

DARING CREW BLOCKS THE ENEMY. SUNK THEIR SHIP.

Admiral Sampson Calls for Seven Men to Risk Their Lives and 4,000 American Seamen Respond.
The Heroes Captured by Spaniards.

The big American collier Merrimac now lies in the narrow channel at Santiago harbor effectually blocking in the Spanish cruisers under Admiral Cervera.

Everybody is astounded at the audacity of the American vessel.

This result was accomplished through the heroism of Lieutenant Richmond P. Hobson, assistant naval constructor; Daniel Montague, George Charrette, J. S. Murphy, Oscar Deignan, John P. Phillips, John Kelly and H. Clausen.

This was not a result of Spanish strategy or courage but part of a well defined plan of Admiral Sampson now at Santiago de Cuba. The Commodore wished to block the narrow channel at Santiago so the enemy could not escape, thus enabling some of the cruisers now about the harbor to be relieved. The Commodore also desired to test the strength of the Spanish torpedoes which filled the harbor.

Rear Admiral Sampson during Friday morning decided to close the narrow harbor entrance of Santiago de Cuba by sinking the collier Merrimac, loaded with coal, in the channel. He called for volunteers to go to almost certain death, and 4,000 men offered themselves.

Lieutenant Hobson and his seven men were chosen, and at 3 a. m. Friday the Merrimac, under her own steam, entered the channel under a terrible Spanish fire. The vessel was riddled with projectiles, but she anchored and swung around. Lieutenant Hobson then set off an internal torpedo which exploded and destroyed the Merrimac. There was an explosion, the Merrimac sank, the channel was closed, and, apparently, Admiral Cervera will be unable to escape.

Hobson and the hero crew of the Merrimac were saved in the following manner. Unable, after the sinking of their vessel, to make their way back through the storm of shot and shell, they rowed into the harbor to the Spanish flagship and were taken on board.

All the members of the expedition are safe. Only two of them were slightly injured, and their names are not known. Lieutenant Hobson was not hurt. All of the Merrimac's men are held as prisoners of war.

Richmond P. Hobson, who sank the Merrimac at the risk of his life, was born August 17, 1870, at Greensboro, Hall county, Alabama, where he also graduated from the Southern university at the head of his class. Appointed to naval academy on competitive examination in May, 1885, and although the youngest man of the class, graduated at its head in 1889. His first cruise was in the squadron of evolution on the flagship Chicago, with Admiral Walker in the Mediterranean. Later he made a cruise to Brazil when the flag of the new Brazilian republic was recognized.

He was ordered to a special course abroad, spending one year at the National School of Mines at Paris and two years at the School of Maritime Science in Paris. The summer vacation was spent in the French shipyards. He received diplomas from the French school for distinction in naval construction and design, both of hulls and of engines. He also spent some time in the English shipyards. Assigned to duty at the navy department in 1894, in the office of naval intelligence in bureau of construction and repair. While on this duty he wrote a report on his observations abroad, also a report on disappearing guns afloat, which was discussed by naval experts on both sides of the water. In 1895 was on duty at New York naval yard as assistant to the naval constructor. When the present war broke out he was assigned to active duty on Admiral Sampson's flagship, and now has won fame and glory by his daring heroism.



ADMIRAL CERVERA,
COMMANDER OF THE SPANISH
SQUADRON.

The news of Hobson's wonderful escape after sinking the Merrimac was sent to Rear Admiral Sampson by Admiral Cervera being so struck with the courage of the Merrimac's crew that he thought Admiral Sampson should know they had not lost their lives. Admiral Cervera's chief of staff, Captain Oviedo, boarded the New York under a flag of truce, bearing the announcement of the safety of the Merrimac's men, and returning with a supply of provisions and money for the prisoners.

The Government Impaired Upon.

