

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

From All Parts of the New World and the Old.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Cullied From the Telegraph Columns.

An occult temple will be built in San Francisco by theosophists, and funds have already been subscribed.

A strike instituted at Georgetown, Mass., has thrown out of work 200 men, and promises to embrace the entire shoe factories of the town.

A family of ten persons and a number of cattle have been engulfed by the subsiding of 100 acres near Castle Island, county Kerry, Ireland.

The foreign office informs the Associated Press that no communication to any power regarding Cuba and the United States has been made by Great Britain, and it is added that no representations directly or indirectly have been made on the subject to the United States by Great Britain.

The constructors of the Siberian railroad have undertaken to build a line through Manchuria, starting from a point on the river where the Siberian road joins the trans-Balkelia line and terminating at Mikolajava, Russia.

A special from Paris says it is suggested that Great Britain, France and Italy, the powers most interested, offer their services in the Cuban question in order to prevent a conflict between Spain and the United States, and terminate the revolt.

Dr. E. Forbes, representing a London firm, arrived on the last steamer from the Orient in San Francisco, with cases of medical instruments valued at \$80,000.

The postmaster of Des Moines, Ia., had his carriers' look up worthy cases of poor families and delivered presents to them on Christmas morning.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, has proposed an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill, providing for auxiliary fishculture stations at points to be selected by the commissioner of fish and fisheries in Oregon, Washington, California, and other fisheries.

Jerry Burke, the colored boy, who hacked Mrs. John Foss and her daughter, Mrs. Cavanaugh, with an ax, at the first of next July, amount to \$28,000, Louisiana, last Sunday, was captured by a posse of citizens about a mile from the scene of the crime.

The secretary of the treasury has sent to congress a computation of the Pacific railroad debts as made by the government actuary. The statement shows that the advances to the Union Pacific, including the Kansas Pacific, by the government, will, at maturity, be the first of next July, amount to \$28,846,285, of which sufficient has been repaid to reduce the amount to \$23,259,593.

Dr. Thomas Powell, of Missouri, recently made some remarkable experiments before a party of doctors in Los Angeles in order to prove the efficacy of his remedy for certain diseases. He alarmed the physicians present by injecting bacillus tuberculosis and bacilli diphtheria into himself, appearing to take them without evil effect.

The annual statement of construction published by the Railway Age, of Chicago shows that during 1896 only 1,802 miles of railway lines were built in the United States. This is one mile less than the total reported for 1895, and the smallest mileage built in any year since 1875.

Notice has been posted at all the Philadelphia & Reading coal and iron collieries, numbering forty, and also at a number of individual collieries, that work would be suspended for a week.

The executive committee of the monetary conference with headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., are sending out a call to all commercial organizations who intend to send delegates to the conference. It is now believed that about 500 delegates will be in attendance.

A serious riot occurred at August, four miles from Schenectady, N. Y., on the Erie canal, where 300 Italians are employed on the canal improvements. A body of about 150 men from Schenectady, who are unemployed, marched down with guns, knives, clubs, pickaxes, etc., carrying a red flag, and compelled the men to stop working. The sheriff and a large force of deputies quelled the riot and arrested the ringleaders. The mob returned later and attempted to burn a shanty where fifty workmen slept. Small pay and excessive prices for food are the causes of the trouble.

ACCEPTS OUR OFFICES.

Spain Asks the United States to Act as Arbitrator.

Washington, Dec. 30.—It has been learned from an authentic source that Secretary Olney and Senator Dupuy de Lome have practically terminated the negotiations of the Cuban question, which are to be submitted to congress when it convenes, January 5.

The premier states clearly the terms which Spain will accord to the insurgents, and practically asks the United States to propose these conditions to her rebellious subjects. In return for our good offices, Spain assures this government she sincerely deprecates the great commercial loss which we have sustained on account of the Cuban disturbances.

Premier Canovas says Spain cannot, as a self-respecting and respected nation, stand before the world as having been coerced into measures by the United States. She has freely granted all the new offers, and that in the face of a rebellion which she accepts the good offices of the United States to act as mediator, and to guarantee to the insurgents amnesty and the enforcement of the new reform law which she is about to proclaim in Cuba.

