

The Lancaster Ledger.

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EDITOR AND MANAGER.

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MAY GET HAVANA WITHOUT ATTACK

McKINLEY'S POLICY OF "STRIPPING" SPAIN

TO MINIMIZE OUR LOSSES

By attacking Santiago and Porto Rico, Occupying the Philippines, Hemming Blanco in and leaving Spain Dispossessed of all Save Havana—It is Expected She Will Relinquish This, and a Bloody Struggle Be Avoided.

Washington, June 3.—News today is that the destination of a number of regiments has been changed to carry them near the scene of active operations. The regiments of several states in the South which had received orders to report to Chickamauga have been changed and the troops will be sent to Florida, a good portion of them to Gen Lee at Jacksonville. It is understood that the orders recently issued will carry a large force to Gen Lee. The popular idea is that Jacksonville will be a splendid place at which to embark troops for Porto Rico and that General Lee will lead this expedition. He will have many Southern volunteers under him.

These orders, it is said, clearly show an intention to lose no time. While they do not demonstrate the president's plans, it is said that he has a program which, he believes, will result in the surrender of Havana without the loss of a drop of blood around that city. The president, it is stated after going fully over the field, concluded that Porto Rico and Santiago could be taken with much less bloodshed and with fewer troops than Havana. That is why the campaign against the Cuban capital has been for a time postponed.

The president calculates that both Porto Rico and Santiago can be captured quickly and without American soldiers being subjected to so much disease. The capture of Santiago, of course, means either the capture or extermination of Cervera, an important part of the campaign. The loss of Santiago itself would not be greatly felt by the Spaniards, as that place is useless as a base of operations against Havana and the main Spanish army. The fleet therefore, is the principal object of the program. Porto Rico is the next important factor in the calculation.

BLANCO TO BE ISOLATED.

With Porto Rico in American hands, with Cervera exterminated and Santiago held by our army, Blanco would be isolated. He would be unable to communicate with Spain, unable to fight, and in a position where he would have to surrender if Spain did not ask for peace before he knew the time had arrived to surrender.

Spain is each day said to be more desirous of peace. Europe each day forces her to her knees and the blows now planned would, it is said, be a clean knockout. The president hopes that peace will follow the stirring events referred to, and that explains his desire to push forward the campaign.

It has long been known that the

president is anxious to avoid putting American troops in the Cuban pest hole if it can be done. He is willing that they shall fight, but he shuns the horrors of an army being slaughtered by disease. The program outlined ought, he thinks, prevent the probabilities foreshadowed by securing a bloodless victory over the martial Blanco.

The loss in battle by the campaigns against Porto Rico and Santiago will be minimized because of the small number of Spanish troops to operate against as compared with the number in and around Havana.

By the time these things are carried out the Philippines will belong to the United States and the stripping of Spain will also be complete, it is argued, and she will relinquish Cuba and Havana without a fight on the western end of the island.

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SINKING OF THE MERRIMAC

She Made a Dash to Force the Entrance and Was Torpedoed Five Hundred Feet Up the Channel—Everybody Astonished at Her Audacity.

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Port au Prince, Hayti, June 3, 9:45 p. m.—This morning at 8 o'clock the American squadron again began a bombardment of the fortifications of Santiago de Cuba, and a lively cannonade ensued for two hours which silenced the Spanish batteries. An American vessel, the Merrimac, described in the advices from Santiago de Cuba as an auxiliary cruiser, making a dash to force the entrance, succeeded in passing the first line of defences, but was torpedoed about 500 feet up the channel.

She went down "perpendicularly." An officer, an engineer and six seamen were taken prisoners. The number of victims is unknown. Only the funnel and mastheads of the sunken vessel can be seen. There is great excitement in the city. A part of the population assisted in the fighting on the heights. Everybody is astounded at the audacity of the American vessel. The American squadron was cruising all the while in the offing.

The Lost Ship.

Baltimore, June 3.—The Merrimac was purchased by the government from the Lone Star Steamship Company. The transfer was made in this city early in April. She was formerly the Norwegian steamer Solveig, and was nearly destroyed by fire at Newport News, in 1896. She was built at Newcastle, England, in 1896, and was 330 feet long, 44 feet beam and had a net register of 2,193 tons. The Merrimac left Norfolk where she was fitted for government purposes, about a month ago.

CASTORIA

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The Kind You Have Always Bought

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MERRIMAC AFFAIR.

BRILLIANT AND DARING DEED.

RUN OF THE SHIP INTO THE HARBOR.

