GETTING MUCH NEARER TO WAR.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES SEVERED.

Both the Senate and House Almost Unanimous for Action.

The Complete Story of the Happenings at Washington From the Time the President's Message Went in on Monday Until Yesterday Afternoon, When the Watchman Received its Last Bulletin to the Effect that the Spanish Minister Had Been Recalled.

The Congress that had been condemning | Republican majority of the House. with the dilemma that has made Mr. Mc- and night. KINLEY halt so long and the hot heads who

were shouting war last week don't know whether they are for war or peace. The interest was everywhere manifested in the shifting of the burden of responsibility President's message. The embassies and makes all the difference in the world and legations were practically empty by 11 makes all the difference in the world and now that the President has left it all with Congress the precipitate haste that that message. Cabinet officers busied them-body demanded of him seems to have grown selves with their departmental affairs, feelleaden heels, since it is Congress and not ing that the message now transferred the the President that is slow.

After weeks of promises and excuses the much looked for and talked of message reached Congress at noon on Monday. Since last week the world had been expecting it and no one was much surprised, for the tenor of the document had been presaged by the President's actions all bling and this done, the President joined through the crisis. It is wholly without purpose, very conservative in its burden of recent days in a measure reexpression, and leaves the future of the Spanish-American relations absolutely with Congress.

very little of exciting interest has occurred. sion. The Marine band furnished music General Lee and the last of the Americans left Havana on Saturday evening. The United States consulate property was placed under the protection of the English consul and as the Fern steamed out of tion circles. Havana harbor the last of American representation with that city was cut off. Up to the time of the leaving of Gen'l. Lee the Spaniards had no conception that the situation was as critical as it was. The Spanish entire President's message to Madrid, express had been forced to suppress all news of the doings at Washington and to deny all rumors that a severance of diplomatic slightest public allusion to the President's relations was imminent; consequently when the stars and stripes were hauled down and Lee left, the city was thrown into a panic, for the masses did not know at what moment a United States fleet would appear to bombard the city.

With Lee's departure from Havana and arrival at Key West, an account of which | withdraw, nor was there any intimation of will be found on page 7 of this issue, the interest has again centered in Washington, where Congress is making as much of a laggard of itself as the President did in handling the question.

WASHINGTON, April 11.-No message in tant and most interested foreign establishrecent years, not even that of President ments the general feeling was expressed by

To the President for delay in action upon the this end the Republican members of the Cuban question now finds itself confronted house committee to whom the message was referred were in conference during the day

ALL QUIET AT THE WHITE HOUSE. Outside of the capitol, the same intense o'clock, the foreign representatives and their staffs going to the capitol to hear the centered there for the last fortnight. The White House shortly before noon in order his family at lunch with evident satisfaction of having the tremendous strain and

Since the last issue of the WATCHMAN Easter Monday was observed as usual by the egg rolling gathering of thousands of children in the rear of the executive manfor the youngsters. The effect of the message down town was on the whole quieting. Cabinet officers of course expressed their most hearty approval of the message. This view was reflected throughout administra-

THE SPANISH MINISTER NOT TALKING NOW. The Spanish minister, Senor Polo, remained at the legation during the day sending and receiving many dispatches and con-ferring with his advisers. He cabled the cept only the historical references to General Grant's message, Texas, etc. The minister said he must decline to make the message, as any remark from him would be inconsistent with his position. It is known, however, that Senor Polo is keenly sensitive to the language of the message. What its effect will be upon his service here is not known, for no word has yet come as to the effect of the message upon the authorities at Madrid. Up to to-night Senor Polo had received no instructions to

such instructions.

AT EMBASSIES AND LEGATIONS.

At the other embassies and legations the message aroused the greatest interest, but it cannot be said that it was received with satisfaction. At one of the most impor-

Cleveland on Venezuela, nor President Harrison on Chili, caused such widespread through his message, washed his hands of

fake armistice which Spain at the last moport, even if it did not wholly meet their ment proclaimed in the hope that it would views, but after a long conference with the leaders of the minority, who counseled standing on the ground which the Demogain for her still further time from the amateur diplomatists with whom she has cratic party had assumed during this Con-gress, it was decided to favor a direct recbeen dealing at this end of the line.

resolution.

