New York Office, 40 Potter Building.

per month.
Saturday Quintuple Sheet Star, \$1 per year, with
foreign postage added, \$3.00.
(Entered at the Po.t. Office at Washington, D. C.,
as sec md-class mail matter.)

Z All mail subscriptions must be paid in advance.
Rates of advertising made known on application.

# e Avening Star

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1898-TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. No. 14,050.

TWO CENTS.

France or Austria, to go to the assistance of Spain in such a conflict.

The preparations for war by this government are being made with increased energy, and the opinion is almost universal, in Congress that the recognition of the independence of Cuba will follow soon after the report on the Maine disaster is promulgated.

The suggestion of the purchase of Cuban

The suggestion of the purchase of Cuhan independence meets with very general disapproval in Congress, and it is not believed

Spanish Diplomatic Subtlety.

Observers of international affairs perceiv in the simultaneous appearance of the in-

terviews with President Peral of the Span-ish board of inquiry into the Maine disaster

and with the new Spanish minister, Pole

a striking illustration of the diplomatic

a striking illustration of the diplomatic subtlety of the Dons. There is no doubt felt in the minds of those familiar with the policies that have been directed by the authorities at Madrid that the announcements of President Peral and Minister Pelo were influenced directly by the Spanish government with the intention of still further complicating the vexatious problems now confronting the United States and Spain.

and Spain.

The advices from Havana received since the wreck of the Maine which related to the work of the Spanish divers showed that the latter were too poorly equipped and too

GEN. SUNG IS BELLICOSE.

Chinese Commander at Port Arthur Will Hold His Forts.

TACOMA, Wash., March 12.-The North

China Herald says that a prominent Chi-

nese officer attached to the staff of Gen-

eral Sung at Port Arthur, in writing to a

brother officer at Shanghai, stated that, af-

ter a council of war, the venerable general

decided to hold the forts at all hazards

and without orders from Pekin in case any

foreign power attempted to seize them.

and Spain.

that the President entertains the idea.

## NO WORD HAS COME

Maine Court of Inquiry.

### IS IGNORANT OF ITS VERDICT

No Better Posted Than the Humblest Citizen.

REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF WORK

White House.

The President has received no intimation of what the court of inquiry into the Maine disaster will report. York. The President has not had a word be known as the department of the lakes, the trend of the testimony or the m. opinions of the members of the court. The President, it can be stated furcoming to obtain any advance information as to the findings, as he desires that the court's verdict shall be above all suspicion of being influenced. Upon the verdict of that Park) and the territory of Alaska, with court will probably hang momentous action—action on which it is desired nation, but of the world.

Secretary Long, Secretary Alger, ed stories of advanced information being received as utterly false, and as having no foundation.

The President today feels as keen an interest in what the board will report as the humblest citizen of the country, and today expressed to the cabinet his deep interest. He is at sea as much as anybody.

It is not denied by prominent visitors to the White House that each man has his belief as to what the report of the board will show, and it is the Guir. thought that on these expressions of

findings. Reporting to the President.

There was a long conference at the White House today, the participants being the President and Secretaries Alger, Long and Gage. When these officials arrived, shortly after 10 o'clock, the President entered the adjoining room, where had assembled a number of congressional visitors, and, shaking hands with each visiter, said he would be engaged for a good while and would be unable to see any one in detail. The conference with two of the cabinet

officials continued for about two hours. Secretary Long did not remain more than half of that time. Secretary Long was accompanied by Commander Bradford, chief of the equipment bureau of the Navy Department. The President had asked for a report from the equipment bureau and this was furnished by the Secretary and commander. Details of everything, even to the supply of coal, were given, and the condition presented was satisfactory. All this happened just a few minutes before the presentation of the Spanish minister.

