

cent, and that it is wholly destitute of every feature that goes to make a trust objectionable. What it has already done inspires the fullest confidence that it will continue to consider conscientiously the interests of the public, and to furnish light and power at the lowest living rates.

#### AMERICAN CIVILIZATION PREVAILS.

Spain is indebted to the United States for proclamations issued by the chiefs of the insurgents, both in the West Indian and Philippine islands, to the effect that the warfare must be carried on according to the principles recognized by the civilization of this century. General Gomez has told his army that severe penalties await those who violate the rules of civilized warfare and Aguinaldo, in the same spirit, has forbidden the hosts under his command to commit acts of cruelty beyond those necessary in combat. He says the lives and property of foreigners, including Chinese and Spanish non-combatants, must be respected and protected, and that prisoners of war must be treated humanely. He warns his troops against attacking hospitals and persons engaged in the work of caring for the wounded.

If the insurgents will act upon these instructions the hostilities will no longer be characterized with the barbarities of which both parties hitherto appear to have been guilty. And the interference of the United States is the cause of this change. The insurgent chiefs understand that this country is waging a war in the interest of humanity and that it can afford to have no allies but such as respect the rights of others. Even this is a big step in advance, and expensive though the war preparations are to this country, it is a question whether the money is not well spent, if thereby what threatened to become a war of extermination in savage spirit has been changed into a contest on more humane lines. It has already prevented the ruthless sacrifice of property and massacre of innocents as a consequence of victories won.

The influence of the United States on the races for whom the war is waged may be regarded as a proof that they are well adapted for the benefits of civilization, and it indicates that under proper guidance their future may become a bright one. The war will not be in vain, if it releases millions of human beings from the bondage of mediaeval conditions and opens to them the avenues through which liberty and happiness are obtained.

#### LATEST FROM THE FRONT.

It seems from the dispatches (which had not up to the latest hour been contradicted) that there has been an engagement between the landed forces of the United States and some Spanish guerillas near Guantanamo, some fifty miles east of Santiago de Cuba. The fighting, according to these accounts, must have been of a very desultory nature, as combats with guerillas are likely to be, and the ugliest phase of it appears to be that our forces did not win altogether, even if they failed to get the worst of it. Several men were killed and presumably a corresponding number wounded on the American side, while no losses but only the evidences thereof were discoverable on that of the Spanish. It seems, however, that the latter abandoned their various positions, leaving nothing but bloody pools and trails, and as their dead and injured were not present when our forces took possession, of

course not even an estimate of the enemy's casualties can be made. Unless subsequent dispatches modify the accounts so far received very much, it can be set down as having been a sharp and at times decidedly hot encounter without having been decisive as to any practical feature. It is the kind of thing that must be looked for on Cuban soil until the Americans arrive in something like force on the island, when engagements of a different character may be counted on.

In line with this latter statement comes a dispatch directly from headquarters at Washington, announcing that General Shafter and some 15,000 men had embarked at early dawn this morning and were on their way to Cuba. This movement has not been made too soon, as must be evident to anyone who keeps posted as to the way things are going. Undoubtedly troops in great numbers and with splendid equipment will be wanted there now that the ice is broken. All the men that have so far been landed in Cuba from the United States and all that can be landed within a few days can be met at any given point by a Spanish force outnumbering them at the ratio of at least four to one, if the latter receives word of it in time, and while the Americans expect for a while to encounter odds and hold their own, if nothing better, it is still the part of wisdom not to tempt the fates too far.

This all brings to mind once more the suggestion previously made in these columns, that the government is moving with more caution than some people give it credit for. Its rule not to give out intended movements but only those which have been consummated is a most wise and timely one, as otherwise the Spanish could keep posted as to what is going on against them without having to resort to much endeavor or run any great risks. It is more than probable, therefore, that the "information" which is permitted to percolate through the lines and reach them will do them more harm than good; that about the time they effect a concentration of forces at any point with the expectation of taking and holding it, they will find themselves a day or so too late—that the "Yankee pigs" are there ahead of them and they must fight aggressively rather than defensively, if at all. Surely the government would not give to the world information so important as that a large army had just started for Cuba, the landing place of which is already known, and thereby enable the Spanish to mass their forces in that particular locality. No, the chances are that, as previously stated, the present tense means the past and the troops are now so near the point of disembarkation that it matters not how much the enemy may know of it.

A dispatch just received states that it is semi-officially denied at Madrid that any Americans have landed. This ability to extract comfort from the most discouraging circumstances is one that must be of immense value to the dons just now.

#### CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.

If Dr. J. B. Murphy of Chicago, as claimed, has succeeded in discovering a sure cure for consumption, he has conferred a great benefit on mankind, besides securing for himself immortal fame. At the recent meeting of the American Medical association at Denver he read an address embodying the results of his investigations and experiments.

Dr. Murphy's theory is that if the diseased lung can be relieved of the respiratory exercise for a sufficient length of time nature will heal the organ affected. He claims that the sore spots in the cavities and in the tissues

of the lung while in constant motion, as in breathing, are prevented from healing by constant irritation. The tubercular sore will heal if left alone and not continually opened by respiration. In order to insure this state of rest, the doctor fills the pleural cavity with simple nitrogen gas, which has no effect on the tissues and will not be absorbed. The action of nitrogen compresses the lung and gives it entire rest, while the nodule of tuberculosis becomes cicatrized and a new tissue builds up around it. While this reparative process is going on life is easily sustained by respiration through the other lung, which, if diseased, may be treated in the same manner until fully restored.

What makes this discovery, if it proves effective, all the more valuable is the fact that the discoverer does not surround it with an air of mystery, but gives it freely to the profession and the public in order that its merits may be thoroughly tested. According to late statistics on the subject of lung diseases, it is shown that the deaths of consumption in the United States are about 100,000 a year. Any remedy that claims to conquer this enemy certainly deserves attention.

#### PORTO RICO.

The supposition now is that Colonel Torrey's regiment, after having reported to General Fitzhugh Lee at Jacksonville, Fla., will be ordered to Porto Rico. The news of the intended move is said to have been received with much gratification among the boys.

Porto Rico, from all accounts, seems to be a desirable place to go to. The island has an abundance of fertile soil and is well supplied with woods and water. Other islands in the same group are almost destitute of springs and the people depend on water collected after the rainy season, while Porto Rico has not less than seventeen streams rising in the mountains and crossing the valleys on their way to the sea. Some of them are navigable for smaller vessels a considerable distance. There are also several lakes. The country is almost entirely free from snakes and other venomous reptiles, so the natives do not hesitate to sleep in the forests.

Porto Rico is much smaller in size than Cuba, but she is at present much more prosperous than her sister colony. It is only since the beginning of the present century that Spain has paid any attention to this possession. Before that time the place was considered important only as a watering station for the Spanish ships, and it was used as a sort of Spanish Siberia. The rich mines of Mexico and Peru occupied the attention of the home government. Since 1820, however, the island attracted the notice of her European rulers. Hosts of greedy adventurers and office holders flocked to its cities in search of fortunes and from that time on the misrule inaugurated resulted in political risings, as in other Spanish colonies.

Porto Rico under a free government is destined to become a great commercial center. Her geographical position is favorable. There are abundant harbors, although these are said to be dangerous to enter at a certain time of the year, owing to the wind which causes the sea to break with great violence. This is a disadvantage, but one which skilful navigators can cope with.

About a quarter of a century ago, Germany was about to seize Porto Rico under the guise of purchase. The government of that empire was looking out for naval and coaling stations in this hemisphere and found the