

emperor conveyed to him secretly; and he explained that the emperor had been compelled to sign the edict of virtual abdication on account of his leanings toward the reform party, which had aroused uncontrollable opposition among the officials. The charge against Kang Yu Mei is conspiracy against the dowager. He has been declared an outlaw. Latest advices give color to the report that the emperor is dead, though there is no positive information. An edict has been issued expressing regret at his increasing ill-health, and commanding the governors of all provinces to send their best physicians to Peking.

In France, progress in the Dreyfus case has been made since our last report. The cabinet had then decided to take the opinion of a special commission, as to the advisability of reopening the case. This commission had held its first meeting. On the 24th it was officially announced that the commission could come to no conclusion, being equally divided on the question; and on the 26th the cabinet, after a prolonged session and against strong opposition, decided in favor of revision. To that end they ordered the minister of justice to submit the petition of Mme. Dreyfus, for a revision of her husband's case, to the Court of Cassation, for a decision upon the legal question as to whether the conviction of Dreyfus is vitiated by the discovery of the forgery committed by the late Col. Henry. The criminal chamber of the Court of Cassation, which will act upon Mme. Dreyfus's petition, consists of 15 judges and a president. The president is a Jew.

Esterhazy's confession, which we foreshadowed last week, has been published in England. He says there was no legitimate proof against Dreyfus, but that there were ample grounds for believing him guilty. It was therefore determined by Col. Sandherr, now dead, to forge the proof. Sandherr thereupon ordered Esterhazy to forge the memorandum which has since become famous in the case, and he did so precisely as he would have obeyed any other order from his military superior. The memorandum having been forged, it became necessary to give it the air of authenticity, so it was handed to a porter of the German embassy at Paris, who is a French spy, and he gave it to one Genst, an agent of the

French secret service, as having been picked up in the embassy. Genst brought it back to the French secret service office, where it was docketed in usual course. Upon this memorandum exclusively, says Esterhazy, Dreyfus was condemned. The confession is discounted, and Henri Rochefort endeavors to show that it was probably procured from Esterhazy by bribery. Rochefort says that he and two other newspaper men were supporting Esterhazy by paying him 300 francs a month to prevent his dying of hunger while waiting for a pension, and asks why Esterhazy has abandoned this income and emigrated, and how he now pays for his meals, unless he has been bribed to confess to a forgery of which he had been twice acquitted.

Col. Picquart, who made the sensational speech in court that we printed last week, in which he said in substance that if he were found dead in the military prison, Cherche Midi, he wanted it understood that it would be murder, for he had no idea of committing suicide—thereby implying that Col. Henry's suicide was in fact a military murder,—was transferred on the 22d, from the civil prison to the Cherche Midi. But before the premier, M. Brisson, would consent to this transfer, he insisted that the war office should agree to give Picquart an open trial. It is believed in Paris that this prosecution of Picquart was sprung by Gen. Zurlinden for the purpose of getting a dangerous witness in the Dreyfus case out of the way. Zurlinden issued the order for Picquart's arrest, during his recent brief occupancy of the office of secretary of war, and then executed it as Governor of Paris. This position he had left to become minister of war, upon the express understanding that it should be kept open for him, and he returned to it upon his retirement from the cabinet.

Leaving European subjects for a moment, we find attention in our own country centered upon the bad treatment of the soldiers of the war with Spain. The president's committee for the investigation of these abuses has been completed. It now consists of Grenville M. Dodge, a major general in the civil war; J. A. Sexton, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R.; E. P. Howell, of the Atlanta Constitution; Charles Denby, late minister of China; ex-Gov. Woodbury of Vermont; ex-Gov. Beaver, of Pennsyl-

vania; Maj. Gen. Anson D. McCook, U. S. A., (retired), and Dr. Phineas S. Conner, of Cincinnati. The only original appointees are Dodge and Sexton. All the others declined, as did Gen. Weld, of Massachusetts, to whom a vacancy was offered. The committee met for the first time on the 26th, and decided upon the form of requests for information to the heads of bureaus to be investigated. Requests are necessary, as the committee has no legal power to make demands. On the 27th a second session was held at which it was decided to give out for publication the letter of Secretary Alger to the president asking for the investigation; a letter from the chairman, Gen. Dodge, enclosing the list of inquiries to the secretary and the heads of the various divisions of his department; and an address to the public. The address to the public states that the committee invite and are "ready and will receive and consider any complaints about the management of any of the various branches of the war department from any person or persons;" and that they "respectfully request that such complaints be made in writing, stating facts that the party may know of his own knowledge, plainly and in detail, giving names of any officers or enlisted men who may be charged with misconduct or incompetency." Before their first meeting, the committee called upon the president at the White House, where he addressed them. Thanking them for their willingness to serve, he assured them of his earnest desire that they should thoroughly investigate the charges of criminal neglect of soldiers in camp, field, hospital and transports, and make the fullest examination of the war department, with the view of establishing the truth or falsity of the charges. He added: "I put upon you no limit to the scope of your investigation. Of all departments connected with the army I invite the closest scrutiny and examination, and shall afford every facility for the most searching inquiry."

