



WASHINGTON LETTER.

WAR PREPARATIONS OPENLY MADE BY UNCLE SAM.

No Time Being Lost in Getting in Fighting Shape.—Spain Will be Forced to Do Something.

WASHINGTON, March 14th.—The Washington end of this nasty Spanish business is now in a fairly satisfactory condition. Since Congress placed \$50,000,000 at Mr. McKinley's disposal, the administration has come out in the open with its war preparations, and no time is being lost in getting together the fighting material that will be necessary to enable us to drive the Spaniards off every foot of American territory. Although Mr. McKinley deserved criticism for waiting so long to get started along the right road, it is overlooked now, and he is given the praise he deserves for the energetic manner in which he is pushing things. The country is rapidly being put upon a war footing; the people have been on a war footing for some time.

No harm is done by Secretary Long's denying that either the President or himself has any information as to what the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry will be, so long as there is no let up in the preparations to be in a position to act promptly on that report, which cannot be delayed much longer. There isn't the slightest doubt that the report will show that the Maine was destroyed by an outside explosion.

Mr. McKinley has not told anybody, so far as known, that he intended to couple with the demand he makes on Spain on account of the Maine, another that Cuba should be free, although he has intimated his intention to in some way combine the two things. If he wishes to act in accordance with the dominating sentiment in Congress he will certainly take some means of letting Spain know when the Maine demand is made that this government has stood the disgraceful condition of affairs in Cuba, just as long as it intends to, and that if Spain does not once voluntarily recognize the independence of Cuba, the United States will help the Cubans to force her to do so. The talk on this subject among Congressmen is plain and outspoken, and practically all one way.

The new Spanish Minister talks as though the most important issue between Spain and the U. S. was the negotiation of a reciprocity commercial treaty, and says he expects the representatives of the alleged autonomy government of Cuba, who will have charge of the interests of the island during the negotiations, to reach Washington in a few days. No one believes that such a farce as negotiation for a reciprocity treaty would be allowed to begin by the administration, and the Minister is probably only indulging in such talk for the purpose of trying to impress us with the peaceable intentions of Spain toward us. He is wasting time. We know Spain's real attitude toward us—an attitude that has worked the American people up to such a pitch that the determination to thrash Spain has become universal among us.

Senator Jones, of Ark., voiced the almost unanimous sentiment of Congress when he said concerning the report that a movement had been started with a view to bring about an alliance between England and the United States: "I do not think that there is anything in the report, for it would be one of the most foolish things this or any other administration ever undertook. In the first place, we do not need any alliance to conduct our own quarrels. We are able to take care of ourselves, and an alliance with some other power, particularly those on the other side of the water would be especially repugnant to the people of this country. I am confident there is nothing in it, and if there was, and it should be submitted to the Senate, as it doubtless would be, that body would not sanction it."

Those who had supposed that the fight against the confirmation of the nomination of Terrence V. Powderly, to be Commissioner of Immigration—the price of Powderly's stumping in the Presidential Campaign—was over were not well posted. It is being waged quite briskly, and one of the apparent results is an adverse report from the Senate Committee on Immigration on the nomination, and Powderly's opponents express confidence that they can get enough votes in the Senate to ratify the Committee's adverse report. Powderly is now holding the office under a recess appointment.

Czar Reed having succeeded in his efforts to compel a majority of the House Committee on Rivers and Harbors, to vote against reporting a River and Harbor bill at this session, Representative Wheeler, of Alabama, has

introduced a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 to be expended at the discretion of the Secretary of War, for the continuance of River and Harbor improvements already begun, preference being given to those which can be best operated during the summer and fall months. Gen. Wheeler will do his best to get his bill through, but as it is opposed by the Czar, the chances are rather against him.

THE SAD STORY OF SPAIN.

Not since the downfall of the Roman Empire, says the World, has there been such a story of the rise to greatness and the fall to helplessness of a great power. It is one of the striking coincidences of history that if Spain to-day finds itself menaced with the loss of its last American possessions through a conflict with the greatest of American republics, the beginning of the power of Spain may be dated from the year 1492, in which the discovery of Columbus led to the ultimate establishment of the United States.