Madrid.

Verde islands.

Corridors.

It was this increasing indignation among Republican Senators and Members which to-day beat down the opposition of the temognition of the insurgents as the government of Cuba. porizing leaders and compelled the agreein the House by Mr. Adams, of Pennsylva-nia, and passed by a vote of 322 to 19. It ment on immediate armed intervention for the express and clearly declared purpose of putting an end forever to Spanish misrule | is as follows : in Cuba and establishing there a free and independent government by the Cuban authorized and directed to intervene at people.

Another essential part of the agreement, which will be made a leading feature in the resolutions, is the declaration that Spain was responsible for the destruction of the battleship Maine, which will be proclaimed as the culmination of her misrule in Cuba and the immediate moving cause of the action which this government in self-defense feels compelled to take.

The insolent insincerity in Spain's diplomacy in dealing with this government is said to be in great evidence in the last proposals for an armistice and a new scheme of autonomy for Cuba. It is said that when the President received last night a translation of the complete account in Spanish of the new Spanish proposition handed Judge Day by the Spanish minister Sunday he found that it did not bear out the summary in English which the Spanish minister furnished at the same time, and on which the President in the cabinet meeting of Sunday night determined to bring it to the attention of Congress in the scene of action and of responsibility to the copitol. Even at the White House there message, and the copy of the official proclawas a lull in the excitement which has mation of Captain General Blanco, which he received to-day, gave him an even more President saw several of his cabinet ad-visers early in the day, but there was no cabinet meeting. The message left the posed by Spain.

The fact that what was termed "an armistice" in the English summary submitted by Senor Polo turns out on these official declarations to be only a "suspension of hostilities" puts a different face upon the matter and robs it of much of its significance.

But even with this new evidence before him of Spanish trickery and insincerity the President refused to abandon hope of a peaceful settlement, and he is said to still entertain the belief more strongly that even if Spain does not back down before Congress authorized him to make armed intervention she will do so then, and that she does not really mean to fight with the United States over Cuba.

The President got word to-day from an apparently authoritative source that the Cuban insurgents would not make any suspension of hostilities corresponding to that proposed by the Spaniards, although they might have considered an armistice of a genuine and mutual character, and that they had no more confidence in the good faith of the Spanish government in this new move than Congress has.

Speaker Reed is still opposed to any hostile action against Spain, and has prom-ised to turn on "the speech-making spigot," and leave it open until the House ratory runs dry and until he is forced to close the debate, as he probably will be by the pressure from the Republicans. The debate on the resolutions for armed intervention, which will be reported to-morrow, can run on.

When the resolutions directing the President to intervene immediately with the army and navy pass Congress there will be absolutely no excuse on which the President can further delay action.

Our fleets will move on Cuba and Porto Rico from Key West and Hampton Roads, Spain will declare war on the United States and the long suspense will be at an end. The middle of next week at least ought to see action begin.

Consular Reports Tell of the Situation on the Island of Cuba.

Transmitted to Congress.—General Lee's was by far the Most Explicit.-Question of Autonomy. What he Thought of it in November of Last Year. Some of the Horrors Brought on by Weyler's Infamous Order.

WASHINGTON, April 11.-The consular correspondence with regard to the situation in Cuba, which was transmitted to Congress

to-day along with the President's message, was prepared in response to resolutions of inquiry adopted by both the House and Resolved, that the President is hereby once to stop the war in Cuba, to the end Senate. The correspondence was prepared and with the purpose of securing perma-nent peace and order there and establishing for transmission to Congress just before the blowing up of the Maine, and, having been held since, now includes communicaby the free action of the people thereof a tions up to April 1st. It covers the com-munications of Consul General Lee, at Hastable and independent government of their vana; Consul McGarr, at Cienfuegos; dent is hereby authorized and empowered to use the land and naval forces of the Brice, at Matanzas ; Hyatt, at Satiago De Cuba and Barker, at Sagua La Grande. The communications make about 60,000 United States to execute the purpose of this

The conservative forces of the Senate fa- words. They deal largely with the distress vor the House resolution in preference to and suffering which exists in all the disthat reported by the senate committee. tricts.

