

but because of the precision with which they were placed and their fearful destructive power, the test was pronounced successful.

It seems from descriptions given that the guns, being discharged by pneumatic power, made no noise until the shells reached the object against which they were directed, and exploded. Under such circumstances as these vessels of the Vesuvius type evidently are to prove of value. It still remains to be seen, however, says the Chicago Record, how such a vessel will work under other conditions, and especially where greater activity is required. The mechanism of the Vesuvius is delicate and doubtless might easily get out of order at critical junctures. The vessel carries no armor and consequently could be destroyed by a single well-placed shot from the enemy. But the effects of the discharge of the shells in the neighborhood of Santiago harbor indicate that within its limitations the vessel is likely to prove as effective an engine of destruction as its champions have claimed.

Perhaps the Vesuvius' greatest field of usefulness will be found in clearing harbors of mines, and torpedoes and obstructions, and if this shall prove to be the case, the vessel is in a good place for the exercise of its peculiar qualities right where it is. The news that Sampson could, without danger of being blown up en route, run into the harbor and have that long expected interview with Mr. Cervera, would be very gratifying to people everywhere in this broad land.

SHABBY BUSINESS.

Says a San Francisco paper: "Before leaving Salt Lake City the nineteen recruits of the Utah Cavalry troop, through a mistake were examined by an unofficial surgeon. Yesterday they were re-examined by an army surgeon, and two of them failed to pass."

This relates to a case which is in no sense creditable to the government's agents at the Bay city. Private Mabey of battery B, Utah Volunteers, was brought under the ban by reason of this re-examination and discharged. Nearly a thousand miles from home, with no money paid and no transportation furnished him by those whose duty it was to see to such things, a stranger in a strange land, his case was one that savored strongly of rank injustice. But for the action of his former comrades, who out of their scanty allowance contributed a small sum each, it is hard to tell what would have become of him: by such means enough money was raised to send the ex-private home.

Such things have a tendency to diminish the patriotic fervor everywhere so prevalent, at least at the places from which such victims enlist; and it is sincerely to be hoped that Mabey's case will not be repeated too often.

RUSSIA DOES NOT OBJECT.

The arrival in this country and the formal reception by President McKinley of the new Russian ambassador, Count Cassini, are incidents of peculiar interest at this time. The ambassador is said to be authorized to express the most cordial sentiments toward the United States. In response to an inquiry as to whether Russia was likely, alone or with other powers, to look with disfavor upon the control of the Philippines by the United States, the ambassador said that he did not apprehend any change in the present good relations between the United States and Russia. He added that it seemed to be quite undesirable that

the possession of the Philippines should pass into the hands of England, as that would seriously disturb the equilibrium in the far East.

The count is further quoted as saying that Russia was naturally deeply concerned in any movement affecting the great problem of the far East. The Philippines were to some extent a part or an outpost of the far East, and who was to control them if they passed out of the control of Spain was of interest and importance to Russia. But so far as Russia herself was concerned, Count Cassini said that her sphere of activity was confined to the far East proper, and not to the Philippines and other outlying islands, which could have only an indirect and remote influence in the development of the East.

As far as this account is authentic it indicates that there will be no objection from St. Petersburg to any policy this country may adopt in the Philippines, as long as the islands are not turned over to Great Britain. This should set at rest any doubt that may exist regarding Russia's attitude. There will undoubtedly be some fine diplomatic work done in Washington before long, when Russia's and Great Britain's representatives commence playing for the friendship of the United States.

LET US REASON TOGETHER.

The "News" begs leave to ask the Rev. gentlemen who so diligently endeavor to reduce Mormonism to an absurdity, by quoting, or misquoting, sermons preached years ago under conditions and circumstances that no longer obtain, if they themselves would consider it fair to be judged by sundry expressions found in the religious literature of the earliest stages of their respective religious denominations. Would the Lutherans, for instance, choose to be judged by some of the fiery oratory of the great reformer during the peasant war? Or, not to particularize, would any Christian be judged by some of the teachings of the early fathers, Augustine, for instance? We recommend this matter to the consideration of The Kinsman.

