

seeds of discontent planted by professional agitators are rapidly growing, and can be kept down only by a strong military force.

In Cuba, too, new complications have arisen. The United States government was anxious to secure the disbandment of the Cuban army; and to accomplish that purpose offered Gen. Gomez \$3,000,000 as a gift, for distribution among his troops, conditioned upon their yielding up their arms and returning to peaceful pursuits. Early in February, Gen. Gomez accepted the offer, and regulations for the disbursement of the fund were agreed upon. Thereupon Gen. Gomez telegraphed President McKinley that he was now aware of and pleased with his wishes, and would go to Havana and confer with Gen. Brooke, with a view to cooperating in the work of reconstructing Cuba. Accordingly, about three weeks later, Gen. Gomez repaired with a large detachment of his troops to Havana, where the American military authorities received him with military honors, and the people went wild with enthusiasm. Meantime murmurs were heard among the Cubans against Gen. Gomez for having agreed to disband the army without permission from the Cuban assembly. And when the assembly met at Marianao to receive the report of the committee it had sent to Washington, Gen. Gomez, who had been expected to preside, neither attended nor sent any representative or message. A committee was appointed to wait upon him and ask explanations. This committee performed its mission on the 10th, and upon the basis of its report, Gen. Gomez having refused to answer, the assembly, on the 11th, impeached him and removed him from his office as general-in-chief of the Cuban army. There were 26 votes in the affirmative and 4 in the negative.

Before the official notification of his impeachment had reached Gen. Gomez, he accepted the decision of the assembly in an open letter, in which he said:

In virtue of the supreme power vested in it alone, the assembly, representing the army, has deposed me from my position of general in chief of the army, conferred upon me during the revolution just ended. In that high place I have been mindful only of the inspirations of my conscience and the necessities of my country. I have endeavored always and under all circumstances to do my duty. The assembly

esteems it an act of insubordination and disrespect in me not to aid them in their effort to secure a loan which would compromise the financial and political security of Cuba, which should come later to exercise its own sovereignty as a republic of union and concord, as proclaimed in the manifesto of Monte Cristo, and sustained and defended on the field of battle, free from all compromise and safeguarded in every point touching national honor. This is the fundamental cause of the decision which the assembly has taken toward me. For the rest, in all sincerity I confess I am full of gratitude; for the decision leaves me free to retire to my abandoned home, my only aspiration after 30 years of fighting for the welfare of Cuba, which I so much love. Alien as I am, I did not come to serve Cuba and the cause of justice in a mercenary spirit. Now that the oppressor is banished from Cuba, I am free to return my sword to its scabbard, believing that the mission which I voluntarily assumed is fulfilled. Cuba owes me nothing. I retire glad, satisfied at having accomplished my utmost in behalf of my fellow men. Wherever destiny may put me, there Cuba can always count on a devoted friend.

In mentioning the assembly's efforts to secure a loan, Gen. Gomez alludes to a measure of the assembly asking authority of the United States to contract a public debt of \$12,000,000, upon the security of Cuban revenues, in lieu of accepting \$3,000,000 as a gift from the United States, for the purpose of paying off the Cuban army. The assembly has replied to his open letter with a manifesto, and Cuba is at fever heat about the matter.

What the United States will do, now that Gen. Gomez's authority to distribute the \$3,000,000 and disband his army is terminated, is as yet matter of conjecture only. It is guessed, however, that Gen. Brooke will forcibly, however, that Gen. Brooke will continue to recognize Gomez as the only responsible agent through whom payments can be made; and that if the Cuban assembly interferes, he will disperse it by force. On the 15th, after an interview between Brooke and Gomez, it was announced that payment would begin promptly under the original agreement. The \$3,000,000 was sent, in coin, on the 13th, to Havana from New York, on board the transport Meade, under convoy of the cruiser Chicago.

The American difficulties in Samoa, the beginning of which we reported in No. 42, page 11, are now in all probability adjusted. Samoa

consists of 14 volcanic islands in the South Pacific, which were formerly known as the Navigators' Islands. The population is about 34,000, all but a few hundred being natives, though they are nominally Christians. By treaty of June 14, 1889, between Great Britain, Germany and the United States, signed at Berlin, the independence of these islands was assured, and the equal rights of citizens of the three treaty powers to residence, trade and personal protection, guaranteed. The treaty provided for the election of a king by the natives, pursuant to their own customs, and established a supreme court, consisting of one chief justice, to be appointed by the treaty powers, for the adjudication of disputes of common concern. It also provided for the administration by the treaty powers of the municipal district of Apia, the only town. At the time of the disturbances reported in No. 42, and mentioned again below, the chief justice was William L. Chambers, an American, while the municipal president of Apia was Dr. Raffel, a German. The disturbances arose over the election by the natives of a new king. Malietoa Laupepa had been king from 1880 to 1887. In the latter year he was deposed on a charge of robbing and maltreating Germans, and Tamasese took his place. An insurrection broke out against Tamasese in 1888, led by a chief known as Mataafa. Mataafa was victorious over Tamasese, but the Germans interposed, and in consequence of their declaring war against Mataafa, the treaty of Berlin, which is mentioned above, was signed. Pursuant to that treaty, Malietoa was restored to the native throne. Rebellious again, in 1893, and being subdued, Mataafa was exiled by the powers. But upon the death of King Malietoa Laupepa, which occurred August 22, last, Mataafa and his followers were allowed to return. He forthwith entered the contest for king, being opposed by Malietoa Tanus, son of the late king. Mataafa was the choice at the election, of 75 per cent. of the voters; but a contest was instituted which came before Chief Justice Chambers for decision. Proceedings began before the chief justice December 19. He produced at the outset a draft agreement for the two contestants to sign stipulating to abide by his decision. Young Malietoa readily did so, but Mataafa declined. The trial proceeded, however, and on December 31, the chief justice declared Malietoa Tanus to