THE QUESTION OF AUTONOMY.

But General Lee reports quite fully upon the decrees of the government with regard resolution, as evidenced by one presented by Senator Hale, which is in direct line with the President's message. to autonomy and other political phases of the situation. In preparing the corre-spondence for transmission to Congress considerable portions of the important communications and especially those marked confidential, are omitted. The resolutions to which they are the response in each instance asked only for such correspondence as it was not deemed incompatible with the public interest to make public. General Lee's correspondence runs over the period from November 17th, 1897, to April 1st, 1898. Much of the corre-spondence is of a confidential nature and of some of the important communications

excerpts only are given. THE MAINE DISASTER.

The consular correspondence also in part was devoted to the Maine disaster, and in this part of the correspondence some ST. VINCENT, April 14.-Additional important and interesting points are developed. The correspondence consists largely of cablegrams exchanged by As-Spanish war ships have arrived at Cape

sistant Secretary of State Day and Consul riots then occurring in the city, and tells of the which telegrams have been published in whole or in part. Lee Welcomed as a Hero in Washington. Immense Crowds Cheered Him and Stared at Him Everywhere He Went.-Depot Jammed With People.-Unprecedent Scenes in State Department

WHAT LEE THOUGHT.

WASHINGTON, April 12 .-- The ovation Consul General Lee's first report to the that has followed Consul General Fitzhugh state department on the condition of affairs Lee since he set foot on American soil on in Cuba is dated November 23rd of last year. his return from Havana culminated to-It is in five sections and he states that it night in Washington in what was in many appears to him that, "First, the insurgents ways one of the most remarkable demonwill not accept autonomy; second, a large majority of the Spanish subjects who have strations the city has ever seen. From the moment he alighted in the railroad station commercial and business interests and who in the afternoon he was surrounded by a own property here will not accept autonocheering crowd that followed him to the my, but prefer annexation to the United state department, and the spectacle of army States rather than an independent republic and navy officers and government employes or genuine autonomy under the Spanish cheering ouside the very door of the secreflag." The remainder of this communication tary of state was wholly unprecedented in the history of that staid department. At

leals with the efforts of the Spanish authorities to promote and protect the grinding of sugar, and the effects of the insurgents in the opposite direction. He also feels confident that General Pando is doing all e can to relieve the distress resulting from Weyler's reconcentration order.

SOME OF THE HORRORS OF WEYLER'S ORDER Four days later another communication was sent from Lee enclosing reports from two gentlemen high in the community. These show a frightful condition of the reconcentrados in Los Fosos (the ditches) of Havana.

"Four hundred and sixty women and children thrown on the ground, heaped pell ine and report upon Dr. A. McGiffert's mell as animals, some in a dying condition, book. others sick, others dead without the slight-

The Post is a Leader.

It is a matter of general comment that "The Pittsburg Post" leads all its contem poraries in the printing of the news, and it has maintained its reputation in the past few weeks while the war clouds were gath-The Post not only publishes the ering. best and most accurate reports, but gives them in the most logical and attractive style

In this respect, as in all others, The Post took the lead. Envious competitors have ridiculed The Post for its up-to-date and original makeup, but one by one they are dropping into the procession and imitating The Post in typographical appearance. The Post is glad to see this, and will endeavor to set a lively pace, as it always has done. Not only has The Pittsburg Post led in the publication of domestic news, but it has all the news sources of Europe guarded by watchful, trained correspondents. The result is apparent.

Keep your eyes on The Post when war breaks out. It will continue to the high standard already set up. All the news, all the time, carefully edited and attractively printed. Ask your newsdealer for the daily *Post*, or subscribe for it by mail, \$3.00 per year; with 28-page Sunday issue, \$5.00. THE POST, Pittsburg, Pa. Address Circulation department.

There are Two Tails to his Kite.

From the Cambria Freeman.

A Washington telegram says : "While the President is a christian statesman and contemplates with horror the prospect of war, he is also a politician who does not relish the thought of being repudiated by his own party in Congress and deserted by his following in the country."

