11 Tells of Spain's Barbar ous Warfare and How

CUBA HAS BEEN DEVASTATED.

THE STATUS OF AFFAIRS REVIEWED

Destruction of the "Maine" Proof of an Intolerable Condition in Cuba.

Asks Congress to Give Him Power to Stop the War in Cuba, and Recommends That the Relief Measures Be, Continued ... If Necessary, He Wants the Use of the Military and Naval

The following is a full text of the President's message as sent to Congress on the 11th, reviewing the relations between the United States and

Obedient to the precept of the constitution which commands the President to give from time to time to the Congress, information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave crisis that has arisen in the relations of the United States to Spain by reason of the warfare that for more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba, I do so because of the in timate connection of the Cuban quession with the state of our own Union. and the grave relation that the course which it is now incumbent upon the na. Conquest of the Insurgents Seemed tion to adopt must needs bear to the traditional policy of our government, if it is to accord with the precents laid down by the founders of the republic and religiously observed by succeeding administrations to the

The present revolution is but the sucseor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous losses to Amer ican trade and commerce, caused irri-tation, annoyance and disturbance jation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare, shocked the sensi-bilities and offended the human sympa thies of our people.

The Devastion of Cuba. Since the present revolution began is February, 1895, this country has seen the fertile domain at our threshold rav the fertile domain at our threshold rav-aged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequated in the history of the island, and rarely paralleled as to the number of the combatants and the hitterness of the contest by any revolu-tion of modern times, where a dependant people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign Bitate. Our people have beheld a succeptage of the community reduced to comparative want, its lucrative community ritually paralyzes, its excep-

expression from time to time in the national Legislature, so that issues wholly external to our own body politic engross attention and stand in the way of that close devotion to domestic advancement that becomes a self-contained Commonwealth whose prime maxim has been the avoidance of all foreign entanglements. All this must needs awaken and bas, indeed, aroused the utmost concern on the part of this government, as well during my predecessor's term as in my own.

Mr. Cleveland's Offer Rejected by

Spain. In April, 1895, the evils from which our country suffered through the Curban war became so onerous that my predecessor made an effort to bring about peace through the mediation of this government in ; ny way that might teze to an honorable adjustment of volted colony, on the basis of some effective scheme of self-government for Cuba under the flag and sovereignty of Spain. It failed, through the refusal of the Spanish government then in power to consider any form of media-tion, or indeed, any plan of settlement which did not begin with the actual submission of the insurgents to the mother country, and then only on said terms as Spain herself might see fit to grant. The war continued unabated. The resistance of the insurgents was in no wise diminished.

Spain's Efforts Increased. The efforts of Spain were increased, both by the dispatch of fresh levies and by the addition to the horrors of the strife of a new and inhuman phase, happily unprecedented in the modern history of civilized Christian peoples. The policy of devastation and concentration inaugurated by General Blanco, on October 21, 1896, in the province of Pinar del Rio, was thence extended to embrace all of the island to which the power of the Spanish arms was able to reach by occupation or by military op-eration. The peasantry, including all dwelling in the open agricultural interior, were driven into the garrison towns or isolated places held by troops. The raising and moving of povisions of all kinds were interdicted. The fields were laid waste, dwellings unroofed and fired, mills destroyed, and in short everything that could desolate the land and render it unfit for human habitation or support was commanded by one or the other of the contending parties, and executed by all the powers at their The Horrors of Reconcentration. By the time the present administra-

tion took office a year ago, reconcentra-

tion, so called, had been made effective over the better part of the four central and western provinces, Santa Clara, Matanzas, Havana and Pinar del Rio. The agricultural population, to the estimated number of 300,000 or more, was herded within the towns or their immediate vicinity, deprived of the means of support, rendered destitute of shelter, left poorly clad and exposed to the most unsanitary conditions. As the scarcity of food increased with the devastation of the depopulated areas of production, destitution and want became misery and starvation. Month by month the death rate increased in an alarming ratio. By March, 1897, according to conservative estimates from official Spanish sources, the mortality among the reconcentrados, from starvation and diseases thereto incident exceeded 50 per cent. of their total num ber. No practical relief was accorded to the destitute. The over-burdened towns, already suffering from the general dearth, could give no aid. So called "zones of cultivation" establish d within the immediate area of effect ive military control about the cities and fortifications proved illusory for the suffering. The unfortunates, being for the most part women and children. with aged and helpless men, enfeebled by disease and hunger, could not have tilled the soil, without tools, seed or shelter for their own support or for the supply of the cities. Reconcentration, adopted avowedly as a war measure in order to cut off the resources of the in surgents, worked its predestined re-sult. As I said in my message of last December, it was not civilized warfare; it was extermination. The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave.

