

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Three Theories Regarding Cause of Maine Disaster.

A Torpedo, an Internal Machine or an Accident—Which Was It?—The Many Safeguards Employed on Men-of-War to Prevent Such Catastrophes.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Naval officers cannot agree upon any theory to account for the destruction of the Maine. Perhaps a majority are inclined to the belief that the explosion was purely accidental; another considerable number feel that a torpedo was exploded under the vessel, and a third theory is that some internal machine was smuggled aboard the ship and set off. An examination by a diver of the hull of the Maine would demonstrate instantly whether or not a torpedo had been used, for in case it had the plates of the hull would surely be driven in. On the other hand, protruding plates would be an evidence that the explosion was purely internal.

Capt. Sigsbee's brief report, as well as Gen. Lee's dispatch, indicates that they now incline strongly to the belief that the explosion was of internal origin. Both agree that the force of it was in the forward part of the ship and this is borne out by the escapes of the majority of officers, whose quarters are aft, and the heavy casualties among the crew sleeping forward. Probably in the latter case the death list would have been even larger, but for the fact that the Maine, having a superstructure forward on the main deck, a portion of the crew were quartered there and so escaped the greater violence of the explosion as felt on the berth deck below them. The Maine had three magazines. The one forward was used for the storage of ammunition, weighing 15,000 pounds.

There was no smokeless powder on board the ship, and the ten-inch ammunition was made up of brown prismatic powders. Not only is this powder carefully packed in hermetically sealed copper cases, but its heat resisting qualities are so great that it cannot be ignited by the flame of a match, 600 degrees Fahrenheit being the amount of heat that must be applied for some time to set off the powder. On the other hand it is readily ignited, as in the case of the charge in a gun, by the explosion of a good quantity of fulminate. Every precaution is adopted aboard ship to safeguard the magazine. In its vicinity a sentry stands on duty continually. The doors are closed hermetically except when the ship is cleared for action. At 8 o'clock every night the temperature is taken and the keys of the locked door are placed in the captain's hands for the night.

The records of the navy department show that 87 degrees was the maximum temperature in the Maine's magazine during the past month, a very low and safe temperature. These facts make it extremely difficult to account for the explosion, particularly as no visitors are admitted under any circumstances to the magazine. Of course it is possible that there was spontaneous combustion of some fulminate or gun cotton intended for use in torpedoes. There were no steam pipes or furnaces near enough to the magazine to cause the belief that they might have exploded the powder. The coal bunkers there were in the neighborhood, and it is just possible that in them might be found the origin of the accident. It depends on whether they were empty or contained coal. It is said to be the practice of commanders to empty the fore-bunkers of the ship first, in which case the Maine's bunkers in that quarter were probably emptied, owing to the length of her stay.

If, however, the bunkers were not entirely empty they undoubtedly contained elements of danger that might account for the explosion. The department has been greatly troubled by spontaneous combustion of coal in the ships' bunkers, which have endangered the lives of the crews and the safety of the ships. The Cincinnati twice at least has been obliged to flood her magazines to prevent their blowing up during fires of this kind, and the cruiser Boston has been in the same condition. In some of these cases shelving in the magazines which separate the powder charges have been charred by the intense heat caused by the burning coal in the adjacent bunkers.

The theory advanced by the Spanish authorities, that the disaster might have been caused by the explosion of the boiler, is asserted at the navy department as within the bounds of credibility. The Maine's boiler was separated from the powder magazine at the nearest point by a space of about four feet, usually filled with coal. At least one boiler undoubtedly was kept under almost full steam in order to run the dynamo and move the ship in case of need. The explosion of such a boiler might easily drive through the bulkhead and fire the magazine.

Inasmuch as suspicion exists in some quarters that a torpedo was used against the Maine, it may be said that the majority of naval officers believe that the character of the explosion was hardly such as could be attributed to a torpedo. The latter, charged with about 100 pounds of powder or gun cotton, it is believed would have torn a large hole in the bottom or side of the Maine, but was scarcely likely to fire the magazine, which is not near the bottom.