The form of government offered is, the Spanish states, the limit of independence which she is granted to a province by any nation without absolutely severing the bonds of union with the mother country. Autonomy as enjoyed by the Canadians can never be granted in Cuba. What Spain is willing to grant the insurgents, if they lay down their arms, and what she asks the United States to guarantee, is an act which provides for a council of administration which shall control all matters pertaining to the commerce of the West Indies, and all estimates upon the general taxation and expenditures of the island, as well as its general home government.

New York, Dec. 30.—A Madrid dispatch says that before the desired Venezuelan ratification is secured. In official and diplomatic circles, there continues to be a satisfactory and hopeful view of the situation. It is felt all obstacles will be cleared away forthwith, and there is a disposition to meet the secretary of the interior, who is now in power, says:

"American intervention in Cuba is perfectly logical on the grounds of material interests and national sentiment. It might become an inevitable necessity of American home politics, and it is not to be denied that the interest of our own country to avoid a conflict while we can do so with honor, maintaining our dignity and sovereignty."

The present active efforts of Spanish diplomacy are all aimed, it is asserted in diplomatic and political quarters here, at convincing the American department that agencies of domestic policy make it impossible for Spain to enter into any formal agreement or convention with the United States for the settlement of the Cuban question. The Spanish efforts being made by the Spanish general secretary of state, to prevail upon President Cleveland to be content if Spain accedes tacitly only to his interference, and satisfies American opinion for the time being by voluntary and prompt instituting in Cuba and in Porto Rico of the reforms which she has promised in Cuba to the three eastern provinces in a few months with the forces now on the island, but they share the opinion of General Weyler that complete pacification of the rest of the island would require time, unless the rebels should be convinced that resistance is sure to diminish in consequence of an understanding, even unofficial, with the United States to settle the Cuban question.

Crime of a Tramp. Grafton, Wis., Dec. 29.—John Holmes, a farmer near here, was shot last evening by Ferdinand Fragenrecht, whose object was presumably robbery. Two shots lodged in Holmes' head and one passed through his neck. He cannot recover. After firing the shots Fragenrecht fled. He was quickly pursued by a posse of citizens, who caught him and were on the point of executing him when the police intervened, and after much trouble succeeded in lodging him safely in jail. The murderer evidently is a tramp. He asked Mrs. Holmes for a meal, which was given him, and he then pulled a revolver and shot the old farmer while his wife was in another room. She ran out shouting "murder," and a crowd soon collected and followed and captured the man.

Italian Village Demolished. London, Dec. 30.—A special from Rome says a landslide entirely destroyed the village of Santa Ana de Pelago, demolishing 118 houses and rendering 150 families homeless. There was no loss of life.

A Ferryboat Burned. New York, Dec. 30.—The double-decked ferryboat "New Brunswick," owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was burned to the water's edge today. The loss is \$120,000.

Result of a Christmas Fight. Oakland, Cal., Dec. 30.—Frank Darrigue died at Livermore this afternoon, presumably from the effects of a severe beating received on Christmas day at the hands of Louis Petroski. The latter who has been in custody since Saturday, will be charged with murder. Both men were employed at the Parvinyard, three miles south of Livermore, and quarreled on Christmas, Darrigue was shockingly beaten about the head and badly cut up, although as far as known Petroski only used his fists. There were no witnesses, and the cause of the fight is not known.

THEY WANT TO KNOW MORE

Venezuelans Not Ready to Ratify the Treaty.

A DELAY IN THE PROCEEDINGS

They Insist That Incidental Negotiations Shall Be Closed First—General Arbitration Treaty Completed.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Secretary Olney left the state department at 12 o'clock today and went direct to the British embassy, where he held a long conference by appointment with Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, relative to the status of the Venezuela treaty. Mr. Olney's call followed the arrival of Minister Andrade, of Venezuela, and James J. Storror, counsel in the Venezuela case, who reached Washington late last evening. The result of the conference was made known to the press by the secretary and an ambassador, but there is good reason to believe it was the occasion for going over several new phases of the Venezuela question.

