

been a sheer impossibility in the dead-ly lowlands and swamps of Havana province."

The dearly bought victories at Santiago these days furnish the best justification for the policy of caution that has characterized the conduct of the war. It will gain further justification when all is over and the methods are considered in the light of the results accomplished.

#### THE LADRONES TAKEN.

The welcome news is received that the Ladrone Islands have been added to the war possessions of the United States. The expedition for the relief of Admiral Dewey put in at the islands and took them without practical opposition. They are an important and noteworthy addition to the prizes which have fallen to the lot of this country at the expense of Spain, and whatever may be their final disposition they will certainly not be relinquished until the account with their former owner is settled in full; he has now nothing left in the Pacific but the Carolines.

The Ladrone group, sometimes called the Marianne Islands, are a long, rambling archipelago between latitude 12 and 21 degrees and longitude 144 and 148 degrees. They are twelve in number and are mostly of volcanic origin, rugged but picturesque, being carpeted with perpetual verdure and densely wooded. They have numerous hills and some mountains; the valleys are fertile and contain everything necessary to the physical well-being of the human family. Only the five southernmost islands are inhabited; these by a race of tall, brawny people, who are said to be active and ingenious. Of course everything is in a most primitive condition. The population is estimated at about 10,000, the entire land area being 1,200 square miles.

#### EFFECT OF SPANISH RULE.

The recent history of the Caroline Islands is an illustration of the fact that the natives in those parts of the world quickly adapt themselves to the requirements of civilization and that they, although of a peaceful disposition, resent injustice and tyranny. The seeds of civilization were first sown in those islands by American missionaries, who on their arrival there found a race of savages, tattooed, warlike and addicted to cannibalism. After some years of labor paganism had almost disappeared. On the island of Pingelap, for instance, a church was built large enough to accommodate the entire population, about a thousand souls. Cloth was provided and made into decent clothing. Morning and evening the people assembled to hear the gospel. Liquor and tobacco were banished and the Ten Commandments were adopted as a code of laws. Dr. Wetmore, a physician of Honolulu, visited Pingelap in 1886 and gave his impressions of the people there. According to Dr. E. E. Strong in the American Monthly Review of Reviews he found the change effected in less than fourteen years perfectly marvelous. The material prosperity of the place as compared to what it was at his first visit was almost beyond belief. Similar conditions prevailed in the other islands. In 1888 there were in the Micronesian mission 47 churches with 4,509 members and 15 native preachers. Five languages had been reduced to writing and school books had been printed in all of them. This was due to American energy.

In 1885 the Caroline islands were by the pope acting as arbitrator awarded to Spain. In 1887 the Spaniards as-

sumed control. When the first governor landed he promised that religious liberty should prevail, but it did not take long to demonstrate the value of Spanish promises. In three months seven mission schools had been suppressed, and later a Spanish force commenced to build barracks and a Catholic church at one of the mission stations on land deeded to the mission and within a few feet of the mission church, with the evident object in view of driving the American missionaries away. Dr. Strong says:

"This incident, following numberless other wrongs, brought matters to a crisis and proved more than the natives could bear. There was but a single American woman at the station at this juncture, and she was powerless to prevent the sudden uprising of the people, followed by a slaughtering of the Spaniards. The vengeance they took upon their oppressors was swift and terrible. In September the Spaniards were reinforced by a gunboat and 600 soldiers from Manila, and the mission premises at Oua were shelled and destroyed, the natives retiring beyond the reach of the Spanish guns. All efforts toward conciliating the two parties, though most persistent, proved unavailing. Seeing that they would be practically prisoners if they remained, the missionaries left Ponape on board the United States ship Alliance and sought elsewhere a place for their Christian labors. Since then no American missionary has been allowed to remain on Ponape."

