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SCRANTON, MAY 17, 1898.



The abomination "illy" crept into this paper yesterday, but we trust it will not do so again.

France and England.

One of the imminent possibilities of the European situation is a war between France and England. It is well understood by politicians on each side of the English Channel that the territorial concessions made by Great Britain in East Africa, and the diplomatic amity with which Lord Salisbury has allowed France to have her own way and pursue her own course in Tunis, Madagascar, Siam and particularly in West Africa, apparently on the tacit understanding that these were parts of a reversion of territorial and international obligations due by England, while further instalments of this debt were immediately expected, would be promptly enforced.

Unfortunately for France and the rest of the world, but emphatically to the disadvantage of England's prestige and dignity, the Secretary of State for the Colonies is Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

General Sikes, Grant's minister to Spain, doesn't think that this war could have been avoided. Says he: "We have had no choice in the matter. The war was forced upon us. Let the copperheads in this country who have been saying we should have no war, that it was none of our business what Spain did in Cuba; that we had better attend to our affairs at home and let other folks handle these, I say, consider the actual clear, cold, conclusive facts. The United States was either forced to go to war with Spain for that greatest of all incentives, humanity, or else it must have said to Spain, 'Do as you damned please. Murder, rob, violate the innocent, sweep the island with flame and sword; starve all those whom you do not kill. It's none of our affair. We have all we can attend to at home.'"

It is a significant fact that every military and naval expert who has been near Cuba recently protests with emphasis against the further deluging of American invasion. It is known to our authorities that the Spaniards are strengthening their machinery and plans of resistance hourly, which means that more good American blood will have to be shed ere the island is taken.

England's infinite disgust and disappointment at the outcome of Lord Salisbury's negotiations with Russia over the annexation of Manchuria, Mr. Chamberlain does not attempt to conceal. "He who sows with the devil needs a long spoon" is his neat summary of this extraordinary diplomatic transaction.

The importance of sea power is well exemplified in the work of Dewey at Manila, which, without the loss of a man, changed the destiny of the world of human beings and recast the world's map. It is being shown, too, by contemporary proceedings in the Atlantic, where four Spanish cruisers are holding up an American army of 60,000 men. Yes, the United States will have a larger navy.

The proprietors of the Monroe Republican, Messrs. Taylor & Alney, began the publication of a war daily newspaper called the Bulletin, on Saturday last. The Bulletin contains the latest war news in condensed form, and its publication is an enterprise that

her side. In giving England our moral support in this contest if it comes off—she asks nothing more, indeed we can give her just now nothing more—we are merely reciprocating a debt of gratitude which it has been our immense good fortune to incur at a critical moment.

Governor Hastings comes out of the Mt. Gretna situation with colors flying. We would that the United States war department could say as much for itself.

The Fleets Compared.

It must be confessed that the probabilities of an early naval battle in the Atlantic ocean or Caribbean sea are decreasing. A battle will be fought if either Sampson or Schley can get within shooting range of Cervera; but with the latter able to sail at the rate of 20 knots an hour while neither of the American commanders can go faster than 15 knots it is clear that accident alone can bring about a meeting unless the Spaniard elects to have one.

Such a meeting would be viewed with intense interest by non-combatants as well as belligerents, for it would answer many questions that now perplex the constructors of armor-plated warships. The displacement of Sampson's fleet is 43,000 tons; of Schley's, 34,000; of Cervera's, 37,000. Of large ordnance the Spaniard has six 11-inch and two 10-inch guns, against four 12-inch, eight 12-inch and eight 10-inch guns on Sampson's fleet, and four 13-inch and two 12-inch guns on Schley's. In secondary batteries the disproportion is even greater. Sampson has twenty-two and Schley sixteen 4-inch guns, against forty 3 1/2- and 4-inch guns for Cervera; yet while here the Spaniard has four 6-inch, nine 5-inch and twenty-six 4-inch guns, and Schley has twenty 6-inch, twelve 5-inch and ten 4-inch guns. Roughly speaking, Sampson's ships can throw three pounds of metal to Cervera's one pound; and Schley's, two to one. Even the lone Oregon, which the Spaniard may try to intercept, has 3,000 foot-tons of energy in excess of the combined energy of the Spanish fleet, and barring accidents and torpedo boats, could probably defend herself successfully against Cervera's four cruisers.

