At this distance it looks as though Spain is suffering from a serious impediment in her pocketbook.

The flag factories of the United States find it impossible to keep up with their orders. This evidence of accentuated patriotism cannot be very encouraging to Spain.

The Austrian government has enlarged the boundaries of Vienna to such an extent that the metropolitan area is now half as large as London, twice as large as Paris and three times larger than Berlin.

Since the Declaration of Independence the United States has had six wars, not counting the little differences with the Indians. These were the war of the revolution, the war of 1812, the war with the Barbary states, the Mexican war and the civil war. The war with Spain makes the sixth.

It is said that a big trade in American bieveles will soon be opened up in China. An American bicycle which sells for \$100 here brings \$225 in Chinese silver. As the average Chinaman makes from 20 to 25 cents a day it would be interesting to know how long it will take him to save enough money to buy a bicycle.

Naval experts are not going to see so many disputed questions settled in the "Yanko-Spanko" war as they hoped. What modern ships can do against modern forts, how great a role destrovers will play in naval battles, will still be debated after all the light that can be had from the experience of the present war. It is the personal equation which vitiates the conclusions. Spanish gunnery has been so bad that it has done little to determine the power of forts to resist ironclads. Spanish mechanical skill has been so poor that the ineffectiveness of torpedoboat destroyers in Spanish hands proves little or nothing.

A statistician has recently puotished in Paris, France, what purports to be a horse census, and some of his figures just at this time, when the government is buying horses, are interesting. According to this expert, Russia leads the world in the number of horses. Her total is placed at 22,-000,000 head, and the United States comes second with 12,000,000 head. The Argentine Republic is third, and Austro-Hungary and the German Empire are tied for fourth place, with 3,500,000 each. France is credited with 2,880,000, and the United Kingdom with 2,790,000. This expert says that England and France have the most valuable horses, with the United States and Canada ranking next.

It is estimated that the steam power of Great Britain is equal to the united strength of 1,000,000,000 men. The number of persons employed in her coal mines is but 200,000, and of these fully two-thirds dig coal for other uses than for engines, leaving 66,666 men to mine the coal necessary to do the work of 1,000,000,000. The engines are made by 60,000 men, so that 126,666 men furnish the means of doing the work of 1,000,000,000 the strength of each being thus multiplied nearly 8000 times. This gives to each man, woman and child of a population of 35,000,000 some thirty willing slaves, born fully grown, exempt from sickness, needing no clothes, eating only fire and water, and costing merely the work of one man in 8000.

In mineral wealth Cuba is capable of taking high rank. Gold and silver have not been found in paying quantities. Copper was mined at Cobre by the natives before Columbus discovered the island, and there is strong proof that native copper was carried across to Florida and used by the Florida Indians hundreds of years ago. The mound-builders of that state buried with their dead copper ornaments and utensils hammered from native copper, which always has an admixture of more or less foreign matter. As no copper ore is found in Florida, or in that portion of the United States, and, as that found in the United States or in Mexico does not correspond chemically with that buried in the mounds, it occurred to Professor R. H. Sanders, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, in Philadelphia, that it was possible that these mound-builders had water communication with Cuba. In the early part of the present century some English capitalists purchased these mines in Cuba, which are nine miles from Santiago. From 1828 to 1840 an average of from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 worth of copper ore was shipped annually to How much was shipped elsewhere is not known. Large quantities of copper still remain numiced in this lo-

IN MEMORY'S BOOK.

There are pages in memory's volume Written in tears and sighs, That gladly we'd fold together, Way from our aching eyes.

There are pages where blissful moments Made life seem all complete; But the lines are dashed with sadness— The bitter mixed with the sweet.

Fain would we pass them quickly— These records of other years— Seeking some fairer writing, Undimmed by regretful tears.

But ever the book files open,
And Memory points again
To scenes we may never banish,
Though fraught with bitterest pain.
—New Orleans Times-Democra

******* GASPARD, L'IMBECILE.

BY JOHN LE BRETON

Ah! those were happy days when Gaspard Meudon was a fisherman! From the peaceful village of Bizon the fishing fleet sailed, to return loaded with the spoil of the sea which has been provided for man. Silvery, lithe and gleaming, the fish came into the boat only to pant their little lives away, for often the men were lucky, and it was as much as they could do to get in the nets and clear them.