The Spaniards Poured a Terrific Fire Upon Her, But Lieut. Hobson Gained the Spot He Desired and Then Blew up the Vessel—The Men Floated Away on a Catamaran and Became Prisoners of War.

On board the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, off Santiago de Cuba, June 4, via Kingston, Jamaica, June 4.—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. Lieut. Hobson and six men were chosen, and at 3 a m Friday morning 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. Lieut. Hobson then set off an internal torpedo with an electric attachment, there was an explosion, the Merrimac sank, the channel closed, and, apparently, Admiral Cervera will be unable to escape.

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Kingston, Jamaica, June 4.—Lieut. Hobson appears to have carried out his plan to the smallest details, except as regards the methods of escape. The row boat in which the crew were to attempt to escape was either blown up or shot to pieces, for Lieut. Hobson and his men drifted ashore on an old catamaran which was slung over the ship's side at the last moment as an extra precaution. Upon reaching the shore the men were taken prisoners and sent to Santiago city under guard. Later they were taken to Morro Castle, where they now are. Captain Oviedo, Admirals Cervera's chief of staff, who boarded the New York, did not give further details of the capture. The bravery of the Americans evidently excited as much admiration among the Spaniards as it did among the men of the American fleet. The prisoners will be perfectly safe and will probably be well treated while they remain in Morro Castle.

The fleet was wild with delight to-night over the termination of the most daring expedition since the destruction of the Confederate iron-clad Albemarle, by Lieut. Cushing in 1864. The admiral is just as glad as the youngest jackie. Captain Chadwick, of the flag ship New York, who is usually most conservative, in speaking of the incident said: "Splendid! Splendid! Too much cannot be said about it."

The general opinion is that no manoeuvre deserved recognition by Congress for personal bravery more than that of Lieut. Hobson. His work was well done and his men are safe. When he started on the expedition few

thought he could accomplish his object.

Officers of the fleet, when questioned as to whether Captain Oviedo could have had any ulterior design in visiting the New York under a flag of truce, scouted the suggestion, saying that the visit was prompted by pure chivalry on the part of the Spaniards, and was noble of them.

Clausen, the New York's coxswain, went on the Merrimac against orders. Nothing could have kept him from that trip into the jaws of death. It is probable that the Spaniards will try to blow up the Merrimac, but improbable that they will succeed. Speculation is rife as to the exact details of how Lieut. Hobson managed to blow himself and ship up and live to tell the tale. His heroism has cleared up the situation. The Spaniards are now doubly hemmed in.

At quarters on the New York last evening. Chaplain Royce, praying before the bare-headed crew on deck, thanked God for having preserved Lieut. Hobson and the men under him. Last night the chaplain invoked this protection, but few believed it possible that his prayer could be granted.

Cadet Powell, who was the last man to see Lieut. Hobson before his start, and who had charge of the launch during its perilous trip, after much needed sleep told the story of his experience. He said: "Lieut. Hobson took a short sleep for a few hours which was often interrupted. At 1:45 o'clock he came on deck and made final inspection, giving his last instructions. Then we had a little lunch. Hobson was as cool as a cucumber. About 2:30 o'clock I took the men who were not going on the trip into the launch and started for the Texas, the nearest ship, but had to go back for one of the assistant engineers, whom Hobson finally compelled to leave. I shook hands with Hobson the last of all. He said: 'Powell, watch the boat's crew when we pull out of the harbor. We will be cracked, rowing thirty strokes to the minute.'

"After leaving the Texas, I saw the Merrimac steaming slowly. It was fairly dark then and the shore was visible. We followed about three-quarters of a mile to the westward of the harbor and seemed a bit mixed, turning completely around. Finally heading to the east, she ran down and then turned in. We were then chasing him because I thought Hobson had lost his bearings. When Hobson was about 200 yards from the harbor the first gun was fired from half a mile off shore, close under the batteries. The firing increased rapidly. We steamed in slowly and lost sight of the Merrimac in the smoke which the wind carried off shore. It hung heavily. Before Hobson could have blown up the Merrimac the western battery picked us up and commenced firing. They shot wild and we only heard the shots. We ran in still closer to the shore and the gunners lost sight of us. Then we heard the explosion of the torpedoes on the Merrimac.

"Until daylight we waited just outside the breakers, half a mile to the westward of Morro, keeping a sharp lookout for the boat or for swimmers, but saw nothing. Hobson had arranged to meet us

at that point, but thinking that some one might have drifted out, we crossed in front of Morro and the mouth of the harbor to the eastward. About 5 o'clock we crossed the harbor again within a quarter of a mile and stood to the westward. In passing we saw one spar of the Merrimac sticking out of the water. We hugged the shore just outside of the breakers for a mile and turned toward the Texas, when the batteries saw us and opened fire. It was then broad daylight. The first shot dropped 30 yards eastern, but the others went wild. I drove the launch for all she was worth, finally making the New York. The men behaved splendidly." The news of Lieut. Hobson's safety lifted a great load from Cadet Powell's mind.