Belknap Thinks a Torpedo Caused It. Boston, Feb. 17.—Rear Admiral George Belknap, U. S. N., retired, said yesterday that he thought the Maine was blown up by a torpedo. "I do not see," he said, "how an explosion of the forward magazine could have occurred. The keys of the magazines are always kept in the custody of the captain. All the ammunition is carefully cased, mostly in the form of projectiles, and their explosion by themselves is next to impossible." He said it was a very significant thing that the Maine should have blown up in that particular harbor at this particular time.

ADMIRAL BEARDSLEE.

Placed on the Retired List on Account of Age Limit.

Rear Admiral Lester A. Beardslee, who was placed upon the retired list recently according to the law of the age limit, was the first of the eight rear admirals who will go into retirement this year. Commodore C. S. Norton was made rear admiral.

Admiral Beardslee is now 62 years old and one of the most interesting characters of Uncle Sam's sea-fighting department. When he was on his own ship and when his ship was in action he was a good disciplinarian, and was rather rough with the enemy. He was on the



ADMIRAL BEARDSLEE. (Just Placed on the Retired List of the Navy.)

Wachusett when she captured the rebel boat Florida, and he was the lieutenant commander who brought the prize to Hampton Roads. When the Wachusett came alongside the Florida Beardslee called out to one of the seamen on the rebel:

"Tell your captain to surrender without any fuss, or we'll send your d—d craft down among the sharks. Understand?"

Beardslee was in the attack of the ironclad fleet on Charleston defenses. He served for a time on the frigate Merrimack, and after the war was put in command of the Aroostook. Since 1869 he has filled many important posts. His last work upon the water was the command of the Pacific station, from which post he was transferred to Washington as president of the naval examining and relieving boards. The admiral was born in Little Falls, N. Y., and has been in the navy since 1850, when he was made acting midshipman. He was made a rear admiral in March, 1895.

SCIENCE OF GRAFTING.

It Enabled Farmers to Raise Two Crops on One Vine.

It has been discovered that tomatoes and potatoes may be grown from the same stem with very satisfactory results. A series of careful experiments has recently been completed near Troyes, France, which shows that by simply grafting tomatoes to an ordinary potato plant the fruit grown will be larger and finer than if grown by the ordinary method. A picture of one of the new potato-tomato plants is presented herewith.

The new plant, strange as it may appear, is not in any sense a freak. It is a result that is obtained by accident, and cannot, therefore, be reproduced at will. The theory of this grafting is, on the other hand, perfectly simple and natural. The potato and the tomato belong to the same general botanic family of plants. This general division which the botanists have made is called the "solanaceae" or, more commonly, the "night shades." Among the other members of this family are the tobacco,



THE POTATO-TOMATO. (The Latest Triumph of the Science of Grafting.)

pepper and the poisonous jimson weed. Any one of these plants may, therefore, be grafted on the stem of any other.

The discovery promises to be of the greatest importance in the limited garden space of Europe. In America, where land is not so thickly populated, there is little object in such economy, but in the truck gardens of the low countries and in France it will doubtless prove to be an extremely important economical discovery. The farmers of these sections may now raise crops both of tomatoes and potatoes on the same land at the same time.

Squirrels Invade a House.

On several occasions recently the family of Isaac Batz, living at Round Top Valley, Berks county, Pa., observed rather queer looking flying objects entering through a broken window in the attic of their home. For a long time the garret of the house had been used only for storage purposes, and had not been entered by anyone in a number of months. Mr. Batz entered the garret and was astonished to find the place in possession of a small army of flying squirrels. The animals became greatly disturbed by the intrusion, and were driven from the place, killed or captured alive. The prisoners numbered 33. The finding of such a large number of flying squirrels under the circumstances is considered most extraordinary here.

New York's Baby Receipts.

There are 90,000 babies born in the city of New York every year. They number 250 a day, or one each six minutes. Take them out together for an airing, and the row of baby carriages would extend up the Hudson to Albany 150 miles.

A COURT OF INQUIRY.

It Will Investigate the Tragedy Under Morro's Guns.