Work of the War Department. After the departure of Secretary Long the President received a detailed report from Secretary Alger as to what is being done in the War Department. General Alger went to the White House by request to make this report. The President takes a keen interest in these matters and listened attentively to an explanation of the War Department's ideas of what is necessary to

The reception by the President of reports from the War and Navy Departments indicates how closely he is keeping in touch with the preparations throughout the coun-

#### Fortifying the Tortugas.

At the close of Secretary Alger's report a discussion followed, Secretary Gage taking part, in regard to fortifying the Dry Tertugas. It is now a quarantine station, in charge of the Treasury Department. Secretary Gage will consent to turning the island over to the War Department if it is thought advisable to use it as a fortified place. The matter was left undecided, open to a decision to be hereafter reached.

The National Defense Appropriation. Secretary Gage discussed the subject of money from the Cannon resolution. The President is anxious that the public shall krow in the future what was done with every penny of the money now being spent and to be spent For that reason it has been-decided that Secretary Gage will keep a separate account of the Cannon appropriation. The expenditures will not be mixed up with the ordinary expenses of the government and of the War and Navy Departments.

In the future, with the expenses open to any one for investigation, there will be no opportunity for political capital. The cabinet officers who took part in the

conference said to a Star reporter that there is absolutely nothing new in the situation. They emphatically state that the administration has no knowledge of

what the board of inquiry will report.

The New Military Departments. The War Department is making every ef-The President Not Informed by the fert to execute the changes in the great military departments announced in an order issued by Maj. Gen. Miles today. The important change made by the order is the creation of the new department of the gulf by the combination of the old department of Texas with the southern portion of the department of the east. The other changes made are in the direction of rectifying the lines of the central western departments so as to make them more symmetrical and easily accessible in all portions from their respective central headquarters. For this reason the state of Ohlo, for many years attached to the department of the cast, has been thrown into the department of the Misuri, which now rejoices in the new name of the department of the lakes, a change of name made, it is said at the War Department, for purely sentimental reasons. The southwestern states included in the department of the Dakota have been transferred to the department of the Platte, while to maintain the present proportions of this department the northern section has been thrown into the department of Dakota. No changes have been made in the department of the Columbia, the de-Cabinet Members Assemble at the partment of California or the department of Colorado.

#### Order of Reorganization.

The following is the general order reorganizing the military departments: "By direction of the President, the following changes are made in the territorial ACTIVITY CONTINUES limits, designation and headquarters of geographical departments:

"1. The department of the east will embrace the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, with headquarters at Governor's Island, New

from any man directly or indirectly to consist of the states of Wisconsin, Michconnected with the court, either as to Tennessee, with headquarters at Chicago,

"3. The department of Dakota will embrace the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and so much ther, would consider it highly unbequarters at St. Paul, Minn.

"4. The Department of the Columbia will embrace the states of Washington, Oregon, dano (except so much of the latter as is embraced in the Yellowstone National headquarters at Vancouver barracks, Washington.

"5. The Department of California will to have the approval not only of this embrace the states of California and Nevada, with headquarters at San Francisco,

"6. The Department of the Colorado will Secretary Gage, Representative much thereof as is embraced in the Yellowembrace the states of Wyoming (except so Dingley and others close to the Pres- stone National Park), Colorado and Utah, ident today condemned the publish- and the territories of Arizona and New Dexico, with headquarters

7. The Department of the Platte will embrace the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Misterritory and the territory of Oklahoma, with headquarters at Omaha, Neb.

"8. A department is hereby established to be known as the Department of the Guif, to consist of the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippl, Louisiana and Texas, with headquarters at

"The Departments of the Missouri and of Texas are hereby abolished. "The records of the Department of the Missouri will be transferred to the Department of the Lakes, and those of the De-

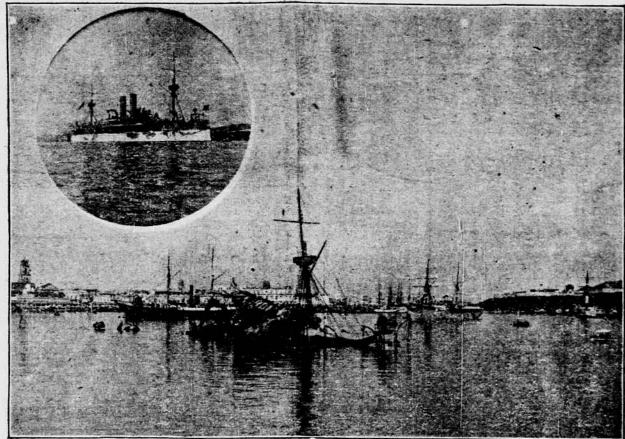
partment of Texas to the Department of "Maj. Gen. John R. Brooke is assigned to mere belief have been founded stories Lakes, and Brig. Gen. William M. Graham the command of the Department of the that the administration knows of the to the command of the Department of the Guif. The officers of the several staff departments now on duty in the Departments of the Missouri and Texas are assigned to like duties in the Departments of the Lakes