The chartering of the steamer Centennial, to carry troops and supplies to the Philippines, has created somewhat of a sensation at San Francisco. The Centennial was built 29 years ago and one paper says she has been condemned by the Japanese government, and was sold to a Puget Sound company for \$15,000, and that the United States government has chartered her to the United States government for \$500 a day.

CAPITAL GLEANINGS.

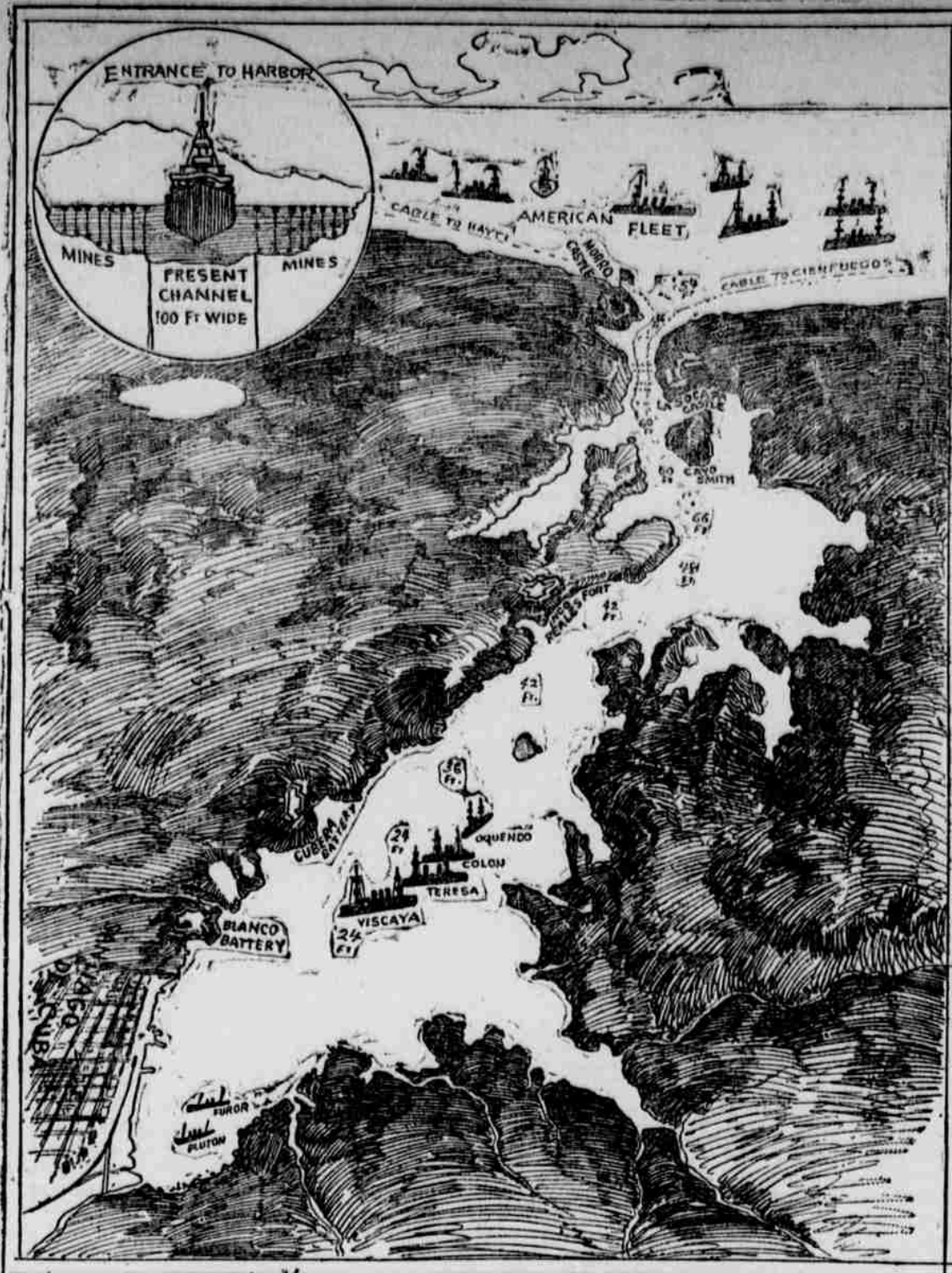
President McKinley favors the annexation of Hawaii.

