

## AWAITING THE WORD

OUR FLEET AT KEY WEST READY TO FIGHT IN TEN MINUTES.

Fifteen warships practically cleared for action without loss of time—all the crews in splendid shape. The ships are all coalled and provisioned.

Key West, Fla., April 6.—Two battleships, an armored cruiser, a monitor, three protected cruisers, two gunboats and six torpedo boats comprise the naval force assembled at this point.

This fleet is practically cleared for action and is ready for service at a moment's notice. Should a declaration of war come to-morrow the fleet would be under way and heading for Cuba within ten minutes of the reception of the notice.

Nothing remains to be done in the way of preparing for battle. The ships are all coalled and provisioned. Their magazines are full of ammunition, and the vessels



CAPTAIN W. T. SAMPSON.

themselves have been stripped of all woodwork, even to their boats. These, with the exception of the lifeboats, have been towed to the basin at the government station, where they have been moored in flotillas.

In addition to all else, the crews of these ships of war have been "keyed to concert pitch," to use the phrase of an officer from the flagship, who described the high state of discipline which prevails in the fleet.

Yes, everything is ready with the navy—at least with that part of it that is assembled here—but these men in blue are believers in the maxim, "Never suppose your enemy," and they are not so certain of the outcome of this impending struggle as appears to be that belligerent Congress which is now demanding more.

### Forty Mines in Havana Harbor.

Havana.—Forty floating submarine mines have been secretly planted in Havana harbor by the Spanish Government. The mines were laid in the narrowest part of channel between Morro and Punta, in two lines of twenty mines each. They are spherical and float about twenty-four feet under the surface. Each is attached by an anchor chain to a heavy cable anchored on the bottom. There is sufficient force there to paralyze the biggest ships afloat.

Havana is in a state of tremendous but suppressed excitement. War with the United States is regarded as certain. It has been expected at the palace for a week, and English, French and German houses have called their representatives to prepare for war.

### Flying Squadron May Meet Spain's Fleet.

Washington, D. C.—In direct contradiction of her promise to peacefully settle the questions existing between herself and the United States, Spain took action having as its object the reinforcement of her fleet in Cuban waters and the protection of her torpedo boat flotilla. As an offset to the Spanish move, the strategic authorities of the Navy Department are seriously contemplating the issuance of orders to Commodore W. S. Schley, commanding the flying squadron, directing him to move with his command down the coast to Havana, or some other point, which will place him several hundred miles nearer to Porto Rico.

### Army Ready for Moving.

Washington, D. C.—On the instant that the Government shall decide that war is inevitable the whole standing army of the United States will be ordered to move toward the Atlantic seaboard. The infantry and cavalry troops at all military posts west of Denver for two weeks have been ordered to move eastward at short notice, and the orders for the movement for a number of days have been ready to receive the signature of the commanding General of the army.

### Vizcaya and Quenda Leave Havana.

Havana.—The Spanish warships Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo have left Havana. Immense crowds gathered on the wharves and cheered the ironclads as they steamed away. The Almirante Oquendo still remains here. Her crew mounted into the rigging and cheered the Vizcaya and the Almirante Oquendo as they steamed out of the harbor. Their destination is supposed to be Porto Rico.

### Cuba's Junta Looks to Congress.

Washington, D. C.—It is reported that President McKinley has officially recognized General T. Estrada Palma, President of the Cuban Junta in the United States, and has conferred with him regarding the acknowledgment of Cuban independence by the United States, and that the President has given assurance that such acknowledgment might be expected shortly.

### The Queen Regent's Efforts.

London.—The Vienna correspondent of the Standard says: "The Queen Regent of Spain wrote personally last week to Emperor Francis Joseph and other sovereigns, including Emperor Nicholas, requesting, not precisely intervention, but the exercise of such influence at Washington as might conduce to a peaceable settlement without injury to Spain's dignity and vital interests."

### The Columbia Joins the Flying Squadron.

Newport News, Va.—The cruiser Columbia has joined the flying squadron, arriving from League Island, and Commodore Schley now has three ships in his command ready to put to sea. They are the first-class battleship Massachusetts and the cruisers Brooklyn and Columbia.

## GEN. LEE ASKS FOR SHIPS.

The Bache and Blake Are Sent to Havana at His Request.

Havana.—Consul-General Lee sent a request to Washington for ships to take the American citizens in Havana home. The situation is extremely critical, and the Americans here are panic-stricken.

In answer to General Lee's request, the Bache and the Blake will arrive to carry American citizens to Key West. But these steamers are not enough, and General Lee has been authorized by his Government to charter any American steamers now in port for that purpose.

