. It is more than a coincidence that the governments which have colonies are, for the most part, those which are conspicuous in manufacturing industries, while it is observable that in nearly every case the agricultural countries of Europe, notably Russia, Austria, Spain and Sweden, either have no distant colonies remote from the home country, or are on the point of losing those colonies which they have, and the same is true of Italy and Turkey.

The figures show that all manufacturing countries under the impetus of steam power, electricity and modern invention are able to produce considerably more than their inhabitants can consume and, the home market being insufficient, recourse has been had to a foreign market artificially created by the colonial expansion of the kind now generally favored by those who are seeking to get for American manufacturing products a larger field than can otherwise be secured. The three manufacturing countries of Europe, England, France and Germany, have been increasing very rapidly their colonial possessions of late years and this is more particularly true perhaps of Germany, which has in Africa alone colonies covering over 800,000 square miles.

"The Statesman's Year Book" for 1898 shows the commerce of Great Britain in the export trade during the year previous to have amounted to \$300,000,000 of cotton goods, \$100,000,000 of woolen goods, \$40,000,000 of linen and jute manufactures, \$35,000,000 of wearing apparel, and \$30,000,000 of machinery and cutlery. France's trade with French colonies, exclusive of Algeria and Tunis, amounted last year to \$30,000,000 of imports and \$25,000,000 of exports, and the exports of German manufacture to foreign colonies now amount to a considerable figure. Last year these imports into the Cameroons amounted to \$2,000,000 in value, into German Africa to \$1,000,000, and into Togoland to about as much.

The policy of all producing countries largely engaged in manufacture is to discriminate against like manufactures in other countries, and the possession of large colonies, therefore, is a decided benefit to the home country, a benefit which agricultural countries do not enjoy. Austria-Hungary furnishes a fair illustration of this. The Austrian products, and particularly glass, leather, woolen goods, porcelain and stoneware, are extensive and give employment to nearly 3,000,000 persons, but the commerce of Austria is inconceivable, and much more than half of it is with Germany under conditions which are necessarily more favorable to the German consumers than to the Austrian producers.

### QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Five is the great sacred Chinese number.

In Greenland potatoes never grow larger than marbles.

If kept going, the wheels of a watch travel 3558 3/4 miles a year.

The smallest cows in the world are to be found in the Samoan islands.

The Japanese have a custom of celebrating the blossoming of fruit trees by a general holiday.

The largest clock in the world is that in the Westminster clock tower. It was set up on May 30, 1859.

In some parts of central and South Africa a single firefly gives so much light that it illuminates a whole room.

The clock on which Wolfe breathed his last, at the capture of Quebec, is one of the curiosities in the British Museum.

The elephant can neither trot, canter nor gallop. Its only pace is a walk, capable of being hastened to a fast shuffle.

Tomatoes have been grafted upon potatoes by a French experimenter, whose hybrid plant produces tubers underground and tomatoes above.

In a certain village it is said that the church offertory is collected in a bag at the end of a pole, with a bell attached for the purpose of arousing sleepers.

In the early days of Rome the ladies of that city wore such heavy earrings that they made the ears sore, and sometimes tore the lobes. There were doctors whose business was chiefly to heal ears thus injured.

## A NAVY'S ELECTRICITY.

THE APPARATUS USED ON A MODERN BATTLESHIP VERY COMPLEX.

The Cruiser Brooklyn Is Steered by Electricity—On Most of Our Ships the Guns Are Fired by the Mysterious Current—The Range Finder a Novel Device.

It is in the electrical apparatus that the modern battleship is especially complex. For a vessel like the Massachusetts there are three "generating units," with multipolar dynamos, each having a capacity of 300 amperes at 80 volts. These dynamos are run by engines which make 400 revolutions a minute. This electric plant is used for the operation of nearly 500 incandescent lights, four search lights, one set of signaling apparatus, two stationary and four portable ventilating fans, four motors for the 8-inch ammunition hoists, and other apparatus peculiar to warships, such as range finders, engine telegraphs, telephones and the like.

