

described as transplanted domesticity, and their Salt Lake engagement added something to what was previously a world-wide reputation. It was followed by other visits, and during one of these the daughter took ill and passed away. It was a sad shock to the father, but the stage had become his field of action so irresistibly that he kept on playing and it may be said that he died in the harness.

Mr. Couldock was born at Long Acre, London, on the 26th of April, 1815. He played on the provincial and occasionally the metropolitan stages of Great Britain until 1849, when he came to this country with Charlotte Cushman's company, and here he remained. He died in New York November 26th (Sunday). His son, S. Y. Couldock, alone survives him.

PEACE NOW ASSURED.

The announcement that Spain has accepted the American terms of peace as regards the Philippine islands, though late in coming, is satisfactory to the American people. Peace and tranquillity are now secured and the work of reconstruction can be commenced in earnest. It will be a long and tedious work to repair what is left after centuries of misrule in the Spanish colonies, but the result will justify the outlay and the labor of the American nation.

In Europe, if seems, the greatest importance is attached to the announcement that the Philippine islands are to be opened for the free commerce of the world. It is believed this policy was adopted in order to disarm European hostility, but the result of it may be a better understanding between France and Italy as an offset to Anglo-Saxon free trade arrangements. In France it is being recognized that the trouble with Great Britain originated in a desire to shut out from the French colonies all foreign powers and it is supposed the open-door policy in the Philippines may necessitate a change of front on the part of France.

These are speculations, though. The main fact is that the war is over and that the object for which it was commenced has been gained. The result of the most remarkable victories in the history of war have been secured by diplomacy almost as remarkably successful as the battles preceding it. Spanish rule is ended in this hemisphere and the people so long under the iron heel of oppression are free to work out their own salvation.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

Considerable interest centers in the forthcoming message to Congress next month. It is expected the President will outline the policy of the government regarding the former Spanish colonies, a matter of vital importance to the nation.

There will be a difference of opinion both with regard to Cuba and the Philippines. At present there is a strong sentiment in favor of the establishment of an independent Cuban republic. That would probably lead to ultimate annexation to the United States, just as the proclamation of a Hawaiian republic did, for the new Cuban republic would soon have to face financial and other problems which would be capable of no other satisfactory solution. And such union would take place without friction, for the Cuban people would soon learn that as a state of the great American Republic, Cuba would retain her sovereignty and not be reduced to vassalage.

The Philippine question is perhaps more intricate. The problem is to find

a suitable form of colonial government, consistent with the powers conferred by the Constitution and at the same time calculated to educate the inhabitants of the islands for self-government. Possibly the President is not yet prepared to announce the details of a plan for the government of the archipelago. Then there are the Hawaiian and Porto Rican questions to attract the attention of the country.

It is not expected that Congress during the short session will be called upon to consider all the questions resulting from the late war, but it is supposed the President will announce the policy of the administration and therefore the message is looked forward to with intense interest.

INTERESTING PRODUCTION.

It will be of interest to the readers of the "News" to learn that Dr. Joseph Parry, who was lately here, as adjudicator of the Eisteddfod, has concluded his work on a cantata entitled "The Pilgrimage of the Pioneers." The score, or words, of the composition are from the pen of Prof. Evan Stephens, but the music will be the production of the eminent gentleman above named, and a joint production of such authors must of a surety need but little pre-natal praise. The subject is a heroic one, one that has been variously treated, but never before, so far as present information goes, as either a dramatic or musical theme. In the form of a cantata it enters somewhat largely into both realms, albeit by no means an operative creation.

An extended mention of the ground-work and development of the cantata appears in another part of this paper, and it will be found worthy of a perusal. It is a matter of pride that we have so much of musical ability and appreciation in our midst; and its every development toward a more advanced stage is entitled to the best encouragement. The production of "The Pilgrimage" will be looked forward to with no little interest.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The German emperor is now said to have decided to take an active interest in the Dreyfus case. The Russian emperor has also quietly made inquiries and become convinced that the unfortunate army officer is the victim of a conspiracy, and that justice demands his vindication. In Russia the Dreyfus question is now regarded as an international one, and the advice of the official press to France is to settle it, because the ally of the French republic cannot indefinitely ignore a matter of such importance.

The secret of the interest taken in Dreyfus, by the Russian ruler, is probably due to the fact that it is to be feared that a revolution may break out. France, it is well known, has failed to put into full practice the principles of a republican government. There still remains a claimant to the throne of France who may have the courage to put in his claim, and there are enough supporters to make the streets of Paris once more ring with the cry of "Vive Napoleon!" Such an experiment would undoubtedly prove unsuccessful, but Russia cannot, under the present circumstances, contemplate the possibilities of a revolutionary outbreak in France with equanimity.

The present revolt in sentiment, in favor of Captain Dreyfus, is, however, more particularly due to the efforts of his devoted wife. After the condemnation of her husband she went to Berlin and implored the emperor for some expression that the German government never received any information as

charged. Her request was granted and the imperial word was given. Then she proceeded to St. Petersburg, and appealed to the czar. This resulted in a most severe rebuke to the French government through the Law Journal of St. Petersburg, in which which the writer said:

"The trials of Dreyfus and Zoia could not otherwise than deeply distress the true friends of France. The first of these trials presented a variety of improbabilities and irregularities, of which the most flagrant was the production before the judges alone in the court-martial itself of a secret document by order of the military authorities. This astonishing infraction of the rules of all correct procedure renders the condemnation of Dreyfus null and void. Guilty or not guilty, he has not been fairly tried. They have simply degraded and imprisoned him according to administrative procedure in countries where despotism reigns. It is the bringing back again of lettres de cachet and of the Bastille, under the pretext, it is true, of subserving reasons to state, as if that was not the pretext which shielded the most iniquitous acts of the ancient regime."

Madame Dreyfus next appealed to the pope, the king of Italy and the queen of Spain. Each of these expressed a friendly interest in the case. She never tired of hunting up proofs of the innocence of her husband. The re-opening of the case, which, it is hoped, will end in the declaration of his innocence, is due to her devoted efforts. May her victory, so well earned, be complete!

A PHILIPPINE PUBLICATION.

"Freedom" is the unhackneyed and appropriate title of a bright and lively American weekly paper published at Manila, Philippine Islands. It does not detract in the least from the interest taken in the far-away publication to see the name of the "News" special correspondent, Don C. W. Musser, at its masthead as editor, along with that of Frank T. Hines as manager. The paper has eight pages of four broad columns each, these being well filled with editorial comment, local events, miscellaneous, advertising, etc. In the latter respect the patronage is very good, some of it relating to American enterprises, but the majority pertaining to Manila and Cavite.

Freedom has got far enough along to use a Spanish sentence here and there. Its introductory editorial is headed "Buenos Dias" (good day), and some of the "ads" are wholly in Spanish. To the air of "Marching Through Georgia" appears an original song under the caption of "The Battle Song of Utah." Extended mention is made of the death of President Woodruff. A high moral ground is taken, as is shown by the following editorial extract:

"In our humble way we will endeavor to champion the cause of the oppressed and downtrodden, to lift virtue and honor up, to exalt, as much as it will be in our power, every laudable and noble trait of character no matter where, or in whomsoever found, and at the same time, and we wish to be emphatic on this point, we will castigate, with our full energies, and all the energies that we can summon from other sources, vice and lawlessness in all its forms."

"Naturally we have great respect for that magnificent body of men who compose Uncle Sam's army of occupation here in Manila, and among whom we are proud to be numbered. We are ever ready to doff our hats to men who have done the blue in Old Glory's cause, but they must be men. We think the army uniforms of God's