

NEWS

The queen of Spain signed the Paris treaty on the 17th, and empowered the French ambassador at Washington to represent Spain in Washington at the exchange of ratifications, the only formality now remaining to complete the peace. Her signature was unauthorized by the cortes, and the act is criticised abroad as a monarchical blow at parliamentary government.

It is now definitely reported by responsible correspondents at Manila, that Philippine news is entirely untrustworthy. These correspondents have at last complained of the censorship to which they are subjected, sending their complaints by messenger to Hong-Kong, whence they have been cabled. James Creelman is one of the complaining correspondents. He says that the censor forbids the use of the cable for the transmission of the actual facts of the situation. Another, a staff correspondent of the Chicago Record, blames the administration at Manila for the outbreak of hostilities, and complains that true statements of the circumstances are forbidden by the censor. It may reasonably be suspected, therefore, that Philippine dispatches of the week are more in conformity with the censor's instructions than with the facts.

Our last week's report, based upon censored dispatches, left the Americans in complete possession of the Pasig river to its source, a large lake called Laguna de Bay, some eight miles east of Manila. The Filipino army was thus cut in two, communication between the north and south wings, except across or around the lake to the east, being interrupted. That was the situation on the 15th, when a night attack was made by the Filipinos along the whole northern line, but without much effect. The next morning the Americans advanced from Pasig, at the source of the river, upon Cainta, a fortified village about five miles to the east, near the northern shore of the lake. After four hours' fighting, part of it in the village streets, they captured this village, but subsequently withdrew "to replenish their ammunition." On the 17th an American gunboat, towing two lighters carrying troops, was dispatched from Pasig for a cruise against lake shore villages; and the

same day witnessed another attack by Filipinos upon the American line. They attacked the Americans again on the 18th, this time at Taguig, which lies upon the southern shore of the lake, a little to the south of Pasig. The fighting continued until darkness put an end to it. On the morning of the 19th, the Americans made a determined movement out of Taguig and down the southern lake shore, sweeping a path two miles wide and driving the Filipinos before them as far as San Pedro Tunasan, a distance of 15 miles. Ten villages were burned, the Filipinos applying the torch when forced to retreat, and the Americans resorting to it to dislodge their enemy. At the end of the day, the Americans returned to Taguig, exhausted by their hard work under a hot sun. On this day, also, the gunboat and lighters which had gone upon a cruise upon the lake, as reported above, completed the cruise, having shelled and destroyed several Filipino villages along the shore, and proceeded as far as Santa Cruz, a town of 1,200 inhabitants near the eastern extremity of the lake. The Filipinos were found to be strongly intrenched there, and guarded by two gunboats and several launches. Consequently no attempt was made by the Americans to land; but the town was shelled, with the effect of dislodging some citizens but no troops. Reinforcements were solicited for the purpose of returning and renewing the attack. No conflicts are yet reported as having occurred on the 20th, 21st or 22d, though there is desultory firing every day.

At Iloilo peace has not yet been established. Both the city of Iloilo and the village of Jaro have been again attacked by natives. Gen. Hughes is to relieve Gen. Miller at that point, the latter having reached the age of retirement from active service.

The Island of Negros, too, is reported to be in a disturbed state. As we related in Nos. 48 and 49, at pages 9 and 7 respectively, the inhabitants of the island of Negros had put themselves voluntarily under American jurisdiction, and affairs were proceeding smoothly. But dispatches of the 21st announce that threatening conditions required reinforcements, and that a battalion had been forwarded. It appears that the Negros commissioners who bore to Gen. Otis at Manila the information that Negros had acknowledged the United

States (See No. 48, page 9) and were returned to their native island in state after being handsomely entertained at Manila, took advantage of the opportunity offered by that mission, to enter into friendly communication with Aguinaldo. This fact is known. Whether it has any connection with the necessity of reinforcements in Negros is not reported. In the islands also of Leyte and Samar, lying near Luzon, hostilities were reported on the 22d as imminent.

Dispatches of the 21st from Manila, indicate the intention of the American advisory commission there to issue a pronunciamiento to the inhabitants of the Philippine islands explaining "the spirit in which the United States intends to fulfill the trust imposed," and calling "upon the people of the islands to lay down their arms and cooperate in the interests of good government."

Further reinforcements have started for the Philippines. The 9th infantry left its barracks at Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., on the 17th, 1,215 strong. The regiment goes by way of San Francisco. On the 22d the Sherman arrived at Manila with the Third infantry and four companies of the Seventeenth. Admiral Dewey has been reinforced by the arrival of the battleship Oregon.

American complications in Cuba are not yet out of the tangle in which we left them a week ago, when the impeachment of Gen. Gomez by the Cuban assembly had produced a conflict of Cuban authority and raised a question as to the distribution of the \$3,000,000 which the United States has forwarded for payment to the Cuban army on condition of its disbandment. Public sentiment at Havana appeared to be with Gomez, until Gen. Brooke officially announced his intention to ignore the assembly and recognize Gomez as the sole representative of the Cuban army, whereupon it seemed to veer around in favor of the assembly. Besides this embarrassment, Gen. Brooke is confronted with the discovery that the assembly has possession of the Cuban army rolls. That makes it impossible, for the present, without the assembly's consent, to pay off and disband the army.

Out of the clash between the Cuban assembly and Gomez, two political parties are expected to be born. The partisans of Gomez have formed what