

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

ROME, May 21.—Severe earthquake shocks were experienced yesterday evening at Sopleto, a town situated on a hill about twenty-four miles north of Rieti. Much damage had been done and many houses injured.

Assistance has been sent to Sopleto from Rieti and everything possible will be done to relieve the suffering. The damaged town has a population of 7,000. Despatches from Florence show that the authorities there are doing everything possible to repair the damage done by the earthquakes on Saturday. Troops have been employed ever since the disaster in succoring the sufferers in neighboring towns and villages, and the distress has consequently been greatly lightened. King Humbert has from the first, by his special request, been kept informed regarding the extent of the disaster and measures of relief and personally directed the operations of the military authorities. He is understood to have subscribed liberally from his private purse for the relief of the destitute.

DENVER, May 21.—With Denver as base of operations and the entire western country for market, James Charles Corbett and a gang of counterfeiters have been making and uttering bare coin on a scale seldom attempted before in this country, according to the belief now held by the United States Secret Service Agent Walker and city detectives. Corbett and his brother in law, Geo. W. Allen, have been bound over to the grand jury. Their wives, who are sisters, and a third sister, Mrs. Millie Hyland, are under arrest awaiting a hearing. Mrs. Hyland lives in Butte, Mont., and was on a visit to her sisters in Denver, when their residence, where a complete counterfeiters' outfit was discovered, was raided. The secret service officers believe Mrs. Hyland made frequent trips to Denver and carried much counterfeit money to Butte.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The official service of Lorin M. Thurston as Hawaiian minister to the United States closed today when Frank P. Hastings presented at the state department his credentials just received as charge d'affaires.

Official mail from Honolulu arrived this morning. It was the first mail from Hawaii since the recent press reports from San Francisco giving an official outline of the purpose of the Hawaiian government in Mr. Thurston's case. Hastings was very reticent as to the instructions received, but it is known that he was commissioned as charge, and also as Hawaii's commissioner to the Cotton States exposition at Atlanta. The department had expected that Hastings would be commissioned minister.

ST. LOUIS, May 21.—Paul Tustin, aged 22, an experienced swimmer employed by a local swimming school and who formerly lived in San Francisco, leaped from the Eads bridge about noon today into the Mississippi river, 120 feet below. He turned two somersaults, striking the water feet foremost and coming up soon after. Friends took him into a waiting skiff and conveyed him to land. The diver received no injury whatever.

NEW YORK, May 21.—The *World* says:

Private letters received here tell of renewed political disturbances in Venezuela, with prospects of another revolution. The plan of general amnesty to draw back to the country all its noted exiles has proved a failure.

From New York there went General Praza, General Domínguez Monagas, General Hernandez, General Barria, General Pulido, and several others. General Guzmán Blanco, the greatest of Venezuelan revolutionists, refused to be drawn from his retreat in Paris, although the new government offered him every inducement.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 21.—Armenian advices say the names of five Kurds who are said to be the murderers of Frank G. Lenz, of Pittsburg, Pa., who was killed while attempting to ride around the world on a bicycle, are known.

It is announced that William A. Sachteleben, who has gone in search of the missing bicyclist, in the hope of recovering his body or obtaining definite information as to the cause of his disappearance, has arrived at Erzerum.

NEW YORK, May 21.—A special to the *World* from Colon says:

Referring to the recent work of fortifying Bluefields, on the Mosquito coast, and the mounting of Krupp guns, a former government officer says: "It is the work of General Cabezas, who regards Bluefields as his private property and declares he will hold it against all comers, President Zelaya included."

This ex-officer believes the Bluefields fort, which is nearly 200 feet about the sea, to be as impregnable as Gibraltar.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 21.—F. H. May, superintendent of the Hong Kong police, and Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, late colonel surgeon at Hong Kong, were passengers from the Orient on the steamship Empress of India. Both took a prominent part in stamping out the black plague of last year. They state that that in many places in the vicinity of Hong Kong the plague is as bad as last year. Both Portuguese and Chinese at Macao have been attacked by the disease, and 200 deaths are reported there in seven weeks. There were fifty-five deaths in three days in Hong Kong.

ROCKFORD, Ill., May 20.—Commander-in-Chief Lawler and staff will leave Rockford June 4th for a trip to the Pacific coast departments. Their itinerary is as follows: June 6th, Pierre, S. D.; June 8th and 9th, St. Paul; June 11th and 12th, Hauser Junction, Montana; June 13th, Cœur d'Alene; June 14th, Spokane; June 18th, Oregon City; June 20th and 23rd, San Francisco; June 25th, Salt Lake City.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., May 21.—The Kickapoo country, which will be opened to white settlement Thursday noon, is full of "sooners" and more are going in every day. These men are very bold in their declarations, and there can be no doubt that the most shameless acts of "soonerism" will be practiced on all sides. The news of the President's proclamation has not pene-

trated much beyond the towns lining the railroads. In the inland towns and on farms are many people who have been waiting for years for the opening of the Kickapoo lands, and these will hardly receive the news in time to get ready and get to the country by Thursday.

HAVANA, May 21.—An engagement between the Spanish and rebels was fought today in eastern Cuba, in which Jose Martí, who was proclaimed president of the revolutionary party, was killed and his body positively identified. Colonel Salcedo received positive information that a band of insurgents, under the command of the well known leaders, Jose Martí, Maximo Gomez, Maso and Barrero, had taken up a line of march to pass the river Neuto in the direction of Victoria de las Tunas, with the design of marching upon Puerto Principe. Colonel Salcedo dispatched Colonel Sandoval with a detachment of troops to march in pursuit of the rebel band.

Colonel Sandoval found the enemy encamped at a point between Bijas and Boca del Rio on the right side of the Contremaestre river, a small tributary of the Cauto. The strip of land between the two rivers is high, thus making it a strong position.

Nevertheless, Colonel Sandoval attacked the camp and found his troops harassed by a scattering fire of single shots from cover. The fight lasted for an hour in this manner, at the end of which time the Spanish troops advanced and took the enemy's position, dividing the insurgent forces on the narrow strip of land by their advance and compelling the rebels to fly. The Spanish troops hotly pursued, and came upon the body of Jose Martí, which was later positively identified.

TOKIO, May 10.—Via Victoria, B. C., May 21.—As soon as the government was informed of the determination of Russia, Germany and France to forbid acquisition of territory by the Japanese on the continent, a majority of the cabinet ministers met at Kioto and measures were taken to ascertain how far the menaces of the allies were seriously intended. The Russian and French governments were firm in their declaration that Japan must renounce Manchurian territory, while the tone adopted by Germany was decidedly intemperate. When it became apparent that she had only her own resources to rely upon, the government devoted its energy to securing the best terms of accommodation. This, however, was divulged only to ministers in immediate attendance upon the sovereign. Almost from the beginning, the emperor's advisors were in favor of submitting, with the solitary exception of Viscount Matsui. The heads of most of the civil departments and military and naval leaders were agreed as to the futility of resistance, and the necessity of speedy surrender, but whatever the explanations shall be, it is certain that their countrymen will not forgive them for what will be denounced as a sacrifice of national honor.

On May 4th came information that an offer had been made by Count Ito to release the whole of Manchuria, except the southern portion of the Liao Tung peninsula, on which Taiten and Port Arthur are situated. This