Probably no other details of this marvelous trip will be known until Lieut. Hobson gets back. Some heavy firing was done shortly before midnight by the New York and New Orleans, aimed at what was thought to be a small gun-boat, which disappeared. Whether she was sunk or not is not known. The firing took place to the eastward of Morro.

The stroke, which leaves the government at Washington free to act without further fear of the Spaniard's fleet, was planned by Lieut. Richmond P. Hobson, who commanded the expedition. With him went Daniel Montague, George Charette, J. E. Murphy, Oscar Deignan, John P. Phillips and John Kelly, all non-commissioned officers, or enlisted men.

A CLEVER TRICK.

It certainly looks like it, but there is really no trick about it. Anybody can try it who has Lame Back and Weak Kidneys, Malaria or nervous troubles. We mean he can cure himself right away by taking Electric Bitters. This medicine tones up the whole system, acts as a stimulant to Liver and Kidneys, is a blood purifier and nerve tonic. It cures Constipation, Headache, Faintings, Sleeplessness and Melancholy. It is purely vegetable, a mild laxative, and restores the system to its natural vigor. Try Electric Bitters and be convinced that they are a miracle worker. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50c a bottle at Crawford Bros' Drug Store.

SCHLEY'S REPORT.

Wanted to Find Out Some Things and Learned That the Spaniards Have Some Big Guns.

Washington, June 3.—The Navy Department has bulletined the following report from Commodore Schley:

"Made reconnaissance this afternoon, May 31, with the Massachusetts, Iowa and New Orleans, to develop fortifications with their character. The fire was returned without delay by the heavy batteries to the east; large calibre, long range. The range was 7,000 yards. Reconnaissance developed satisfactorily the presence of the Spanish squadron lying behind the island near the upper fort, as they fired over the hill at random. Quite satisfied the Spanish fleet is here.

(Signed) "SCHLEY."

Watch on human, mange on horses legs and all stock, cured in 30 minutes by Woolford's Saffary Lotion. This never fails. Sold by J. F. Mack, Druggist, Lancaster, S. C.

Imitation War Ships.

London, June 5.—The Spaniards say the vessels penned up in Santiago harbor are auxiliary cruisers painted and rigged in imitation of the battleships of Cervera's fleet and that the real battleships have arrived a Madagascan on their way to the Philippines.

Torpedo Boat Sunk.

Kingston, June 6.—The Oregon sighted a torpedo boat sneaking toward the harbor and signalled it to stop. The signal was improperly answered. The Oregon fired a thirteen inch shell, striking the torpedo boat amidships. The torpedo boat sank and all hands were drowned. It was probably the Furor of Cameras' fleet.

Over a Thousand Killed.

Manila, May 31, via Hong Kong, June 6.—The Spanish outposts have been driven in all along the line, simultaneously and with great slaughter. It is said that over a thousand have been killed. There has been fierce hand-to-hand fighting for 70 hours, despite the typhoon which is raging.

Washington, June 6.—The navy department at 2 o'clock posted the following bulletin:

"Admiral Dewey reports the insurgents have been actively engaged with Spaniards in the province of Cavite during the past week. They have won several victories, taken prisoners about 1,800 men and 50 officers of the Spanish troops, not native. The arsenal of Cavite has been prepared for occupation by the United States troops upon their arrival on the transports."

BURNED AT THE STAKE.

Fate of a Negro in Louisiana for the Usual Crime.

Dallas, Texas, June 3.—A special to The News from Shreveport, La., says: A thousand people gathered at Doyline, about 18 miles from here, to witness the burning at the stake of William Street, a negro, who attempted the assault and murder of Mrs. Parish. The out age was committed on the night of May 30th.

Street was 28 years of age. He confessed the crime to a colored minister, but a negro minister named John Rhodes was implicated. He was tied to the stake and the flames were started at 1 o'clock. It was a sickening sight, which lasted ten minutes, when Street was a charred mass. Well known lawyers made speeches, warning the crowd of negroes that such crimes as Street had committed would not be tolerated in a civilized community.

The woman whom Street assaulted is in a most critical condition, but could identify Street when a doctor held open her eyelids.

Beauty is Blood Deep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic clean your blood and keep it clean, by firing up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Cascarets,—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

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