In protective armor the contrast presented between the fleets is likewise marked. The thickest point in the armor belts of the Spanish ships is 19 inches, with a conning tower resistance of 12 inches. Sampson and Schley each have a battleship with 18-inch armor and conning tower resistance equal to 20 inches; while in Sampson's command are the Iowa with 14-inch armor and the three monitors with armor belts ranging in thickness from 9 to 12 inches, and in Schley's is the Texas with 12-inch armor. On paper our armored cruisers, the New York, with 4-inch armor, and the Brooklyn, with 5-inch, look weak, but it must be remembered that the armor plates on the American ships are made of the best Harveyized steel, which even our own high-power guns cannot splinter, while the Spanish armor is of "concrete" steel, proved by tests to be brittle and easily knocked to pieces.

These figures, to say nothing of our admittedly superior gunnery, so well demonstrated at Manila, Matanzas and San Juan, sustain the belief that the Spanish admiral will not invite a fight. He may be cornered, but if he is it will be through his own stupidity, for the sea offers ample room in which a 20-knot fleet can get away from two pursuing 15-knot fleets. A naval battle on such a scale would be immensely interesting and instructive, but the chances seem to indicate that it is not to be. The present experience may teach us one thing, however, and that is that speed in a navy is fully as essential as shooting power. If we had a few fast armored cruisers like the Vizeys, this war would soon be brought to an end, on the ocean at least.

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will doubtless be appreciated by the people of Monroe and vicinity.

The present war is costing the government in round numbers \$1,992,500 a day. That, to be sure, is less than half of one per cent. per annum on our aggregate wealth, estimated by Mulhall at \$1,500,000,000; but in these days of economy the government should show a saving capacity by "getting a move on."

It is significant of the united patriotism of this country that the proud women of Virginia should present a guidon to a Northern battery. There is much loyal sentiment in this graceful tribute of the society leaders of Newport News to Philadelphia artillerymen.

The vote of 181 to 11 by which the house of representatives recently put itself on record as favoring the direct election of United States senators probably represents professional jealousy quite as much as solemn conviction.

It is encouraging to be told that the Mexicans who sympathize with Spain belong to the ignorant class; but the truth is, we suspected as much.

Tuesday, June 14, "Flag Day," ought to be a memorable day for the American people in this year of war and grace, 1898.

According to reports from various points along the coast the Spanish fleet still seems to be very much scattered.

The sale of British flags ought to be profitable these days in Uncle Sam's territory.

Monroe Doctrine Does Not Apply

From the New York Sun.

JUSTICE to the reputation of the Monroe doctrine was promulgated, the interpretation given to that doctrine by Mr. Couderc and Mr. Edmonds, as applied to the Philippine Islands. The Monroe doctrine is intended to be an emphatic declaration in behalf of American liberties; the interpretation of Mr. Couderc and Mr. Edmonds would make it a palladium for European despotisms.

When that doctrine was promulgated, the secretaries of the Holy Alliance had formed a plot to intervene in behalf of the king of Spain against the American provinces that had revolted against him and were falling free institutions. Their plan was to overwhelm the patriots and rivet upon them the chains of Spanish despotism. James Madison saw that this would be a most serious blow to freedom on this continent. Success might induce the Alliance to attempt here what they had accomplished in Europe, and by their combined power to perpetrate upon our own republic what they had consummated in France and Spain. By the advice of Jefferson, the Monroe doctrine determined to meet them on the threshold. Fortunately for us our kinsmen of Great Britain threw their weight into the scale of liberty, and the combined despots of Europe quailed before the contest that was offered to them.

