

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MAY 18, 1898.



Though the Maine is remembered, Cuba is apparently forgotten. The humanity hypothesis is getting badly bruised by contemporary delays.

LESSONS.

Recent events have been highly educational. Some things are now understood by the American people which were not realized by them a year ago.

(1) It is now plain to the dullest mind that a nation of 75,000,000 inhabitants, whose coast line exceeds 7,000 miles, and whose export trade is fast nearing the \$2,000,000,000 mark, carrying with it continually an increasing liability to foreign complications, cannot afford to have an army or a navy based upon the smaller requirements of a generation ago.

(2) Recognition has been forced of the fact that the United States government should build and control the Nicaragua canal. Had this canal been in existence two months ago the battle-ship Oregon could have sailed from San Francisco to Cadiz and back to Key West in about the time that it required to go around Cape Horn.

(3) The necessity of securing coaling stations, repair harbors and docking facilities at convenient intervals in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans has been made clear. These we shall get at Manila, at Honolulu, at Puerto Rico and in Cuba as natural consequences of the war; but if any honorable way shall hereafter open to secure similar privileges in Bermuda, Newfoundland and at intervals along the South American coast it should not be neglected.

(4) Last but not least among the lessons of this war which we shall mention today is the realization which it has forced upon the public mind that procrastination in diplomacy doesn't pay. Had the United States stood up for its rights in Cuba years ago there would have been no war.

(5) Experience teaches a dear school, but the American people differ from most peoples in that they possess the orifice of tuition and the ability to get their money's worth quickly.

News from Havana indicates that another French ship, this one a frigate, has ignored our blockade, declining to salute our flag or show her colors until forced. It would be interesting to know how long the authorities at Washington propose to tolerate this sort of thing.

The Situation in Spain.

Senor Sagasta on Monday afternoon visited the palace and formally handed the resignation of the ministry to the queen regent. The queen authorized him to form another cabinet and Sagasta has consented. Sagasta's resignation from office, if it had become effective, would probably have caused no lamentation even in Spain.

Sagasta's resignation, in other words, was a hollow pretense, demanded by insurmountable difficulties which have surrounded his administration since the war began. He could not very well have done otherwise in view of the critical position of the throne. He is loyal, and knows well the revolutionary forces at work in the Peninsula to overthrow the reigning dynasty and bring in the Carlist pretender or establish a republic.

Moret's words a reusucitation of the old hope of European intervention, not a barren hope were it not for the action of Great Britain. The Spanish ministry cannot get beyond this. Moret does not delude what will happen if that great reliance which he places in Admiral Cervera's skill and squadron is as cruelly crushed as was the crown's earlier reliance upon Montijo at Manila. Cervera is not hampered, it appears, with instructions. This may be a strategic policy of a very high order. Cervera has taken the utmost advantage of it. He seems to have avoided hitherto an engagement with treacherdation, if not with actual cowardice. We do not, however, credit the Spanish admiral with disgraceful motives. He realizes that the future, not alone of the war but of his country, depends upon the outcome of the action in which he will be engaged shortly.

If we turn from the general military and political condition of Spain to the domestic affairs of the nation, we find them as might be naturally expected in a state of complete disorder. The quiet now prevailing is due to the intense mental tension under which the people labor. They are as anxiously awaiting the result of the next engagement as we are, but under that terrible mental and moral perturbation which shuts out the thought of the possibility of defeat, and yet does not hope for victory. Our mental equanimity is one of undisturbed serenity. We believe that Sampson and his fleet will win; we are sure of it; that is all. The bread riots in the provinces have not continued. The conditions exist, however, that may at any moment reproduce them. Spanish industrial life is almost completely paralyzed and the workmen of Spain are wandering about the country living on hopes of a speedy return of better times and the help of neighbors almost as poor and destitute as themselves. This is the sort of war spirit that pervades the country. If Senor Moret imagines he is deceiving us by his announcement of a raising "war spirit," his effort is all the more amusing.

In the meantime the reconcentrados keep on starving.

To Symbolize Sectional Reunion.

