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Our new, stylish, up-to-date SHOES are catching. People will go where they can get nice goods at popular prices, 275 Commercial street is the place; Call on us for a square deal and up-to-date shoes.

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JEWEL Stoves and Ranges. There are no better goods made, and we can sell them at prices that would surprise you. GRAY BROS.

Removal Sale.

Come in and Get Bargains. BROWN & SMITH. 248 Commercial street.

CHRISTMAS IS OVER!

- But we are going to commence the New Year again with offering you low prices for groceries. Salem Special, patronize home industry only. 95. Apples, Flour, 10. New Pickles, per qt., 10. Arbuckle and Lion Coffee, per lb., 15. Best Mocha and Java Coffee, per lb., 35. Good Mocha and Java coffee, per lb., 30. 10 lbs. Lard, 45. 5 lbs. Lard, 25. Chocolate, per lb., 45. 10 lbs. B. Wheat, 25. 10 lbs. Corn Meal, 25. Try our 10 Cream Oats for mush. HARRIETT & LAWRENCE

Old P. O. Corner

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY'S MESSAGE.

Important Document On the Spanish-Cuban Affair.

Two Factions Are Disclosed in Congress.

Some for War, Some for Peace and Some for Intervention.

And the Message Has Gone to the Foreign Committee.

All Responsibility Is Now Thrown Upon Congress.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The future relations of the United States with Spain, and to Cuba, rest with congress. What course congress will pursue cannot be foretold. The foreign relations committees of both houses, now have the subject in their control and after due deliberation, will report to their respective branches what they consider should be the attitude of the United States on the grave question presented. Early action by the committees is expected, but exactly when it may be looked for is not now determinable. The full responsibility of the subject was placed upon congress relating to our negotiations with Spain as to the warfare in Cuba and drawing therefrom his personal conclusions and recommendations. He placed the trust with these words: "The issue is now with congress. It is a solemn responsibility. I have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition of affairs which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me, by the constitution and law, I await your action."

No message in recent years, caused such widespread and intense interest. That it did not create profound enthusiasm may be due to the fact that its main features had been accurately forecasted or to disappointment among those who wanted Cuban independence and immediate reprisals upon Spain for the destruction of the Maine. For a long time a large majority in both houses have favored the recognition of the independence of Cuba, and for more than two years, as voted in the resolutions passed by congress, the recognition of belligerency has been sought. Both of these propositions were antagonized in the message and consequently, in this regard, the message did not accord with the majority sentiment. The message left congress very much at sea, because of the disparagement in the views, between it and the executive, are obstacles hard to surmount, unless, as now seems possible, congress sees its course to lean in accord with the president's recommendation.

A declaration of war was talked of, and a declaration that the people of Cuba should be free, coupled with an authorization to the president to bring this about by armed intervention, was suggested. It is well known that any proposition advanced will be met in the senate with an amendment declaring for the independence of the present Cuban government.

Conservative senators met in the afternoon and decided to oppose any radical measure if it should be reported by the committee. They will oppose, by debate, the recognition of the independence of the present gov-

ernment and a declaration of war, and will consent to action only along the lines of recommendations of the president as to intervention at his discretion. The temper of the house could not be accurately determined, but there, as in the senate, the proposition for Cuban independence has to be met. Any report from the committee on foreign affairs that does not carry this feature will be antagonized by an amendment and the prospects are that nearly all the Democrats and nearly all the Republicans would favor it.

A Hot Time in the Old Town.

That's what there is in store, but don't burn your fingers on so-called bargains, closing out sales and cheap goods. Before you invest a cent, investigate our stock and low cut prices. O. P. DABNEY.

THE FAIR!

slightly of Spain. It failed, through the refusal of the Spanish government, then in power to consider any form of mediation or indeed any plan of settlement which did not begin with the actual submission of the insurgents to the mother country and then only on such terms as Spain herself might see fit to grant.

The war continued unabated. The resistance of insurgents was in no wise diminished. The efforts of Spain were increased both by the dispatch of fresh levies to Cuba and by additions to the horrors of the strife. The new and inhuman phase, happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian people, the policy of devastation and concentration, inaugurated by the Captain general's ban of October 21, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spaniards was able to reach by occupation or by military operations. The peasantry, including all dwelling in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrison towns or isolated places held by the Spanish troops. The raising of provisions of all kinds was interdicted. The fields were made waste, dwelling unroofed and fired, mill destroyed, and in short, everything that could desolate the land and render it unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other contending parties and executed by all the powers at their disposal.

By the time the present administration took office a year ago, reconcentration—so called—had been effective over the better part of four central and western provinces. Santa Clara, Mantanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. The agricultural population, to the estimated number of 30,000 or more was herded within the towns or their immediate vicinity, deprived of all the means of support, rendered destitute of shelter, left poorly clad and exposed to the most unsatisfactory conditions.

