

certain insurgents, who for years have been accustomed to lawless lives while bushwhacking, would keep up the lawlessness. It would be impossible to control them, as 60 per cent at least are negroes, who expect that with independence they are to become rich, and that they would prey like vultures upon the property of their neighbors.

"In reference to the Malne affair, I told the President that the people of Cuba generally looked upon it as unfortunate, but it was not so terrible, they believe, as to bring about a war with a nation that was only suspected of committing it—a war that would result in awful loss of life in order to avenge the death of 266 sailors. We think of going to war in behalf of the reconcentrados, who, if war is declared, will die of starvation before the end of thirty days. The whole island of Cuba is a waste. There are not enough stores there to feed the people more than thirty days. 'If we shut up Cuba's ports,' I said to the President, 'you will starve people to death, and there is no remedy for it.'"

Dr. Klopsch refused to make public what President McKinley said to him in reply. The American people in asking their government to intervene to stop the war in Cuba are moved chiefly by their sympathy for the starving reconcentrados, and the desire to save the perishing thousands of these victims of Spain's cruelty; but would forcible intervention accomplish this purpose? Evidently not. There is only too much ground to fear that the representations of Dr. Klopsch are true, and that peremptory action by this government might cause the quick destruction of the reconcentrados to rescue whom the American people are so anxious.

Of course there is the argument that they will starve to death if America does not intervene; but whatever truth there is in this assertion, and no doubt there is a great deal, does not lessen, but rather increases, the perplexities of the situation and the necessity for caution on the part of our national chief executive. No doubt the special message which is hourly expected at this writing to begin coming over the wires, will make clear some phases of the situation which are not so in the minds of many citizens, and vindicate to their satisfaction the President's course.

REDEMPTION OF EGYPT.

The most gigantic irrigation enterprise in the world is about to be undertaken in Egypt. The question is to build two dams for the purpose of storing up the water of the Nile for use during the dry season. One will be at Assouan, constructed up the granite reefs of the cataracts at that place, and will be built entirely of granite ashlar. It will be pierced with openings sufficient to permit the passage of the Nile during its flood stages, and have sluice gates, which can be closed when it is desired to fill the reservoir. Every year between April and August the Nile runs low, and there is not water enough to irrigate the crops of sugar, cotton and rice. But by using the accumulations from the great reservoir, irrigation and cultivation can go on the year around. The dam will be 76 feet high, 6,000 feet long, and will store nearly 20,000,000,000 cubic meters of water. The Assint dam will be a smaller structure, intended for raising the river level during the summer.

The supposition is that this work, which is to cost \$24,000,000, will result in the bringing under cultivation ten thousand square miles of land, now valueless, besides doubling the value of the land now cultivated in the Nile

valley. Anciently Egypt had vast reservoirs and canals for irrigation purposes, and her wealth, culture and power were to a large extent due to this fact, as with the neglect of the laboriously constructed artificial lakes, the country no longer supplied with water was speedily changed into a desert. Egypt again brought under the benign influence of the Nile is sure to have a bright future; such are the natural resources of that wonderful country.

THE NEWS FROM ANDREE.

The report that a mail carrier in the frozen regions of Alaska is the bearer of word from Andree to the effect that the daring explorer is still in the land of the living, or was when the carrier pigeon bringing the alleged message was caught, needs confirmation. Should Andree again turn up, it would be almost as through a miracle. Not long ago Professor Nordenskjold reported to the Swedish academy in Stockholm that word had been received by the Swedish ministry of foreign affairs that a balloon had been seen by several persons in British Columbia near the headwaters of the Fraser river, in latitude 50 degrees, twenty minutes north and longitude 122 degrees, 30 minutes west. This was, according to the rumor, between the 4th and 7th of August, 1897. It is not improbable that the report by the mail carrier and that which found its way to the Swedish capital have the same origin and must be regarded as resting on very slender foundations.

