

# The Daily Gazette.

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### This Date in History—Dec. 31.

- 1584—John Wyclif, first noted English reformer, died, born 1324.
- 1604—Jacques Cartier, first to sail up the St. Lawrence, born at St. Malo, France; died 1655.
- 1720—Charles Edward (Louis Philip Casimir), an English prince who claimed the throne of the Stuarts, born; died 1733.
- 1815—General George Gordon Meade, commander of the victorious Union army at Gettysburg, born in Cadiz, Spain; died in Philadelphia 1872.
- 1874—Hon. George M. Dallas, ex-vice president, died at Philadelphia.
- 1882—Leon Gambetta, prime minister of France, leader of the Republicans in 1870, died in Paris; born 1838.
- 1882—The celebrated ironclad Monitor went down at midnight in a storm off Cape Hatteras. This famous vessel left Hampton Roads on Dec. 29 under orders to proceed to Charleston harbor and destroy the Confederate rams which had successfully attacked the Union, blockading fleet at that point. She proved entirely unworthy, and it was with great difficulty that her commander and crew kept her afloat.
- 1886—Nathaniel Wheeler, a noted American inventor, died at Bridgeport, Conn.
- 1884—Susan Fenimore Cooper, second daughter of James Fenimore Cooper, and herself an author of note, died at Cooperstown.

### CHINA.

That a serious state of affairs involving all the greater nations of Europe exists in the Orient grows more and more apparent. The struggle for supremacy in the far east has begun in earnest, at least as far as England and Russia are concerned, how much opera bouffe there is in the latest movements of Germany, and how much seriousness remain to be seen. The appearances, however, are that Emperor William's desire for a larger naval budget had much to do with the showy sending of his brother on a cruise to Chinese waters, especially as he went on his alleged mission to establish a German military station there and perhaps "strike a blow at England" without enough coal to carry his war vessel beyond the first English coaling station on his long voyage. The first move of the Kaiser in his bold grab for a foothold in Kiao Chan, explained as taken merely by way of retaliation for the murder of the missionaries or the protection of German citizens, was the step that awakened Europe to a sense of what was in store for China, which the aggression of Japan and Russia emphasized. Then England took a hand assembling a great fleet of warships off Korea, with a plausible pretext for entering the field at this point. Since the war between Japan and China, Korea has been more or less amenable to the influences of all the interested European powers. China having lost its nominal suzerainty, Japan was forced by Russia to desist from spoliation on its own account, and the Russian influence has been predominant. The British consul finally has been moved to protest to the Korean government against the removal of a British official and the substitution of a Russian—a maneuver threatening to put the Korean finances under the administration of the Russian minister. The consul's protest was ignored, and the appearance of British warships off Chemulpo was a demonstration that Great Britain meant to make the protest emphatic.

Close upon the heels of the British demonstration before Korea comes the news of another aggression, undertaken this time by Russia. With the railway and steamship concessions already secured, the acknowledged strength of Russian influence in the Chinese government and a prospective domination in Korea, the occupation of the walled town of Kin Chau looks like a deliberate attempt not only to dominate in the Orient but to irritate the onlooking European powers to a hasty and unsuccessful rivalry.

It is said and generally believed that before occupying Kiao-Chou the Kaiser consulted the czar, and an understanding, presumably, was reached. Russia wants a

free hand in Korea; Germany wants that part of the coast of which Kiao-Chou is the key; what France wants has not yet been disclosed, but it will probably be an extension northward from her present Asiatic dominion. English journals intimate that if there is to be a division the Yang-Tse-Kiang provinces would suit Great Britain, and the report of last Tuesday was that British vessels had seized an island at the mouth of the Yang-Tse-Kiang.

But in the proposed division of the ancient empire of China, Japan will certainly have something to say, especially in view of her having been deprived of her advantages at the close of the war with China. There is the bare possibility to be taken into account that China and Japan perceiving a common peril, may make common cause in defense of the yellow races against the conquering white.

Japan has shown some indications of co-operation with England, one of the latest reports is that her warships have cast anchor beside those of the British on the coast of Korea. Deeply mortified by Russia's action in keeping it out of the peninsula, Japan may be willing to join hands with the British in whatever offensive measures they may undertake. But the English diplomats have a variety of considerations to heed, and one of them is that France would stand by Russia, and Germany, unless it could make some pleasant arrangement for a fair division of spoils, would be disposed to hamper the proceeding. She has already taken a hand in the contest if the report of the seizure of the island of Hainan is correct.

The fact that Great Britain has already made so pronounced a demonstration as that before Korea is full of grave import. Should Korea, acting upon Russian advice, resist, it would be necessary for Great Britain either to back down or to fight.

The Washington Post says that "President McKinley has been brought face to face with the civil service issue." The "issue," of course, is the demand for a more frequent and more liberal distribution of the offices. The Post says:

The situation has been placed before the President in the plainest and most emphatic manner. He has been told by Senator Hanna, Senator Elkins, Senator Pritchard, Senator Fairbanks, and others that he will be callous to his own future political prospects and to the success of his own party if he does not rescind the order made by Mr. Cleveland by which 45,000 offices were added at one fell swoop to the classified list.

And yet the President smiles and says: "I am still committed to the civil service, gentlemen." Messrs Pritchard and Pearson can neither move Congress, the President, the law, or the democratic incumbents.

The steps for the organization of a board of trade in this city so auspiciously taken last night at the Asheville club, are an advance in the right direction. The movement is one to which every Asheville business man should lend his hearty support for a strong and active organization of this character will mean much to all the business interests of the town.

