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General Lee says the present is not a time to talk but to act. Carry the advice to Congress.

Move Forward.

Public opinion will be satisfied if today, as last evening's address forecast, Congress shall direct and empower the president to intervene in Cuba at once, with the armed force of the United States, for the joint purpose of restoring order and establishing in that unhappy island a government firm, stable and independent, but it will be satisfied with no policy short of this.

Public opinion will irresistibly commend factions effort to secure further delay. The time for mediation, for manipulation, for sophistication, has passed.

The honor of the American people will not suffer in the custody of the senate committee on foreign relations.

The American Position.

"The people of the United States, in my judgment, are pretty nearly unanimous that the time for negotiations upon the Cuban question is past. They believe that further negotiations mean further time for the concentration of the Spanish naval forces and for general Spanish preparations for war.

Public opinion demands Cuban independence but it is content to let this come when Spain is eliminated. The cart belongs behind the horse. First get Spain out and humanity in. All good things will then come after.

Plano's armistice does not freeze the belligerent insurgents.

General Lee.

That the heart of the American people is in the right place is shown in the continuous ovation which has been accorded Sunday at Key West. The spirit of admiring congratulation which has welcomed this successful official home after his trying ordeal at Havana has naturally been most conspicuously and enthusiastically manifested along the route of his journey through the lines of his neighbors of the South. In a certain peculiar sense, born of old sectional associations, he is their especial hero and pride. But in the broadest sense the spirit of this unprecedented demonstration is shared by Americans everywhere.

For Lee at Havana stood for the broadest Americanism, with an integrity that the public at large is only just beginning to realize. His sojourn there involved more than diplomatic perils; every moment of it was attended with positive personal danger, a danger accentuated by his very boldness in the performance of duty and his resolution in keeping, as he suggestively expressed it, "in the middle of the road."

Nevertheless, he stuck loyally to his post, recognizing it to be, though a post of trial yet also a post of duty, and information from independent sources leaves no doubt as to how well that duty was performed. Watched by a thousand treacherous eyes eagerly hoping for the slightest chance to trip him in an indiscretion or administer to him a dose of Spanish assassination, he held himself under control with the firmness of a Spartan and opened no chance for successful attack.

As the American nation has honored Captain Sigbee for one discreet act which conferred enduring luster on the American name, so it does well to honor with equal enthusiasm and unanimity the gallant and heroic Lee, whose trial covered not moments merely but months, yet found him equal to it at every point in the game. May he speedily have granted his wish to head the advance column of the projected invasion of Havana.

The Madrid paper which says if we will apologize Spain will forgive us has perhaps drawn its knowledge of

American sentiment from the New York Evening Post.

If Lee tells Congress what he thinks our warships will soon be in motion, and frank speaking is one of Lee's strong characteristics.

The Foreign Powers.

According to William E. Curtis, there is a reverse side to the memorandum that was recently presented to President McKinley by the ambassadors. While they thus recognize the Monroe doctrine and acknowledge the supremacy of the United States in American affairs, one of the chief objects of the representation was," says Mr. Curtis, "to unite the European powers on a proposition that the United States must not interfere in European affairs; must recognize a Monroe doctrine over there. This proposition is particularly pertinent just now in anticipation of a war with Spain, which might tempt our fleets to attack or blockade Barcelona, Malaga, Cadix or Santander. This would seriously interfere with the commerce of Europe, and it is believed that an understanding that our fleets will not cross the Atlantic has been reached between the president and the European powers."

If the president has entered into any such agreement with the powers of Europe it is a mistake. We do not believe that he has done so. While it is not the desire of the American people at this time to execute further punishment upon Spain than that involved in the unconditional liberation of Cuba and in adequate reparation for the perfidious destruction of the Maine, yet circumstances might easily arise in the course of the fulfillment of this purpose which would justify additional action. In such a contingency Uncle Sam would act, regardless of the wishes of the European powers. This nation owes nothing to any government in continental Europe. It does not recognize the claim of those governments, singly or in conjunction, to set a limit beyond which we dare not venture in execution, of justice or in vindication of our rights.

The president has been badly advised of late and sadly misrepresented by those who should have been solicitous for his good fame. It is time for his true friends to cease to credit and to put an end to these stories in circulation concerning him which represent him as afraid to stand for Americanism, whatever the opposing odds.