When summer came and the sea like the skies, was flaunting its royal tints of deepest, brightest blue and the lazy wind would not lift the sails, it seemed a dreamy life to Gaspard; the older hands would tell the young ones tales of countries far away which they had seen when they had been serving in the warships, as any of the fishermen might be called upon to do. But when winter came, and the great waves threatened to swallow up the little fisher-hosts, there was no leisure for recounting stories while at sea, for to strive and heed for each one had the safety of all.

They were a brave and generous race, the fishers of Bizon, and courage born in every babe of them; through generations they had battled with the sea, growing braver and hardier, and so the government prized them, and always some of the Bizon men were away in the warships.

And then a day came when Gaspard had to leave home and kindred to join the Marine Depot. Gaspard was to join the marine soldiery, and after some months of drill he was sent away to the west coast of Africa, there to be drafted into the Dialmath, one of the small flotilla lying off Goree,

At that time France, wishing to extend her African dominions, had threatened the Damel, or monarch of Gayor, who reigned over a large territory, the possession of which would enable her o connect St. Louis and Goree.

Reinforcements had been sent from Algeria, native volunteers were enlisted, and 380 marines were added to give solidity to the expedition, which was to start in two parties, one from Goree and the other from St. Louis.

The Senegal column, to which the marines were attached—and among them Gaspard Mendon—set out for Gaudiole on January 2, 1861, whence t proceeded to Benon-M'bro on the 6th, the road lying by fresh and briny lakes and through marshes, by welcome oases, where slender palm trees towered up toward the brilliant blue of the cloudless heavens and clusters of tiny huts lay scattered here and

As the column advanced the Damel Macodon retreated, and on January 12 the French decided to march on Mekhey, where was the king's palace. The Damel sent messengers asking for pardon and offering terms, but they were

sent back to him unanswered. "When the king say's he is willing to give us whatever we ask for," said Gaspard to his comrade, Francois Bearne, "why do we go on marching through this terrible country, where we lose so many of our brave fel-

"Why, man, we have had no fighting yet," said Francois; "we should be laughed at if we returned without

defeating the enemy!" "But what more can we gain by fighting than the king offers us free-

"Fame, glory, honor! What else does a Frenchman ask for?" returned

Francois, and Gaspard marched on, pondering over his comrade's words. But Commandant Saprade was not satisfied with this bloodless march

upon Mekhey, and so, on February 5, he left Goree with a small flotilla of four dispatch ships, a cutter and other small vessels, and the marines, com-manded by Lieutenant Vallon of the Dialmath, debarked on the 10th, op-posite Sedhion and marched immediately on Sardinieri.

The village was strongly held by the natives; every mud hut was pierced for the guns, and as the column advanced a heavy fire was poured upon it. The French commander sent on the native volunteers first, then the Spahis from Algeria to see that the volunteers did not run away, and then,

in reserve, came the marines. From every hut came flashes of light and puffs of smoke which hardly floated away, but hung about on the still air and presently concealed the village and those nearest to it. The marines were moved up nearer, and half of them were led round to the rear, just in time to see issuing from nts the desperate natives, who fired upon their advancing foes and then turned and fied. The marines opened fire upon the fugitives, and they, realizing that their retreat was cut off, rushed back to the village only to be met by the merciless black vol-

The French officers, by dint of driving but his lips and tongue were so swing back their allies with threats and blows, even shooting a few of them. 'Private Meudon, will you ob blows, even shooting a few or shooting a few or

As night approached the women came from the country outside and tried to carry off the bodies of their men, wailing out their death-chants with an awful, piteous monotony that depressed the most exuberant of the marines. Fascinated, yet horrified, Gaspard watched their lithe dark forms as they tore their hair and flung their arms above their heads in gestures of wild grief and wept over their dead. One of the women, who was crouched beside the body of a fine young warrior, turned upon Gaspard as he passed and spat at him, uttering words which from her manner of de livering them, seemed to be curses.

