

they call the National Cuban party, with the intention of making Gomez the first president of the Cuban republic; while an opposing party is organizing to support the assembly against what it calls the Gomez dictatorship.

Besides the generation of political parties in Cuba, this clash between the assembly and the late commander-in-chief has precipitated rioting in Havana. A desperate fight occurred late at night on the 18th, between the Havana police and partisans of Gomez. Nearly 1,000 shots were exchanged. There were numerous minor disturbances of similar character on the 19th, but after that quiet was restored. The casualties chronicled for the two days were 7 killed, two of them being policemen and one a woman, and 50 wounded.

The discontent in Porto Rico, reported last week, gives no indication of having been allayed. According to mail advices received on the 19th, it is expected that the feelings of the Porto Ricans may culminate in open rebellion. Arms and ammunition are reported to have been smuggled into the island and secreted in the mountains for rebellious use; and 100 rounds of ammunition have been issued to the American troops.

There has been friction for more than two months between the natives of Porto Rico and the American military authorities. It seems to have had its origin in a growing conviction on the part of the Porto Ricans that their island is to be held as an American colony. About Christmas time a delegation representing several Porto Rican cities arrived in this country to protest against the continuance of the military administration. They claimed that they had enjoyed a higher degree of freedom under the old Spanish regime, and expressed an earnest wish for a reasonable civil government, asking to be accepted by the United States as brothers and not as subjects—to have the island made a territory the same as the territories that have come to be states. For Gen. Henry, the American military governor, they expressed respect and esteem, but insisted that his government was that of a man and not of the people. About a month after arriving, this delegation had an interview with President McKinley. Their formal petition to him requested the appointment of a civil governor, either a native or an American, with

provision for a legislative assembly. It complained that there were then two governments on the island—the American military government, rigid and exacting; and the island government, which was a mere relic of Spanish sovereignty. The president reassured the delegates in general terms; and promises of a colonial commission to administer the affairs of Porto Rico, were cabled to San Juan. The commission consists of Gen. Robert P. Kennedy, Maj. Charles W. Watkins, and Henry G. Curtis. Even at that time prominent Porto Rican officials were quoted as intimating that there would be trouble if the American government did not soon terminate the military regime upon the island.

Subsequently the dissatisfaction grew, and in the latter part of February, the mayor and the majority of the municipal council of San Juan resigned rather than comply with a decree of the military governor. This incident excited much local irritation. It is chiefly important as indicating the feeling of subjection which the Porto Ricans feel that they are under to the military power of the United States. Gen. Henry insists, however, that he has strenuously avoided giving cause for such a feeling. In a newspaper interview on the subject early in the present month, he said:

Military government is not the best kind. I do not believe in military government. The American people do not believe in it. The army does not believe in it, and, as far as possible, I wanted these people to govern themselves and keep militarism in the background. I put the alcaldes and municipal council in control of the towns and cities. I established a native police force. The army was invariably kept from interfering in civil affairs unless the actions of the alcaldes and councils became so outrageous, as it has become in many places, that I was forced to declare martial law in each one.

An adjournment of the German reichstag was taken on the 21st until April 11. Dissolution had been imminent, over the defeat of the emperor on a provision of the army bill. The budget committee had disallowed an item for increasing the infantry by 7,000 men; and on the 14th, against the protests of the war minister, the reichstag sustained the committee, upon the second reading of the bill, by a vote of 209 to 141. It was then predicted in Berlin that if the vote upon the third reading did not change

this result and override the committee, the emperor would dissolve the reichstag, he being determined upon having the full quota of infantry asked for by the ministry. But the threatened crisis was averted by a compromise. The reichstag adopted the report of the committee disallowing the increase of 7,000 infantrymen, but passed a resolution to the effect that if at the expiration of five years it should be found that the army cannot be maintained on a satisfactory footing without the increase, the increase shall be allowed. This compromise was reluctantly accepted by the emperor, as the alternative of dissolving the reichstag and changing the result of a new election. But the ministry formally insisted upon the increase, for the purpose, it is surmised, of leaving the emperor free to renew his demand at subsequent sessions before the expiration of the five years. The bill was adopted on the 16th, with the additional resolution noted above, by a vote of 222 to 132. This bill increases the peace footing of the German army for the seventh time since 1872.

The most significant event of the week in American politics, is the publication of the correspondence between Perry Belmont and Wm. J. Bryan relative to an invitation to Mr. Bryan to attend a banquet of a Tammany hall social club at New York, of which Belmont is president, on the occasion of the anniversary of Jefferson's birthday. Mr. Bryan, in declining the invitation, expressed his appreciation of the compliment, but, referring to Mr. Belmont's having bolted the party at the late presidential election, he said:

Antagonism between our opinions is so great that we can't with propriety join in a political banquet in honor of Democracy's patron saint. Jefferson stood for certain well defined principles. If your views are a correct reflection of his ideas, I fear that my views would sound a discordant note at your banquet. If, on the other hand, the Chicago platform applies (as I believe it does) Jefferson's principles to present conditions, then your conspicuous presence at the Jefferson banquet would not honor the memory of the world's greatest Democrat. Do not misunderstand me. You may be right and I may be wrong, but I take it for granted that we are equally conscientious, and I trust that I may not show myself less courageous than you. You proclaimed to your fellow-citizens in 1896 that my election upon the Democratic platform would endanger the

nation's welfare. You will pardon me if I say that a banquet presided over by you will injure, rather than aid the Democratic party. I believe in harmonizing private differences, but differences in principle can never be harmonized; and in my opinion no party advantage is to be derived from communion of Jeffersonian Democrats who stand by the Democratic platform and Republican allies who masquerade as Democrats between campaigns, in order to give more potency to their betrayal of Democratic principles on election day.

