

reported officially that "the country on the east coast, between Rolmrock and Georgetown, was apparently struck and devastated in a similar manner to St. Pierre," all living things within that radius having probably been destroyed. Dead to the number of 1,000 had been found and buried, and probably 1,600 persons all told had been killed, including "the managers and owners of estates with their families and several of the better class of people." There were 160 persons in the Georgetown hospital, of whom 6 might recover. The governor found the details of the catastrophe "too harrowing to describe." From other dispatches it appears that a heavy explosion occurred at the volcano Soufriere on the 5th, and that on the 8th two craters belched forth smoke and stones and poured down the sides of the mountain six streams of molten lava. The entire northern end of the island is described as cut off from the southern end by an enormous lava river.

Farther northward in this chain of islands which separates the Atlantic ocean from the Caribbean sea, a deadly eruption of political instead of physical origin is in progress. This outbreak is in the Negro republic of Haiti, the western neighbor of San Domingo, where a revolution was last week reported (p. 72) to have overturned the government. By the constitution of Haiti, the executive authority of the republic is vested in a president elected for seven years. Since 1896 the president has been Gen. Tiresias Simon Sam, a Negro of full blood, nearly 70 years of age, whose family history blends prominently with the history of the republic. Early in March the development of a revolutionary conspiracy was reported, but no indication of its cause appears except in so far as it may have been against President Sam personally. To counteract the revolutionary movement several persons charged with conspiracy were imprisoned on the 19th of March, among them being two of the most prominent men in the republic, Supreme Court Justice Bourjolly and Gen. Destouche. To escape these wholesale arrests large numbers of Haytiens sought refuge in Jamaica. Early in April, nevertheless, the revolutionary movement had advanced to the stage of civil war on the south coast, where a body of revolutionists under Gen. Baptiste attacked and captured Jacmel on the 5th and released the state prisoners incarcerated there.

Gen. Baptiste retired the next day to the mountains, taking with him all the arms and ammunition he could obtain; but he was pursued by government troops, his force was overcome in battle at Fonds Melon, near Jacmel, and being himself captured he was immediately shot. At this point there was a lull in Haytien news. But on the 8th of Maya dispatch from Port-au-Prince, the capital of the republic, announced the resignation of President Sam, but gave no reason for it. Congress met on the 12th to fill the presidential vacancy. The legislative chambers were packed with troops which the government refused to remove, explaining that they were necessary for the protection of the congress in its deliberations. The cry of "revolution" and "to arms" was then raised from the floor and the body dissolved in confusion, street fighting following immediately. Several factions were trying to get into power, and ex-President Boisrond Canal succeeded in getting possession of the arsenal and control of the troops and within 24 hours had set up a provisional government; but he has not yet got what the dispatches call "control of the situation." On the 13th the dispatches ignored his government and reported that Gen. Firman, formerly Haytien minister to France, was marching on Port-au-Prince, having been put forward as president by the north and northwest; while on the 14th they stated that the admiral of the Haytien fleet had declared for Gen. Firman and was about to put the fleet at his disposal. A battle was at this time imminent. Ex-President Sam has embarked for France, and all his political prisoners have been released and his exiles are returning.

Cuba, the larger western neighbor of Haiti, is in readiness for the limited independence to be conferred upon her (p. 72). The president-elect, Gen. Palma, terminated a tour of the island on the 11th at Havana. Upon his arrival the Cuban flag was raised over Moro Castle by Gen. Wood. The house of representatives has agreed upon its credentials and is prepared for business when the United States shall have given the signal on the 20th. It is reported from Washington that the state department has decided that the government will not announce the birth of the Cuban republic by proclamation, but will send identical notices to all United States ambassadors and ministers abroad

that "the military occupation by the United States of the island has ceased and that Gen. Palma has been duly installed at the head of a new government of the island of Cuba." According to the same reports, there will be no invitation on the part of the United States to the nations to recognize the new republic, but it is expected that they will take notice themselves of the fact that the United States has recognized it by sending to the island a minister resident and staff of legation and consuls, and it is not doubted that this example will be followed.

In the United States itself, the most important news of the week is the beginning of another great anthracite coal miners' strike (see vol. iii., p. 472)—involving in round numbers 150,000 miners. These miners were represented in a convention at Shamokin, Pa., on the 18th of March last by 600 delegates from districts 1, 7 and 9 of the United Mine Workers of America. President John Mitchell, of the general organization, presided. The convention had been called to deliberate upon the refusal of the anthracite coal operators to confer with the officers of the union on subjects relating to the interests of the workmen. It adopted resolutions on the 20th demanding an eight-hour day and the recognition of miners' committees; and on the 24th it declared for a strike to take effect on a day to be fixed by the district executive boards, provided a final effort at arbitration with the operators through the reconciliation committee of the industrial department of the National Civic Federation, of which Senator Hanna is chairman, proved unavailing.

Messages were accordingly sent to Senator Hanna, and he called a meeting for the 26th. After hearing the miners on that day, the committee appointed a subcommittee of three, with Mr. Hanna as chairman, to get into communication with the operators. Presidents of four of the coal-carrying roads consequently met with the principal committee and the miners' representatives the following day, when it was agreed that no strike should be declared for 30 days. Negotiations proceeded slowly, but on the 3d of May Mr. Mitchell published a statement declaring that—the members of our executive committee and the Civic Federation have done their utmost to bring about a settlement with the operators. It has been found utterly useless. The railway presidents have rejected every re-