

to crush the rebellion. He succeeded apparently as far as Pinar del Rio was concerned, but only apparently. Military operations during the year continued even in the "pacified" provinces and the Cubans gained one important victory northwest of Bayamo in which the Spanish commander was killed and the beleaguered garrison surrendered. Garcia was the victorious Cuban general. From now on Spain relied for victory, not on her army but on the cold-blooded policy of "concentration." In Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio the agricultural population to the number of 300,000 or more was driven into the cities and rendered destitute. They had no shelter, but little food and hardly any clothing. The death rate among these unhappy human beings soon became appalling. In a few months half of the reconcentrados had died. It was said, of starvation and disease. This condition resulted in protests from the United States and efforts to send relief. Weyler was recalled and General Blanco succeeded him, but the conditions complained of remained.

Early in January, this year, it commenced to be realized in this country that hostilities with Spain were among the possibilities and preparations were made for the emergency. Coast fortifications were strengthened and war material distributed. At all the navy yards work was rushed day and night. On February 15th the Maine was destroyed in Havana harbor, and public opinion charged the responsibility for this to the crime or criminal negligence of Spanish officials. The appropriation by Congress of a war fund of \$50,000,000 followed and then the declaration that Cuba is and ought to be free. It is to carry out this solemn declaration that U. S. troops now are encamped on Cuban soil. There is probably hard work before them, but they are only instruments in the hands of a higher Power, whose decrees must be carried out. May success attend them and new glory be gathered around the starry emblem they are sent to uphold in a strange land.

THE WOMEN AT DENVER.

Mrs. C. E. Allen of this city has entertained the women now gathered at Denver with a speech on the possible influence of woman on legislation. She took the view that very often the results of many years of patient philanthropic labor is lost because evil conditions sanctioned by law stand in the way of most conscientious efforts. She therefore urged the enactment of just laws and pointed out how woman can exercise her influence in this direction. The address was an able one and it was much enjoyed by the sister delegates now in session in the capital of Colorado.

The question of the true relationship between legislation and public morals is one of the greatest importance and it should be understood as far as possible among a people where every citizen is to some extent a legislator. It has been assumed sometimes that every evil can be corrected by appropriate legislation, notwithstanding the fact that many vices have grown in spite of the most Draconic laws until they have compelled the repeal of the laws or rendered them dead letters. Drinking and smoking serve as illustrations. Laws to be effective must be the true expression of the conscientious conviction of the nation; they must be of general application and be administered with impartiality and justice. Whenever any of these

marks fail, the law operates to the injury of public morals. They act as commands given in season and out of season, without any apparent reason and always issued but never enforced. Their effects are demoralizing instead of fostering virtue. It follows that the best influence any man can exert in favor of public morals is that which is at work in private life—in the home, the school, the church. When the individual character is moulded in accordance with the requirements of pure morals, the laws enacted are sure to be good, and even possibly bad laws cannot injuriously affect a community of righteous men and women.

The gathering at Denver is one of general public interest. The ladies there in session represent clubs organized purely for the elevation of woman. There is a wide field before them, comprising education, art, literature, household economics and so on. As they advance on these and kindred lines, their influence directly on those immediately under their care and indirectly on the affairs of the state and the world will be a power for good and irresistible.

THE GLORIOUS DAY.

The "News" recently suggested that the people hereabout engage in an old-fashioned recognition of Independence Day, deeming this a peculiarly appropriate time for such demonstrations. It is perhaps too late for the city officials to act in the matter, and if they did they would be constitutionally inhibited from incurring any expense in furtherance of the project; so it has been deemed best to leave the arrangements in the hands of those who have the time, ability and willingness to carry them out. We learn that a committee has the matter in charge, and that Saltair pavilion has been selected as the most appropriate available place for the ceremonies. A fine program is to be prepared, to be rendered by prominent citizens.

It is probable that most of the cities and towns of the State will observe the day in an appropriate manner, which is all as it should be. The United States is now engaged in a struggle for the independence of one of its prostrate and tyrannized neighbors, and it is a most fitting thing to commemorate the day on which our own independence had its inception.

THE STRONGER POWER.

Once in a while such an expression is heard as that it is shameful that so powerful a nation as the United States should be pitted on common terms against a third-class, bankrupt and crippled country like Spain and be so slow about making the latter feel the superiority. Those who honestly entertain such thoughts must have given the subject quite superficial, if any, consideration; for the conclusion reached, having reference, as it does, to visible power, is wholly illogical and improper. When the case is thoroughly analyzed it will be shown that so far from this country being the stronger military power of the two, Spain was at the outbreak of hostilities in all essential respects decidedly superior. It is not only numbers, resources and capacity that count, even as physical factors; experience, readiness, position and acclimatization have to be taken into the account, and in all these respects the Spaniards were a long way in the lead.

The Spanish navy at the beginning of hostilities was equal if not superior to ours so far as the number and ca-

pacuity of ships were concerned. Spain had the added advantages of a greater army, numerically considered, in Cuba alone than we have yet been able to raise, and all of these were acclimated, toughened, trained, and able to do effective work under such circumstances as would be much more trying to Americans than to them, because our men are more familiar with the comforts and luxuries of life. Spain had and has a greater army in point of numbers in the Philippines than we perhaps will ever have there, the same conditions as in the foregoing case prevailing; and but for the impulsive, determined work of Dewey, which struck the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay like a thunderbolt and electrified the whole civilized world, the enemy would have been today a formidable quantity in that part of the globe. It was, indeed, a question as to what the lion-like commodore would do with his victory after he had won it; he had drawn a prize which was beyond his physical capacity to hold and to which he has so far added nothing, awaiting assistance.

It is quite easy to see that in the matter of visible forces at the outbreak of hostilities, Spain had a long lead. In the ordinary course of things the war should have gone all her way for a while. But it has not gone her way at any time or at any point, because her superiority, as superiority is gauged in advance by the authorities, was utterly unavailing. The ships, the men, the equipments, everything but one thing was in favor of the descendants of Ferdinand and Isabella. That one thing occupies the same relative position to a militant power that the unseen something in man that leaves him lifeless when it departs occupies to the man. He may have muscles of brass, a heart of flint and eyes emitting a glowing fire; but when these are palsied through the departure of the soul, the veriest child is more powerful. It is not, then, the numerical showing, the undoubted courage, the obvious capability, the matchless endurance, the dogged pertinacity nor the want of a certain quality of patriotic purpose; it is the want of a high and holy cause and a lofty, intelligent fealty thereto that makes the Spaniard fight at a disadvantage and makes his performance of duty spiritless, therefore automatic and ineffective.

Look at the difference: The American occupies a land uncursed by hereditary sway and free from that dominion which rules by might alone, a land in which there are no titled classes privileged by reason of their titles to plunder, pillage and devour. He is not only permitted to have an education, but with comparatively few exceptions is compelled to have one, so that he has an intelligent comprehension of his privileges, his duties and his opportunities. He wears no yoke and kneels at any shrine he chooses or none at all if he so desires. He is born with an instinctive love of country and veneration for its institutions that grow with his growth and strengthen with his strength. When a call is made for men and means to prosecute a war in which his country's honor or welfare is involved, more of either than was asked for is ready in the twinkling of an eye, and millions of one and billions of the other are in reserve to be drawn upon when wanted. If those who go to the front should never return, they have the sustaining knowledge with them to the close that they will be tenderly cared for, their names enrolled upon the scroll of heroes who died for principle's sake, and their memories enshrined forever in the hearts of a grateful people. The Spaniard is ignorant. He has lived a life of oppression, of steadfast subjugation; and enforced poverty brings with it enforced submission to the