

Summary of Contents.

TEXT.—Editorial: Intervention in Cuba.—Incidents of Travel in Texas since the war (No. 7), by Richard B. Kimball.—Popular Astronomy, by M. F. Maury, author of "Physical Geography of the Sea."—Market Day at the Antipodes, by Thomas W. Knox.—Shall we Go to the Mountains? by A. K. Gardner, M. D.—Askaros Kassiss, a Romance of Modern Egypt, by Hon. Edwin de Leon (continued).—The Prussian Terror, by A. Dumas, Sr. (continued).—Drawn from the Life.—Poetry: Mayflowers, by Harriet Prescott Spofford. A Summer Afternoon, by Lauriger. To-Day.—Descriptive of Engravings.—Miscellaneous.

ENGRAVINGS.—The Great National Peace Jubilee at Boston, Mass. (7); Pictorial Spirit of the Illustrated European Press (8); The Recent Freshet at Watertown, N. Y.; Southern Life and Scenery—Aiken, S. C. (3); Portraits: General Francis C. Barlow, U. S. Marshal for Southern District of New York; The Late Charles C. B. Seymour; Rev. Milton S. Terry; St. Paul's M. E. Church, Peckskill, N. Y.; Anniversary of the Howard Mission; New Floating Lighthouse; Singular Accident at Syracuse, N. Y.; Enforcing the Argument (comic).

FRANK LESLIE'S

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NEW YORK, MAY 29, 1869.

NOTICE.—We have no traveling agents. All persons representing themselves as such are impostors.

Notice to News Agents.

We are preparing to issue a series of handsome show bills, and to insure their efficient circulation, we desire to place ourselves in direct communication with all the News Agents throughout the United States. News Agents who have not yet received our circulars, will please forward to this office their business cards, or addresses in full.

INTERVENTION IN CUBA:

In the Interest of Humanity and Civilization.

BUT a short time before its adjournment, the House of Representatives adopted the following resolution:

"That the people of the United States hereby declare their sympathy with the people of the Island of Cuba in their patriotic efforts to secure their independence, and to establish a republican form of government, guaranteeing the personal liberty and the equal political rights of all people, and Congress will give its constitutional support to the President of the United States, whenever he may deem it expedient to recognize the independence and sovereignty of such republican government."

This is substantially the same resolution with that of Henry Clay in 1821, by which the South American republics were recognized.

Previously the Senate had passed a resolution, referring to Spain and Cuba, in these words:

"That these people of the United States sympathize with the patriotic people of Spain in their efforts to establish the liberties of the Spanish nation; that the people of the United States sympathize with the people of Cuba in their efforts to secure political independence, and that they will welcome to the family of independent nations any Government that guarantees the liberty of all men, and that presents the principles of absolute sovereignty of the people."

These expressions of the National Legislature were all of them, at one time, entirely consonant with the sympathies of the whole American people. But as regards Spain, they are no longer true. The action of the Government of that country, professing to be a liberal one, and responding to the spirit of the age, prove it to be no whit in advance of the despotism it has for the moment displaced. It is equally irrational and cruel; as murderous in policy as the worst of its predecessors, during the period of the Spanish-American struggles for independence. Even more bloodthirsty and relentless.

It is reported by American agents in Cuba that 587 executions by Spanish drum-head court-martials have taken place in the island since the revolution began. And this apart from the number of lives lost by the indiscriminate firing on the people in Havana and elsewhere by the so-called Spanish volunteers—a set of excited, irresponsible men, over whom no officer, not even the Captain-General, has control. Apart, too, from the hundreds of leading Cuban citizens exiled to pestilential penal establishments, like Fernando Po, where death comes through disease instead of the bullet or the garrote. Apart also from the hundreds more that cram the filthy prisons of the island in those places where the iron rule of Spain is still maintained.

Atrocious as are all these outrages on Cuba and the Cubans, revolting as they are to humanity, there seems to be a lower depth of malignity and horror which only the true Spaniard could fathom. It has been reached by Count Valmeseda, commander of the Spanish forces in the Eastern Department of the island. Shut up in the narrow limits of the town of Bayamo, which the patriots left a ruin, as the Russians left Moscow, and only able to make relentless raids on the surrounding country, this incarnate libel on humanity, created "in the image of God," has had the temerity, and incurred the infamy of issuing a proclamation which even Theodore of Abyssinia would have blushed to avow. According to that proclamation, every native male over fifteen years of age, found

away from his residence without sufficient cause, is to be executed. Every uninhabited dwelling, and every inhabited dwelling where a white flag shall be undisplayed, is to be burned. All women, absent from their homes, must come to Bayamo or Jignani; if they do not come of their own free choice, they will be forced to come.