The year which gave the Western Hemisphere to Spain witnessed the expulsion of the Moors from Grenada and made the peninsula one united country. Its first King, Ferdinand of Aragon, whose marriage with Isabella of Castile in 1469 marked the beginning of a real Spanish kingdom, was also the last Spanish King, for at his death, in 1516, the succession passed into the line of the Hapsburgs, with sad and melancholy consequences for the civilized world.

During the four hundred years of its rise and fall its invariable record has been one of cruelty, of persecution, of bigotry, of hostility to every sentiment of human freedom, common justice and enlightenment. The slavery to which it doomed its subjects in the Western Hemisphere was not more cruel than its oppression of the people of Holland or its tyranny over its own people at home. The bigotry, the fanaticism, the intolerance and the gloomy superstition of its tone of mind is unrelieved by one single gleam of recognition of human rights, just as the disgraceful record of its decay and downfall is unrelieved by one single triumph of genius in statesmanship or of prowess in battle against an armed enemy.

One by one Spain's possessions have fallen away, like bricks from a mouldering wall, until to-day it stands alone and isolated, bankrupt in resources, helpless and exhausted, but still clinging to that policy of cruelty, of oppression and extermination which has been its only known method of dealing with Morisco and Aztec and Inca and Hollender—and Cuban—and which after four hundred years has finally forced it to confront the Republic of freedom, of equality, of justice, of humanity, of civilization.

It is not accident or chance which has brought about the present situation. It is inexorable destiny which decrees that the last of Spain's ill-gotten possessions in this hemisphere should be lifted to freedom by the one Republic which represents everything that Spain has antagonized during her whole history.

Another Old Almanac.

Dr. C. P. Leitzel, of Cedarville, Ill., writes the Reporter as follows: "In your paper of last week you make mention of an almanac brought to your office by Wm. Farmer, of Potters Mills, which was printed in the year 1796. I have on my desk Father Abraham's Almanac for the year of our Lord 1770, it is by Abraham Weatherwise, Gent., and was printed in Philadelphia by John Dunlap.

"The almanac belongs to Mrs. Daniel Lusch, of this place, it having formerly belonged to Mr. John Grier, of Northampton county, Pa., and was given to Mrs. Lusch's grandmother, Mrs. Dr. Edward Humphrey, nee Hayes, when she was married at the home of Mr. Grier in the year the almanac was printed, and has been in the family since that time."

Hustling Along His New Office.

Postmaster Brisbin is hurrying his new postoffice right along. John Hook, of Boalsburg, is plastering the new room, and in a few days the room will be ready. The new furniture has been ordered and the new office can be expected in running shape by April 1st. The telephone exchange will be located in the room now occupied by the office. That company is waiting for the room to be vacated that they can place their necessary apparatus.

Will Fill Applications.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has announced that it is ready to receive and fill applications for trout fry. In consequence of the state having failed to make any appropriation for fish cultural work, there will be no applications received or filled for any species of fish other than trout. It has only been able to make distribution of trout through the generosity of public spirited citizens.

DANGEROUS STORMS.

Equinoctial Period Will be Preceded by a Hot Wave This Year.

My last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from 18th to 23d, and the next will reach the Pacific coast about the 23d, cross the west of Rockies country by close of 24th, great central valleys 25th to 27th, eastern states 28th.

A warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about 23d, great Central valleys 25th, eastern states 27th. A cool wave will cross the west of Rockies country about the 29th, great central valleys 28th, eastern states 30. Temperature of the week ending March 26 will average above east, and below west of the Rocky mountain ridge.

Rainfall for the same period will be above in northern, below in southern states, and about normal west of the Rockies.

Severe and dangerous storms are expected during the passage of the storm disturbance described in this bulletin, that is while the low is crossing the continent from the far west on 23d to the far east on 28th. Preceding this storm wave a hot wave may be looked for, and being about the opening of spring in the northern states, this hot wave will lead many to believe that planting time has come. Better not lean too heavily on that belief, for it might prove a treacherous staff.

There are some indications that a great inversion of temperatures will occur in the northern states about March 23. I have not been able to fully determine this matter, but as it will only be eight days to the first of April, I would advise all who may contemplate work with which a sudden fall of temperature would materially interfere to wait.

Saw Harbor Mines Laid.

Captain Grenmyer, of the German steamer Castilla, now in port at Newport News, in an interview said:

"About two years ago I had occasion to take my vessel into the harbor of Havana. Just before reaching the entrance to the harbor signals were run up warning us not to enter, and a government pilot came aboard and took the vessel into the harbor.

