

## The Scranton Tribune

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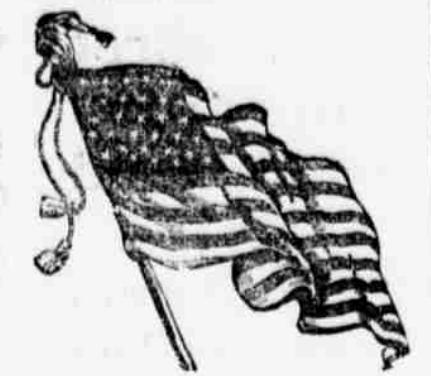
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Murderers of non-combatants, ravishers of women, assassins who explode mines under sleeping crowds; in other words, the Spanish devils now occupying Cuba, merit no pity and should receive no leniency. The clock should strike the hour of their final elimination from the free soil of the American hemisphere.

### Acceptable.

The most welcome news of the season is that the administration at Washington has put before the government at Madrid a flat demand for Cuban independence, with the request for an immediate and unequivocal answer within twenty-four hours.

This satisfies American opinion, and nothing less could. In the light of this intelligence the leader of the Democracy at Washington, the Hon. Mr. Bailey, stands forth as the statesman who was too previous.

The latest intelligence from Madrid would appear to show that the Spanish crown has about decided to come down.

### The President and the Guard.

Should a call come to the National Guard of the Keystone state either from the governor of Pennsylvania or from the president of the United States the members of that organization would not stop to argue technical law points or stand on the formalities; they would respond immediately as one man. They would respond, whether summoned to encamp on Pennsylvania soil or directed to field service in co-operation with the Cuban insurgents. This is not in question. Everybody concedes it. Everybody is proud of it. Scrantonians most of all.

But the technical issue having naturally arisen, and occasioned considerable confusion of opinion even among officers and ex-officers of the National Guard, we present this morning the law on the subject. This is the law, because it is the official opinion of the United States government; the opinion upon which the government would act if necessary; should appear for the mobilization of the Guard in defence of American territory. It will be perceived that according to this statement of the case the president has power to order the National Guard of any state or any portion of the National Guard of any state to any place within the boundaries of the United States for the purpose of quelling sedition or revolting invasion. The order of the president may be transmitted through the governor of the state but need not be, necessarily; the president, in this matter, is supreme. It can do no harm to have this point clearly and thoroughly understood.

Predictions that William A. Stone will not be nominated for governor on June 2 appear to be on the increase, and the stock of the other Stone, Charles W., of Warren, seems to be steadily rising. Charles W. Stone would make a governor of proved ability who would own himself.

### Honors Worthily Bestowed.

The attentions, social and official, which are being showered upon Captain Sigbee and the honors which await him as soon as congress gets a breathing spell, are so well deserved that they will be applauded throughout the world. As Senator Morgan aptly says:

"I have prepared a resolution offering the thanks of the congress to Captain Sigbee for his manly, patriotic and courageous conduct in a moment of wonderful emergency; when his vessel was sinking; when perfect discipline was observed by the survivors; when he calmly left his sinking warship in his gig, the last man to leave the ship; and for his diplomatic message to the secretary of the navy, at a time when an ordinary man might have given way to excitement and some ebullition of resentment. I think that his conduct deserves such national recognition. He has shed lustre upon our flag and upon our navy. The country ought to show appreciation of his marvelous equanimity and self-command in the most critical position in which a naval officer ever found himself, with his ship feloniously destroyed, in a friendly harbor, in a time of profound peace."

It is a happy fact that the American navy has never lacked in just such brave, cool and effective men as Sigbee. Its record from the days of John Paul Jones down to the present is an unspotted record of glory. No navy in history has surpassed it in the quality of its commanding officers; very few in the bravery and discipline of their

men. Big or little, it has always deserved the rating of 100 per cent. In honoring Captain Sigbee the American people honor the spirit and the judgment which have made this country what it is.