When the president transferred the responsibility to Congress he put it where it will not be shirked.

Lee leading an attack on Havana would complete the disintegration of the unconstructed South.

Yusula evidently has no desire to invest in expensive real estate on this side of the water.

Senator Quay must be voted the model speech maker. When he has said a thing he stops.

The Spanish flag must be eliminated from the American hemisphere, and at once.

We must say that General Gomez can fight better than he can write.

The powers respect grit quite as much as palaver.

vice, it will get the whole National Guard and never hear a question as to the president's constitutional power to do whatever he pleases with the guard from any guardman. And it may be remarked that thereafter the war department can do with these United States troops whatever it deems necessary for the best interests of the service."

If our esteemed Rochester contemporary will permit us to offer a suggestion we would recommend that before disorganization and ill-feeling be excited among members of the Guard it be first ascertained beyond peradventure that the war department has reached any such decision or has ever contemplated the disintegration of existing Guard organizations. In a matter of such importance it is well, as Captain Sigbee remarked, "not to guess but to know."

Little Alfonso's crown will probably look more dilapidated than a last year's Derby hat before the youthful monarch gets old enough to wear it.

For once Spain deserves an apology. When she said McKinley had never mentioned Cuban independence she apparently told the truth.

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Justice Cries Halt to Spanish Misrule

From the Philadelphia Press.

DEATH disappears with the president's message. Calm in tone, it is decided in utterance. It urges decisive action, reaches a definite and forcible conclusion and sets a motion the power of the nation. No stronger course could be demanded. All that American honor and interests can ask is proposed. No more of our just course for a peaceful nation when duty to humanity forces upon it forcible intervention in the affairs of another. Dignified, effective and consistent with the regard for the long position of our Cuban relations and the acts and utterances of his predecessors, with just consideration for the destruction of the Maine, with the just determination to act in Cuba, for humanity and not for conquest, for order and not for acquisition, for peace and not for war, this message speaks as clearly the voice of the great nation, the ruler of a Christian people and the president of the United States.

Congress and the country should respond with an unanimous support. Faction should disappear. Party should be silent. The nation should speak. The duty of all is to support the president and to make effective his wise yet vigorous, his effective yet conservative policy. As he abundantly and convincingly shows, the step the United States now about to take is the legitimate, logical and necessary result of our past attitude and action and of the expressions of his predecessors for fifty years. Under certain conditions and on the appearance of a certain situation, our presidents, from Grant to Cleveland, have in terms declared that intervention would be necessary by the United States. Such action for the restoration of order, to safeguard national interests and in the name of humanity has been the familiar condition and situation. In Cuba today the conditions exist. The situation has arrived.

The explosion on the Maine has lit the path of duty, but it has not laid it out. History had done that. With vigorous recognition, both of our own position and the opinion of the civilized world, the president makes no charges against Spain or Spanish authorities. Suspicion has no proper place in an execution of national policy. The proved and accepted facts are enough. The destruction of the Maine demonstrates the collapse of Spanish rule in the absence of an effective administration. To this deduction Spain can make no just objection. Its original responsibility, as the facts now stand, does not lie in the destruction of the Maine, but in the misrule which rendered the explosion possible. More cannot be proved, but until it is proved more cannot be said and the president's language places Spain at the bar of civilization.

There are no more of the manifold evils and atrocities of its rule proved and visible, only one course is possible, the close of this rule by the interference of the United States. For thirty years this has been predicted by the wisest statesmen of our time. Year by year these evils have expanded, this inquiry has increased and this dire suffering has gone on. The cup is full. Judgment and sentence are passed. In the name of our people, we demand that you cease your rule and that you withdraw your forces from the island and its nearest neighbor, the long moral wrong of Spanish rule and the crowning appeal of humanity, scourged by rapine, pestilence and starvation.

The national duty is clear. It is put upon grounds, it is supported by arguments and it is proposed in terms each and all of which are self-evident and justify the deed to civilization. As the weighty words, the calm conclusions and the strictly legal policy of this message are laid before the world of men and the world of statesmen, there will be among candid and impartial judges but one opinion and one conclusion. The precise procedure proposed is familiar in Europe. It has often been used in the past. It is justified both in law and in justice, by the claims alike of humanity and international law. It seeks to avoid the risk and injury of war for both Spain and the United States, to limit and localize conflict and to reach the necessary end—the freedom of Cuba from Spanish rule—with the least possible disturbance to the wide interests of civilization and with the swiftest possible discharge of the duties of humanity.