General Lee has not been able to find any steamer in Havana that could serve his purpose. He has requested that the Mascote, of the Plant line, which is now at Key West or Tampa, and the Florida, which belongs to another line, be placed at his disposal.

All the American Consuls and Consular Agents in the island are also demanding ships in which Americans may return to the United States.

### Americans Fear Violence in Havana.

Havana.—The crowds in the streets of the city are unusually large and everybody is talking war. Excitement has been rising steadily for hours. Americans attract increased attention wherever they are seen, yet there has been no act of violence, nor has any one been insulted in the streets, but groups before the churches and the cafes alike turn to look after one as he passes with unusual interest.

Americans in Havana expect trouble. So do all other residents. The best class of Spaniards deplore the outlook and have warned their foreign friends to depart as soon as possible, or avoid being seen in the streets if forced to remain. Consul-General Lee and the British Consul, Goldin, are prepared to act together in protecting the English and Americans here.

### The Government Buys Ten Steamships.

New York, N. Y.—In accordance with a telegram received from Washington, the Auxiliary Cruiser Board inspected and selected for purchase ten steamships ranging from two to three thousand registered tonnage. The steamships selected are the Princess Anna, the Yorktown and the Jamestown, of the Old Dominion line; El Sol, El Rio, El Norte and El Sud, of the Morgan line; the Caracas and the Venezuela, of the Red D Line, and the Kansas City, of the Ocean Steamship Company.

These vessels are iron and steel coastwise steamships, heretofore engaged in passenger and freight service between New York and Southern ports. All are comparatively new.

### Pope Would Be Mediator.

Madrid.—The best informed people here believe an armistice between the Spaniards and Cubans will be proclaimed within two days. The Pope, it now appears, sent an eloquent telegram to the Queen Regent, urging Spain to grant an armistice in Cuba, with the view of allowing negotiations to be carried on between the insurgents and the Cuban authorities for the early conclusion of a permanent peace. The Pope dwelt on the suffering in Cuba, and urged that Her Majesty take action on humanitarian and not on political grounds.

### For Spain to Decide.

Washington, D. C.—The vital point of the Cuban situation has shifted itself from Washington to Madrid, where the Spanish Government is now giving grave and earnest consideration to propositions presented by the Government of the United States. On the answer to these propositions probably depends the future course of the relations between the two countries. It is believed that it is now only a question of an exceedingly short time before the inevitable crisis must come.

### Flag Hauled Down from Maine Wreck.

Havana.—The tattered United States flag has been taken from the gall of the Maine wreck, where it has floated since Feb. 17, two days after the explosion. It was taken down by an officer and a boat's crew from the Fern, to which vessel it belongs. All the colors the Maine had left was the Captain's pennant, and this was torn in two. The wrecking tugs Underwriter and Merritt and the barges Chief and Sharp have sailed for American waters.

### England Sees Sign of Spain's Weakness.

London.—The alleged acceptance of the Pope's mediation has amazed English statesmen. In fact, although this report is published on official authority from Madrid, it was received with general incredulity. The avowed policy of Spain grasped at the Pope's proposal is regarded here as the first positive sign of weakness that she has shown. Heretofore, though in a notoriously desperate situation, Spain has maintained all the outward appearance of a genuine confidence in its strength.

### Yankee's Fleet Has Only Seven Vessels.

St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands.—The Spanish torpedo flotilla, under command of Comodoro Villamil, is still here. There are seven vessels in all—three torpedo boats, three torpedo destroyers and a merchant ship converted into an auxiliary cruiser, the Ciudad de Cadix. Comodoro Villamil reported to Madrid, on being driven back to Cape Verde Islands by a gale, that some of his boats had suffered, but that they could be repaired at St. Vincent.

### Spaniards Fire on a British Vessel.

St. John's, N. F.—The British brigantine Belia Rosa, Captain Callahan, from Cadiz March 4, via Oporto, for St. John's, has arrived, and reports having been chased and fired upon by a Spanish vessel shortly after leaving the harbor of Oporto.

### The Katahdin Ordered to Sea.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The ram Katahdin, of League Island, has received instructions to put to sea with all possible despatch. The ship's destination will not be known until she is out of sight of land, when her sailing orders will be opened.

## SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

Channey M. Depew will cease to be President of the New York Central Railroad on April 30 next. On the same day he will be elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the four great railroads of the Vanderbilt system. S. R. Callaway, now President of the Lake Shore Railroad, will succeed Mr. Depew as President of the Central.

