

that his wife has preferred starting out on a concert tour to remaining at home.

In explanation of this curious fact it is suggested that the daily intercourse of the crew with one another in the Fram during their isolated position in the polar ice became indescribably monotonous and tiresome. There was no change of scenery, nothing to relieve the depression, and one by one they were observed to steal away from the sad company of the others, only to return when compelled to do so, for obvious reasons. It is more than hinted at, that the departure of Mr. Nansen and his lone companion from the Fram and their failure to return to the vessel—a circumstance which so far has not been satisfactorily explained—was due to their irresistible desire to escape human company which had become by that time about unendurable to them, or at least so objectionable that they preferred the dangers of a journey across the ice to the association with human beings under the circumstances in which they were placed, and this strange apathy they have not yet been able to overcome. They are said to take but little pleasure in society, and prefer retirement and solitude.

The old saying that familiarity brings contempt seems to be verified in this instance, and the heroes of the Fram simply include in the impressions formed by the familiarity with one another all the rest of their kindred. Probably this is only a temporary disease or the mild, less dangerous than some other conditions which Nansen's foresight enabled the travelers to pass through without the slightest injury to soul or body. But it certainly is a curious phenomenon.

#### ARBITRATION DIPLOMACY.

There is no doubt that President Cleveland and Secretary Olney achieved a triumph in diplomacy in the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States, in which the former was won over to a position which, a few months before, there was a possibility of engaging in a war to oppose. But it was hardly thought, upon the first announcement of the signing of the treaty, that it covered the ground so broadly as now seems to be the case. Its effect, as now understood, is that whereas the British government was thought to be ready a short time ago to antagonize in the Venezuela case the views expressed by President Cleveland on the Monroe doctrine, even to the extent of going to war, that great European power now pledges itself to combine with the United States in maintaining the doctrine, by fighting in behalf thereof, if necessary. This alliance will cause European nations to take a view of the doctrine different to that heretofore expressed, and much more respectful to the opinions held by this government. The alliance effected by the treaty also emphasizes the fact that the interests of the two great English-speaking nations are in operating harmoniously instead of otherwise. Of course this was accomplished through a

recognition of the fact that the United States, unprepared as it is alleged to be for foreign war, still is in a position to be regarded by the great nations in Europe as so formidable a foe that it is better to make friends than risk the possibility of a quarrel. With England and the United States together on the Monroe doctrine, due deference will now be given thereto by other nations; and as for any fears Russia may have, the Muscovite may rest assured that this government has no more disposition to encroach on his rights and friendship than on that of any other power. With the outcome of the whole negotiations, it may be regarded as probable that while President Cleveland and Secretary Olney may be differed from greatly as to the wisdom of some things they have done, yet they will be remembered in the nation's history as having displayed in this case superior ability as statesmen and diplomats.

#### A LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

Now that the State Legislature has entered upon its session for 1897, the law-making body and the public are face to face with the important work that falls to the legislative representatives of the people. One of the responsibilities that rests upon the Legislature, and claims much public attention because of the public interest to be conserved thereby, is the selection of a United States senator—the first from this State who is to enter upon a full term of six years. The Legislature being principally Democratic, that party will have the senator, and the matter of the selection is a party question. As to much of the legislation that will be enacted for the State, there probably will be a comparatively small amount of party issues involved. But on the senatorship the people have decreed by their votes that it shall come from the Democratic side, hence that political party, through the members of the Legislature chosen from its ranks, is to make and be responsible for the selection. Upon this subject our morning contemporary, the Herald, the chief Democratic newspaper in the State, made in its Sunday issue some pointed suggestions that wise representatives of its party will not pass over in haste, since they indicate the high place which every great political organization in a state should occupy in choosing a national representative. After calling attention to the date when balloting for senator will begin—on Tuesday, January 19th—to the qualifications of the candidates and the national policy the successful one is expected to endorse, and to the efforts of the opposition party press to dictate who shall be chosen, the Herald says:

In making a selection the legislators should and will give a respectful hearing to the arguments urged by the friends and supporters of each candidate, but let their decision be made upon the merits of the candidates, their records in the past, their capacity for usefulness in the future. He is the best man for senator who will best serve Utah in the Senate. The Legislature, and no one else, will have to say who that man is. In arriving at their decision, let the Legislature consider every

question, and weigh all. It should be borne in mind that the future is of more importance than the present; that today soon becomes yesterday.

It is a grave responsibility that rests upon the Democratic Legislature, but that it will be met as it should be no Democrat doubts. The interests of the Democratic party and the State are greater than the claims of any candidate; they must receive first consideration. When these have been duly considered, let the Legislature elect as United States senator that man who will best represent and forward them. And whoever he may be, a united Democracy will stand behind him and the Legislature that elected him and hold up their hands.

#### THE CUBAN SITUATION.

The dissatisfaction said to be prevalent in Spain as to the slowness of General Weyler's progress in Cuba does not appear altogether reasonable, when the situation on the island is considered. Since the death of Maceo very little is being done by the insurgent, and this is probably due to the fact that they have no great leaders left, both Gomez and Garcia being too old for the work in which they are engaged.

It is probably not true that Maceo was slain while meeting the Spaniards for a conference; it is more likely that he endeavored to cross the trocha and that his plans were betrayed by somebody, perhaps by the now famous Zertucha, but whatever were the circumstances under which the mulatto general was slain, it is certain that his death was a paralyzing blow to the cause of the Cubans, and, from a Spanish point of view, General Weyler should be entitled to much credit for what he has accomplished so far. Rumors are already afloat that Gomez contemplates opening negotiations for peace through the aid of the Washington government, and if these rumors should prove correct, it is evident that he considers the cause about lost.

The Spaniards now outnumber the Cubans about ten to one. They hold every city in the island and through the military lines of defense have cut off communication between the different provinces. They guard the coast, are well armed and equipped in every respect. It would be strange indeed should they not succeed in overpowering the enemy fighting against such odds. Should the Cubans be defeated, their present struggle will at all events be recorded as one of the most heroic in this century for human liberty.

It would seem that true friendship for the Cuban patriots at this time would manifest itself best by ascertaining the real status of affairs on the island, and if it is found to be hopeless, by endeavoring to put an end to the cruel civil strife, in which atrocities are committed on both sides, not at all in accordance with nineteenth century civilization. In any way to aid the prolongation of a hopeless contest, in which men, women and children are falling victims to unbridled passion, is inconsistent with the attitude demanded by true sympathy for the cause of Cuba Libre.