

of the objections to the majority report which Rear Admiral Schley laid before the department, was given in these columns (pp. 581-583) last week. Subsequently, on the 20th, Rear Admiral Sampson filed with the department a formal protest against so much of Admiral Dewey's minority report as declared that Schley was in supreme command at the naval battle of Santiago. Schley's application for a copy of this protest was denied. Also on the 20th the judge advocate filed his reply to Schley's objections. The case was now for the first time fully before the secretary for final action. On the following day, the 21st, the secretary dissolved the court and rendered his decision. It was as follows:

The department has read the testimony in this case; the arguments of counsel at the trial; the court's findings of fact, opinion, and recommendation; the individual memorandum of the presiding member; the statement of exceptions to the said findings and opinion by the applicant; the reply to said statement by the judge advocate of the court and his assistant, and the brief this day submitted by counsel for Rear Admiral Sampson traversing the presiding member's view as to who was in command at the battle of Santiago. And after careful consideration the findings of fact and the opinion of the full court are approved. As to the points on which the presiding member differs from the majority of the court, the opinion of the majority is approved. As to the further expression of his views by the same member with regard to the questions of command on the morning of July 3, 1898, and of the title to credit for the ensuing victory, the conduct of the court in making no finding and rendering no opinion on those questions is approved—indeed, it could with propriety take no other course, evidence on these questions during the inquiry having been excluded by the court. The department approves the recommendation of the court that no further proceedings be had in the premises. The department records its appreciation of the arduous labors of the whole court.

In connection with the Schley controversy, one over Gen. Miles has arisen. When the decisions in the Schley case were made public, Miles allowed the Associated Press to telegraph over the country an interview in which he said:

I am willing to take the judgment of Admiral Dewey in the matter. He has been a commander of a fleet, and as such has known the anxieties and responsibilities which rest on a man under these circumstances. He was in-

strumental in the destruction of one Spanish fleet, and knows and realizes the feelings that encompass an officer under such conditions. I think Dewey has summed up the matter in a clear and concise manner, and I believe his conclusions will be indorsed by the patriotic people of the United States. I have no sympathy with the efforts which have been made to destroy the honor of an officer under such circumstances.

As the army regulations prohibit—deliberations or discussions among military men conveying praise or censure or any mark of approbation toward others in the military service—

the secretary of war officially asked Gen. Miles on the 19th for a written explanation of his interview. The general, in a letter of the 20th, replied:

My observations, as substantially reported, had no reference to the action, pending or otherwise, of a coordinate branch of the service. They were merely my personal views, based upon matters set forth in various publications which had been given to the world and concerning which I conceive there was no impropriety in expressing an opinion the same as any other citizen upon a matter of such public interest. My observations were in no sense intended as a criticism of any action taken by a coordinate branch of the service, and the statement that I had no sympathy with any efforts tending to disparage a distinguished and gallant officer likewise had no such reference.

In a further explanation on the 21st he wrote:

For several years a distinguished and gallant officer has been assailed by parties who have endeavored to write him and other high officials down, until finally he appealed against such assaults to a coordinate branch of the government. That coordinate branch of the government granted him a court of inquiry, and, as I understand it, they unanimously exonerated him from such epithets as coward, poltroon, etc., and their opinions were given to the public for the information of all citizens. When I said that I had no sympathy with those who had endeavored to destroy the reputation of a high officer, who, like all other officers, regards his honor more sacred than life, I had in mind and referred to those assaults against which the admiral had appealed for protection and justification, and certainly not to a coordinate branch of the government.

The matter culminated on the 21st in an official reprimand by the secretary of war, the essential parts of which are as follows:

By direction of the president I communicate to you his conclusions upon

your course in the interview to which your attention was called by my letter of the 19th inst. Your explanation of the public statement made by you is not satisfactory. [Here follows a lengthy discussion of the military proprieties in the matter, in the course of which the army regulation noted above is quoted.] It is of no consequence on whose side your opinion was, or what it was. You had no business in the controversy and no right, holding the high office which you did, to express any opinion. Your conduct was in violation of the regulations above cited and the rules of official propriety; and you are justly liable to censure, which I now express. [Here comes the signature of the secretary of war, followed by the following postscript]: P. S.—Your second letter of explanation, dated to-day, received since the above was written, does not change the case. The necessity for repeated explanations but illustrates the importance of the rule which you have violated.

