

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

that God expects no Christian to take part in a war. When personal insult is offered it is Christian to be pacific, tranquil, forgiving; when weak, helpless humanity is wronged we have a right to resist it, and I believe with force of arms. Only by this course shall evil doers be made to shrink and bestial natures be conquered. How ardently we all desire peace—not a shameful peace, but a glorious peace."

NO AGONY IN SUDDEN DEATH.

Dr. Helm, the celebrated geologist and professor of the Zurich university, declares that sudden death by a fall, by being run over, or by being swallowed up by machinery, water, or by snow avalanche, is the most beautiful way of leaving this life—is indeed preferable to any other mode or fashion of departure for the unknown regions.

"To drop from a precipice," says the doctor, "means, subjectively speaking, as glorious an end to the victim of accident as death on the battle field. It strikes a man suddenly, without asking one to become acquainted with those nasty emmisaries of bodily dissolution, sickness and pain, while the mind is clear and during increased mental activity he takes flight without the least feeling of uneasiness. I have looked into the faces of many Alpine climbers who met death by unlucky falls, and like others, failed to read of previous sorrows, of fear, anxiety, pain or terror.

"The death agony—if, indeed, we can speak of such under the circumstances—did not last a minute, neither was it of a second's duration. If it had been, its photographic counterpart would appear on the victim's face. I have viewed the bodies of the brothers Wellstein, who recently died by falling off the Jungfrau. The faces of both these young men bore the stamp of serene happiness. I am quite sure that, as they were rolling to their graves, they experienced the same lofty feelings that I and others underwent while standing at the threshold of eternity. Their happy and composed features indicate that at the time of death they were above physical pains.

"In case of accident followed by sudden death the state of unconsciousness is not preceded by any pain, and while the body is approaching this condition a second is equal to a thousand years in duration to the mind of the stricken person. When the loss of consciousness occurs it does so with infinite suddenness. Death, following in the wake of unconsciousness, works no change physically or mentally perceptible by the victim; the state of quietude, of painless expunction, remains unshaken.

"No, there is not even that feeling of paralyzing terror in facing sudden death, or what appears like sudden death, which overcomes one in the event of lesser danger. Neither myself nor the half hundred rescued victims of Alps climbing whom I have interviewed on the question experienced anything of the sort at the supreme moment. Our feelings—those of myself and colleagues in danger—corresponded in all respects, we were serene; our mode of thinking was uncommonly rapid, but at the same time full of self-possession.—Chicago Inter-ocean.

HAVANA, Dec. 25. — [Copyright, 1895, by the Associated Press.]—Further details reached here today from Matanzas of the rapid advance of the insurgent army, numbering about 12,000 men, on Havana, after forcing its way through the province of Santa Clara and into the province of Matanzas, in spite of the efforts of Captain General Martinez de Campos and about 8,000 troops at his disposal.

The reported important battle yesterday between the Spaniards under Campos and the insurgents at Coliseo plantation, twelve miles from Cardenas, does not appear to have been a severe engagement. The Spanish forces do not appear to have encountered the main body of the insurgents, as at first announced. The fight at the Coliseo plantation was between a portion of the northern column of three insurgent columns now pushing through the province of Matanzas, and instead of turning out to be a great victory for the Spanish, the result of the engagement was virtually a defeat for Campos's forces, for the Cuban army pushed onward unchecked, and is still advancing on this city. The fighting took place amid burning cane, underwood, tall grass and trees, and was of the usual guerrilla nature. At times both the troops and the insurgents were surrounded by walls of flame, and the smoke was so dense over certain portions of the ground contested that the Cubans and the troops were unable to see each other, but kept hanging away at open spaces, wasting good ammunition. It is true that this indiscriminate firing was more noticed upon the part of the troops than on the side of the insurgents, but for one insurgent killed at least 2,000 shots must have been fired. The Cubans, following their customary tactics, seemed to melt away into the distance so soon as the troops got within fighting distance of them, and nearly all the firing was at very long range, although the soldiers made several gallant charges through the burning territory. This style of fighting is termed a defeat of the insurgents, but as they succeeded in accomplishing their object, holding the Spaniards in check, while the Cubans pushed on southward, the result was really a Cuban victory. The captain general was as near the front as possible throughout the battle, encouraging the troops by words and action.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Heavy gales prevail today over the coast of Great Britain and several small wrecks are already reported. A schooner was seen run ashore in the Tyne, near Shields, where she became a wreck. It is believed all of the crew were drowned.

HAVANA, Dec. 24.—Gomez and the insurgent army have turned the flank to the Spanish forces commanded by General Campos in person at Colon, and are now well to westward of that place, threatening a quick movement upon Havana.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The Daily News has a minutely detailed letter describing the Karpuz massacre, the writer of which declares that the evidence leaves no doubt that there was a well

understood plan ordered directly from the Yildiz palace to plunder and burn all the Armenian buildings and to render the further stay of the missionaries impossible.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 24.—[Via Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 25.]—Advices received here today from Beyrut report that a severe fight has taken place between the Turkish troops and the Durses near Zudich. The fight took place on December 21st, and the Durses lost 1200 killed, while only seventy Turks were killed and fifty wounded.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.—The Osage, Gasconade and Moreau river floods are subsiding, and tonight the weather is clear. Communication was established with the Gasconade this afternoon. It is falling rapidly, and no further danger is apprehended. The valley is bare, but the loss will be small in comparison with that in the Osage valley, as the former valley is narrow and the river much shorter.

The only point that can be communicated with on the Osage, except at the mouth, is Bagnell, ninety miles up. There the river has fallen twenty-one inches, but is receding very slowly, and the bottoms will be under water for two days. A further rise is not anticipated. A large per cent of the corn crop was in the fields, and all is lost. One estimate places the corn loss at \$2,500,000 alone. This may be excessive, but when the other losses are determined, such as live stock, hay, fencing, damage to wheat, buildings, etc., the loss will run up into the millions. The entire Osage valley for 400 miles is a scene of desolation and ruin, great suffering necessarily resulting, as hundreds of families have lost everything. Within the space of six days one of the richest valleys in the state has been transformed into a scene of distress without a parallel in the history of the state. The Moreau valley is also a scene of practical ruin, but the farmers in that section will probably be able to take care of themselves without much assistance.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—In connection with the appointment of Messrs. Phelps and Lincoln by the President to places on the Venezuelan high commission, the World's Washington correspondent is informed that Mr. Lincoln was Secretary Olney's own selection and that Chief Justice Fuller of Illinois also strongly recommended him on the ground that a report signed by two former American ministers to England, both of whom have been warmly praised by the British press or many years, will have much weight in Great Britain. It is urged, the correspondent states, that public opinion in England cannot ascribe to such men as Phelps and Lincoln any prejudice against England, where they are both very popular. The third member of the commission, he says, is likely to be one of the associate justices of the United States Supreme court, probably either Justice Brewer or Justice Brown.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—"There has recently come into my possession," said Sen Lodge, "a valuable work, which will throw light on the Vene-