Distant. Meanwhile, the military situation is the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of the war, when the insurgents invaded the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio and carried havoc and

destruction up to the walls of the city of Hayana itself, had relapsed into a logged struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish arms regained a measure of control in Pinas del Rio and parts of Havann, but under the exciting conditions of the rural country, without improvement of their productive situation. IEven thus par tially restricted, the revolutionists held their own and their conquest and sub mission, put forward by Spain as the and sole basis of peace seemed as far distant as at the outset. The Problem Confronting the Ad-

ministration. In this state of affairs my adminis tion found itself confronted with the

sage of last December reviewed the sitsage of last December reviewed the situation, and narrated the steps taken with a view of relieving its acuteness and opening the way is some form of honorable settlement. The assassination of the Prime Minister, Canovas, led to a change of government in Spain. The formet administration, pledged to subjugation without concession, gave place to that of a more liberal party, committed long in advance to a policy of reform involving the wider principle of home rule for Cube and Puerto Rice. The overtures of this govern-

citizens, which has inevitably found its held under one charge or another conby the end of November, not a single person entitled in any way to our national protection remained in a Spanish

Inauguration of Relief Measures. While these pegotiations were in rogress, the destitution of the unforunate, reconcentrades and the alarming mortality among them claimed earnest attention. The success which had affeuded the limited measure of relief extended to the suffering Ameri can citizens among them, by the judi cious expenditure through the consular agencies of the money appropriated expressly for their succor by the joint resolution approved May 24, 4897, prompted the humane extension of a similar scheme of aid to the great body of sufferers. A suggestion to this end was acquiesced in by the Spanish authorities. On the 24th of Do comber last I caused to be issued an appeal to the American people, inviting contributions in money or in kind for the succor of the starving sufferers in Cuba, following this on the 8th of January by a similar public announcement of the formation of a central Cuban relief committee with headquarters in New York city, composed of three members representing the American National Red Cross and the religious and business elements of the commu-The efforts of that committee been untiring and have accomplished much. Arrangements for free transportation to Cuba have greatly aided the charitable work. The presi-dent of the American Red Cross and representatives of other contributory

organizations have generously visited Cuba and co-operated with the consulgeneral and the local authorities to make effective distribution of the relief collected through the efforts of the central committee. Nearly \$200,000 in money and supplies has already reached the sufferers and more is forthcom ing. The supplies are admitted duty free, and transportation to the interior has been arranged so that the relief, at first necessarily confined to Havana and the larger cities, is now exlarger towns where suffering exists. Thousands of lives have already been saved. The necessity for a change in the condition of the reconcentrados i recognized by the Spanish government. Within a few days past, the orders of General Weyler have been revoked; the reconcentrades are, it is said, to be permitted to return to their homes, and aided to resume the self-supporting pursuits of peace; public works have been ordered to give them employment, and a sum of \$600,090 has been appro-

priated for their relief. Alternative Not To Be Counte-

nanced. The war in Cuba is of such a nature that sho t of subjugation or extermina tion a final military victory for either side seems impracticable. The alternative lies in the physical exhaustion of the one or the other party or perhaps of both, a condition which in effect ended the ten years war by the Truce of Zanjon. The prospect of such a conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, and least of all by the Uhited States, affected and injured as we are deeply and intimately, by its very ex-

Opening of Negotlations With Spain. Realizing this, it appears to be my inty, in the spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubaus who have so much to lose by the pro longation of the struggle, to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. To this end I submitted on the 27th ultimo, as a result of much representation and correspondence through the United States Minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government, looking to an armistice until October 1, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the Pres dent. In addition, I asked the imme diate revocation of the order of recon centration, so as to permit the people to return to their farms, and the needy to be relieved with provisions and sup-plies from the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief. The reply of the Spanish Cabinet was received night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the preparation thereof to the Insular Parliament, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to reach a final result, it being, however, understood that the powers reserved by the constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban Parliament does not meet until the 4th of would not object, for its part, to accept at once a suspension of hostilities if asked for by the insurgents from the general-in-chief, to whom it would pertain, in such case, to determine the duration and conditions of the

Brought to the End of His Effort. The propositions submitted by Gen eral Woodford and the reply of the Spanish government were both in he form of a brief memoranda of the texts which are before me, and are substan ially in the lanuguage above given the function of the Cuban Parliament in the matter of "preparing" peads and the manner of its doing so are not ex pressed in the Spanish memoranama, but from General Woodford's prelimi-nary reports preceding the final con-ference, it is understood that the Spanference, it is understood that the Spanish government stands ready, to give the insular Congress full power to settle the terms of peace with the insurgents, whether by direct negotiation or indirectly by means of legislation, does not appear. With this last overture in the direction of immediate peace, and its disappointing reception by Spain, the exacutive was brought to by Spain, the executive was brought to the end of his effort.