There is nothing in the Monroe doctrine as announced by its author that justifies the interpretation given to it by Mr. Couderc and Mr. Edmonds. Nothing was further from Mr. Madison's mind than to clip the wings of the American eagle. This is what he said in reference to our European policy: "Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; but to declare that we will solemnly abstain from any interference with the independence of any nation which has fallen into our hands as an incident of our war with Spain. That war was imposed upon us by the highest obligations of our sovereignty. The destruction of our commerce, the ruin of American property and the insecurity of American lives in Cuba appeared to threaten, while the horrors of Spanish cruelty appealed to our humanity. Either ground would have been a sufficient justification for armed intervention, but the emergency required it. Having captured the Philippines, they are our property by the law of nations, and we shall do what we please with our own property."

If we determine to keep them and coincide with American subjects who have been taken from the East American capital, American energy, and American pluck, whose business is it? By what right do the nations of Europe claim exclusive jurisdiction over the seas and islands of Asia? Because these nations have themselves taken various parts of the Asiatic continent by force from their lawful owners, does that give them a right to say that we shall not take from Spain what the right of conquest gives us? Because certain European powers have recently threatened to seize various parts and portions of China, does that give them a right to say that we shall not take the Philippines?

Our commerce with China and Japan is immense, probably greater than that of any European power except Great Britain. If it is to our advantage to use Manila as a coaling station, or a naval base, or a commercial depot, for the benefit and advancement of our commerce, who shall forbid us to do it? The Philippine Islands themselves have a rich and fertile soil, which even under Spanish misrule, has returned most generous harvests to its cultivators. Under such government as we should give them they would soon become the richest islands of the east. Their productions are among the most valuable articles of commerce, including hemp, sugar, tobacco and indigo. Before this war broke out, in spite of the restrictions of the Spanish revenue laws, our merchants were doing a large trade there. In his recent report of Feb. 28, 1898, our consul, Mr. Oscar E. Williams, states that the increase in the shipments of the principal product, hemp, to the United States in the preceding year, 1897, was 54 per cent. greater than all the other countries combined.

If we have accomplished this in the face of Spanish opposition, against what cannot be exercised under a system devised and operated by ourselves for our own benefit?

WILL MEET ANY EMERGENCY.

From the Washington Star. The last man and the last dollar, if necessary. That is the proposition, and it will be loyally adhered to. The war with Spain will not tax the resources of the United States so severely. We may meet with reverses as the war progresses. They are to be expected, and if they come will be courageously borne. But reverses do not discourage a brave people. On the contrary, they act as an incentive to stronger work. A rout on the sea would make the American sailor

ore but the more eager for battle, and once the army is landed in Cuba the stars and stripes will fly over Havana if it is to the navy's power and both to make a path into the city. This will cost lives and treasure, and the country will deeply mourn the men who fall in the undertaking.

But the problem may become complicated before the end is reached. We do not know where the Spaniards are all around the horizon. There are centers in Europe where the situation is ticklish in the extreme. A great storm may brew and break. We have not been responsible for it if it does. That the masses in Italy and Austria are discontented and threatening that France will have to be laid at our door. They are not legitimately connected with our quarrel with Spain.

It may be, however, that a general feeling is close at hand. The great powers have long been dreaming such a thing, and all of them are heavily armed in expectation of it. Although we would not be in anywise responsible for it, we would not be surprised to see such an upheaval. It would add to our difficulties in both of the great oceans. It would compel us to put forth our full strength in order to sustain ourselves before the world. If that day should come—there is no American who desires to see it come—the United States will meet the emergency. We have taken the field as the champion of liberty and humanity. It does not matter that Europe questions our sincerity and imputes low motives to us. The truth prevails here at home. We respect ourselves and shall live up to our professions and purposes.

TWO HEROES.

