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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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INDEPENDENCE FOR CUBA

The House Demands Prompt Action

WAR NOW SEEMS IMMINENT

Immediate Armed Intervention By a Decisive Vote of 122 to 10—The Senate Will Take Action—Spain Responsible for the Maine Disaster.

McKINLEY'S MESSAGE.

A SYNOPSIS of McKinley's Cuban message will be found on page 2. On page three a brief summary of the war news of the past week, along with the action of Congress on the question. This covers all the important events in an accurate and concise form up to Wednesday morning.

The latest developments of Wednesday are herewith briefly told:

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Wednesday opened with the announcement that the American cable to Cuba had been cut at the other end, that the Flying Squadron had been ordered to sea, and that the two great American-built boats of the American Line, the St. Louis and St. Paul, had been acquired by the government. It ended with a practical declaration of war upon the part of the House, and a most scathing report to the Senate by the Foreign Relations Committee.

Armed intervention to secure not only the pacification but the independence of Cuba, seems likely to begin next week, and will not be delayed any longer than is necessary for the President to make the final arrangements. The House adopted Wednesday evening, by a vote of 322 to 19, a resolution directing and empowering him to carry out that purpose, and the Senate will adopt the same or a similar resolution before the week is out, unless the unexpected happens. The House joint resolution, as adopted, and the preamble follow:

HOUSE RESOLUTION.

"Whereas, The Government of Spain for three years past has been waging war on the island of Cuba against a revolution by the inhabitants thereof, without making any substantial progress toward the suppression of said revolution, and has conducted the warfare in a manner contrary to the laws of nations, by methods inhuman and uncivilized, causing the death by starvation of more than two hundred thousand innocent non-combatants, the victims being for the most part helpless women and children; inflicting intolerable injury to the commercial interests of the United States, involving the destruction of the lives and property of many of our citizens, entailing the expenditure of millions of money in patrolling our coasts and policing the high seas in order to maintain our neutrality; and

Resolved, etc., that the President is hereby authorized and directed to intervene at once to stop the war in Cuba, to the end and with the purpose of securing permanent peace and order there and establishing by the free action of the people thereof, a staple and independent government of their own in the island of Cuba, and the President is hereby authorized and empowered to use the land and naval forces of the United States to execute the purpose of this resolution.

It will be observed that the House resolutions does not demand the withdrawal of Spain from Cuba or declare the independence of the people of Cuba, but it does provide in effect for both of those things.

There are no Democratic minority resolutions.

With Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, calling Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia a liar, and Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia, throwing a book at Mr. Brumm that cut the face of one of the pages, followed by what was almost a free fight, and entirely like a football scrimmage, so that the sergeant-at-arms and his mace were disregarded, and stalwart members had to pull the combatants out into the lobby before the Speaker could restore order.

THE SENATE RESOLUTIONS.

The preamble and resolutions agreed upon by a majority of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and submitted to the Senate to-day by Senator Davis are as follows:

Whereas, The abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battleship, with two hundred and sixty-six of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of April 11, 1898, upon which the action of Congress was invited. Therefore,

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 here-

Continued on page 4.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

It Looks Like It in the Case of the Spanish Armada.

The setback the Spanish torpedo flotilla has received by being forced to put back into Cape de Verde Islands suggests that the modern "Armada in the Little," as it has been called, may meet finally the fate of the old armada, that came to grief in English waters. The armada of 1898 consists of six torpedo boats and a convoy. The armada of 1588 consisted of 130 vessels. By the best authorities it is said to have had 65 galleons and great ships, 25,300 and 700-ton boats, 19 tenders, 14 frigates, four galleasses and four galleys. It had a tonnage of 75,868 tons. It was armed with 2,435 guns, 125,000 rounds of shot and more than 5,000 hundred weight of powder. Of sailors there were 8,450, and of soldiers, 20,000. The church was represented by 200 fathers and monks. This tremendous sea force was sent by Philip II to destroy England and its queen, Elizabeth, and to restore the people of the country to their mother church. For years it had been in preparation, and never before in history was such a power concentrated. With all that, Spain's little armada of to-day, now pushing its bows westward, could have blown it out of the sea in one hour.

