

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### HAWAII AND SPAIN.

The Spanish vice consul at Honolulu has protested against the "constant violation of neutrality" of which the Hawaiian government, in the consul's opinion, is guilty by rendering material aid to the United States during this war. He refers to the fact that the Hawaiians have given an enthusiastic welcome to the United States soldiers on their way to the Philippines. The Hawaiian minister for foreign affairs replied that his government had not declared its intention of preserving a neutral attitude and that, consequently, no further notice can be taken of the Spanish protest.

This incident must necessarily result in the severance of diplomatic relations between Spain and Hawaii, if Spanish honor is as sensitive as it used to be. The consul probably will ask for his passports. Under the circumstances the United States Senate can hardly take any other course consistently than adopting the resolution for annexation already passed by the House.

### RUMORS AND RUMORS.

Rumors come thick and fast. Sometimes they evolve from their condition of liquefaction and finally solidify, but oftener they volatilize and pass into the realms of things that are not and never were. This war has been a prolific rumor-breeder, and the proportion of the product that has crystallized into fact is about the same as that existing between prospects and mines; one mining man of prominence fixes this at 50,000 to one, but this is a gross and even grotesque exaggeration. About 100 to one would come much nearer the exact condition in either case. Anyway, the news that dies before it is born represents an overwhelming preponderance of the total quantity that comes along.

The now celebrated fleet of Admiral Camara has been the (perhaps) innocent cause of more than its share of saffron-hued reports coming from beyond the shores of the United States. It has been in more different places at the same time and has oftener started out somewhere and never started at all than all other fleets combined, and this is saying a great deal. It is, according to all accounts, a little more powerful than that of Cervera is or that of Montejó was. It contains the terror-inspiring Pelayo the only really first-class battleship in the entire Spanish navy, a few cruisers entitled probably to rank as first-class and three or four torpedo boats. Possibly this entire array might stand against the Oregon and the Indiana, and probably it might not, for the Pelayo is not equal to either, but still, on the whole, it is an aggregation to be watched and not underestimated. That is one reason why it is watched, and the only reason, perhaps, why every time one of the craft in the fleet changes its moorings the enterprising news manufacturer hastens to let an anxious world know that "the Cadiz fleet has sailed, destination unknown." It seems that it is now afloat—of course it is always afloat in one sense—but it is now in that position in its more expansive sense; that is, it is (said to be) not at Cadiz but somewhere else and of course upon the main.

There would be nothing disquieting in this, even if it should not be the case that the fleet returns within a day or so, but for another rumor that its errand is neither, to the Philippines nor Cuba, but to the waters which lave

the western coast of the United States. In this conjunction comes another rumor that Spain has purchased at enormous expense a large quantity of coal from Chile. If this latter should prove to be true, it would be a foundation for some little apprehension as giving color to the other; but there are reasons for believing it untrue. In the first place the United States has made coal a contraband of war, and while Spain has not formally done so, it still remains that Chile is a friendly power and under a strict construction of neutrality laws would scarcely be justified in letting a nation with which we are at war have any kinds of materials for hostile purposes against us. In the next place, the last whipping Spain got on the water was by Chile and only a comparatively short time ago—toward the close of our civil war—and the memories of that episode cannot have entirely faded; so that, while Chile as a commercial power undoubtedly wants to sell everything she has for sale and is not presumed to prefer customers, it still remains that she would scarcely oblige her recent antagonist at the price of the unfriendliness if not resentment of a nation with which she has never been at war.

The Pacific coast of the United States is at this time all but dismantled so far as fighting craft are concerned. When it had the Oregon and the Monterey there was no danger; now it has neither. Indeed, with the Monterey alone and the auxiliary boats still remaining it could have got along very well. Now, the latter and the fortifications are all we have to rely on. It remains a question as to whether the forts and batteries would be able to hold a hostile fleet so far away from San Francisco or San Diego as to keep it from dropping shells within the city limits. If such a state of things should prevail and either or both of those cities be placed under tribute, the Spaniard would go a long way in the direction of retrieving some of his fallen fortunes. But while hostilities were going on, what about the outer fortifications of those places and what about Cadiz, Barcelona and a few other Spanish ports within fifteen days' easy sail of Sampson's ships? They might (and they might not) gather a goodly spoil, but what would the Americans gather?