Gaspard looked at the woman; he met the full gaze of her eyes of hatred, of savage agony and savage love, and he flung down his rifle with a clatter and marched on.

"Private Mendon, what means this?" shouted Sergeant Croix. "Go, pick up your rifle!"
"I shall not use it again, sergeant.

Look at that woman!"
"What have the black cattle to do with you? You have done your duty;

it is enough. Pick up your rifle!" Gaspard strode on and never answered, and so the sergeant picked up the rifle himself and reported Private Meudon to the lieutenant, and the

culprit was sent for. "Do you know what you deserve?" asked Lieutenant Vallou, who was a kindly man, although a severe disciplinarian, and who had no wish to be severe with a man who had fought his first battle gallantly.

Gaspard was silent. "Death is the punishment," haz-arded the lieutenant. He had no exact knowledge of what the punishment was for such unprecedented behavior. Clearly, however, Gaspard had been guilty of disob dience of orders while

in an enemy's country.

Gaspard was unmoved. It was evident to the officer that this man was no coward, and to he tried to reason with him. You must have had some motive

for throwing away your rifle. Come, out with it, my lad?" "I have killed men." The words came out slowly, reluctantly, and Lieutenant Vallon laughed outright at the

"And what do you suppose your rifle was given to you, for? To light a fire with, eh?"

"They are murdered! Their wives and children are broken-hearted. I

know it!" "You know nothing, you fool! These black pigs do not value your life so much as you value your cigar. If you hadn't killed them they'd have

killed you." "Then I would have died without being a murderer. In taking the lives of men I have lost my own soul."

"Pouf! I'll absolve you, mon enfant!"

"It is impossible, lieutenant!" "What?"-the officer was angry at the man's obstinacy now, "What? Speak to your officer like that! Here, sergeant, put this imbecile under ar-rest! We haven't any cells, but do your best to make him feel what a fool he is."

The sergeant grinned intelligently and marched the prisoner off to a hut and placed a guard at the door. The hut was filthy and the air foul, but there Gaspard had to remain, thirsty and restless and silent, until the guard was relieved, and then he asked for

water.
"Sergeant's orders are that you are recover your to have none until you recover your senses, comrade. Come, be a man," was the sentinel's reply.
"I am a man!" Gaspard said proud-

ly, and he waited without complaint until morning, when the sergeant fetched him and marched him to the lieutenant.

"Well, prisoner, are you going to do your duty?" asked the officer.
"I cannot kill," was the hoarse reply, and the swollen tongue and the acked purple lips told what agony of

thirst the man had endured.
"Very well," said the lieutenant, "do with him as you suggest, sergeaut."

"Prisoner! Right about face! March!" cried the sergeant, and, joined by the guard at the door, they marched to a stake that had been set up in the village street, and Gaspard was bound to it.

There, in the burning rays of the sun, half-crazed with the heat and the longing for water, Gaspard remained until late in the afternoon. Then the sergeant approached him, bearing in his hand a flask of water and a cup, into which he poured some of the cool liquid, raising the flask high so that the water fell into the cup with the sound that there is no forgathing. the sound that there is no forgetting. Gaspard's eyes glared at it wolfishly, but his lips and tongue were so swollen

So, having surrendered, he was cast loose and carried to a hut, where he lay for a week between life and death; and when three weeks had passed he came again upon a parade, a hollow-cheeked, sunken-eyed wreck, hardly

able to stand. Next day some of the soldiers went, as was their daily custom, to bathe in the river, and while there they were surprised by a body of Maudingoes, who killed ten or twelve of them before help could arrive. There was a fort just outside the village, and the gar-rison, 20 in all, had rushed out to the rescue; but they, too, were so far outnumbered that they could only show a bold front and retreat to their fortress the rescued men in their midst,