Now that the Spanish squadron is hopelessly blocked in at Santiago, President McKinley expects peace in a few weeks.

Where a settler on the public lands under the homestead law shall enlist, his service shall be construed his equivalent to residence and cultivation for the same length of time.

A shell, which upon being exploded sent a powerful gas strong enough to put an entire army to sleep has been invented. The originator of course is in Washington, anxious to see the president.

Admiral Dewey has sent the following message to the navy department: "I desire to express to the department, and to request that it will be transmitted to the President, and to Congress, my most sincere thanks for the great compliment paid me."



THE SITUATION AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The phrase "bottled up in Santiago harbor," applied to Admiral Cervera's fleet, seems particularly expressive when the situation is fully understood. The harbor, with the very narrow mouth or neck, is the cork. It is only 600 feet between the shores of the opening of the harbor, and in some places, as shown on a chart published by the English admiralty office, is but 300 feet wide. This channel has been partly filled with obstructions, and at present the actual ship channel is only 100 feet wide. In depth it ranges from 39 to 60 feet, and farther in toward Santiago, seven miles from the entrance, the water is but 15 or 20 feet deep.

If Schley attempts to enter the "bottle" after the Spaniards, he will find the task a most difficult one. Maneuvering a battleship 343 feet long and 69 feet broad, like the Massachusetts, or a 400 by 64 foot cruiser, like the Brooklyn, in a well mined channel 100 feet wide under the guns of several forts is a practical impossibility. But so long as the "cork" is in, Cervera will remain well bottled up, and Sampson can proceed with the work of demolishing Havana and San Juan and covering the landing of General Miles' armies of invasion.

OUR WAR WITH SPAIN.

Spaniards call the Merrimac affair a victory.

Spain's supply of gold is exhausted. Debts are being paid in silver.

It is now reported that Gen. Lee will go to Puerto Rico with a large army.

All of the cables connecting Cuba with the outside world have been cut.

The British at Cienfuegos fear the Spaniards and want an English war vessel.

Mail matter as well as telegraphic dispatches will be subjected to censorship at Tampa.

Andrew Carnegie says Gen. Miles is an ideal warrior, who wins victories without fighting.

The battleship Oregon has been assigned to Commodore Schley's fleet, now at Santiago.

The volunteer troops at Chickamauga are now fully equipped and ready for immediate service.

A Spanish gunboat and a ship with 800 head of cattle are reported to have reached Havana.

The cruiser St. Louis will go to the vicinity of the Canaries to watch for another Spanish fleet.

The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer, the Toros, has been reported sunk by an American cruiser.

Admiral Cervera will blow up his five cruisers before he will surrender them to the United States.

Secretary Long says: "We have the enemy on the hip and will make the most of the opportunity."

The Spanish prize Pedro was purchased by the government for \$200,000. She will be used as a collier.

The British consul at Havana has warned all English newspaper correspondents to remain away from Cuba.

Elaborate preparations have been made at Honolulu to receive the American troops on the way to Manila.

A royal decree has been published at Madrid, authorizing the government to issue an internal loan of 1,000,000,000 pesetas.

A balloon corps is being organized by the navy department and it will locate Spanish warships for Admiral Sampson.

All foreign newspaper correspondents have been ordered to leave Havana, under the penalty of being treated as spies.

Gen. Lew Wallace, author of "Ben Hur," will doubtless be commissioned by the president a major general of volunteers.

It is now certain that the monitor Monadnock will go to Manila with the Monterey. The government has purchased the British ship Whitgift to accompany these monitors.

