

sources is concerned; and to stop that immigration now would bid fair to inaugurate the decline in a very few years. But right in Massachusetts, where the fact that decadence is held in check by foreign immigration is so clearly evident, is the chief center of the national immigration restriction league, and the Massachusetts representatives in Congress took a leading part in passing an immigration restriction bill. So far as the Bay state is concerned, it looks very much like a case of biting the hand that feeds them.

A PLEASING REPORT.

The Christmas holiday past, the record of how the poor were provided for, and how their wants are likely to be met in the immediate future, becomes a matter of special public interest. The financial depression of the past four years has been felt on every side and in almost every home; and under this condition it was hardly to be anticipated that the liberality of the people would be equal to the past, because of a smaller store upon which to draw. But while this store was diminished, the necessity for more liberal giving was greatly increased because of the augmented destitution. In view of this situation, therefore, it is pleasing to report that the generosity of the people this year has been of a marked character, away beyond what was expected by many; their strength in this line of charity has been according to necessities of the time. Illustrative of this point may be cited a sample report made in a city ward Sunday evening. The district referred to has no rich people and many poor; its supplies for the latter are largely received from mechanics and laborers, who have felt the financial depression quite as much as any other class. Yet the report of the Christmas donation and that for the poor generally is that this year has surpassed all previous years in the amount contributed. "This ward report is representative of many others, hence the pleasure of naming the subject. "By their fruits ye shall know them;" and by the noble deeds of charity to those in need may be known the feeling of love and union that exists among the people, whose increased effort in manifesting this must in turn call for the reward of enlarged heavenly blessing. It is good to realize that here the pleading of the needy and afflicted for necessary aid and comfort reaches the hearts of a people ready to respond to the extent of their ability.

CUBAN RECOGNITION.

The report that the Spanish government now, in an indirect way, is seeking to obtain the aid of the United States to pacify her rebellious Cuban subjects, is emphatically denied, both in Madrid and Washington. It seems to have originated, though, in the columns of a Spanish conservative organ, in an article bearing every evidence of being inspired by the government, and if this supposition be correct, the article referred to will probably be regarded as an effort to

sound the depth of American sentiment on this question. It is a bid for non-activity on the part of Congress in consideration of a Cuban reciprocity treaty of immense commercial value to the United States.

It is generally understood that the Cuban leaders are opposed to any measures of home rule the Spaniards can offer. No Cuban officer can treat with Spain for anything except independence without violating the constitution. If he were to attempt it, he would be denounced as a traitor. The most active insurgents are people that have met with many reverses and who prefer the roving life of a guerilla to settled conditions, and these would never accept anything less than independence. They will continue their warfare, no matter what reforms the government would suggest.

There is, therefore, in the opinion of those best informed on the situation, very little prospect of a termination of the war, except by the armed interference by a strong power, able and willing to make great sacrifices in order to crush the rebellion and establish better conditions among the population. It is not believed that the Cubans would listen to overtures for peace, even from the United States. The most that can be hoped from an agreement on the part of our government to conduct negotiations with the insurgents is delay in the possible action of Congress looking toward recognition of Cuba, and such delay may be of great value to Spain. A few more Cuban generals might fall on the battle field, accidentally or otherwise.

AGED 124 YEARS.

Elder Edwin C. Dibble has forwarded to the News a copy of the Hawaiian Gazette, published at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, which has a long account of the oldest person in Hawaii, Kepoolele Apau, 124 years old. This venerable woman is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, having been baptized soon after the Hawaiian mission was opened by President George Q. Cannon and his fellow missionaries in 1850. At that time she was regarded as quite old, having attained her seventy-eighth year.

When Kepoolele Apau was reported in the census this year as being of such advanced age, Mr. Atkinson, general inspector of the census, began a personal investigation to determine the correctness of the claim; and in a very short time he came to the conclusion that there was no mistake, as by careful inquiry he ascertained definitely that she was more than 122 years of age. He had her direct descendants traced back five generations; the venerable lady herself was a toddling child when Captain Cook came to the islands.

It is stated that Apau was a woman of remarkable beauty in her youth and up to the time she was disfigured by being poisoned. She was an attendant upon Kapiolani I, and because of her unusual beauty she was required to allow her hair to fall over her face down to her

nose, her royal mistress insisting that she should thus keep herself veiled; she was converted to Christianity at the same time as the queen, and they were taught to read first from the English and then from a native book. Apau has been a constant reader of the Bible until about two years ago, when her sight failed; but she can repeat almost whole chapters of the Bible. She was married, under orders from Kapiolani I, to a husband for whom she did not care, and whom she accuses of having poisoned her so that in the illness which followed her face was permanently disfigured.

The old lady recalls events in the history of the islands in her early life, such as the killing of Keoua in 1791, and the attendant massacre, when the bodies were offered up as a sacrifice to a heathen god; the digging of the well in Kau in 1781, and other events of the long ago. She has seen the monarchy of Hawaii consolidated, and has seen it all. Her life has been far from one of pleasure, for she has passed through many privations. For years she earned her living by washing, but is now too feeble. She has one son now living, a very old man, yet he is forty years her junior; he was born before the great volcanic eruption in Hawaii, when the lava flowed down to Kumukahi. This venerable woman is a link in the family chain from a distant past, which soon must occupy a place with the generations she has seen go before her to the spirit world.

CYLINDRICAL STREET CAR.

The new electric street car made at Concord, N. H., is said to promise a great reform in street car service, whereby many thousands of dollars will be saved by railways and the public convenience be better served than now. The new car is practically cylindrical in form and is so arranged as to serve the purpose of both a summer and winter car, that being one item of saving expense. To attain this latter object, each section of the sides, with windows of curved glass, slides up under the roof, just as the curtains of the roll top desk disappear as it is pushed upward. As the sides disappear a running board drops down just below the floor of the car, and in this way is the comfortable closed car transformed into a very neat appearing open car that is as comfortable a vehicle of that sort as can well be imagined. This does away with wet sheets of canvas or flapping curtains. The duplex car, as it is called, is a little wider than cars now used, and seats are arranged crosswise on each side, with an aisle down the center. If its mechanism works as is now claimed, it will be a great improvement upon many of the electric cars now in use.

THIS WEEK'S letter from Frank G. Carpenter is a most interesting description of the wonderful iron development that is going on in the South; next week he will tell about the interior and exterior of the White House, the President's official residence, as it is now.