The London Standard admits that independence for Cuba is the only satisfactory solution and says English opinion concurs with American in demanding this result. Meanwhile a British fleet at Bermuda warns Spain to try no funny business on British subjects in Cuba. Blood will tell.

### Unfair, Untimely and Insulting.

The country will learn with surprise and displeasure that the Democratic minority in the house of representatives has, in the face of an unprecedented national emergency, involving the momentous issue of peace or war, abandoned precipitately the patriotic attitude which it took when the \$50,000,000 defence appropriation bill came before congress for a futile grasping for petty partisan advantage.

The attempt at this critical juncture in our government's affairs, when war may be our portion within a few hours, to make the question of our duty to humanity and justice in Cuba a partisan issue, to be kicked about in the football fashion of domestic politics, is more than a mistake; it is a crime—a crime to the suffering victims of Spanish misrule in Cuba; an unpardonable affront to the patriotism of the American people. We want it to be understood that the responsibility for this trick of low partisan strategy rests directly upon the Democratic party. We want it also to be understood that the credit for the refusal to drag this high call of patriotic duty into the dust and filth of partisan contention belongs solely to the Republican party. If a party issue is to be raised at this time and along this line, let the alignment be clearly comprehended.

No honest man can question the sincerity of the president of the United States. No honest man can doubt that of the 180 Republican members of congress who yesterday, in support of the chief executive of the nation, voted as one man against the demagogical artifice of the minority to tie the administration's hands, not one is less earnestly in favor of the independence of Cuba and the enfranchisement of the starving Cuban reconcentrados than was the youthful Texan who sought to play upon the tension of the hour for partisan profit, or than were the political colleagues of Mr. Bailey who voted with him in that unseemly endeavor.

But the independence of Cuba is not to be recognized by means of a parliamentary ruse for the campaign benefit of the Democratic party. If it is to be won and held it must come in response to the sober and emphatic judgment of the undivided American people, expressed in due and regular manner through the proper official channels. Not Democracy's interests but Cuba's and humanity's are the stake to be considered. It is unfair to William McKinley, and false and insulting to the real sentiment of the country, to ask the man whom the American people have commissioned as their highest executive official to contend in this hour of extreme emergency simultaneously with Spanish treachery abroad and with partisan factiousness at home.

The American people are under no moral or other obligations to try to break the force of Spain's approaching downfall. Let Spain reap as she has sowed.

### The Question of Indemnity.

If Spain can secure from the republic of Cuba a farewell cash donation, given upon condition that Spain hasten her going, we cannot see that it would be the business of the United States to object. Without considering whether it would or would not be right, such a present might, as a matter of expediency, be a good thing for the Cuban government.

That, however, is a detail, and from the American standpoint a not very important detail. We have nothing to say on that point. As a matter of fact Delegate Palma says his government probably would pay to Spain from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 upon condition that she acknowledge Cuban independence and evacuate the island at once, saving further suffering and trouble. This willingness to compensate a vanquished foe does credit to Cuban magnanimity, especially when we consider what provocation Spain has given for more revengeful feelings.

What we desire to emphasize, though, is that the United States government can have no part or lot in any issue of indemnity as between Spain and Cuba. The American position is that for crimes committed and incapacity shown, Spain must get out of Cuba and that quickly. Whether she shall get out with a wad or with a foot-print in her rear is none of our affair, provided only that she "gets."

One advantage which the president has over his congressional critics is that he knows what he is doing and they don't.

Spain's bankrupt treasury and ruined credit probably are stronger peace incentives than is Minister Woodford's soft soap.

The cashier of the Chemical National bank, of New York, announces that if the employees of that institution who belong to the National Guard have to

answer a call to war, the bank will give them full pay while absent and keep their places open. Let every other patriotic American employer agree to do likewise.

