

of a vast territory redeemed from Spanish tyranny through the heroic sacrifices of the United States.

There are, unfortunately, several indications of the existence of such a compact. The Spanish premier recently took the pains of denying that Spain is as yet prepared for peace overtures. This is incomprehensible unless he has information that justifies him in expecting interference in behalf of the country. The dispatch of Camara's fleet to the Philippines points in the same direction. It seems to invite an attack on the Spanish coasts by laying them open to the American fleet, undoubtedly in the hope that such a step would hasten the prospective aid. The publication at this time of the existence of the understanding referred to, may be considered as a reply to Lord Salisbury's recent speech, which has been construed to signify that Great Britain is supporting the policy of the United States in the Spanish colonies.

In the interest of the peace of the world it is to be hoped that the new triple alliance is one on paper only. The United States may not contemplate the permanent retention of the Philippine islands, but if commanded to withdraw by European powers that have no rights of possession in that part of the world, a principle would be involved of the utmost importance to the United States. The question would then be whether this great Republic is to submit to the treatment accorded the fourth-class powers of the world over which others have assumed jurisdiction. And when this question is brought home to the nation, there would be a general rising for the defense of our equality and independence in the family of nations. And if, as is now apparent, Great Britain would join us on this issue, there would be the greatest contest the world ever saw. Is that what is coming?

From the beginning of this war there has been an impression that perhaps it would not be possible to limit it to the two combatants. An alliance between Russia, Germany and France against the United States and Great Britain would indeed open the way for war and destruction upon all nations.

WHOLESALE BLOODSHED.

The latest news is disquieting. General Shafter sends a dispatch to the government at Washington, saying his previous estimate of 400 killed and wounded was below the actual figures, which from other sources is shown to be more than 1,000.

While this, by comparison with the great battles of history, is not heavy, it is still serious when all things are considered.

The information designed, doubtless, in mitigation to some extent of such unwelcome news, is hardly adequate to the situation. It is that our men have taken several lines of breastworks from the Spaniards and now occupy advanced ground in the direction of Santiago. But at the rate things are going and the price being paid for all the ground taken, it would seem to be paying too dearly for it.

The Americans have been and presumably are now, fighting with a vigor and a courage that must be sublime. It must also be conceded that the enemy are fighting the fight of desperation, and contesting every inch of ground with a valor and determination worthy a better cause. Our men have to meet not only them, but their defenses and obstructions, besides being subjected to a vigorous bombardment from the fleet, to which they are wholly unable to reply. Where is Sampson? Where is the Vesuvius? Are the Cuban liberators to suffer a check after their splendid

work and heavy sacrifices, and all for want of concerted action? Let us hope otherwise, although there is no concealment of the effort which such a hope costs.

To add to the calamities visited upon the American forces, the Spaniards have received 6,000 reinforcements, General Pando having effected a junction with General Linares, defending the Spanish position. What were the Cubans doing all the time these men were drawing nearer to the city? Anything or nothing? The Spanish troops have arrived, as a result of negligence or want of strength, and these must now be fought in addition to the forces previously counted on.

Some batteries have been captured from the enemy, and with these trained in the other direction there will be some benefit in it to our men, but whether enough to amount to an important factor in the struggle, or not, is of course to be determined. The Spanish used smokeless powder, giving them another decided advantage.

General Shafter has sent for a hospital ship and a large corps of medical attendants to take care of the wounded. This has an unwelcome sound, even though one of the things naturally to be expected.

A few things at least are gratifying. Our forces were not repulsed, but kept all the advanced ground with the design of forcing the contest at an early hour this morning; and Caney and San Juan, the latter a stronghold near Morro Castle, have been captured. It is very evident that the outcome will be an American victory, as they are doing the hardest and best fighting and achieving all the favorable results so far. The question that now remains is as to what price will be placed upon the victory and when it will occur. At the rate at which things are now going, the battle should not last very long. Like a thunder storm, the greater the violence the briefer the duration, and many, many precious lives with a still greater number maimed and seriously or slightly injured will pay for what is taken. It will be a day of rejoicing when it is all over.