"The pilot informed me that the government authorities were placing submarine mines in the bottom of the harbor.

"I afterwards watched the men placing the mines. Tow wires were attached to each wire, one being taken to one bank and one to the other, where they were attached to electric batteries, and ready to be fired off at the will of the crews who had charge of them."

Quay's Hand Shown.

In Monday's dailies we find the following: "Considerable consternation has been caused at Bellefonte among the dozen or more aspirants by the announcement from Washington that the Bellefonte Post Office appointment will not be made until after the Republican State convention is held in June. It is the prevailing opinion that Quay is purposely holding back the appointment so that whatever the result here it will not interfere with the State delegate campaign, and is further regarded as incidental to him carrying the fight right into Governor Hastings' own county. Postmaster Fortney's term of four years expires May 1."

The postmasters under the present administration, a few years ago where not backward in claiming to be Hastings men, because the General seemed to be the daddy of the roost. Now since Quay seems to be the daddy of patronage they are leaning heavily in that direction and inclined to give our Dan the mitten. These patriots are for Quay or for Hastings just as it may turn out which of these rival leaders may carry the pap pot and the stick daubed with molasses. This is humiliating politics, but it is a true and fresh picture of the Centre county situation.

Quay will fight to win the delegates of this county—and woe to the postmaster who stands in his way!

Uninfluenced, it is our firm opinion, the delegates would be carried for Wanamaker without much trouble. But Quay holding up the pap pot and the lassey daubed paddle, the flies will be quick to take the scent even from afar.

From all over the county, come words of praise for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Here is a sample letter from Mrs. C. Shep, of Little Rock, Ark.: "I was suffering from a very severe cold, when I read of the cures that had been effected by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I concluded to give it a trial and accordingly procured a bottle. It gave me prompt relief, and I have the best reason for recommending it very highly, which I do with pleasure." For sale by S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; J. H. Ross, Linden Hall, and H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills.

POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

THE DEMOCRATIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTY.

The Coming Congressional Fight in the Twenty-Eighth District Will be Closely Contested.

The Bellefonte correspondent to the Philadelphia Times thusly views the Democratic political situation in the county:

Politics are becoming warm in this Congressional and State Senatorial district, and there is evidence now that the campaign of 1898 will be the hottest one experienced here since Curtin ran for Congress in 1884. According to past precedents, Centre county this year is entitled to the nomination for Congress. Colonel J. L. Spangler, who was beaten two years ago by W. C. Arnold, is the acknowledged candidate who will be given the nomination in the Democratic party without a contest, if he desires it, but the colonel is wary about committing himself too early in the campaign. If the outlook is favorable to the election of a Democrat, then Colonel Spangler will go into the fight, but if Republican success seems assured, he will not allow his name to go before the Congressional conference, as his fight two years ago was too costly for repetition. If Colonel Spangler declines to be a candidate, the Democrats of Centre will present the name of C. M. Bowler, a staunch partisan, and the man who put up such a strong fight for the President Judgeship four years ago. It is understood that the Democrats from the other counties in the district will leave the field open to Centre county.

The State Senatorship contest promises to be unusually hot. Each of the three counties embraced in the district are out with a candidate. Clinton presents Clough; Centre has J. C. Meyer, ex-District Attorney, while Clearfield is championing Ex-Judge D. L. Krebs. If Centre county gets the Congressional nomination, naturally the Senatorial nomination will go to one of the other places, and as Clinton county has had no Senatorial representative for many years, her claim is the strongest, but the friends of Judge Krebs are putting up a hard fight for him, and as he is a strong man, he may prove a winner.

Centre county politics will be exceedingly spirited, considering the size of the ticket. Those now in the field as candidates for the Legislature are W. C. Heinele, John Q. Miles, Robert Foster, A. C. Thompson and William A. Kerr. Foster is the present member of the Legislature and considers himself entitled to a renomination, but his right will be hotly contested by the other candidates. Thompson withdrew from the field two years ago, and now claims the fulfillment of a promise made him by the party at that time to give him the nomination in 1898. Miles is ex-Treasurer of the county. Heinele is one of the leading county politicians and controls a large following, giving him assurance of success, while on the other hand Kerr is pushing his claim with equal vigor. Kerr is a prominent granger, being treasurer of the Patrons' Fire Insurance Company, and is being backed by the entire organization of the county. Should he be given the cold shoulder it might result disastrously to the party ticket in November.

