

from the powers; and naval troops of Great Britain, Russia, Italy, France, Japan and the United States were reported to have arrived in small bodies at Peking. An imperial edict, moreover, had been issued by the Chinese government, which ordered the crushing of the supposed conspiracy; and at the time of our writing last week, news had just come to hand of a battle between the Chinese imperial troops and the "boxers" close to Peking. That was the situation as reported in this country down to the 6th.

Since then nothing has been heard of the battle near Peking, though there have been further indefinite reports of fighting between the "boxers" and Chinese troops. Railroad communication between Tientsin, on the Gulf of Pechili, and Peking, has been cut off; and at latest accounts 1,500 foreign troops having seized the Tientsin-Peking railroad, were repairing it, and 10,000 more were in readiness to advance to Peking. The missionaries there, in hourly dread of massacre, had gathered for safety in the Methodist "compound." "Boxers" mobs held the whole foreign population of Peking terror stricken. Assaults were made on some foreign attaches there, and on the 12th a secretary of the Japanese legation was murdered at a railway station. As most of the news dispatches are hysterical, and none of them are burdened with facts, it is impossible further to summarize the situation with fidelity.

Among the more or less trustworthy news reports from China is one to the effect that the dowager empress, who is the actual though not the nominal sovereign, has shown her sympathy and that of the dominant party—the ultra conservative—with the "boxers," by the friendly tone of the decrees, ostensibly against the "boxers," which she has issued under the pressure of foreign influence. She is charged, also, with discouraging the imperial troops in their operations for the suppression of the uprising. Other news dispatches indicate that Russia is preparing for military occupation with a strong force, the pretext being the destruction of a Russian chapel; while others foreshadow a war between Russia and Japan as the result of such independent action on Russia's part. Still other dispatches declare that the late emperor, the young reformer

whose career as a reformer on the throne the dowager empress checked nearly two years ago (See The Public, No. 26, page 7, and No. 27, page 11), and who, after abdicating under pressure early in the present year (See The Public No. 96, page 10), was made a prisoner in the palace, has solicited the powers to replace him upon the throne and to govern China through him, thus making of the empire a European protectorate.

Inasmuch as some of the news dispatches from China describe the "boxers" outbreak as having spread into the southern provinces, it is not at all improbable that the so-called "boxers" uprising is in fact an extension northward to the region of Peking of the civil war reported over a year ago (See The Public, No. 49, page 8) as prevailing in the provinces of Hoonan, Honan, Nganhoei, Keangsee and Hoopé, and as having then established revolutionary authority over an immense territory in that part of the empire.

Though the ragged news from China has displaced the South African war as the principal subject of general interest, that war still holds a place of importance. Our last report left the British in possession of Johannesburg and Pretoria, the Boers having surrendered these cities and removed their capital to Lydenburg, 150 miles east of Pretoria; and it told of Boer operations in the Orange Free State against the right wing of Lord Roberts's army. Their latest reported exploit in this region at that time was the capture of a British regiment—the Irish yeomanry—which occurred on the 31st. After that there was a long silence, broken only by occasional reports of unimportant and uninteresting events, until the 9th, when a body of Boers estimated at 2,000, with six field guns, was reported as having cut the telegraph and wrecked more than 20 miles of railway between Kroonstad and Roodenwal, which is about 30 miles north of Kroonstad. They held this point until the 13th, when a strong British force was reported as having moved southward and after defeating them reopened communications. No particulars were given of the fighting, except that the Boers had been completely routed.

From the Natal border, where Gen. Buller is still in command, it was reported on the 9th that after an action

on the 7th at Laing's Nek, in the extreme north of Natal, as a result of which Buller forced his way through the Botha pass into the Orange Free State, the Boers offered to surrender conditionally. But unconditional surrender was demanded, and they managed to withdraw with their guns to a point some 26 miles to the northwest of Buller. This was the situation there at latest reports.

Since that time nothing has been heard from that quarter. But on the Middleburg road, about 15 miles east of Pretoria, a battle was in progress on the 11th and was then undecided. Further particulars had not been received on the 14th when this paragraph was written.

The Boer envoys continue their tour of the United States. After their reception at Chicago, reported last week, two of them—Fischer and Wessels—went to St. Paul, where they were welcomed on the 7th at a large mass meeting at which Gov. Lind was the principal speaker. On their route they were greeted at the railway stations by immense crowds. Mr. Fischer received a popular welcome at Milwaukee on the 7th, from which place he went to Springfield, Ill., where on the 10th he addressed a large gathering. During his stay in Springfield, he placed a floral offering upon the tomb of Lincoln. Mr. Wessels had meantime gone westward, and on the 9th he addressed a mass meeting at Omaha, which had been called to express sympathy with the Boer cause, and at which William J. Bryan also spoke. Among other things Mr. Bryan said:

I trust that the day will never come when a nation fighting for liberty will look in vain to the American people for sympathy and aid. I do not see how one can do other than choose the cause of the two republics in preference to that of a monarchy. . . . There comes a time when the millions of American people have the privilege of rising and casting their ballots against that administration of government which fails to carry out their wishes, and when those ballots are next counted I believe that they will be an expression of the American people for these people fighting for their independence. . . . We should not be unmindful of our duties to the people of this world struggling for their liberty—we, the greatest nation on earth, founded on liberty. . . . We must keep inspired with that love and reverence for the blessed name of liberty till every American citizen

goes down on his knees and asks the God of battles to bring victory to the Boers.