No More American Warships Will be Sent to Havana at Present—Many Sensational Rumors Denied by the Navy Department.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The government has settled back into a waiting attitude in respect to the terrible marine disaster in Havana harbor. The great shock caused by the news has given way to a calmer state of mind, realizing that the court of inquiry is the sole dependence in the search for the cause of the Maine's loss. Naval officials now await the results of that inquiry by a court named yesterday by the navy department.

All the news of the day came in the late afternoon in the shape of Capt. Sigsbee's report of the authorization of the funeral of his dead sailors, and Consul General Lee's story of the terrible struggle for life in the hull of the Maine.

The officials at the navy department devoted the day to an effort to correct the list of living and dead; to answering frantic telegraphic appeals from relatives of men on the battleship and in meeting the demands of the press representatives.

The disposition of the survivors, Capt. Dickens, acting chief of the navigation bureau, has arranged for. The wounded sailors in the Havana hospitals and elsewhere, when not in condition to be brought back to Key West, will be carefully looked after by Miss Clara Barton, who has been given carte blanche to buy everything necessary. The wounded able to get across to Key West will be taken care of in the marine hospital there. The sound survivors will be quartered in the spare army barracks there.

As for the Maine herself, notwithstanding discouraging reports from Lieut. Hood as to her condition, the navy department will make an effort to raise her. They say they are bound to remove the hull from the small harbor in any case, and it may be as easy to raise her as it would be to destroy the hull and machinery by the use of divers and dynamite. It is believed that this work can best be done by private wrecking corporations and negotiations are already afoot for placing the contract at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

At the navy department denial was given of a report from Madrid that a torpedo flotilla was about to leave Key West for Cuba. It was stated that only two torpedo boats, the Cushing and Eriesson, are at Key West, and these will not be ordered to Cuba. It was strongly asserted that no present purpose existed of sending any warship there. Senor Dubose, the Spanish charge, had received no instructions up to 6 p. m. as to going to New York and stopping the Spanish ship Vizcaya from entering the port, and reports to this effect were discredited.

Capt. Sigsbee suggested to the navy department that it would be well to detail some small craft to watch over the wreck of the Maine. As the upper works are above water and much valuable property is thus exposed, the department has authorized one of the vessels now at Havana, the Mangrove, probably, to be used for the purpose. It is said at the department that the naval court of inquiry which is to investigate the disaster can scarcely assemble for the work at Havana before next Monday.

The navy department authorizes a denial of the statement attributed to Capt. Sigsbee that he recommended to the department before he sailed for Havana that another ship than the Maine be sent to Havana, because the harbor was too dangerous, owing to the number of torpedoes planted in the bottom. As a matter of fact Sigsbee had not the slightest hint given him that his ship was to be selected for the visit 12 hours before his departure.

As to the number of torpedoes planted in Havana harbor it is said at the navy department that nobody aside from the Spanish officers in Havana knows what has been done to protect the harbor in that manner. It is not usual to keep the torpedoes in their berths in the water in times of peace; they are placed in the position assigned to them only as a war measure. There are some exceptions to this rule, for instance at Hong Kong, where the torpedoes are at all times kept in position and it may be presumed that the same precaution has been taken at Havana.

MAINE MARTYRS BURIED.

Huge Funeral Procession Escorts the Remains of the Victims to Their Graves.

Havana, Feb. 18.—The interment of the Maine martyrs took place Thursday afternoon. Shogly before the hour all Havana was in movement. The flags on the public buildings were at half-mast and many houses were draped in mourning. All classes were represented in the throng that filled the streets along which the huge funeral procession passed to the cemetery. Funeral music was furnished by the bands of the Isabella la Católica and Porto Rico battalions, which accompanied the bodies. The funeral cortege started from the principal entrance of the city hall.

Crowns were received from the captain of the port, the mayor of Havana and officers of the port. These were in the Spanish national colors and were inscribed "to the victims of the Maine."

"Touched" Bisons for \$30,000.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 18.—The Courier says that "clairvoyants," masquerading under the names of "Prof." Baldwin and Mrs. Worthington, have swindled people out of more than \$30,000 and disappeared. They advertised extensively and promised to do everything—to gratify every hope and ambition; to unite the parted, to bring lovers together, to avert calamities, to conquer enemies, to give important advice on marriage, divorce, business. They read palms, disclosed character by feeling any article the victim might furnish, but their most successful occupation was "touching" pocketbooks.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

—Apparently—"I don't think the Cubans are anxious for autonomy." "No. The demand for autonomy does not seem to be equal to the supply."—Puck.