By the time they had reached their mud fort they were almost surrounded by a ferocious horde, mad with the lust for blood, and only one person at a time could pass in through the small door to safety. The fort was pierced for musketry above the line of the door, and those who were within fired down into the black crowd, keeping

them somewhat at bay.
Still the enemy fired and advanced, and Frenchmen fell dead and wounded, and those who were able to stand struggled among themselves to gain access, until at last the inevitable result arrived and the door was blocked, Gaspard never looked at the door,

but faced the foe with a calm and res olute courage that moved the sergeaut, who was near him, to admiration, so that he cried out words of encouragement to him. Every time the foe made a rush he pointed his rifle, and they fell back before the determinedlooking soldier and fired at him instead. They were bad enough shots, those dark-skinned warriors, and yet Gaspard was bleeding from half a dozen wounds when the sergeant shouted to him, "You've done your share, mon brave! Run ip."

Gaspard would not move, but stood there a few races in front of the door through which the last of his comrades were retreating until only he and the

sergeaut were left.
"Now, Private Meudon, I'll cover you," cried the sergeaut.

"I wait for you, sergeant," and the sergeant, seeing how determined be was, made a rush and got through the

door in safety.

Then Gaspard turned his head toward the door, but in that moment the enemy rushed in upon him with yells of triumph, and he was lost to sight; only a struggling mass of black warriors was to be seen, backing and hewing at something in their midst.

Just an hour later reinforcements came from the village, and the Maudingoes were driven away with heavy loss, and then they found what was Gaspard.

The sergeant took up a rifle from the clinched hand of a dead native; he knew it had belonged to Gaspard, and he looked into the barrel. It was he looked into the barrel. It was bright and had not been fired. The

sergeant mused for a moment. 'Ah! the poor Ga pard Mendon," he said; "he was an imbecile, look you, but he was also a man and a brave man!"

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Transparent leather is made in There are 10,000 camels at work in

Savages, on the whole, live longer

than civilized people.

As a rule, a man's hair turns gray five years sooner than a woman's.

The most wonderful bridge in the world is one of solid agate in Arizona. A pen carrying a small electric lamp to prevent shadows when writing has been patented in Germany.

It is estimated that since the beginning of the historical era 13,000,000 persons have perished in earthquakes.

The Tartars have a quaint custom of taking a guest by the ear when inviting him to eat or drink with them.

Under the laws of China the man who loses his temper in a discussion is sent to jail for five days to cool down.

Chileans never enter or leave coach, street car or other public vehi-cle without bowing to all its occupants

Ornithologists have discovered that crows have no less than twenty-seven cries, each distinctly referable to different action.

The nests of the termites, or white ant, are, proportioned to the size and weight of the builders, the greatest structures in the world.

In Sweden there are floating canneries. They are small vessels, which follow fishing fleets, and men on them can the fish while they are fresh.

It was once customary in France when a guest had remained too long for the host to serve a cold shoulder of mutton instead of a hot roast. This was the origin of the phrase "to give the cold shoulder."

Cats can swim if they only care exert themselves sufficiently. The ancient Egyptians used to fish with them on the Nile, according to the representations on walls and so forth that have come down to us.

Bull-Fighting in France

Bull-fights are now becoming popular in the north and west, as well as in the Orne, 4000 people assembled in order to witness a real fight on Spanish lines between toros and toreadors. Robert, a burly bull-fighter from the south, was practically crowned with laurels after he had despatched two animals by his sword in what was considered a masterly manner. The po-lice summoned the organizers of the show and the toreador. Another fight was to take place on the following Sunday, but the prefect of the department declined to be present at the spectacle—Loudon Telegraph.

SYMBOLS FOR THE ARMY.

CORPS, DIVISIONS AND BRI-

Order by General Miles-Not Like Civil War Designs-Ingenuity Exercised by War Department Officials-Distinctive and Pennants Preserved General Miles has issued a general order designating the symbols, flags and pennants by which the various army corps, divisions and brigades may be identified.