Colonel Allen, of Cincinnati, formerly of the Seventh Ohio Cavalry, has addressed a circular letter to fellow veterans which says: "The present war for humanity having demonstrated that the ex-confederate soldiers and their sons and the ex-union soldiers and their sons are in devotion to our united country, and that we are all good Americans now, fighting under one flag, is not this the right time to wipe out the last trace of ill feeling engendered in the 'argument' of 1861-1865, and return to the survivors of the southern regiments the battle flags which have been held for the last thirty years or more as war trophies at state capitals of the north and at the war department in Washington? Personally I favor the suggestion that the survivors of the union army shall of their own accord, as their voluntary act, return the trophies of the civil war to the survivors of the southern regiments to do with as they please, if these flags had been battle trophies of a foreign war I would be in favor of retaining them for all time."

The suggestion is one of some delicacy, concerning which the younger generation will hardly be expected to offer advice. But in a general way it is timely to remark that the happiest consequence of the present war thus far discernible is the wonderful effect it has had in allaying sectional feeling, and there does not seem to be anything which the North could do that would more effectually cement this reunion and symbolize the luring of the hatchet for all time than to adopt Colonel Allen's suggestion. It is known now to all men that the principles decided at Appomattox were decided permanently. It is also clear that the veterans of the South have moved half way to a clasping of fraternal hands. Let us, then, as General Grant said, have peace, at all events so far as relates to former sectional divisions and prejudices.

Under date of May 4 General Garcia wrote from Bayamo, Cuba, to General Palma: "I am now at Bayamo, your native town for so many years held by the Spaniards against us. This Cuban army of ragged soldiers, who have endured all sorts of privations during these years, is now here keeping order, safeguarding property and honoring the flag of the Republic. You can say to the American people that not a single act of retaliation has been committed. The stores kept by Spaniards are open as usual and those of my soldiers that have money to pay are the only ones who enter them to buy clothes and provisions. Before entering here I issued severe orders to prevent any kind of abuse, but no case has happened in which I had to enforce them." Those who know General Garcia will not doubt his word. Those who don't can take comfort from the fact that Lieutenant Rowan, of the United States army, who recently conferred with Garcia at Bayamo, fully confirms it. The capability of the Cuban people for self-government is likely to prove much greater than most Americans imagine.

Of course the newspapers publish news; that is the object of their existence. If they failed to give information regarding the progress of the war they would fall short of their mission. The critics who are throwing the Gueleso on the newspapers and who complain generally because the press gives away too many plans of the war department, are barking up the wrong tree. Why not blame the real culprits—the leaky officials and officers who conduct themselves on the principle of the woman who insists upon knowing the use of having a secret if you can't tell it? The reputable press will publish everything about the war which the public wants to know without intended exaggeration. It does not aim to constitute itself a government censor, and it should not be blamed for

giving news which the government has taken little trouble to keep quiet.

President Andrews, of Brown, thinks the whole world will soon be involved in the Spanish-American war. President Brown has evidently neglected to take a proper amount of spring medicine this year.

The recent action on the part of Great Britain in preventing the powers from interfering in the Spanish-American war will doubtless materially alter the tone of the numerous Fourth of July orations this season.

General Merritt evidently does not believe that his merit in life consists in getting all that belongs to it. It is strange how often people differ on this point.

The "neutrality" that keeps Americans at a distance and sells supplies to Spanish ships is becoming very unpopular with Uncle Sam.

The New York paper appears to take the place of the chromo or premium potato this year as a tonic for thin local circulations.

General Merritt says he deserved a better assignment from the government. His remark doesn't prove it.

The shutting off of news at Washington is not difficult, considering how slow they are in making it.

Enough of this hanging of Weyler in effigy. The people desire the real thing.

If Great Britain wants an Anglo-American alliance she had better fire Polo.

If France does not take care we'll send a fleet over and free Dreyfus.

A large amount of very thrilling war news is lost in "the scoop" these days.

The Present War Was Inevitable

[The following editorial from the Outlook of May 11 may be accepted as fairly representing the tone of the American religious press in regard to our war with Spain.]