The introduction of electricity on warships has been a constant fight and struggle against steam. Inch by inch the ground has been fought over, and inch by inch electricity has been winning its way, and the end is not yet.

Very few of our warships are steered by electricity. The cruiser Brooklyn, however, has such an apparatus and it is said to work satisfactorily. On most of the large ships the guns are fired by electricity. On nearly all of them an elaborate telephone system is in place and use. Another electrical device is what is called the helm indicator, which shows the navigator of the ship the exact condition of the helm at any time. One of the commonest uses of electricity on ship-board is the steering telegraph, whereby the navigator communicates with the engine room and is enabled in return to see whether the orders he has transmitted have been carried out. Another electrical instrument, which is coming into use on warships, is the speed and direction indicator, which reveals to the navigator of the ship not only the number but the direction of the revolutions of the shaft of each engine.

Then there is the range finder and the range indicator whereby, with dials, the captain of a ship can regulate the direction and all the details of firing guns in a part of the ship from his station in the conning tower. Another electrical apparatus is the electric telescopic sight. This works in co-operation with the range indicator. It has been found that when a ship is rolling the man who is sighting the gun has to get the target, the front sight and the rear sight into line and that he has only about one-fifth of a second in time to do this work.

Through the operation of this telescopic sight the man who is elevating the gun merely watches the range indicator and keeps the gun in a certain vertical plane. The man at the telescopic sight waits until the vertical and horizontal cross-hairs rest upon the target as he looks through his telescope, and the projectile goes straight toward the mark when he presses the button to fire a gun.

A scientific paper recently called attention to the fact that it was impossible to provide any more searchlights for our larger ships owing to the scarcity of the mirrors used in them. They are of a peculiar make, and cannot be produced quickly. This emphasizes the fact that the warship of the present time is something that cannot be put together in a helter-skelter, slam-bang fashion, like the war of 1862, when even a battleship was made in something like six months. The modern searchlight, such as is used on the Massachusetts or Indiana, has 100,000 candle power, and there is no manifestation of electricity on a warship that so appeals to the average man as a shaft of light from one of these instruments in a dark night. The average ship, also, is full of various indicators which are operated by electricity and which, although apparently of trifling importance, are of serious moment. One of these is a thermostat, which is placed on the walls of the magazine which automatically rings a fire alarm in case the temperature of the magazine rises to a dangerous point.

Another indicator is called the water alarm. This tells exactly when any compartment of the double bottom is perforated in any way, and also exactly where the injury is. If it is a serious injury the captain on the vessel again employs electricity and by the mere pressure of a button blows that ear-splitting instrument of torture known as the siren whistle. This is a signal to close all water-tight compartments throughout the ship, so that, if possible, a tragedy may be averted if the vessel is in danger of sinking.

Another use of electricity on warships which invariably attracts the attention of the spectator at night has to do with the signalling apparatus. Red and white lights are strung from a yard to the deck, and the various combinations of lights form certain letters, which are the means of communication from ship to ship. The operator of this signalling system sits at a little table on which are arranged a large number of black keys with red and white spots painted on them, representing every possible combination of the two colors in the use of five lanterns of each color. These keys look like so many dominoes. The operator becomes very expert in the manipulation of these keys, and can place his finger on a certain letter or sign as quickly as an expert operator on a typewriting machine can touch a certain key.

In battle formation it is very necessary for ships to keep at exact distances from each other so as to maneuver properly. An electrical

device is now in use on some of our warships whereby the vessels are enabled to fix the desired distances accurately. The helm indicator, another electrical device in use, simply tells the man at the wheel at what angle the captain wishes the helm set to make a turn. A registering device on the bridge, operated by electricity, notifies the captain whether his orders have been carried out. A mistake in obeying the orders of the captain in time of battle in this respect might result in a collision, and how serious that might be the fate of the Victoria when the Camperdown sank her in the Mediterranean several years ago would seem to indicate.