President Grant Quoted. my annual message of Decen ties in Cuba, he came to the Cuban Insurrection and the Attriindependence of Cuba was im-practicable and indefensible, and that the recognition of telligerence was not warranted by the facts, according to the tests of public law. I commented especially upon the latter the recognition of belligerepcy in its inconvenience and positive daugers of a recognition of belligerence which, when the genver issue of recognition aspect of the question, pointing out the favor. while adding to the already onerous burdens of neutrality within our own jurisdiction, could not in any way extend our influence or effective offices in the territory of hostilities. Nothing has since occurred to change my view in this regard, and I recognize as fully now as then that the issuance of a proclamation of neutrality, by which process the so-called recognition of belligeronce is rublished, could, of itself and unattended by other action, accomplish nothing toward the one end for which we labor-the instant pacification of Cuba and the cessation of the misery that affects the island.

Precedent of Recognition

Turning to the question of recognizing at this time the independence of the present insurgent government in Cuba, we find safe precedents in our history from an early day. They are well summed up in President Jackson's message to Congress, December 21, 1836, on the subject of the recognition of He said: "In all the contests that have arisen out of the revolutions of France, out of the disputes relating to the crowns of Portugal and Spain, out of the revolutionary move-ments of those kingdoms out of the separation of the American poessessions of both from the European governments, and out of the numerous and costantly occurring struggles for dominion in Spanish America, so wisely consistent with our just principles has been the action our government, that we have, under the most critical cir-cumstances, avoided all censure and encountered no other evil than that produced by a transient estrangement of good will to those against whom we have been by force of evidence com-pelled to decide. It has thus made known to the world that the uniform policy and practice of the United States is to avoid all interference in disputes which merely relate to the internal government of other nations, and eventually to recognize the authority of the prevailing party, without ref-erence to our particular interests and views, or to the merits of the original controversy. . . . But on this, as on every other trying occasion, safety is to be found in a rigid adherence to principle. In the contest between Spain and her revolted colonies we stood atoof, and waited, not only until the ability of the new States to protect themselves was fully established, but until the danger of their being again subjugated had entirely passed away. Then, and not until then, were they recognized. Such was our course in regard to Mexico herself. . . . It is true with regard to Texas the civil au-thority of Mexico has been expell d, its invading army defeated, the chief of the republic captured, and all present power to control the newly organized government of Texas annihilated within its confines. But, on the other hand there is, in appearance at least, an immense disparity of physical force The Mexican on the side of Mexico. republic, under another executive, is rallying its forces under a new leader, and menacing a fresh invasion to recover its lost dominion. Upon the issue of this threatened invasion the inde pendence of Texas may be considered as snapended, and were there nothing peculiar in the relative situation of th United States and Texas, our acknowl edgement of its independence at such a crisis could scarcely be regarded as

with which we have hitherto held our selves bound to treat all similar ques

The Dictates of Prudence. Thereupon Andrew Jackson proceed ed to consider risk that might be im puted to the United States' motives of selfish interest in view of the former lexas, and of the avowed purpose of the Texans in seeking recognition of inde-pendence as an incident to the incorporation of Texas in the Union; concluding this: 'Prudence, therefore, seems to dictate that we should still stand aloof and maintain our political attitude, if not until Mexico itself, or one of the great foreign powers shall recognize the independence of the new government, a least until the lapse of time or the course of events shall have proved be youd cavil or dispute the ability of the people of that country to maintain their separate sovereignty and to uphold the government constituted by thom. Neither of the contending parties can justly complain of this course. By pursuing it, we are carrying out the long established policy which has secured to us respect and influence abroad, and inspired confidence at home.