Right bravely did Spain's power set from Lisbon on May 29, 1588. It set out with colors flying and with provisions for six months. It returned to Spain five months later with 54 ships, battered and bruised, and a handful of men that were so emaciated as to be scarcely able to go ashore. England's victory is claimed by some to be due to God, by others to be due to the sea, by others to be due British pluck. However that may be, the armada seemed to be doomed from the first. Soon after sailing it was dispersed by a storm that ripped its masts from their sockets and tore its sails like rotten rags. It returned, concentrated once more, and again sailed forth in the following July. When Philip began to get his armada together England had 30 ships. By the time the armada sailed this number had been materially increased, chiefly by merchant ships converted into cruisers. This fleet was manned by 17,000 good and indifferent sailors, but the commanders were the bravest, boldest and most skilled mariners in the world. Lord Howard, of Effingham was the head of the navy and under him were such noted sailors and fighters as Sir Francis Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher and some others who, as honorable and fearless buccaneers, had filled the royal coffers with good Spanish gold. In all the wild history of the sea there is no man so picturesque as Sir Francis Drake.

Howard waited until he was warned that the armada was in sight and would soon pass Plymouth. In July the Spaniards were seen standing up the channel. The ships were deployed in the shape of a crescent seven miles long and their number was now 150. They were in command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia. That night Howard sailed out of Plymouth Sound, and when day came the Spaniards saw the enemy in full rig. The Duke ordered the ships to close in and begin a general engagement. This was attempted, but it failed. Howard had mapped out his plan in advance. The English ships were maneuvered with such consummate skill that never could the Spanish guns tell on them. On the other hand, the Britons fed the galleons with shot. The Spanish gunners and mariners were slow. The British gunners and mariners were active. Not once did a Spanish shot strike, while the Spanish ships quivered and smashed under the English fire and their decks were red with blood. Heart sick at this failure, the armada turned and sailed up the channel, with Drake and Howard at their heels. For six days, driven by English shot, the armada retreated. Not once did the action take on the dignity of a battle. The Spaniards did not strike a single blow. Two weeks later the Duke drew in at Calais, but Howard routed him into the open by sending ships set on fire into his precincts. Howard ordered Drake to pursue, and the fearless buccaneer would have eaten up the Spanish had his munitions held out. As it was, he had peppered 5,000 of them dead. The armada was beaten. Medina Sidonia decided to return to Spain around Scotland and Ireland. As they rounded another storm struck them. They saw in this the hand of their God and were overcome with great fear. But prayer availed not. Their ships became lacerated by the wind and wave. Many of them were driven onto the west coast of Ireland and there were ground to pieces and swallowed up by the sea. Their soldiers and sailors and priests who escaped the wet death of the ocean fell into the hands of men who cut their throats promptly and pleasantly, without benefit of thrift. The others sank into the yeast of waves which mar alike the Armada's pride or spoils of Trafalgar. The armada returned to Spain to be execrated by its own people.

ENLIGHTENED WARFARE

It is an International Game on Which There are Strict Rules

OBSERVED BY BOTH SIDES

Spies and Lies are Legitimate Weapons, But Hot Shot and Poison are no Longer Allowable—Spies, Chain Shot, Prisoners—An Interesting Resume.

Although warfare is a relic of barbarism, it must be waged between enlightened nations with strict adherence to many binding rules, prescribed from time to time by international law. The President and those of his inferiors who would be influential factors in a war must be conversant with this code, which is fully as binding between two nations respecting their honor as is the code duello between two men. Violation of these rules on the part of either belligerent would invite the contempt of dignified nations. That "everything is fair in love or war" is no longer true, at least so far as war is concerned. Although warfare has become more cruel through the development of weapons, the international laws governing it have become more and more humane. It is doubtful whether Spain would adhere to these laws as strictly as would we. As a race, her people are more cruel and impulsive. Furthermore, her record is bad. Were it otherwise she might expect more sympathy from other continental nations, almost all of which observe the rules of war very strictly. The object of dignified warfare in these days of course should be to disable the enemy at the least possible cost of suffering and death. All weapons, therefore, which make warfare actually cruel and barbarous are regarded as illegal unless they will, by one bold stroke, speedily terminate the war. Although hundreds may lose their lives at once from such weapons as submarine rams, mines or torpedoes, these are considered lawful. Red-hot shot, chain shot and hollow shot are considered cruel instruments of war. On the other hand, and no self-respecting nation would employ them. Red-hot shot were used in the wars of Frederick the Great. Cannon balls were heated to redness and fired to combine the tortures of fire to those of concussion. Chain shot was even more cruel in effect. A pair of cannon were loaded with balls connected by chains, the guns being close together, but trained to such an angle as would spread the balls apart when the two fuses were lighted simultaneously. The chain was made as long as might be desired, and by its means large bodies of men could be horribly mangled as if by the stroke of a giant scythe.

