

to us to get them into a mobile, effective condition again; but no matter. It can and will be done if necessary. A good many thousands of our men would rather face Mausers in Spanish hands than what they are and for a month past have been facing.

LET US HAVE PEACE.

Now that the work of the peace commission is soon to begin, reminiscences of what has been accomplished through the agencies of diplomacy and mediation are in order. One of the greatest men in high station who ever accomplished great results by the means spoken of was President Grant's secretary of state, Hamilton Fish. He it was who brought about the Alabama claims arbitration after the subject had been haggard for years. The board sat in Geneva, Switzerland, and its proceedings were characterized by the greatest of dignity and ability. The membership consisted of men of very high standing throughout the world, as follows: Sir Alexander Cockburn, appointed by Great Britain; Charles Francis Adams, representing the United States; Count Frederick Scalpols, of Italy; M. Jacques Staempfli, of Switzerland; Viscount d'Itajuba, of Brazil. The deliberations of the commission began on the 15th of December, 1871, and continued until September 14th of the following year. With the exception of the British representative, the decision was unanimous, and awarded this country \$15,500,000, which was paid. This was for violations of the laws of neutrality by her majesty's subjects in building, equipping and manning the Confederate cruiser Alabama, which was commanded by Admiral Semmes and did immense damage to American shipping.

Of course this difficulty, settled amicably at it was, created some little friction, which gradually wore away. It is perhaps proper to say that during the term of office of Thomas F. Bayard as our representative at the court of St. James, the ill feeling entirely disappeared, and we are now on such decidedly friendly terms that one who was not posted on the march of events, to take a view of the situation would conclude that the two nations had never had strained relations, let alone fought each other. He has lately been seriously ill, although a dispatch in the "News" columns yesterday announced that he was improving. Mr. Bayard is a Democrat of the old chivalry school, but as straight-out a Republican paper as the Chicago Times-Herald is moved by his sickness to say some kind and merited words of him. It shows that he did more than any other of our representatives to Great Britain to foster the prevailing fraternal feeling. The first of this class of representatives was James Russell Lowell, who was as accomplished in diplomacy as in scholarship and letters, but it was not until the incumbency of Thomas F. Bayard that English good-will became manifested so strongly that the American ambassador vied with leading British statesmen for popularity at public gatherings. This is great praise, indeed, but not greater than the facts warrant.

Continuing in the same line, our Chicago cotemporary shows that the entire term of office of the distinguished Delaware statesman at the British court was not marred by a single unpleasant episode, nor was there any sacrifice of American national dignity, pride or interest during that time. The remainder of the case is pretty well stated in these choice and vigorous sentences;

"The public speeches and utterances of Mr. Bayard breathed Anglo-American fraternity; they asserted the inde-

pendence and growing strength of America, while recognizing the greatness and grandeur of the British empire. They touched the British heart and conscience and gave the British mind a clearer conception and higher appreciation of our national character.

"But they had a far different effect in this country, where anglophobia had been cultivated to such a degree that it was regarded as about the only unfailing sign of patriotism. Mr. Bayard was denounced even by a large element in his own party and almost unanimously by the opposition. There were at times loud demands for his recall, and the substitution of some one who would display the 'true American spirit.'"

It is to be observed as one gratifying outcome of the new and improved relations between the two countries that anglomania and anglophobia have practically disappeared, the former for the reason that it no longer makes the one who affects it especially conspicuous, and the latter because it has ceased to be (if it ever was) evidence of loyalty to American institutions. May the reproduced era of good feeling continue indefinitely!

AS TO ANNEXATION.

The Springfield Republican notes that there is a growing sentiment in this country in favor of the retention of the Spanish colonies in the Pacific, on the ground that Providence evidently has decreed this to be the destiny of the United States, to extend protection and the blessings of a free government to the races inhabiting those colonies. The Republican cannot acknowledge the hand of Providence in the war with Spain except as it was manifested on the side of the best men and guns. Any other view of the matter that journal designates as "fatalism" and therefore wrong.