There is quite a list of candidates for the nomination for Prothonotary. The office is worth to the incumbent about \$2,500 a year over and above the deputy's salary and other expenses. The aspirants for the nomination are C. E. Hoffer, of Phillipsburg; H. A. McKee, of Spring township; A. A. Pletcher, of Walker, and M. I. Gardner and Robert Hunter, of Bellefonte. So far the race seems about evenly divided among all. W. G. Runkle and N. B. Spangler, ex-county chairman of the Democratic party, are the candidates for the nomination for District Attorney. There are a number of others who would like the office, but the emoluments of same in Centre county are not sufficiently large to entice a struggle for the place by any attorney who can command even a fair practice at the bar.

For some time, I have suffered with rheumatism and tried every imaginable remedy, without effect. Mr. F. G. S. Wells advised me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, telling me that it had cured many cases of long standing like mine. I have used four bottles and feel sure that one more bottle will make my cure complete.—A. P. KONTZ, Claremore, Ark. Sold by S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; J. H. Ross, Linden Hall and H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills.

For Rent.—The Willow property in Centre Hall, suited for bakery, with ovens, tools and pans, is for rent. Apply to Virginia C. Lobaugh, Mifflintown, Pa.

A WANDERER'S RETURN.

Runaway Boy Comes Home After Twenty-Five Years.

Twenty-five years ago Isaac Wrye, a wealthy farmer of Halfmoon township, this county, went to Bellefonte on business, leaving his sons, Darius and Harry, aged 18 and 16 respectively, at work in the field. At noontime the boys failed to come to dinner. A search was made all over the farm, but they were not to be found. Later a general search was instituted for miles around, and a neighbor gave the information that the boys had been to his place in the afternoon and declared their intention of leaving home. They said they were ill-treated by their step-mother, and further, that their father had promised to take them to see a show and then refused.

Five years passed by and nothing was heard of the runaway boys, until the younger, Harry, reappeared. He had been in the far west and traveled through many states, but never settled long anywhere, and tiring of wandering, returned home. But he could give no information of his brother. They had parted within a week after leaving home, and that was all he knew. Darius, who was of rather frail health, was then given up as dead. Two years ago his father died.

Last Thursday a bronzed and bearded man drove up to the farm house and inquired for Isaac Wrye. Being informed that he was dead, but that his widow lived there, he went in and introduced himself as the long-lost Darius, and the man now 43 years of age, had little trouble in proving his identity. The strange part of the story is that Darius in all this time had never been further away from home than Mifflin county, where he went when he ran away from home, and where he has remained ever since; first working on a farm and saving his money, finally purchasing a farm for himself, and now being a successful farmer of that county, with a wife and family.

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week:

- Chas. W. Rote, of Bellefonte, and Ida May Shearer, of Spring twp.
- Frank Humphry, of Phillipsburg, and Inez Hutchinson, of Rush twp.
- Jas. M. Hazel, of Spring twp., and Nellie Spotts, of Bellefonte.
- John Bowersox and Anna B. McCormick, of Ferguson twp.
- John F. Breen, Jr., and Laura G. Grolman, of Spring Mills.
- Chas. H. Johnson and Ollie Belle Spicer, of Bellefonte.
- Abram K. Legue, of Altoona, and Mary H. Morrison, of Unionville.
- Wm. H. Thompson, of Howard, and Bessie B. Orr, of Marion twp.
- Benj. F. Boot, of Chester Hill, and Rodie M. VanSooyoc, of Phillipsburg.

Political and War News.

Spain wonders why we have so many war vessels at Key West and asked that they be withdrawn. That's none of her business. But, why did Spain have a mine in Havana harbor?

Wanamaker fired his first gun at Lancaster last evening, sending hot shot into the Quay corruption ranks before a crowded audience. Wanamaker will keep up the fight and speak in every county.

Farmers Plowing.

In many parts of the county the farmers have begun their spring work and are busy plowing. The fine weather has brought them out, and they all look forward to an early spring. The grain is growing and incalculable damage would occur should we have a severe cold spell on top of this.

Scalp Bounty.