LIES ARE HONORABLE WEAPONS.

Hollow shot or hollow bullets were considered cruel because they became flattened and irregular after coming in contact with bone, thus making wounds unnecessarily painful. Langrel, composed of nails, knife blades, bits of iron, etc., which made horrible wounds, is forbidden for the same reason. Projectiles of an explosive nature or charged with inflammable substances are now considered unlawful between nations, if weighing less than 14 ounces. Likewise, poison is strictly forbidden in an element of war. In ancient wars it was customary to use poisoned arrows or to poison the rivers flowing into an enemy's country. While it would be proper for either Spain or the United States to lay waste the standing crops of the other merely to temporarily reduce a district to deprivation, it would be illegal to uproot vineyards, orchards, etc., so as to desolate the country for years afterward. A flag of truce, a Red Cross hospital flag or a signal of distress displayed by Spain, for instance, would have to be respected by our forces, and no one protected by such a signal would be harmed. Should a body of Spanish soldiers or sailors show such a signal fraudulently, however, it would be considered a gross act of treachery, punishable by death. A more treacherous act would be the assassination of a statesman or officer of a hostile country. The killing of the enemy, however, by a combatant in uniform would not be considered as an act of assassination, but as a legitimate act of war, since by wearing the garb of a soldier an enemy runs an honorable risk. It is also considered as legitimate warfare to distribute lies for the misdirection of an enemy or to sail under false colors. Should a Spanish privateer, for example, come upon one of our vessels while sailing under false colors, she would be required by the laws of war to show her own colors before firing. Before making an assault she would properly fire a gun across the bow of the opposing ship as a warning to "heave to."

SPIES ARE LEGITIMATE.

The employment of spies is still considered as legitimate warfare among enlightened nations, but the spy, as an individual, is generally looked upon as rather a dishonorable character. It would be improper, therefore, for one of our Generals to order a man to act as a spy. All spies must be strictly volunteers. It is an interesting fact that should a spy succeed in joining his army he would cease to be a spy in a technical sense, and unless captured in the act of carrying fresh information he could not be captured except as a prisoner of war. No soldier in uniform could be executed as a spy serving the enemy, since a spy is necessarily a person in disguise, acting under false pretenses or secreted somewhere. Men engaged in surveying a Spanish fortification or camp in a balloon, for instance, could not be considered as spies, although their balloon might be destroyed as a vessel of war. If captured alive the balloonists could be held only as prisoners of war. A man in uniform of the United States caught in the act of carrying information to a Spanish commander would be executed, if caught by a spy, since he would be either a spy or a traitor. Traitors have always been regarded as the lowest of the low by soldiers. According to the common law of England in the times of the Georges, they were required to be dragged along the ground or over a pavement to the gallows, and there to be hanged by the neck, but cut down before dead. While still alive their entrails were taken out and burned. The head was then cut off and the body cut into quarters. Prisoners of war would be very carefully handled by a well-bred nation like ours. None but a barbarous general would countenance cruelty to a war prisoner or a soldier who had surrendered.

PRESIDENT AS PRISONER OF WAR.

Late into the Middle Ages death or slavery was the only prospect of a prisoner of war. Should a parcel of our forces surrender to Spain or be captured, not only all combatants, but such non-combatants as newspaper correspondents, guides, messengers, balloonists, telegraphers or contractors, either present with the army or assisting it, might be taken as prisoners of war. Should the Spanish force their way to Washington they might take any of our statesmen prisoners of war, including the President. The international laws demand that all prisoners of war be subjected only to such restraint as would be found necessary to prevent their escape. They would be given as great liberty as possible and could be punished only for breach of discipline or attempted escape. Some nations provide money allowances for prisoners of war. They must also be fed and clothed by the country detaining them. Thus we would be required to sustain our Spanish prisoners comfortably, although we would, after the close of the war, send in a polite little bill to Spain, demanding that the expense be refunded. Others besides spies forfeit their rights of protection as prisoners of war and can be executed when captured. Thus, one of our courts martial might sentence to death a body of Spanish guerrillas, prisoners of war who have been released under promise that they will not fight again, or deserters from our own army. It would, of course, be a violation of the accepted rules of war to injure non-combatants or take them prisoners of war except in such cases as sieges, where every citizen must defend himself as best he can. Old men, women and children are always considered non-combatants. In some countries their privileges are extended to ministers of the gospel. A declaration of war between Spain and this country would cause all foreign nations not engaged in the struggle to regard us both with the utmost care. As soon as the declaration should be made it would be the duty of President McKinley through our foreign ambassadors and ministers, to immediately notify the ruler of every neutral nation. Unless such information should be given, a government could not be held responsible for any breach of the neutrality laws. No neutral state, such as Mexico, for instance, if so informed, could permit an armed force belonging to either side to remain on its territory while contemplating an attack.