WHEN Mr. Seward, at the very height of the debate on the slavery question, declared that the struggle between the two principles of freedom and slavery were an irrepressible conflict, he clarified the whole situation. To a great many reluctant minds he brought home the unworkable truth that, while compromise might postpone still on him, the two systems could not co-exist; one must destroy the other. For the same reason, the war between the United States and Spain was inevitable. It has been long foreseen, it has been postponed too long to time; but it could not be avoided. To those most reluctant to have recourse to the ancient barbarism of war, there has come recognition of the fact that between the civilizations of the two continents no division of the North American world was possible, and that with a country so blind to the movement of modern history as Spain there was no other method of settlement than war.

In this conflict the men of today are moved by historic forces which they did not set in motion and which they could not see. The war now being waged is the end of the campaign which began in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it is the last act in the great drama which the world has witnessed since the beginning of the Christian era. The struggle for religious and civil freedom which the Reformation inaugurated, Spain stood for and against in the name of the Catholic Church. The struggle for freedom of faith, worship, action and thought, the implacable bigotry of the Spanish priest has left an indelible image in the memory of Christendom. England and the Low countries fought not for their own existence alone; they waged a war for humanity. All the destinies of the world were at stake in their keeping; and nobly did they guard the spiritual and civil life of the future. The heroic figure of Drake stands out, despite his faults, like a minister of God against the relentless and saturnal genius of Philip II.

In that struggle for the right to live, breathe, think and worship, England and the Low countries fought against great odds. Spain had the treasures of the New World for her hand, and she set the New World against the Old. When she was driven out of the Netherlands in 1609, she had already taken from this continent hundreds of millions in gold and silver, and had spent the greater part of it in the futile endeavor to annihilate Protestantism, and with it civil and religious liberty. The great English sailors saw early that the only way to destroy the power of Spain was to destroy the sources of her revenue, and it is to the foresight as well as courage of such men as Drake that the English-speaking peoples in all parts of the world today largely owe their freedom and their prosperity. The indomitable admiral "struck the King of Spain's beard" on both sides of the continent, and his name became a terror in that far Pacific which had until his coming been like an inland sea of Spain.

Out of that deadly conflict Spain emerged crippled and humiliated. The Dutch had taken her eastern possessions, and the English had secured the conditions necessary for English supremacy on the American continent. For the fate of America hung in the balance when the Armada sailed; if Philip had crushed England, no English-speaking colony would have been planted in the western world. "The defeat of the Invincible Armada," says Mr. Pike, "was the opening event in the history of the United States. It was the event which made all the rest possible."

The awful blight which has fallen upon Spain and which has surely sapped the sources of her life has rested upon every one of her colonies. One by one these colonies have thrown off a rule which became intolerable. Since the present struggle began, the Spaniards have assumed that they had the chivalrous instincts of gentlemen and that we were a race of sordid traders bent upon the accumulation of gain. As a matter of fact, history can show no more appalling chapter of greed,

cruelty, and incompetence than the government of Spain on this continent. It has been one prolonged carnival of theft and oppression; a systematic robbery of defenseless people without giving even the semblance of decent government in exchange. Corruption has eaten the heart out of Spanish administration, from the governors general down to the most obscure custom-house officials. It is reported on good authority that the private in the Spanish army in Cuba sell their arms to the insurgents; that that same army is half starved because the money for its maintenance stops in the pockets of officials; that gunnery practice is practically unknown in the Spanish navy for the same reason. Everywhere corruption has bred incompetency, unreadiness, moral paralysis. There are noble Spaniards, but they are the victims of helpless in the coils of universal mismanagement and greed.

Spain has been driven step by step off this continent because her misgovernment has been intolerable even to men of her own race. She is now to be driven out of Cuba because the condition of things in that island can no longer be endured by this country. After three hundred years of intermittent struggle, the civilization of repression succumbs to the civilization of freedom and progress. The great conflict into which the English and Dutch throw themselves with such desperate courage the United States will bring to a conclusion. At last the irrepressible conflict is being fought out, and when it is ended there will be a lasting peace.

BATTLE SONG.

For the Tribune,  
Hark! the rifle balls are whistling;  
See! the cannon's lurid glare;  
List! the soldiers' last death rattle,  
Mark! the eyeball's glassy stare.  
Drums are beating, trumpets blowing—  
Sharp commands and yells of rage;  
While the red blood flows still faster  
As the awful fight we wage.

Here a shell and there a bullet  
Streak the air, he shrieks and falls;  
Clutches at the wound in falling,  
Then for glory or sweetheart calls.

