

the Pacific. Admiral Montefo, it was announced in Madrid, had gone forth to meet Commodore Dewey in order to prevent him from coming near Manila, but it subsequently developed that the daring Spanish commander, instead of going out to meet the enemy, sneaked into the harbor and sought protection behind the guns of the forts, trusting that submarine mines would work disaster.

Judging from all this, it would be a surprise to learn that any Spanish naval force is steering westward. The probability is that the Cape Verde flotilla may be at the Canary Islands, or perhaps on the way back to Cadiz, where its presence may be needed, should a revolution break out in the country. Still, the vigilance of the government in keeping watch along the Atlantic coast, as well as off the West Indian Islands, is highly commendable. Land operations in Cuba cannot very well be undertaken on a larger scale, until the supremacy of the American naval forces has been demonstrated. An army of invasion in Cuba will act with perfect confidence only when absolutely certain that the enemy is not in a position to cut it off from its base of supplies.

Some months ago the "News" happened to have the following paragraph:

"The English Almanac known as Old Moore's contains forecasts of grave disasters to take place this year. 'Troubles shall envelop the nations as a garment. Crowns shall fall and in some instances heads with them.' In the month of May, it is said, two of the great powers shall come into collision, and during the summer there are to be sanguinary contests between the races in the United States. During August the atmosphere is to be filled with death. Riots in London and the sudden death of the czar are to be looked for during that month. Still more wonderful events are to take place in November. At that time the North Pole is to be discovered and connection is to be established between the earth and the planet Mars."

One of these forecasts has come true. The month of May has seen two great nations in conflict, and there is a probability that a crown, if not crowns, will fall. The prospect that trouble will envelop the nations is also in view. Coming events often are preceded by their shadow, but it would nevertheless, be foolish to suppose that because one of the above predictions came true, therefore all must come to pass.

THE VICTORY GROWS.

The people of the United States have lost nothing by reason of the long and trying wait, for news from Dewey's force, to which they have been subjected. Now that communication has been had, the curtain rises upon the greatest naval victory of the kind ever accomplished in the world's history; perhaps there is none of any kind recorded that equals it. It is not only complete but perfect, and was wrought out under circumstances which exclude all computation of accident, chance, good luck or anything of the kind. It was a case of force against force, with the odds, all things considered, largely on the side of the enemy. It was a question of which side had the greater skill, the higher courage and that self-possessed determination which can only come of having the better cause. On all points the forces of the United States are the victors. They have quite annihilated the enemy's fleet, eleven Spanish ships having gone to the bottom with most of those on board. Some three hundred of their men are killed and as many wounded, and Cavite is taken with a large roll of prisoners. To add a quieting climax to these marvelous achievements we are

advised that not an American was killed, but half a dozen were wounded and none of our ships was seriously injured, while the gallant commodore sends word that he does not require any present assistance whatever and can enter Manila at any time. This is truly, albeit gorily, glorious, the more so because of the humane manner in which the enemy's wounded have been treated.

Commodore, or as he may now with propriety be called, Admiral Dewey, has won a victory which sheds a new lustre upon the arms of his country and in his victory we all receive marked honors and decided advantages. This country exists not by dynastic heredity hut through the intelligent sway of its people. Whatever doubts may have been entertained in any part of the earth regarding our ability for either aggressive or defensive operations equal to the demands of the occasion must now have passed away where there is impartial judgment, and have been greatly modified in places where there is bigoted and begotten dislike of us and our system of government. Dewey has blown all hostile European theories into fragments from the mouths of his cannon and given a warning to all other nations that ours is not to be trifled with.

Will the Spanish government and people even now recognize the fact which blazes upon the earth like the sun at noonday, that in measuring arms with the United States she is simply courting the destruction of the gods which must have made her mad? We do not want to fight, would rather settle disputed questions without calling in the stern agency of force; but when diplomacy ends and a necessary conclusion is still unaccomplished, we then become as potent with the thunderbolts of Jove as with the inspirations of Minerva. If Spain will quit, we will quit—but she must understand that quitting means the abandonment forever of prostrate, starved, pillaged, blood-soaked Cuba; if she prefers to go ahead we will go ahead, with the end foreshadowed near the beginning. There is no desire to shed more blood or cause more destruction, has been no such desire, but—Cuba must be free! The guns at Cavite have proclaimed it and their echoes borne across the Pacific and the Atlantic sound like the glad notes set to the splendid words which register in advance the great consummation.

