

The Public

First Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1898.

Number 28.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

When La Liberte, of Paris, asks if the Spanish have done worse in Cuba and the Philippines than the United States in its treatment of the Indians, exactly what shall we reply?

To students of American political history, it has long been evident that the imperialism of Alexander Hamilton has revived in the later triumphs of the republican party. It was not to be expected, though, that the licensed spell-binder of the party would admit the fact. Yet Chauncey Depew, in his speech at Chicago before the Hamilton club, has not only admitted it but gloried in it. This hour on the dial of American history, he said, is Hamilton's. Unhappily that is true. The imperial policy of Hamilton, which burned out early in the century in the bright flames of Jeffersonian democracy, rises up again from its own ashes as the century draws to a close. Its peculiar manifestations then, were the hateful and hated alien and sedition laws; its peculiar manifestations now, are the fostering of monopolies at home and the grabbing of land abroad. Now as then its spirit menaces popular liberty. That Hamiltonism has been resurrected and that the republican party is its guardian angel, is true enough; but it is surprising that the chief trumpeter of the party should joyfully proclaim the deplorable fact.

Our efforts to grab Cuba are not flourishing at all satisfactorily. Not only are the plutocratic yarns about the Cubans exposed, but the natives generally and the resident Spaniards are joining with the Cubans in de-

manding self-government for the island. "The Spanish publicists," at Havana, says an American correspondent, "have taken up the cudgels for independence," with the rallying cry of "Cuba for the Cubans!" And "political clubs are forming all over the city," composed of recent enemies of the insurgents, to oppose annexation. This movement has been met in friendly spirit by the Cuban insurgents; and as Havana was but recently the center of annexation sentiment, it is reasonable to infer that the general movement for independence will spread over the island if it has not already done so. In that case, the administration will need more than 50,000 troops if subjugation is intended.

One by one the accusations of the summer made against the Cubans in order to create an impression that they are unfit for self-government, have been thrown out of court. Not one of them now holds good. At first the Cubans were accused of diabolically slaughtering Cervera's men after their surrender. It was this that put them out of the pale of civilization, according to that expert in civilization—Harpér's Weekly. But Cervera put a quietus upon that accusation, when he told of the kind treatment he and his men had received as prisoners in the hands of the Cubans. The fact was, as now established, that when the Cubans fired upon Cervera's men, the latter were endeavoring to escape to Santiago, and that as soon as they surrendered they were treated by the Cubans, to whom the surrender was made, with all the consideration due to prisoners of war. It was further charged that the Cubans were thieves, because they picked up the impedimenta which American soldiers had thrown away. Gen. Wheeler disposes of this charge by explaining that the Cubans had every reason to

suppose that the blankets and the clothing the American soldiers had dropped were abandoned deliberately and finally. Then there was Shafter's accusation that the Cubans were useless in his campaign because Gen. Garcia failed to keep Spanish reinforcements out of Santiago. This accusation, too, the only official one, now goes the way of the others. For Gen. Miles, in a recent interview, says of Garcia: "At my personal request he cheerfully undertook the task of keeping certain Spanish forces from joining the Spanish troops in Santiago," and "he succeeded so well that only a small detachment got into Santiago before it surrendered to Gen. Shafter." So the only reason left for denying the right of self-government to the Cubans is that we don't want them to have it. And wasn't that probably the reason lying back of all the false statements that were circulated to their disparagement?

In the midst of her preparations for a universal peace conference, Russia makes shrewd preparations for possible war. Four battleships and 40 torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers are in process of construction in Russian navy yards, and work upon them is being rushed day and night; while every Sunday the Czar in person witnesses the naval maneuvers with keen delight, and the annual call for 200,000 men for the army has just been issued a month earlier than usual. The same dispatch that brings this information from Cracow says that the Russian papers are forbidden to publish any news whatever of the movements of the fleet or of military and naval operations. There's the rub! If Russia would couple with her propositions for disarmament a pledge to make the press free, some confidence might be reposed in her astonishing peace proposition. Then, if