The officials are reticent, and will say only in general terms that the prospect of an acceptance of the settlement by Venezuela is good. It is understood, however, that there are important limitations to the acceptance which appear to make the case less hopeful of an immediate and satisfactory conclusion than has been expected.

The plan of an extra session of the Venezuela congress to ratify the treaty has been practically abandoned. There appears also to be a question as to the nature of Venezuela's acceptance. President Crespo and the government authorities expressed satisfaction with the general settlement, so far as they secure arbitration, yet they have not yet expressed official approval of all the details of the settlement. On the contrary, there seems a very earnest desire at Caracas for more exact information of the terms of the treaty between Venezuela and Great Britain.

At present there is no disposition to await the gradual maturing of this complete treaty, and it is little short of settled that the treaty will have to be forthcoming, and all the incidental matters to be settled before the desired Venezuelan ratification is secured.

In official and diplomatic circles, there continues to be a satisfactory and hopeful view of the situation. It is felt all obstacles will be cleared away forthwith, and there is a disposition to meet the secretary of the interior, who is now in power, says:

"At the same time, the practical abandonment of the extra session of the Venezuela congress and the disposition to close all negotiations on the basis of the general settlement, is given credit for the prospect of a speedy conclusion of the case.

On the question of general arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, Mr. Olney and Sir Julian have made their final draft of the treaty, and it is in the hands of the secretary of state, awaiting his approval. No doubt exists of its approval, and it is expected to come daily.

THE PACIFIC ROADS' DEBT.

President Cleveland Preparing to Bring the Matter to a Settlement. Washington, Dec. 30.—The Evening Star today says:

The president has had several conferences of late with the attorney-general, and the secretary of the interior with a view to speedily adjusting the obligations of the Pacific railroads to the government.

It has been settled that steps will shortly be taken for the foreclosure of the government mortgages on these roads, and that the government should make provision for settlement of the debt at the present session. With the amount already matured, more than \$13,000,000 of the principal of the Union Pacific line, and more than \$6,000,000 of similar bonds issued in aid of the Central Pacific road, will have fallen due on or before January 1 next.

Without reference to the application of the sinking fund now in the treasury, this state of affairs will, in the opinion of the president, as stated in his annual message, "create such a default on the part of the companies to the government as will give it the right to once institute proceedings to foreclose its mortgage lien."

Lost on the Swedish Coast. Hull, England, Dec. 30.—The Wilson line steamship Volo is a total loss at Winge, off the coast of Sweden. The crew and passengers were saved. The Volo was a screw steamer built at Hull in 1890, registering 841 tons net.

Serious Fire in Washington. Washington, Dec. 30.—The large furniture house of Julio Lansburg, on New York avenue, was burned this evening. The loss on building stock and adjacent structures damaged will amount to about \$100,000. The loss on stock alone is placed at \$100,000, on which there is \$60,000 insurance.

Folding beds which are hung from the center and drop down at both sides have just been devised. Sentenced to Death. Denver, Colo., Dec. 30.—Allen Hens Dowden, a highwayman, convicted of the murder of Joel G. Ashworth, who was shot on the street on the night of June 27, was today sentenced to be hanged the third week in January. Dowden, who originally confessed to this murder and many other crimes, broke down and tearfully protested his innocence.

THE SULTAN IS OBDURATE.

Absolutely Refuses to Permit Further

Constantinople, Dec. 30.—The Russian ambassador on Saturday, acting in concert with representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Austria, had an audience with the sultan, Abdul Hamid, one of many such interviews within the past year, on the subject of the better administration of affairs in the Turkish empire.

The Russian diplomat began by warning the sultan and the Turkish government that if the revenues ceased for payment of the Turkish debt were touched, European control of the finances of the empire would become inevitable. He de Neldoff, the Russian ambassador, further informed the sultan that the czar guaranteed his personal safety and engaged himself to maintain the sultan's supremacy in the event of severe measures being necessary on the part of the powers. The sultan, however, refused to consent to any measure of control, financial or otherwise, by the powers.

