

shall not merely subjugate and humiliate the sharers in the infamy but if possible locate and drag to justice the actual perpetrators; also shall it be the case that a race of people who for a generation have struggled to be free from the galling yoke of the tyrant beyond the seas obtain the object of their long contest at last through the good work to be accomplished in their behalf through the intervention of the mightiest of all nations.

The war is on, and either by disgraceful withdrawal or disastrous defeat, Spain must be shorn of her possessions adjacent to our own. The lesson to be administered may cost some precious lives and is sure to cost vast amounts of treasure, but they will not be wholly sacrificed. The great Republic will be stronger, brighter and better for it; the nations which are in doubt whether to respect our rights through proper regard therefor or through fear of the consequences of not respecting them will be in doubt no more, and the example of the power and benignity of popular rule will be such a lesson in human progress as will benefit the whole earth.

On to Havana!

THE ULTIMATUM.

President McKinley's ultimatum to the Spanish government was dispatched to Madrid this morning. The Spanish minister at Washington, on being handed a copy of the document, promptly asked for his passports. Undoubtedly the United States minister at Madrid will demand his passports, as soon as he is given to understand that Spain refuses to comply with the terms of the ultimatum. This cuts off all diplomatic relations between the two countries. The next step will be a formal declaration of war, or the commencement of hostilities without such formality. The precise language of the ultimatum has not yet been published, but it is undoubtedly an embodiment of the resolutions passed by Congress, and Spain is given until midnight on Saturday to formulate her reply.

There is much speculation now as to the course the government of the queen regent is going to pursue. It has been conjectured that Spain's program is to keep her warships and torpedo boats on the other side of the Atlantic, abandon Cuba without a struggle and leave the island to be overrun by the United States troops, and finally to turn to Europe for sympathy and justice. It is more than probable that such policy would satisfy the patriotism of Spaniards for the time being, and that afterwards, when Cuba is de facto lost to the Spanish crown, the wrath of the mob would exhaust itself on the Sagasta ministry in some way or another. It has also been thought probable that Spain, after Cuba has been occupied, would refuse to sign any treaty of peace and continue, by privateering, to do all the harm possible to the American shipping, thereby inviting the United States to send an invading force to the Spanish peninsula in order to compel cessation of hostilities. The latter policy would present a most grave situation. Not only would it compel this country to carry on a war thousands of miles from the base of supplies, but it would so fully tempt some European powers to come to the aid of Spain. The war would then assume gigantic dimensions. Whatever Spain's policy in detail is, speaking generally it seems to be to play for intervention of the European powers, and in view of all that is at stake, it would create no surprise, if the plan ultimately succeeded. To Spain the Cuban question involves the fall or salvation of the reigning dynasty; the existence of the bank of the realm and the financial status of the wealthy classes in Spain; the problem is how to save the country

from going to pieces in the hands of the revolutionists, and this matter is not indifferent to some of the country's mighty neighbors.

The die is cast, however. Cuba is about to be free. On this point there is no doubt on either side of the Atlantic. Whether Spain decides to fight or run makes no difference. The principle of government by the people and for the people is about to be applied to a population that for years and years have fought, bled and died in order to obtain freedom. It will be a supreme test of the truth of the principles that underlie the American form of government. Are Cubans, reared in oppression for centuries, ripe for self-government? Is there in this form of government power enough to save a race from degradation and elevate it to a higher level, or will perfect liberty prove the destruction of the race? This is the test to be made. President McKinley is authorized to take military possession of Cuba and, as a matter of course, to hold it until in his judgment the object is attained. When that is done it will be turned over to the people and the final account will be a grand object lesson to the world as to the price a free people is willing to pay for the blessings of liberty.

AN UNLAWFUL COMBINATION.

The makers of and the dealers in butter, who do business in this city, are dissatisfied with the condition of the butter market, and acting upon a perfectly natural instinct they have set themselves to work to secure the relief they think they need. But before entering upon the program they are seeking to carry out they should have consulted a lawyer.

