

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### THE POPE'S DESPAIR.

It seems, from the latest dispatches, that the Roman pontiff has given up the hope of preventing a conflict between the United States and Spain. His words in the Sistine chapel after mass are most pathetic: "I have prayed God with the whole force of my being and with the deepest fervor to avert this war and not to allow the pontifical efforts to end in the smoke of battle; otherwise I have implored the Almighty to take me to Himself, that I may not behold such a sight." Undoubtedly the venerable head of the Roman church has a clearer perception of the outcome of such a war than the great majority of the Spanish people. To his vision the pouring out of the vials of wrath upon one of the old and strong pillars of the Catholic faith comes dangerously near affecting the ecclesiastical throne itself. Yet that seems now inevitable. It is a pity that the pope should not have seen his way clear long before this to reason with the Spanish people and government, to the end of preventing the unspeakable cruelties on Cuban soil—those committed by the insurgents as well as by the other side; it is a pity that his influence was not exerted for the purpose of inducing Spain to offer suitable apology and reparation for the terrible disaster in Havana harbor. At the earlier stages of the trouble the task would have been comparatively easy. Now it is not.

Spain's attitude at present is an enigma; almost as difficult as that of the Egyptian sphinx. Before the bar of civilized nations, President McKinley, in an indictment characterized by dignity and calm deliberation and yet most severe, arraigns the Spanish government. He states that "in the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop." He points to the destruction of the Maine with the concomitant loss of life as one of the evidences that the Cuban conditions are intolerable. And to all the charges, direct and implied, Spain remains mute. Not a word of explanation, no sign of a desire to meet the just demands of the United States in a spirit of fairness and justice. On the contrary, every effort has been made, by a fanatic Spanish press, apparently with the approval of those in high authority, to incriminate the United States, charging the failure of the Spanish arms in Cuba and all the horrors of the war there to the American people, and even ridiculing the findings of the court of inquiry. And lastly, according to a Madrid dispatch, a Spanish cabinet minister declares in advance that "should President McKinley notify Spain to evacuate Cuba, this government will immediately and emphatically refuse, and will add that it is fully prepared to take the consequences." If this sentiment prevails, the Roman pontiff has cause for anxiety.

If Spain, however, in the last moment sees her best interests, she will still agree to a solution of the troubles on the basis set forth in the demands of Congress. There are internal troubles in Spain too serious to be overlooked by a rational government. In a manifesto issued by the pretender to the Spanish throne, Don Carlos sets forth that if the Madrid government does not venture into war, "the Carlists who do not respond to the voice of the king," are traitors. That is, the pretender evidently looks upon a war with

the United States as an aid to his cause. He presumably believes that the conflict will be disastrous to the reigning dynasty and prepare a way for him to the coveted throne. On the ruins of Spain, he sees the chance for which he has been waiting. The open declaration of this should be enough to cool the ardor of the war spirit among the people loyal to the reigning house, or it should move the friendly powers of Europe to take the necessary measures to prevent the threatened hostilities, by forcing Spain to yield to reason. In the hope that some such action will be taken lies the only hope of the preservation of the world's peace.

### THE OFFICE-SEEKER'S END.

Before entering upon a career that is intended to engross his time and efforts for a considerable period of his life, a wise young man will make inquiries as to the probable end of that career. At the outset it may seem very attractive, and promise all that sanguine and enthusiastic youth aspires to, yet it may terminate in bitter disappointment and unendurable humiliation. That a political life often ends thus is illustrated by the following examples:

William Churchill of Brooklyn was a well educated man, had been employed in South sea research by a London scientific society and had enjoyed advantages which would fill an average man with great hope for the future. He was recently displaced from the consulship at Apia, Samoa, had been unemployed since, and a short time ago disappeared from his home and is supposed to have committed suicide. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record relates this tragic and pathetic story:

"After months of persistent effort, with the accompanying expectations and disappointments, an office-seeker of the name of P. H. Kaufman, from Huntsville, Ala., despondent and penniless, gave up the struggle last Monday and jumped into the Potomac river. The body was found at Alexandria, and lay in an undertaker's establishment until yesterday, when a doorkeeper from the House of Representatives identified it. Kaufman was a personal friend of Representatives Aldrich and Wheeler of Alabama, and came to Washington in search of office last October. Upon failing to secure an appointment, he later went to New York, where he supported Gen. Tracy during the mayoralty campaign. He made a number of speeches before German-American political clubs, but without reward, as Tammany carried the elections. He then returned to Washington and renewed his visits to the various departments. His funds, however, were finally exhausted, and on Sunday he decided to return home. He borrowed money from several of the Alabama Representatives and other acquaintances to purchase food and buy a railroad ticket, and then left the city. His wife and children have been dead several years, and although he held the office of receiver of public money and was postmaster at Huntsville for some time, the mayor of that city has answered a telegram for friends to claim the body by saying that he was a good man, but had no money or friends."

The two cases here cited in which a career of office-hunting ended in misery to which self-murder was preferable, are only two out of thousands that happen in the United States

every year, in which the wretchedness of the stranded office-seeker seems insupportable. His success in the past has produced the very conditions that make failure unbearable. As an office-holder he has enjoyed a good income, has moved in high society, has had the control of subordinates and the distribution of patronage, and has been flattered and pampered until he has become totally disarmed against rebuff and adversity. When he meets these he is quickly vanquished. His resources and his courage alike disappear, and he sinks into the depths of humiliation and despondency.

Commenting on the Kaufman case the Springfield Republican says:

"The warning is an impressive one. About the worst thing that can happen to a young man is to secure public office and be permitted for any length of time to grow away from industrial or professional employments and into the idea of holding public place as a regular vocation. The chances are nine to one that he will his hold on public life long enough to unfit him for acquiring or adapting himself to an assured occupation, but not long enough to prevent him from being thrown out with much of his life still before him and without the acquirements necessary to make it useful to himself or his fellows. He has lost his place in the great industrial movement of society, and drifts perforce into the ranks of the stragglers who live upon their wits and the favor of more successful politicians. And yet there are parents who are ready to employ all the influence at their command to secure public office for a son. They could hardly deal with him more unfortunately."

Great temptations to adopt politics as a profession are being laid before the young men of Utah, but they should be resisted. In the life history of nearly every professional politician there is far more suffering from chagrin, disappointment, the actions of false friends and the general shattering of hopes and aspirations, than is offset by all the pleasures that are yielded by the triumphs that are achieved. The glamor which surrounds a political career is utterly illusory. The longings of a heart that has been rightly trained cannot be satisfied by the best rewards possible for politics to give.

Utah is making demands upon the brains, consciences and patriotism of all her young men who could possibly succeed in politics, that forbid them to give their time and talents to a pursuit so disappointing. She needs all her young men of zeal and ability for the development of her industrial and commercial resources, the bringing forth of her natural wealth and the furnishing of employment for her idle labor; and it is in this field that aspiring Utahns may achieve both fame and fortune that will be of a character to insure self-satisfied complacency in their declining years.

### A SAD ANNIVERSARY.

This is the anniversary of a dark day in the history of the United States. Thirty-three years ago this evening President Abraham Lincoln was brutally assassinated, while temporarily mitigating the cares and trials through which he had been passing for four long years. The war was happily ended, peace had come to the land, and tranquility except in remote localities and among irrational people, was established from border to border. But the work had been so exacting, the strain upon the executive's mind was so prolonged, the anguish of the situation had been so intense and the progress of the conflict so varying