

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Atbara, (On the Nile,) March 23.—An Anglo-Egyptian cavalry patrol was in conflict with a party of Dervish horsemen on Monday, eleven miles up the river. A hand to hand encounter with spears occurred and the Dervishes were driven back. The horse artillery went to the support of the Anglo-Egyptian cavalry and shelled the Dervishes at 1,500 yards, doing considerable execution. The Anglo-Egyptian loss was seven men killed and eight wounded. The patrol returned to Rashudi before midnight, bringing the wounded. No British officers were wounded.

A force of 400 Dervish cavalry appeared a few miles from here on Tuesday morning. It was met by a squadron of cavalry and a force of Soudanese who drove off the Dervishes with considerable loss, following them, some miles beyond Abadar.

Mahouda's main force occupies the same position.

New York, March 23.—Louis Klopsch, publisher of the Christian Herald, who is directing the distribution of relief supplies in Cuba, telegraphs to the World from Havana:

"The American relief work in Cuba is in most excellent condition. Heretofore the utter inadequacy of supplies from American sources made operations on a large, satisfactory scale impossible. Today there is enough afloat for thirty days' requirements.

"On the arrival of the next cargo, due Thursday, every known center of destitution will immediately be provisioned for ten days, and 200,000 men and women will be sustained by America's practical sympathy, pending an official statement of actual needs thereafter.

"Then the American relief will be as far-reaching as it is possible to make it. Letters and telegrams from consuls and consular agents received by me within three days fully confirm the generally accepted views as to the magnitude and intensity of the awful destitution. Consul McGarr, of Cienfuegos, heretofore incredulous, now reports 15,000 destitute in his consular district, and believes it will be worse.

"Tomorrow on Estrella street, we open a central station for the relief of 12,000 destitute in Havana, also a diet kitchen for 2,000 sick in San Lazare street. The bakeries in Havana and the suburbs are turning into bread all the flour received. The sum is a nutshell is that there are 205,000 reconcentrados in 402 towns and villages. Three hundred tons of corn meal and fifty tons of bacon weekly can save them all. They look to America as their only hope and bless its people for the good already done. When Americans die, they say, 'Peter will not wait for them to knock at the heavenly gate, but will open it wide before they knock.'

Havana, March 22.—Chaplain Chidwick has completed his mortuary report, which shows that 257 men and two officers perished in the Maine catastrophe, six succumbed to their injuries while lying in the San Ambrosio hospital, one died on the Spanish transport; 171 bodies have been recovered from the wreck, of which 61 have been identified; 161 have been buried in Colon cemetery and 11 at Key West. This is the official report, made public, after careful correction.

Up to the hour of closing the cable office to night the officers of the Maine in Havana had not received orders to go north. All but Lieut. Commander Wainwright may be ordered away at any time. He may be placed officially in charge of the wrecking in progress

under the contract. Capt. Sigsbee and the other officers were supposed to remain only while the court of inquiry was in session here, and they are confident that they will be ordered away before April 1st.

Capt. Sigsbee is not very well. He is anxious to go north, but of course, says nothing on the subject, being willing to wait patiently for orders.

Kansas City, Mo., March 22.—A storm wrecked fourteen houses and destroyed many smaller buildings at Blue Mills, Mo., a little village on the summit of a hill, about ten miles north of Independence, on the Missouri Pacific road, today. The only house occupied, that of Martin Hogle, was carried a distance of 120 feet. Hogle was internally injured and may die. Neither Mrs. Hogle nor the children were injured. The property damages were small.

Washington, March 24.—The President in conference with some of the House congressional leaders today stated emphatically that he would avert war if possible and expressed his hope that he could do so.

Washington, March 24.—Orders were issued today detaching Capt. Sigsbee and other officers from the battleship Maine at Havana and ordering them to proceed home and await orders.

These officers are:

Capt. Charles D. Sigsbee, Chief Engineer C. P. Howell, Surgeon L. G. Heneberger, Paymaster Charles M. Ray, Chaplain J. P. Chidwick and Naval Cadets J. H. Holden and W. T. Cluverius.

This list includes all the surviving officers of the ill-fated battleship who have remained on duty at Havana since the destruction of the ship on the 15th ultimo with the exception of Lieut. Commander Richard Wainwright, executive officer of the vessel. Commander Wainwright is in special charge of the wrecking operations and will remain at Havana until they are concluded.

New York, March 23.—Mrs. M. J. Congdon of Gowanda, N. Y., sent to the central Cuban relief committee in this city today a letter which she received from Walter S. Barker, United States consul at Sagua la Grande, Cuba. In part, the letter is as follows:

"The situation cannot be penned nor expressed. One must see it in all its distress and desolation. There are in my consular district not less than 50,000 souls utterly destitute and without food, who must soon die. The conditions here at present render it impossible for succor to be given, except if sent here by our generous people. Rice, condensed milk, quinine for the sick, as also light weight clothing for women and children, second-hand clothing equally as serviceable as new, canned soups, meats and bread, and where the contributions are not large, I would advise sending money in exchange on any eastern city (New York preferable), with which provisions and medicines can be purchased here, and thus give relief the earlier, as owing to the inaccessibility of this zone or district, it requires much time to transport supplies.

"If money is sent, I have to request it to be transmitted through Consul General Lee at Havana, with request to forward same to me.

"Of the large number so utterly destitute, 90 per cent are women and children, the latter being in the large majority."

London, March 25.—The storm continues throughout the United Kingdom. Trains are imbedded in heavy snow-drifts, telegraph wires are down in many parts of the country, people have been frozen to death while traversing

the moors, a hurricane has swept all the coast and terrific seas have been running. Channel services have been suspended; there have been numberless wrecks of small craft.

Washington, D. C., March 26.—It can be stated on positive information that this government will, if it has not already done so, inform Spain that the conditions now existing in Cuba have become intolerable to the people of this country, and that hostilities on the island must close. This policy is in direct line with the views of the President as expressed in his last message to Congress, on December 6th. In that message he said:

"The instructions given to our new minister to Spain before his departure from his post directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. The instructions recited the character and duration of the conflict, the widespread losses it entails, the burdens and restraints it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests and the injuries resulting from an indefinite continuance of this state of things.

No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and indeed, precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarrassment to that government."

After reading the substance of Spain's reply received on October 23rd last, the President says:

"The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion of any change of attitude on the part of the United States."

Since the delivery of this message evidence has accumulated showing beyond question that the promises made in behalf of the new administration, to relieve the conditions in Cuba, have not been fulfilled or accomplished. On the contrary, the evidence which has reached the President shows conclusively that the situation is daily becoming more serious. In view of these facts, the government has decided to take, if it has not already taken, definite action, by informing Spain, that while disowning any other object than that dictated by a sense of honor and justice to a stricken and starving people, it must insist first that hostilities be brought to a speedy termination.

So far as known, no specific date has been fixed within which the war must be terminated, but it is believed that it is the purpose of the administration not to permit of any unnecessary or extended delay.

It is known in high official circles that many of the people highest in authority in Spain, including members of the ministry, are extremely weary of the conflict in Cuba and would willingly accede to any reasonable terms for a settlement of the whole question by granting to Cuba her independence on an indemnity basis. The opposition to this plan comes from the factions opposed to the present administration, who demand extreme measures if necessary to retain control of the island.

In view of these conditions, what will be the answer to our demand cannot be foretold.

Fort William, Ont., March 26.—A Canadian Pacific railway train, made up principally of colonists' cars, bound for the Pacific coast, has been wrecked at English river. Frank Mardian, of Detroit, Mich., was killed and C. W. Marks, also of Detroit, was seriously injured.