The Test Applied in the Case of Texas These are the words of the resolute and patriotic Jackson. They are evidence that the United States in add tion to the test imposed by public law as the condition of the recognition of indepence by a neutral State shall 'constitute in fact a body politic, hay ng a government in substance as we as in name, pessessed of the element of stability," and forming de facto "illeft to itself, a State among the nation? reasonable capable of discharging the duties of a State," as imposed for its own government in dealing with cases of independent State-hood, is not due to a revolted dependency until the danger of its bedependency intil the danger of the being again subjugated by the parent
State has entirely passed away. This
extreme test was in fact applied in the
case of Texas. The Congress to whom
President Jackson referred the question as one "probably leading to war,"
and therefore a proper subject for "a
previous understanding with that body
by whom war can alone be declared,

I said in massage of December last "It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection 10sindependence is in question, for no less positive test can be applied to the great e than to the lesser, while, on the other hand, the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the in ternal policy of the recognizing State, which form important factors when the recognition of beligerency is concerned, are secondary, if not rightly elimipable factors when the real question is whether the community claiming recognition is, or is not, independent be yand peradventure."

Not Wise to Recognize Independence

Just Now. Not from the standpoint of expedience do I think it would be wise or prindent for this government to recognize at the present time the independence of the so-called Cuban republic. Such recognition is not necessary in order to enable the United States to entervene and pacify the island. To commit this untry now to the recognition of any particular government in uba might subject us to embarrassing conditions of international obligations toward the organization so recognized. In case of intervention our conduct would be subject to the approval or disap-proval of such government; we would be required to submit to 18 direction and to assume to it the mere relation of a friendly ally. When it shall appear hereafter there is within the island a government capable of performing the duties and discharging the functions of a separate nation, and having as a matter of fact the proper forms and attributes of nationality, such government can be promptly and readily recognized, and the relations and interests of the United States with such nation adjusted.

Two Alternatives, There remain two alternative forms of intervention to end the war, either as an im-partial neutral, by imposing a rational com-promise between the contestants, or as the setive ally of the one party of the other. As to the first, it is not to be forgotten that during the last few months, the relation of the United States has virtually been one of friendly intervention in a may ways, each not of itself conclusive, but all tending to the exertien of a potential influence toward an ul-timate pacific result, just and honorable to all interests concerned. The spirit of all our an interests concerned. The spirit of all our acts nitherto has been an earnest, unselfish desire for peace and prosperity in Cuba, un-tarnished by differences between us and Spain-and unstained by the blood of Ameri-

Intervention Recommended. The forcible intervention of the United states as a neutral, to stop the war, according to the large dictates of humanity and fol-lowing many historical precedents where neighboring Sintes have interfered to check the hepicies saeriflees of hie by internecine conflicts beyond their borders, is justifiable on rational grounds. It involves, however, hostile constraint upon both the parties to the contest, as well to enforce a truce as to

guide the eventual settlement.
The grounds for such intervention may be iriefly summarized as follows:
Fre-In the cause of humanity and to put an . hd to the barbarities, bloodshed, starva-tion and horrible miseries now existing there, don and horrible mi-cries now existing there, and which the parties to the conflict are either mentle or unwilling to stop for mitigate. It is no answer to say this is all in another country, belonging to another nation and is, therefore, none of our business. It is specially our duty for it is right at our doots. Second --We owe it to our citizens in Cuba to afford them that protection and indemnity for lite and property which no government for life and property which no government there can or will afford, and to that end to terminate the conditions that deprive them of

egal protection. legal protection.

Third---The right to intervene may be justified by the very serious injury to the com-merce, trade and business of our people and by the wanton destruction of property and devastation of the island.

Fourth -- And which is of the utmost im portance, the present condition of affairs in Cuba is a constant menace to our peace and entails upon this government an enormous expense. With such a conflict waged for years in an island so near us and with which onr people have such trade and business re-latious—when the lives and liberty of our citizens are in constant danger and property destroyed and themselves ruined; when our trading vessels are liable to seizure and are seized at our very doors by warship of a foreign nation; the expeditions of fill-pustering that we are powerless to prevent aitogether, and the irritating questions and outanglements thus arising—all these and others that I need not mention, with the resulting Sixained relations, are a constant menace to our peace and compel us to keep on a semi war footing with a nation with which we are at peace. Destrue ion of the Maine.