and of the Gulf, respectively. "The travel required under these orders is necessary for the public service."

#### The Selection of Atlanta.

Senator Bacon of Georgia was at the War Department today and expressed his gratification that Georgia had been made the center of the new department, with headquarters at Atlanta. This step, Mr. Bacon said, was due entirely to military considerations, and no personal or political motives had figured in the transaction. Heretofore there had been only one military center along the Atlantic, namely, that at New York, but the present condition of affairs made it apparent from a military standpoint that it was desirable to have another center on the South Atlantic. As a result, the interior military center, heretofore known as the department of Texas, had been moved eastward and centered at Atlanta. The same commander, Brig. Gen. Graham, will be in command at Atlanta as had previously een in command of the department of Texas. Some of the War Department officials apprehended that this move would meet with political opposition, and that the efforts of the department would be overcome, and the order changed so as to re-establish the department of Texas. Senator Bacon said, however, there was no fear of such a return to the old system, as the military exigency was so self-evident that patriotic impulses would overcome any feeling of personal or political pride in

Gen. Wilson Returns. Brigadier General John M. Wilson, chief of engineers of the army, returned coday after a trip of over 3,000 miles, which he accomplished inside of one week. Naturally his visit to southern fortified points, where extensive fortification work is in progress, has excited much comment. General Wilson declined, however, to discuss in any way this phase of his trip. It is understood that he visited Cumberland river. St. John's river and the works at Tampa and Key West, Fla. The inspections of the Cumberland and the St. John's rivers were in connection with river and harbor improvements, the former being the point where Captain Carter's alleged irregularities occurred. General Wilson spent a day at Key West and another day at Tampa, but the nature of his inspections is not disclosed. While at Key West he met a number of the officers of the United States fleet concentrated there, and heard the usual comment on the cause of the disaster to the Maine, which, however, was purely speculative. He did not go to Tortugas, notwithstanding the reports current while he was in the south that he was ex-



HAVANA HARBOR AND THE WRECK OF THE MAINE.

having hurried plans for its fortification from a tour of duty on a foreign station, put into effect.

Transforming the Auxiliary Cruisers. The bureau of construction of the Navy Department finds itself exceptionally well prepared for any emergency work that it may be called upon to perform in connection with the auxiliary cruisers. It is due to an organization which in ordinary times is so arranged that the force can be made speedily available for emergency demands. It is said that less than an hour's work would be required in the office here to compiete all the plans for the transformation of two of the best ships on the Atlantic into auxiliary cruisers.

The work of reconstruction could be accomplished with like dispatch probably at the League Island navy yard. At that point there is a naval constructor and an an ple force of draughtsmen.

Work on the battle ship Alabama is now in progress there, but there is no present prespect of completing her. The large force of men could be withdrawn from the Alabama and set at work on the auxiliary cruisers. It is not doubted also that the 'ramps' yards would give the government very facility in the way of workmen at

The same readiness for quick work of construction exists at Newport News and at Norfolk. At Newport News there is a naval constructor, three assistants and hirty draughtsmen ready to begin work of this character at any time. The large deck at that point gives an additional facilsouri, Kansas and Arkansas, the Indian ity. At Norfolk the construction department has an effective force ready to begin work at any time. Thus far the work on the auxiliary fleet has not begun, but it is a source of satisfaction at the Navy Depertment to know that ample facilities are ready on short notice whenever this branch of work is required. Vessels Under Construction.

