

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

A PARTY QUESTION.

There are indications that the question of territorial expansion from now on will be made a party issue, with the Democrats committed to isolation and the Republicans to annexation. It will be the subject of oratory and discussion throughout the land, and platforms will be framed with a view to defining what the national policy is, or ought to be.

It is urged on one side that any other policy than isolation would be a departure from the rule established by the fathers, as well as contrary to tradition and to the so-called Monroe doctrine. To extend the American system of government to the inhabitants of the islands of the sea, it is argued, would be to invite "imperialism" to invade our shores. Washington, Garfield and others are being quoted in support of this view.

On the other hand it is pointed out that the farewell address of Washington as to our relations with Europe, explicitly recognizes that there may be exceptions to the general rule; that while it enjoins us from participating in the ordinary vicissitudes of European politics and from making permanent alliances with foreign powers, it does not undertake the impossible task of selecting a boundary beyond which the country can no longer make her own special interests, or the interests of humanity, the paramount object of her care. An isolation that is nothing but a shirking of the responsibilities of high place and great power is, in the language of the former secretary of state, Mr. Olney, "simply ignominious."

A remarkable feature of the discussion is the widespread sentiment in favor of a permanent retention of the islands now the scenes of war, as well as the Hawaiian islands. But it would be a mistake to suppose that this sentiment is one for conquest, land-grabbing and military glory. Among the thoughtful, these notions do not exist. It is simply a natural desire for the proper expansion of the industrial policy which is peculiarly American and in which the nations of the world finally will be blessed, when, as the little stone in Daniel's vision, it has struck the image of the Old World imperialism on its feet of iron and clay and shattered it to the four winds. Under the American policy of industry, new territory has been constantly conquered for the benefit of agriculture, manufacture and commerce. The world's wealth has been added to at a marvelous rate, and millions of the poor in all parts of the world have been given an opportunity to become independent, prosperous and happy. It is this American policy that is now, apparently, to be carried beyond the boundaries of the continent. It is not a question of abandoning the narrow path of the fathers for the wide road of militarism, but to follow that path out to its natural termination. And in so doing, it is by no means necessary to establish an un-American rule of government at home or abroad. Exactly how the Spanish possessions should be governed is a matter for future consideration. At present it is sufficient to know that the substitution of American sovereignty for Spanish tyranny cannot but be beneficial to all concerned. To this country it means a larger navy with correspondingly greater influence in the councils of the nations of the world. It means the construction of the Nicaragua canal and the Pacific cable with the view to enlarged commercial power. To the inhabitants of the Americanized islands it

means prosperity and protection of their rights to enjoy life, liberty and happiness.

"FIGHTING JOE."

The "News" is requested to give a biographical mention of Joseph Wheeler, the Confederate-Federal general who just now is occupying a post of considerable importance and a corresponding amount of danger. We do so with pleasure.

Joseph Wheeler was born on the 10th of September, 1836. Being sent to West Point as a cadet he graduated from the academy in 1859 and was at once assigned to the dragoons. He then put in a year at the practice school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, at the conclusion of which he received the rank of second lieutenant. This position he resigned in April, 1861, whereupon he cast his fortunes with the Southern Confederacy, in the army of which he was made a colonel. He commanded a brigade at Shiloh, and in July, 1862, he was given a cavalry command and devoted most of his time and talents to making things unpleasant for the West Tennesseans. He did considerable fighting there and in Kentucky, and on the 30th of October following he was promoted to a brigadier generalship. He met the late General Rosecrans several times and caused him great loss and infinite annoyance, on one or two occasions destroying the Union commander's supply trains. After the Chickamauga battle, Wheeler as a major general went again to Tennessee and again paid his respects to Rosecrans, cutting off his communication, destroying 1,200 to 1,400 wagons and inflicting a terrible defeat upon the Federal force sent against him. The Union property which he damaged or destroyed during that raid was estimated at \$3,000,000. He was almost continuously in the saddle, and the forces which he could not whip were harassed and impeded at every step. One of his greatest achievements took place in July, 1863, and occupied three or four days, when he fell upon a Union raiding force commanded by Generals George Stoneman, Kenner Garrard and Edward M. McCook. These were defeated with severe losses in killed and prisoners, among the latter being Gen. Stoneman himself. General Sherman doubtless wished Wheeler were in Spain or some other distant place many a time during the march through Georgia, the ubiquitous and tireless Confederate pouncing upon his detached forces continually, preventing them from destroying or capturing property and all the while himself destroying Federal property and supplies to an enormous aggregate amount, and succeeding in breaking Sherman's line of communication. Wheeler became a lieutenant general on Feb. 28, 1865, and continued fighting till the war ended.

Settling down to the ways of peace Gen. Wheeler began the study of law, which, together with the business of planter, he followed until 1880, when he was elected to Congress, taking the seat in December, 1881, but it was subsequently given to William M. Lowe, contestant. A few months later Mr. Lowe died and Wheeler was again elected, was seated and has been there ever since up to the time of his departure for the field. He is not a large man, weighing only some 125 pounds. He is a whirlwind fighter of Napoleonic characteristics, and has doubtless led commands into more actions than any other officer of this

country, living or dead. He has assuredly earned the sobriquet of "Fighting Joe," and we are now all looking confidently for a new and impressive exemplification of his qualities in that line.

MOTHERS' CONGRESS.

The Congress of Mothers, opened in the Assembly Hall last night, June 30, is a gathering of much interest and importance. It is well attended, and the "News" hopes the sojourn in the City of the Saints of the visiting ladies may prove in every respect pleasant and profitable.

A congress of mothers is a comparatively new idea. It is the offspring of the modern ideal of motherhood. Hitherto the development of the child has proceeded according to the promptings of instinct, often in an unsystematic, haphazard way, with much less knowledge on the part of the mother of the physical and mental powers to be prepared for practical use, than that possessed by the engineer relative to the machinery he handles. That time is rapidly passing, though. A mother now understands that education properly commences before the little blue or dark eyes have been opened to the light of the sun. She knows the effect of beautiful surroundings, a morally pure atmosphere, mental calm and repose. She realizes that the little faults of the child very often are but a reflex of the moral light that illuminates the home and the school, for what is the child-soul but a sensitive plate on which impressions are constantly made by the surroundings? She turns with a shudder from the brutally cruel methods of education that were resorted to in order that the position of a citizen in the state might never become any other than that of a "subject," not to say a slave, and she calls to her aid instead the laws of hygiene and domestic science, well knowing that food, water, air, have no less to do with the health of the mind than the strength of the body.

But the new ideal of motherhood is not yet universally accepted or ever fully understood. A mothers' congress, we take it, is held for the purpose of disseminating the gospel of child-training among those on whom the duty rests, actually or prospectively. There can be no more important mission, no work of more practical value to the nation.

THE CHESSBOARD MILITANT.

Now you see it and now you don't, is the way Admiral Camara seems to manage naval affairs, and all things and people that he comes in contact with seem to go that way too. In the first place Camara was to coal up at Port Said, this end of the Suez Canal; then the American consul protested and the necessary permission was withheld; then the Egyptian government definitely and determinedly decided that no more coal than enough to take the fleet back to Barcelona could be taken on shipboard; now comes a dispatch stating that that same government has concluded to let the Spaniards coal up from their own transports in the harbor to as great extent as desired, and here it will probably end.

Egypt is under the suzerainty of Great Britain, which power has undoubtedly either directed or consented to the transaction. What is going on behind the scenes is not yet disclosed, but there must be some sort of understanding. Of course Camara will now proceed, and without accident should reach Manila in about six weeks. He is not a man who lacks in education,