There is a lot of sense in this remark from the Buffalo Express: "It ought to be plain to every sensible person that the administration has not been spending \$50,000,000 to put the country on a war footing without a clearly defined purpose of making war in case its demands are refused. Those who clamor for immediate war assume in advance that they will be refused. The president is in better position to judge of that than are members of congress. It would be a monstrous thing to plunge into war without waiting to learn whether all that is desired may not be accomplished without a conflict."

Murdering Cuban women and children, not singly but by hundreds thousands, was a poor way to pacify Cuba and justice does not permit the granting of compromises to assassins.

No doubt it will embarrass the Spanish government to have to give up Cuba, but it should have thought of that before it made this fate inevitable.

### Conservative Words of Timely Import

THE Philadelphia Ledger, perhaps the most careful, judicious and conservative newspaper in the United States, said in its leading editorial yesterday: "The United States does not want war with Spain, nor with any nation, and it will not hesitate to permit to do it with honor, dignity and regard for the supreme claims of humanity. If these things shall not be permitted then our people will not shrink from the alternative of peace and they will accept war with so few and low dissenting voices that the question will be unheard in the general demand for the upholding of national honor and the assurance of justice for the oppressed."

"It is declared that Spain proposes, first that there shall be a prolonged armistice in Cuba, lasting until October; second, Spain will concede to the United States the privilege of sending food and medicine to the starving and disease-stricken reconcentrados on the island, but only in merchant vessels, unaccompanied by ships of war; third, Spain is willing to grant to the Cubans a scheme of autonomy more liberal and comprehensive than that previously offered and rejected but which shall recognize in practically every essential element the continued sovereignty of Spain over Cuba. Whether or not these are the exact provisions of Spain's proposals can be at present only surmised from commonly accepted report. Assuming their general accuracy, should it be an incredible, even that they will prove acceptable to the intelligence and integrity of our government or people. Neither government nor people can be ignorant of Spanish policy."

"It is an old story, and it is not distinguished for good faith. One recent example of it may be found in the letter of Senor De Lome to Senor Canalejas. Both the author and the recipient of this now famous document were high diplomatic agents of Spain. The first was her minister to the United States; the other, a special commissioner to Washington and Cuba, accredited to our government but to his own, Senor De Lome wrote to his associate diplomat that Spain's plan of autonomy for Cuba was a trick and device of Spanish diplomacy; a scheme having no other purpose than that of gaining time for preparation to defeat the policy of the United States. The letter similarly suggested that it would be a good time for the further beguilement of our government to exploit the idea of entering into a commercial treaty between Spain and this country. The dishonesty and insincerity of the Spanish government in its pretended efforts to tranquilize Cuba by granting what they call autonomy to the oppressed people, and to effect a commercial treaty with us, were confessed by De Lome, and fully established subsequently by the publication of his insistent misstatements to his diplomatic confidant."

"In view of this recent revelation of Spanish insincerity, it is not surprising that the same motive for delay as we then had, why should she again be trusted and granted the further time for preparation, which she needed so much? Why should her later scheme of autonomy be confidently accepted, when her own minister has told us that her former one was a sham and fraud? Why, of all incomprehensible and inconsistent things, should this country feed the multitudes of men, women and children who, by Spain's deliberate policy, are being given over to the horrors of starvation, or to disease and death? Spain drove them from their homes, burned their houses, harnessed their crops, destroyed their fields, deprived them of all and every means of bare existence, and now condescends to say that we may be permitted to feed them, rebuild their homes and harnessed them with seeds and implements, and afford them, from our stocks and store, in every way, with the means of living?"

"These means should and must be furnished them, if not by Spain, by us. Their rescue is our duty, which we cannot put from them or us, which is owing to God and humanity. If they will not do it we must and will do it. But why should this country be asked to feed, rebuild their homes and harnessed them with seeds and implements, and afford them, from our stocks and store, in every way, with the means of living?"

