

race, with its gigantic implements of destruction and slaughter, had invaded our country as we have invaded the country of the Filipinos, and that we had suffered at its hands what the Filipinos have suffered at ours, how much better would we have treated our invader than the Filipino has treated us?

Should we not have been as savage as he is accused of being? Should we not have furnished the distant potentate, who was trying to assimilate us benevolently, with ample material for justifying savage means of enforcing his benevolence on the ground that he had a savage foe to assimilate? Let each of us probe his own conscience with that question before venturing to condemn our "little brown" brother in the Orient.

For ourselves, we sadly fear that if Americans were in the place of the Filipinos, even the moderate limitations upon savage warfare of "General Order No. 100" would be insufficient to restrain acts of resentment that might be called treacherous and cruel. There are strenuous Americans who, under such provocation, would invent water torture variations and sweat box devices that would make a Sioux warrior fairly ache with jealousy.

It is much easier for a powerful invading army to observe the humane rules of the inhuman game of war, than it is for a weak people whose country is invaded. Yet in this respect we have totally failed, disgracefully failed, even in the role of powerful invader. What license might we not have run into had the situation been reversed and we been the victims of invasion instead of the criminal aggressors. Let us be cautious about concluding that we are civilized and the Filipinos savage, even if it turns out that the Filipinos were first to resort to treachery and cruelty. They have not been "patriotically" fighting for the possession of other people's homes, as we have. They have been desperately and despairingly fighting for their own. And it does make a difference. He who defends his country against foreign invasion may be excused many things which no possible provocation can excuse in an invader.

## NEWS

Universal horror was excited by news on the 9th that the city of St. Pierre, on the island of Martinique, had been totally destroyed and its inhabitants killed, by an eruption of the neighboring volcano of Mont Pelee.

Martinique is one of the West Indies in the Lesser Antilles chain. Its capital city is Fort-de-France, and it is held as a dependency by the French, who began to colonize it in 1635. The colony is under a French governor and an elective general council, besides municipal councils for the 32 communes into which it is politically divided. It is represented in the French legislature by one senator and two deputies. The area of the island is 380 square miles. It is 40 miles long by 12 wide, and its population in 1895 was 187,692 (90,373 males and 97,319 females). Only 1,307 were born in France. Its principal agricultural products are sugar cane, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and cotton, and its chief manufactures sugar and rum. The island has historical interest as the birthplace of the Empress Josephine. There is a cluster of volcanic mountains in the south and another in the north. A line of lower heights connecting the two forms the backbone of the island and culminates in the northeast in Mont Pelee, a volcanic peak, 5,000 feet high, which overlooks the city of St. Pierre.

The first news of the disaster came from St. Lucia, the next island to the south of Martinique. A British steamer, the "Roddam," had returned to St. Lucia from Martinique on the 8th, almost a wreck, with 17 of her crew dead and the captain seriously burned. She had narrowly escaped being annihilated by a storm of red-hot ashes which had destroyed all the other shipping in the harbor of St. Pierre, including the Quebec Steamship company's steamer "Roraima." The "Roddam" escaped only by cutting her cables and steaming out of the harbor at full speed. This report was confirmed on the 10th by a dispatch from the commander of a French cruiser who had cabled to his government in Paris at night on the 8th, stating that St. Pierre had been completely destroyed by an immense mass of fire which had fallen on the city at about eight o'clock that morning, and that the entire population (25,792 at the latest census)

was supposed to have perished. He too reported that all the shipping in the harbor had been wrecked. The eight survivors of the destroyed "Roraima" were rescued by him. They said that between seven and eight o'clock on the morning of the 8th Mont Pelee seemed to explode. The land appeared to be convulsed, and the waters of the harbor to pick up the steamer and throw it at the sky and then to let it drop into a seething caldron, where it was wrenched to pieces. It was not until the 11th that a landing at St. Pierre could be made and the true condition of the city ascertained; and on that day the American consul at Guadeloupe, who had been ordered to investigate, reported the disaster at St. Pierre as complete. The city had been literally wiped out, and the American consul there and his family were among the dead. It now appears that the destruction was caused by what one of the dispatches describes as "one all-consuming blast of suffocating, poisonous, burning gases." No person inside the limits of the city seems to have escaped, and it is believed that in all cases death was instantaneous when the first whiff of the poisonous fumes entered the lungs. Bodies were burned and charred, but this is supposed to have occurred after death. A mountain resort, Morne Rouge, nearer to the volcano than St. Pierre, and where some 600 people were staying, was unharmed.

Another volcanic eruption in the Lesser Antilles occurred at about the same time with that at Martinique, though reported later. This was on the island of St. Vincent, about as far south of St. Lucia as Martinique is to the north of it. St. Vincent, like St. Lucia, is a possession of Great Britain, under a British administrator and a colonial secretary. It has an area of 13 square miles and its population in 1891 was 41,054, of which only 2,445 were whites. The capital is Kingstown, with a population of 4,547. Fears for St. Vincent arose immediately upon receipt of the terrifying news from Martinique; for it was known that a volcano in St. Vincent, which nearly destroyed the island in 1812, had been active for several days, and on the 8th the St. Vincent cable had suddenly ceased working. On the 10th the governor of the Windward islands, to which group St. Vincent belongs, left St. Lucia for St. Vincent to investigate, and three days later he

reported officially that "the country on the east coast, between Rolmrock and Georgetown, was apparently struck and devastated in a similar manner to St. Pierre," all living things within that radius having probably been destroyed. Dead to the number of 1,000 had been found and buried, and probably 1,600 persons all told had been killed, including "the managers and owners of estates with their families and several of the better class of people." There were 160 persons in the Georgetown hospital, of whom 6 might recover. The governor found the details of the catastrophe "too harrowing to describe." From other dispatches it appears that a heavy explosion occurred at the volcano Soufriere on the 5th, and that on the 8th two craters belched forth smoke and stones and poured down the sides of the mountain six streams of molten lava. The entire northern end of the island is described as cut off from the southern end by an enormous lava river.