The Massachusetts Naval Brigade has received an invitation from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt to volunteer to go to Philadelphia and bring the two monitors, the Catskill and the Lehigh, to Boston for the protection of that harbor.

The ninety-ninth annual New York Conference of the Methodist Church sent President McKinley a message of approval, but many members asserted that the atrocities in Cuba must cease, even if force has to be employed.

The Cuban situation again overshadows the Chinese crisis in the London newspapers. Sympathy with President McKinley is very strong, and the papers generally favor independence for Cuba.

President McKinley expects to conclude his negotiations with Spain within a few days, and if Congress takes the matter out of his hands he believes it will have to accept responsibility for the outcome.

General Woodford, the United States Minister at Madrid, held a conference with Premier Sagasta and several of his Cabinet Ministers. Great importance is attached to the result of this conference.

The 71st Regiment, New York N. G., was reviewed by Major-General Rice and staff, and during the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" the spectators rose and stood until it was finished.

The Naval appropriation bill has passed Congress, with the number of torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers increased to twelve each and the provision for three battleships retained.

Governor Black may save the entire million dollar appropriation for war defense, as it is likely the State troops will be transported without cost by railroad and steamship companies.

The merchants of Barcelona, according to a dispatch just received from Madrid, have offered the Spanish Government \$40,000,000, to be used in case of a war with the United States.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee favorably reported Mr. Lodge's bill for the purchase of the Danish West Indies, which are offered to the Government for \$5,000,000.

Four Cuban resolutions were introduced in the Senate, one being a direct declaration of war against Spain and the others favoring independence and forcible intervention.

General Blanco issued a decree abrogating the reconcentration edict of General Weyler in the Cuban provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara.

Mrs. Della T. S. Parnell was buried beside her famous son Charles in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin. A wreath from United States Ambassador Hay was laid on her grave.

Lieutenant-General John M. Schofield took formal charge of the National Volunteer Reserve, and Congress will be asked to give the movement official standing.

A relief train carrying supplies to towns in Havana Province was wrecked outside of Havana, between Cienega and Bejucal. No one was hurt or even bruised.

The Navy Department urged the Governors of Atlantic coast States to do all they could to have the Naval Reserve ready for effective service.

One hundred available vessels, fifty of which have been tentatively accepted, have been found for government service by the Auxiliary Cruiser Board.

At the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church patriotic hymns were sung with wild enthusiasm and talk of war was cheered.

William K. Vanderbilt is reported as having decided, in case of war with Spain, to present the Government with a war ship to cost \$5,000,000.

Major General Miles paid a flying visit to New York to examine into plans for further strengthening the defenses in that neighborhood.

President McKinley received an appeal from the Autonomist Government of Cuba not to intervene for the independence of the island.

Great damage was done by an earthquake in California. Property valued at \$500,000 was destroyed at Mare Island Navy Yard.

The captain of the Austrian cruiser Donau, which has arrived at New York, denies toasting Spain at a recent banquet in Havana.

General Woodford, the United States Minister, is making preparations to leave Madrid in the event of a diplomatic rupture. The act for the relief of the sufferers by the Maine disaster has been approved by the President.

### FROM ACROSS THE SEA.

Rome.—Commander Willard H. Brownson, U. S. N., has conferred with the Minister of Marine relative to the purchase of ships building in Italy. The commander has been authorized to visit the private yards and see what vessels are available.

Belin.—Lieutenant John J. Knapp, U. S. N., detached from the United States cruiser San Francisco, visited the Stars and Stripes over the torpedo boat purchased by the United States at the Schichau yards. She was rechristened the Somers.

Lughorn, Italy.—Commander W. B. Brownson, U. S. N., has inspected the ships that are in process of construction at the Lughorn yard, and is said to have decided to buy the Basoir, which is being built for Morocco.

London.—Arthur Orton, the Tichborne claimant, has died of syncope. He first appeared in England as claimant for recognition as the heir of the aristocratic old Tichborne family and its estates at the end of 1868.

London.—It is reported here that the United States Government is again negotiating at Athens for the purchase of three Greek warships.

## A LEVEE GIVES WAY.

SHAWNEETOWN, ILL., UNDER TWENTY FEET OF WATER.

Houses swept away by the Ohio River and the Death List will be very large. The water struck the town like a giant wave.

Carmi, Ill.—The levee at Shawneetown, on the Ohio River, broke, and a large portion of the town away, and drowned, it is said, 250 persons. The rushing waters extended four miles into the interior and created great havoc. The people made a rush to the roofs of houses and the tops of trees for safety, but it is believed that many of them will perish before aid can reach them.