ASKING QUESTIONS.

A correspondent of an eastern paper gives the following figures as showing the government's assignments of troops:

To Santiago.. ..	30,000
To Porto Rico.. ..	20,000
To Manila.. ..	30,000

Total.. .. 80,000

He then asks the following question. "Has it ever been said by any one that 80,000 of our troops at Havana would not be enough to capture that city and do at one stroke what the three other strokes will not do—end the war?"

In the light of the awful work going on at Santiago, such questions have a pertinency and force that they might not have under other circumstances. Perhaps, however, those who ask them understand less of how to carry on a war than do those who have the job in hand.

ROMANISM IN ENGLAND.

According to the New York Sun, a request has been laid before the Roman Catholic archbishops and bishops of the United States and Canada to consider the formation of fraternities with a view to the conversion of England to the Roman faith. The movement is said to have originated with Cardinal Vaughan, archbishop of Westminster, who laid the matter before the pope about a year ago. The pope car-

fully considered the matter and then gave it his formal sanction and blessing. Cardinal Vaughan then issued a pastoral letter describing the inauguration of the new movement and stating that English-speaking Catholics in the United States, Australia and everywhere will join in the effort to Romanize Great Britain.

From a doctrinal point of view the absorption of the Anglican church into that of Rome—supposing for a moment the possibility of such an occurrence—would probably be of small consequence, but from the standpoint of modern progress and civilization, it could hardly be regarded as otherwise than a step backward. It is not to be denied that Rome, if judged from the educational level of the nations entirely under her sway, proves herself neglectful of the spiritual welfare of her people. To what else is the illiteracy of Spain, Portugal, Italy, due? Would not France, Great Britain, Germany and the Scandinavian countries have been on a similar level but for the revolutions and reformatations that tore down the ramparts raised to retard the progress of civilization?

If this view is correct, it would be impossible to view without alarm the reconquest of any Protestant country in behalf of Rome. As long as the different churches have equal chances, equal liberty, there is no ground for objection. But the whole history of Rome leads to the belief that whenever she becomes predominant, the others will be crowded to the wall and progress will be retarded.

THE BOND ISSUE.

A New York paper whose friendliness for certain combinations known as bond syndicates is neither questioned nor denied, expresses regret that the government made its \$200,000,000 war loan a popular one. The paper shows, or tries to show, that had the bonds been floated as they should have been, they would have commanded a premium of two or three per cent and that by cutting off competition in the matter of purchase there has been a loss to the treasury of from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000. The fact that previous issues of the kind have been placed upon the market for the best bids is referred to as a precedent which it would have been wise to follow. There are other opinions about that, an extract from one of which, from the New York World, is appended:

"How touching is this solicitude for the welfare of the government! And yet in February, 1895, when President Cleveland's secretary of the treasury privately sold to a syndicate \$62,300,000 of 4 per cent bonds at 104½, though similar bonds were worth in the market 120, we do not remember that any such solicitude was shown for the protection of the treasury. Nor again when, in January, 1896, the same syndicate proposed to take another issue of \$100,000,000 of bonds at 'about the same price,' when they were worth \$10,000,000 more, was any objection raised by this organ of the syndicate?"

Is it not a trifle inconsistent even for a plutocratic organ to acquiesce in a deal by which a syndicate is enabled to realize a certain profit of 15 or 16 per cent on a bond purchase, and then to become suddenly alarmed over the dreadful possibility that individual investors, plain citizens in every part of the country, may make, 'according to the best judges,' 2 or 3 per cent?"

One thing that strikes some people who give thought to the matter, is the manifest lack of consideration for those who originally produce all the means upon which the government relies for support, as well as being its pillars, props and mainstays in