During the month of February, 1898, the County Commissioners paid bounty on 27 wild cats, 71 foxes and 24 minks, and paid for 45 affidavits, amounting to a total sum of \$148.25. For the month of January previous they paid out for scalps \$146.25. On the first day of March they paid one person \$35 for wild cat scalps.

Bringing Good Prices.

Horses are again bringing a good price at the public sales, after being a drug upon the market for several years. Cyrus Durt at his sale last week, near Linden Hall, sold one that was bid up to \$116, while his others brought good figures.

Have Possession.

The United Evangelicals of this town are now in full possession of their church, having purchased it back.

They intend to renovate it, fumigate it and then re-dedicate it before occupying it for services.

Schools Closing.

The township schools on this side of the mountain will soon close, many of them this week having completed the six months term.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

Oh, for some fair Utopia, Some glorious country where They print no words but English ones Upon the bills of fare— Where I may order meals without Pronouncing foreign chaff, And waiters never stand around To give a man the laugh. Chicago News.

There won't be war.

Last week was all spring.

Had a light rain last night.

Springlike to-day and grass green.

Old horses are trump in this market.

Chance for war among foreign nations, Russia, Japan, England, France.

This has been a fine month for public sales so far.

Did you hear the bluebirds and robins sing?

Thomas Potter, of Phillipsburg, was granted a pension, \$12.

Articles at the public sales are reported as going at fair prices.

The groundhog weather superstition should be chalked off now.

The balmy spring weather is making George Flory more frisky.

Sam'l Snyder is busy getting Brisbin's new post-office room ready.

Mrs. Meese, of Coleville, died Sunday morning, aged about 80 years.

The wheat fields in this county are still having a promising appearance.

An original widow's pension was granted Mary A. Rhue, Milesburg, \$8.

The fine weather has started the buds on some trees; a severe frost may injure the fruit.

If the groundhog came out of its hole now it might see lots of our farmers plowing.

Our town boasts two prosperous C. E. societies, the United Evangelical and the Union.

Chas. Bartholmew's ad. tells you he has eggs of choice breed of hens for sale. Give Charles a call.

The Bald Eagle Valley railroad company is putting down new rails the whole length of the road.

H. I. Wise in another column advertises all kinds of implements, to which the attention of farmers is directed.

No war as yet; but no one need spoil to kill Spaniards as long as there is a chance to join the Cuban insurgents.

Among the announcements for assembly will be found the name of Geo. Koch, an unfaltering Democrat of Potter.

The Keystone Gazette is promising itself a new outfit, press, gas engine, folder, etc. Glad it is able to make the rifle.

Simon Harper is able to appear on our streets, we are pleased to say, improved in health under this remarkably fine March weather.

Rev. Rarick's appointments for Sunday March 20: At Centre Hall at 7 p. m.; at Spring Mills at 10 a. m.; at Tusseyville at 2 p. m.

The new trolley line from Watsonstown to Lewisburg is paying. The same would be true with a line from Coburn to Rebersburg.

Now is a good time to market potatoes while the price is up; when the new tubers make their appearance, price of old ones will drop.

T. H. Harmon, of Lock Haven, has decided to erect ten new houses at Mill Hall immediately, on his lands near the site of the new brick works.

The houses will be frame structures.

The "green pea" peddlers were in town selling old dry peas, soaked in water, for green peas. Having heard the Reporter was death on swindles and swindlers, they dodged us, but we caution our readers in other parts all the same.

G. W. Musser, a farmer of Warriors-mark township, has 28 buff leghorn hens that laid during the month of February 400 eggs, averaging nearly 18 a day. The greatest number laid in one day was 23. We have some readers who make laying hens a specialty, can they beat this record?

Henry Shadow in making a remittance, adds: "I can not do without this paper; would sooner live on fish than do without the Reporter." May his shadow never grow less. Then we have a good word from the west, J. N. Miller writes: "The Reporter has been as true to principle as the needle is to pole, and never shirks duty. It has done great good in the past." Thanks for the compliment.

A few nights ago five prominent young women of the Presbyterian church were brought before the session at Grove City, Pa., for violating the church rules by dancing. As a number of other members of the congregation are to be tried, the board reserved its decision until all have been heard. The other churches of the town will also make it interesting for those of their members who are caught dancing. The dancers intend making a vigorous defense.