"The country wants peace, and it wants the assurance of it. The present condition is not one of peace. The whole land rings with the clamor of preparations for war. Business is paralyzed by uncertainty; enterprise has been halted and fears to advance. The condition is intolerable; it is dishonour and ruinous. Our government will be unwise to prolong it by granting Spain more months in which to increase her warlike strength. It cannot afford to wait a few more months; with the honor and dignity of the nation; with the claims of humanity, peace, all intelligent, patriotic men want, but they do not want it as the price of national dishonor. The spirit of peace, of fair compromise, of just concession should prevail in the councils of the government. It is dishonour and ruinous, but the spirit of justice and humanity should not be surrendered to that of selfish and cowardly expediency."

### CREDIT WHERE DUE.

From the New York Sun.  
The Maine board of inquiry thinks, and the public will think with them, that the ship was destroyed by a blow from without, and not by accident or neglect within. While the Havana standards are

not convicted, the men of the Maine are freed from blame, and the ship herself, and with her, the entire American navy, have been relieved of the suspicion that our war vessels are mechanically defective and dangerous in construction.

If anything of this world could bring peace to the Maine's dead, it will be the evidence that no shadow rests upon their mates left behind.

### A PAPER WITHOUT A COUNTRY.

From the New York Sun.  
No American can read without indignation the articles which the editor of the New York Evening Post is writing and publishing from day to day concerning Cuba. The newspaper alone among all the journals of the land defends Weylerism, extenuates Spain's inhuman warfare in the island, treats in flippant phrases the sufferings of her reconcentrados as something which Cuba has brought upon herself, and regards the patriots who are fighting for freedom only as pernicious disturbers of Wall street values. American patriotism, the love of the flag, sympathy with heroism, hope for the independence of Spanish people, are almost daily the themes of satirical observations by the one newspaper of the United States which is at this time for peace at any price and for the dollar every time.

It would be unfair to attribute to any editor, however able and competent, the contemptible his sentiments, an attitude like that above described without exhibiting the words of his own pen which justify his position. First, as to Mr. E. L. Godkin's apology for the starvation of non-combatants. The Evening Post treats the devilish policy which has made the island a wilderness and sacrificed innocent lives to a number variously estimated at from two hundred thousand to half a million, as if it were the usual and inevitable incident of war waged by a civilized nation. "This measure of destroying people's homes in order to prevent their furnishing supplies to the enemy is not an invention of the Spaniards. There is nothing Spanish about it. It is exactly what Sheridan did in the Shenandoah Valley and Sherman in South Carolina. It is what all military commanders do if hard pressed, and if they think it will further their cause. One of the peculiarities of war is that it risks more of all restraints imposed, in time of peace, by religion and humanity. If hanging or shooting non-combatants or burning their houses will help a general to victory, he hangs or shoots them or burns their houses. Other warriors would think him a 'nippy' if he did not."

Is there any other editor in America, calling himself an American, or any other newspaper in America, capable of writing or printing that? The butchery of helpless women and children, the hanging and shooting of non-combatants, the burning of hundreds of thousands—so these are the only methods of conducting war common to the great commanders of all civilized nations; and Spain's commanders are no more criminal in that respect than are Sherman or Sheridan or Lee or George Washington! The warrior is a "nippy" who is not a Weyler!

Next as to Mr. E. L. Godkin's argument that the Cubans have brought their sufferings upon themselves by persistently bad behavior, and that the fate of their cause is something which does not concern us. He says: "Granting, as we have to grant, that the Spaniards have a right to put down the rebellion by force of arms, we have to grant also their right to use the ordinary military means to accomplish their object, and devastation is one of them. As the French say, 'Qui veut la fin veut les moyens.' All objection to the doings of the Spaniards in this respect is groundless. They have a right to put down the rebellion by force of arms, we have to grant also their right to use the ordinary military means to accomplish their object, and devastation is one of them. As the French say, 'Qui veut la fin veut les moyens.' All objection to the doings of the Spaniards in this respect is groundless. 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