Scientists regard Andree's undertaking as extremely doubtful. The plan rested on the supposition that a favorable air current would be at the service of the balloon, although it is evident that the world's knowledge of the Arctic currents in the extreme latitudes is equal to almost nothing. The equipment of the balloon is also believed to have been defective. A German scientist expresses as his opinion that the balloon was wrecked somewhere in the region of Franz Josefland and that parts of it may be recovered there. What the fate of the aeronauts was is only a matter of conjecture.

Of course there is always a possibility that the explorers escaped from the balloon with their lives, and in that case they would be in a position not essentially different from that in which Nansen and Johansen were after leaving the Fram. But it is doubtful whether either of the aeronauts had the practical experience, or the hardihood of the Norwegian adventurers, and without these qualities, their fate can hardly be doubtful.

SENATOR THURSTON'S WIFE.

That a brainy woman can be a very great help to her husband especially in public life, is proven by the assistance Senator John M. Thurston has had from his wife, provided the following statement, made by Victor Smith in the New York Press, is true:

"Mrs. Thurston was a constant help-mate for her husband, the senator from Nebraska. Mr. Thurston has always been somewhat diffident in manner, and his ambitious, bustling, keen-witted wife did much for him in the way of encouragement and pushing ahead. Some of us old fellows do not hanker after woman in politics, but we couldn't help admiring the way Mrs. Thurston cared for and guided the destinies of the senator when he presided over the Republican national convention at St. Louis in 1896. Sitting on the platform immediately behind him and partly concealed from

the view of the vast audience, her sharp eyes took in every situation, and whatever of passing moment escaped the senator was quickly pointed out by her. She was thoroughly familiar with politics and possessed a wide knowledge of law, which enabled her to be of great assistance to her husband in preparing his briefs and speeches. Had it not been for Mrs. Thurston the fine collection of convention badges in their Omaha home would not have been gathered by the senator. It was one of the things he forgot, but a woman's thoughts never wander very far from her plan of securing a complete list of samples. At the critical moment, as Thurston was about to retire, she tugged at his sleeve, got him on his feet and made him request that each delegation present to him a badge as a keepsake. The offering was unanimous and liberal, the more so because everybody knew who was the author of the request. Politicians—in convention—are chivalrous to the last degree. Senator Thurston long ago announced his intention of never seeking a re-election. His term expires in 1901."

One of the most useful inventions recently, in view of the many accidents that occur in elevators, is a device, now patented, for the automatic closing of the doors. There is no rope, pulley or weight connected with the door, only a spring which acts on the door catch, and as it is always in sight it is easily renewed when out of order. It is said to work as follows:

"The moment the car begins to ascend the door on the ground floor commences to close, and by the time the floor of the car is three feet high it is shut and tightly locked. The door of the first floor landing begins to open when the elevator is about three feet below it, and is wide open at the exact moment when the occupants are prepared to step out. Further upward movement causes the door to shut again, and the same sequence of operations again occurs."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer calls attention to the fact that the government agent who went to Europe to purchase guns and munitions of war failed to secure any because of the greed of American speculators who had secured options on everything desirable, with a view of selling to the United States at a high profit. There is probably no legal ground on which to object to such business enterprise, but some people would deem it of great interest to know the names of the patriotic firms who are willing to take advantage of the country that way.

The war between the United States and Spain has already had its victims, if the subjoined extract of a New York letter to the Chicago Record is true:

"The editor of one of the most warlike and sensational sheets in this city has become insane within the last few weeks and another is now lying ill from brain fever, which is the result of rivalry in sensationalism. One of the papers has published as many as seventeen extras a day, every one of them based upon falsehoods, and people continue to buy, although they don't believe."

The Wyoming Stockgrowers' association held its annual meeting at Cheyenne Monday. There was a large attendance and 25 new members were added to the roll. The report of the secretary and treasurer for the year, showed the receipts to have been \$146,727.72 and the disbursements \$142,261.20, leaving a balance of \$4,466.52.