All hail Admiral Dewey and his gallant men! Speed, directness and unflinching work for all who are engaged in this cause of freedom, and may their labors soon be over!

SPAIN'S FALL HER SALVATION.

Wherever Spanish rule has been established, it has been characterized by cruelty. The outrages committed in the West Indian and Pacific colonies are simply barbarous. That a nation professing to be governed by the principles of Christianity should still be on a level with savages as regards the methods of government, is an anomaly and is, perhaps, an indisputable evidence of the fact that the Christianity of today is not that religion, the ultimate aim of which is that the lion and the lamb shall repose together in peace. A people wading through the blood of fellow-beings, deaf to the piercing cries of tortured captives and insensible to the pitiable sufferings of the victims of hunger and nakedness, can have no claim to recognition as the followers of the crucified One.

Spanish history accounts sufficiently for the peculiar characteristics of the rule exercised by that people over others. For years and years the whole nation was under the thumb-screws of

the Inquisition, and the work of that terrible engine of cruelty very largely shaped the national character. The presumption of that so-called holy office was that by inflicting physical pain it could combat heresies and destroy the enemies of the Almighty. Its efforts were therefore directed against all heretics and blasphemers and all suspected of such crimes. The victims of the Inquisition were numerous, owing to the fact that suspicion very often was considered equal to guilt, and the methods employed were terrible. Torture was employed when the testimony was insufficient, as well as when it was considered conclusive, in the former case for the purpose of establishing the guilt and in the latter, that the accused may be "converted to God, and, by means of this chastisement, may save their souls." Just think of the effect of such jurisprudence, first upon the minions of the Inquisition, high and low, who by constantly witnessing the indescribable tortures of human beings, became hardened to insensibility; and then upon the common people when for generations impressed with the belief that all this was from God! What could the effect be but lowering the nation to the level of the brute that slays for sport. The effect has been visible in every Spanish colony, where cruelty has been employed, no doubt, for the supposed salvation of the people, politically and spiritually.

In order to fully understand Spanish sentiment it must be remembered that the church dominating the country set its seal of approval on the barbarous practices. It is well known that distinguished inquisitors were honored by the popes as the defenders of the faith and St. Peter Martyr, an "egregious captain" who achieved fame as one of the most relentless exterminators of heresy the world ever saw, is described in the bull of his canonization as being of "sweet benignity, of exhaustless compassion, of wonderful charity." Common people necessarily viewed those "holy men" in the same light, regarding them as patterns of Christian love, placed by the cruel heretics under the necessity of becoming the instruments of the wrath of the Almighty. For the people, as their leaders, were blind, and they still remain in the dark. To them it appears that Weyer has done his full duty to his country and to his God; the Americans, who at last have gone forth, in the spirit of Gustavus Adolphus, to rescue a race of martyrs, they undoubtedly regard as infidels and enemies of mankind. The dungeons of the Inquisition have shed their dark, deep shadows over the Spanish nation and blinded it. On no other supposition can the following appeal from the governor over the Philippines to the people be explained. He said before the battle of Manila:

"American seamen undertake as an enterprise capable of realization the substitution of Protestantism for the Catholic religion, to treat you as tribes refractory to civilization, to take possession of your riches as if they were unacquainted with the rights of property, to kidnap those persons they consider useful to man their ships or to be exploited in agricultural and industrial labor.

"You will not allow the faith you profess to be made a mockery, or impious hands to be placed on the temple of the true God, or the images you adore to be thrown down by unbelief of the aggressors, which shall not pollute the tombs of your fathers.

"They shall not gratify lustful passions at the cost of your wives and daughters' honor, or appropriate property accumulated in provision for your old age."