Some leading spirit among them, whose identity has not been disclosed to the "News," has drawn up a document which recites that for some time past the state of the butter market has been unsatisfactory to the makers and sellers of that product. Then follows an agreement by which all dairymen and dealers who sign it bind themselves to charge 20 cents per pound as the wholesale and 25 cents as the retail price of creamery butter. These rates were to go into effect today, April 20. The copy of this document which was seen by a "News" representative yesterday bore a dozen or more signatures.

Now each maker of and dealer in butter who has signed this paper, beyond doubt regards himself as a worthy citizen engaged in a worthy and legitimate business, who is making a very proper effort to protect that business from the consequences of a demoralized market; and it will probably astonish him very much to be told that he is a wretched criminal and a vile conspirator; but such he is—in the estimation of the law. Perhaps and probably he is a very honest and well meaning individual, and a most worthy church member; but he is also a heinous malefactor who is liable to fine and imprisonment should his guilt be sufficiently uncovered in a court of competent jurisdiction.

It is a crime to sign such a paper as the one above described, in the State of Utah. Such an act is made a crime by section 1752, page 423, Revised Statutes 1898, which is as follows:

"Any combination by persons having for its object or effect the controlling of the prices of any professional services, any products of the soil, any article of manufacture or commerce, or the cost of exchange or transportation, is prohibited and declared unlawful."

The punishments for violating this

section, or other sections of the same title, are pretty stiff. If the culprit is a corporation, company, firm or association, the penalty is a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2,000 for the first offense; for the second offense the fine is not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000; for the third offense the minimum fine is \$5,000 and the maximum \$10,000; for each subsequent offense the fine may be \$15,000. If the offender is an individual he "may be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by confinement in the county jail not more than one year, or by both." Any corporation violating this provision "shall thereby forfeit its corporate rights and franchises, and its corporate existence shall thereupon cease and determine."

It would "take the profits off" of quite a lot of butter to pay the fines provided by law for signing such papers as the butter people of this city have been affixing their signatures to within the last few days; and should the county attorney and sheriff take it into their heads to follow the matter up, the demoralization of the butter market will likely be perceptibly augmented. The best thing the butter men can do is to destroy that paper instantly, and then assume an innocent, unconcerned look while they wait for the law of supply and demand to regulate the market. Their cause may be just, but the law does not say so.

APRIL IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

The month of April seems to have been an eventful one in the history of the United States. An exchange calls attention to the fact that April witnessed both the beginning and the end of the civil war. Fort Sumpter was fired upon April 12, 1861, and Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865. The War of Revolution, too, commenced and ended in April; the battle of Lexington was fought on April 19, 1775, and the preliminary treaty of peace with Great Britain was ratified on April 15, 1783. The Mexican war commenced in the same month, the first battle being fought April 25, 1846.

The following facts are also noted: The first Congress met on April 6, 1789. George Washington was inaugurated President on April 30 of the same year and the navy department was organized on April 30, 1798. It was on the last day of April, 1803, that the treaty was made with France for our purchase of Louisiana.

We may add that one of the most momentous events of the history of this country—the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, took place on April 6, 1830, the same day of the month on which the first American Congress met.

CAPTURE OF HAVANA.

The prospect that Havana may soon be the scene of military operations recalls former expeditions against that city. Havana was founded in 1515. Twenty-three years later it was reduced to ashes by a French privateer, and it had hardly risen from the ruins before it was again utterly destroyed by a French attack. In 1762 the English under Admiral Pocock and the duke of Albermarle captured the city but restored it to the Spaniards the following year. This expedition consisted of about 200 vessels and an army of 14,000 men against a Spanish force of 27,000. Since then, the city has been well fortified, but the efficiency of the destructive engines of war have also become so much greater that the capture of the city should not be as much of an undertaking as it was in those early days.