

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### AS TO THE FUTURE.

Germany is on the lookout. If the story from Madrid can be credited, the German ambassador in London has already notified Lord Salisbury that in case of a change in the form of government in the Philippines, Germany would be compelled to "put herself in possession of certain guarantees," which of course means that the kaiser will allow no other power to control the islands unless he be given a valuable share of them. It is also said that Germany would be willing to take the responsibility of governing the whole group and pay the United States a liberal indemnity for the privilege. European nations are beginning to realize that the United States now is a power to be considered in the great international game of politics, and it seems that our own nation, too, is awakening to the responsibility of this position.

It is needless as yet to discuss the disposition of the Philippines. There is time enough for that when the contest is ended. The mind of the American people is not yet made up as to the final arrangement regarding the Spanish colonies. Several senators and congressmen are said to be in favor of the permanent retention of both the Philippines and the West Indian islands, and to take in Hawaii at the same time. It is believed that some of the President's advisers are of the same opinion. Others believe that any deviation from the original policy of the United States to keep out of foreign entanglements is inimical to our best interests. The question is not yet settled. It needs to be debated, and when the arguments shall have been thoroughly weighed on both sides the people will be better able to understand the matter and act accordingly.

This much can be said at this time. The United States cannot allow Germany, or any other foreign power, to dictate her course. The Philippine islands torn loose from the Spanish crown are no longer within the sphere of European domain. The Monroe doctrine never contemplated the recognition of Europe's right to cut up Asia and to almost exclude the United States from commercial advantages with her neighbors across the Pacific. When such measures are contemplated, the only course for this country to take is to maintain the position Providence has given it, and to do that not for selfish purposes but for the good of the nations of the earth.

It is impossible not to read on the pages of United States history that this country has a peculiar mission on earth. From the beginning it has been the standard bearer of human liberty. It has a system of government, which, if carried out in the spirit in which it was framed, must lead to the universal brotherhood of man. In the discussion of the future of this country and the role it must play, it is not necessary to assume that this justly lauded form of government would be something dangerous to our fellow-men suffering in bondage. When the naval forces of the United States shall return from foreign shores flag-bedecked and with strains of music; when the boys now rallying all over the country under the Stars and Stripes shall have seen their glorious banner hoisted far above the emblem of tyranny, this country must recognize the hand of Providence in this, and her statesmen must accept it as their duty to see to it that the possessions wrested from Spain shall obtain a share of that lib-

erty of which the great Republic is the home. How this best can be done is a matter for future consideration, but as to the fact itself there can be no two opinions. And failure to use the power entrusted to us for the good of our fellow-men would result in the ultimate withdrawal of that power.

### A SPANISH SHOT STRIKES.

At this distance and with the lights now before us, it looks very much as if our naval commanders were at times over-venturesome if not somewhat rash. They are hunting continually for a fight and can only get it by bearding the tiger in his jungle, but it seems hardly necessary to give the beast all the chances. If there is a cul de sac containing Spanish ships anywhere, no matter how many of them there may be nor to what extent they may be aided by fortifications and land batteries, our ships are "up and at 'em" regardless of consequences providing, of course, they can effect an entrance at all. This kind of thing shows the native pluck which abounds with the American marine, but there are undoubtedly times when it should be tempered with good, cool judgment.

As a result of our forces taking such large chances, the Spanish have at last succeeded in obtaining somewhat the better of an action. Wednesday afternoon two gunboats and the little torpedo boat Winslow—whose handlers never seem to measure the size or capacity of the enemy—entered Cardenas harbor and engaged the Spanish vessels at anchor, these being heavily flanked by fortifications on both sides of the bay. The entire fire of the Spanish, which altogether must have been terrific, was concentrated upon the Winslow and returned by it and its associates with vigor. Things were going along at a rapid gait and no great harm being done to our side until a solid shot crashed through the wooden side of the little torpedo boat and burst its boiler, making great havoc and killing five men, the first we have lost so far. The Winslow was brought back for repairs and for the proper disposition of the dead and wounded.

A cheer arose from the Spanish forces when it was discovered that at last one of their shots had taken effect. There can be no reasonable objection to such a demonstration, especially when it is considered that those who made it were Spaniards. But there are other days and other occasions close at hand, and exuberance of feeling cannot be sustained without being constantly fed. Spain's position is as hopeless now as before the Cardenas affair; it could not well be more so.

### "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?"

A young scientist of Boston named C. E. Dolbear has been at work for some time on a scheme for the practical application of the theory of wireless telegraphy. He has succeeded in carrying his plans to so successful a stage that he felt justified in asking recently for assistance to enable him to make a practical demonstration of his wonderful invention. This was furnished him by the New York World, which placed a tug and assistants at the inventor's disposal. The experiment was a very interesting one, not only because of the immediate developments, but because of the new era in this department of science fore-

shadowed by it. The result of the test is thus spoken of by that paper:

"In a necessarily limited distance messages were clearly read on The World tug sent by operators on shore who depended wholly upon the radiation of an interrupted submerged electric current. Thus the theory was demonstrated in practice, and it remains for the specialists to perform the working of the system until our ships can communicate with each other or the shore at a distance of fifty or more miles. To do this for the benefit of our navy was, of course, the motive which prompted the World in making the demonstration possible."

It will be remembered that when, after a wearying but ceaseless struggle with Congress, S. F. B. Morse succeeded in obtaining assistance for the construction of a line of telegraph from Washington to Baltimore, he used two wires to make the electrical circuit. Later the inspiration entered the mind of man that two wires were not needed; that by putting the ends in the earth it would fill the place of one of the wires, which it subsequently has done. After a while, when Edison entered the arena and began playing the iconoclast with some of the old-time theories and practices, he showed in a practical way that it was a waste of time and money to let a wire be used but one way at a time, and caused it to work both ways at once; then he invented the quadruplex, by means of which two messages could be sent simultaneously over the same wire in the same direction and two more in the opposite direction. It looks as if such a field for scientific exploit were limitless, and we are now apparently at the threshold of a condition of things in which wire and other electrical conduits will be dispensed with altogether. And of course the end will not be then.

People of this generation know a good deal more than those of the preceding one knew, and those following us will know more than we do. This is the manifest tendency of the human family. The first message sent over Morse's line was, "What hath God wrought?" In contemplating the gradual evolution of Morse's discovery and its status at this time, one is justified in answering, "Only a small part of what He has since wrought and is continuing to bring about through the agency of His children." Peace hath indeed her triumphs which are not only not inferior to those of war, but of vastly more useful consequence to our race.

### FORTUNE IN A KITCHEN.

The experience of Mrs. A. B. Marshall, a young English woman, illustrates what can be done in the way of making a financial success in the most common walks of life. According to the published accounts she has made a fortune with her frying pan. The kitchen has been her Klondike, yielding her better returns than the Alaskan gold fields have given to many of the adventurers gathered there.

A number of years ago—so the story runs—she opened a modest but very practical school of cookery. At first her pupils were few, but gradually her fame spread and women working for employment as cooks came to her for instruction. This necessitated the enlargement of her establishment and finally every one, from duchesses to draymen's wives, came there to see and to learn.

Connected with the school is an intelligence office where the trained cooks are registered and where those needing help can find it. Another part of the business is the supply bureau,