The history of the Caroline Islands is but a repetition of that in every other part of the pagan world where Spain has obtained a foothold. It has been a curse to the people, while American influence has proved elevating and refining. Were there any fear in the minds of the people of the United States regarding the result of extending American rule to the races over whose lands the Stars and Stripes has, in the marvelous providence of the Almighty, been hoisted these days, such fears should be dispelled by the facts recorded on the pages of history. Those races may be inferior; but they are human, capable of enlightenment, entitled to happiness, and their salvation is in keeping them under the strong protection of American institutions.

#### BRAVE BOYS ARE THEY.

From a period hoary with antiquity comes down to the present age the story of how Leonidas with a mere handful of men stood like a wall of adamant against a vast horde of Persians. Later on, but still far back, the story of Arnold Winkelreid at Unterwalden was written and has passed along the lines of succeeding ages as the story of a man through whose self-sacrificing valor the Austrians were overthrown. All wars have their special deeds of heroism which stand out so conspicuously above their surroundings that they are remembered when all else is forgotten, or they keep all else in remembrance by causing them to form the perspective of an undying picture. In modern times we look at the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava, and while all readers know of it, how many know of the desperate work of which it was only a part? Still more recently the charge of the Black Horse Cavalry at Bull Run, where of a thousand young men constituting the very flower of Virginia's proud families but a few dozen were left, stands prominently in a battle itself so prominent that it will be many generations before it begins to fade and leave the fadeless line to be-

come plainer thereby. Quite recently a tinge of immortality was again imparted to the record of daring deeds by the mad dash of the Gordon Highlanders up against the barbaric, desperate forces confronting them at Dargai Ridge. These, and hundreds of other instances of human valor and intelligent determination were not born to perish so long as records are kept and memory is the warder of the brain.

There has never been, in all the accounts of glowing deeds on the field of battle, a more sublime exhibition of valor united to unerring judgment and faultless discipline than was the splendid charge of American volunteers in front of Santiago on Friday last. At the word of command all moved forward with impulsive strides and with the utmost precision. A withering volley from the enemy was poured into their ranks and so destructive did it become that they had to prostrate themselves to escape annihilation. This alone to ordinary soldiers of the machine class would have created either a panic resulting in complete demoralization, or a withdrawal in more or less disorder to the starting place. When the firing relaxed somewhat they were again "up and at 'em," and again after a few steps forward was prostration necessary to escape obliteration. Once more to their feet, then with a wild whoop and hurrah the heights were scaled and the Spaniards driven precipitately from their shelter. It was a grand triumph and a costly one. For the first time in the history of the world the personality of the Anglo-Saxon was brought in contact with that of the descendants of old Rome living beyond the Atlantic, in a supreme test of individual valor and physical endurance, and the superiority of the former was demonstrated at every point and beyond all question.

It is idle to say after this and the other exhibitions of personal bravery and coolness which the American people have presented to the wondering world that we need a larger standing army than the one we had when the war broke out. Twenty-five thousand men are an ample force, and except for being trainers to others and constituting a nucleus to build around and extend upon in time of trouble, we could get along with none at all. The American, who, as a rule, seeks no quarrel and will resort to every honorable means to avoid a fight, becomes all at once a awakened destroyer when the contest is thrust upon him. He then shows that he is intuitively a soldier and, with or without the assistance of regulars, understands exactly what his duty is while at once proceeding unflinchingly to carry it out. It is a terrible thing for such men to have to lose life or limb, especially when fighting in a cause which except by sympathy contains nothing for them save the honors and plaudits, which in no struggle of the world within a corresponding time were ever so numerous or so well earned.

#### DISASTER AT SEA.

Word comes from Halifax of a terrible disaster by which hundreds of lives were lost. The details are as yet not given, but it seems that the ship Comartyslire collided near the Sable Islands, off the coast of Nova Scotia, with the French liner La Bourgogne, carrying passengers from New York for Havre. The steamer sank and six hundred of the passengers and crew perished. Among the two hundred that were saved there was only one woman. The inference is that the destruction of the vessel must have been accomplished before any organized effort at saving life could be made, as under