The Russian ambassador said the condition of the Turkish empire placed the sultan in a most perilous position. Theropun Abdul Hamid remarked impressively: "I may be the last of the caliphs, but I will never become a second khedive."

In addition to these warnings, Mr. de Neldoff sent a message to the sultan, endorsing and to the palace. The most significance is attached to it in diplomatic circles. He pointed out in precise terms the necessity for the sultan following the advice of the powers and acting in complete agreement with their plans for improving the situation, warning them once more that the sultan's refusal to do so involves the most disagreeable consequences.

The ambassadors of the powers will meet again to discuss the situation, and will reassemble in future twice a week until they complete their recommendations to the sultan and his advisers. The envoys acting together will henceforth maintain the strictest secrecy regarding their deliberations and the action taken or contemplated and will not even inform the envoys of other powers of the decisions reached.

These latter steps being reported to the powers are once again reported to have produced a profound impression at Kioak and in pursuance of the issuance of an amnesty decree the Armenian prisoners in Asia Minor and this city and vicinity are being released daily in batches of fifteen.

JUSTICE IN CHINA.

Pirates and Counterfeiters are Promptly

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—According to the latest advices from the Orient Li Ka Chuk, superintendent of the Canton police, on November 23, seized a large number of counterfeit coins. The chief coiners, Tse Sang, and others, were arrested. An imperial decree from Peking commuted the immediate decapitation of the three named offenders, and enjoins the victory to deal with the others as he thinks necessary according to law, as a warning to the people. The officials who effected the seizure were all promoted in rank.

The Canton government, in another memorial the capture of two notorious pirate junks. In effecting the capture one military officer lost his life. A decree was issued on the 19th of November authorizing the execution of the captives and ordering the officials concerned in the capture promoted in rank and that the matter of the military officer who had lost his life be referred to the board concerned for rewards and posthumous honors.

An Investigation Asked For. New York, Dec. 30.—Several life insurance companies have asked Governor Tutbill to make a thorough investigation as to the death of the late David Blakeley, manager of Sonoma's band, who expired suddenly in his office in this city in November last.

The body is to be disinterred in order to determine whether certain sums in a Chicago accident insurance company were collected by Blakeley, having suffered a severe bicycle accident some weeks prior to his death.

An Immense Blast Fired.

San Diego, Dec. 30.—The Southern California Mountain Water Company fired the largest blast at Morena made in the history of the state. The amount of rock dislodged was 150,000 tons. Gas and powder was used. All the deposit of powder which were placed in tunnels at different levels in the hills were connected by electric wires, which completed a circuit.

A Big Cruiser Planted. Cronstadt, Dec. 30.—The armored cruiser Kossia, of 12,130 tons displacement, the largest vessel in the Russian navy, which ran on a sandbank in the beginning of November and has been frozen in ever since, has been floated after fifty-one days of incessant labor with steam icebreakers.

Bombay, Dec. 30.—The bubonic plague is increasing, there having been 2,094 cases and 1,494 deaths from that source up to date. The exodus from the city continues, and the natives are threatened with material loss unless they conform with the sanitary regulations.

Hundreds of Cocaine Found. Hartford, Conn., Dec. 30.—The cocaine habit has taken such a hold on many residents of Manchester that steps are being taken to obtain the restriction of the sale of the drug. The local druggist in question when a local druggist a year ago made a preparation of cocaine and menthol which could be used as snuff. It was intended as a specific for asthma, but the powder, when passed around, and now hundreds of persons have become slaves to the snuff.

Destroyed by Fire. San Francisco, Dec. 29.—The California glue works, at Sixth avenue and G streets, were destroyed by fire last night. The building was insured for \$100,000 only, and the net loss will be \$40,000 at least. It is supposed that the fire was caused by the careless handling of a lamp by Henry Hellier, the watchman, who lost his life in the flames. When found, his charred remains lay near a pile of broken glass, once a part of the lamp, and it was evident that his clothes had been saturated with oil.

THE DEADLY FIREDAMP

Coal-Mine Horror in Princeton, Indiana.

