

A correspondent of the Springfield Republican, Sergeant Thomas C. Boone, gives an interesting account of this new feature of modern warfare. He says to the balloon was attached a strong rope 1,000 feet long and eighteen men pulled it from one part of the battlefield to another. A telegraph wire also connected the basket with the ground, and observations were transmitted in that manner to the officers below. Finally a point that is now known as Hell's crossing was reached by the balloon men, and a scathing fire was poured into the inflated bag. Three shells from a shrapnel battery tore great holes in it, and showers of bullets made it resemble a large sieve. Yet, the three men in the basket at the time it was destroyed escaped with but one slight injury. They were Col. Drew, chief of engineers on Gen. Shafter's staff; Maj. J. E. Maxwell of the signal corps, and Sergeant Thomas C. Boone, detached from company K of the Second Massachusetts volunteers as telegrapher in the balloon detachment. Three of the men holding the rope on the ground were wounded. The balloon was finally landed in the middle of a stream waist-deep just as the First and Tenth regiments of cavalry (dismounted) were charging a Spanish ambush in a field of wild corn on the west side of the stream, which for the terrible slaughter there is known as Hell's crossing.

It was about 12 o'clock at noon when the balloon was destroyed, and up to that hour the commanding officers were furnished accurate information of the enemy—information that sometimes is worth a whole regiment of men. It being demonstrated that an aeronaut can keep himself afloat in the air for hours in spite of a murderous fire and then fall a thousand feet without sustaining serious injury, it is but natural that in future wars more attention will be given to the use of balloons than hitherto. The exploit of Colonel Drew and his associates is one of the remarkable incidents of this war.

PIONEER DAY GIFT.

Where the vanguard of the swelling hosts of Western civilization first pitched their tents fifty-one years ago, was assembled today a large concourse of people, who were engaged in the impressive ceremony of presenting the grounds in perpetuity to the people at large. Some of those who were so engaged were themselves Pioneers, and conspicuous among these was our venerated President Wilford Woodruff, while many of the remainder were descendants of the hardy and true men and women who began on this ground the great work of subjugating the wilds. Those of us who came later, through birth or immigration, can but faintly conceive of what was then undergone and what was endured for many years after, but through steadfastness and righteousness, through faith and work, the transformation was slowly brought about, and with the giving to the public of the present day for its own use this ground which should always be regarded as hallowed, the culminating point may be said to have been reached.

Let the Pioneer square be received and cared for in accordance with its historic value, no matter about its other value, which is considerable. No such thing as speculation must ever be permitted to enter it and nothing vile allowed to have a footing there. It is the Plymouth rock of our later-day refugees and empire-builders, the spot to which the wanderers were led

by the light of inspiration and to which they were welcomed by the guardian angel of human achievement. Our children and their children may learn from it where the nucleus of all the advancement they see and read of and hear of around and about them was established; history will relate to them the steady-paced and irresistible unfolding, and their own experiences determine them as to what it all is and why.

Renewed honors to the Pioneers, and may their memories be green through all the ages! Thanks for the great gift which they carved out of the ruggedness of nature and handed along through the intervening time till it reached the people of this day, and thanks and praise to the Author of all good for the many privileges we have been permitted to enjoy!

THE PEACE PROSPECTS.

A Madrid correspondent of the London Times believes that the peace prospects have become brighter lately. The foundation for this supposition is not known, but possibly the queen regent, who formerly favored war to the bitter end in order to save the Spanish possessions for her boy, now feels convinced that speedy peace is the only means of gaining that end, partially at least. It seems certain that the fate of Spain in this crisis has been and is determined entirely by the interests of the royal family, without reference to the good of the people. Be that as it may, peace is certainly what Spain needs, and it is surprising that the fall of Santiago did not result in a strong popular demand in the peninsula for a cessation of further hostilities. Before that event there was some excuse for believing in the Spanish army. After Santiago was taken, every hope of successful resistance ought to have been shattered to pieces.