American interest in the Philippines, pending the action of the peace conference, is directed toward the movements of Aguinaldo and his government. During the week the text of his appeal to foreign powers has been published. This declares that the revolution dominates 14 provinces, besides the capital city of Manila; and that in all these, order and tranquillity reign and the laws of the re-

publican government are regularly administered. In testimony of this, and of the ability and desire of the Filipinos to govern themselves, a document signed by the chiefs is submitted with the appeal. The prayer of the appeal is for the recognition by foreign governments of the belligerency and independence of the Philippines.

The national assembly of the Philippine republic is still in session. It has decided to request the Americans, first, to recognize the independence of the islands; second, to establish a protectorate over their external affairs, and to induce the powers to recognize their independence; third, to appoint a joint commission of Americans and Filipinos for the arrangement of details to "reciprocate the Americans' services."

A representative of the Philippine national assembly has been sent to the United States. His name is Philippo Agoncillo. With his secretary, Jose Lopez, and in company with Gen. Francis Vinton Greene, who returns with messages to the government at Washington, Agoncillo arrived at San Francisco on the 22d and in Washington on the 27th. His ultimate mission is to endeavor to secure the recognition of Philippine independence by the United States. He says that the Filipinos will lay down their arms as soon as they have the assurance of the United States that their islands will never be given back to Spain. If the United States will not recognize their independence, they will ask for a United States protectorate; and upon the denial of that they will as a third choice ask to become a colonial possession of the United States. Agoncillo's purpose, however, is to lay before President McKinley the claims of his government to be represented at the sessions of the Paris peace commission. He has not yet called upon the president.

In eastern Cuba Gens. Lawton and Wood are progressing satisfactorily both in improving the government of Santiago and in restoring the confidence of the Cubans which Gen. Shafter forfeited. Gen. Garcia visited the city on the 23d and was welcomed by Gen. Wood who, with part of Gen. Lawton's staff and a number of other officers, went outside the city limits to meet him and escort him into the city. The Cuban general was accompanied by many Cuban officers

and 200 Cuban cavalry. The streets were thronged as he passed, and it was estimated that 10,000 people filled the plaza in front of the palace. Enthusiastic cheering greeted the procession. At the door of the palace, Gen. Lawton met the party and tendered Garcia an informal reception. In a thoughtful speech which Garcia made on this occasion he closed with the words, "Our gratitude will long live for America." Gen. Wood's jurisdiction is now extended so as to embrace the whole province of Santiago de Cuba, and the Cuban general, Castillo has, with the approval of Lawton and Wood, been appointed counselor and assistant to the civil governor. Maj. McCleary, formerly attorney general of Texas, has been appointed Mayor of Santiago, and Spanish officials generally are being displaced by Cubans.

At the western end of the island, also, a better feeling is growing up. This is particularly noticeable in the declaration of the radical members of the colonial house of representatives, part of the autonomist government which Spain sought to establish, a declaration that has been forwarded from Havana to Washington. It contains 10 signatures, and is an unreserved submission to the new situation. The signers offer allegiance to the new political status, and swear within the limits of that status to defend "the absolute independence of the Island of Cuba." They also recommend all autonomists to take an active part in the politics of the island "but without attempting or pretending to exercise a controlling influence or power in the management of political affairs, which logically and justly belong to those who have always been the consistent supporters of the cause of independence."

By order of Captain General Blanco the remains of Christopher Columbus have been removed from the cathedral in Havana to the palace, for transportation to Spain. The little lead coffin contained only a handful of brown dust and a few small fragments of bone, besides two parchment documents. One of the documents was a certificate of the transfer of the remains from Sevilla to San Domingo in 1524, and the other of their removal from San Domingo to Havana in 1795.

On the 27th, the war department made public an order for the forma-

tion of the first military division to go to Cuba. It is to go not later than October 20. No commander of the division has yet been officially announced, but it is expected that he will be Gen. Wade, who with his staff arrived in Havana on the 27th.

The American peace commissioners—Day, Davis, Frye, Reid, and Gray,—arrived in Liverpool on the 24th, by the Campania. They went immediately to London, and after remaining there over Sunday reached Paris in the early evening of the 26th. They were received in Paris by the American ambassador and a representative of the French government. On the 27th they held a private sitting at the Continental hotel. A meeting of the Spanish commissioners was held at the same time at the Spanish embassy.

Passing back now from American to foreign affairs, it appears that the rumors reported last week of the occupation of Fashoda by Gen. Kitchener were well founded. Kitchener has returned to Omdurman after establishing a post on the Sobat river, about 60 miles south of Fashoda, and one also at Fashoda. No fighting was done. Gen. Kitchener upon finding a French force under Maj. Marchand at Fashoda, notified Marchand that the French must retire. He offered to transport them to Cairo. Maj. Marchand declined to retire, whereupon Gen. Kitchener hoisted the Egyptian flag, left a garrison under Col. Jackson to protect the flag, sent an official report to London, and went his way. The Egyptian flag is planted 500 meters from the French flag. Maj. Marchand was offered an opportunity to enter a protest, but he declined. The question of rightful occupation will now be made a subject for diplomacy. For his work in Egypt Gen. Kitchener has been raised to the British peerage.

The last stronghold of the dervishes, Gedaref, was captured by the Anglo-Egyptian troops on the 22d, after three hours of hard fighting.

And now Italy and Colombia are becoming entangled in war producing relations. The trouble arises out of the Cerruti claim, which was supposed to have been settled. This claim was allowed by President Cleveland, as arbitrator, and as it remained long unpaid Italy sent war vessels into Colombian waters to demand an ad-