

and land-grabbers, is now waging against a struggling sister republic in the Philippine islands."

A long report has been made by the president's committee for the investigation of the mismanagement of the war. It was presented to the president on the 9th and made public on the 12th. This report finds in substance that Secretary Alger was honest but incompetent; that the army beef was good and Gen. Miles's charges unfounded; that the commissary department was well managed, and the quartermaster's department fairly so except in some particulars; that the medical department was demoralized, but that the signal service was efficient; that the camp at Montauk Point was well managed, while the other camps were good on the whole, though some were bad. Gen. Shafter is complimented.

Before the making of the foregoing report, President McKinley had decided to convene a court of inquiry to investigate Gen. Miles's charges regarding the quality of beef furnished the army; and on the 9th he issued an order accordingly. The court is to consist of Gen. Wade, Gen. Davis and Col. Gillespie. It is ordered to investigate the charges made by Gen. Miles in respect to the unfitnes of articles of food furnished by the subsistence department to the troops in the field during the operations in Cuba and Porto Rico; and in addition to its findings of fact the court is to submit an opinion upon the merits of the case "together with such recommendations of further proceedings as may be warranted by the facts developed in the course of the inquiry." It is understood that if Gen. Miles's charges are not substantiated a court-martial may be recommended to discipline him for having made the charges publicly. Gen. Miles refused to submit his evidence to the non-legal committee which has just reported to the president as stated above.

Civil war has broken out in Nicaragua. It began on the 3d; but what are its specific causes is not yet known in this country, though they are supposed to have relation to labor troubles. The rebellion is led by Gen. Reyes, and its headquarters is at Bluefields. Gen. Reyes promises that in the event of his success, Nicaragua shall have free and fair elections for national officials. President Zelaya issued a decree on the 15th declaring

the republic in a state of siege, and at that time a battle was expected at a point west of the Chile mountains toward which troops were hurrying. American gunboats have been sent to the Nicaragua coast to protect American interests. British interests have secured the presence there of a British warship.

Japan is in trouble over what may be called her Philippine question. She holds sovereignty over the Island of Formosa, formerly part of the Chinese empire, and the Chinese inhabitants are in rebellion. On the 9th the rebels were reported by mail advices to have won a battle in January at Taipehfu, after three hours of hand-to-hand fighting; and, advancing after their victory, to have captured Tzu Lan, about seven miles from Lopeh. Later advances are conflicting. Official Japanese reports are to the effect that the rebellion is ended, whereas advices from Hong-Kong indicate that it is still raging. It is attributed by the Chinese to harsh government and exorbitant taxation.

France is again in turmoil over the Dreyfus case. When we last had occasion to refer to this case (No. 41 of The Public), M. Quesnay de Beaurepaire had publicly charged the criminal section of the court of cassation with conspiracy to exonerate Dreyfus and thereby dishonor the French army. That was early in January. On the 28th of the same month, acting under the pressure to which Beaurepaire's charges had given a new impulse, the cabinet decided to introduce a bill regarding trial revisions by the court of cassation, the preamble to which identified the bill with the Dreyfus case and showed it to be hostile to him, by declaring that it "will not be wise to intrust the revision of the Dreyfus affair to the criminal section alone." This bill was introduced on the 30th, and referred to a parliamentary committee, which reported, on the 6th, by a vote of 9 to 2, against it. This was a setback to the ministry. But on the 10th the bill was adopted in the chamber of deputies, despite the adverse report of the committee, by a vote of 332 to 232. The republican ministry were thus sustained; but at the expense of dividing the republicans. The majority included anti-republicans as well as republicans, and the minority was exclusively republican. Before becoming operative, the bill must receive the assent of the senate.

Should it pass there, the question of revising the Dreyfus conviction must first be decided by the whole court of cassation, and if that body decrees a revision, Dreyfus must be tried not by the criminal branch of the court, but by a court-martial. The victory thus far is with the anti-Dreyfusites.

In the British parliament no affirmative action of general interest has yet been taken, but two negative votes have been called out which touch upon issues that are rising to the surface in British politics. One of these votes related to the church question. Feeling is growing in England against a tendency on the part of clergymen of the state church to adopt rites and ceremonies that are peculiar to Roman Catholicism; and a liberal member introduced an amendment to the address to the throne which condemned what it called the "lawlessness of the church." This amendment was rejected on the 9th by a vote of 221 to 89. The other vote referred to above, was upon an amendment to the address to the throne, moved by Labouchere, which aimed at limiting the veto power of the house of lords. In the course of the discussion, the new liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, declared that in the face of a representative system the house of lords is an anomaly. The point involved is that the house of lords obstructs legislation when liberals are in power, and promotes it when conservatives are in power, thus securing conservative policies under either party and making government by the people through parties impossible. Labouchere's amendment was lost by 223 to 105. A milder one also was lost, 257 to 157.

The past week has been remarkable for the extreme cold and terrible blizzards from which the country has suffered. The thermometer fell below zero in many places far to the south. Even at Washington it was 2 degrees below on the 9th, and at Memphis only 6 above, while at Chicago it reached 22 below, and at Kansas City 20 below. At Burlington it fell on that day to 26 below. The 10th was the coldest day in New York city since the establishment of the weather bureau there. The thermometer for hours marked 6 degrees below zero, and for a short time it registered a still lower temperature. On the 12th a blizzard struck the Atlantic coast, which lasted several days, blocking