

relations and destructive to legitimate commerce, fatal to the internal resources of Cuba and most vexatious and trying because entailing on this government excessive burdens in its domestic administration and in its outward relations. This situation cannot indefinitely continue without growing still worse and the time may not be far distant when the United States must seriously consider whether its rights and interests as well as its international duties, in view of its peculiar relations to the island, do not call for some decided change in the policy hitherto pursued."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The reassembling of the Fifty-fourth Congress today for the closing session was an occasion of unusual brilliancy and interest because of the long and hard-fought political battle waged during recess. The weather was perfect.

At 12 o'clock the regular ceremonies attending the opening session and the reception of the President's annual communication to Congress began.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—All of the newspapers this morning have editorials on President Cleveland's message. Most of them regard the message as one of rather minor importance, except so far as it concerns the Cuban question, to which phase the bulk of the comment is devoted.

The Daily News, the liberal organ, says of the Cuban portion of the message: "President Cleveland's argument is clear enough that no country possesses the right to foster a perpetual source of trouble, and that Spain must either grant autonomy or sell. Spain, however, will probably refuse to do anything of the kind. Her proverbial pride will be much hurt by America's interference. She will be disposed to insist upon her right to wallopp her own negroes as long as she pleases, and Europe, being very sensitive just now on the subject of the Monroe doctrine, Spain will probably be influentially supported if she holds out. We hope she will not prevail, because autonomy is best for Cuba and best for Spain."

The editorial in the Times says: "The tone and spirit of the message are worthy all praise. It is a pity the moderation and balance of mind which Mr. Cleveland has just displayed were not more conspicuous last year, when he startled two continents with a menace of war. If the Venezuelan question had been handled as Mr. Cleveland now handles the Cuban question, he might have averted the disruption of the Democracy and have kept Bryan and Bryanism in their previous obscurity.

"The present message gives the soundest advice in the most unexceptional language, nor can the least complaint be made of the character of the warning addressed to Spain. It is not improbable that Spain will take offense, but clearly Mr. Cleveland is actuated by friendly feelings and Spain will do well to acquiesce, otherwise the way will be clear for the influence represented by Mr. Call's resolution in the Senate yesterday. If Spain closed now with Mr. Cleveland's overtures, it would be difficult for the McKinley administration to steer a new course."

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—A Havana special to the World says: There is absolutely no foundation for the report

that the new trial accorded to the Competitor prisoners by the supreme court at Madrid will be by a civil court. The rehearing will be by ordinary naval court-martial, which means that the evidence and declarations now being taken before Naval Commissioner Saul within the walls of Cabanas castle will be considered in open court later on at the arsenal, or such other points as the admiralty may direct, by high naval officers especially designated to pass formal judgment thereon.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The World will publish the following interview tomorrow with prominent Cubans on the President's message:

Fleuel Pierot of the Junta.—The message is an enigma and puzzle. I should have a far higher regard for Mr. Cleveland had he simply announced that the United States government was opposed to the cause of Cuban liberty and sympathized with Spain's efforts to crush the revolution. The message will not make a particle of difference one way or the other so far as the revolution is concerned. If the soldiers of Gomez and Maceo realize that the message means that the United States will not raise a finger to stop Weyler's butcheries, they will fight with a more terrible energy born of despair. Cleveland's talk about autonomy only shows how little he really knows of the real situation of affairs. The idea of autonomy is dead. Scarcely any one in Cuba even among the Spanish themselves, consider it seriously. The autonomist party went to pieces months ago. For us now there are left only the two alternatives—Independence or extermination.

Dr. Henry O. Zayas.—The President's message is decidedly unsatisfactory to both sides. The Cubans have a right to expect more, but the consolation remains that he treats Spain with the scorn which she deserves for her weak and cruel rule. Toward the end the President promises that at some future time his attitude will be clearly defined. Let us hope, then, that he will act in accordance with the expressed wish of the American people.

Dr. Rafael Navarro of the Cuban sanitary corps.—Cleveland does not say anything in his message; he does not mean to say anything. It is words, words, and only words. My hope is in Congress.

Mrs. Carlos Manuel Cespedes, widow of the President of Cuba during the last war.—Perhaps Mr. Cleveland is really more friendly to Cuba than his message would indicate. From motive of policy, perhaps, he has refrained from expressing the sympathy he really feels.

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 7, via Galveston. —Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press. —Observers here see a probability of another clash of arms between Peru and Bolivia over the new trouble which is brewing, owing to Bolivia having proceeded to fix the limits of her frontier in the Amazonian districts without first having made an arrangement with Peru for the delimitation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—A dispatch to the Herald from Bombay says:

Eight hundred deaths are reported up to date from the plague, but the number is believed to be much larger. Crowds of panic-stricken natives are

fleeing from the city. Trade and travel are seriously affected. The famine which threatened the whole of India has been partially averted in certain districts by the recent rains. Only one case is reported of a person recently attending a patient having contracted the plague. The disease, though infectious has not yet proved contagious. The government bacteriologists are of the opinion that the plague, unlike others, has a tendency to stick to the locality where it originates. A few authentic cases are reported in adjacent towns, but they are all of Bombay origin. The disease, where imported, was dying out without spreading. In Bombay for two months the plague remained confined to one ward. It has now spread to all districts of the city and is increasing largely with the cooler weather.

Grain speculation continues and aggravates the situation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—A Herald dispatch from Singapore says:

Since the rain set in the amount of sickness has diminished and cholera has disappeared and there have been no cases of the plague. A similar decrease of sickness has been experienced all over the east and the health of the town has much improved.

The sanitary state of Singapore has not been good during the last two years. In the middle of the last year, an outbreak of cholera occurred, involving the death of over 400 people before subsiding.

In October of this year a similar outbreak of cholera occurred. It was confined, however, almost entirely to Asiatics and especially Chinese coolies, only one or two Europeans being attacked.

The dryness of the season has doubtless much to do with the prevalence of cholera, remittent and intermittent fevers.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—The Columbian Liberty bell has finally been taken from its resting place in Evanston, and will probably be shipped to Baltimore today.

Workmen representing the McShane Manufacturing company of Baltimore have loaded the bell on a heavy truck ready to be hauled away.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 8.—The Commercial Tribune this morning prefaces a special from Frankfort, Ky., with the word: "Scott Jackson will have another trial. Judge Helm will today be reversed by the court of appeals of Kentucky."

An interview by the correspondent with Judge Hazenrig, who is preparing the decision of the court of appeals to be promulgated today, follows the prefatory remarks quoted above, but the interview gives no hint that the decision will give Jackson a new trial. Scott Jackson was convicted of the murder of Pearl Bryan at Newport, Ky.

KANKAKEE, Ills., Dec. 8.—A company of twenty young men went south last night over the Illinois Central railroad bound for New Orleans. There they will be joined by sixty others from various parts of the United States and the entire party will ship for Cuba on the first outgoing vessel and will join the insurgents. The party was in command of J. B. Hartman, an ex-regular soldier who served five years in Uncle Sam's service and