It is gratifying to notice that some of the opponents of Mormonism at last have found that the only legitimate mode of procedure is discussion. Too long they have wielded the weapons of persecution. But in changing the tactics, is it not also necessary to confine the discussion to that only which properly is the subject of controversy? The Church has its standards of faith. Is there in these any doctrine revealed, any practice commanded, that is contrary to the word of God? That is the only question of interest to those who desire to obtain a knowledge of Mormonism, and when the discussion is thus confined to its legitimate sphere, it can be entered into in a true Christian spirit and with profit to those engaged in the inquiry.

THE CADIZ FLEET.

Notwithstanding the announcement that the Spanish so-called Cadiz fleet, under Admiral Camara, has arrived at Port Said, it is not generally believed that its destination is the Philippine islands. The cruise in the Mediterranean may be a ruse to induce the United States to send a few of Sampson's ships over to Spain, when Admiral Camara would return and meet them with a superior force; or there may be some other object to gain by the movement toward the Suez canal. But that Spain really intends to send her only naval force so far away from her own coasts, seems improbable. There are no coaling stations on the route, and to de-

pend on colliers entirely would be to invite disaster.

But even if the Cadiz fleet is intended for Manila, its appearance there would not materially change the situation. It consists of the first-class battleship Pelayo, 9,900 tons displacement, 16 knots speed, 35 guns and 7 torpedo tubes; the armored cruiser Emperador Carlos V, 9,235 tons displacement, 20 knots speed, 26 guns and 6 torpedo tubes; 3 torpedo-boat destroyers with 18 guns, and some transport ships, carrying, it is said, 4,000 men. Against these, Admiral Dewey has the first-class protected cruiser Olympia; the protected cruisers Baltimore, Raleigh and Boston, and the gunboats Concord and Petrel, with a total of 133 guns and 20 torpedo tubes, not to mention the fact that the shore batteries this time would be fired on the Spanish ships by trained marksmen. There would also be the American volunteers to receive the 4,000 Spanish troops and dispute their landing. When all these circumstances are considered, it would seem suicidal for Spain to send her few remaining vessels out of the Mediterranean, leaving her coasts exposed to invasion. In a few days, however, the destination of Camara's squadron can be guessed at with some degree of certainty.

STILL FIGHTING ANNEXATION.

In a recent article in the New York World, on the subject of "Natural and unnatural annexations," the following among other things in a similar vein occurs:

"When the annexation of the Hawaiian and the Philippine islands is proposed the case is entirely different. They are not necessary to us. They are not contiguous. The nearest group is 2,000 and the other 7,000 miles from our Pacific coast, or 5,000 and 10,000 miles from our seat of government. Their population is alien in a sense that none of our immigration has been. They do not fit and cannot be made to fit into our system. They must be governed for a considerable time by some form of despotism."

The conclusion of this excerpt as relates to Hawaii at least, is a palpable non sequitur. Nothing that precedes it leads up to it and it is furthermore unsupported by existing facts. The islands are not now and have not been for some time under a despotism in any form, because of being controlled by Americans. It is hardly to be expected that if Hawaii were politically a part of the United States the government there would be less liberal than it now is, while all reasonable conclusions point to its being made more so. It has been repeatedly shown that the islands must fall into some nation's lap in a short time because of their incapability of maintaining a separate government. The opponents of annexation then say, let a protectorate be established. This would mean as great an expense, as much responsibility and accountability and less of beneficial results than if the islands belonged to us in toto. Besides, it always is well to make the most of anything whether we like it or not; and those people might as well make up their minds to the fact, however unwelcome, that Hawaii is about to become one of our national households.

A SPLENDID STRUGGLE.

The battle of La Quasino was a hot one. It receives its chief distinction from three important events: It was the first regular battle ever fought on land between American and Spanish troops; it developed the fact that there is no such thing as raw American sol-