It is interesting to notice that Senor Castelar, the former leader of the Spanish republican party, and the "Bismarck of Spain," as he has been called, sees no light in the future of his country. To him, national suicide is the only recourse left. He is quoted as saying: "When I stood by the corpse of Canovas I said that his best friend was Angiolillo, who in killing him delivered him from the overwhelming disgrace which had fallen upon him. It may be the same with Spain." That is, the aged statesman thinks his country's disgrace can be wiped out only by the utter destruction of the nation. So far as he interprets the sentiments of his adherents, he furnishes proof of the fact that Spanish sense of honor is giving way to utter despair. Should that mental condition prevail, there is no prospect that the country will sue for peace immediately. A nation without friends, without confidence in itself and without hope for the future, and yet imbued with antiquated ideas of "honor," will necessarily be slow in taking a step in the right direction.

Spain needs somebody to point out to her that her present fate is but the natural harvest of corruption in high places and neglect on the part of her rulers of following the progress of civilization. She needs a reformer to break the chains of superstition that so long have fettered the people and to teach it to exercise its own power. The calamities that have befallen Spain are great, but other European nations have had similar experiences and yet risen in the supreme hour to the occasion and come out of the ordeal stronger and better. Let Spain first turn to Washington and arrange for peace on as generous and honorable terms as the American people may be willing to give. Then let her statesmen study the history of Germany, of Norway, of Sweden, or even of Italy, and learn that no courtesy will

be blotted out from the face of the earth as long as its people are willing to turn from iniquity and walk according to the best light it has. The majesty of a people is not so easily brought down into the dust as are kings and rulers supported only by iron and blood.

HOPE FOR THE JEWS.

The war of liberation in which the United States is now engaged inspires some of the thoughtful among the Jews with the hope that at a not very distant date some European nation will embark on a similar enterprise in behalf of the oppressed of the Hebrew race in eastern Europe. The American Israelite has the following paragraph on the subject:

"The contemplation of the high motives that actuated the American people in the present war with Spain, encourages us to hope that at some not very far distant day there will be raised up from among the civilized nations of the earth a champion for the persecuted and crushed Jews of Russia, Roumania and Austria. The progress of civilization has not only apparently come to a standstill among the Latin, Slav and Czech races, but a gradual degeneration and retrogression seem to have set in. As they grow older they seem to become only wicked and less regardful of the rights of man. History has had but one penalty for this offense, and that is the one meted out by the world. Sooner or later this chastisement will come to the eastern European peoples who so ceaselessly, causelessly and senselessly outrage humanity, and all good men pray that this coming may not be long delayed."

The view is probably well taken. After the liberation of the Cubans by the heroic and unselfish efforts of this country, public opinion in Great Britain would not be brought to silence again should an appeal to the Christian world be made in behalf of the oppressed races of Europe. Every righteous deed is a force for good in the world, and it will bear fruit in the due season.

THE SOLDIERS' MAIL.

An order relating to the sending of mail matter to soldiers at the front has just been issued by the postmaster general. As there are so many families and so many more persons in Utah who are concerned in this matter, the order will answer numerous questions and be the means of giving a great deal of satisfaction.

The rule adopted is the essence of simplicity and cheapness. The same postage rates as those in force in the United States prevail—that is, an ordinary letter, one weighing an ounce or less, would require a two-cent stamp; newspapers not sent by the publishers, one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof, but sent by publishers the prevailing second-class rates will govern. It is recommended that the regiment and company of the addressee appear after the name on the envelope, and the "News" would advise in addition that the name be given in full and the writing be as plain as possible. At present in all cases where matter goes to the Philippines it should be addressed to "Utah Volunteers (or whatever other department of the service it may happen to be), Manila, Philippine Islands." The matter goes via Hongkong, China, though it is not necessary to include this in the address, as it will go that way in any event. For soldiers in Cuba the address at present is Santiago, but so far nothing has been