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FREELAND, PA., APRIL 14, 1898.

Senator Mason told a good story recently in connection with the immigration bill. The senator took a trip into the northwest not long ago, visiting a section where there are many immigrants from Sweden and Norway. He was in the restaurant at a railway depot and observed the conductor of the train come in and purchase something to eat at the counter. In some manner the conductor dropped his commutation meal ticket upon the floor, and a sturdy Swede who wore hob-nailed boots stepped upon it. "And do you know," concluded the senator, "that when the conductor picked up that ticket he found the Swede had punched \$3.46 out of it!"

There is a more intolerable nuisance in the theater than the big hat. This nuisance, says a Boston exchange, is the late comer. Sometimes he is alone; he has dined heavily; he has been late in deciding where to go; he saunters leisurely down the aisle; his seat is at least six places from the aisle; he apologizes loudly and steps carefully on male and female feet. Or he is one of a theater party. He and his friends come in the full glory of evening dress, but they come late. There are people on the stage, but the theater party does not see them as it enters—nor do those seated near them until the party, with much ceremony, is seated.

There is still one state, Mississippi, that does not observe Christmas as a legal holiday, and there is but one day that is so recognized by all of the states, and that is Sunday. The Fourth of July is ignored as a holiday in the laws of Minnesota, and Arkansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Rhode Island do not recognize January 1 as a legal holiday. Memorial day is observed as such in 34 states.

"Afrail of mice?" said a city woman, in tones of astonishment. "Why, I like them. They are dear little things. In the fall numbers of the field mice make their way into our house. I have had them sit on the rocker of my chair while I was sewing." Where now are the mockers at woman's courage?

Capt. Sigsbee's apothegm, "It is better to know than to think," is likely to become a permanent saying, remarks a facetious exchange. Yet the trouble will remain that there are so many people who think they know but really do not know enough to think.

It is said the Tartars have a quaint custom of taking a guest by the ear when inviting him to eat or drink with them. Such a proceeding is unnecessary in this country. The guest generally does the ear-grabbing over here.

As an inducement to manufacturers to locate there Alabama has exempted cotton mills from taxation for a period of ten years, and as a result many new mills will soon be in operation in that state.

As an example of the sway which the bargain craze has over women, a girl in Detroit is suing for breach of promise, and places her damages at \$299. Her feelings must have been a job lot.

Some funny requests reach congressmen, but Representative Lacey, of Iowa, thinks that a letter which he received from a constituent takes the cake. "Please send me," said the writer, "all the obituaries about congressmen that are published. I do so like to read about dead congressmen."

Bishop Coleman, of Delaware, has publicly condemned the custom of erecting what he calls "heathen monuments" in Christian cemeteries. Among heathen monuments he classes obelisks, wrecked ships, broken shafts and urns.

The recent death of Jock Darling, the famous guide of the Maine woods and the ancestor of two generations of guides, removes a man who for half a century was known to all hunters and sportsmen of New England.

It is said that a Kentucky surgeon replaced with a wooden leg the broken leg of a steer that was caught under a falling tree at Bowling Green.

CASTORIA.
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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CRISIS IS REACHED.

RECOGNITION OF CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DEPRECATED.

Intervention is justified—Spain wants to arbitrate the Maine disaster—Cuba's horrible condition—President McKinley says the State of Affairs on the Island is intolerable.

Washington, April 14.—Following is a summary of President McKinley's message to Congress:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES: Obedient to that precept of the Constitution which commands the President to give from time to time to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, it becomes my duty now to address your body with regard to the grave crisis that has arisen in the relations of the United States and Spain by reason of the warfare that now more than three years has raged in the neighboring island of Cuba.

The present revolution is but successor of other similar insurrections which have occurred in Cuba against the dominion of Spain, extending over a period of nearly half a century, each of which, during its progress, has subjected the United States to great effort and expense in enforcing its neutrality laws, caused enormous losses to American trade and commerce, caused irritation, annoyance and disturbance among our citizens, and by the exercise of cruel, barbarous and uncivilized practices of warfare shocked the sensibilities and offended the humane sympathies of our people.

Since the present revolution began in February, 1895, this country has seen the fertile domain at our threshold ravaged by fire and sword in the course of a struggle unequalled in the history of the island, and rarely paralleled as to the number of combatants and the bitterness of the contest by revolution of modern times where a free, honest people, striving to be free, have been opposed by the power of the sovereign State. Our people have beheld a once prosperous community reduced to comparative want, its lucrative commerce virtually paralyzed, its exceptional productivity diminished, its fields laid waste, its mills in ruins, and its people perishing by tens of thousands from hunger and destitution.