CASE OF "HANDS OFF."

Should the force be a defeated army of fugitives taking refuge from the pursuit of the enemy, Mexico would be simply extending its hospitality by allowing them to come over the line. According to the general practice they would be disarmed and retained by Mexico until the war should close. Likewise, we could not properly march a body of forces through France, into Spain, although the waters of France in such a case would not be considered as neutral territory, unless France should especially stipulate that they should not be passed over by either belligerent. Should we take the Philippines, for example we could not sell them to any neutral government, like Japan or China, during a war with Spain, or until our right to the conquest should become properly constituted.

Continued on page 4.

COMMENTS ON THE MESSAGE

How It Was Received by Congress and Others

IT DISPLAYED WEAKNESS

It Was Comprehensive in the Facts and Positions but Indefinite, Uncertain and Weak in Conclusion—A Few Opinions and Criticisms on the Noted Document.

At last President McKinley has submitted the long-withheld message. On Tuesday it was delivered to congress. The impatience of the nation was well nigh exhausted and the President was driven to the extremity of either submitting the document or seeing congress break loose like a flood tide and proceeding to action without his suggestions or advice. A complete synopsis of the message will be found on the 2nd page of this issue.

The message fell like a chill. It was disappointing, some declare weak and vacillating. The following are a few criticisms on this document that may give a better estimate, than its reading:

The Pittsburg Post makes the following comments on the message: "The President states the fact of the Cuban-Spanish situation with moderation and with a degree of force. It is when he comes to the question what action is demanded by civilization and humanity, as well as by the honor and material interests of this country, he is unsatisfactory, weak and evidently looks to further delays. He concedes Spain's rule in Cuba barbarous, cruel and cowardly. He admits Spain can never conquer the island and restore its old supremacy. The explosion of the Maine, he says, demonstrates Spain cannot control even the harbor of Havana so as to secure safety to a friendly ship on a mission of peace. What right then has she to assert sovereignty there any more than on the shore littered with tortured and murdered Cubans?"

After making clear Spain has no right to be in Cuba—that her rule dishonors civilization and humanity—the President rejects recognition of Cuban independence as a remedy, with the resulting assistance that would come from this country, and suggests he be given power to use the military and naval forces at his discretion. That means more delay—more negotiations with the Spaniards—more meddling by the Hannanites—and still the reign of terror in Cuba.

The precedents the President cites of our recognition of the South American states and Texas widely differ from the Cuban question, which is exceptional. In those cases only remote political considerations were involved. As to Cuba, civilization, humanity and our material interests are the potent factors. If the President wanted a precedent to fit the case exactly he should have referred to the interposition of England, Russia and France, to save Greece from the Weylerism of the unspeakable Turk.

With his negation of the recognition of Cuban independence and appeal to Congress to invest him with discretionary powers, the President finally leaves the question of what shall be done to the Senate and House, both of which have been subjected to extraordinary pressure to do nothing beyond letting the President do as he pleases. The message met with a very chilly reception in both houses.

The New York Journal says:

"Aggressive Americanism was promised for the President by his spokesmen. Prompt vengeance for the foul destruction of the Maine it was said he would promise. What did we find instead? Wordy palaver, laborious citations of words of men like Jackson, who in this crisis would have found in deeds, not words, his solvent for the problem. The foul assassination of the Maine set aside as a matter to be determined in the interminable loquacities of diplomacy. Aggressive Americanism? Not a manifestation of it appears in all the President's marshalling of studied phrases. Not one trace of the spirit that burned at Bunker Hill, in Independence Hall, July 4, 1776; or in the hearts of the brave men who stood by Jackson in the Louisiana swamps in 1814 gleams from the mushy mass of sordid words and pitiable timidity which McKinley sent to Congress in lieu of a call to arms. The President has profoundly disappointed the American people. Instead of a call to arms his message is a summons to retreat. It is weak, flabby and nervous."

The leading republican papers are now engaged in the herculean task of apologizing for the shortcomings of President McKinley.