The latest report of the chief of bureau of construction of the Navy Department in regard to the condition of vessels now under construction shows them to be completed to the following extent: Battle ships Kearsarge and Kentucky, 56 per cent; ilinois, 43 per cent; Alabama, 43 per cent. and Wisconsin, 35 per cent. Gunboats-Princeton, 93 per cent. Torpedo boats-Rodgers, 92 per cent; Rowan, 91 per cent; Dahlgren, 37 per cent; Craven, 35 per cent Farragut, 52 per cent; Davis, 71 per cent; Fox, 69 per cent; Morris, 65 per cent; Mackenzie, 85 per cent; McKee, 62 per

boat-Plunger, 66 per cent. Patriots for Revenue.

cent; Stringham, 12 per cent, and Golds-

borough, 2 per cent. Submarine torpedo

The War Department officials are annoyed at communications sent to bidders for furnishing supplies of various kings by various persons, representing themselves to be managers of commercial newspapers, and offering material assistance to the department if an advertisement is inserted in the paper. One of these communications addressed to the bidder suggests to him that the writer could help him in future contract business because he is a Washington newspaper man, acquainted with the chiefs of the bureaus, and with senators and representatives, and could ask with good grace certain favors that might be desired, all of which he would do if an advertisement were given for the newspaper. The officials think that contractors should be warned against the offers of all such persons, as their claims are absolutely ridiculous, without the least foundation is fact, to which no attention whatever should be paid.

Cruise of the Oregon.

In making preparations for the possibilities of the future, the Navy Department has by no means overlooked the strategic defense of the Pacific coast. To properly guard this important seaboard it has been found necessary to send an advance guard some distance down the southern Pacific ocean. The battle ship Oregon, the sister of the Indiana, and save the Iowa, one of the most powerful vessels in the navy, has been selected for this work. Secretary Long today telegraphed orders to her commander, through the commandant of the Mare Island navy yard, to leave San Francisco and cruise down the southern coast. The vessel will report from time to time by cable to the Navy Department and receive such instructions as the changes in the conditions may warrant. At present she is taking on her ammunition, about fifty tons in all, which was unloaded at the powder station when the ship went north last fall to have her bilge keels put in place at the Bremerton naval station. As soon as this work is done she is expected to sail southward.

Local Naval Recruiting Station. The Secretary of the Navy has directed that a recruiting station be opened in Washington immediately, the special purpose being to secure ordinary seamen and machinists. Lieut, Robinson, at present on duty at the Washington navy yard, will be in charge of the station, which will open for business at the yard next Monday

The naval inspection board has gone down to Norfolk to examine the gunboat Machias, just returned from the Asiatic station by way of Suez. These inspections amining this strategic point with a view to are always made on the return of a vessel

with the purpose of ascertaining the exact condition of the ship and what she needs generally in the way of repairs. In the case of the Machias it is probable that rather extensive overhauling would be necessary to put the vessel in prime condition, but in view of the large amount of emergency work on hand, and the desire of the department not to be deprived of the use of the ship for any considerable time, it is probable that the board will reduce repairs to be ordered to the lowest possible limit. The Fern at Maianzas.

The Fern, laden with supplies for the suffering Cubans, arrived at Matanzas, Cuba, from Key West this morning. Capt. Cowles merely reported his arrival at the Cuban port to the Navy Department, without making any mention of the condition of affairs at Matanzas. After discharging of the stores there Capt. Cowles will proceed with his vessel to Sagua la Grande and leave the remainder.

Civil Engineer A. J. Menocal has been detached from the League Island navy yard and ordered to Key West. This is regarded as significant and as indicating a purpose on the part of the Navy Department to make immediate and considerable West. For several years past Engineerdepartment the advisability of erecting a machinery repair shop at the naval station, pointing out that the great volume of shipping passing from the gulf to Europe and the eastern states had at present no place in which to effect even temporary repairs on their vovages without going a considerable distance out of the way. His preposition was that the shop should be originally devoted to naval uses, but that it might easily be arranged that merchant vessels should avail of its facilities in case of need upon easy terms. At present the North Atlantic squadron is obliged to defer making any repairs that cannot be done abcard ship-a state of affairs that should not be permitted to exist in time of trouble.