Santiago de Cuba is completely surrounded by insurgents. The city is in consternation. Supplies are cut off by land and sea.

There are 18,369 men at Camp Alger, 9,861 of whom are pronounced ready for service. There are forty-five cases of measles in camp.

Governor Holcomb said that he would appoint W. J. Bryan colonel of the Third Nebraska volunteers. Mr. Bryan said he would accept.

It is reported that the agents of the Spanish government are buying cattle and grain at Mexico City, hoping to smuggle it out of the country in steamers which will endeavor to run the Cuban blockade.

SPAIN FAVORS A PEACE MOVEMENT.

The United States gunboat Marietta which left San Francisco March 10, arrived at Key West last Saturday.

Manufacturers now serving as soldiers in the army are not permitted by the government to supply war materials.

One 12-inch shell from the Massachusetts killed 8 Spaniards on board the Reina Mercedes during the Santiago bombardment last week.

General Miles, now at Tampa, reports that the volunteer troops are unprepared at the present time to enter into an engagement with the enemy.

Four of the large Spanish steamers recently captured are prizes will be used by the United States as transports for troops to Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Commander Hobson and the men who sunk the Merrimac in the channel at Santiago will receive the thanks of the President, Secretary Long and Congress.

Gen. Blanco has authorized Gov. Bassolo of the province of Puerto Príncipe to form a regiment consisting of 2,000 Comague Yano natives, to fight against the Americans.

The ambulance ship Solace arrived at New York last Sunday from Cuban waters. She had on board 54 men who were ill and wounded from exposure on the blockading fleet at Havana.

Spanish papers are now advocating peace, willing to grant Cuba independence if the United States will not seize Porto Rico or the Philippines and not ask too heavy an indemnity.

The United States threatens to cut the French cable between Santiago and Martinique if France does not prohibit the Spanish spies from using the French cable from New Foundland to Martinique and thence to Santiago.

Gomez, leader of the Cuban insurgents, has spurned another proposal from Spain to unite with her forces against the United States. Gomez says the next time he receives such a proposition he will execute the bearer of the message.

The city of Havana has founded an asylum for the reconcentrados, opening a building large enough to accommodate more than 200. The bishop of Havana dedicated the hospital, administering the holy communion and blessing the building.

Company F of the 18th Pennsylvania regiment has been assigned to guard duty at Alliance, O., where the Morgan Company's gun works are located.

In the United States circuit court at Key West Judge Locke ordered the condemnation of the cargo of 2,400 tons of coal on the British steamer Restormel, captured off Santiago harbor on May 21, while trying to enter, presumably to deliver coal for the Spanish fleet.

Blaine Encourages Blockade Runners.

The council of secretaries of the autonomist government at Havana has decided not to allow the shipment of sugar to American ports, but will allow it shipped to neutral ports in blockade runners which bring provisions and coal, that can be landed in any part of the island without paying custom house duties.

The council at Havana has ordered the mining of coal that has been discovered near Guayguay, in the province of Havana, which will be placed at the disposal of Admiral Manterol. A credit of \$25,000 has been voted to promote the cultivation of the territory near the mine.

SPAIN FAVORS A PEACE MOVEMENT.

SHE IS HELPLESS.

The Embarrassment of the Bank of Spain and the Desperate Condition of Her Troops a Sufficient Cause for a Cessation of Hostilities.

One evidence of the utterance of the Spanish official of his rank would make a statement of this kind unless it voted the view entertained by the authorities at Madrid. Another evidence is the sending of Senor Castillo to Paris, his principal mission being to enlist sympathy there and to encourage a movement toward securing peace on a basis honorable to Spain.

With this comes the report of the serious embarrassment of the Bank of Spain, on which the government relies for funds to carry on the war. The desperate condition of the Spanish forces at Manila, Santiago and Havana are looked upon as added reasons why Spain should be solicitous at this time for peace. But while Spain is thought to be anxious to secure peace, she appears to be unable to secure the services of a disinterested power to take the initiative in a peace movement.

