

the meeting were Mr. M. Fay, Mr. F. S. Macdermott, Mr. P. Keane, Mr. John Keane, Mr. George Atkinson, Mr. O'Loughlin, and H. J. Maguire. It is an open secret that before the meeting was held £200 had been privately subscribed. In all probability Father Le Hennetel will remain away twelve months.

THE WAR.

WHAT THE CABLES SAY.

INTELLIGENCE concerning the hostilities between Spain and the United States of America is being ladled out through the wires to the Colonial newspapers with a niggardly hand. What the Americans are doing at Havana for the last several weeks beyond keeping up a strict blockade is a mystery, but a more mysterious thing still is the movements of the Spanish Cape Verde squadron. Over a fortnight ago it was stated to have left Cape Verde and headed south, but the world is in absolute ignorance as to its subsequent movements. Shipmasters have reported sighting it at widely divergent points of the globe at one and the same time, and altogether it might readily be conceived that the squadron had been converted into a fleet of "Flying Dutchmen." On Monday last the cables announced that the Cape Verde squadron had come into conflict with the American flying squadron in mid Atlantic, but this intelligence yet remains unconfirmed.

Details of the fighting at Manila have at length come to hand, and it appears that the Spanish fleet made a gallant stand.

The American Admiral reports that the Spanish were at a tremendous disadvantage, being out-maneuvred and out-weighted. Nevertheless, aided by the forts, they fought heroically.

The Olympia leading, the first five ships of the American fleet passed the inland forts unobserved, but sparks emitted from the Boston's funnels alarmed the garrison, which fired three shots without doing any damage. Before the fort was silenced the vessels swept on without stopping. Two mines were exploded ineffectually. The Americans reached the front of Manila and discovered the Spanish squadron drawn up in line of battle opposite Cavite, under protection of the forts, without steam up. The fleet consisted of 10 large and six small vessels.

The Spaniards opened fire at 5000 yards, but the shots were ineffectual. The Olympia reserved her fire until within 4000 yards, when she replied with her 8in guns, the crew shouting "Remember the Maine!" After three hours' terrible fire most of the Spanish vessels were sunk. One of the Spanish warships—the Don Antonio de Colloa—made a magnificent fight. She sank with all on board, with her colours nailed to the mast and her lower guns firing to the last. After a two hours' interval for rest the American fleet again engaged the enemy, and within an hour and a half all the Spanish vessels were destroyed.

The Spanish admiral also achieved undying fame. The American admiral allowed him an opportunity to surrender, but he expressed himself determined to fight and, if needs be, to die. In the battle he was slightly wounded, but remained on board the vessel until it was almost sinking. It is stated that he then transferred his flag to another ship and kept on "banging" at the Americans with renewed vigour.

At one stage of the fight the Reina Christina advanced to attack the Olympia, but a rain of shells compelled her to retire. Her riddled boilers exploded, and she was soon ablaze.

President McKinley has forwarded a message to Congress, in which he asserts that it is impossible to measure the victory already gained over the Spaniards by ordinary standards. The moral outweighs the material advantage. The nation's heart throbs with gratitude at the triumph of a just cause. He recommends Congress to thank Admiral Dewey for distinguished conduct, also to convey thanks to his officers and men for their gallantry. A resolution was subsequently adopted by Congress.

Admiral Dewey has offered, on behalf of America, to administer the Philippines through the Spanish authorities if acts of war are avoided. He realises that it is impossible to trust the insurgents, who were reported to be helping him in the formation of a provisional Government.

Meantime the utmost discontent exists in Spain as the result of the fight. Riots have occurred all over the country and the Government is alarmed.

The next step on the part of the Americans is to invade Cuba. It is proposed to land 61,000 troops as a first instalment, consisting of 16,000 regulars, 14,000 volunteers, and 25,000 volunteer reserves.

General Miles will be in command of the invading army. He will land forces at several points and sweep the Spaniards from the provinces, relieving the distress amongst the Cubans.

The attack on Havana will be reserved until later. General Miles leaves Florida with the first division on Sunday.

MAJOR-GENERAL MILES.

Major-General Miles has seen a great deal of service. He is best known as the ablest of latter-day Indian fighters, his success against the rebellious tribes overshadowing his distinguished career in the rebellion. Singularly enough he is not a West Point graduate. He was born in Westminster, Mass., in 1839, and is not yet 59 years old. He entered the volunteer service during the war of the rebellion as captain of the 72nd United States Infantry, and was mustered out in 1862 to accept the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 61st New York Infantry. It was in the battle at Fair Oaks that General Miles first displayed conspicuous bravery and gallantry. At Malvern Hill he again was honoured, and became colonel of his regiment on September 30, 1862. He commanded the regiment at Fredericks-

burg, and was severely wounded in making a charge at Chancellorsville. He served with the army of the Potomac during the Manassas, Peninsula, Northern Virginia, Mine Run, Wilderness, Peterburgh, and Appomattox campaigns. He took part in every battle of the army of the Potomac, with one exception, up to the time that Lee surrendered. He was three times severely wounded. As a modern Indian fighter, General Miles had never an equal. For more than 10 years he pursued the Indians all over the West, and crushed the fight out of them. He displayed great courage, marvellous fertility of resource, and remarkable strategy in border warfare. His last campaign was against the Apaches, led by the infamous Geronimo and Natchez. He compelled these chiefs to surrender on September 4, 1886. The West rang with his praises. Four States thanked him officially.