As I said in my message of last December, it was not civilized warfare, it was extermination. The only peace it could beget was that of the wilderness and the grave. Meanwhile, the military situation in the island had undergone a noticeable change. The extraordinary activity that characterized the second year of war, when the insurgents invaded even the hitherto unharmed fields of Pinar del Rio, and carried havoc and destruction up to the walls of the city of Havana itself, had relapsed into a dogged struggle in the central and eastern provinces. The Spanish arms regained a measure of control in Pinar del Rio and parts of Havana, but under the existing condition of the rural country, without immediate improvement of their productive situation. Even thus partially restricted, and their convalescing, and submission put forward by Spain as the essential and sole basis of peace seemed as far distant as at the outset. The prospect of such a protraction and conclusion of the present strife is a contingency hardly to be contemplated with equanimity by the civilized world, and least of all by the United States, affected and concerned as we are, deeply and intimately, by its very existence.

Realizing this it appeared to be my duty in a spirit of true friendliness, no less to Spain than to the Cubans, who have so much to lose by the prolongation of the struggle to seek to bring about an immediate termination of the war. As a result of much representation and correspondence to this end I submitted on the 27th ultimo, through the United States Minister at Madrid, propositions to the Spanish government looking to an armistice until Oct. 1, for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the President. In addition I asked the immediate revocation of the order of reconcentration so as to permit the people to return to their farms and the needy to be relieved with provisions and supplies, the United States, co-operating with the Spanish authorities so as to afford full relief. The reply of the Spanish Cabinet was received on the night of the 31st ultimo. It offers, as the means to bring about peace in Cuba, to confide the preparation thereof to the insular parliament, inasmuch as the concurrence of that body would be necessary to reach a final result, it being, however, understood that the powers reserved by the Constitution to the central government are not lessened or diminished.

These elements of danger and disorder already pointed out have been strikingly

illustrated by a tragic event which has deeply and justly moved the American people. I have already transmitted to Congress the report of the Naval Board of Inquiry on the destruction of the battleship Maine in the harbor of Havana during the night of the 15th of February. The destruction of that noble vessel has filled the national heart with inexpressible horror. Two hundred and fifty-eight brave sailors and marines and two officers of our navy, reposing in the fancied security of a friendly harbor, have been hurled to death, grief and want brought to their homes and sorrow to the nation.

The Naval Court of Inquiry, which, it is needless to say, commands the unqualified confidence of the Government, was unanimous in its conclusion that the destruction of the Maine was caused by an exterior explosion, that of a submarine mine. It did not assume to place the responsibility. That remains to be fixed.

In any event, the destruction of the Maine, by whatever exterior cause, is a patent and impressive proof of a state of things in Cuba that is intolerable. That condition is thus shown to be such that the Spanish Government cannot assure safety and security to a vessel of the American Navy in the harbor of Havana on a mission of peace and rightfully there.

Further referring in this connection to recent diplomatic correspondence, a dispatch from our Minister to Spain, of the 29th ult., contained the statement that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs assured him positively that Spain will do all that the highest honor and justice required in the matter of the Maine. The reply of the 31st ult., also contained an expression of the readiness of Spain to submit to an arbitration all the differences which can arise in this matter, which is subsequently explained by the note of the Spanish Minister at Washington of the 10th inst., as follows: "As to the question of fact which springs from the diversity of views between the report of the American and Spanish boards, Spain proposes that the fact be ascertained by an impartial investigation by experts, whose decision Spain accepts in advance." To this I have made no reply.

The only hope of relief and repose from a condition which can no longer be endured is the enforced pacification of Cuba. In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop. In view of these facts and these considerations I ask the Congress to authorize and empower the President to take measures to secure a full and final termination of the hostilities between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations, ensuring peace and tranquillity and the security of its citizens as well as our own, and to use the military and naval forces of the United States as may be necessary for these purposes. And in preserving the lives of the starving people of the island, I recommend that the distribution of food and supplies be continued, and that an appropriation out of the public treasury to supplement the charity of our citizens. The issue is now with Congress. It is a solemn responsibility. I have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition of affairs which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the Constitution and the law, I await your action.

