

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Special Correspondence.
 WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, '99.
 The friends of Admiral Schley, who have watched with amazement his continued humiliation by the Navy department clique, have resolved to turn to congress for redress, and as soon as the coming session has been fairly opened, the matter will be aired in both the house and senate.
 The congressmen as a rule sympathize with Schley. They are familiar with department methods, and especially with the mutual admiration societies of the War and Navy department; and congress has power to give Admiral Schley reparation for the persistent petty injuries done him by navy bureau chiefs.
 A bill will be introduced to revive the grade of Vice Admiral, and Schley's friends say that they have votes enough in both houses to pass it without delay, and containing a proviso that Schley shall be appointed to this grade. The Navy department undoubtedly will resist this measure, as it has persistently fought every effort to do justice to the hero of Santiago; and unless Schley is specifically named, the bureau chiefs will try to get Sampson promoted to Vice Admiral. The recent order forbidding Schley to go to South Africa, which is a part of his new command, is looked upon as a deliberate attempt to humiliate him, implying as it does, a doubt of the administration that the Admiral would conduct himself appropriately during the war between the Boers and British. In other words, the Admiral is cautioned that he is not to be trusted with the customary authorities to visit any portion of his command, but to venture only to such portions as an unskilled diplomat and naval officials could visit without embroiling his country. These instructions are regarded by naval men as most remarkable. In the case of a flag officer in good standing he is permitted to proceed to any point he desires within the limits of his command. Rear Admiral Watson is not restricted in any degree in his field; and Rear Admiral Farquhar is at full liberty to go as he pleases in his command; so that the limitation imposed upon Schley is a discrimination of a palpable character. The publication of the order serves to call general attention to the slight put upon the Admiral, and it is the final act of a long series of department persecutions which have decided the Admiral's friends to make an open fight for him in congress. The language of the department's order, to "proceed with the flagship by the shortest practicable route to the waters of your command" to South American ports, is understood to be a part of the plan to get the Admiral far from Washington before the meeting of congress, in order that his presence at the capital may not provoke greater friendship for him among the lawmakers. There is nothing in South American conditions requiring our men of war to hasten there. It is difficult to fathom the animus of the navy cliques in their hounding of Schley. The only plausible cause that has been assigned is that the great naval fighter is a Democrat, and the administration has abetted the relentless efforts to detract from his fame, hoping to monopolize naval achievements for political use in the campaign to come. But can this be done? The vote in Maryland, Schley's state, in the recent election would prove the negative.
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 In a final effort to pass the ship subsidy bill, which will benefit one corporation which has contributed thousands to Republican campaigns, Grosvener, of Ohio, is to be made chairman of the house committee having charge of the measure. Grosvener is the mouthpiece of President McKinley in the house. The bill is in the hands of Mark Hanna in the senate; and here is the combination of Ohio men charged with making this remarkable piece of jobbery a law. The bill provides an annual bounty to one corporation of fully two million dollars. Some shipping experts estimate its benefits to this particular concern at five times that sum. But the national campaign will soon be opened up and more money than ever before is expected. A hundred thousand dollars from a single concern, so benefited by its friends in congress, would be but a moderate contribution. The bill is about equivalent to putting this company upon the pay rolls of Uncle Sam. The bill will be fought by the Democrats, but with the heroic efforts being put forth by the Republican leaders it looks ominous for the treasury.
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 Senator James K. Jones, chairman of the national Democratic

committee, in a recent interview said that the Democrats in the senate and house would pursue an aggressive policy all along the line this winter. He declared that the Democrats would be found in solid phalanx against any scheme to fasten the gold standard on the country, to retire the greenbacks or to enlarge the powers of the national banks as seemed to be the prospective plans of the Republicans. "Then, too," added the Senator, "the Democrats will be found opposing annexation. To be sure the Hawaiian islands have already been taken under the protection of the Stars and Stripes, but that was because the inhabitants of the islands requested that it be done; but with Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines an entirely different situation is presented. The only thing for us to do is to keep our promise to the Cubans and retire absolutely from the island as soon as a government has been established there." Senator Jones is by no means alone in his ideas relative to non-interference in the affairs of the islands which the fortunes of war thrust into our hands, and it is likely that the minority will succeed in demonstrating to the world the justice of the claims which Senator Jones has advanced.

Meteors and Comets.
 A very able American astronomer, Prof. Newton, of Yale, and Prof. Adams, of Cambridge, England, celebrated in history of the discovery of the planet Neptune, made some elaborate investigations in regard to the orbit of the November meteoric showers in 1866. Schiaparelli, of Milan, and the great French astronomer, Leverrier, of Neptunian fame, published their results as to this orbit. In the year 1866 a comet had been observed, called Tempel's comet, the orbit of which soon after its appearance was determined and published by the German astronomer Oppalzer. The latter had done so without any idea of connection between the comet and Leverrier's orbit of the Leonid shower. It was found that the two orbits were practically identical, conclusively proving a remarkable connection between the meteoric swarm and Tempel's comet. Other instances of swarms of meteors and comets were found. In the year 1872 the meteoric shower of the Andromedes closely followed in the track of Biela's comet. Such instances are too numerous to be attributed to mere chance, and it cannot admit of any doubt that there must of necessity exist a connection between meteors and comets, though the true nature of this connection has not yet been established and is as yet a matter of conjecture. Some astronomers, notably Schiaparelli and the American astronomer Kirkwood, are inclined to the belief that these meteoric showers are the consequence of a comet's gradual disintegration, a supposition to which certainly considerable plausibility must be conceded. While in some cases the meteoric swarm precedes the comet, the Leonids of this month follow the comet. Although the subject is to some extent wrapped in mystery, yet it is of such absorbing interest as to leave no doubt that the efforts of the astronomers will sooner or later lead to the discovery of the true connection between meteors and comets.

