

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, FEBRUARY 21, 1898.

The report that Gomez is marching on Havana will serve to indicate to the Spanish that misfortunes never come singly.

Riding to a Downfall.

The attitude of Spain toward the United States continues to be unfortunate. It becomes comprehensible only on the supposition that official circles in the Peninsular Kingdom are becoming badly rattled.

The first of the De Lome letter, from the point of view of Spain's own best interest a most grievous blunder. Prior to the publication of that, Spain had successfully stayed America's hand in Cuba, by artful promises and ingenious procrastinating devices.

Then came blunder number two in the rigidly and grudging manner in which the Spanish authorities at Madrid sought to disavow De Lome's opinions. It would obviously have been to their interest to cable immediately an unqualified disclaimer.

The expedition on board the Maine may or may not have been blunder number three. We cannot say as to that until we ascertain whether or not it was the hand of a Spaniard that caused it; but it certainly was a gross blunder on Spain's part to stop our divers until she could prefer at Washington the brazen request to co-operate with us in investigating our own ship.

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Weyler's notion that our Yankee tars are an indolent lot may yet be modified in that school in which all but fools gain wisdom.

The Question of Liability.

There appears to be some confusion in the public mind as to the extent of Spain's liability in case the government of the United States should discover conclusive evidence that the destruction of the Maine was caused by a citizen of Spain. It is necessary to understand before approaching this subject that for the present it must be considered as lying entirely within the domain of polemics.

Every one recognizes that if it should be established that the Maine was blown up by an authorized agent of Spain the fact would constitute an imperative casus belli. But there are some who argue that if the deed should be fastened upon a fanatical Spaniard having no prominent connection with the Spanish government and prompted wholly by his personal feelings, the most which our government could do with preservation of its self-respect would be to demand of Spain an official repudiation of the crime and prompt punishment of the criminal.

This view of the matter is imperfect. In the contingency just supposed there would be ample warrant not only in precedent but also in common sense for the further demanding from Spain by our government of an indemnity sufficient to compensate us for the property loss involved in the Maine's destruction; sufficient, also, to indemnify, so far as money could, the surviving victims and the immediate relatives of the crew of the Maine's crew; and sufficient, finally, to recompense the government of the United States for the affront involved in such a perfidious deed.

A precedent is supplied in our own history by the circumstance of the Italian killed by a mob in New Orleans a few years ago. These citizens of a friendly power were not officials, as many on board the Maine were; and their assailants were a crazed lot of men unexpectedly stirred to violence.

One gratifying circumstance in connection with the loss of the Maine is that of those Americans who call for an immediate strengthening of our navy no group is more in earnest than that made up of the representative public men of the middle West. Here is a territory with no exposed coast, no harbors into which warships may glide with gaudy or menaces, and with little immediate connection with any of the naval problems of the time. It is a territory which the whole of Europe could not successfully invade; one whose chief interests would suffer but slightly from a war even though that war should result in the bombardment of New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco and in the sinking of the almost fabulously rich zone of territory accessible to invaders from the sea; and furthermore, it is a

country which in late years has acquired an inextinguishable political prejudice against the Atlantic coast states and against New York city more especially. Yet to the cry for a strengthened navy, in other words, to the call of patriotism as it has been sounded by recent critical events, this section gives response instantly, emphatically and without a quibble.

It is well, after all, that the life currents of the nation have been quickened. They were becoming sluggish. The business world has reason to feel highly gratified concerning the action of the house of representatives on Saturday in passing by a handsome majority the Henderson bankruptcy bill. This measure is substantially the Torrey bill which has been indorsed by boards of trade and other commercial organizations the country over. It provides both for voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. Under its provisions an honest man in business embarrassment could get relief and have a fair chance to start anew; but a rogue could be nabbed before making away with his plunder. The matter now goes to a conference between representatives of the senate and the house. It is to be hoped that they will speedily agree.

To General Ignacio Andrade, the new president of Venezuela, whose term of office began yesterday, Americans wish well. He has proved himself a brave and a generous man; he is reputed to be an admirable executive, and if he shall use his power in trust for the welfare of his countrymen, avoiding the weakness common to rulers in South America, whose besetting sin is inordinate ambition, the republic over which he is to preside will have ample reason to honor his memory.

Senator Quay's bill to appropriate \$1,200,000 for the construction of a new white house ought to pass. The present home of our presidents is situated on the edge of a malarial swamp, is full of mold, bad smells and disease germs and is fifty years behind the times. It is more like a prison than a fit abode for the executive of the greatest nation of modern times.

A child born on this day will notice that as one nears the sea coast towns his anxiety for war with Spain decreases. The "chic girl," of course, is the one who wears tooter's feathers on her bonnet.

The fellow who writes the joke in reference to the umbrella keeping Lent, is due. Tea is already being brewed for the Martha Washington parties.

Our Country and Its War Strength

FROM THE NEW YORK SUN. FROM the War department's report we compile two tables of immediate interest to every patriotic American. The first shows the organized military strength of the different states of the Union:

Table with columns: State, Officers, Men, Total. Lists military strength for various states including Alabama, Arkansas, California, etc.

Our Naval Strength and Spain's. The available armored force of the two countries today may be summarized as follows: Total displacement of the six armored ships of Spain ready for sea, 47,000 tons. Total displacement of the twelve armored ships of the United States ready for sea, 82,800 tons.

CUBAN WAR SHOULD STOP. Interview with General Booth. The Cuban butchery should stop. It should stop, if need be, by the intervention of the United States. England is not jealous of America. The individual Englishman would see young America prosper in peace.

The Checkmate View. From the Cleveland Plain-Dealer. "Mamma, I guess I know why Mr. Bunby sits in the front row at the theater. 'Why, my dear?'"

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THE NATIONAL TEMPER. New York Commercial Advertiser. The criminal folly and insane greed for notoriety and money of two unscrupulous newspaper adventurers only sets in stronger light the admirable spirit and behavior of the people of the United States in this sudden shock of sorrow and alarm.

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Table listing states and their populations: Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, etc.

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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR.

A Malicious Falsehood Nailed.

It having been brought to our notice that somebody has circulated a report that we had given up our Upholstery and Drapery Departments, we beg leave to inform the public at large that such a report is untrue, and that we are better prepared than ever before to carry on business in these lines.

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