The Iowa Sails for Tortugas. The battle ship Iowa salled from Key West for Tortugas today. The torpedo bcat Dupont arrived at Key West. The gunboat Wilmington has reported her ar-

COUNTERFEIT SILVER DOLLARS.

Benyer Flooded With Coins Which Can Scarcely Be Detected.

DENVER, Col., March 12.-During the past two weeks the attention of the business men of the city has been attracted to the unusually large number of counterfeit silver dollars made of silver that are in circulation. The counterfeits are such remarkably close imitations of the genuine coin that it is almost impossible to detect them, and even government experts are frequently at a loss to choose between the false and the true.

It is thought that there are vast numbers of them in circulation. At the mint it is stated that the situation is so serious that the treasury has made it the subject of a communication to Congress, regarding the propriety of adopting a new device for the coin. It is estimated that there are fully two million dollars' worth of these spurious coins in circulation in the country. All that have been found bear the mark of the New Orleans mint, a lower case "o" immediately under the eagle, and are dated 1888. New Orleans mint, a lower case "o" The government is making every effort to detect the men engaged in this business, so far without success, though it is believed that they are made somewhere in the

REGISTER BRUCE'S ILLNESS. Fears Expressed That He May Not Re-

cover. Blanche K. Bruce, register of the treasury and ex-senator from Mississippi, is seriously ill at his residence here, and it is feared that he may not survive. He has been suffering from acute stomach trouble for some weeks, and this week the illness took an alarming form. He is well known throughout the country as a leader of the

The :Imperial Academy of Sciences of Russia has awarded to Prof. Simon Newcomb of Washington what is known as the Shubert prize. This prize, which consists of a substantial sum of money, was founded by the Russian lieutenant general Shutert, and is awarded for the greatest work in theoretical astronomy. This award is the latest of a longer series of honors than have been bestowed upon any Amer-

New Honor for Prof. Newcomb.

Regulations Under Revision. The rules and regulations governing the firs department are being revised and amended under the direction of Commissioner Wight, who has charge of the department. A copy of them, as so far revised and amended will be sent by Mr. vised and amended, will be sent by Mr. Wight's order to the foremen of the several companies of the department, for such further revision or amendment as they may think proper to suggest to him. In that way Mr. Wight hopes to obtain many valuable and practical suggestions for the government of the department,

ican scientist, and is considered to have been justly given to Prof. Newcomb as the greatest living astronomer.

### SPAIN'S LAST EFFORT

Attempt to Turn This Government's Policy.

OPINION IN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES

No Further Autonomy Pretenses Believed Possible.

Several things published this morning, ceming from remote quarters and disconireprovements at the naval station at Key | the effort, not of its success. First is the in-Chief Melville has been urging upon the | banquet in Madrid in which he said that preserve Spain from the loss of an "inch with Captain Peral, president of the Spanish board of inquiry in the Maine disaster in which it is deciared that the investigatien of the Spanish officials has shown that the explosion was internal, but which very adroitly leaves the way open for the Spanish board to make a different finding at the conclusion of its examination. Another is the announcement of the arrival in Havana of the Austrian ship Donau, "one of the five promised to Spain in case of war." Still another is a curious suggestion of autonomy's being forced upon the Cuban insurgants by this government, which was sent out by the Associated Press, with the assertion that it "has received the approval in a general way of leading men whose counsels have weight with the administration," and which is supported by a long anonymous interview hostile to the recognition of the independ ence, and insistent upon the propriety of Spanish sovereignty being preserved in

> How the Suggestion is Regarded. This latter would attract no attention were it not for the fact that it is known to be the policy of the Associated Press not to handle such matter anonymously except upon very high authority. No suggestion that has been made with respect to the settlement of the Cuban question has met with more evidence of disapproval in congressional circles, and it is not believed that the President would for a mo ment contemplate an attempt to force upon Cuba another dose of Spanish autonomy pretenses. The acknowledged failure of autonomy in Cuba, the horrifying conditions on the island, the treacherous destruction of the Maine and the moral cer tainty, established by past experience, that as long as the Spanish remain in Cuba the Cuban question will be present to irritate ard injure us, render any suggestion which contemplates the perpetuation of Spanish centrol in Cuba, under any conditions. utterly abhorrent to the prevailing senti-

ment of both houses of Congress. The suggestion is regarded as a final move in the diplomacy of Spain, backed up by the bluff of Moret's eloquence, Austrian ships and Capt. Peral's premature report on the Maine disaster.