The order prescribes corps badges and pennants entirely different from those which were in use by the army during the civil war. It was the original purpose of the war depart-ment to adopt for the present army badges precisely like those for the corresponding corps during the civil war, but the idea met with much opposition from prominent soldiers of that war. They maintained, with force, that their badges and pennants were distinctive; that they had been baptized in the blood of many a hardfought field, and that their individual ity ought to be preserved. This view was acceded to by the war officials and a new set of designs was pre-

Following is a part of the text of the general order:

When the land forces of the United States are organized into army corps, divisious and brigades the same will be designated by the following symbols, flags and pennants, made acin the office of the quarter-master general: Symbols.

Cavalry corps, a winged horse foot; artillery corps, crossed conical pro-jectiles, with round shot above centre; 1st Corps, a circle over a letter I of special design; 2nd Corps, a four-leaf clover; 3rd Corps, a three-tooth clutch; 4th Corps, a caltrop; 5th Corps, a firebastion fork; 6th Corps, a six-tooth sprocket; 7th Corps, a seven-pointed star; 8th Corps, two circles over-lapping each other, resembling the figure 8; 9th Corps, a buzz saw with nine teeth; 10th Corps, two triangles, point to point, resembling the letter X: 11th Corps, badge of 10th Corps, with horizontal bar through centre, representing XI; 12th Corps, a square with clover leaf at each corner, thereby showing twelve small circles; 13th Corps, a spearhead; 18th Corps, a spearhead; 18th Corps, as quare with one half circle on each side; 15th Corps, an auchor; 16th Corps, a bugle; 17th Corps, a spearhead; 18th Corps, a battle-ax; 19th Corps, au arch; 20th Corps, a brown Corps, a broom.

Designating the Divisions. The division of a corps will be represented by the color of the symbol, as follows:

First division, red; second division,

white; third division, blue.

Corps headquarters will be designated by a swallow-tail flag of yellow.

Division headquarters will be designated by a flag four feet on the staff and six feet fly, with the corps symbol in the centre, as follows: First Division-A white flag.

Second Division -A blue flag. Third Division—A red flag. Brigade headquarters will be distinguished by triangular pennants

four feet on the staff, as follows: First brigade, red; second brigade;

white; third brigade, blue, Colors of the pennants to be as follows, reading from the staff to the point.

First Division

First brigade-Red, white and blue; corps symbol in red. Second brigate-White, blue and Third brigade—Blue, white and red; corps symbol in red.

Second Division. First brigade-Red, white and blue;

corps symbol in white. Second brigade—White, blue and red; corps symbol in white. Third brigade-Blue, red and white;

Third Division First brigade-Red, white and blue; corps symbol in blue.

corps symbol in white.

Second brigade-White, red and blue; corps symbol in blue. Third brigade+Blue, white and red; corps symbol in blue.

Meaning of Flags. The corps of engineers will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 5 feet on the staff and 5 feet fly, with swallow tail 1 foot deep; flag to be divided in two horizontal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe to be of blue, bearing the castle symbolical of the engineers in white, occupying a space 2x3 feet; the upper stripe to be white, bearing the corps symbol in red, bordered in white 2 inches, and edged in blue 1 1-2 inches, 2 feet high, or occupying

a space 2 feet square.

The divisional engineers will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 4 feet on the staff and 4 feet fly, with swal-low tail 9 inches deep; the flag to be divided in two horizontal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe blue, the upper stripe white (with exception of that for the second division, which will be red), bearing the corps symbol, 18 inches square, in the color of the division to which the command be-

The corps cavalry will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 5 feet on the staff and 5 feet fly, with swallow tail 1 foot deep; flag to be divided in two horizontal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe to be of yellow, bearing crossed sabers in blue, occupying a space 2x3 feet; the upper stripe to of white, bearing the corps symbol in red, bordered in with 2 inches and edged in blue 1 inch, 2 feet high or

occupying a space 2 feet square.

The divisional cavalry will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 4 feet on the staff and 4 feet fly, with swallow tail 9 inches deep; flag to be divided

in two horizontal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe yellow and the upper white (with the exception of that for the second division, which will be blue), bearing the corps symbol 18 inches high, or occupying a space 18 inches square, in the color designating the division to which the commands belong commands belong.

