

of ownership of wealth. After some elaboration of the moral phases of distribution, the division of the book on that subject abruptly terminates, and except for the supplement on money, also abrupt in its ending, the book itself comes to a close.

Evidently George's death prevented his finishing his work. The chapters on distribution and those on money, are little if any more than introductory; and there are indications throughout the body of the work that the magic touches of his pen were lacking in the finish. Defects appear of which the hypercritical—too indolent to pick up the chain of reasoning where verbal links are missing, too malicious perhaps to overlook occasional sentences which from lack of finish are crude or obscure, too much lacking in generosity to assume that the master mind which could produce a "Progress and Poverty" would have left no such defects could he have put this last book through the press, and withal unable to answer George's arguments—will doubtless avail themselves gladly to belittle both the book and its now voiceless author. It is to the credit of Henry George, Jr., who with excellent taste and judgment has edited the manuscript, that he did not attempt to perfect it, but confined his corrections to evident verbal errors. He has given to the world Henry George's manuscript as Henry George left it, and for that, whatever supercilious critics may say, the world will be grateful. For in substance this manuscript is a priceless legacy. Incomplete though it be, and in some places crude for such a master of thought and of English expression as Henry George, the book is nevertheless both complete and sound as well as lucid, in its exposition of general principles; and from these an intelligent public will have little difficulty in making just deductions regarding current social problems. It is a contribution to economic science, moreover, which cannot be ignored, and which may be expected in a short time to give direction and character to economic study.

NEWS

Spain and the United States, as this issue of *The Public* goes to press, are upon the verge of war. Diplomatic negotiations appear to have come to a deadlock, and both countries are in suspense pending the delivery of President McKinley's message on the

subject, which is expected Monday next.

As is well known, this situation has developed out of the Cuban struggle against Spanish dominion. Cuba, lying hardly 100 miles south of our own territory of Key West, and almost the last of the Spanish possessions in America, having for one year in the last century passed under the control of the English, was returned to Spain in 1763, in exchange for Florida. Under the oppressions of severe taxation and of government by captain-generals, the people there became increasingly discontented with Spanish rule; but no uprising occurred—except a brief negro insurrection in 1844—until 1868.

The United States had become concerned with Cuban complaints during the administration of President Polk, who offered \$1,000,000 for the sovereignty of the island. This offer, which Spain indignantly refused, was made in the interest of the extension and perpetuation of southern slavery, as was the publication six years later of the Ostend manifesto by our ministers to England, France and Spain, who thereby joined in demanding that if Spain would not sell Cuba we should seize and forcibly annex it. Failing of its purpose, that manifesto became one of the factors in producing our civil war, during which the question of Spanish dominion in Cuba ceased to interest us. But the oppression still felt by the Cubans, had led up, by 1868, to the rebellion of that year, known as the "ten years' war."

This rebellion was under the military leadership of the West Indian officer who now commands the insurgent forces—Maximo Gomez. The United States became involved in 1873, when 52 Americans, captured upon the ill-fated *Virginius*, were shot by the Spanish authorities as pirates. War with Spain was then with difficulty averted; but it was averted, and the Cubans were left to make their own fight. This they did so successfully that in 1878 a treaty was made at Zanjón, in what is now the province of Puerto Principe, between Gomez, for the revolutionists, and Captain General Campos, for Spain, which granted a large measure of self-government to Cuba and promised the abolition of slavery within ten years.

The Spanish insist that the Zanjón treaty has been sacredly observed. Slavery, they say, was fully abolished

two years before the time stipulated, while the suffrage was promptly extended, the principle of self-government was recognized, and all the other promised constitutional reforms were carried out. This the Cubans deny. They claim that slavery had been virtually killed by the war, and that the royal decrees of abolition were consequently only perfunctory; that taxation without Cuban consent was persisted in; that Cubans were still excluded from all influential offices; that the Madrid customs laws were deliberately made oppressive to Cuba; that most of the Cuban deputies to the cortes owed their places to Spanish influence, while others were rendered powerless to accomplish anything; that the enormous taxes imposed upon Cuba were used, not for the benefit of the island, but for the enrichment of Spanish favorites sent to the island as officials; and that, in brief, the treaty of Zanjón had been made a hollow mockery.