SIX MINERS WERE KILLED

The Mine Was New and the Air Shaft Had Not Been Completed—Fateful Scenes About the Pit.

Princeton, Ind., Dec. 29.—A terrific explosion of firedamp occurred in the mine of the Maule Coal Company, of this city, at 8:30 this afternoon, and as a result six men were instantly killed and four were injured. One of the four men taken out is dangerously injured. The air shaft had not been completed. Robert Maule, married, treasurer Maule Coal Company; James Riley, married; John Ernst, married; Carl Fabre, married; Robert Porylitz, and John Himes, married.

It was first thought twelve had been killed, but Dave Nolan, James Turner, a man named Colgate and a colored man were taken out alive before midnight. The work of rescue continues and will be kept up by relay, but there has been no more bodies found since midnight. Meantime, the scenes about the mine during the night become more sad as the hours pass.

The men were at work making repairs of damages resulting from a similar explosion last Sunday. Besides regular miners and blacksmiths, other men were employed in the work, while Robert Maule, son of President John Maule, and treasurer and superintendent of the company, was superintending the work. The mine has been in operation only a short time, and the gas which collects in portions of the mine, was ignited by an open lamp.

A year ago yesterday, Princeton was jubilant over the striking of a seven-foot coal vein by the Maule company, but tonight many homes are scenes of great sorrow, made so by the awful crash in the mine. When the mine was opened, the finest machinery was put in, and it was the intention of the owners to make it the finest in the state. The air shaft was not started until the mine had been prepared to operate. Work on it has progressed slowly, and it is not until about ninety feet of shaft had been completed, that gas has frequently accumulated in pockets, and several men have been burned by small explosions.

About two months ago a serious explosion occurred, in which one man was killed and his body mutilated in a horrible manner. Suspicion pointed to Tob Lannahan, and he was arrested. In the basement of the furniture store incriminating evidence was found. The news spread over the city, and by night there was great excitement. When lynching was finally threatened, Governor Stone, accompanied by Mayor Silver and Assistant Attorney-General Jordan, went to the jail and General Stone spoke to the mob. He appealed to them to leave the punishment of the crime to the state. As Governor Stone was in the jail, he implored them not to permit in their very shadow of the capital, such a crime as was contemplated. When the enraged men were finally induced to withdraw, the prisoner was removed to the state penitentiary. Armed guards from the state armory assisted in the transfer of the prisoner.

Another Big Tunnel. Seattle, Dec. 29.—E. C. Henry, the millionaire contractor, has just completed the report that he had secured the contract to build the approaches to the Great Northern railroad's tunnel through the Cascade mountains, and that men were already on their way to commence preliminary work.

Mallecarrier Protected Himself. Burlington, Ky., Dec. 29.—A colored people's Christmas celebration began at Big Bone springs Wednesday night, and continued all night. Chas. Elward, a mail carrier, while passing the place yesterday morning, was assaulted by Harvey Foster, colored, armed with a razor. Elward shot Foster dead. He has been arrested. Elward's reputation is good while that of Foster is bad.

Diastrosis Fire. Potsdam, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The Windsor hotel, four saloons, two clothing stores, three restaurants, one grocery, two livery stables, and two barber shops, composing a large portion of the business section of the town, were burned today. The loss is estimated at \$100,000; partially insured.

A Postoffice Block Burned. Amesbury, Mass., Dec. 29.—The postoffice block was badly damaged by fire today. The loss on the building and property of the various occupants will amount to \$40,000; insurance about \$40,000. The fire probably caught near the boiler in the basement.

Abandoned Bark's Crew Rescued. New Orleans, Dec. 29.—The steamer Queensmore, Captain Cross, from London, arrived today, having on board Captain Robinson and his crew, and crew of the Norwegian bark Neptune, picked up on December 9, in latitude 45, longitude 13 west. The bark had a crew of nine men, all told, and was from Belize, Honduras, bound for Havre, with a cargo of logwood. When abandoned there was ten feet of water in her hold.

