

been particularly fortunate. She sends a company of Rough Riders with Torrey's regiment, a troop of cavalry and a battalion of light artillery to the Philippines, and a battalion of infantry to a destination not yet designated. Her sons can keep together under conditions that will enable them to make a distinctive record, and every Utahn has confidence that glory will be reflected upon the State by their achievements.

SPAIN IN HISTORY.

The nations of the world would do well in acknowledging at the present time the hand of the Infinite in the calamities into which the Spanish kingdom has been plunged. There is a much needed lesson in the events of the day. A comparatively short time ago Spain had every opportunity of becoming the dominant country of the earth. In power, wealth and glory she might have far surpassed Babylon, Greece or Rome. But she failed to grasp the opportunity. The power entrusted to her she used only for selfish ends. Spain appears in history for centuries past in precisely the same light as does Weyler in the Cuban campaign—cruel, crafty, cold-blooded. But her doomsday is approaching. The Supreme Judge of nations has ascended the judgment seat. The loss of Spain's naval engines of war and the leveling of her fortifications almost without any injury to the attacking parties is a "mene, mene, thekel upharsin" written across the wall by the divine finger, and it is not only for Spain but for the nations of the whole world to profit by the interpretation of that flaming inscription.

It may be noted that Spain's present condition is, by no means due to neglect on the part of the people to foster a military spirit. The nation has not been weakened by long periods of peace. Wars and rebellions have been the rule and peace the exception. Nor is there a lack of patriotism of the military order. The remarkable decline of the once so mighty empire is due to other causes.

Some of these are pointed out in a recently published little volume entitled *The Spaniard in History*. In this the author calls attention to the fact that the establishment of the Inquisition in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella had a tendency to crystallize the intolerance which time, but for that institution, might have softened. The chivalrous consideration for enemies before the conquest of Granada disappeared. The Inquisition made terrible suffering an enjoyable spectacle at which no one, on the penalty of death, were allowed to manifest any sign of pity. In this way the Spanish nation was trained to cruelty; she fostered the ferocious spirit that makes even women eager to watch the sanguinary bull fights arranged for the entertainment of the nation.

Unfortunately the discovery of America gave the Spaniards an opportunity for displaying barbarities on a large scale. The conquerors who in their own land had witnessed the indescribable tortures inflicted on their own brethren with the sanction of religion, or the burning at the stake of some of their noblest men and women in the august presence of kings, princes and priests could feel but little compassion for the sufferings of poor heathens on a foreign shore. So Spanish ferocity had free reins. The Inquisition silenced inquiry. Modern thought was strangled to death and

the nation was left in mediaeval darkness. Today in the opinion of even the most enlightened statesmen at Madrid, the interference of the United States in behalf of a people doomed to death by starvation is incomprehensible. They regard it as an absurdity. The effects of the training in the school of the monstrous Tomas de Torquemada are in evidence in Spain to this day.

In the book mentioned above the reign of Philip the Second is described as typically Spanish, and the fate of two envoys sent by the Netherland government to Madrid is mentioned as illustrating the king's character. One of them died in captivity and the other, Montigny, was tried and condemned to death by slow poison. But Philip considered this mode of assassination too lenient. He therefore caused letters to be written describing the illness and death of the incarcerated envoy. The latter was in perfect health, but the king's physicians were instructed to issue bulletins about his alleged illness. At last word was given and a notary, a priest and an executioner proceeded to the prison and strangled Montigny to death, afterwards giving out the letter written by command of the king concerning his demise by fever. The remains of the victim were then buried in the robe of a Franciscan monk which came up high enough on the neck to conceal the marks of the strangulation. It is only in our day that researches have brought to light the infamous facts in the event related. But Spanish history is full of similar incidents.