These complaints grew until the revolutionists renewed hostilities by formally declaring war on the 24th of February, 1895. They were able at that time to maintain the rebellion only in the extreme western province of Santiago de Cuba. But by the middle of the year they were in possession of the adjoining province of Puerto Principe, and by its close had carried the war still farther west into the province of Santa Clara. The victories of the revolutionists caused the recall of the Spanish general, Campos. Gen. Valeriano Weyler was sent out to supersede him.

At the opening of the year 1896, the revolutionists pushed westward across the province of Matanzas, destroying the rich sugar growth as they passed, and menaced Weyler as soon as he landed in Havana. About the same time, another detachment of revolutionists entered the most westerly province of the island, Pinar del Rio, destroying the tobacco crops there, as the first detachment had destroyed the sugar crops in Matanzas.

All the provinces, except Havana, were thus occupied by the revolutionists; and, owing to their policy of avoiding pitched battles, in which the greater numerical strength of the Spaniards might have overwhelmed them, Weyler was unable to put down the rebellion by military means. He thereupon adopted a policy of terrorism, arresting and shooting revolutionary suspects, and, to starve out the revolutionary forces, hustling non-

combatants into garrisoned towns so as to prevent their engaging in production. Still the revolutionists were not subdued, and Weyler, after more than a year's experimenting, was, upon the accession of a liberal ministry to political power in Spain, superseded by Gen. Blanco.

The policy of concentrating non-combatants in the towns continued, however, and starvation and disease spread among them to such an extent that general attention in the United States was directed to their condition, and steps for their relief from this country were taken. Congress had long been restless regarding the Cuban situation, but both the Cleveland and the McKinley administrations had held their parties sufficiently in check to prevent any kind of recognition or intervention. But when an American battleship, the *Maine*, lying in Havana harbor as a friendly visitor, was destroyed, and 260 men on board were killed, under circumstances indicating Spanish treachery, public opinion in the United States rose to a pitch which, expressing itself through members of congress, forced the McKinley administration to take diplomatic action.

Urging his party in congress to prevent hostile demonstrations there, President McKinley undertook by diplomacy to make an adjustment of the Cuban question. In this matter the destruction of the *Maine* was an important item, but it was only an item. Independence for Cuba had by this time become with congress a *sine qua non*. Of the nature of the diplomatic negotiations nothing was publicly known, of course, but it was generally understood that the president was insisting upon Cuban independence, and that the Spanish ministry was stubborn upon that point. On the 1st of April, 1898, the reply of the Spanish ministry, supposed to be final, was received at Washington. Though no details were officially given out, it was understood to be in substance a rejection of President McKinley's proposition as to Cuban independence.

War seemed now inevitable, and congress was inclined to precipitate hostilities. But the president urged more patience, and still held out hopes of a peaceable settlement. This was the situation on the 1st, when congress adjourned over to the 4th with a strong disposition on the part of the democratic and populist members, together with enough republic-

ans to make up a majority, in the lower house, at least, to recognize Cuban independence and authorize armed intervention without further delay.

Meanwhile, public feeling in the United States had been further irritated by the departure from the Canary islands, off the northwest coast of Africa, of a fleet of Spanish torpedo boats. On the 2d of April this fleet was reported as having arrived at its destination in the harbor of Porto Rico. Its departure was, under the circumstances, distinctly hostile. There could have been no occasion for its presence in American waters except to destroy American battleships. Its reported arrival, therefore, in the neighborhood of Cuba, was regarded as a naval advantage which Spain had acquired through the dilatory policy of the president. On the 3d, however, news came, at first doubted but afterwards confirmed, that the Spanish torpedo fleet had arrived, not at Porto Rico, but at one of the Cape Verde islands, over 2,000 miles from Porto Rico, where it had been forced to seek shelter from a storm.