Caught by the Fire. Albany, Or., Dec. 25.—Yesterday, at Foster, eighteen miles above Lebanon, a man named Wadli, who recently purchased the flouring mills at Foster, went from the mill to the house after his books. He found the house on fire, gave the alarm, rushed in to save his books, was overcome by the heat, and burned to death in the presence of his father, brothers and a crowd that had assembled. His charred remains were recovered after the house had burned down. He was a single man, recently from Minnesota.

Doed His Own Life. Chicago, Dec. 29.—Suffering from depression, caused by financial reverses, Otto Wassmannsdorff, a well-known banker of this city, fired a bullet into his brain and died almost instantly. He killed himself in a front hall bedroom at his home on Cleveland avenue.

The Latest in Nursing Bottles. Nursing bottles are now made with a porous filtering body located in the neck, which strains the milk as it passes through it.

PERISHED TO A MAN.

Brave Party of Texans Fighting for

Cuba Killed in the Fight.

New York, Dec. 29.—A special to the World from Key West, says: The Lone Star company, of the Patriot Army of West Cuba, consisting of fifteen Texas sharpshooters, perished to a man after battling more than five hours against vastly superior Spanish forces in Pinar del Rio province, killing double their own number and wounding probably as many more. Havana officials are jubilant, passengers say, over the news of this victory.

A Cuban band was observed near Pinar del Rio city Thursday morning, and General Melique sent two squads of cavalry to attack it. After a running fight, the band, which proved to be composed of the fifteen Texans, was chased into a "bottle," a bit of hummock having one opening. The Texans, seeing they were in a hole, retreated to the farther end and fortified themselves behind some of the trees. Spanish troopers dismounted and surrounded them, pouring in a fire from both sides. The brave Texans replied and kept up the fight more than five hours. By that time, six of the fifteen had been killed and four wounded, while twenty-five Spaniards had been shot and ten or more were wounded.

A flag of truce was sent in by the Spaniards, and the Texans were called on to surrender, but the Americans refused, shouting, "We remember Maceo!" This infuriated the Spaniards, and they fought with renewed fervor. Twice they charged, but the rapid firing of the brave little band drove them back. By getting on a high ridge behind the Texans' position, the Spaniards were enabled to kill all but two of those left. Those two greatly continued to fight and held off the enemy an hour longer. Then, overcome by thirst and enfeebled by loss of blood, flowing from a dozen wounds, they were cut to pieces by the Spaniards, who finally dashed up as the Texans cried, "Viva Cuba Libre."

ESCAPED LYNCHING.

A Murderer Escapes His Safety to Gov-

ernor Stone. Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 29.—The presence of Governor Stone at the county jail tonight probably saved Toby Lannahan, colored, from being lynched. At 8:30 o'clock, a mob of fully 1,000, whites and blacks, surrounded the jail, threatening to avenger the most revolting murder ever committed in Jefferson City. Early this morning the body of a 14-year-old negro girl, Millie Gaines, was found in a yard back of Joseph Stampfli's furniture store. The child had been outraged, her skull crushed and her body mutilated in a horrible manner. Suspicion pointed to Tob Lannahan, and he was arrested. In the basement of the furniture store incriminating evidence was found.

The news spread over the city, and by night there was great excitement. When lynching was finally threatened, Governor Stone, accompanied by Mayor Silver and Assistant Attorney-General Jordan, went to the jail and General Stone spoke to the mob. He appealed to them to leave the punishment of the crime to the state. As Governor Stone was in the jail, he implored them not to permit in their very shadow of the capital, such a crime as was contemplated. When the enraged men were finally induced to withdraw, the prisoner was removed to the state penitentiary. Armed guards from the state armory assisted in the transfer of the prisoner.

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A TRAP IS SET FOR GOMEZ

Spaniards Forming Three Lines to Crush Him.

OPERATIONS ARE IN MATANZAS

Weyler Expected to Strike a Hard Blow, So That Spain Can Call for Another Loan—Cuba's Condition.

Cincinnati, Dec. 28.—A special to the Commercial Tribune from Key West says: Havana advises that Gomez's advance guard has captured the town of Las Passaga, in Santa Clara province, taking the entire garrison and all the stores. A battalion of fresh troops was sent from Havana to Matanzas this morning, to meet at the front. Great exertions are being made to get a strong force to oppose General Gomez, and three linears are being forced to get the Cubans entangled between them and crushed.