The arrival of the Austrain vessel a Havana and the account of its enthusiastic reception is confirmatory of the statement made a long time ago that Austria would provide Spain with five vessels in case of war. This is regarded as more likely, if cerried out, to involve Austria in trouble than to alarm this government into a change of policy toward Cuba. The declarations of Capt. Peral as to the cause of the destruction of the Maine are regarded as utterly of no consequence. The United States is not depending on Spanish inquiry to determine the cause of that explosion.

War Situation More Grave. If the utterance of Capt. Peral is to be nterpreted as meaning that Spain will insist upon the accident theory, and if Senor Moret's speech really means that Spain will not yield an inch of territory, it only renders the war situation more grave. These two things, it is said, are all that is necessary to render war insvitable. It is practically the universal opinion in Congress that the only possibility of avoiding war would lie in Spain's making reparation for the loss of the Maine, and acknowledging the independence of Cuba, or at least, of pot resenting the recognition of the independence by the United States.

Another play which is being made, apparently for the purpose of weakening the policy of this government, is the mysterious intimation that other foreign nations would become involved in a war between Spain and the United States. No alarm is felt by Congress on that point. The European situation is such as to preclude aggressive interference on the part of any European government. With other questions interesting them much more vitally, and with the sympathy of most of the European nations with the United States, the opinion is held that it would be an inconceivable folly on the part of Germany, sary to render war inevitable. It is prac-

# were on board the Spanish man-of-war anchored near the Maine and entirely dependent upon what they saw after the explosion had completed the disaster for any information they might have possessed. Accordingly President Peral's announcement that the explosion was internal is based upon nothing tangible, but is made, so it is thought, merely in pursuance with instructions from Madrid, with the view of affecting opinion when the report of the United States board of inquiry is made, which it is generally and confidently believed will find that the disaster was caused by an external agency.

SUBTLE DIPLOMACY

ceming from remote quarters and disconnected, are regarded in congressional circles as indicative of a last desperate effort to give a turn to the policy of this government favorable to the interests of Spain. They are regarded as significant of the effort, not of its success. First is the report of the speech of Senor Moret at a banquet in Madrid in which he said that the patriotism of the Spanish people would preserve Spain from the loss of an "inch of territory." Another is the interview with Centain Paral measurement favorable to seize them. His staff heartily concurred in the position taken by General Sung, and all married officers sent their families home, and ticipating a conflict. General Sung says he will not surrender the forts to any power, orders from Pekin not to be too rash and thereby precipitate war. General Sung is the benevolence of your excellency and your effective co-operation. "In obedience to the especial charge of the remajesty, the queen regent of the king-there is the interview of territory." Another is the interview with Centain Paral measurement in case any two countries the next friendly relations. His staff heartily concurred in the position taken by General Sung, and all married officers sent their families home, and two forms of the special charge of the even to Russia, notwithstanding special thereby precipitate war. General Sung says he will not surrender the forts to any power, and I doubt not I shall succeed if, as I hope, I shall be fortunate in families and this end, so much in the position to attain the position taken by General Sung, and all married officers sent their families home, and the position taken by General Sung says he will not surrender the forts to any power, and I doubt not I shall succeed if, as I hope, I shall be fortunate in families and the position taken by General Sung says he will not surrender the forts to any power, and I doubt not I shall succeed if, as I hope, I shall be fortunate in surrender to any power, or effective co-operation. "In obdience CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH. One Colony Located Near Belfast, State of Washington. TACOMA, Wash., March 12.-The Cooperative Commonwealth, founded by Eugene V. Debs, has located a colony of its followers four miles west of Beifast, in Skagitts county, this state. Eighty members have arrived, over half of whom are men whose families still remain in the east, They came to look the field over and select locations. They form an intelligent and thrifty lcoking company and do not appear to be afraid of toil. The party is made up of men from Chicago, St. Louis, Maine, Michigan and Washington, D. C. A town will be established surrounded by small-sized

> APPEAL FOR THE STARVING. Kansas City Star Anxious to Aid Suf-

fering Cubana. KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 12 .- The Star devotes five columns of its front page to an appeal for aid, in the shape of clothing, food or money, for the starving thousands in Cuba, singling out the town of Matanzas as the especial point of pressing need.