It had been feared for some time that the levee would break. The pressure of the waters of the Ohio and the Wabash, which flow into the Ohio just above Shawneetown, have been exceedingly great, owing to the heavy rains which swelled all the streams far beyond their normal size.

The town is very much in the position of a fortified city, and when the levee gave way a mile above town under the pressure of the very high river, the water shot through a twenty-foot opening and struck the town like a giant wave, sweeping everything before it.

Shawneetown is one of the oldest towns in Illinois, and in former days was quite a lively point. With the advent of the railroads and the decadence of the river traffic, however, its importance dwindled. It contains about 2,500 inhabitants and is the county seat of Gallatin county.

### Will Abandon Wrecked Ship.

Key West.—All the divers of the United States Navy who were at work on the wreck of the battleship Maine returned from Havana on board the survey steamer Baché. Captain Chabrick, who went to Havana to investigate the feasibility of further wrecking work on the Maine, was also a passenger on the Baché. It is believed Captain Chabrick finds further wrecking work to be impracticable. The officers of the Baché say everything is outwardly calm at Havana, but they add that the talk of an anti-American demonstration and riot continues.

### Decks Cleared for Action.

Key West.—Every preparation for action has been taken by the warships. All woodwork was stripped off exposed spots and sent ashore. The wood pilot houses on the cruisers were taken down. To a certain extent interior woodwork was also removed and sent ashore. Even the sailors' wooden boxes were removed from some of the ships. These precautions have been adopted to prevent, so far as possible, the danger of flying splinters in case of action. All the officers of the fleet sent their personal valuables and belongings to be stored on shore.

### The Revolt Takes Form.

Washington, D. C.—The revolt in the House against further delay on the Cuban question culminated in a conference of Republican members who favor early and radical action. It was the first definite step following discussion in the cloak-rooms and lobbies since the President's message was submitted by many members, who favor immediate and aggressive action. The sentiment was a unanimous one, but strong feeling against voting money for Cuban relief unless accompanied by action to stop the war.

### Lee Denies He Has Resigned.

Havana.—General Lee, when told there was a rumor in the United States that he had resigned, said: "I have not resigned. I shall not resign while affairs are in an unsettled state. I am here to represent the American people, and, like a sentinel on duty, will remain at my post."

### Fifty Americans Leave Havana.

Key West, Fla.—There were ninety-four passengers from Havana by the Mascote. Among them were about fifty Americans, who say that Americans are not safe in Havana now.

### THE MARKETS.

#### Produce.

Quotations in the grain market show a considerable drop in prices of wheat and oats. Corn has changed but little since our last report.

Wheat, 98¢ @ 98¢ Corn, 88¢ @ 88¢ Oats, 28¢ @ 28¢.

#### CREAM AND MILK.

The average daily receipts of milk and cream at the different railroad distributing points in and near New York for the week have been as follows: Fluid milk, 23,400 cans; condensed milk, 141 cans; cream, 307 cans.

The Exchange prior to 9:30 cents a quart net to the shipper.

#### BUTTER.

Creamery—West, extra @ 18¢ First @ 17¢ Third to second @ 16¢ State—Second to first @ 15¢ State Dairy type, extra @ 14¢ Factory, fresh, first @ 14¢.

#### CHEESE.

State—Full cream, new, large @ 14¢ Small @ 13¢ Part skims, good to prime @ 12¢ Full skims @ 11¢.

#### EGGS.

State and Penn.—Fresh # doz. @ 10¢ Jersey—Fancy @ 11¢ Western—Choice @ 10¢.

#### VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, # bbl. @ 2.00 @ 2.50 Onions, white, # bbl. @ 1.00 @ 1.50 Red, # bbl. @ 1.00 @ 1.50 Turnips, Russia, # bbl. @ 1.00 @ 1.50.

#### LIVE POULTRY.

Fowls, # lb. @ 11¢ Chickens, # lb. @ 12¢ Turkeys, # lb. @ 10¢ Ducks, # pair @ 10¢ Geese, # pair @ 10¢ Pigeons, # pair @ 10¢.

#### DRESSED POULTRY.

Turkeys, # lb. @ 12¢ Broilers, # lb. @ 10¢ Western, dry picked @ 9¢ Fowls, State & Penn. # lb. @ 11¢ Geese, Eastern, # lb. @ 11¢ Squabs, # doz. @ 1.00 @ 1.50.

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