THE POWER OF IRONCLADS.

Very few people have any idea of the enormous power of the modern ironclads. The hitting power of the 21 British battleships and 44 cruisers of the fighting line which were present at the Record Reign naval review, for only 10 minutes' consecutive fire from all their guns combined, computes to no less than 128,299,186 foot tons. To put this in a more understandable form, the following is given: The Great Pyramid contains 100,000,000 cubic feet of stone and weighs 8,500,000 tons. Nevertheless, the gun power developed by the 65 ships mentioned, as exemplified by this muzzle energy in foot tons, would suffice—in ten minutes—to lift the Great Pyramid of Cleopatra 15ft above the level of the sands of Memphis! Yet the Great Pyramid is eight and a half times heavier than the combined French and Russian fleets.

Mr. E. W. Dunne, bookseller, George street, advertises in this issue a list of standard Irish works including works that will be read with interest in connection with the approaching '98 centenary. The firm also advertises for sale "The Orange Society," by the Rev. H. W. Cleary.—ADVT.

In another column particulars will be found of a Crown Land sale to be held at the Court House, Naseby, on the 8th of next month.—ADVT.

The winners of the prizes in the art-union held recently in aid of the Catholic Church and school, Meane appear in another column in this issue.—ADVT.

Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co. are the sole agents in New Zealand for the "Patent elastic steel Horse Collar." The collar will ease and prevent sore shoulders, and each collar can be adjusted to three sizes. The firm's advertisement regarding it appears in this issue.—ADVT.

Messrs. Dwan Bros. Hotel Brokers, Willis street, Wellington, report the following sales:—Mount Egmont Hotel, Midhurst, to Mr. J. G. Colville, late of Carterton; Bunnythorpe Hotel, Bunnythorpe, to Mr. Symon Glogoskie; Teuui Hotel, Teuui, to Mr. T. D. Thompson, late of the Empire Hotel, Masterton; Tauaru Hotel, Tauaru, to Mr. K. McIntosh; Makakahi Hotel, Makakahi, to Captain North, late of the s.s. "Waihi"; Marine Parade Hotel, Whakataki, to Messrs. Parsons and Williamson, late of the Wairarapa; Grand National Hotel, Petone, to Mr. W. Biggs, contractor; Wellington; Pahautanui Hotel, Pahautanui, to Mr. R. Saunders, late of Rangitikei; and the Royal Hotel, Thorndon Quay, Wellington, to Mr. E. J. Searl, well known in the Wairarapa.—ADVT.

Symington's Coffee Essences are undoubtedly the premier essences on the market. They are made from the best materials by the most improved process, are of a uniformly high quality, and are absolutely pure.—ADVT.

If anybody wishes to buy a whole archipelago, says the London *Tablet*, now is the chance. In the local paper of Funchal, Maderia, lately appeared an advertisement:—To be sold.—The Selvagens Islands. Further particulars at the office of this paper. These islands, it seems, consist of three large and four small ones, all uninhabited and poorly supplied with water, but rich in game, lying between Maderia and Teneriffe. Historically and politically they belong to Maderia. Formerly their chief product was orchilla, but latterly they have chiefly supplied puffins, of which birds between 20,000 and 22,000 are caught annually for the sake of their flesh, feathers, and oil. For lovers of natural history the islands offer a virgin soil.

In presiding over the annual dinner of metropolitan proof-readers in London Mr. Murray told some excellent stories of the humour of proof-reading. For instance, a well-known clerical author prepared a work published by the house with which he was associated. The author himself undertook to correct the proofs, and not until the book had run into a second edition was it discovered that the printer had turned the Bishop of Cremona into the Bishop of Cremonne. (Laughter.) A very amusing mistake was that discovered by a proof-reader in a work written by Dean Stanley. The latter wrote, to use a colloquialism familiar in printing establishments, the "vilest" hand that ever puzzled the compositor. In one chapter the Dean was describing a journey to Jerusalem, the frequent recurrence of the name of the Holy City causing him to use the contraction "Jers." Narrating the approach of his party to Jerusalem Dean Stanley described their ascent up the hills overlooking the city. He pictured in glowing language and striking phrases the effect of the setting sun as it gilded the hill-tops in a golden haze, concluding—as the compositor put it—in these words: "And as we slowly turned our faces to the east our eyes met with the glorious sight of Jones."