The appeal, written by a returned staff correspondent of the paper, asks in strong terms for aid of whatever description for immediate shipment to Matanzas. A central point, where offerings will be received in Kansas for shipment, has been desig-nated. Austin Gallagher, secretary of the Southwestern Millers' Association, adds an appeal to the millers of the southwest. The Star correspondent places the number of starving in Matanzas at 10,000.

KEENE AND HAGERTY BURNED OUT. Big Baltimore Tinware House Sustains Loss of \$150,000.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 12 .- The exensive tinware and japanning establishment of Keene & Hagerty was destroyed by fire at 5 o'clock this morning, entailing a loss estimated at \$150,000.

James Bracken, the night watchman, was caught on the fifth floor by the flames and narrowly escaped death, the firemen taking him down a ladder when life almost extinct. The loss is covered by in-

SUICIDE AT HAGERSTOWN, MD. Charles W. Fowler Kills Himself To-

day With a Revolver. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., March 12.-Chas. W. Fowler, a young man of this city, twenty-seven years old, committed suicide here at an early hour this morning by shooting himself twice with a revolver, both shots taking effect in the region of

the heart.

He made careful preparations for the event, dressing himself in his best clothes. He went to a stable and sat down in a cart, where his lifeless remains were found. A love affair is supposed to have led to the

Gatling's Big Gun Nearly Done.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 12.- The new coast defense gun being made under the direction of Dr. Robert J. Gatling, which is the largest single-piece gun in the world. was today placed in an oven. The heating of this immense mass of steel will occupy several days, but will be terminated time for inspection by members of the na-tiqual board of ordnance, who are expected here next week. It will then be taken to the Washington navy yard to be rified.

Lucille Reaches Dyen. SEATTLE, Wash., March 12.-The steam er Australia has arrived from Alaska. Her officers report that the ship Lucille, with the government pack train, which was to have been used in the government re-lief expedition, has arrived at Dyea.

Advertising is not an expense It is a business investment. If you want to invest your money profitably you will therefore put your advertisements in such a paper as The Evening Star, that is read regularly and thoroughly by everybody worth reaching. The Star is the recognized household and family journal of the National Capital, and has no rival as an advertising med-

### FRIENDLY GREETINGS

The New Spanish Minister Presented to the President.

#### EXCHANGE OF PLEASANT EXPRESSIONS

Scene in the Blue Room at the White House.

MR. MORTON A SPECTATOR

Senor Luis Polo de Bernabe, the new Spanish minister, who succeeds Senor Dupuy de Lome as the representative of Spain at this capital, was formally presented to President McKinley at 11 o'clock this mornnig. About 10:30 o'clock the minister, acinexperienced to accomplish any practical results in their examinations of the vessel. So far as can be learned, the witnesses called before the Spanish board of inquiry were exclusively Spaniards who were on board the Spanish man-of-war anchored near the Maine and entirely decreased. were received by Secretary Sherman, who soon afterward escerted the party to the White House. The party reached the White House at 10:50 o'clock and went immediately to the blue room. All the Spaniards were dressed in full uniform and wore swords.

> Probably fifty ladies and a half dozen men were on the White House portice and observed the arrival and departure of the Spaniards.

lieved will find that the disaster was caused by an external agency.

Minister Polo de Bernabe's interview is regarded in the circles under consideration as being inspired for the purpose of blinding Americar eyes to the real purposes of Spain. That he volces the desire of the Spanish government in his announcement that Spain does not want war is undeniable, but that he represents the sentiment of the Spanish people in this regard is not for a moment believed. The sentiment herein described is very generally entertained by public men, although they do not care to make open expression of it. Symiards.

