

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### SANTIAGO IS OURS.

Santiago has capitulated. Not only this, but the capitulation is absolute and unconditional.

The glorious Stars and Stripes wave over the stronghold of eastern Cuba. General Linares and his chief lieutenant, Toral, have made a gallant fight. They have supplemented military operations with diplomacy and thus gained time, putting off the inevitable; but the end had to come as it has come so far as relates to that part of the campaign.

The American forces refused all overtures and paid no heed to threats. Their determination was spoken from every fold of the starry flag that waved before the beleaguered city, and in every movement looking to its environment and reduction. In vain did the enemy strive to gain further time, perhaps that the one ally which had not been counted upon in vain—the yellow scourge—might aid them. In vain did they resort to all the artifices of strategy and war craft hoping to defer the descent of the blow which had it fallen would have crushed them into atoms. No further terms could be gained; "unconditional and immediate surrender" were all they could have and are all they have received.

Santiago is the Spanish Sedan. The end is foreshadowed in this magnificent consummation.

It is a time for rejoicing because a prefigurement of a peace, peace which we hope will no more be disturbed by the sounds and scenes and struggles of war.

Hail to the peace that is coming!

All hail and three cheers for the glorious American arms, the banner of the free and the gallant men who are bearing it on to victory!

### THE PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

The Spanish government is in a dilemma. There can hardly be any doubt that the desire for peace is sincere, but the queen regent and her premier have both the army and the Carlists to reckon with in the negotiations with the United States. General Blanco undoubtedly expresses the sentiment of the army officers, if not of the soldiers, when he protests against overtures for peace at present. Those officers think the army has given a good account of itself at Santiago, San Juan, Matanzas and other places and that it is not impossible that in a further contest it would to some extent redeem the honor of the Spanish arms. Should peace be concluded before the army has suffered defeats similar to that of the navy, it is feared the soldiers would in great numbers go to the Carlists, and that would mean the instant overthrow of the dynasty and of the statesmen responsible for the disastrous war. This, it appears, is the critical situation in Spain.

It can presumably not be long, however, before the issue has to be met. This seems also to be perfectly well understood in Madrid, and it must be with the object in view of securing as favorable terms as possible that Germany is being offered an interest in the final disposition of the territory Spain expects to lose. Perhaps a hope is even entertained that such difficulties in arriving at an understanding between Germany and the United States might arise as to involve the two countries in hostilities. It is not easy to find an honest motive in the

offer to Germany to accept a large part of the fruits of American victory. That is a factor to be taken into consideration. Perhaps it will be necessary to pursue the war until the entire Spanish people is convinced of the impossibility of its continuance and until those in authority sue for peace at Washington, not, however, behind the cover of a European power, or in the shadow of a European army and navy. Peace negotiations may have to be declined here until Spain finds out that even suggestions of intimidation are in vain.

Germany herself furnishes a precedent to such a course in her late war with France. And that, as much as the war itself, tended to establish the empire as a first class power on the European continent. Spain and the United States are fighting this war alone: they should settle the conditions of peace alone, too. No other arrangement will be compatible with the dignity of our government or entirely satisfactory to the nation.

### IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES.

The citizens of Salt Lake City will remember a visit here about two months ago of a distinguished East Indian named Sidi Mahomet Taleda. He is an exceedingly well educated man, speaking several languages, English among them and without the slightest accent, and has made a complete tour of the globe three times. He has devoted much study and research to archaeology, in which department of science he ranks very high. Mr. Taleda lectured while here and his effort was an intellectual repast. He then proceeded southerly, going through several districts of Utah and Colorado, making many important discoveries. Among these were the ruins of a once great temple, 160 feet long and 80 feet wide. The walls that were uncovered were some twenty feet high, and one room had been as perfectly built and finished as any of modern times. The walls have a circular piece of masonry built solidly in and of a width the full diameter of the square. Another room also had these circles and there were many other evidences of a very ancient civilization. In other places walls with hieroglyphics were found which the explorer had not yet been able to decipher at the time Hon. F. A. Hammond, to whom we are indebted for this information, left Bluff City, where the ruins spoken of were found.

Mr. Taleda holds that the Western and not the Eastern hemisphere is the cradle of antiquity, the home of the primitive races. This he is gradually establishing by such and other means that are being followed with great pertinacity. While here he passed around our Temple and expressed the greatest satisfaction with the architecture, which he pronounced perfect and an exemplification of a universal language with which he is evidently very familiar. So great was he impressed with the structure that in its presence he removed his hat and stood uncovered for some time.

He expects in a short time to make his demonstrations so plain that the most ordinary intellect can comprehend them. With so successful an outcome to his labors, there will be a great mental revolution take place among the people of the earth, who will then be shown to have been hugging a delusion to their breasts for centuries

and even cycles. His field is a broad one and he works in it with all the enthusiasm and untiring energy of an amateur. He is forty-two years of age, but his method of living is so simple and natural that he does not seem to be half so old. We shall watch for his developments with no slight degree of interest.

### OUR COLONIAL POLICY.

If in the discussion of an important question the only aim is to strike down the antagonist, no matter whether he is right or wrong, one way of doing it is by impugning his motives, conjuring up disastrous ultimate consequences from the principles he advocates and in a general way stirring up prejudices by the frequent employment of the fallacy known to logicians as *argumentum ad hominem*. Instances of these tactics are frequent just now on account of the difference of opinion that has developed regarding our future policy in the Spanish colonies. Arguments in favor of an American expansion are not, as a rule, candidly considered and discussed on their merits. "Imperialism!" "Caesarism!" many of the opponents shout, and that is supposed to settle it. Others more quietly remind the public that the Monroe doctrine and the entire traditions of the country are in danger of overthrow. Fortunately, neither noisy exclamations nor insinuations count a great deal in the shaping of our nation's destiny at this time.

Among the arguments advanced against the policy of expansion, one is that such a policy would be to break faith with the other nations. With regard to Cuba, it was stated both officially and unofficially that the war was not one for conquest but solely to prevent an effete monarchy from indulging in further cowardly, inhuman acts in an island so near our shores, and to visit on that monarchy just retribution for the dastardly destruction of one of our battleships. It was declared that the establishment of peace and a stable government in Cuba was the object of the war with Spain. This declaration, the opponents of annexation say, would be flagrantly violated, should Cuba be given the benefits of liberty under the American flag.

It may, or it may not, be one of the aims of the administration to retain Cuba, but it may well be asked: Suppose Cuba's future were to be cast with the sovereign states of our Union, how would that affect the solemn declaration that our war is one, not for conquest, but for liberty and humanity? Is not every state in this Union in full enjoyment of liberty and self-government, and can it be supposed that the Cubans, if they at any time should agree to ask for admission to the sisterhood of states on equal terms with the others, would be forever barred from obtaining recognition on account of the declaration that the war is not for conquest? The absurdity is evident. Should it be found possible to restore order and peaceful conditions in Cuba and to educate the people in the art of self-government until they are matured enough to exercise that privilege in union with her liberators and educators—that would be in perfect harmony with the announced policy of this government at the beginning of the war. It would be impossible to conceive of any more perfect consummation of the purpose for which the struggle was commenced. The liberty given to Cuba under the protecting wing of the American eagle would be far more excellent than that enjoyed by some of the small republics where military dictatorship seems to be the order of the day.

With regard to the Philippine Islands, it cannot be urged that their retention