CABLE FLASHES.

Thirty hotels in Scotland will not open this summer because of the American war.

The British government has purchased 150,000 barrels of flour in the United States for the army and navy stores at Kingston, Jamaica.

Frederick Hall, a crate maker, living in London, a few days ago murdered his wife and five children with a bill hook and then committed suicide by cutting his throat. It is supposed that the man had suddenly become insane.

A Spaniard, just returned to Madrid from Cuba, asserts that there is enough food on the island for eight months and that it was delivered by English blockade runners.

The Prussian government will shortly issue decrees that a special decoration be conferred on "monarchic" laborers and trades people who have sworn their loyal convictions for 30 years or more. The government and the Emperor believe that this action will tend to check the inroads of socialism among the working people.

The "St. James Gazette," of London, says that an American war loan of \$200,000,000 is to be issued during the coming week.

TROOPS MOVING ON TOWARD CUBA.

INSURGENTS EXPECTANT.

Santiago Believed to be the Destination of the Soldiers—There Healthy Camps Can be Established—A Talk With Scouts.

The torpedo boat destroyer Mayflower arrived at Mole St. Nicholas Sunday conveying the troop ship Resolute, formerly the Yorktown.

As soon as commander Mackenzie had forwarded dispatches to Washington the Mayflower left with her consort. As the Mayflower is the most heavily armed, as well as the speediest of the large yachts bought by the government, it is supposed that the expedition in her charge is bound for Santiago, and that its importance made it necessary to furnish a protector able to cope with any Spanish gunboat that might be tempted to try to capture the rich prize.

In addition to the troops the Yorktown is known to have aboard vast quantities of ammunition for the fleet.

The departure of the troops from Mobile, Ala., for Tampa, on the way to Santiago de Cuba, last Saturday, was made the occasion of lively demonstration of patriotic fervor. There had been so much coming and going of troops during the last 40 days that the troops themselves were no novelty, and it required an actual departure for the front to arouse enthusiasm. Many hours were consumed in loading the transports, especially in the loading of the cavalry horses.

The Mattewan carried the Twentieth Infantry, under Colonel Wheaton, and a part of the Second cavalry, all the cavalry being under command of Major Rafferty.

As the Mattewan moved down the river past the wharves the other transports were lying, past the thousands of citizens gathered on the pierheads, past the British merchant vessels lying in the river, the noise broke loose, whistles began screeching and never ceased for an hour during the whole time of the passage out of the flotilla.

A talk with insurgent Garcia's scouts shows that they confidently expect American troops soon. They say Santiago de Cuba is the best part of the island for the landing and the acclimatization of our soldiers. Well drained and healthy camps can be established on the high table lands that lie on the sea front or on slopes of the mountains at any desired altitude. Pure water is found in the springs and mountain streams, while the fertile surrounding country yields abundant fruits and vegetables, and every thing is favorable to the good sanitary condition of a well disciplined army.

The rainy season, the insurgents say, is not a serious drawback where camps can be quickly formed on drained elevations.

The island already shows the effect of the beginning of this season. Showers occur daily and soft, white rain-mists are seen on the slopes every morning. The smokes and fires of the burning plantations are being extinguished, and luxuriant crops are rapidly healing many of the ravages of the war.

These tropical storms at night are wonderful exhibitions of electrical pyrotechnics. At times the lightning flashes on the horizon line look like the regular firing of guns from a distant fort. Again, the entire heavens seem aflame in vivid glare, and forked tongues of fire appear to run down the mountain slopes. A drenching rain falls for an hour or two and then the skies clear.

A HERO OF MANILA DEAD.

Capt. Charles V. Gridley, Commander of Dewey's Flagship, Expires at Kobe, Japan.