Eternal justice is often apparently slow in asserting itself, but it never fails. For centuries the inhabitants of the West Indian islands and the Philippines have suffered intolerable burdens without being given the slightest equivalent in the form of the gifts of civilization. They have suffered oppression until they themselves have become savage and cruel. But at last the day of redemption seems to have dawned. Spanish possessions are about to be entrusted to the care of another more worthy of the trust. Spain may possibly sue for peace, but after all that has taken place now, it cannot be granted until the objects for which the war has commenced shall be attained. The islands of the sea must be free from a system of oppression and their inhabitants given a chance to partake in the blessings of civilization. That seems to be the eternal decree the United States has been called upon to execute.

A GERMAN VIEW OF SPAIN.

An article about Spain in the German journal *The Nation*, edited by Dr. Barth, has attracted considerable attention in Germany. It may be taken as an indication of the turning of the tide of public opinion in that country. The *Nation* says:

"The colonial maladministration of the Spaniards is centuries old; the sorrows which the Spanish motherland has laid upon her colonies transcend in needless cruelty and brutal extortion the colonial excesses of all other lands. Cuba, the pearl of the Antilles, has been specially afflicted by Spanish misrule. Historically Spain long ago forfeited all claim to this colony. To a certain degree, indeed, she is responsible for the unfitness of Cuba to assume the position of an independent state after she is separated from Spain. Over Cuba the United States will exercise some form of guardianship—that is as certain as it is that Spain will lose the island altogether. In the process of the world's historical development the United States assume the role of the brusque performer of a necessary amputation. In this war between formal right and historical necessity every

respectable political consideration tends to inspire the wish that the imperative operation on the body politic of Spain may be performed with vigor and dispatch.

"In determining which way our sympathies should be, we are aided by the consideration that, in spite of their indiscreet way of going about such matters, the United States represent the sounder culture and an abounding vitality, while Spain presents a picture of decline and spiritual bondage. The interest of the German people in the fate of Spain is limited to a sort of esthetic sympathy and the German imperial government acts in accord with the public opinion of Germany when it keeps within the bounds of strict neutrality and scrupulously abstains from putting any obstacles in the path of the Americans.

"The final outcome of the war is not doubtful. The disproportion of the powers is too great. Even if the United States should meet some reverses in the beginning, they would have scarcely any influence on the result. Even in the interest of Spain it is to be hoped that the business will not be protracted by trivial successes at the outset. It might gratify Spanish pride to disable a few American warships, or to bombard some large coast city, but every week that the war was prolonged by such success would drive a new nail in the coffin of Spain's financial credit and bring that hapless land nearer bankruptcy. European diplomacy, therefore, can render Spain no greater service than to convince the Madrid government right soon that Spain will preserve her honor and make no great sacrifice of her national pride if she yields to power and gives up Cuba."

THE FIRST VICTIM.

The first officer of the United States to fall in the present war was Ensign Bagley, who was struck by a fragment of shell during the bombardment at Cardenas and hurled without the slightest warning into eternity. But he was not the first victim; that is, there was an officer who was injured in battle prior to the ensign's death, the injuries resulting fatally. This was Captain Charles Vernon Gridley, who commanded the *Olympia* at Cavite and previously. He was at his post in the conning tower during that hot and rapid combat and while reasonably protected by thick steel walls with only sufficient narrow openings to enable him to see on every side, a missile found one of these places and inflicted a wound which was not at the time thought to be serious. It resulted in a rupture, however, and the captain was invalided, or given indefinite leave of absence because of sickness, and was homeward bound when death resulted somewhere near if not at Kobe, Japan.

Captain Gridley was a man of family, having a wife and three children. He was 53 years of age. His standing in naval circles was very high and, like most officers of the army or navy of the United States, he was of high character and rare courage.

The Skaneateles Free Press, published at Skaneateles, N. Y., has a notice stating that Admiral Sampson, who was born in Palmyra, owns the farm on which is located "Mormon Hill," the place where Joseph, the Prophet, found the plates of the Book of Mormon. The place is occupied by Sampson's brother.

Wyoming is about to receive 130,000 acres of land in lieu of the school sections embraced within the area of Yellowstone National Park.