President McKinley was in conference with cabinet officers when the representative of Spain arrived. The reception took place in the blue parlor, the same room in which Prince Albert was received yesterday. It presented a very beautiful appearance, the decorations which had been arranged for the dinner to the Belgian prince last night having been allowed to remain.

The President went down to the blue room with ex-Vice President Levi P. Morton, who witnessed the presentation by

The Spanish Minister's Remarks. In presenting his credentials, the Spanish minister addressed the President as

"Mr. President: I have the honor to present to your excellency the credential letters which accredit me in the capacity of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipo envoy extraordinary and minister plentpo-tentiary of his majesty, the King of Spain, in the United States of America.

"The principal object of my honorable mission is to endeavor, so far as possible, to maintain and draw closer between our

two countries the neest friendly relations.

#### The President's Response.

The President responded as follows: "Mr. Minister, I am happy to receive from your hand the royal letters whereby her majesty the queen regent, in the name of his majesty the King of Spain, accredits you in the capacity of his majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister pleninotentiary in the United States of America

"It is very gratifying to me to receive the assurances you have just made of your purpose to endeavor to maintain and draw closer in all porsible ways the most friend-ly relations between the two countries, and n response I assure you that my own efforts and those of this government will no less earnestly be directed toward the same high end. "You come hither, Mr. Minister, with the

"You come hither, Mr. Minister, with the prestige of a distinguished name, borne by your honored father, whose services in promoting good will between Spain and the United States have already passed into the domain of history. To this you add the qualification of a personal acquaintance with this country and its people, derived from your previous official sojourn at this capital, so that you have a double title to our confidence and sympathy. I offer you my personal good wishes. thy. I offer you my personal good wishes, and I would have you convey to her maj-esty the queen regent my sincere apprecia-tion of her majesty's friendly greeting and my own desire that happiness may be her portion and that Spain and the Spanish people may enjoy the blessings of peace and prespective." and prosperity."

Pleasant Conversation.

Immediately following the greetings exchanged between the President and the Spanish minister introductions followed. The Spanish minister and Mr. Morton were old friends and expressed great pleasure at meeting each other.

The affair passed off in the most pleasant

manner. There was nothing like restraint on the part of anybody, and in a few seconds after the formal greetings were concluded the Americans and Spaniards were chatting as if no cloud threatened the relations of the two countries.

President McKinley returned to his office

and resumed his conference with Secre-taries Alger and Gage. The Spaniards entered their carriages and were driven to the legation. A large number of people watched their departure with deep interest.

FIRE AT TORONTO, ONT.

Block in Wholesale District Destroyed-Loss in \$135,000.

TORONTO, Ont., March 12.-A large block of wholesale and bonded warehouses situated on Front street here were completely gutted by fire early this morning. The total loss is \$135,000, fairly covered by

ert Carri, bonded house; P. Larkin & Company, agents for the Salada Ceylon tea; R. H. Howard, wholesale light to the salada Ceylon tea; R. H. Howard, wholesale liquor merchant the Zopesi chemical works and the Dominion wire agency. Ten firemen were penned in and had to

insurance. The firms burned out are Rob-

be rescued by ladders. Several were jured.

NO FRIEND OF SPAIN.

German Foreign Office Denies Ru-mored Alliance With the Dons. BERLIN, March 12.-The Berlin foreign office has instructed the inspired press to deny emphatically that Germany will aid Spain in case of war with the United States, and has instructed these newspa-pers to point out that the United States is an excellent customer of Germany-and that Spain sirce the Carolinas' squatble has re-peatedly shown unfriendliness to Germany.

Anti-Russian Spirit in Corea YOKOHAMA, March 12 .- A dispatch received here from Seoul, the capital of Corea, says the leader of the Russophile party has been deprived of his post as privy councillor. The Seoul police dispersed a public meeting held to discuss the situa-

Senator Proctor and Party Coming. MIAMI, Fia., March 12.—Senator Proctor and party left this morning at 8:25 for