From the Washington Star. Commodore Dewey received instructions to find the Spanish fleet in the Philippine waters and either capture or destroy it. He set out at once to execute the commission. Finding the enemy in a protected harbor, he yet followed in at all risks and destroyed him. It was a splendid performance, full of risk and good seamanship. The world is re-echoing with his praises, and his country in gratitude has bestowed upon him a richly deserved promotion. His victory was complete, and it has added to the glory of the American navy.

The torpedo boat Winslow was ordered into action at Cardenas, Cuba. The harbor was protected by guns, aboat and anchors. It was a small vessel, but the order was instantly obeyed. The little fellow went in and at once became the best target for the enemy's fire. He was disabled, and Ensign Bagley, a most promising young officer, was among the killed. He had exposed himself freely in discharge of his duty, and a bursting shell dispatched him.

Although the Manila fight and the Cardenas fight were so different in result, yet inspiring as they did the war with Spain, the one as well as the other will act as inspiration for the American sailors of every grade. The great commodore and the young ensign were brothers in quality. Both possessed the stuff that dared all. They received their orders and obeyed them, counting no cost. The one, full of years and honors, covers himself with more glory, and goes to the top of the ladder. The other, young as a daisy, enthusiastic, only on the threshold of his service, perishes and goes to his grave.

But every man in the American navy will bear himself the better because of their example. Admiral Dewey will be further inspired, and the young ensign Bagley to the younger, a brave man's influence does not depart with his life. The one fought nobly, and lives; the other fought nobly and died. Each did his full duty according to his station and opportunity, and thereby demonstrated his worthiness to wear his country's uniform. Both were victors, although but one survives.

MANILA BAY.

The first great fight of the war is fought, and who is the victor—say— Is there aught of the lesson now left untaught? By the fight of Manila bay?

Two by two were the Spanish ships. Their flags at the taffrail, peak and fore. And batteries ready upon the shore. Silently biding their time.

Into their presence sailed our fleet. The harbor was fully mined; The shells from our guns and open ports. Up to their ships—up to their forts: For Dewey is danger blind.

Signaled the flagship "Open fire." And the guns belched forth their death. "At closer range," was the order given. Then each ship sprang to claim her own. And to lick her fiery breath.

Served were our squadron's heavy guns. With gunners stripped to the waist; And the blinding, swirling, sulphurous smoke. Enveloped the ships as each gun spoke.

In its furious, fearful haste. Sunk and destroyed were the Spanish ships; Hulled by our heavy shot. For the Yankee spirit is just the same. And the Yankee grit and the Yankee aim.

And their courage which faileth not. The first great fight of the war is fought! And who is the victor—say— Is there aught of the lesson now left untaught? By the fight of Manila bay? —H. E. W. Jr., in Philadelphia Times.

The State of the Case. "The high kicker positively refuses to raise a toe unless she gets some of her back salary," said the railway. "That settles it," said the manager, digging into his inside pocket. "When a woman sets her foot down there is nothing to do but give up."—Indianapolis Journal.

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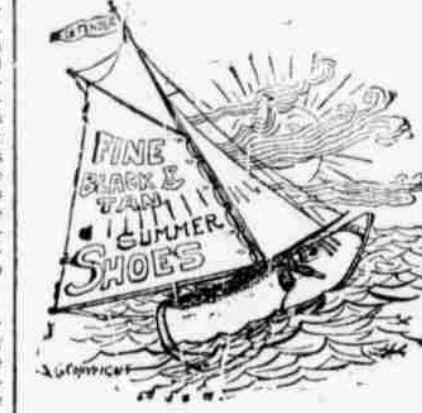
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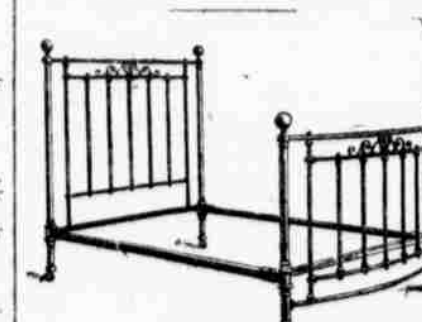
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