In this connection it is refreshing to read an extract of Grover Cleveland's famous Venezuelan message which put a stop, quick, to English land grabbing. With all his faults, he had a great big back bone and at times comprehended a patriotic duty:

"I am, nevertheless, firm in my convictions that, while it is a grievous thing to contemplate the two great English speaking peoples of the world as being otherwise than friendly competitors in the onward march of civilization, and strenuous and worthy rivals in all the

arts of peace, there is no calamity which a great nation can invite which equals that which follows a supine submission to wrong and injustice and the consequent loss of national self-respect and honor, beneath which are shielded and defended a people of safety and greatness."

Old Grover defined the greatest military power on earth—McKinley shrinks abjectly before a weak decadent nation.

FURTHER OPINIONS.

After the President's message was read many of the leading Senators and Representatives were interviewed. The following is the result, from which you can draw your own conclusion:

Rep. John E. Kelley (Pop.), South Dakota—The President's policy appears to have been dictated by the bondholders.

Rep. John E. Osborne (Dem.), Wyoming—The message is evasive, unpatriotic and un-American.

Rep. J. Hamilton Lewis (Dem.), Washington—The message shows the justice of independence for Cuba and declines to recognize it. From an apologetic position the President has descended into one of pusillanimity.

Rep. W. H. King (Dem.), Utah—The President asks a violation of the Constitution—to commit to him powers which belong to the legislative branch of the government.

Rep. Mahon (Rep.), Pennsylvania—The President has indicted Spain, and it is for Congress to find the verdict.

Rep. Hicks (Rep.), Pennsylvania—The time has come to drive the Spanish flag from American soil forever.

Rep. Fisher (Rep.), New York—Spain must desist or we will have war.

Rep. Bingham (Rep.), Pennsylvania—I am in favor of immediate intervention.

Rep. Young (Rep.), Pennsylvania—I am in favor of armed intervention in Cuba.

Rep. Packer (Rep.), Pennsylvania—I am in favor of standing by the action of the President.

Rep. Robbins (Rep.), Pennsylvania—The message is disappointing in its conclusions. I am for the independence of Cuba, to be followed up by armed intervention.

Rep. Williams (Rep.), Pennsylvania—I am for the independence of Cuba, and think the President should have recommended it.

Rep. Peters (Fusionist), of Kansas—Weak and vacillating, and to every American humiliating.

Senator Quay (Rep.), Pennsylvania—Intervene at once for the freedom of Cuba.

Senator Cannon (Silver rep.), Utah—We are going to have action and that soon.

Senator Perkins (Rep.), California—It does not quite come up to what I expected.

Senator Gallinger (Rep.), New Hampshire—I want to follow the President, but I want also to know that Cuban independence is to be the outcome.

Senator Foraker (Rep.), Ohio—I do not wish to have it understood that I am satisfied with the message; I am disappointed.

Senator Hanna (Rep.), Ohio—The message is what I expected it would be. It cannot be improved upon. The people will take this view of it when they come to understand it.

Senator Teller (Silver rep.) Col.—Falls far short of what was expected.

Senator Pettigrew (Silver rep.), S. D.—Weakest paper we have ever had.

A CHILD DROWNED.

On Wednesday evening little Stanley, a 9-year-old son of the widow of the late Calvin Brachbill, drowned in the race near Gerbrick & Hale's mill. The boy had taken a lunch basket down to Crier's plaining mill, for his brother William who works on the night turn in the skewer factory. From there he went up street and was to meet his brother Wm. at 8 o'clock.

He could not be found anywhere; a search was made and inquires brought no information.

John Lose had been looking for the boy and was much concerned. After he retired the affair worried him, and the idea that the child might have fallen in the race, at the skewer factory induced him to get up and make another search, late at night.

He found the boys cap floating in the water at the mill. Mr. Gerbrick was awakened and the mill race drawn off. Ten feet from the forbay the body of the child was found. This was about 3 o'clock this morning.

The child likely made a misstep while walking along the side of the race, when going back to the skewer factory for his brother.

The interment will take place Friday afternoon at 2 p. m. Services will be held at the residence on Howard street.

FLYING SQUADRON SAILS.

Old Point Comfort, April 13, 1.10 p. m.—The flying squadron sails at 2 o'clock under sealed orders.

The fleet comprises the commodore's flagship Brooklyn, the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, and the cruisers Minneapolis and Columbia.

Of course the destination of the squadron is unknown, but the orders to sail were received with enthusiasm by the officers and men who have been impatiently awaiting a call to action.

At the Navy Department the information is given that the squadron is going upon a brief cruise.