—"When a man stahts out ter live on 'is wits," said Uncle Eben, "dat very purrecedin' rouses suspicion dat he hab a mighty small capital."—Washington Star.

—No Money in It.—Miss Van Rocks—"So you asked father, did you? And did he talk business?" Lord De Liverus—"No; he said all he could give was his consent."—Puck.

—Both Had Their Merits.—"Uncle, which breed of chickens is the best?" "Well, sah, de white ones is de easiest found, an' de dahk ones is de easiest hid after yo' gits 'em."—Indianapolis Journal.

—Probably the Last—"Is this the last edition of the paper?" inquired the severe-looking old lady of the keen-eyed newsboy. "Yes'm," he replied, "I guess it is. Th' sheriff was just closin' up th' office as I came out."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

—Indignant Constituent—"The people are getting roused, sir! Your day is coming! If you'll look, sir, you can see the handwriting on the wall!" Boodle Alderman—"I don't give a darn for no handwritin' on walls. De felles dat's pullin' fur me don't read."—Chicago Tribune.

—Mattie—"What has become of your antislavery society that you took so much interest in a few months ago?" Helen—"Oh, it's in the consumme. The president got nutty and imagined she was the only den in the pan, so we gave her the willies and the dinkydink association shot the shutes."—Chicago News.

ANCIENT REMEDIES.

Alchemy and Superstition—Some Ridiculous Compounds.

It is strange to notice the great belief which the ancients appeared to have in the restorative properties of human blood. So, for epilepsy, disease of the brain, and even for spleen, human blood was much recommended. "In the month of May take a considerable quantity of healthy young men's blood." The blood was distilled twice and dried in the sun. One wonders what the "healthy young men" had to say on this subject of blood letting, especially as "a considerable quantity" was taken. In olden times no one need remain wrinkled. All that was necessary was to "smear the face with a mixture of water and pounded root of wild cucumber." If anyone was afflicted with freckles it was his own fault; the remedy was simple if scarcely pleasant; he must "rub a bull's gall on the face." To us who are apt to be irritated by dust or smoke in the eye while on the railway, the following prescription should be valuable: "Chant the psalm 'Qui habitat' thrice over water, with which then douche the eye." A certain remedy for curing an inebriate was to give him as many eggs of the screech owl boiled hard as he could possibly eat, when he would ever after be a total abstainer. This is surely worthy the attention of the temperance societies. The search for "the philosopher's stone" seems to have been no mere craze of the unlettered. Men of unimpeachable ability and great learning wasted the greater part of their lives on this quest. Some supposed mercury to be the chief transmitting force; others thought that by sulphur the bodies of metals could be turned into "the most fine pure gold and silver." Though Bacon was a firm believer in the elixir vitae, Paracelsus was the most diligent inquirer after this wondrous liquid. He prepared a remedy called "Primum Ens Mellissae," which was made of pure carbonate of potash and the fresh leaves of the melissa plant, on which was poured pure alcohol. Generally, however, the idea seems to have been that the elixir of life was composed of the four elements blended together.—London Spectator.

MAORIS BECOMING EXTINCT.

New Zealand Colored Race Is Fast Succumbing Before the Whites.

The Maoris of New Zealand seem to be doomed to extinction in spite of the fact that all the conditions surrounding them appear to be favorable to their survival. The quarrel between the races is ended, and large tracts of land are reserved for them. The young men are educated, 90 per cent. of them being able to read and write. Their chiefs in many cases derive large incomes from rents of land, and are represented in the legislature. A great Maori college stands at Te Aute, Hawke's bay, and not a few of the cleverer Maori youths have passed through the classes of the New Zealand university. And yet the Maoris, under that mysterious law which makes a colored race vanish before the breath of the all-conquering white, are passing away.