Capt. Charles V. Gridley, commander of the cruiser Olympia and one of the heroes of the brilliant victory at Manila, is dead. The announcement of his death was received by the navy department Sunday in a cablegram from Paymaster Galt of the navy, dated at Kobe, Japan, June 4.

Capt. Charles Vernon Gridley is the first American officer of great prominence whose death is a direct result of the existing war with Spain. As the commander of Admiral Dewey's splendid flagship and one of the admiral's chief advisers, Capt. Gridley achieved distinction at the battle of Manila bay and added to his previous laurels by winning high praise from his superiors in the service for distinguished gallantry and ability. He fought his ship from the conning tower, while Admiral Dewey directed the movements of his squadron from the bridge of the vessel. It was not known for several weeks after the engagement that Capt. Gridley had suffered from it; and even now the precise nature of his trouble is not disclosed.

Six men were injured by the explosion of a tank of glycerine at News' tar roof works at New York last Wednesday.

Thirty-Four Passengers Drowned.

The schooner Jane Grey, which sailed from Seattle for Kotzebue sound on the 19th of May with sixty-one people on board, foundered Sunday, May 22, about ninety miles west of Cape Flattery, while lying to in a moderate gale under foresail. Ten minutes after the alarm was given she lay at the bottom of the ocean with thirty-four of her passengers. The remainder succeeded in embarking in a launch and reached Seattle.

TELEGRAMS TERSELY TOLD.

Thomas Reece, the tragedian, died in New York last week.

Four vessels were wrecked in a storm off Salem, Mass., last Saturday.

The war thus far has determined that American guns are the best in the world.

Havana and all other Cuban made cigars are now entirely out of the market.

George W. Vanderbilt was married to Miss Edith Dresser in Paris last Wednesday.

Col. Wm. A. Stone was nominated by the Republicans of Pennsylvania for governor last week.

It is rumored that President Herceaux of Santa Domingo has been assassinated by revolutionists.

Mayor Van Wyck of New York last week received through the mails a dynamite cartridge with fuse attached. Col. Irving Hale of Colorado being the senior officer, is acting commander of the Third brigade at San Francisco in which is the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment.

William Piper, of Guedo Springs, Kan., committed suicide the other day after having failed to kill his wife and child from whom he was separated a few weeks ago.

Warren Beckwith, the base ball player who eloped with the daughter of Robert T. Lincoln, has enlisted with the Iowa National Guard with the purpose of going to the front.

TERRIFIC CANNONADING.

Fourteen United States Vessels Four Shot and Sunk Into the Strongholds at Santiago.

The torpedo boat Porter arrived at Mole St. Nicholas, Wednesday morning with dispatches for Washington. She left immediately. But before going to sea the following story of the bombardment of Santiago de Cuba, the refuge of Cervera and the Spanish fleet, was obtained:

The American squadron, augmented by the torpedo boat Porter, the auxiliary cruiser St. Paul and the protected cruiser New Orleans, approached the entrance to the harbor of Santiago, the Iowa leading.

As the American fleet drew near the New Orleans was detached and steamed forward ahead of the Iowa, Texas and Massachusetts. One of the forts opened fire on her and she replied, the other two ships directing their fire at the batteries on the Punta Gorda, within the harbor and to the westward of the position occupied by the Spanish ship. The latter replied to the fire and immediately became a target for all the American ships engaged in the battle.

She retired behind a protecting head land and was not seen again during the engagement.

The Iowa, directed by Capt. "Lightning Bob" Evans; the Massachusetts, Capt. J. H. Higginson; Texas, Capt. J. W. Phillips; and the New Orleans, Capt. W. M. Folger, kept up their terrific fire against the Morro, Zecapa and Punta Gorda forts for two hours, their projectiles, of enormous size, doing tremendous damage to the defenses of the harbor.

The masonry on Zecapa and Morro was battered almost into dust and the forms of Spanish artillerymen and infantry could be plainly seen flying to safety behind the neighboring hills.