The range finder on ships consists of two sighting apparatus, usually situated well upon the superstructure of the warship, with an operator for each station. The exact distance between the stations is known, and this forms the base of a triangle. The operators simply focus their instruments upon the target. An automatic device registers the angles involved and this at once indicates the exact distance of the target from the ship. This distance is telegraphed to the various guns and the man who has charge of the elevation of a gun knows the exact range.

There are other electrical devices which are being used or perfected for use on warships. One of them is a sounding apparatus to take the depth of water when the ship is going at full speed and to give warning of danger. Another is to secure some means of communication between the various ships of a squadron without wires and by means of induction. Neither of these systems has been successful yet, but both serve to indicate the trend of events in electrical engineering, so far as it applies to warships. Hence it is that the use of electricity on such vessels would probably grow, and it must be a very positive and learned man who can indicate the limit of its future use.

### Saluting in the Army.

One thing which the volunteers find it hard to do—a thing which perhaps they will never do in anything like the form in which the regulars do it—is to salute officers. Take a volunteer who is bronzed and big, like a regular, and put him in a regular's clothes and send him out on the street, and he would certainly betray himself as a volunteer at his first meeting with an officer. The regular, walking on the street, salutes every officer he meets by raising the straightened fingers of his right hand to the brim of his hat, just over his right eye, and keeping them there until the officer has passed. The volunteer cannot be made to hold his hand there in any such way.

If he salutes a strange officer of low rank at all, he salutes him with the quick dash which is the regular officer's salute to the private. If the regular soldier is seated when an officer approaches, in camp, on the street or anywhere else, he rises, faces the officer, stands very erect, and makes this salute. No one ever sees a volunteer private do this. Recently a regular cavalryman was trying to get his horse across a bridge while an electric car was crossing it from the other direction. The horse was plunging and leaping wildly, and the soldier had to work hard to control him. At this moment a young second lieutenant of Ohio volunteers came along the footway. In the midst of the horse's gyrations the mounted regular managed to salute the pedestrian officer in proper form. The smile of admiration and satisfaction on that young officer's face was worth going a long way to see.—Boston Transcript.

### A Mysterious Spring.

"There isn't much to say about the little village of Joy, up in Wayne county," said a citizen of that quiet hamlet in the peppermint belt, "except that just outside of it is a spring which is undoubtedly unlike any other spring in the world. That spring hasn't any visible outlet, but it has two very visible inlets, thus reversing the natural order of springs. Springs are usually the sources of streams. This one is just the opposite. One of the inlets of the spring is a rivulet that flows from the north. The other comes from the south. The waters that come from the north and empty into the spring are as clear as crystal. The waters of the stream that discharge from the south are almost as black as ink. The southern inlet never freezes, while the northern one is the first water in all that region to freeze."

"Another singular thing about this spring is that although no water flows from it water is constantly boiling up through the white sand that forms its bed. The spring is only two feet wide and three feet deep, but a force pump worked steadily and rapidly in it for hours has failed to decrease its water supply in the slightest degree. The mystery is, what becomes of the water of the spring? Fed by two streams, and from an underground source, and with no outlet, this spring has been a thing impossible to explain from the time the original settlers squatted in that part of the state and found it there until now."—New York Sun.

### The Natives of the Philippines.

The Filipinos are a very cleanly race, forever washing themselves, and they, the women especially, take great pride in their hair, which is often allowed to hang loose in a great, black, wavy mass, sometimes reaching to their heels. When "done up," it is combed straight back from the forehead into a big knot at the back of the neck and surmounted by a huge comb of horn or tortoise shell or silver. Not a native of either sex can be seen with the least sign of baldness, and gray heads are very rare.—Youth's Companion.