### THE LOYAL CUBANS.

The action of the Cubans in maintaining a force of 5,000 men to hold the Spanish at a distance from the points of Shafter's debarkation, shows that they are keeping faith with us in a manner that can be defined by no word more appropriate than superb. Not only this, but they are equal to their promises and show an intelligent comprehension of what is expected of them that is only equaled by their manifested ability to carry it out. All is going well so far. The landing places are secure, and to the stimulating strains of "Yankee Doodle" the last of the first American army of invasion has landed upon Cuban soil. The work in chief will now begin, and we should all be thoroughly satisfied that those of Cuba in whose cause we took up arms are quite ready and filled with determination to do their full share of the great work.

The Stars and Stripes and the emblem of Cuba Libre have from the first made a most harmonious picture when floating in the breeze together; but now they are something more—they are the joint symbol of the force which is to banish Latin barbarism from the en-

lightened northern division of this hemisphere and free the last remnant struggling against the misrule of the last oppressor on these shores. It is fit that people thus inspired and thus actuated should fight shoulder to shoulder, as the Americans and Cubans already have done, but now they come together in force and henceforth proceed unitedly as an invincible power until the common enemy surrenders or is crushed.

### THE WAR IN CUBA.

The successful landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, marks the beginning of a new and important chapter in the history of the war on that island. The preceding ones have been full of thrilling interest, but this promises to exceed them all. It should be an unbroken record of vigorous action, of daring bravery and glorious victories, ending with the hoisting of the emblem of liberty over Cuban soil, amidst the joyful shouts of a population freed from the chains of bondage never again to become the serfs of mediaeval tyranny.

A hasty review of the war in Cuba, so far, may not be out of place at this time. On the 24th of February, 1895, the uprising started in the province of Santiago de Cuba, where the American army is now landed. At first it appeared to the Spaniards no more alarming than a small cloud on a clear sky, but the revolt soon grew to alarming dimensions. Martial law was proclaimed in Santiago and also in Matanzas, and Spanish troops were dispatched to the scenes of disturbances. In April, 1895, Antonio Maceo landed in Cuba and after many adventures and narrow escapes from capture reached the insurgents. Soon he engaged small Spanish detachments and held his own. A little later Maximiliano Gomez and Jose Marti succeeded in landing. This gave the Cubans the experienced leadership they so highly needed, and their army soon numbered six thousand men. Marti's career was not long, though. He was led into ambush by a guide and treacherously assassinated. His work was done, however. He had organized the revolution and raised a million dollars for its promotion.

Field Marshal Campos conceived the idea of dividing the island by a series of military lines and to crowd the rebels off the eastern end of Cuba. This, he found impossible. Gomez and Maceo kept moving all the time and the Spanish regiments could not be concentrated at any given point. The Spanish war expenses in seven months had been \$21,000,000 and nearly 20,000 men. At the end of the year 1895, General Campos had to admit that his campaign had been a failure. Maceo had won the battle of Bayamo and Gomez had gained a decided advantage at Taguasco. The Spaniards had 200,000 men in the field, including 60,000 so-called volunteers, and the insurgent band numbered about 50,000.

In 1896 what has been called the campaign of fire was commenced. Gomez marched westward almost to the suburbs of Havana, through the cultivated districts of the island, everywhere applying the torch and leaving the rich plantations in ruins. Maceo burst into Pinar del Rio, where he held his own notwithstanding all efforts to capture him. General Weyler built his trochas in order to keep the insurgent leaders apart. It was in an effort to cross one of these military lines that Maceo was killed—assassinated, the Cubans claim, through the treachery of Dr. Zertucha. Maceo had eight brothers and they all fell for the Cuban cause.

In 1897 Weyler made renewed efforts