In addition to the foregoing department reprimand President Roosevelt personally and impetuously rebuked Gen. Miles in conversation at the White House on the 21st.

Another outcome of the Schley investigation relates to Edgar S. Maclay, the naval historian whose third volume of the history of the American navy made against Schley the charges of cowardice, on the basis of which Schley demanded the court of inquiry. Maclay is a civil service employe in the navy yard at Brooklyn, and upon the rendering of the verdict of the court removing from Schley the stigma of cowardice, President Roosevelt demanded his resignation; but Maclay declined to resign, insisting that as a civil service employe he cannot be removed without an opportunity to be heard in his own defense upon charges of violating civil service rules, and on the 24th President Roosevelt peremptorily ordered his discharge. Maclay declares his intention of appealing to the civil service commission and if necessary to the courts.

The disturbed situation in Venezuela (referred to at pages 330, 344, 362 and 376, and fully explained at page 312), has assumed a new phase. For some time President Castro has suspected a conspiracy in his own party to overthrow him; and on the 22d of November he caused the arrest of Ramon Guerra, the minister of war, who had recently been elected second vice president, together with a num-

ber of Guerra's partisans. After this there was no Venezuelan news of importance until December 21, when it was announced from Curacao that the long-threatened revolution, evidently the fruit of the suspected conspiracy, had begun on the 19th, under the leadership of Gen. Luciano Mendoza, president-elect of the state of Carabobo. Another uprising was reported at the same time from Valencia. In consequence of this new revolt the American battleship, Indiana, was on the 21st sent to Curacao for the protection of American interests. Further complications are caused by the probable interference of Germany. A railway loan authorized by the Venezuelan congress in 1896 has come into the hands of German subjects, to the amount of \$15,000,000; and as the interest is long past due, Germany threatens to send out warships, and, taking possession of Venezuelan custom houses, forcibly to collect the debt. President Castro disregards this threat, believing the United States will defend the Monroe doctrine to the extent of forbidding European occupation of Venezuelan ports. But the United States, while concerned over the possibility of an extended occupation, concedes the right of Germany to collect the debt in this way. It is believed to be in sympathy with the revolution against Castro, upon the success of which it hopes to see the German claims paid and the question of an infraction of the Monroe doctrine avoided. There are suspicions also that this sympathy is due in some measure to an expectation that the asphalt question (vol. iii., pp. 662, 705) will be dealt with more in harmony with the Washington idea by a new Venezuelan government than it has been by Castro's.

The encouragement which the British were observed last week to have received from the seat of war in South Africa has not been strengthened since. On the contrary, the fighting reported this week has been severe and the results not encouraging. These reports are exclusively, of course, from British sources. On the 23d Lord Kitchener reported five different engagements, in four of which the British loss in killed and wounded was upward of 100, the casualties in one of the engagements not being yet known. It is inferred from the general character of these reports that De Wet is forcing the fighting. One of the reported engagements was an attack on the 18th by De Wet at Lang-

berg, in which the fighting lasted several hours, De Wet being finally driven off. On the 19th the Boers attacked the British post at Eland-Spruit, but were driven off after a sharp and deadly fight. On the 20th a British attack upon a Boer force in the eastern part of the Transvaal resulted in a hard fight; and on the same day, in the neighborhood of Beginderyn a British party engaged in searching farms was attacked by Boers and suffered severe but as yet unreported losses. On the same day the hottest battle of all was fought. It occurred at Tofelkop, in the Orange Free State, between Botha and a British colonel of the name of Damant. In the early part of the struggle the Boers got possession of the summit of a hill which both forces were trying to take, but after two hours of fighting were driven from it, whereupon they dispersed. In this engagement the British loss was 32 killed and 40 wounded, Col. Damant being among the latter. On the 24th the British attacked a Boer camp in the Pietersburg district and captured 60 prisoners.