Robbers Torture Victims.
 CUMBERLAND, Md., Nov. 25.—Word reached here tonight of dreadful torture inflicted on Joseph Earle, a miller, aged eighty-five years, and his old wife by masked robbers, near Glencoe, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, eighteen miles above here, early this morning. The men found the aged couple in bed and ragged them out. Upon their refusal to tell where their money was hidden, they beat them over the head and body and lighted candles were applied to the soles of the feet, which were so badly blistered that neither can walk.
 The robbers were directed to a bureau drawer, where \$500 had been secreted in a false bottom. This represented the savings of three years. About that long ago the old couple were similarly beaten and robbed. Earle runs a grist mill. Both he and his wife are in a precarious condition, their advanced age making recovery doubtful. There is no clew to the robbers.
 The story is current in Washington that President McKinley acknowledge meritorious services of General Joseph Wheeler, General Fitzhugh Lee and General James Wilson, of the volunteers, by appointing them and retiring them with the rank of brigadier-general in the regular service.

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AGUINALDO WHOLLY DESERTED

Brisk Fighting in Panay and Luzon. With Many Casualties.
 MANILA, Nov. 25.—Deserted by his politicians, Aguinaldo is now a fugitive in the mountains, and his so-called Filipino Republic is crumbling like a house of cards. The myth government that was exercising weakened authority over nine-tenths of the people of Luzon has been wrecked, and there is small hope of re-establishing the machine.
 Buencamino, the ruling spirit of the Filipino cabinet, is a prisoner in Manila, and the small fry are tumbling over one another trying to get to General Otis.
 Three provincial governors have arrived in Manila seeking their old offices under the new regime. Dr. Luna, a brother of General Luna and a prominent insurrectionist, has arrived here, and his friends and many others are applying to General Otis for permission to enjoy the luxuries of Manila after months of separation from civilization.
 The movement against the insurgents in the Island of Panay has resulted in driving them to the mountains, 20 miles inward. The Americans in all lost five men killed and had 38 men wounded. General Hughes, Colonel Carpenter and Colonel Edmund Rice commanded during the various fights. Thirty-two insurgents were killed in the engagements, and the natives reported that nineteen cartloads of wounded were taken away.
 Santa Barbara and Maasin Arsenal were deserted before the Americans arrived. The insurgents, seeing it was impossible to resist the movement, retired with most of their stores.
 Last night parties of insurgents made feeble attacks upon Imus and the Zapote bridge. The only large organized force of insurgents known to remain are those in the Cavite Province, at San Mateo and in the Zambales Mountains, although several seaports have large garrisons.
 Aguinaldo began his retreat with 2,000 men under General Gregor del Par, but that force was rapidly reduced by desertion, and the last definite news of the insurgent leader is that he passed through Trinidad, east of Aringay, toward Bayombong, escorted by 200 men of the Bullacan battalion, who had dwindled from 600 within a week. General Mino, who fought the Thirty-third at San Jacinto, is supposed to have joined him. An intercepted letter from General Mino says 200 of his men were killed or wounded, that he had had enough and was going to the mountains.
 General Young, with the Macabebes and Chase's troop of cavalry, is still on the trail of the rebels, but men and horses are badly used up. General Wheaton is trying to get reinforcements and supplies to them from the coast. General Young left Tayug on November 13 to connect with General Wheaton, with the Macabebes and three troops of cavalry. Two troops, commanded by Captain Hunter and Lieutenant Thayer, pushed through to Asingan. From that point, Lieutenant Thayer, with 12 men, started for San Fabian, taking the chances of getting through the lines of the enemy, who were supposed to be between Asingan and San Fabian.

Shooting of Prisoners.
 SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 25.—The accusation that Col. Wilder S. Metcalf, of the Twentieth Kansas Regiment, deliberately killed an unarmed Filipino prisoner during the Philippine campaign, avers the Examiner, has resulted in the disclosure that two Filipino prisoners were shot by Kansas men at Calocan; that a War Department investigation was held, and that the men involved, including Capt. Bishop, of Company M, and Capt. Flanders, of Company I, were exonerated. Continuing, the Examiner says:
 "Gen. Funston, who has been a staunch defender of Col. Metcalf, reiterates his charge that five officers of the Kansas regiment were guilty of cowardice during the fighting between Manila and San Fernando. From Topeka, Kan., comes the affidavit from Private Donald Thorn, of the Twentieth Kansas, in which he swears that he saw Capt. Bishop fire three shots into the bodies of two prisoners, who were lying helpless on the ground in the rear of the American firing line."

The Democratic state executive committee of Pennsylvania has adopted a vigorous protest against the seating of M. S. Quay, who was recently appointed United States senator by Governor Stone after the legislature adjourned without the election of one.

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MARVELOUS TELEGRAPHY.
 A Total of 150,000 Words Dispatched in a Single Hour by Machinery.
 Chicago, Nov. 23.—Demonstrations that were accepted as meeting every expectation were made to-day with the Pollak-Virag rapid automatic telegraph invention. Messages were sent over a circuit that extended from The Tribune office to St. Paul and over other circuits that reached to Cleveland and Buffalo and back to The Tribune office. The speed attained over the loop to Buffalo and back reached at one time the rate of 155,000 words an hour, the message traveling 1,080 miles. The test made over the Buffalo loop decided the inventors to proceed without further delay to make the final American demonstration, which will be the sending of a message from New York to the office of The Tribune in Chicago on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

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