The United States seeks no conquest. It desires no territory. It wishes no war. Its ambitions and its aims are all for peace. Through long years, with a moderation unknown in the history of nations, it has practiced forbearance, faithfully discharged the duties of a neighbor and hoped for improvement in Spanish

rule. None has come. The long tale of bloodshed through fifty years must at last be finished. The end has come. Without malice or enmity toward the Spanish people, without desire to despoil or acquire, called to its appointed work by a long succession of events and visibly guided from step to step, this Christian nation steps forward to do its duty by the oppressor and for the oppressed in the sight of men and that higher power by which nations stand or fall and justice is executed on earth.

THOUGHTS ON THE MESSAGE.

Caution Is Desirable. From the Utica Press. It is one thing to admire the good fight the insurgents have made and wish them well and another to permit that enthusiasm to bring about official action which might return to plague the government. Caution should accompany courage in international as in other affairs.

Independence by Elimination. From the Washington Star. The president makes no mention of forms of government for the island after peace has been restored. It shows the incapacity of Spain to govern the island. He shows likewise that the autonomy proposal has failed. This elimination leaves only independence.

McKinley May Be Trusted. From the Philadelphia Inquirer. Hot-heads in Congress may advocate an immediate declaration of war, and it must be said that the controversy over the question of the recognition of Cuban independence is heated, but if Congress is wise it will follow President McKinley. He has led us thus far safely through the wilderness of dispute and he should be trusted to the end.

Fears Spain Has an Advantage. From the Philadelphia Ledger. The president wished to avoid the danger of war, but it is well said that the brave makes danger opportunity; the waverer, pattering with the chance sublime, darts it to peril. In this case there is at least some reason to believe that the previous wavering policy of the administration has given Spain, not the United States, certain advantage of the ground.

The Goal Is War. From the New York Sun. It is for Congress to move. And the goal, in plain sight, and neither patriotically nor wisely avoidable, is war.

All Must Obey. From the New York Sun. When the moment for action arrives the commander who will not lead is like the man in the ranks who will not follow.

No Business with That Game. From the Philadelphia Ledger. In the matter of diplomacy Spain is a past master; the United States is a mere apprentice hand.

The Whole Thing in a Nutshell. From the Troy Times. It must be a united America for a free Cuba.

SENATOR ELKINS' BLUNDER. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Senator Elkins says that the United States cannot afford to fight for the independence of Cuba. Senator Elkins is utterly mistaken. The truth is that the United States cannot afford not to fight for the independence of Cuba, if fighting is necessary.

Senator Elkins says that a war for the independence of Cuba will cost this country thousands of millions of dollars. If he had said ten thousand millions of dollars he would not have altered the fact that if this nation turns traitor to the cause of humanity and freedom for any sake of saving a sum of money from the base of having it had accepted a bribe from Spain to abandon the Cubans. A dollar saved is a dollar gained.

Peace, like gold, can be bought too dear. What this nation cannot afford is to purchase peace at the valuation placed upon it by the extravagant and reckless peace-at-any-price.

THE WORDS OF AN HISTORIAN. From an Article by Professor John Fiske. For the sake of Cuba's best interests, it is to be hoped that she will win her independence without receiving from any quarter, and especially from the United States, any such favors as might hereafter put her in a position of tutelage or in any wise hamper her freedom of action. All people liberated from the blight of Spanish domination need to learn the alphabet of free government. Cuba will have to learn it, as all the rest of Spanish America has had to learn it, and the fewer the impediments in her way the better. Undue influence on the part of powerful neighbors is sure to be such an impediment.

FITZHUGH LEE. From the Times-Herald. Discussion has been frequent as to the type of American citizen the United States would ultimately produce. Two presidents of differing political faiths have agreed upon the selection and retention of General Lee as the representative of this government in a position where the interest of the entire world centered. With infinite discretion, unwavering courtesy and the highest courage, General Lee discharged the most difficult duties of his post. In the official, whose wisdom and bravery need no commendation, the nation have seen a typical American citizen of the United States.

Odds Against Him. Customer—"Say, that perfume slot machine is a real fraud. You'd better drop it." Druggist—"Why, what's wrong with it?" Customer—"I dropped a nickel in it and only got a cent in return."—Chicago News.

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