These elements of danger and disorder, al ready pointed out, have been strikingly flus trated by a tragic event which has deeply and justly moved the American people. have already transmitted to Congress the re-port of the naval court of inquiry on the de-struction of the battieship Maine, in the harbor of Havana, during the night of the 15th of February. The destrucof the 15th of February. The destrucnational heart with inexpressible hor-ror. Two hundred and fifty eight or ve-satiors and marines and two officers of our navy, reposing in the fancied security of a friendly harbor, have been hurled to death grief and want brought to their homes and sorrow to the nation. The naval Court of inquiry, which it is needless to say, com-mands the unqualified confidence of the govthat the destruction of the Maine was caused by an external explosion, that of a sub-mirrine mine. It did not a sume to place the responsibility. That remains to be fixed. In any event the destruction of the Maine, by whatever exterior cause, is a patent and ex-pressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable. That condition is thus shown to be such that the Spanish gove nment cannot assure safety and security to vessel of the American navy in the barbor o Havana on a mission of peace, and rightfull

No Demand Made.

Further referring in this econection to recent dipformatic serrespondence, a dipparel from our Minister to Spain, on the 26th ult. contained the statement that the Spanish contained the statement line the Spanish minister for foreign affairs assured him positively that Spanish will do all that the highest honor and justish require in the matter of the Maine. The reply above referred to of the Sist ultimo, also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to an erbitration of all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish Minister at Washington of the 10th limit, as follows: "As to the quantity of views between their representative of the American and

the pentinguia, the contending parties appear to have within themselves no depository of common confidence, to suggest wisdom when passion and excitement have their sway, and to assume the part of pence-guicers. In this view, in the earlier days of the contest, the good offices of the United States as a mediator were confedered in good faith, without the content of humans. ity and in since elementship for both parties, but were at that time declined by Spain with the declaration, nevertheless, that at a future time they would be indepensable. No intimation has been received that in the opinion Spain that time has not been reached. And if the strate continues with all its dread is refors, and all its injures to the interests of the United States and of other nations. Each party seems quite capable of working great injuly and damage to the other, as well as to all the relations and dependent on the existence of peace in the Island; but they seem incapable of reaching any adjustment, and both have thus far failed of achieving any success whereby one party shall possess and control the island to the excussion of the other. Under the circumstances, the agency of others, either by mediation or by intervolution, seems to hathe only alternative which must, sooner to be the only alternative which must.

Mr. Cleveland's Prediction.

In the just annual message of my immedi ate predecessor during the pending struggle it was said: "" hen the inability of Spaint deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuby for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its reactionly means degenerated into a state which means bothing more than the useless sacrifice of human into, and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the severeignty of Stain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly "its to recognize and discharge."

Has the time come?

In my annual message to Congress in De-cember last, speaking to this question, I said The near future will demonstrate whether the Indispensable condition of a rightcompense, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained. If not, the exigency of further and other action by the United States will remain to be taken. When that time comes that action will be determined in the line of maisputable right and duty. It will Le laced, without misgiving or hesitancy, in the light of the obligation this government over to riself, to the copie who have confided to it the protection of their interests and honor and to humanity.

Peace by Peaceful Agencies. "Sure of the right, keeping from all offence ourselves, netuated only by upright and pa-triotic considerations, moved neither by pas-rion nor selfishness, the government will couno its watchtuiness and care over rights and property of American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by penceful agencies a peace which shall be hon-orable and enduring. If it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourseives, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part and only sheeness the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world."

The War in Cuba Must Stop. The War in Cuba Must Stop.

The long trial has proved that the object for which Spain has waged the waveaunot be attained. The fire of insurrection may fibrate or may smoulder with varying seasons, but it has not been and it is plain that it cannot be extinguished by present methods. The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba, In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop. and to act, the war in Cuba must stop. Asks Power of Congress.

In view of these facts and of these consid erations, I ask the Congress to authorize and empower the President to take measures to cure a full and final termination of hostili ties between the government of Spain and island the establishment of a stable government capable to maintain order and observ ing its internal obligations, ensuring pen and tranquility and the scenrity of its chizen as well as our own, and to use the military and naval ferces of the United States as may

and naval ferces of the United States as may be necessary for these purposes.

And in the interest of humanity and to aid in preserving the lives of the starving people of the Island, I recommend that the distribu-tion of food and supplies be continued, and that an appropriation be made out of the public Treasury to supplement the charity of our citizens.

The Issue is now with Congress. It is solumn, responsibility. I have exhausted every effortto relieve the inteleratic condi-tion of affairs, which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the constitution and the law, i fwalt your action.