The corps artillery will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 5 feet on the staff and 5 feet fly, with swallow-tail 1 foot deep; flag to be divided in two horizontal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe to be of red, bearing crossed cannon in yellow, occupying a space 2x3 feet; stripe to be white, bearing the corps symbol in red, bordered in white 2 inches and edged in blue, 1 inch; 2 feet high, or occupying a space 2 feet square.

The divisional artillery will be designated by a swallow-tail flag 4 feet, on the staff and 4 feet fly, with a swallow tail 9 inches deep; flag to be divided in two horizonal stripes of equal width, the lower stripe to be of red and the upper white (with the exception of that of the second division, which will be blue), bearing the corps symbol 18 inches high, or occupying a space 18 inches square, in the color designating the division to which the command belongs.

Members of the provost guard, when on duty, may wear upon the left breast, as a badge of authority, the corps symbol in tin or white metal.

WHEN A BIG GUN GOES OFF.

Scientific Men Do Not Know All That Takes Place-Avoiding the Shoek

Not one man in ten thousand has a clear idea of just what happens when a big cannon is fired. The physical manifestations are numerous. Even professors of chemistry and physics are stumped when they want to differentiate all the gases set loose and the peculiar effects they induce. The puff of whitish smoke, the flash of fire the dim image of the flying projectile, the roar and the recoil are all familiar, but back of these is a complex mass of phenomena most bewildering to the mind of any but an artillery expert.

First, the cubes, disks, hexagons or irregular lumps of powder are chemi-cally transformed into a powerful, ex-panding gas the instant firing takes Then there are innumerable place. by-products that even chemists do not understand.

The explosion of gunpowder is divided into three distinct stages, called the ignition, inflammation, and combustion. The ignition is the setthe inflammation is the spreading of the flame over the surface of the powder from the point of ignition. Com-bustion is the burning up of each grain. The value of gunpowder is due to the fact that when subjected to sufficient heat it becomes a gas which expands with frightful rapidity. The so-called explosion that takes place when a match is touched to gunpow-der is merely a chemical change, during which there is a sudden evolution of gases from the original solid.

It has been calculated that ordinary gunpowder on exploding expands about 9000 times or fills a space this much larger as a gas than when in a solid form. When this chemical change takes place in a closed vessel the expansion may be made to do a work like that of forcing a projectile along the bore of the great gun or test tube in the line of least resistance.

The hardest work a gunner is called upon to do is to stand the tremendous shock. The forces exerted by these gases in expanding seem to radiate in all directions from the cannon, as rip-ples are caused by dropping a pebble in a pool of still water. As a matter of fact, it has been discovered that these lines of forces are exceedingly complicated affairs, and play very queer pranks about the cannon. As a result few people know just which is the safest or the most dangerous position for a gunner to take besid gun. In the case of the great 13-inch guns on our monitors, a position back of the gan is much easier than one nearer the muzzle.

A Spanish Trick-1585.

The relations between the two countries, which Drake's raid into the South sea had for a time threatened with open rupture, had greatly improved, at least in outward appearance, and in 1585, under special promises of immunity from molestation on religious or other grounds. Philip had invited to his ports a fleet of English corn ships, in order to supply the deficiency of his own harvests, sooner, however, had the English ships arrived than an embargo was laid upon them, and their crews arrested.

One ship, the famous Primrose of London, managed to escape. While lying off Bilbao quietly discharging her cargo she had been visited by the corregidor of Biscay and his guard disguised as merchants. Suddenly called upon to surrender, the crew flung themselves upon the Spaniards. drove them all overboard, and made sail. Some of the discomfited Spaniards, as the shore boats fied, were seen clinging to the English vessel. These were humanely rescued and carried in triumph back to England, and among them was the corregidor himself. Upon him were found official instructions, setting forth expressly that the embargo was ordered for the purposes of the expedition which Philip was preparing against the English. This was enough for the Queen and the powerful public orinion of commercial circles in London, which had obstinately clung to pacific relations with Spain. A retal-iatory embargo was proclaimed, let-ters of general reprisal were issued, and Drake was let loose.—Publication of the Navy Records Societe, Green Britain.