

containing the same and further assurances, though indicating that the danger was not past. One was from Mr. Conger, who said that by agreement there had been no firing since the 16th. Another was from Lieut. Col. Shiba, Japanese military attache at Peking, who wrote on the 22d that the legations were then impatiently awaiting reinforcements, and explained that they had been blockaded since the 13th of June, and since the 20th of that month had "been attacked continually, night and day, by the Chinese soldiers from more than ten encampments." He added:

By a supreme effort we are still defending. We are daily awaiting with the greatest anxiety arrival of a reinforcing army, and if you can't reach here in less than a week's time it is probable that we will not be able to hold out any longer.

Finally, on the 2d, a fourth message from Sir Claude Macdonald virtually testified to the safety of the ministers down to its date—the 24th. In this note Macdonald said:

We are surrounded by imperial troops, who are firing upon us continuously. The enemy is enterprising but cowardly. We have provisions for about a fortnight and are eating our ponies. The Chinese government, if there be one, has done nothing whatever to help us. If the Chinese don't press the attack we can hold out for say, ten days. So no time is to be lost if a terrible massacre is to be avoided.

Dispatches from Chinese sources are in harmony as to the safety of the foreign ministers with the dispatches quoted above; and they bring the date of safety down to the 27th—five days later than the legation messages. An imperial decree of the 24th stated that "all the foreign representatives, except Baron Von Ketteler," were then "in safety and unharmed," and that "provisions in the shape of food-stuffs, vegetables and fruits" would be "supplied to the legations in order to show" the courtesy of the emperor. And on the 27th Li Hung Chang telegraphed from Shanghai:

Pekin reports ministers alive. Safety assured. Allied forces entrance Peking unnecessary.

As we write (August 2) it is believed that the allied army at Tientsin is advancing upon Peking. It is certain that a movement from Tientsin began on the 1st; and Gen. Sir Alfred Gaselee, commanding the British

forces, had announced his intention on the 31st of making an immediate advance upon Peking, expressing his hope of having the cooperation of the other forces. The report of last week that Gen. Dragiminoff, the Russian, would command the allies was not without foundation, though it is settled that he will not have command. He declines the appointment, said to have been proffered by the czar with the consent of the other powers, pleading advanced age and feeble health.

Italy divides the world's attention for the moment with China because of the assassination on the 29th of King Humbert. The king had attended a gymnastic exhibition at Monza, his summer home, for the purpose of distributing prizes, and was in his carriage about to drive to the palace when he was shot by a bystander named Bressi. He died almost instantly. Bressi, who made no attempt to escape, was immediately arrested. He declared himself an anarchist who had come from Paterson, N. J., especially to commit this murder.

King Humbert was born in Turin March 14, 1814. He was the son of Victor Emmanuel II. of the house of Savoy, and succeeded to the Italian throne on the death of his father, January 9, 1878. He had taken a prominent part, though but a youth, in the events leading up to the unification and consolidation of the Italian states into one kingdom. In 1868 he married his cousin, Margherita of Savoy, and his only son, Victor Emmanuel III., the prince of Naples, succeeds him upon the Italian throne. His reign in general was monotonous, varied by only two great events: the formation of the "triple alliance" with Germany, and Austro-Hungary, which he is supposed to have effected, and the disastrous war with Abyssinia.

Notwithstanding the excitement over the assassination of King Humbert, and the supreme importance of the situation in China, the war in South Africa still demands attention. When we wrote of this subject last week Lord Roberts's enveloping movement reported on page 185 had not yet culminated in success, and he had just begun an advance from Pretoria apparently toward the southwest, the details of which were not yet known. A day or two later he reported a heavy engagement south of

Bethlehem, in the Orange Free State, where his original enveloping plans are supposed to be in operation. The engagement occurred on the 24th and 25th, and in the course of it the British were forced out of some of their positions. New positions, however, were secured, and on the 27th Lord Roberts reported the Boers as closed in upon. On the 30th, after heavy fighting, they surrendered at Fouriesburg unconditionally. The number surrendering was at first reported as 5,000; but a dispatch of the 31st from Lord Roberts made it 986. This number was augmented, however, in a dispatch of the 1st, which told of the surrender of 1,200 more.

Instead of advancing southwesterly from Pretoria, as last week's reports indicated, Lord Roberts appears to have moved eastwardly along the railroad from Pretoria to Lourenzo Marques. On the 25th he reported from Balmoral, one of the stations on the road, that part of his force had fought an engagement the day before six miles south of that point and had routed the Boers by a flank movement. The British pursued, crossing Olifant's river on the 25th and occupying Middleburg on the 29th. But they did not succeed in surrounding the Boer force, and Lord Roberts returned to Pretoria.

In the Philippines also fighting goes on. At Oroquieta, in northern Mindanao, it is reported that in revenge for the murder of an American soldier, who was bolloed while buying food in a native store, a company of the Fortieth infantry killed 89 of the villagers, and that the gunboat Callao afterwards shelled the village. In the general fighting of the week ten Americans were killed and 14 wounded.

