

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### THE TROUBLE WITH SPAIN.

The story that the Spanish government again is endeavoring to enlist the sympathy of the powers in its behalf and against the United States is denied in Madrid. It is taken to be a revival of a report last August to the effect that the Spanish minister of foreign affairs prepared a memorandum to the European governments, which, however, was withheld then, it appears, on the suggestion of United States Minister Taylor that it might seriously affect the relations between the United States and Spain. Notwithstanding this official denial, it is not unlikely that Spain at this time, when a change in our foreign policy appears probable—at least from a Spanish point of view—should be anxious to ascertain whether she has any friends among the European powers. It is not believed, however, that such an appeal would give much satisfaction to the Madrid government.

Spain stands virtually alone. French capitalists have large interests in Spanish railroads and other enterprises, and the sympathy of the Paris press is therefore naturally with the neighboring country, for this obvious reason that the loss of the colonies would most likely mean a revolution in Spain, by which the royal house would be swept away and with it many of the obligations incurred to maintain that house in luxury. France will therefore naturally protest against any interference that might lead to a depreciation of French investments, but her sympathy would not go to the extent of moving a single ship against the United States, for that would involve much more than is at stake on Spanish soil.

In Vienna the queen regent has the most sincere sympathy, being a relative of the reigning house of Austria, and undoubtedly the Austrian ambassadors will espouse Spain's cause at the foreign courts, but while monarchs may feel in duty bound to show some sympathy to friends and relatives in distress, they cannot move armies and navies to gratify personal desires. The time for that is past. There can, therefore, be no cause for apprehension of trouble with Spain, unless indeed the reigning queen—like Napoleon III—should prefer political death in the ruins of her kingdom to ignominious defeat and deposition by rebels, and to accomplish that take measures to commit political suicide.

### LET THERE BE LIGHT.

The Italian adage: "Where the sun does not come, the physician will come," has been found to be literally true, for careful investigation shows that in the large, overcrowded cities, on the side of the streets where the sun does not have free access sickness and mortality as a general rule are more frequent than on the opposite side.

It is well known that sunlight is es-

sential for the development of the plants. When they are kept in comparatively dark rooms they become stunted and lose the power to develop the fruit. The sun is equally important for the well-being of human beings and is absolutely necessary for the health of the children.

It is of great importance, therefore, that the light is freely admitted into our houses, not only to the parlors and sitting rooms, but also to the bed rooms. The rays of the sun are said to be the best disinfectant. They kill the bacteria that cause sickness and that seek dark and damp corners for their breeding grounds, and they aid in keeping the rooms clean by revealing the particles of dust that without light, would be allowed to remain undisturbed and to accumulate.

Light is the friend of man. It gives health and strength, dispels gloomy thoughts, makes labor a pleasure and fills life with joy.

### AUIDE THE VERDICT.

Sometimes the obstructive tactics of a minority in legislative affairs is a means of producing good results in the way of securing a modification of measures which, when applied in the radical form proposed by rank partisans, would prove a serious evil in the country. This obstructiveness, when carried out in firmness and moderation, often is commendable; but when it resolves itself down to a state of mulish stubbornness it descends from that plane on which it was made worthy of approval. Rather than have this latter condition, it is well even to aid a small majority in carrying out its policy to a reasonable extent, that that policy may be fully and fairly tested in the nation's experience, and disposed of one way or the other.

It is evident that Congressman F. G. Newlands of Nevada, who was the temporary chairman of the national convention of the Silver party at St. Louis, takes the last view named; therefore he points out how the verdict of the country at the presidential election should be accepted by the silver forces. He says the Republican party claimed protection, and the Democratic party silver, to be the paramount issue; that the people have declared in favor of protection, and have given the Republican party a contract for the restoration of prosperity. On this he believes that party should be allowed to carry out any reasonable tariff policy without obstruction, and if it brings prosperity all will be content; if it does not, the people will know that some other remedy is required, and by the process of elimination will come down to the full restoration of silver as a money metal as the only radical cure. Upon this statement he argues that tariff legislation should be enacted, believing that it will not give relief to the extent anticipated.

While parties may not be expected to depart from their established prin-

ciples, yet in the case of those who believe in both a protective tariff and free silver, the suggestion of Mr. Newlands has a claim to the wisdom of moderation and of conformity to the prevailing order in this country, that of majority rule. It is reasonably certain that during the next four years no relief may be looked for from a free coinage measure; if there is any improvement in the tariff policy the American voters have chosen by a comparatively slight majority to follow, no good reason exists why that improvement should not be accepted. A clamor on a technicality for the full relief or none would be a parallel stubbornness with that which refuses a loaf when a whole one is not available. It is the duty of representatives of the people to bow to the latter's will; but such submission does not involve a relinquishment of the contest or of any ground gained therein in a struggle for a higher and better condition.

### THE CUBAN SITUATION.

The persistent rumors about possible complications with Spain on account of the Cuban question render the present situation on the island of particular interest. General Weyler has evidently been forced to the necessity of either stamping out the rebellion or abandoning his mission as impossible. He has taken the field in person to conduct the campaign in the province of Pinar del Rio, and on his success there, the final outcome will probably depend.

There are now about 50,000 Cubans in the field, well equipped with firearms and ammunition, while there are 25,000 more armed only with the deadly machete. They have also a formidable train of field artillery, consisting of Hotchkiss guns built for transportation on mule backs and two dynamite guns capable of spreading death and destruction a distance of a mile and a half. All these are handled by artillerymen trained in the United States or England.

The insurgents are well supplied with cartridges, shells and dynamite. The latter is chiefly intended for wrecking bridges and other structures, but they have also laid mines to be exploded by means of electricity, under the feet of the marching columns of Spaniards, and it is supposed the leaders will be able to conduct the enemy to these traps of death without much difficulty.

General Weyler, on the other hand, has at his disposal about 200,000 troops, infantry, cavalry and artillery, the best ever put in the field by the Spanish government. The infantry is thoroughly equipped and well drilled. They are described as a sturdy lot of men among whom there are many veterans.

Every sign indicates that the struggle must come to an end with the winter's campaign. In case Spain should triumph over the rebels, it is not inconceivable that a friendly argument with the Madrid government will be in order, concerning the final adjustment of the affairs of the island, if for nothing else, to prevent