Spain had also sent two battleships from Havana under sealed orders, and had dispatched an armored flying squadron from home, the destination of which was unknown. Her navy yards also were kept busy. But neither was the United States idle. Her navy yards, too, had been kept busy; she had appropriated \$50,000,000 for defense; she was buying warships abroad; she was fortifying exposed places; she had posted a flying squadron at Hampton Roads; and in many other ways she had been making emphatic preparations for war. The state department had also warned her minister at Madrid, and her consuls and consular agents in Cuba, to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.

It was reported on the 5th that Consul-General Lee and the other consular representatives of the United States in Cuba had been recalled, and six vessels were sent to Havana for the transportation of Americans who might wish to leave. On the same day the President completed his message to Congress on the Spanish situation. It was approved by the cabinet, and its delivery to Congress, which had impatiently awaited it for nearly a week, was promised for the next day. The 5th also brought news from London of the refusal of Great Britain to

unite with other European powers in an offer of mediation between Spain and the United States. France had suggested such an offer, and communications in furtherance of it were passing between the powers, but Great Britain's refusal to cooperate discouraged the movement. The proposed offer was not regarded in this country as friendly, and although Great Britain's expressed ground for refusal was that the Cuban question does not concern her, her refusal was understood to be an intimation of sympathy with this country.

At this writing Americans are leaving Cuba in large numbers and in great excitement, while rich Spaniards are resorting to all possible means of getting themselves and their portable wealth out of Havana. In Washington feeling is at fever heat. The delay of the president in sending in his message, promised for the 4th, and again for the 6th, but finally postponed until the 11th, is puzzling and irritating both congress and the public. The impression is abroad that when the message comes it will recommend armed intervention without recognizing the Cuban Republic. This policy is antagonized by the democrats and a large body of republicans in congress; and the Cuban officials announce that such intervention would be regarded on their part as an act of war against the Cuban Republic.

The Spanish trouble has naturally occupied exclusive attention in this country, but other parts of the world are in a ferment, too. News from the Egyptian Soudan indicates that war is on in earnest there. According to the cable reports, the Anglo-Egyptian troops, whose objective point is Khartoum, have captured Shendy on the east bank of the Nile, about 100 miles above Berber, the most advanced post heretofore occupied by them. One large body of dervishes had been massed at Shendy, and another farther up the river, at Omdurman, just across from Khartoum. The body at Shendy had been expecting an attack, but the Anglo-Egyptians were not yet ready to make one; so most of the dervish force moved out of Shendy, towards the Atbara river, whence it is supposed they intended to force the fighting by advancing upon Berber, the Anglo-Egyptian base, and attacking it from the desert. Discovering the depletion of the dervish force at Shendy, the Anglo-Egyptians easily

captured the place, after which reconnoitering parties discovered the dervishes entrenched near the Atbara river. This puts a new phase possibly on the situation in the Soudan. The Anglo-Egyptians are hurrying to complete railroad connections between Berber and Cairo, so as to be able to push troops into the Soudan as may be required. If undisturbed in these operations for a month or two longer, they have expected to crush the mahdist movement completely, though at the expense of at least two or three bloody battles. But Gen. Sir Herbert Kitchener, who, under the title of Sirdar, commands the Anglo-Egyptian troops, hopes that through his occupation of Shendy he may prevent the dervishes at Omdurman to the south, from rejoining those entrenched upon the Atbara to the north, and thus achieve a final victory much easier than he had hoped. On the 5th the Anglo-Egyptians made a reconnoissance in force in the direction of the dervish camp near the Atbara, and a skirmish with few casualties resulted.

In China, the process of partition is also leading on to possible war. The Russian government officially described, on the 2d, the ceremonies attending the Russian occupation of Port Arthur and Talienwan, in China. In accordance with the terms of the Chinese treaty, a detachment of Russian troops at Vladivostock was ordered on the 17th of March to join the landing parties of the Pacific squadron at Port Arthur. On the 27th, these troops having arrived, the Chinese troops began their departure from Port Arthur, the last column marching out at one o'clock on the morning of the 28th. Five hours later the Russians landed and began to occupy the forts. By eight in the evening they were in position, when Russian flags were run up on all the vessels of the fleet and Russian and Chinese flags on the forts, while salutes were fired by both ships and forts. A similar programme was carried out at Talienwan. Appended to this official description is an announcement that immediate measures will be taken for the effective occupation of ceded territory.