Farther northward in this chain of islands which separates the Atlantic ocean from the Caribbean sea, a deadly eruption of political instead of physical origin is in progress. This outbreak is in the Negro republic of Haiti, the western neighbor of San Domingo, where a revolution was last week reported (p. 72) to have overturned the government. By the constitution of Haiti, the executive authority of the republic is vested in a president elected for seven years. Since 1896 the president has been Gen. Tiresias Simon Sam, a Negro of full blood, nearly 70 years of age, whose family history blends prominently with the history of the republic. Early in March the development of a revolutionary conspiracy was reported, but no indication of its cause appears except in so far as it may have been against President Sam personally. To counteract the revolutionary movement several persons charged with conspiracy were imprisoned on the 19th of March, among them being two of the most prominent men in the republic, Supreme Court Justice Bourjolly and Gen. Destouche. To escape these wholesale arrests large numbers of Haytiens sought refuge in Jamaica. Early in April, nevertheless, the revolutionary movement had advanced to the stage of civil war on the south coast, where a body of revolutionists under Gen. Baptiste attacked and captured Jacmel on the 5th and released the state prisoners incarcerated there.

Gen. Baptiste retired the next day to the mountains, taking with him all the arms and ammunition he could obtain; but he was pursued by government troops, his force was overcome in battle at Fonds Melon, near Jacmel, and being himself captured he was immediately shot. At this point there was a lull in Haytien news. But on the 8th of Maya dispatch from Port-au-Prince, the capital of the republic, announced the resignation of President Sam, but gave no reason for it. Congress met on the 12th to fill the presidential vacancy. The legislative chambers were packed with troops which the government refused to remove, explaining that they were necessary for the protection of the congress in its deliberations. The cry of "revolution" and "to arms" was then raised from the floor and the body dissolved in confusion, street fighting following immediately. Several factions were trying to get into power, and ex-President Boisrond Canal succeeded in getting possession of the arsenal and control of the troops and within 24 hours had set up a provisional government; but he has not yet got what the dispatches call "control of the situation." On the 13th the dispatches ignored his government and reported that Gen. Firman, formerly Haytien minister to France, was marching on Port-au-Prince, having been put forward as president by the north and northwest; while on the 14th they stated that the admiral of the Haytien fleet had declared for Gen. Firman and was about to put the fleet at his disposal. A battle was at this time imminent. Ex-President Sam has embarked for France, and all his political prisoners have been released and his exiles are returning.

Cuba, the larger western neighbor of Haiti, is in readiness for the limited independence to be conferred upon her (p. 72). The president-elect, Gen. Palma, terminated a tour of the island on the 11th at Havana. Upon his arrival the Cuban flag was raised over Moro Castle by Gen. Wood. The house of representatives has agreed upon its credentials and is prepared for business when the United States shall have given the signal on the 20th. It is reported from Washington that the state department has decided that the government will not announce the birth of the Cuban republic by proclamation, but will send identical notices to all United States ambassadors and ministers abroad

that "the military occupation by the United States of the island has ceased and that Gen. Palma has been duly installed at the head of a new government of the island of Cuba." According to the same reports, there will be no invitation on the part of the United States to the nations to recognize the new republic, but it is expected that they will take notice themselves of the fact that the United States has recognized it by sending to the island a minister resident and staff of legation and consuls, and it is not doubted that this example will be followed.

In the United States itself, the most important news of the week is the beginning of another great anthracite coal miners' strike (see vol. iii., p. 472)—involving in round numbers 150,000 miners. These miners were represented in a convention at Shamokin, Pa., on the 18th of March last by 600 delegates from districts 1, 7 and 9 of the United Mine Workers of America. President John Mitchell, of the general organization, presided. The convention had been called to deliberate upon the refusal of the anthracite coal operators to confer with the officers of the union on subjects relating to the interests of the workmen. It adopted resolutions on the 20th demanding an eight-hour day and the recognition of miners' committees; and on the 24th it declared for a strike to take effect on a day to be fixed by the district executive boards, provided a final effort at arbitration with the operators through the reconciliation committee of the industrial department of the National Civic Federation, of which Senator Hanna is chairman, proved unavailing.

Messages were accordingly sent to Senator Hanna, and he called a meeting for the 26th. After hearing the miners on that day, the committee appointed a subcommittee of three, with Mr. Hanna as chairman, to get into communication with the operators. Presidents of four of the coal-carrying roads consequently met with the principal committee and the miners' representatives the following day, when it was agreed that no strike should be declared for 30 days. Negotiations proceeded slowly, but on the 3d of May Mr. Mitchell published a statement declaring that—the members of our executive committee and the Civic Federation have done their utmost to bring about a settlement with the operators. It has been found utterly useless. The railway presidents have rejected every re-