While Mr. Fischer and Mr. Wessels were addressing American citizens of English speech in the farther west, Mr. Wolmerans had gone into Michigan, where he addressed American citizens of Dutch speech in their native tongue.

While the Boer envoys were thus appealing to the American people in behalf of Boer independence in South Africa, the American government was continuing its operations against Filipino independence in Asia. That this work is discouraging, however, is shown to some extent by the events of the week. On the 6th it was learned at Manila that the Thirty-third regiment had recently gone through an experience which qualified a majority for the hospital. They had marched 250 miles in the mountains, suffering from hunger and fever, and of 50 horses with which they had begun their march only 13 survived. Nor is that the only discouraging news. Papers have come into the possession of the military authorities at Manila which show that nearly all the mayors installed by Americans in towns within Gen. Young's military district, have been regularly collecting and forwarding taxes for Aguinaldo's government and reporting to Aguinaldo the disposition and movements of American troops. It appears, also, that native telegraphers employed by the American military authorities have been sending to Aguinaldo copies of important telegrams exchanged between American officials. As a slight offset to these discouragements the Americans were able on the 9th to report the capture near Manila of Gen. Pio del Pilar, and on the 12th to announce the bloodless dispersal of a Filipino garrison in the mountains by Gen. Grant and the surrender at other points of two guerrilla leaders. But the glory of these captures was dimmed by an Associated Press report of the 13th from Manila, which disturbs the theory that only the "Tagalog tribes" are unfriendly to the Americans, and that but for them the archipelago would be pacified. Says this report:

The theory that the Filipinos outside of the Tagalog provinces were friendly to American rule has been deeply shaken by recent events. All of the northeastern coast beyond Dagupan is in a state of war and there are frequent fights with heavy losses

to the Filipinos. All of the southern provinces inhabited by the Visayans are also turbulent, and in the Camarines, Neuva Carceres and Albay provinces the Americans control only the ground within the picket lines of the garrisons in the coast towns, while these garrisons are the objects of frequent attacks from large insurgent forces. With the exception of Negros, which, being the wealthiest island of the Philippines, is the most friendly to American rule, the Visayan islands show similar conditions. Panay is overrun by the insurgents outside of the American garrisons.

No engagements are distinctively reported, but under the head of casualties in "scouting" the fact is disclosed that both sides continue to suffer losses in both killed and wounded.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to May 30, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900.	11
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900	69
Total deaths since July 1, 1898...	1,927
Wounded	2,152
Total casualties since July, 1898...	4,079
Total casualties reported last week	4,025
Total deaths reported last week...	1,896

In this imperial play of making war to force civilization upon distant countries, France also appears to be preparing to give the world the benefit of a sensational performance. The object of her intentions is Morocco, and her motive will be apparent upon a glance at the map of North Africa. The fortress of Gibraltar, as is well known, enables the British to command the Straits of Gibraltar and thereby the mouth of the Mediterranean sea. If the French could acquire the same right of fortification at Ceuta, on the African shore, they might share with Great Britain this power of control; but to that Great Britain would never consent, and France is not disposed to contest the matter. The French, therefore, look with hope toward opening an overland route, under their own control, from some point on the Atlantic coast of Africa into Algeria, which is already a dependency of France. By that means France would secure a gateway from the Atlantic to the

Mediterranean which would not be commanded by British guns. The most available overland route for their purpose is through southern Morocco, from Cape Ghir on the Atlantic, to Fighig on the Algerian border. It is not clear from the news dispatches what France is doing to secure this route, but Morocco, which is an absolute despotism under a sultan, is preparing to resist a military attack. She is mobilizing troops at Fighig in readiness to meet the French advanced posts just across the border in Algeria in the event of a hostile movement on their part. Additional importance is given these warlike preparations by rumors in London that Great Britain proposes to check the French by crossing over into Morocco at Tangier to restore order in the sultan's dominions, upon the plan adopted for the pacification of Egypt.

Farther south in Africa another war is in progress. It is in Ashanti on the northern coast of the Gulf of Guinea, the participants being the natives and the British. Ashanti is a British crown colony, of which Frederic M. Hodgson is the governor. We noted five weeks ago, at page 71, that the native Ashantis had risen in great force and were besieging Coomassie, the colony capital; and a week later, at page 93, that their rebellion was growing more serious, and appeared to have for its object the termination of British rule. After that no news reached this country until the present week; and what comes now gives but little information. Almost all that can be gathered from it is that Coomassie is too closely invested by the natives for runners to get through, and that the British relief expedition, under Col. Willcocks, is meeting with determined opposition in its advance. A severe though apparently unfruitful battle was fought between the 6th and 9th in which there were 100 British casualties. Another had been fought in May; but though the British won it, they were obliged to withdraw, which they did after burning a native village in the sight of its inhabitants. Fifty thousand natives are reported as in arms; and it is said to be impossible for white men to go into the interior.

Back from the dark continent to America, and still there is news of war. A dispatch of the 6th tells of three fierce battles in Colombia,