An Associated Press dispatch of the 29th from Manila reports the attempted celebration of the amnesty proclamation to have been a complete failure. The natives showed the utmost indifference, and Judge Taft and others of the commission refused to attend the banquet, as they learned that speeches in favor of independence under American protection would be made.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in

detail at Washington to August 2, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)1,847
 Killed reported since May 16, 1900. 41
 Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900 246

Total deaths since July 1, 1898...2,134
 Wounded2,199

Total casualties since July 1, 1898...4,333
 Total casualties reported last week4,280
 Total deaths reported last week...2,081

Cuban news affords momentary relief from this monotonous story of slaughter. On the 31st the American secretary of war made public the war office order for an election in Cuba to choose delegates to a constitutional convention, with a view to organizing a permanent Cuban government. The election is to be held on the 15th of September and the convention is to meet in Havana on the 1st of November. The number of delegates to this convention are apportioned as follows: Havana province 8, Santiago province 7, Santa Clara province 7, Matanzas province 4, Pinar del Rio province 3 and Puerto Principe province 2.

Another part of the world reports peace after sanguinary warfare. This is Colombia, in South America. A revolution had been in progress there for nearly two years. References to it may be found in these columns at page 9, No. 86 in volume 2, and at page 152 of the current volume. The revolutionists had advanced on the 24th to the outskirts of Panama. On the 25th they demanded the surrender of that city, threatening to bombard in case of refusal. The American consul there was immediately instructed from Washington to protest against a bombardment, and in support of his protest to call attention to the treaty of 1848 with New Granada, in which the United States agrees to insure the neutrality of the isthmus of Panama. He was further instructed that the United States would preserve the neutrality of that territory. There was no bombardment. But furious fighting occurred on the 25th around Panama, in which, after great slaughter, the revolutionists were defeated. On the 26th a treaty of peace between the government and the revolutionists was signed. In the treaty formalities Gen. Alban, governor of Panama, represented the gov-

ernment, and Dr. Mendozze and Belisario Perras represented the revolutionists. The revolutionists made a complete surrender, agreeing to give up all their arms, ammunition and ships, and the government granted full amnesty.

NEWS NOTES.

—Prof. David Felmley, a prominent single taxer, was elected on the 31st as president of the Illinois State Normal university.

—The Ohio Association of Democratic Clubs opened its sessions in Toledo on the 1st. Ex-Gov. Altgeld was the principal speaker.

—London, England, is installing a new municipal telephone system at a cost of \$5,000,000. It is expected that there will be 40,000 subscribers at nominal prices.

—The national democratic party (the gold democrats of 1899) will maintain headquarters in Indianapolis during the campaign. Gen. Charles Tracy, of New York, is the chairman of the executive committee.

—Dr. James Gordon Bennett, of Halifax, N. S., is the discoverer of a cure for typhoid malarial and scarlet fevers. The preliminary tests which have been given it at the Cook County (Chicago) hospital have been remarkably successful.

—A world's conference of the negro race was in session in London from the 23rd to 27th. The social, industrial and intellectual condition of the negro was discussed. A large number of prominent American negroes were present.

—The trial in Missouri of Alexander Jester for the murder in 1871 of a brother of John W. Gates, the steel trust magnate, ended on the 1st with Jester's acquittal. John W. Gates had furnished funds liberally for Jester's prosecution.

—The Illinois state campaign was formally opened on the 1st by both of the two great parties. Mr. Alschuler, the democratic candidate for governor, spoke at Peoria, while Mr. Yates, the republican candidate, addressed a meeting at the Chicago Auditorium.

—John Clark Ridpath, the historian, died in New York on the 31st, aged 59 years. His best-known works were his "Popular History of the United States," "History of all Nations" and "Great Races of Mankind." He was formerly editor of the Arena magazine at Boston.

—The bread riots which occurred in British Honduras last week were caused by the increased taxes on the necessities of life. The mob which attacked the palace of the governor general, who is at present on a visit to

London, had to be driven off by a bayonet charge.

—The United States statute which provides that all railroad companies shall equip their cars with automatic couplers went into effect on August 1st. The bill, which was passed by congress in April, 1896, and has been extended several times, provides a penalty of \$100 for each offense.

—Western meat packers, principally of Chicago and Omaha, have advanced the prices of their canned beef from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per dozen for one pound cans and other sizes in proportion. The present heavy demand due to the Boer and Chinese wars is given as a reason for the increase in price.

—Alfred, duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the second son of Queen Victoria, died suddenly at Coburg, Germany, on the 30th. His son and successor, Carl Edward, the young duke of Albany, will not attain his majority until 1905, and the duchy will in the meantime be governed by his guardian.

—An interparliamentary and press peace conference opened its sessions in Paris on the 31st. A resolution was adopted on the 1st expressing the hope that the armed intervention of the powers in China would not result in new conquests. The object of the congress is to secure international arbitration.

—Secretary of Treasury L. J. Gage began the issuing of the new two per cent. bonds due in 1930, on the 31st, in accordance with the currency law of March 14th. The new bonds are to take the place of such of the old 3s, 4s and 5s as were surrendered for extension. About \$320,000,000 of the new bonds will be issued during the month of August.

—Race riots in New Orleans, which originated in the murder of two policemen by a negro criminal on the 25th, resulted in the death of ten innocent persons, the wounding of a score of others and the burning of a negro school. During the rioting it was found necessary to call out the militia as the police were in sympathy with the mob.

MISCELLANY

CONFESSIONAL.

For The Public.

O woodland ways amid whose scenes I roam!
 Ye 'wake a sense of pleasure in my veins
 Like that which thrills the wanderer nearing home,
 When sight of that dear, hallowed spot he gains;
 Or like to that which, as in evening's gloam
 Devoted ones draw near their rev'renced fanes,