

tory of the recent disturbances in China. If some of the Chinese massacred foreigners, women and children as well as men, this much, at least, can be said in extenuation, that they had been outraged beyond endurance by foreign aggression. But what shall be said of our race, whose soldiers in China, without provocation or excitement, but in cold blood and out of the mere wantonness of might, slaughtered the innocent and the helpless, regardless of sex or age. There is no story of massacre of Europeans by enraged Chinese mobs which cannot be matched by authentic stories of massacres of Chinese by European soldiers. The truth about foreign outrages in China has not yet been told. It has been hardly more than hinted at. Writers who know must be discreet. But it cannot always remain a secret, and when it does come out it will reflect no credit upon the "civilizers" of China.

Even now, with Sir Robert Hart's magazine article before us, the Chinese character stands out in marked contrast with that of their foreign guardians. They are not warlike, either by inclination or training, the arts of peace holding first place in their esteem. That alone ranks them high as a civilized people. But back of that lies the quality which Sir Robert emphasizes. They bring all questions to the test of right. If this characterization is true, then our race has little to justify its claim to superior rank in civilization. Not only do we not bring all questions to the test of right; we are denying that there is any right. By university, press and pulpit we are assiduously taught, not infrequently by definite assertion, that right depends upon time, place and circumstance; and from the presidential chair we are admonished that it is determined by destiny.

## NEWS

In point of relative importance this week's news from China has first place. While the foreign ministers are formulating the principle of indemnification to be imposed by the allied powers upon the Chinese government for injuries to foreigners caused by the Boxer uprising, a diplomatic controversy of portentous pos-

sibilities has begun among the allies themselves. According to the gossips it may not improbably culminate in an international quarrel, with Great Britain and the United States on one side and Russia and France on the other. Japan is regarded as likely to line up with the former two, and Germany's attitude is accounted doubtful.

The bone of contention is Manchuria. Russia has for five years been gradually appropriating that province, and during the past two has extended her authority over it rapidly. While the allies were marching to the relief of Peking, Russia was also carrying on a campaign in Manchuria, her pretense being an alleged attack upon her Siberian frontier by Chinese (see pages 232, 249); and upon the completion of this campaign she assumed a protectorate over Manchuria (page 617) without consulting the allies. She did this upon the theory that her Manchurian operations were not involved in the allied movement. To this assumption of jurisdiction over a part of the Chinese empire, Great Britain and the United States object upon the general ground that it is a step in the direction of partition. Japan objects on the ground that as a step toward the absorption of Korea, it is a menace to the Japanese islands. Secret negotiations on the subject appear to be under way between Great Britain and the United States, and the latter has taken the open initiative of diplomatically protesting against Russia's pretenses. It did so in the form of a note of instructions of February 16 to the American minister at Peking, the nature of which it subsequently communicated to the European powers. In that note the American government expressed its desire to know the views of the Chinese government regarding the right of China to extend concessions or to make other agreements with any power without the consent of all the powers, and coupled this request for information with an admonition that the United States would hold it inadvisable for China to enter into any such agreements at this time. When interpreted into the nondiplomatic vernacular this note is understood to be a direction to China to recede from private negotiations with Russia and a warning to Russia to play fair. All the powers have expressed approval of the American note, inclusive of Russia herself. She, in re-

sponse, declares with reference to her Manchurian protectorate that—

As soon as lasting order shall have been established in Manchuria and indispensable measures taken for the protection of railway construction, which, according to formal agreement, China assured, Russia will not fail to recall her troops from these territories of the neighbor empire, provided the action of other powers does not place any obstacle in the way of such a measure.

But China advises the powers that Russia is nevertheless pressing upon her peremptory demands for Manchurian concessions. What lends historical importance to these events is the supposed probability that they may lead on to the long expected European war over the partition of China.

Hostilities against the Chinese are kept alive by Count Walderssee. On the 6th he reported a fight south of Man-Sheng with "400 Chinese regulars who had apparently been separated from the main body." He scattered them, killing 50 men and taking two banners. Four days later he told of storming a gate of the great wall on the 8th, capturing four guns and killing 250 Chinese.

It seems now, from an official dispatch from Mr. Conger, the American minister in Peking, in which he announces his departure on the 11th for home, that he has left the legation in charge, not of Mr. Rockhill, as was reported at page 746 that he expected to do, but of H. G. Squiers, the secretary of legation.