-It is alleged by a Wellsboro, Pa., Republican paper, where he formerly re-sided, that William A. Stone, Boss Quay's candidate for Governor, charged the State a \$10,000 attorney fee for collecting a \$4,-000 debt. That journal then says : "Is he a safe man to trust in the gubernatorial chair ?"

After More Up-to-Date Grief.

An Atchison widower gives as his excuse

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

A CHANCE TO GO TO WEST POINT OR ANNAPOLIS.—A competitive examination, to select a candidate for West Point and also one for the Naval academy at Annapolis. will be held in Du Bois, Pa., on April 30th, 1898, at 10 a.m. No one should apply who is not a bona-fide resident of the Twentyeighth congressional district of Penna. All applicants must report at the office of Hon. W. C. Arnold, Member of Congress, in Du Bois, Pa., at 9 a. m. on the 30th inst.

-The Huntingdon presbytery was in session in Altoona on Tuesday and Wednesday. Among the business transacted was the receiving of Revs. Thoms, Holloway and Haughawaut from the New Jersey, Minneapolis and Washington presbyteries ; the appointment of a committee to organize a church at Coaldale, if possible; and the petitioning of the Synod to transfer a portion of the Carlisle presbytery into the Huntingdon. Dr. William Laurie was made a member of the committee to exam-

INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATE BETWEEN STATE COLLEGE AND DICKINSON. - AI inter-collegiate debate has been arranged between State and Dickinson to take place in the chapel at State College, on Fristances of the distress are given. Further day evening, April 22nd. The question for debate is, Resolved : "That the United States Government Should Establish a National University." State will debate upon the affirmative and Dickinson upon the negative. Each speaker will be allowed ten minutes to speak and five minutes for rebuttal. The judges will be prominent men from this and adjoining States. At a preliminary debate, held last term, the judges chose the following men to represent State College. Messrs. Andrews, '98; Carpenter, D. E. '99; and Ruslander, '00, with Mr. Bell, '99 ; as alternate. Dickinson's men are not definitely known but she will undoubtly send up some good ones as she has her law and theological schools to draw from. All indications point to an interesting and exciting debate. The musical organizations of the College will assist in making the entertainment thoroughly enjoyable. The doors will be open at seven o'clock and the entertainment will begin at eight. The admission is 25, 35 and 50 cents.

WASHINGTON, April 14.-The Spanish minister to-day made final preparations for his immediate departure from this city. He received his instructions to leave from Movements Will Be Kept Quiet.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Secretary Long gave notice to-day that no news whatever respecting naval movements will be made public.

They do not believe it is as radical and be-

lieve as much good will be accomplished.

Other conservatives favor a still more mild

Spanish Minister Will Go.

The majority resolution was introduced

More Spanish War Vessels.

se who wanted Cuban independence and for more than two years as voiced in resolutions passed by Congress the recognition of further action from that quarter. of belligerency has been sought. Both of these propositions were antagonized in the message and consequently in this regard the message did not accord with the majority sentiment.

CONGRESS NOW AT SEA.

The message left Congress very much at sea because of the disagreement in views between it and the executive, an obstacle hard to surmount unless, as now seems possible, Congress sees its course to be in accord with the President's recommendation. It is generally believed that the President would have been authorized to intervene with the army and navy had it not been for the concluding paragraphs of the document which announced the latest phase of diplomatic negotiations.

STRONG PRESSURE NEEDED.

The Senate committee on foreign relareached no definite conclusion. From the fact that the Republican members held a and what was said regarding it, the infer- necessary or advisable. ence was drawn that some strong measure was necessary in order to carry any action by the committee through the Senate. A declaration of war was talked of, and a declaration that the people of Cuba should be free, coupled with authorization of the President to bring this about by armed intervention was suggested. It is well known that any proposition advanced will be met in the Senate with an amendment declaring for 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 recommendation of the President is the result which the foreign relations committee is trying to secure.

CONSERVATIVE SENATORS MAY DEBATE.