Large numbers of troops are being sent out to South Africa by the British. During holiday week the aggregate number leaving England and the colonies will not fall short of 15,000. Dispatches of the 25th tell of the effective use by the British of a corps of Boer scouts who have offered their services against their countrymen.

NEWS NOTES.

—The danger of war between Chili and Argentina, noted last week, has been averted, temporarily at least, by the signing of a protocol on the 25th between representatives of the two countries.

—In the free lecture course under the auspices of the Daughters of the Revolution, at the Fine Arts building, Chicago, the subject for Friday evening, December 27, is "Realism in Art, a Study in Colors," the lecturer being Margaret Warren Springer.

—Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury, has informally resigned, the resignation to take effect March 1. His place was first offered by the president to Gov. Crane, of Massachusetts, who declined. It was then offered to Gov. Shaw, of Iowa, who was announced on the 25th as having accepted.

—As the result of recent experiments by Dr. Frederick G. Novy and Prof. Paul C. Freer, at the bacteriological laboratory of the University of

Michigan, the discovery was authoritatively announced, on the 22d, of an absolute antiseptic for all intestinal diseases, such as dysentery, typhoid fever and cholera.

—Jennie C. Croley, familiar to the American reading public as "Jennie June," died at New York on the 23d, of heart failure, aged 71 years. She was a founder and the second president, Alice Cary being the first, of Sorosis, the original Woman's club, organized in 1868. She was also instrumental in organizing the Federation of Women's Clubs.

—The Building Material Trades council of Chicago, in which 43 unions, with an aggregate membership of 15,000, are federated, has decided by a referendum vote of 1,249 to 530, 20 unions voting, to hold special meetings hereafter for political discussion. This is a revolution in trade union methods, it being a universal rule to taboo political discussion.

—Dr. A. D. Houghton, recently deposed from the faculty of Hahnemann medical college, of Chicago, claims to have re-created from the chemical elements of disintegrated protoplasm, living cells that display all the functions of organic life for two weeks or more. The one thing lacking in these cells, he says, is the power of reproduction; but when he can develop that power in them he will be able to make animals to order.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, the official report of congressional proceedings. It includes all matters of general interest, and closes with the last issue of the Record at hand upon going to press. Page references are to the pages of Vol. 35 of that publication.

Washington, Dec. 16 to 19, 1901.

Senate.

Reassembling on the adjourned day, the 16th, the senate transacted routine business of no general interest. A brief debate occurred, however (p. 284), on the propriety of continuing the ancient farce of executive sessions, after which the senate went into executive session for six hours. While in executive session it ratified the Hay-Pauncefote treaty (p. 338) by the vote of 72 to 6. The bills introduced relating to general subjects were as follows: No. 1791, foreign trade; 1792, navigation (p. 281); j. r. 20, woman's suffrage amendment (p. 282). Senator Vest's anarchy resolution of December 4, which was referred to the judiciary committee to-day, is printed in full at page 284.

On the 17th nothing of an important public character was done; but the following bills of public interest were introduced: No. 1812, registration of transporters (p. 292); 1891, immigrants and anarchists (p. 293); 1921, Hawaiian coinage and currency (p. 294); j. r. 25, authorizing invitation to king of Siam to visit the United States as the guest of the nation.

No business of general interest was transacted on the 18th, and the only important general bills introduced were: No. 2030, industrial education; 2031, industrial education (p. 336).

On the 19th house bill No. 5633, for temporary revenues for Philippines, came up to the senate, when it was read twice by its title and referred to the committee on the Philippines. Nothing else of general interest was done, except that the following bills on subjects of general interest were introduced: No. 2069, trial and punishment in contempt cases (p. 401); 2164, standard of wages for women employees of the government (p. 402). Pursuant to resolution of