To this Mr. Belmont replied:

Your purpose to be defamatory is obvious, and were it not that you have interwoven in your abuse reference to my opinions upon public questions as opposed to your own, to the Democratic club, of which I am President, and to its proposed celebration of Jefferson's birthday, I should have left your offensive statements unanswered. The Democratic club of New York has a membership of nearly 3,000 Democrats, who all hold to the main principles of Democracy, while their opinions may vary in regard to such political questions as are not fundamental, but merely local or transitory, like many of the vain conceits you have yourself espoused. But none of these 3,000 members is a Republican. As for myself, I never voted for a Republican candidate for either a great or small office. Your contention is that the Chicago platform applies Jeffersonian principles to "present conditions" and that because I criticised that platform in its application to conditions existing three years ago, and then resisted your candidacy for the Presidency, therefore my presence at the proposed dinner would not honor the world's greatest Democrat. It is not practical for me to recall in this letter the substance of what I have written or spoken during or since the last Presidential campaign in regard to the Chicago platform and its many phases, and, although I do not in any way recognize your right to question my Democracy, I am sending you by this mail a volume which correctly gives the text of everything which has been published, and you are at liberty to indicate and expose any portion that is unpatriotic, undemocratic, un-American, or in conflict with the Democratic creed as set forth in Jefferson's first inaugural address.

Mr. Bryan has expressed his willingness to attend another and more popular dinner at New York, in honor of Jefferson's birthday, provided it be postponed so as not to interfere with his engagement to speak at Milwaukee on the 13th, and be distinctly a Chicago platform affair in honor of Jefferson. The postponement has accordingly been made until April 19th, and Bryan has engaged to be present. This is to be a \$1 banquet;

it is to be held in a banquet room with a seating capacity of 3,000, and the applications for seats already indicate that overflow meetings will be necessary. The episode promises to be the beginning of organized opposition to the admission of Tammany hall delegates to the next national convention.

Another state legislature has adjourned sine die, with a senatorial deadlock unbroken. This is the legislature of California, which adjourned on the 18th, after the 104th ballot for a successor to ex-Senator White. Both California and Delaware are now left with a vacancy in the United States senate.

The municipal campaign in Chicago is now furnished with three full complements of candidates. Carter H. Harrison was nominated on the 15th for reelection as mayor, by the regular democratic organization. Zina R. Carter had been already nominated by the republicans. And ex-Gov. Altgeld's nominating petitions, signed by more than 26,000 names, were filed on the 18th. Altgeld is making the contest as a democrat against the local democratic "machine," upon the platform of "Municipal Ownership and the Chicago Platform." Carter stands, so far as local franchises are concerned, upon the principle of exacting compensation from highway corporations and looking vaguely to ultimate municipal ownership. Harrison advocates municipal ownership as a general proposition, but opposes it for the present as to street cars.

After the Harrison convention, William Prentiss, who was chairman of the last democratic state convention of Illinois, and is a strict party democrat, having heretofore refused to support Altgeld because he was running independently of the local organization, announced himself as opposed to Harrison and in favor of Altgeld. In his letter he declared, referring to the local democratic convention, that

Neither in its platform nor its proceedings was the least reference made to the Chicago platform of 1896, the last authoritative declaration of the Democratic party, or to any principle therein enunciated. Not only were the most sacred principles of the party ignored, but during the entire convention not even the name of any of the honored leaders of the party, living or dead, from Jefferson to Bryan, was mentioned. Apparently there was a

studied purpose to keep everything Democratic out of the convention, except the party name. Nominally a Democratic body, it deliberately absolved every Democrat from any party obligation to support its action. Much as I admired the great abilities and splendid Democracy of ex-Governor Altgeld, I did not favor his independent candidacy for Mayor up to last Wednesday. I hoped that I might be spared the sad duty of opposing a Democratic ticket bearing the stamp of regularity. But what was a sincere Democrat to do when confronted with a situation like the present? Were it not for the independent candidacy of John P. Altgeld there would be no real Democratic candidate for Mayor of Chicago to-day.

Several other prominent Chicago democrats have adopted Mr. Prentiss's conclusions, and followed his example; while the Altgeld meetings are crowded and enthusiastic. Altgeld says that in all his experience in Chicago politics, he has never known the city to be so thoroughly aroused over municipal questions as it appears to be now.

NEWS NOTES.

—The Eighth Illinois regiment, manned by colored men, returned on the 18th from Cuba.

—A new satellite of Saturn has been discovered at the Harvard observatory by Prof. William H. Pickering.

—Joseph Medill, principal proprietor and nominal editor of the Chicago Tribune, died on the 16th at San Antonio, Tex.

—A cyclone swept parts of Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi on the 18th, doing much damage to property and killing many people.

—Benjamin P. Hutchinson died on the 16th at Lake Geneva, Wis. He was once famous on the Chicago board of trade, where he was known as "Old Hutch."

—The Danish government has begun allotting money to farm laborers for the purchase of small farms. The allotments are made as loans bearing interest at five per cent.

—On the 17th the Windsor hotel, located at Fifth avenue and Forty-seventh street, New York, burned to the ground. The number of killed and injured is large but unknown.

—St. Augustine, Fla., has taken up the subject of municipal ownership. An ordinance providing for a municipal electric lighting plant has passed the council and is to be submitted to popular vote.

—At the Sing Sing (N. Y.) state prison on the 20th, Mrs. Martha Place was legally killed by electricity,