Yesterday, and since the preparation of the foregoing message of official information was received by mo that the latest decree of the Queen Regent of Spain directs Gereral Bianco, in order to prepare and facilitate peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities the duration and details of which have no yet been communicated to me. This fac with every other pertinent consideration, wil I am sure, have your just and careful atten-tion, in the solemn deliberations a join which you are about to outer. If this measure at-tains a successful result, then our asylrations as a Christian, peace-loving people will be remixed. If it fails, it will be only another nstidention for our contemplated action Executive Mansion, April 11, 1898.

BLANCO'S PROCLAMATION

For Cessation of Hostilities in th

On the 11th the State Department eccived General Blanco's proclamation ordering a cessation of hostilities in Cuba, which is as follows:

The Proclamation. Her Majesty's government, yielding the reiterated wish expressed by hi toliness the l'ope, has been pleased to lecree that a suspension of hostilities with the object of preparing facilities for the restoration of peace on the island. In virtue whereof, I believe i

convenient to order: Article 1. "From the day following the receipt of this in each locality, the present proclamation of hostilities are ordered suspended in all territories of

the Island of Cuba. The de ails for the execution of the above articles will be the object of municated to the several commanders in chief of the arms corps for easy and prompt execution, according to the aitmation and circumstances of the

An Old Jointe

ALL RESTS WITH CONGRESS.

That Honorable Body Must Now Declare War or Peace.

MESSAGE READ AND REFERRED.

It Left Congress Pretty Much at Sea, But it is Belleved the Course Indl. cated by the President May Be

Washington, (Special.) - The future of the relations of the United States with Spain and Cuba now rests with Congress, the representative body of the American people. What course the elected men composing it will pursue cannot be foretold. The foreign committees of both Houses now have the subject in their coutrol, and after due deliberation will report to their respective branches what they consider should be the attitude of the United States on the grave question presented. Early action by the committees is expected, but exactly when it may be looked for is not now determinable. The full responsibility of the subject was placed upon Congress, when President Me-Kinley on the 11th transmitted to it a carefully prepared awasted message relating to our negotiations with Spain, as to its warfare in Cuba, and drawing therefrom his personal conclusions and recommenda-

No message in recent years, not even that of President Cleveland on Venezuela, nor l'resident Harrison on Chile. caused such widespread and intense interest. That it did not create profound enthusiasm may have been due to the fact that its main features had been accurately forecasted, or to a dis-Cuban independence and mamediate reprisal upon Spain for the destruction of the Maine. For a long time a large majority in both houses farored recognition of the independence of Cuba; for more than two years as voiced in resolutions, passed by Congress the recognition of belligerency has been sought. Both of these propositions were antagonized in the message, and con-sequently in this regard the message did not accord with the majority centiment. The message left Congress very much at sea, because of the disparagement in views between it and the executive, an obstacle hard to surmount, unless, as now seems possible, Congress sees its course to lie in accord with the President's recommendation. It is generally believed that the President is inclined to intervene with the army and navy, had it not been for the concluding paragraphs of the documer which announced the latest phase of diplomatic negotiations.

The Senate committee on foreign re-lations immediately went into ses-sion, but resched no definite conclu-

A declaration of war was talked of and a declaration that the people of Cuba should be free, coupled with au-thorization to the Passident to bring this about by armed intervention, was suggested. It is well known that any proposition advanced will be men in the enate with an amendment declaring the independence of the present Cuban government, and to so frame a resolution as to carry a majority of the Senate and at the same time meet the recommendations of the President is the result which the foreign relations committee is trying to secure.

The conservative Senators also met in

the afternoon and determined to oppose any radical measure, if it should be reported by the Senate committee on foreign relations. The temper of the House could not be accurately determined, but there, as in the Senate, the proposition for Cuban independence has to be met. Any report from the committoo on foreign affairs that does not car-ry with it this feature will be antagonized by an amendment, and the prospects are that nearly all the Democrats and many Republicans would favor it. Efforts have been directed toward action which will secure the solid support of the Republican organization and Re-publican majority of the House. To this end the Republican members of the House committee to whom the message was referred were in conferauce for some time.

The Spanish minister, Fenor Polo, remained at the legation, sending and receiving many dispatches and conferring with his advisors. He cabled the entire President's message to Madrid, except the historical reference to Ciencral Cirant's message, Texas, etc. The minister said he in t decline to make the slightest public allusion to the President's message, as any remark from him would be consistent with his position. It is known, how ver, that Senor Polo is keenly sensitive to the language of the message. What its offeet will be upon his services here is not known, for no word has yet come as to the effect of the message upon the authorities at Medrid. At the other embassies and legations the message aroused the greatest interest, but is cannot be said that it was received with