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. They will oppose by debate any recognition of independence of the present government and a declaration of war and will consent to action only along the lines of the recommendations of the President as to intervention at his discretion.

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 committee on foreign affairs that does not carry with it this feature will be antagonized by an amendment and the prospects are that nearly all the Democrats

and intense interest. No message was ever the subject and imposed the responsibility listened to with closer attention by both galleries and members at both ends of high diplomatic quarters some question the capitol. That it did not create pro-found enthusiasm may have been due to the fact that its main features had been ac-curately forecasted in the associated press dispatches, or to a disappointment among powers of Europe, so far as they repreimmediate reprisal upon Spain for the de- sented civilization, did not support this struction of the Maine. For a long time view expressed by the President. There a large majority in both houses have favor- has been no further general conference beed recognition of the independence of Cuba; tween the embassadors and ministers of the powers nor is there any present indication

NO NEW DIPLOMACY SPRUNG.

No new diplomatic phases of the ques tion developed to-day at the state depart-

ment. Secretary Sherman said he would not be surprised if the Madrid cable report proved true that Minister Woodward was bout to leave Madrid. At the same time, the state department was without advices that this step actually had been taken. General Lee is en route here and it is expected that his arrival will be the signal for a notable demonstration.

THINK WAR NOT SO IMMINENT.

The war and navy departments continued their active preparations to-day. While eventualities are being prepared for, the sentiment in the army circles is that war is not so imminent as it seemed to be a few days ago. It can be stated on au-

thority that no consideration has yet been tions immediately went into session but given to the withdrawal of the United States fleet at Key West as the administration holds that the situation has undergone consultation after the meeting adjourned no change which makes this withdrawal

CONGRESS FOR FREEDOM.

WASHINGTON, April 12.-Immediate armed intervention to drive the Spaniards out of Cuba and the establishment in the island by and for its people of a stable and independent government.

This is the basis of action on the Cuban juestion proposed to themselves by the Republicans of Congress, on which they claim to-night they have substantially agreed, and which will be embodied in resolutions to be reported to the Senate and House to-morrow from the committees on foreign relations and foreign affairs. The agreement, which is said to be ac ceptable to the great bulk of Republicans

in both Houses, was the result of incessant conferences last night and to-day between members of the two foreign committees, the leaders of the different Republican factions and representatives of the administration.

The last named, it is apparent, have reason to feel gratified that the two Houses did not go even further in disregard of the President's recommendations and insist on the recognition of the present republic of Cuba, as well as that the intervention should be immediate instead of at the dis-

cretion of the President. For Senators and Members did not like the President's message better the more they considered it. Their indignation, on the contrary, increased and intensified to-day as they contemplated the mess the administration had made of the American case through delay, and many Republicans would favor it. and as they reflected on the probable effect Efforts have been directed all day toward on the country of the President's suggesaction which would secure the solid sup-port of the Republican organization and to force the Cuban insurgents to accept the



It Goes Through the House by a Vote of 322 to 19.-Senate's Resolution Delayed.—The House Declares that this Government Should Establish in Cuba a Stable and Independent Government—The Flying Squadron Leaves Hampton Roads on What is Said to be a Practice Cruise-The Sailors at Key West Anxiously Awaiting the Command to Begin Hostilities-St. Louis and St. Paul Become Naval Cruisers.

WASHINGTON, April 14.-Yesterday was day of momentous and exciting events in Congress. Not in years have both Houses been engaged in the consideration of such important business. Both committees havng in charge foreign affairs reported resolutions, the tenor of which is believed to mean a war with Spain. The House passed the resolutions reported by the majority of its committee, and the Senate began a debate which may be protracted and interesting The Senate was first to report its resolution, and at the beginning of the session Senator Davis, chairman of the committee presented the resolution and a report which in dealing with the management of Cuban affairs by Spain, was a vigorous and scathing denunciation of that country and its military methods.