Here—along the line is dashing  
Horse with saddle riderless;  
There—our standard bearer falling  
Drops the colors in the press.

Ah! the enemy are on us  
Brave the charge and sharp the fight—  
Gods! with sword and clubbed musket  
How we battle for the right.

Now like Dante's mad Inferno  
Howls the battle round the guns,  
But the foe is beaten backward  
Now he falters; now he runs.  
Yet again is ours the Vietry—  
Raise the flag once more on high;  
Shout ye brave ones, round the banner  
Let your cheering rend the sky.  
—B. W. Tennant,  
West Pittston, Pa., May 16.

SPAIN.

A scarred old snarling lion, with scraggy, rattered mane, his claws and teeth all broken, lies the ancient realm of Spain; With the wind for blood still on him, and still with hungry mate, He rends poor bleeding Cuba, prostrate there beneath his paw. He's better and fatter than water, and from early days of yore, Has ravaged many an island, wasted many a trembling shore. And the victims number millions whom his strength has overpowered, Whom with ravenous, bloody slaughter he has mangled and devoured, But his roar grows faint and hollow, and a hunter from the west Will swoop away fair Cuba, with her fern and bleeding breast, And send him howling, limping, reviled of gods and men. Back to growl mist and darkness, In his medieval den.  
—New York Tribune.

TWO BLOODLESS VICTORIES.

From the New York Sun.  
Whatever are to be the fortunes of our forces on land and sea during the next six days, it is within the power of certain statesmen at Washington to make this a notable week for the American cause:  
1. By passing the war revenue bill to enable Miles and Sampson and Dewey and Merritt and the rest of our commanders to prosecute the fight.  
2. By passing the Newlands joint resolution for the annexation of Hawaii, an indispensable war measure.  
Here, at least, there is no unknown factor in the case. These two great victories for the cause and the flag can be won without the loss of a single life.

LITERARY NOTE.

Besides the article on the causes of the failure of the Spanish Armada, by Captain Mahan, the June Century will contain "Ten Months with the Cuban Insurgents," the experience of a major in the army under Garcia, and an article on "The Confederate Torpedo Service" by the electrician of the Torpedo division in the Confederate navy who laid the mine which blew up the first gunboat ever destroyed by this means.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaeechus The Tribune Astrologer.  
Astrolabe Cast: 4.28 a. m. for Wednesday, May 18, 1898.

A child born on this day will notice that there is more dust in the atmosphere.

The man who predicted a dry May has enabled Miles and Sampson.

This year the base ball bulletin board does not attract as much attention as a "scoop" off the grape vine.

It is believed that Mayor Bailey would make a speech giving Joe Chamberlain the freedom of the city should the popular secretary see fit to visit Scranton.  
The man who goes to the circus "not to see the animals" generally stays to the minstrel show.

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A large assortment at hardpan prices. See our line before you buy—we can surely suit you.  
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Lewis, Reilly & Davies.

ALWAYS BUSY.

Now like Dante's mad Inferno  
Howls the battle round the guns,  
But the foe is beaten backward  
Now he falters; now he runs.



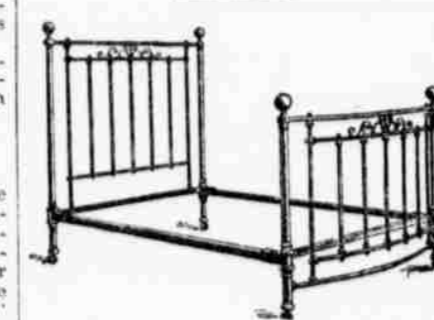
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Lot 2

10 dozen Cambrie Waists; good in every particular; our 85c quality, at ..... \$1.12 1/2

Lot 3

8 dozen Cambrie Waists; best goods, and our \$1.12 1/2 quality, at ..... \$1.25

Lot 4

5 dozen Percale Waists, excellent quality and good patterns; our \$1.25 quality, at ..... \$1.12 1/2

Lot 5

6 dozen Percale Waists; best goods made; our regular \$1.45 quality, at ..... \$1.12 1/2

Lot 6

7 dozen Gingham Waists, very best styles and quality; reduced from \$1.65, at ..... \$1.25

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