

island very desirable, but Spain refused to part with her possession, although for a time it was seriously considered in Madrid whether the transfer would not be a suitable retaliation for the Virginus affair, inasmuch as it was supposed that the Monroe doctrine would involve the United States in a war with Germany as soon as the latter should make an attempt to occupy the island. Prudence finally prevailed, and the contemplated transfer did not take place. American diplomacy carried the day at that time.

There will undoubtedly be some serious work to do in Porto Rico for the American army of liberation. The insurgents there as elsewhere in the Spanish colonies cannot be relied on for any heavy work at the outset. They are not well disciplined and but poorly equipped. But once the army lands the reduction of the Spanish strongholds can only be a question of a brief time. Our soldiers will find many friends and, what is important, they will not be required to fight the various fever bacilli that are lurking in the muddy Cuban harbors. Victory, honor and glory are awaiting them, and it may be depended upon that the Utah boys in the Porto Rican army of invasion will render a good account of themselves.

RUSSIAN RECOGNITION.

Russia has done a little thing of vastly more importance to us than appears on the surface. That country is, as is well known, engaged in sending troops to Port Arthur from Odessa. The route is past the Philippine islands and the ships might possibly find it convenient to land at Manila. The Russian government, instead of applying to the Spanish consul at Odessa for the necessary papers, asked the American consul there for the certificates needed to enter an American port, and as this was done by the Russian government and not by private parties, it is clear that Russia officially recognizes that the Philippines are to all intents and purposes an American and not a Spanish possession, or at least that the capital of those islands is held by the United States.

Russia is in a position to do little things of that kind without consulting other powers, and her initiative will undoubtedly have influence and facilitate a final settlement of the pending trouble.

CARLISM IN SPAIN.

If the pope, as reported, again has offered his services as mediator in the war between the United States and Spain, the queen regent would do well to accept the offer without much delay. For there are indications that troubles at home will follow the war—troubles of such a nature as to endanger the throne itself. Carlism is not dead, it seems. On the contrary, it is only waiting for an opportune moment to assert itself with more vigor than ever.

From Madrid comes the story that Don Carlos has just received an extraordinary proof of devotion from the present Earl of Ashburnham, the English nobleman who represents the cause of the pretender in London, and who is one of his principal lieutenants. One reason why Don Carlos has made no move as yet to wrest the throne of Spain from the queen regent and the boy king is because the funds for the enterprise were wanting, Don Carlos entertaining the same reluctance that has characterized so many other Bourbon pretenders to contribute anything from their own fortunes to the promotion of their cause. The Count of Paris, it may be remembered, permitted the Dowager

Duchess of Uzès to advance \$3,000,000 toward the royalist cause when General Boulanger was in power, and has never received a peseta in return. Lord Ashburnham possessed one of the most celebrated collections of books and precious manuscripts in the world. He has just placed these treasures, which have been in his family for generations, upon the market, and has realized a sum of more than \$1,000,000, which he has devoted to the cause of his friend, Don Carlos. Lord Ashburnham is now at Brussels with Don Carlos, making, so it is asserted, all arrangements for a rising in the northern provinces of the kingdom, to take place the moment that Don Alfonso's tenure of the throne is weakened by any further disaster to the Spanish arms, either in the West Indies or in the far Orient.

This story, if based on facts, shows that the Spanish government would do well to conclude peace even with the sacrifice of all her colonies, for that misfortune would after all be small as compared to a civil war at home with the ultimate overthrow of the reigning dynasty.

DISCUSSING A NAME.

The so-called Disciples of Christ are, according to an exchange, engaged in a curious discussion about the name of their denomination. Some members call themselves Disciples of Christ, but other members object to it, and say they are simply Christians. The other party replies that that is not a distinctive title; that all followers of Christ are Christians. The retort is that all followers of Christ are also His disciples, and that even if the popular name be employed it should begin with a small "d." To this the principal newspaper organ of the denomination imagines that there soon may be, possibly in the same town, "the Little 'd' church" and "the Big 'd' church." The controversy is an old one, but was given a new cause for breaking out by the proposition of another small sect calling itself the "Christian Connection," to amalgamate with Congregationalists. Some of the committee for the first named, which has a membership of about 100,000, suggested that Congregationalists, who number 600,000, adopt their name. The two denominations agree in doctrinal, but are not likely to come together solely because they cannot agree upon a name to call themselves. Their discussion about a name started anew in the larger denomination, Disciples of Christ, where there has never been entire harmony in practice over a common designation.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, the question of annexing the Hawaiian islands is to be voted upon by the House of Representatives. By that time the arguments for and against will have been stated with all the force and eloquence at the command of the opposing sides. The opinions are still divided, although late events have caused many opponents of annexation to change their views on the question.

One of the chief arguments advanced against the proposition to gather the Sandwich islands in under the protecting wings of the American eagle is the expense it would involve. It is said that the United States would have to maintain an enormous navy in order to protect the group from foreign attacks. The reply to this reasoning is obvious, however. The present war has demonstrated that no naval power has any chance of success so far away from coal supplies that the vessels cannot easily be re-coaled. Were the Hawaiian islands

American territory, that fact would prevent other powers with unfriendly intentions from using the group as a basis of supplies and consequently from executing any hostile plans against the Pacific coast. While it might cost a considerable sum to guard and defend an outpost of this kind, it is a question whether it would not be cheaper to meet an eventual enemy there than to await his arrival on our own coast. In a war with a strong naval power Hawaii would undoubtedly remain neutral, but upon the United States the duty would devolve to defend that neutrality anyhow, and the expenses would not be lessened by the fact that the little republic has a government independent of Washington.

In favor of annexation it has been urged with much force that Hawaii boldly proclaimed her friendliness to the United States at a time when it might have been considered uncertain whether such a step would cost her her independence. Had Dewey failed at Manila and the Spanish squadron there gained the victory, Hawaii would in all probability have suffered reprisals. Then, when it became necessary to send reinforcements to the heroes of the Philippines, it was found necessary, too, to have a stopping place midway, and therefore the Charleston and the Pekin went to Honolulu where they received a cordial and enthusiastic welcome. These facts are taken to demonstrate the great value of the Hawaiian islands to the United States, and public sentiment in this country now is such that a vote for annexation would meet with much approval.

ARE WE DEGENERATING?

The Springfield Republican discusses the surprising fact that so great a percentage of patriots are rejected on account of physical disability, and remarks that some one should bring together the statistics of the recent army recruiting, and learn the number of militiamen examined for admission to the United States volunteer service, the number rejected and the chief causes of rejection; he should try to determine whether the standards of physical fitness were substantially the same at the various recruiting stations throughout the country, and whether they were applied with the same force and impartiality; and finally the subject should be considered particularly in respect to the locality of the volunteers, whether from a large city or small, or from the country.

As noted previously in these columns the cigaret habit has been charged with responsibility for much of the physical disability that has come to light at the various recruiting stations, particularly in Eastern larger cities, but the Republican suggests that there may be other causes. What, for instance, is the physical effect of the street railway and the bicycle? The street railway tempts people to ride when they ought to walk. Factory hands, clerks, business men and others ride more generally to their work than ever before, spend the whole day in stuffy indoor quarters, and ride home. Others use the bicycle where they would otherwise walk, and the swift bicycle not only keeps them to a less extent in the open air, but exercises only a part of the muscular system which is strengthened and improved by walking.

These questions seem to be pertinent. Students of natural science believe that civilized human beings are more perfect in physique than the lower orders of the human race and the animals that stand near the human family, because they use their legs more.