Great Britain's cordial relations with the United States in connection with the encroachments of Russia upon China have not disposed her to acquiesce in the American senate's amendments to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty for the construction and management of the Nicaragua canal. This subject was last presented in these columns at page 601, where the substance of the amended treaty appears. Three objections are raised by the British government to acquiescing in the amendments. One relates to the amendment striking out of the proposed treaty a clause (see No. 97, pages 9, 10) inviting other powers to agree to adhere to the treaty for the purpose of making the waterway neutral at all times and for all nations. Great Britain interposes to this amendment the objection that in her belief no agreement of neutrality will be ef-

fective unless adopted by all powers. Another objection applies to the amendment abrogating (page 601) the existing Clayton-Bulwer treaty. But the third and principal one was directed to the so-called "Davis amendment," which would accord the United States the right to take measures which it "may find necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order." Great Britain objects to this as virtually allowing the United States to treat the canal as part of her own military equipment. As no counter offer is made by the British government, all previous negotiations fall through, and any further action in the matter must be proposed by the United States and must begin anew. Great Britain retires upon her rights under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

For several days public sentiment in Great Britain has been hopefully excited with reports of the expected surrender of Gen. Botha, who commands the Boer forces in the eastern Transvaal. It will be remembered that the British under Gen. French have for many weeks been pushing Botha eastward between the two railways running, one from Pretoria to Lourenzo Marquez and the other from Johannesburg to Durban. At the time of our last report regarding this movement (page 746) Botha had broken away from French's pursuit and gone with 2,000 men in the direction of Koomatipoort, on the Portuguese border. After that report nothing was heard of him until the 8th, when a censored newspaper dispatch told of a personal meeting at Middleburg, on the 27th—about the time of Botha's reported escape from French's net—between Botha and Lord Kitchener, at which negotiations were begun that resulted in an armistice to Botha to enable him to consult with the other Boer generals with a view to terminating the war by a surrender. The armistice was to expire on the 14th. Kitchener's terms were said to be amnesty for all Boers laying down their arms, and for all prisoners except British subjects. The surrender was expected to take place on the 11th. These reports are entirely without official confirmation, except an admission by Mr. Balfour on the floor of the house of commons and in answer to questions, that communications have passed between Gen. Botha and the British authorities.ques-

tioned again on the 12th, Balfour declined for the present to furnish any information regarding the negotiations. In behalf of President Kruger it is officially announced that he will ignore them.

In other parts of the theater of war military operations continue. Gen. DeWet, who was headed for Fauresmith at the time of our last report, has passed through that town with a small force. He appears to be skirting Bloemfontein to the west and making for Kroonstad, which is far north of Bloemfontein and on the railroad. He was heard of on the 12th from a point above Brandfort. Other bodies of Boers are operating in the southeastern part of the Orange Free State. One holds a position at Rouxville, 25 miles north of Aliwal North. President Steyn is reported to be at Smithfield, a few miles northwest of Rouxville. Another has taken a place called Pearston, not definitely located by the reports, but which was supposed to have been safely guarded against Boer attack. And at Lichtenburg, in the western Transvaal and somewhat east of Mafeking, still another body of Boers have made an all day fight, in which there were serious losses on both sides. British reinforcements arriving, the Boers were finally repulsed.

A delegate convention of European and American pro-Boer organizations held in Paris has drafted a manifesto protesting against British violation of the laws of war in South Africa and appealing to the nations to intervene in behalf of the independence of the South African republics.

From the Philippines as well as from South Africa the principal news of the week relates to surrenders of native defenders to foreign power. Gen. MacArthur reported on the 11th the surrender of Gen. Marian de Dios with several officers and a force of men, an event which he regards as "important and indicating the collapse of the insurrection" once more. Another Filipino to surrender is Maj. Pulay, commanding a small force in southern Luzon. Still another is Col. Bopen. Captures of members of the Filipino cabinet are also reported. Provincial organization is being still extended by the Taft commission. The Filipinos who have been deported to the island of

Guam are ordered to be held there "under surveillance or in actual custody, as circumstances may require, during the further progress of hostilities and until such time as the restoration of normal peace conditions in the Philippines has resulted in a public declaration of the termination of such hostilities."

The Cuban situation has undergone no substantial change. Secret sessions of the constitutional convention have been held, and it is known that the American demands have been referred to a special committee with instructions to report. After considering for several days the authority of the convention to bind the future government of Cuba as to these demands, this special committee, or, strictly speaking, a member of it, was instructed by Gov. Gen. Wood that the convention has such authority. The response was a request that Gov. Gen. Wood put his opinion in writing and submit it officially. This he has done, but his letter is regarded only as an expression of opinion. Gen. Gomez has advised against submitting to the American demands.

Of popular sentiment in Cuba on the question of the American demands, the following placard, which has been extensively posted in Havana, is indicative:

To the People of the United States: Do not make any promises that you are not sure to keep, and never go back on the word you have given.

George Washington.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The Delaware legislature has adjourned without electing a federal senator.

—President Diaz of Mexico is reported to be hopelessly insane. The report is positively denied.

—Paris Gibson was on the 8th elected federal senator from Montana for the term ending in 1905.

—The formal excommunication of Tolstoi from the Greek church was officially published on the 9th.

—The Indiana senate on the 7th killed the woman suffrage amendment which the house had adopted.

—The lower house of Arkansas passed a bill on the 11th which prohibits trusts from doing business in that state.

—A bill prohibiting prosecutions for polygamy has been passed by the legislature of Utah. It is known as the Evans bill.

—Chris L. Magee, a Pennsylvania