It is stated that the people of Ireland are suffering from the pangs of hunger and destitution more than those of Cuba. Yet Great Britain is the richest country on the globe, and Ireland is at peace.

### TOPICS OF TODAY.

North Carolina has 185 cotton mills, with 1,023,132 spindles and 23,334 looms, according to recent statistics. This represents an invested capital of over \$20,000,000 in this one enterprise alone, over 90 per cent. of which is North Carolina money—owned by North Carolina home folks.—Raleigh Post.

Wilmington Messenger: The Charleston News and Courier affirms, and we may receive its statement as correct, that "juries are organized to acquit and local and social influences nominate all trials." This statement is very startling, but it applies no doubt to every southern as well as to every northern state. In the south jury trials are for the most part bitter travesties of justice. No sensible man with a proper regard for life and right and protection can have much, if any, respect for jury trial in our section. All men of fair intelligence well know that they are "organized." Here in this city not long ago a judge and solicitor stated that trial between races—when both were involved—was a mockery and a scandal, or words to that effect. The sad thing about all this is that there is no remedy for the crying wrong, no curing in sight for a gnawing disease. It is a tremendous blot upon the good name of a state, as well as a reproach to any people, when crime goes generally "unwhipped of justice," and juries are sympathetic with wrong doing, violence and crimes of the deepest, most damning dye.

### POSTSCRIPTS.

—The delta of the Danube is about to be drained and rescued for agricultural purposes by the Roumanian government. Nearly 750,000 acres of fertile land will thus be made available. The enterprise is the greatest of its kind ever undertaken and at least five years will be required to carry it to completion.

—Reports received at the Navy Department indicate that the British government is pushing the work of modernizing the great fortifications at the Rock of Gibraltar, with all speeds, and that no less than 5,000 Spanish workmen pass daily over the lines to and from their work on the fortifications. A large number of the heaviest pieces of artillery are being put in place, a great dock is under construction, and the plan of defence permits of the absolute protection of a vast British fleet under the guns of the fortress. Contrary to the policy pursued in some other British fortifications, the soldiers in charge made no objection to an examination of the works by American naval officers and sail-

ors, and seemed rather proud of the strength of their position.

—There are 727,122 actual survivors of the war; there were 733,527 alleged survivors drawing pensions; there are 187,500 survivors now demanding pensions; number of widows drawing pensions, 513,352; widows demanding pensions, 104,938; pensioners demanding an increase, 255,849; total number of pensioners on the rolls, 947,528; total survivors or widows drawing or demanding pensions, 1,139,317. In 1883 there were 303,968 pensioners; in 1893 there were 968,012; in 1897 there are 976,014. more than twenty-five years ago General Garfield, afterwards president, apologized for reporting a pension appropriation bill of \$30,000,000, saying that thereafter the amount would annually decrease. Now it amounts to \$141,000,000 a year, and it is increasing every year. Next year it will be not less than \$150,000,000.

—The new constitution of South Carolina contains a clause providing that up to January 1, 1898, all male persons of voting age applying for registration who can read any section of the constitution or understand and explain it when read to them shall be entitled to register. It is further provided that any person who shall apply for registration after January 1, 1898, shall be registered, provided that he can read or write any section of the constitution submitted to him, or can show that he owns and has paid taxes collectable during the previous year on property in the state assessed at \$300 or more. The registration under the "understanding" clause is now closed, and while several thousand whites have been shut out, over 90,000 have been registered. Of the negroes only 13,000 have been registered, and there are about 131,000 negroes of eligible age who have not been registered.

Washington letter to the St. Louis Globe Democrat, states that fully 600,000 Cubans have died from the first day of January this year to the first day of December. The statement made by the correspondent are based, he alleges, on reports received from United States consuls in Cuba. And according to the statements made, the Spanish soldiers are little better off than the Cubans. They are reported as not only sick, but starving. The reports of the consuls are coming by every mail. It is no secret at the white house and the state department that they are disappointing in the extreme. The men for whose reliability and sound judgment Senator Moret stood sponsor last year are informing their government that the promises of Spain have come to naught. In plain official language they are telling of the continuance of the suffering and the mortality. Perhaps Blanco underestimated the amount of the misery or overestimated his resources. It may be the fault is in Spanish indifference and Spanish inefficiency. But the horrors of the Cuban war go on. Blanco is supposed to be feeding the starving. At one place there are 15,000 of these utterly destitute people. From personal observation the American consul states that the food provided would probably be sufficient to give 2,000 people one square meal of rice, salt pork and a little bread. What might be a single meal to sustain one person a day must be divided so as to keep alive seven. Where rations are being issued under Blanco's orders they are given in infinitesimal quantities.

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1898

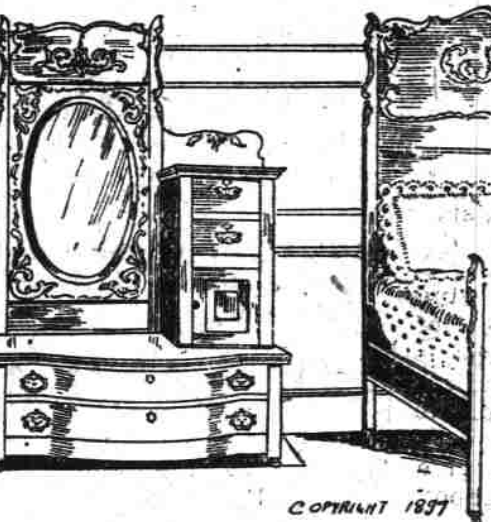
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### News.

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