A conference of educated Maoris was held a short time ago, and papers were read on the condition and prospects of the race. These are now published in pamphlet form, and make a very melancholy bit of literature. It is declared that 90 per cent. of educated Maoris go back from their schools to mere savagery. The race, these representative Maoris declare, is lower both in morals and in vitality than it has ever yet been, and threatens to perish. Yet physically and intellectually the Maori is—or was—the finest colored race in the southern hemisphere.—N. Y. Post.

Social Expedient.

Foxey—Did you send the Borems a card for your musicale?

Mrs. Foxey—Yes; how could I get out of it?

"Well, I'll tell Borem that Smith is going to come. Borem owes him money."—Philadelphia Record.

A Point of Taste.

Lourette—"Don't you think the gentleman who sent these flowers to me showed good taste?"

Comedian—In the selection of the flowers—yes.—Up-to-Date.

SPAIN'S DISCLAIMER.

Dons' Government Does Not Indorse De Lome's Letter.

Criticisms of President McKinley that Were Contained in the Ex-Minister's Note to Canalejas are Not Indorsed by the Castilians.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Spain has officially disclaimed in a positive manner the reflections contained in the De Lome letter and as officially announced by the state department the incident is satisfactorily closed.

The following is an abstract of a note sent Wednesday evening by the Spanish government to Minister Woodford at Madrid:

The Spanish government, on learning of the incident in which Minister De Lome was concerned, and being advised of his objectionable communication, with entire sincerity laments the incident which was the cause of the interview with the minister and states that Minister De Lome had presented his resignation and it had been accepted before the presentation of the matter by Minister Woodford. The Spanish ministry, in accepting the resignation of a functionary whose services they had been utilizing and valuing up to that time, leave it practically well established that they do not share and on the contrary disavow the criticisms tending to offend or censure the character of a friendly state, although such criticisms had been written within the field of friendship and had reached publicity by artful and criminal means. This meaning had taken shape in a resolution by the council of ministers before Gen. Woodford presented the matter, and at a time when the Spanish government had not yet received telegraphic reports concerning the sentiments alluded to. The Spanish nation, with equal and greater reason affirms its view and decision after reading the words contained in the letter reflecting upon the president of the United States.

As to the paragraph concerning the desirability of negotiations for commercial relations, if even for effect, and the importance of using a representative for the purpose stated in Senor De Lome's letter, the government expresses concern that in the light of its conduct, long after the writing of the letter, and in view of the unanswerable testimony of simultaneous and subsequent facts, any doubt should exist that the Spanish government has given proof of its real desire and of its innermost convictions with respect to the new commercial system and the projected treaty of commerce.

A WAR MESSAGE.

Gov. Tanner of Illinois, Sends a Sensational Document to the Legislature.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 18.—Gov. Tanner yesterday called on the legislature to authorize him to tender to the president of the United States "the moral and material support" of Illinois, "to prevent or punish any attempt at hostile invasion of our country."

This he did in a message to the senate and house. In the senate the message came as a profound surprise. While it was being read by the governor's private secretary there was the deepest silence in the senate, and at its conclusion there was a burst of applause from both sides. Following is the governor's communication:

"To the Honorable Senate: The news of the calamity which has overtaken the United States battleship Maine and its ill-fated crew fills me with grief and horror, and I assume that the general assembly will by joint resolution express the sympathy of the people of this state for the gallant dead and wounded of our navy and for the surviving relatives.

"I am willing to believe that the loss of the Maine was the result of intention, and trust that the investigation ordered by our government may demonstrate that it was due to accidental cause. In view of the uncertainty which exists as to this point, it would seem that before the legislature adjourns sine die it should authorize the executive to tender to the president of the United States, on behalf of the state of Illinois, whatever moral and financial support may be necessary in this emergency to maintain the honor of the American flag and to prevent or punish any attempt at hostile invasion of our common country.

"JOHN R. TANNER, Governor." Both houses of the legislature unanimously adopted a joint resolution indorsing the action of the governor in issuing the message.

MISS WILLARD IS DEAD.

World Famous Temperance Leader Joins the Great Majority on the Other Side.

New York, Feb. 18.—Miss Frances E. Willard, president of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, died shortly after midnight this morning at the Hotel Empire, this city.