It is rumored that General Weyler has delayed fresh operations against the insurgents in order to give time to discover the disposition of banos and their chiefs since the death of Maceo, with a view to finishing his way to the contemplated Cuban tariff. The Spanish negotiators proved more telling arguments than force of arms, directly the insurgents saw no more hope of foreign aid.

It also believed in diplomatic circles that Spain will take advantage of the disposition of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney to negotiate quickly and directly with the United States to secure a neutrality by granting discriminating concessions in the promised colonial autonomy before the accession of McKinley.

One of the principal reasons of the Spanish government for insisting upon Weyler making a decisive attempt to clear the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Matanzas, within a few weeks, is the urgent necessity for securing a military success before Spain has once more to appeal to the native and foreign markets for fresh loans, when she shall have exhausted the money obtained by the recent interior loan, which was raised in March of next year.

At present the minister of the colonies disposes of this cash, and Cuban bonds to the value of about \$5,000,000 only remain out of the proceeds of the loans. The expenses of the war in Cuba are \$12,000,000 monthly, and in the Philippines at least \$4,000,000. To the present time, the Spanish treasury has assisted the Cuban treasury by guaranteeing advances made by foreign and native bankers upon Cuban bonds, and by pledging the sources of imperial revenue for the recent \$80,000,000 loan.

The moment is fast approaching when the Spanish parliament and the Spanish taxpayers must be asked to provide, in the shape of additional taxation, \$26,000,000 annually for the interest and sinking fund of \$250,000,000 loan, far in excess of what is now the expense of the Cuban war up to March, 1897, and which the Cuban budget and the Cuban taxpayers could not possibly undertake to pay, even if the war were soon terminated, considering that their budgets showed deficits, averaging \$5,000,000 annually, before the present insurrection.

Rivera Warns Weyler. New York, Dec. 29.—A special from Key West to the World says: General Rivera, who is in command of the army of Maceo, has sent a formal warning to General Weyler. General Rivera notified the Spanish captain-general that if he took any further threats to kill pacificos found in the country, the Cubans will make reprisals on all Spaniards whom they may capture.

General Weyler is affecting to disregard the warning. "Those near him, who are far raised to meet only in part the expense of the Cuban war up to March, 1897, and which the Cuban budget and the Cuban taxpayers could not possibly undertake to pay, even if the war were soon terminated, considering that their budgets showed deficits, averaging \$5,000,000 annually, before the present insurrection."

General Rivera is moving out of his entrenchments. All indications point to an important engagement soon. General Weyler has visited various points of the coast and San Christobal. He is always accompanied by a large force. There is skirmishing daily along the trocha and on the outskirts of Artemisa.

A battle has been fought in Santa Clara province between General Weyler and the Cubans forced the Spaniards to retire into Remedios with heavy loss. Regia, across the bay from Havana, was attacked again last night almost under the guns of the fortress. Several houses were burned and a running fight maintained for two hours.

A Drunkard's Act. Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 28.—While leaving the Santa Fe train at the First street depot in a drunken condition, Mason Birkley, stumbled, fell and threw his 6-year-old boy Harry under the moving train. The child was crushed to death.

Candlesticks, with chimneys, and having perforations in the bottom of the tray for the admission of air, are made by an Englishman.

Caught by the Fire. Albany, Or., Dec. 25.—Yesterday, at Foster, eighteen miles above Lebanon, a man named Wadli, who recently purchased the flouring mills at Foster, went from the mill to the house after his books. He found the house on fire, gave the alarm, rushed in to save his books, was overcome by the heat, and burned to death in the presence of his father, brothers and a crowd that had assembled. His charred remains were recovered after the house had burned down. He was a single man, recently from Minnesota.

Doed His Own Life. Chicago, Dec. 29.—Suffering from depression, caused by financial reverses, Otto Wassmannsdorff, a well-known banker of this city, fired a bullet into his brain and died almost