In this country it should not be necessary to argue this point. The great lesson of all history is this, that there is an overruling Providence guiding and directing the affairs of nations to a general end. And a close observer cannot fail to see that this Providence generally works through human agencies and very often controls what seems entirely accidental, bringing about results by means sometimes apparently trifling and even contradictory. The war with Spain furnishes numerous illustrations of the correctness of this view. It is impossible to read the history of that war, from the destruction of the Maine to the surrender of Manila, without being impressed with the fact that a Power superior to that of man led the hosts of the United States on to victory. That is not a fatalist view. The child that exercises its own will, its own free agency within the sphere of its actions and yet acknowledges the supreme guidance of its father is not a fatalist.

Another argument against annexation is that such policy is unconstitutional because our Constitution does not provide for the government of colonies, although it provides for the government of territories. This argument, however, has been met by a Supreme Court decision to the effect that the national government has all the incidental powers that belong to any government. If so, there is no reason why islands that the nation may find it necessary to annex cannot be provided with a form of government suitable to their condition.

Great preparations are being made for the peace jubilee. If it shall amount to a triumph equal to some of those achieved in the war it will be worth going a long way to see.

ON THE EVE OF A REVOLUTION.

To foreigners the policy by which Spain was led into the disastrous war with the United States is almost beyond comprehension. Generally Premier Sagasta is thought to have been the evil genius of his country at this time. The views expressed by a Spaniard in a London magazine are, therefore, interesting at present.

He calls attention to the fact that the country during the present reign has suffered a complete break-down of constitutionalism. There is no responsible head of the government, and the consequence is that political honors and financial rewards are confined to a few score of self-seeking parliamentarians and their friends. A system of corruption has had its influence in every department of the government and particularly in the army and navy, rendering them inefficient. Then there is the queen regent. She, according to her critic, allied herself with an unpopular party and gave her support to the most coercive measures, forgetting the best interests of the country for the supposed interests of herself and her boy. He goes on to say:

"I note it with profound regret, as a loyal subject, but I cannot pass it over in silence as a conscientious historian—that subtle and irresistible force known as personal influence which a monarch, and especially a queen, can exert at will in a thousand different ways, dispelling suspicions, disarming attacks, and changing enemies into friends, has, in the case of Queen Christina, been almost invariably one of the most formidable weapons against her own very cause. Her domestic virtues have acquired for her the respect, but her cold self-sufficiency and disdainful aloofness have denied her the affection, of subjects naturally disposed to be enthusiastic and loving. The very virtues which the royal lady especially cultivates are those which in our country divest a monarch of his aureole and tend to repel the essentially human men and women of Spain, however great the joy which they may cause among angels in heaven. Her majesty is accused of appearing haughty when expected to be courteously condescending; of displaying a right royal reserve where patriotic affability is the note required; of being surprisingly well-informed about the little backslidings of courtiers and painfully caustic in her allusions to their peccadilloes when she might advantageously display a wise ignorance or salutary forgetfulness; and publicly, in moments of national crisis, of presenting herself as the loving mother of an only son instead of as the patriotic queen of eighteen millions of loyal subjects."

The contributor to the London journal evidently has pointed out the true cause of the disaster. To the queen regent the paramount issue was to preserve intact the patrimony entrusted to her care, no matter how many of her colonial subjects suffered the most cruel injustice. The question was to hold the islands, even if they had to be depopulated and immersed in blood. When a monarch signifies a strong desire to have something done, and especially if the monarch is a queen, myrmidons are always found to carry out the royal designs. Sagasta is one of them. True friends of Spain were brushed aside for the favorite who was willing to humor the queen and reap the rewards. The consequence was a policy of flint against the supplications of starving and dying Cubans, and one of insane defiance against the friendly remonstrance of the United States.

The outcome will undoubtedly be a change at home. If the Spanish