Frances Elizabeth Willard was born in Churchville, N. Y., September 28, 1839. She graduated at Northwestern female college, Evanston, Ill., in 1859, became professor of natural history there in 1862 and was principal of Genesee Wesleyan seminary in 1866-67. The following two years she spent in foreign travel. In 1871-74 she was professor of aesthetics in Northwestern university and dean of the woman's college, where she developed her system of self-government, which had been adopted by other educators. Miss Willard left her profession in 1874 to identify herself with the Woman's Christian Temperance union, serving as corresponding secretary of the national organization until 1879 and since then she has been president.

On the death of her brother, Oliver A. Willard, in 1879, she succeeded him as editor of the Chicago Evening Post. In 1886 she accepted the leadership of the white cross movement in her own union, which has obtained through her influence enactments in 13 states for the protection of women. In 1888 she was made president of the American branch of the international council of women and of the World's Christian Temperance union, which she had founded five years before, and she was repeatedly re-elected.

All on Board Lost.

Nanaimo, B. C., Feb. 18.—A special from Juneau, Alaska, confirms the news of the loss of the steamer Clara Nevada and says: "The cause of the disaster was doubtless the explosion of her boilers. Of the 50 people on board none are believed to have been saved. The Clara Nevada was a tramp steamer, and as she was plying between United States ports she did not file her passenger list with the customs house officers. Those whom she had aboard had been picked up at Skagway. It is thought that she carried about 30 passengers, of whom two or three were women."

\$500 Reward

The above Reward will be paid for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who placed iron and studs on the track of the Emporium & Rich Valley R. R., near the east line of Franklin Housler's farm, on the evening of Nov. 21st, 1891.

HENRY AUGUST, President.

88-ct.

FINE LIQUOR STORE

EMPORIUM, PA.

THE undersigned has opened a first-class liquor store, and invites the trade of Hotels, Restaurants, etc. We shall carry none but the best American and imported

WHISKIES, BRANDIES, GINS AND WINES, BOTTLED ALE, CHAMPAGNE, Etc. Choice line of Bottled Goods.

In addition to my large line of liquors I carry constantly in stock a full line of CIGARS AND TOBACCO.

See Pool and Billiard Room in same building. CALL AND SEE ME.

A. A. McDONALD, PROPRIETOR, EMPORIUM, PA.

F. X. BLUMLE, EMPORIUM, PA.

Bottler of and Dealer in

BEER,

WINES,

WHISKIES,

And Liquors of All Kinds.

The best of goods always carried in stock and everything warranted as represented.

Special Attention Paid to Mail Orders.

EMPORIUM, PA.

J. A. Kinsler's, 60 TO Broad Street, Emporium, Pa. Where you can get anything you want in the line of Groceries, Provisions, FLOUR, SALT MEATS, SMOKED MEATS, CANNED GOODS, ETC., Tea, Coffee, Fruits, Confectionery, Tobacco and Cigars. Goods Delivered Free any Place in Town. CALL AND SEE ME AND GET PRICES. REAR P. & E. DEPOT

EMPORIUM Bottling Works, JOHN McDONALD, Proprietor. Near P. & E. Depot, Emporium, Pa.

Bottler and Shipper of Rochester Lager Beer, BEST BRANDS OF EXPORT. The Manufacturer of Soft Drinks and Dealer in Choice Wines and Pure Liquors.

We keep none but the very best Beer and are prepared to fill Orders on short notice. Private families served daily if desired. JOHN McDONALD.

PATENTS. Caveats and Trade-Marks obtained and all Patent business conducted for MODERATE FEES. OUR OFFICE IS OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE and we can secure patent in less time than those remote from Washington. Send model, drawing or photo, with description. We advise if patentable or not, free of charge. Our fee not due till patent is secured. A PAMPHLET, "How to Obtain Patents," with cost of same in the U. S. and foreign countries sent free. Address: C. A. SNOW & CO. Opp. Patent Office, Washington, D. C. WHEN PAPERS IS ON FILE IN CHICAGO AT THE NEW YORK OFFICES OF A. N. KELLOGG NEWSPAPER CO.