Yesterday and since the preparation of the foregoing message official information was received by me that the latest decree of the Queen Regent of Spain directs Gen. Blanco, in order to prepare and facilitate peace, to proclaim a suspension of hostilities the duration and details of which have not yet been communicated to me.

LEE WASHINGTON'S HERO.

An Enthusiastic Reception Given to the Consul-General.

Washington, D. C.—Consul-General Fitzhugh Lee has arrived here from Havana. A large crowd of enthusiastic admirers gathered at the Pennsylvania station, and when the General stepped from the train he was greeted with a tremendous outburst of applause. Women waved their handkerchiefs and men their hats, and altogether the demonstration was a notable one. Washington crowds, as a rule, are not demonstrative, but this occasion was a conspicuous exception.

SPAIN'S LATEST SCHEME.

TRYING TO GAIN TIME.

GENERAL BLANCO ORDERED TO SUSPEND HOSTILITIES.

The Captain-General is to prepare a way for peace—The European Powers Advise This Action—Of course, Spain May Defend Herself if the Patriots Fight On and She Continues Preparations.

Madrid, April 14.—The Cabinet has issued an official note which says that the Ministers have authorized Captain-General Blanco to suspend hostilities in Cuba for such time as he thinks convenient in order to prepare the way for peace.

Gen. Correa, Minister of War, has made the following statement, which may be taken as summing up the reasons why the war party within the Government adopted the concession made by their colleagues:—"It is a mistake to say that the Government has granted an armistice to the rebels. I would rather have left the Cabinet, for such action would be tantamount to recognizing the rebels as belligerents. What the Government agreed to in response to the invitation of the powers is this: "Not to prosecute hostilities for such time as Gen. Blanco may deem expedient as preparatory to peace. I acceded to this cessation of hostilities because to reject the suggestion of the powers would have been to divorce Spain from the world. If I left the Cabinet I should be bequeathing an evil heritage to my successor."

"I believe that Gen. Blanco will proclaim the concession of a truce, and also the willingness of the Government to offer indulgent terms to the rebels. If during the truce there are important submissions, if the United States withdraws its men-of-war from the neighborhood of Cuba and the Philippine Islands, all will be well, and a way to peace will be speedily arranged; but if not, then the war will be continued in Cuba, and the powers will be obliged to ask of the United States absolute neutrality and the dissolution of the filibustering committee in New York."

RESOLUTIONS DECLARE WAR.

Mandatory Measures by the Foreign Committees Will be for Intervention.

Washington, D. C.—Mandatory resolutions directing the President to intervene in Cuba, and couched in such terms as to amount practically to a declaration of war, will be reported to both houses of Congress at once. The preamble of the resolutions says, in effect:

"That the horrible condition of affairs existing for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near to our borders, is shocking and a disgrace to Christian civilization; that it has culminated in the destruction of a United States battleship and 266 of her officers and crew while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and that such things as this cannot longer be tolerated, and that therefore, carrying out the suggestion in the President's message that Congress should act, be it resolved—

"First—That the people of the island of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent.

"Second—That the war Spain is waging against Cuba is so destructive of the commercial and property interests of the United States, and so cruel, barbarous and inhuman in its character as to make it the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States hereby does demand, that she at once withdraw her land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"Third—That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, empowered and directed to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

"Fourth—That the President is authorized to call out the militia of the different States to such an extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect."

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

Horatio S. Rubens, counsel for the Cuban Junta, declared the Cubans could not accept any interference by the United States which did not include absolute independence for Cuba, and if American troops were landed in Cuba on other terms would as a last resort resist them by force of arms. The Junta promptly repudiated the last part of the statement.

Special reports show that nearly every State in the Union is preparing for war. Militia is being recruited to full strength, equipments are being overhauled and supplies got ready. Preparations for quick mobilization are being made. Many companies of volunteers are being organized. Several States have provided war funds for emergency.

The man who made for Spain the mine which he is convinced blew up the Maine, J. P. Gibbons, of London, called a signed statement. He says it was a ground mine containing 500 pounds of gun cotton, and could not possibly have been exploded except by an officer of the Spanish Government.

Representative Lorrimer, of Illinois, says General Lee told Captain Sigsbee that when the Maine was blown up the electric lights in Havana were extinguished, showing electrical connection with the destruction of the battleship. General Lee will tell what he knows to Congress.

A detachment of the New York Naval Reserve—the first of our citizen soldiery to be called into active service—reported for duty on the United States monitor Nahant at Philadelphia. It is expected that the monitor will be stationed at New York.

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