On the day of the Russian announcement, April 2, the British minister at Peking had a conference with the Chinese foreign office at which he is reported to have demanded territorial concessions for Great Britain. The demand is said to have been for a

lease of Wei-Hai-Wei, on the Shan Tung peninsula, after the Japanese shall have evacuated it, the object of the British being to secure an offset to the power which Russia has acquired in the same region.

This demand is contemplated by neither Russia nor Germany with satisfaction. Two days after it was made, a Russian representative informed the British minister at Peking that both Germany and Russia regarded England's action as tending to prevent the development of their enterprises, and the situation as serious.

In connection with these territorial concessions, accusations of Chinese official corruption are now being made by the Chinese themselves. A Chinaman of the highest rank is announced as having memorialized the emperor, bluntly accusing the Chinese foreign office of being in the pay of Russia, and specifically charging that 10,000,000 taels (about \$8,000,000) was spent in bribery during the negotiations for the concession to Russia of Port Arthur and Talienwan, of which sum Li Hung Chang received 1,500,000 taels, or about \$1,200,000. The memorialist demands a full investigation of his charges, asking, if they be proved, that Li Hung Chang be beheaded, and offering if they be not proved himself to submit to decapitation.

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs, professor of Biblical theology in Union Theological seminary, a Presbyterian institution at New York, was recently confirmed in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Potter, and has now applied for reception into the Episcopal ministry. Prof. Briggs, it will be remembered, has been for seven years in uncomfortable relations with the Presbyterians. Charged with teaching that reason, apart from the Bible, is a source of Divine authority; that the church also is such a source; that errors exist in the original text of the Bible; that Old Testament predictions have not always been fulfilled, and the great body of Messianic predictions cannot be; that Moses is not the author of the Pentateuch; that Isaiah was not the author of the whole of the book of Isaiah; that the processes of redemption operate in the next world; and that sanctification is not complete at death, he was acquitted in 1893 by the New York Presbytery, a majority of which was in sympathy with his heretical views. But upon appeal to the governing

body of the Presbyterian church in America, the General Assembly, he was adjudged guilty of "teaching the errors mentioned," and therefore of "violation of his ordination vows." He was accordingly suspended from the Presbyterian ministry. But as the General Assembly was unable to control Union seminary, Prof. Briggs has continued in his chair in that institution.

At the municipal election in Chicago on the 5th, 17 of the aldermen elected were republican (one of them to fill a vacancy) and 16 were democratic candidates. The other two ran as independents. There were populist candidates in six wards, who polled an aggregate of 1,078; in nine wards there were socialist-labor party candidates, who polled an aggregate of 886; and in one ward there was a prohibition candidate who polled 689 votes. What lends national interest to the result is its condemnation of the Allen law, under which the city is authorized to extend street car franchises for 50 years. The street car interests of Chicago fought hard to elect a board of aldermen from which extensions for that period could be obtained without compensation or reduction of fares, and to this end they influenced both the leading parties in their nominations. The result is regarded as an assurance that, at least with the mayor's veto against them, they will be unable to secure so long an extension, or any extension at all on those terms.

For much the same reasons that the Chicago election is of general concern, the election on the same day in Milwaukee also is. There the silver democratic candidate for mayor was elected by 8,700 plurality, and at least 26 out of 42 aldermen were returned, upon a platform which not only declared for free silver and the reduction of street car fares, but for municipal ownership of public utilities as well. Henry C. Payne, the monopoly magnate of Milwaukee, had forced his own candidates upon the republican primaries, and in the triumph of the silver democrats he was signally defeated. The social democracy had a ticket in the field, and Eugene V. Debs made a campaign for it in person. It polled about 2,500 votes.

In Cleveland, O., also, the street car question was involved in the municipal election. Mayor McKisson, a republican who achieved national