

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The greater portion of the time of the caucus of Republican senators today was devoted to a discussion on the Venezuelan question, as presented by the President's message. This matter was brought up in committee with a renewal by Lodge of his suggestion of yesterday that the Senate do not, in view of the critical state of affairs, adjourn for the holidays until the committees should be completely equipped for action, in case the necessity should arise. A large number of speeches were made, after which it was announced as the sentiment of the caucus that there should be no adjournment until the committees should be perfected. Senator Mitchell, as chairman of the caucus, was authorized to present this view to the Democrats and impress upon them the necessity for speedy action in making their committee assignments.

It was suggested that England might accept the President's utterance as an ultimatum and proceed immediately to push her troops into Venezuela, and it was asked what the United States would do in that event, in case the question should still be tied up in the hands of a commission. There was some reference to the bill passed in the House appropriating money for the proposed commission, and the opinion was expressed that the bill should go to committee for amendment.

President Cleveland had many calls today from senators and representatives who came to congratulate him upon the attitude he had assumed in his message.

It is still confidently believed here that the difficulty can and will be settled peaceably. This belief is based upon the expectation that England will re-establish diplomatic relations with Venezuela. As the revolution in that country has been quelled, and the internal peace Lord Salisbury demanded as a condition to resumption of Venezuelan negotiations is restored, he will treat the subject, it is believed, and as he practically promises in his last note, in a more compliant spirit than the British government has exhibited heretofore in the negotiations, and thus speedily reach an agreement satisfactory to Great Britain and Venezuela, and so, as a natural result, acceptable to the United States.

It is entirely probable that Great Britain will abstain from presenting any evidence in support of her title to the proposed commission, for by so doing she would admit our right to interpose, which is the vital point in the controversy.

One source of present danger, it is conceded, lies with the Venezuelans themselves, as it is feared that, carried by enthusiasm, they may be led to attack the British outposts on the Orinoco.

Lord Salisbury's responses to Secretary Olney's arguments are not regarded in official circles in Washington as being weighty or logically strong. The parallel he seeks to draw between the Alaskan boundary question and the Venezuelan boundary controversy utterly fails, it is said, when viewed in the light of the definition of the Alaskan boundary given in the

Russian treaty of cession. As for his objection to the injection of the Monroe doctrine into international law, international law, as Speaker Reed once remarked of parliamentary law, "is not an exact science;" that it is made and amended from time to time by nations able to support their views, and that the United States has as much right to apply this doctrine to American affairs, as had some of the European powers by combination to regulate affairs in Europe and force their views upon Oriental nations.

As the North Atlantic squadron corresponds to the British channel squadron in being charged with the defense of our most important coastline, it may be that the authorities will take the view that prudence would seem to necessitate the abandonment of the proposed evolution cruise, which would take the ships away from home and leave the coast defenseless, and also would cut them off from their base of supplies in the event of trouble, the particular coal ports to the waters where the drills were to take place being in British hands. The plans for the squadron, however, will not be fixed until Secretary Herbert returns to Washington.

The armored cruiser Maine was today attached to the North Atlantic squadron.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A dispatch to the Herald from Buenos Ayres says the general topic of discussion here in official and business circles is the energetic message of President Cleveland on the Venezuelan boundary question. Outside of the English colony, who regard the message as a mere threat, the reception of its interpretation on the Monroe doctrine is enthusiastic. General Mitre says he that he always has been in hearty accord with the principle enunciated in the doctrine and that he can say with authority that the same view is held by the acting president of Argentine, General Roca.

The Nation says that the support of all South American republics should be given to the United States.

La Prensa says that the United States having firmly declared its intention in regard to European intervention on the American continent, South America should express its full sympathy with the great republic. The paragraph adds that President Cleveland is the greatest statesman of the present time, that his convictions are firm, his purposes energetic and frank; that the phrases of his message are dignified and appropriate, and on the whole, as a state paper, is worthy of the chief executive of a great nation.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 20.—Fire broke out in the two-story building occupied by Charles A. Estes Shoe company, 1011 Sixteenth street, at 3:50 this morning and immediately communicated to the buildings on either side occupied by the Evening Post Publishing Co., 1013 Sixteenth street, and Babcock Brothers, hats and caps, 1009 Sixteenth street.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 20.—In an explosion of fire damp this morning in the mines of the Dayton Coal &

Iron company at Dayton, Tenn., twenty men are supposed to have perished. Five bodies have been taken out.

CONSTANTINOPLE, via Sofia, Dec. 20.—An official dispatch from Zaitoun says the Armenians there on Sunday last massacred all the Turkish soldiers imprisoned in the town. This probably refers to the four hundred Turkish troops captured when the uprising first occurred, although it has been announced that all the soldiers, except nine, who were dead, had been released.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—A dispatch from Constantinople to the Frankfurter Zeitung says: The Porte has ordered Mustapha Remezi Pasha to attack with 1,000 troops and two batteries the city of Zaitoun, and to bombard and destroy it, and to massacre the 12,000 Armenians in the city.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Andrew Johnson, aged 30, and his three children, were suffocated by fire today at 21 Parham street. The wife is not expected to live.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—The agreement by which the trolley strike was declared off this morning has been practically repudiated by President Welsh and General manager Beeton who refused to put all the men to work as agreed upon by a portion of the contract of the management at a conference with Mayor Warwick last night. As a result rioting is reported from several localities.

President J. L. Welsh made the following announcement: "We will take all the men we can use. We have 11,000 men whom we must keep. Four thousand five hundred men are on strike. We can take back 3,500 today."

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Herald from Constantinople says: Advice has been received from Arabekir, stating that the Rev. Sir Agaplan, widely known among the Baptists in the United States, has been murdered and his church burned.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—A special from Seattle says that the Turkish complications have made Russia even more desirous of completing her railroad. To accomplish the object she has sent an agent or commissioner to negotiate with American contractors to assist in constructing the great highway. This agent, who is now in Seattle, is Count De Toulance-Luttre, a civil engineer. He is said to be conferring with a local firm with the object in view of letting a contract for the construction of part of the road.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The new Constitution of Utah, which was brought to Washington a week ago by the Utah commissioners, has been examined by the President and Attorney General Harmon, and found to be in all respects in accordance with the terms prescribed in the enabling act. Therefore the President will issue his proclamation January 4th next, declaring Utah a State in the Union.

As the State officers are to assume their duty on the Monday following the admission of the new State, they will be in office January 6th. Attorney General Harmon has telegraphed these facts to the chief justice of Utah, at the request of the President.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—At a late hour tonight the strike situation was apparently unchanged, but the air was