The purpose of the delay on the part of ome of the members of the Senate was shown in the objection of the consideration of the report, which sent it over to another day, but this did not prevent a most exciting and vigorous debate upon the reso lution and the Cuban situation. All day long the Senate listened, with the galleries. while vigorous speeches were made for and against the proposition. The minority report, which was presented by four members of the foreign relations committee-Senator Foraker, of Ohio, joining with three Democratic members - was in favor of the recognition of the independence of the present government of Cuba at once, and and it is an interesting fact that there seems to be quite a general feeling that the minority report of the committee may, when the vote is taken, be the action of the Senate. Debate and discussion may alter the condition, which seems to exis now, but the temper of Senators on both sides seems inclined in that direction.

The following is the majority resolutions reported to the Senate :

Resolved, First-That the people of the Island of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent.

Second-That it is the duty of the United States to demand and the government of the United States does hereby demand that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third-That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States ; and to call into the actual service of the several States to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Although the Senate was first to present ts resolution, the House was first to act. Party feeling ran high, and, as foreshadowed by the action of the committee, party lines were sharply drawn, resulting in a scene which became personal and dis-graceful. The members of the committee were inclined to support an unanimous re- sage as the Executive had promised.

It was after nine o'clock before he ap peared on one of the small corner balonies, accompanied by a committe of the Union Veteran Legion and the Confederate Veterans Association, which was jointly in charge of the affair.

night the city turned out in thousands,

when a serenade was given General Lee at

his hotel, and stood for hours in the street

The night demonstration was almost as

quick and unpremediated as that which

had greeted General Lee at the depot and

state department. The United States Ma-

rine band had been secured from the bar-

racks, and the Seventy-first Regiment

band, under the leadership of Prof. Fan-ciulli, formerly conductor of the Marine

band, came over from New York on an af-

ternoon train. The crowd assembled with-out calling, and by 8 o'clock was 5,000 strong in the streets about the Shoreham

hotel, where General Lee was quartered.

Before the close it was twice that size.

waiting a glimpse of him.

The bands struck up the "Star Spangled Banner" and there was a burst of fireworks from the neighboring houses, while mounds of red, white and blue lights flamed at intervals along the street, throwing the crowd on the balcony into sharp relief against a background of flags. The crowd yelled itself hoarse, calling for General Lee by name, and demanding a speech The speech was brief, and so much broken by applause that the crowd caught probably little more than its general drift. Gen

LEE'S SPEECH.

eral Lee said :

"After all the speeches I have been forced to make in the past two days. I can hardly hope to make myself heard over this great gathering. I can only assure you that such a great demonstration seems to me out of all proportion to the simple fact of my humble presence here, and I am frank to say I don't see that I deserve it, having only tried to do my duty as an American where circumstances placed me."

The crowd broke out afresh, and there "That's what were yells, "That's it." "That's you did." General Lee continued :

"I have to thank you most heartily for this splendid indorsement of my course. It harbor is rapidly proceeding. is a thing that can hardly come to a man Caplain Chadwick (now transferred to more than once in a life time, and it moves me more than I can put in words.'

"You can act pretty quick," cried a man in the crowd, and then someone yelled 'War, fight," and the cheering drowned everything else."

"I have not come to talk of war," continued General Lee, "but if war comes, in a few days or a few years, the present crisis has proved that it will find us a united people, and the only contest will be as to who can carry the flag farthest and fastest."

There is one thing in conclusion. I want to thank my good New York friends who have come so promptly to the front tonight. It is only another evidence that New York is ready, as she has been in the past to stand by Virginia, and if the trial comes, I can assure you all that Virginia will be found standing shoulder to shoulder with New York.'

The speaking and music was followed by brief reception, to which a few score gained admittance in the rooms of Representative Connell, of Pennsylvania, from whose balcony General Lee made his address

McKinley and Lee Clash.

Former Wanted Silence and the Latter Refused. WASHINGTON, April 12.—That Hanna is still Lord of all in the White House was known to-day when Consul General Lee, fresh from a triumphal journey from Key West, called on his chief. President Mc-Kinley, and received orders to maintain a discreet silence in the interest of the Ohio boss' conservative policy. But the ex-Con-federate had forgotten to leave his temper in Cuba and flushed with anger, he said, 'No." He likewise refused to carry the blame for the delay in sending in the mes-

able to give water to the thirsty, without either religious or social help, each one dying wherever chance laid him." The communication states the deaths average forty or fifty daily and some horrible in-

along the communication says that if any young girl came in who was nice looking she was infallibly condemned to the most abominable of traffics. The communication says that 1,700 persons had entered the Fosos since August and of those but 243 were then living.