As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation. Month by month the death rate increased at an alarming ratio, and by March, 1898, according to conservative estimates from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados from starvation and the diseases thereto incident exceeded 50 per centum of the total number. No practical relief was accorded to the destitute. The overburdened towns, already suffering from the general dearth, could give no aid. So-called zones of cultivation, established within the immediate area of effective military control, about the cities and fortified camps, proved illusory as a remedy for the suffering. The unfortunate, being for the most part women and children, with aged and helpless men, enfeebled by disease and hunger, could not have tilled the soil without tools, seeds or shelter, for their own support or for the supply of the cities.

Reconcentration adopted avowedly as a war measure, to cut off the resources of the insurgents, worked its predestined result. As I said in my message of last December, it is not civilized warfare; it was extermination and the only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave.

Meanwhile the military situation in the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio and carried hay and destitution up to the walls of the city of Havana itself, had relapsed into a dogged struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish army regained a measure of control in Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, but under the existing conditions of the rural country, without immediate improvement of their productive situation. Even thus partially restricted, the revolutionists held their own, and their submission, put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace, seemed as far distant as that of the outset.

In this state of affairs my administration found itself confronted with the grave problem of its duty. My message of last December reviewed the situation and detailed the steps to be taken with a view of relieving the acuteness and opening the way to some form of honorable settlement.

The assassination of the prime minister, Canovas, led to a change of government in Spain. The former administration, which pledged subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform involving the wider principle of home rule for Cuba and Porto Rico.

The overtures of this government, made through our envoy, General Woodford, and looking to an immediate amelioration of the condition of the island, although not accepted to the extent of admitted mediation in any shape, were met by assurances that home rule in an advanced phase should be forthwith offered to Cuba, without waiting for the war to end, and that more humane methods should thenceforth prevail in the conduct of hostilities.

Incidentally with these declarations the new government of Spain

continued and completed the policy already begun by its predecessor of testifying friendly regard for this nation by releasing American citizens held under one charge or another connected with the insurrection, so that, by the end of November, not a single person entitled in any way to our national protection, remained in a Spanish prison.

While these negotiations were in progress the increasing destitution of the unfortunate reconcentrados and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The success which had attended the limited measure of relief extended to the suffering American citizens among them by the judicious expenditures, through the consular agencies, of the money appropriated expressly for their support by the joint resolution approved May 24, 1897, prompted the humane extension of a similar scheme to that great body of sufferers. On the 24th of December I caused to be issued an appeal to the American people, inviting contributions in money or in kind for the succor of the starving sufferers in Cuba.

Following this, on the 8th of January, was a similar public announcement of the formation of a central Cuban relief committee which had its headquarters in New York City, composed of members representing the Red Cross and other religious and business elements of the community. The efforts of that committee have been untiring and have accomplished much. Arrangements for free transportation to Cuba have greatly aided the charitable work.

The president of the American Red Cross and representatives of other contributory organizations have generally visited Cuba and co-operated with the consular general and the local authorities to make effective distribution of the relief collected through the efforts of the central committee. Nearly \$200,000 in money and supplies has reached the sufferers, and more is forthcoming. The supplies are admitted duty free and the transportation to the interior has been arranged so that the relief necessarily confined to Havana and the larger cities is now extended through most, if not of the towns where suffering exists. Thousands of lives have already been saved.

The necessity for a change in the condition of the reconcentrados is recognized by the Spanish government. Within a few days past the orders of General Weyler have been revoked, the reconcentrados are, it is said, to be permitted to return to their homes, and aided to resume the self supporting pursuits of peace; public works have been started to give them employment and a sum of \$200,000 has been appropriated for their relief.

The work in Cuba is of such a nature that, short of subjugation or extermination, a final military victory for the other side seems impracticable. The alternative lies in the physical exhaustion of the one or the other party, or perhaps both, a condition which in effect ended the ten years' war by the truce of San Juan. The prospect of such a protraction and conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, and least of all by the United States, affected and objected as we are deeply and intimately by its very existence.

Realizing this, it appeared to be my duty, in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, to invite so much to be done by the promotion of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end I submitted, on the 27th ultimo, as a result of much reflection and correspondence through the United States minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government looking for an armistice until October 1, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the president.

In addition, I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration, so as to permit the people to return to their farms and the need to be relieved with provisions and supplies by the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief. The reply of the Spanish cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers as the means to bring about peace in Cuba to concede the preparation thereof to the insular department, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to establish a final result, it being, however, understood by the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban parliament does not meet until the 4th of May next, the Spanish government would not object for its part, to accept at once a suspension of hostilities if asked for by the insurgents through the general-in-chief, to whom it would pertain such cases to determine the duration and conditions of the armistice.

