

The Chronicle presents this view of the subject:

"No more than individuals can nations dispossess themselves of property to escape the payment of their obligations, and with two nations at war with each other it is at its peril that a third lends itself to schemes to defraud the victor of any of the fruits of his triumph. A case in point is presented in the circumstances attending the purchase of Louisiana from France in the beginning of the century. War between Great Britain and France had become plainly inevitable, and each was awaiting a favorable opportunity to strike. Partly to replenish his war chests, but mainly because Louisiana could not be successfully defended in the approaching struggle, Napoleon hastily sold that territory to the United States, while twenty British war ships were idling in the Gulf of Mexico with instructions to seize the mouth of the Mississippi with the first note of war."

England soon after declared war to prevent further transfers. The sale was, of course, very disappointing to the British government, but there was no trace of double dealing on the part of the United States, while France being at peace with all other nations, the act of selling could not properly be held as an unfriendly one. Had the declaration been made before the transaction, the matter might have taken on a greater aspect.

Germany would undoubtedly show her wisdom wiser by keeping out of the pending difficulty between this country and Spain. Probably she will, but possibly she will not.

REDEEM HAWAII.

The House of Representatives in adopting the resolution providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, certainly met the expectations of a great majority of the American people. The measure was passed by a vote of 209 to 91. All indications now are that the Senate, too, will adopt the resolution with an overwhelming majority and without spending much time on the debate. The opinion is general that to the Hawaiian Islands ought to be extended the protecting care of the United States government. It is believed to be a military as well as a commercial necessity.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, in addressing the Senate on the question, voiced the sentiment of the opposition. He referred to the population as unfit for citizenship in this country, and to the policy of annexation as contrary to the Constitution and the history of our country. But to the latter of these arguments, it has been replied with considerable force that it can be no more contrary to our institutions and antecedents to annex Hawaii than it was to acquire Alaska, and as to the former objection, that the inhabitants are unworthy of American citizenship, it should be sufficient to say that on that point an opinion can better be formed after they had been given a chance to prove themselves worthy or unworthy of political liberty. We believe the same objection has been raised, without ground, against people nearer at home, who have knocked at the door of the nation for admission.

We believe the islanders have proved themselves an intelligent, progressive race, capable of grasping the intricacies of modern civilization in a remarkably brief period of time. They are placed at a disadvantage, being crowded to the wall almost by the representatives of other races that overrun their country. It is high time for the United States, now engaged in the magnificent enterprise of looking into the condition

of the inhabitants of the islands of this hemisphere, to include the Hawaiians in the policy of humanity. If they need the strong arm of a great government to protect them from intruders, whose ultimate aim is their oppression, perhaps annihilation, we cannot be silent spectators without violating the sacred trust that is ours.

The assumption that annexation would mean entanglement with foreign nations, is not well founded. No European country has even a semblance of right, from an international point of view, to object to a free country in the Pacific voluntarily joining the Union of states. It is not to be presumed that any of them would enter such a protest. But even if, contrary to expectation, such a protest should be heard, this country will always find it a safe course to follow out its destiny, faithful to the principles that guided the founders of the Republic and caused them, as the instruments in the hands of Providence, to raise the ensign of liberty for the nations of the world. No mistake can be done if that work is carried to its logical consequences in the spirit in which it was commenced.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

At last there is some news that is gratifying and interesting. The departments at Washington are again in cable communication with Sampson's fleet, and the invading army is ready to disembark at whatever point has been decided upon, doubtless Guantanamo. The restoration of communication was brought about by fishing up the outward end of the French commercial cable and attaching instruments thereto; but the terms on which such a concession was granted were that both the belligerents must have the right to the telegraphic service. This would seem to be only fair, and now whenever any of the Spanish forces want to send a dispatch anywhere, just let them come along to Admiral Sampson's improvised cable station and be accommodated.

The safe arrival of the troops is a matter of much more consequence. It will probably require two or three days for the disembarkation to be completed, and then with but little delay the word of command "On to Santiago" will be given. It is now known that new defensive works have been constructed and old ones repaired and strengthened; also that some if not all of Cervera's ships have been dismantled so far as armament is concerned, to strengthen the fortifications about the doomed city. This practically removes all of such ships from the contest and makes the fight chiefly if not altogether a land one, a circumstance which it would seem should simplify matters greatly since attacking men can fight defending men, even when the former are exposed and the latter under cover, to much better advantage than they can fight warships.

An estimate of the force which will eventually be hurled against the ramparts of Santiago would of necessity be more or less inaccurate and to that extent misleading; but with the insurgent forces and such marines as Sampson can let go for the occasion, fully 25,000 well armed men should be there. This should be an ample force if well supplied with artillery, which presumably it is, although nowhere near so well as the Spaniards are, so that what they lack in numbers they make up for in that way. It is not to be expected that there will be any direct assaults made upon the city for a while, not till by hammering and pounding at the gates the enemy becomes tired and weakened.

It is desperate work that is on hand, but it was such work that was con-

tracted for. It is in the right hands to insure its being carried out in proper form, too. No future event is more certain, so far as human judgment can determine anything, than the early capture of Santiago de Cuba. That will be the rising of the curtain on the act which closes with the grand finale. That it may not be long delayed is the wish of all people in our land who deplore bloodshed and wholesale destruction and desire peace to resume its wonted sway.

SPANISH CHARACTERISTICS.

The Spanish are a peculiar race. The better classes have almost a monopoly of the education existing among the people, and when on terms of peace with all mankind, they are affable and hospitable. All this seems to be set aside and count for naught when there is a fight going on, and it does not matter much whether it be one of those brutal and degrading spectacles known as a bull fight or a death struggle with a foreign power; either event appeals to that portion of the Spanish that is utterly irrepressible—a fondness for savagery. This, as previously suggested, leads the upper grades of Spanish society as much as the canaille to overlook if not actually to trample upon the amenities which elsewhere obtain among civilized people. Even ladies of high station attend and enjoy bullfighting; so do children of all ages and conditions, and out of such a state of affairs a great deal of good cannot come.

Captain General Blanco, who is and for a short time longer, will be the chief executive functionary of the island of Cuba, is a striking case in point. Before war had been definitely decided upon, he and General Lee used to visit each other in quite an unconventional manner and enjoy such occasions as much as though they were not officials at all, but the best kind of old friends. The declaration of war made no difference to the American, so far as personal feelings were concerned, but it was not so with the Spaniard. The consul went to the Captain General's palace as he was leaving in order to shake hands and say good-bye; but all traces of gentility and good breeding had vanished from the latter's code of etiquette, and he boorishly sent word to the general that he was too busy to see him. As the general made his way to the landing to embark for home he made the remark that he thought Blanco would have more time at his disposal the next time he called, and assuredly such will be the case.

This incident illustrates one phase of the Spanish character spoken of; another is shown in Blanco's latest freak regarding flags of truce. The white flag in all ages and all places except where barbarism has sway has been treated with the utmost respect, this not only as a token of a temporary suspension of hostilities in order that negotiations may be carried out, but because of the signal which it conveys to an enemy that he is no longer opposed. Blanco proposes to set this aside entirely and restore the code barbaric by firing on all craft coming within six miles of his defenses, whether such craft bear the United States flag or a white one. In this he shows himself to be a true Spaniard, not only because of the savagery of his nature which the promulgation of such an order discloses, but because of the lack of judgment and forethought which are thereby exhibited. If the captain general were less Spanish and more Saxon, he would not permit his fevered blood and vexed spirit to control his judgment so completely as not to consider the other side in the game he is playing or proposing to play. There are two par-