Fleet Looks for War.

wy Men Expect to Begin the Bombardment Havana in a Few Days.

KEY WEST, April 12.-Key West and the fleet is strung to a high tension to-night. As regarded here, the situation is now beyond the influence of diplomacy, and confirmation is given to this by the fact that the local Spanish consul to-day turned his affairs over to Mr. Taylor, the British consul, and that the Spanish vice onsul, who also represents Italy, has transferred those special interests to Mr. Taylor. On the Mascotte from Tampa to-day came 19 soldiers of the First artillery. They proceed to Fort Taylor, where the

will work on the fortifications. An additional consignment of eight and ten-inch guns for the batteries here also arrived today. The work of laying the mines in the

the Cincinnati with the rank of lieutenant)

says that the work of carrying the bodies of the Maine victims North will go on without delay. The carrier pigeon service is working beautifully. The journey of the birds have been between the cruiser New York, lying about five miles out, and the shore. The birds have made the distance in eight or nine minutes.

went out and anchored in the ships' har- follows : bor this morning, and then began shooting

the big guns at a long distance target. The cruiser Detroit will take the patrol to-night. Great interest is felt here in the prepara-tions made by the Government officials to land troops in Cuba, should a step be taken. The fleet itself could not transport a sufficient number of men to make an efficient landing party, failing which the first few shots fired are likely to be the signal for rioting in the city of Havana and elsewhere.

Lee's Opinion is the General One.

The Consul General Says He Believes the Maine Was Blown Up by Spaniards,

WASHINGTON, April 12.-Consular General Lee was before the Senate committee on foreign relations for an hour to-day. He said that in his opinion there was no room to doubt that the destruction of the Maine was due to Spanish agencies.

"Do you mean the Spanish authorities in Cuba?" he was asked.

"I mean the Spanish officials," he re-plied, but not General Blanco. I think some of the officials were cognizant of the plans to destroy the vessel, but I do not believe that the captain general was." General Lee said he had no knowledge of the reports that a mine had been discovered by a diver under the Montgomery while the vessel lay in the harbor at Hamore a free man. vana.

WHY AUSTIN DANCED. - On Monday afternoon Austin Ammerman, formerly a resident of Coleville, but now of Tyrone, did a dance in one of the alleys of the latter place that would have put to shame the limber gyrations of Lottie Collins in her After coaling, the cruiser Marblehead supplest days. The Herald tells of it as

> He is the contractor for the brick work of the D. G. Owens stable, now nearly completed. A piece of old wire was lying on the building where Austin was at work with an end resting on the electric light wires close at hand. Austin didn't notice the trap acci-dentally set for him. The wire was intruding upon his premises and therefore in his way. Somewhat irritated at the annoying insolence of the intruder he grabbed it and was about to toss it over to the Woodin stable where Lawyer and his gang were at work on the growing walls of the new brick livery stable. But he was very suddenly surprised by the tenacity with which he held to the wire, But he was very suddenly surprised by the tenacity with which he held to the wire, and at once put up a movement which wit-nesses declare was a complete cross between an Indian war dance and the capers of a jumping jack. He made several "graceful" bows, his head nearly touch-ing his toes, then his left foot tried to lay itself across his right shoulder, and the right one over the left shoulder, while his arms in the effort to shake off the wire shivered like a whole tree of aspen leaves. During the process of all these capers Austin's mind was as busy as his legs and arms. He recalled the many bad deeds he had done since he was a kid and winced at the thought of fitting to the other shore so "awful sud-den." But the few seconds that the perform-ance lasted seemed an age, and brought the perspiration to the hairless pate of the acro-bat in drops as large as filberts. Fianally when Austin had succeeded in working the wire to the ends of his fingers, he gave one last but powerful shake—just as the last hope of ex-trication was dying out—and he was once more a free man.