

erty and robbery had been visited on the island.

"The island is today lost to Spain," said Mr. Lodge. "They may continue to deluge the island with blood, but the island is lost to them."

The senator analyzed the "blood decrees" issued by General Weyler, a plan of "desolation and extermination."

He may prolong the agony until the island is a solitude. And yet we, six hours away, stand idly by. Our words of sympathy for Armenia were mere words. Those fearful atrocities had proceeded while all Europe had not stirred. The protests of Lord Salisbury were pitiful. The money power and the money lender was the real power of Europe, and this vast power cared nothing for the slaughter of Armenians.

"Why was the flying squadron, that marvelous naval armament, lying idle in the English channel? The world was now looking to Russia to protect Armenia, but," proceeded Mr. Lodge, "the United States has an Armenia at its very door. The United States can stop the horrible state of things in Cuba. Let it only be known that the United States intends that the pillage and slaughter shall stop and it will stop. A firm and emphatic diplomacy can accomplish this end. The whole American people would welcome action by the United States. If that war goes on with that bloody commander in charge, the responsibility is on our shoulders. We cannot avoid it."

Morgan, who reported the resolutions, followed. He said the possibilities of war between the United States and Spain should in no way embarrass the consideration of the subject and the shaping of a proper course. The committee in submitting this resolution was not moved by retaliation or by any consideration of past relations between the parties. It was based solely on the conditions and requirements of today. Morgan referred to the conflicting information at hand. Out of the mass of details, however, the committee felt that it stood on firm ground in presenting this resolution. While Cuba was surrounded by a navy and controlled by a censorship, many of the best means of information were unobtainable. But certain definite and positive facts were established beyond question as a premise to the action of the committee.

Mr. Morgan then took up the legal questions involved, explaining the duties and obligations of recognizing belligerency. When armies are formed and men leave their places as citizens and become soldiers, then the civilized world recognizes this transfer as creating a state of belligerency. Under existing circumstances, those participating in the uprising were not recognized by Spain as soldiers, but as felons rising against their government, to be treated with the ignominy of felons, they and their children.

And yet, said Mr. Morgan, while war is public and beyond the possibility of question or denial, Spain refuses to recognize the war. She fills Moro castle, exiles men to penal colonies in Africa, she inflicts penalties unwarranted, even if war did not exist. And with war public and notorious, it became the duty of the United States and all

other countries to demand the recognition of Cubans as soldiers, not as felons.

The senator said the attitude taken by the United States acting according to its plain duty, need give no offense to Spain. But if it did give offense, then it was a choice between that offense and one against the God of nations. Such a choice had been made with firmness and confidence. Morgan said the Cuban republic already existed. It might yet be in embryo, a Moses in the bull-rushes, yet in time the world would recognize it as a republic. If the island of Cuba had been as close to Great Britain as to the United States, Cuba would have been absorbed a century ago.

Morgan did not conclude his speech, saying he would go on another day, as there were many points connected with the question which he wanted to touch upon at greater length than he could do today.

VULCAN MINE EXPLOSION.

DENVER, Feb. 18.—A special to the News from Newcastle, Col., says:

An explosion occurred at the Vulcan mine at 11:20 this morning which was the most disastrous ever known in the history of this camp. Tonight dozens of homes in our city are desolate because of some loved one, father, husband, brother or son, who this morning left their homes with not a thought of danger or the awful death that so surely awaited them, and are now lying lifeless at the bottom of the Vulcan slope.

All business is practically suspended; everyone is dazed at the awfulness of the sudden disaster. No warning was given the peaceful villagers until a sudden report as from a hundred cannons resounded throughout the valley, making the earth tremble. People rushed out of homes and places of business to see what had happened and one look toward the Vulcan mine was sufficient, for a dense cloud of smoke issuing from the mouth of the slope met the eyes of the gazers and told the tale of death.

A throng of people were soon at the scene of disaster, a distance of nearly two miles from Newcastle. A glance was enough to dissipate any hope for the lives of the entombed men. The force of the explosion had caused a cave-in, and the tunnel and air courses were filled with the fallen rock, earth and timbers. Both fan-houses were wrecked and the slope and vicinity were full of debris and the gas was so bad that it was hard and dangerous work to begin the rescue. Nevertheless, willing bands were soon at work and five men went down as far as possible to ascertain the condition of the slope, and found it such that it will require much labor to regain the miners. The gas was so bad that after the party had got two hundred feet they were compelled to recede. The party consisted of Superintendent Herick of the Vulcan, and John Evans, William Reese, Sam Hills and Robert Templeman, from the Consolidated mine. The last named mine shut down immediately on hearing of the disaster and sent their entire force of 150 men to help rescue the unfortunate ones. The construction of a temporary

fan-house was commenced at once, and the work of pumping fresh air into the mine will soon begin. It is hardly possible that any of the miners are still alive, but the starting of the fans will be made as soon as possible in the hope that if any have survived they may be kept alive until help reaches them.

The only man who got out of the mine at the time the explosion occurred was Ed Welch, who was near the mouth of the tunnel and was blown out, his skull being fractured, arm broken, the face badly cut and burned, and all the hair burned from his head. He was breathing when found, but expired shortly after without showing consciousness.

Two young miners, Tom Connelly and James Petrie, met with narrow escapes. Their eyes becoming sore, they quit work in the mines and had just emerged from the tunnel when the explosion occurred.

DENVER, Feb. 18.—A special to the Times from Glenwood Springs, Colorado, says: A terrible explosion has occurred in the Vulcan coal mine at Newcastle and 35 miners are reported killed.

The Vulcan mine is owned by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway company. Usually 75 were employed. The news of the disaster is confirmed at the office of the company in this city, but no particulars have been learned.

DENVER, Feb. 18.—A special to the Times from Glenwood Springs says: A gas explosion occurred at the Vulcan mine at Newcastle just before noon, when there were between 50 and 60 men in the mine. At the mouth of the shaft a hole, a hundred feet square, was blown. Edward Welch, who was near the mouth of the tunnel, was blown to atoms. Timbers two feet square were blown into the Grand river. It is almost certain that all in the mine perished. Smoke is rushing from the shaft in black clouds, preventing entrance. The fans were the only means of supplying air and as these are destroyed, the last hope of any men being found alive is cut off. Supt. Paul Blount of the Consolidated closed his mine and sent his men to the rescue. They have procured wet sponges and will attempt to reach the interior of the mine. The wives and children of the victims are rushing to and fro, tearing their hair in deep anguish.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

OMAHA, Feb. 17.—A special to the Bee from Shelby, Ia., says:

This part of the state is in a fever of excitement over new developments which bid fair to unravel the mystery surrounding the death of Maud Strawn, the handsome 18-year-old schoolgirl whose lifeless body was found in her room at her married sister's home last week.

It is supposed that the girl had been dead for three or four days when found, as decomposition had set in. The corpse was discovered Saturday and the girl had not been in attendance at school since Wednesday forenoon, nor had anyone seen her.

At 11 o'clock Wednesday, Miss Strawn asked to be excused, as she expected company and would have to get dinner