The proposition submitted by General Woodford and the reply of the Spanish government were both in the form of brief memoranda, the texts of which are before mentioned and substantially in the language above given. The function of the Cuban parliament in the matter of preparing peace and the manner of doing so are not explained in the Spanish memorandum, but from General Woodford's explanatory notes of preliminary discussion preceding the final conference it is understood that the Spanish government stands ready to give the insular congress full power to settle the terms of peace with the insurgents, whether by direct negotiation or indirectly by the means of legislation does not appear. With this last overture in the direction of immediate peace and its disappointing reception by Spain, the executive was brought to the end of his efforts.

In my annual message of December last, I said: "Of the untiring measures there remain—Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents, recognition of the independence of Cuba and intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between the contestants, or intervention in favor of one or the other party. I speak not of forcible annexation for that cannot be thought of, that, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression."

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STAND READY TO HELP

Insurgents Willing to Fight Under Old Glory

WILL MARCH ON HAVANA

McKinley's Message Is a Waste of Words.

JACKSONVILLE Fla., April 12.—The Cuban Junta here received a very important letter from General Gomez lately, via Key West. While its contents have been guarded very carefully and the main portion of it sent on to the New York Junta's office, yet it is ascertained that it brings the news that Gomez is preparing to co-operate with the United States forces in case of war in an attack upon Havana.

Calixto Garcia has passed the trocha and he and Gomez, with some 18,000 troops, are now marching westward and toward Havana. The insurgents are recruiting in all sections and from good authority it is ascertained that Gomez has promised to have from 25,000 to 30,000 troops behind Havana to aid in reducing it. The letter added that the Spanish officers there were greatly worried over the news of Gomez's approach and that troops had been called into Havana and that much work was being done in throwing up earthworks in the rear of the city and otherwise strengthening the forts of the city.

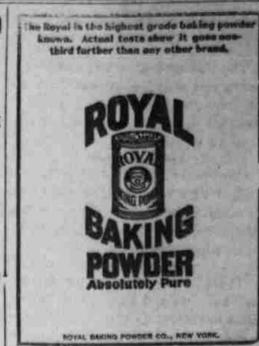
The insurgents, the dispatch said, hailed with joy the intervention of the United States and that their ranks were being rapidly increased daily. Gomez and the United States are now in close touch and the news of the declaration of war, will be carried to him by means of private signals without loss of time so that he could move with knowledge of where the United States forces were and what they were doing. The campaign is arranged between them, according to this authority.

New York, April 12. The following is an extract from a letter written to Consul Barker, United States representative at Santiago de Cuba, by Maximo Gomez, and will be presented to President McKinley. "One year ago we received a proposal from Spain to agree to an armistice. We refused then, as we refuse now. The rainy season will soon be at hand, and Spanish troops would like an armistice until it is over. We shall throw away no advantage. On the other hand, I am anxious that hostilities shall cease, but it must be for all time. If Spain agrees to leave Cuba, taking her flag with her, I am willing to agree to an armistice to last until October 1, when the loyal Cubans shall come into their own."

"Please," tell President McKinley this for me. Tell him too, that I am writing this at the direction of the Cuban provisional government, with which they may treat directly should they so desire.

How the Message Was Received. WASHINGTON, April 12.—The most significant utterance on the subject of the message was that of Senator Foraker, Republican, from the president's own state and a member of the committee on foreign relations. He said: "I have no patience with the message and you can say so."

The reading of the message in the house was greeted with scattering applause from the Republican side and groans from the Democratic side. The galleries made no demonstration. The message was referred to the committee on foreign affairs without do-



The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes much further than any other brand.

THE MESSAGE. Almost Universally Condemned as a Weak Document.

The almost universal verdict at Salem on McKinley's message is, "a very weak affair!" It has caused great disappointment to Republicans.

His treatment of the blowing up of the Maine is entirely inadequate. Coming from the head of the administration that sent the ill-fated vessel into that murderous harbor, the message is an inadequate treatment of what amounts to a real cause for war. It wounds the patriotic sentiment of Americans.

For killing three German citizens and destroying one warehouse Germany demanded and secured reparation within 36 hours. Had the Maine been under the flag of any other first-class power a naval force would have demanded reparation or the evacuation of Havana before this.

President McKinley has been known in political matters, to be a weak man surrounded by weak men of second-rate ability. But his weakness in taking a position on a great critical occasion had never been fully demonstrated. There remains little doubt that he has utterly failed to rise to the requirements of the occasion.

PROF. SCOTT COMING.—Remember Mrs. Willman's "Pupil's Musical Evening." Friday night, the 15th inst., at the studio over the First National bank, at 8 p. m. There will be a very select program of solos, duos, quartets and vocal numbers. Prof. Scott, the eminent director of the head conservatory at Kansas City, will give a short musical talk, and place the Salem students in touch with the great work of the national work. Admission 25c.

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