It may be said in extenuation of this revolting proclamation, that it is the act of a hard-pressed and irresponsible officer; but it has not been disavowed by the Captain-General of Cuba, who has been guilty of issuing a similar document, in the spirit, in contravention not only of all laws of humanity, but in hostility to all international law. To say that he has not dared to enforce it, in no way lessens the contempt for law and the odium of cruelty which it involves. It is signed by Captain-General Domingo Dulce, and dated Havana, March 24, 1869, and is as follows:

"Ships which may be captured in Spanish waters or on the high seas near this island having on board persons, arms, ammunition, or war material which can in any manner contribute to the fomentation of the insurrection in this province, no matter whence its point of departure or port of procedure (after an examination of the ship's papers), shall be considered hostile to the territorial integrity, and be treated as pirates according to the rules and ordinances of the navy laid down in such cases. *The persons whom may be apprehended in such vessels shall, irrespective of the number found, be shot immediately.*"

Suppose we should have "shot every one apprehended" in the countless blockade-runners and arms-bearing vessels that sought to enter our Southern ports during the late civil war? We suspect that even the late Queen of Spain would have shuddered with feigned if not real horror.

We recur to these atrocities to show that the time is come for humanity and civilization to put a summary stop to them. The whole sentiment and policy of the Nineteenth Century prohibit their continuance. Spain has put herself, by her doings in Cuba, *fuera la Ley*—outside of the law, and is to be treated as a pirate, an enemy of mankind, an outlaw. Amenable to none of the laws of war and humanity, she defies and insults the moral sense of the world, and it is the world's duty, and especially our duty, as the next neighbor of oppressed and outraged Cuba, to interfere openly and at once in behalf of the victims of worse than Abyssinian barbarism.

It will not answer to call the Cuban uprising an insurrection or a rebellion. It is a true revolution. No man will dare to say on his honor that he believes there is a single native-born Cuban who does not detest Spanish rule, and who would not be glad to see the island independent of the Peninsula. No one will pretend that there is a single Cuban, not absolutely within Spanish power, or where the avowal of patriotic devotion to his native land would not be instant confiscation of property, imprisonment or death, who is not heart and soul hostile to Spanish dominion.

The parallelism sought to be drawn between the Southern rebellion and the Cuban revolution is utterly unreal and false. The South was equal with the North; it had governed the country for three-fourths of a century; its rebel Vice-President declared that the Government had been the best and most beneficent the world ever saw; it fought to maintain a system of slavery not one whit more absolute than that which Spain has maintained and seeks to maintain in Cuba, although slightly different in kind. Intervention in favor of the South would have been, and we maintain was, against the rights and interests of humanity, and against the beneficent precepts of Heaven. Intervention in Cuba, and against Spain, is in the interest of freedom and justice, right, morality, and in accordance with the Divine mandate, "Let the prisoner free!"

Here is a country with no interests or sympathies in common with Spain, with a people unanimous for independence, not alone because they entertain republican principles, not utterly because their industrial pursuits and natural development are depressed and prevented, but because they wish to step with and share the glory of that civilization of which the United States is the sole exponent and exemplar. They do not wish to be longer fettered by old systems, or governed by foreign, avaricious and unscrupulous satraps, by laws they had no voice in framing, and by a system that has been expunged from the continent, and should be swept from its islands. We do not favor such half measures as "recognition of belligerent rights," or any faltering in this business at all. We hope it is true that the President has recognized in the revolutionists the same right to buy arms and munitions of war that Spain itself possesses and exercises. Unless we are prepared to acknowledge the independence of Cuba, a step, perhaps, that circumstances may not at this moment justify, we should throw no impediment in the way of the patriots—in whose favor, however, on grounds of humanity and in the interests of civilization, we should at once intervene, expel the Spaniards, and leave the people of the island to determine their own *status* thereafter. We have a right to hunt the wolves out of our neighbor's forests; we have a right to extirpate the enemies of mankind.