After seeking the protection of a jutting headland the Spanish warships continued to fire projectiles over the hills toward the fleet, but they had no range, not even direction for their shots and the shells fell harmlessly into the sea.

That the number of killed and wounded on the Spanish side is enormous no one doubts, for time and again the American shells hit the batteries squarely, and amid the flying masonry and dismantled guns the forms of men were discerned.

The damage done to the American fleet cannot be learned, but it is not thought any person was killed—if, indeed, any one was wounded.

Concerning the bombardment of Santiago, Manila has received such news as to cause great rejoicing among the populace. When the news was received in the Spanish senate, the members "noted with satisfaction the brilliant victory of the Spanish fleet."

The Spanish feeling at Santiago now is that Admiral Cervera is as in a rat trap.

LAWS OF CONFEDERATE STATES VALID.

So Decides the United States Supreme Court in Bond Investment Case.

An opinion was rendered by the Supreme court at Washington in the case of Marianne J. Baldy vs. John H. Hunter, administrator, affirming the validity of investments in confederate bonds during the civil war. In rendering the opinion of the court Justice Harlan said: "The transactions between persons actually residing within the territory dominated by the government of the confederate states were not invalid, for the reason only that they occurred under the sanction of the laws of that government, and its recognition. The preservation of order, the maintenance of police regulations, the prosecution of crimes, the protection of property, the enforcement of contracts, the celebration of marriages, the settlement of estates, the transfer and descent of property, and similar transactions were during the war, under the control of the local government constituting the so-called confederate states. What occurred or was done in respect of such matters under the authority of the laws of these local de facto governments should be disregarded or held invalid merely because the governments were organized in hostility to the union established by the National Constitution, because the existence of the laws did not relieve those within the insurrectionary lines from the necessity of civil obedience nor destroy the bonds of society."

The case came to this court on a writ of error from the Supreme court of Georgia and the opinion of that court was affirmed.

Four Girls Abducted by Dewey's Blockade.

The Berlin correspondent of the London "Times" says: "Manila advised to German commercial houses that there is no symptoms of insurrection in Manila, which is well supplied with water and provisions. The presence of the American squadron hardly affects the native population. Only foreigners are injured by the blockade, and European residents think their governments ought to interfere to protect them."

Jennie Lind's Inmate Lover Dead.

Tobias Van Steenbaugh, 70 years old, known throughout the United States as the mad lover of Jennie Lind, the famous singer, died on Monday in a wretched little hotel at Glasgow, N. Y. Jennie Lind has been dead many years, but her inmate lover, familiarly known as Bob Van Steenbaugh, has all these years cherished her memory, until his death a faded portrait of the Swedish nightingale hung on the wall in his rude cabin.

American Tugs Bombard a Black House.

The converted tugs Uncas and Leyden bombarded a blockhouse, full of soldiers, on the outskirts of Manzanillo Monday morning. Almost every shot fired by the United States vessels hit the blockhouse, which was completely destroyed. One shot was fired from the shore and then the Spaniards fled. The number of their killed and wounded is not known.

MANILA NEWS.

Sellman Brothers, of London, have been designated as the fiscal agents of the United States government at Manila.

According to a London dispatch Admiral Dewey is losing men from disease almost daily. Small-pox and dysentery are said to be rife in the American squadron.

A large number of dispatches congratulating Admiral Dewey upon his victory were mis-carried and came into the possession of Admiral Montijo, the Spanish commander, whom Dewey defeated. The latter courteously transmitted them to the American admiral.

Admiral Dewey has had to teach the Spanish forces in Manila another sharp lesson. He had promised that if the Spaniards refrained from strengthening their defenses he would not do any bombardment. One week ago the Spaniards were observed violating their pledge and Dewey fired a shot over their heads as a warning. Nobody was hurt and the work on the fortifications was stopped.