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ATTORNEY AT LAW,
BATESBURG, S. C.
Practices in all the State Courts, especially in Lexington, Edgefield and Aiken counties.
Mar. 6-1v

ANDREW CRAWFORD
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
COLUMBIA, S. C.
PRACTICES IN THE STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS, AND OFFERS HIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF LEXINGTON COUNTY.
October 18-1y.

EDWARD L. ASBILL,
Attorney at Law,
LEESVILLE, S. C.
Practices in all the Courts.
Sept. 30-6m

C. M. EPFORD, F. E. DREHER
EFIRD & DREHER,
Attorneys at Law,
LEXINGTON, C. H., S. C.
WILL PRACTICE IN ALL THE COURTS. Business solicited. One member of the firm will always be at office Lexington, S. C.
June 17-6m

Albert M. Boozer,
Attorney at Law,
COLUMBIA, S. C.
Special attention given to business entrusted to him by his fellow citizens of Lexington county.
Office: No. 5 Insurance Building, opposite City Hall, Corner Main and Washington Streets.
February 28-1y.

DR. E. J. ETHEREDGE,
SURGEON DENTIST,
LEESVILLE, S. C.
Office next door below post office.
Always on hand.
February 12.

FENCING
WIRE ROPE SELVAGE.
Poultry, Farm, Garden, Cemetery, Lawn, Railroad and Rabbit Fencing.
Thousands of miles in use. Catalogue Free. Freight Paid. Prices Low.

The McMullen Woven Wire Fence Co.
CHICAGO, ILL.
Nov. 17-11

Saw Mills,
Light and Heavy, and Supplies.
Lombard Iron Works
and Supply Co.,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.
January 27-

CAROLINA
NATIONAL BANK,
AT COLUMBIA, S. C.
STATE, TOWN AND COUNTY DEPOSITORY.
Paid up Capital \$100,000
Surplus Profits 100,000
Savings Department.
Deposits of \$5.00 and upwards received. Interest allowed at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. W. A. CLARK, President.
W. J. JONES, Cashier.
December 4-1y.

BEESWAX WANTED
IN LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES.
I WILL PAY THE HIGHEST MARKET price for clean and pure beeswax. Price governed by color and condition.
RICE B. HARMAN,
At the Bazaar, Lexington, S. C.

HARMAN & SON,
CONTRACTORS, AND BUILDERS
STEEL AND IRON ROOFING.
LEXINGTON, S. C.
BIDS SUBMITTED FOR ALL KINDS OF carpenter work. Estimates furnished. None but First Class Workmen employed. Home-building a specialty. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Remember us when you want work done.
S. A. B. HARMAN,
KILLIAN HARMAN,
September-11 ft.

Grand Central Hotel
COLUMBIA, S. C.
E. H. GILLIARD, Manager
NEWLY RENOVATED.
CUISINE UNSURPASSED.
Especially adapted for those desiring Comfort, Ease, Home like methods. Commercial travelers receive every accommodation.
RATES, \$2 and \$2.50 PER DAY. Tax June 2, 1897-11.

LEXINGTON SAVINGS BANK.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED SUBJECT TO CHECK.
W. P. ROOF, Cashier.
DIRECTORS:
Allen Jones, W. P. Roof, C. M. Eard, F. H. Hinton, James E. Hendrix.
EXCHANGE BOUGHT AND SOLD.
Deposits of \$1 and upwards received and interest at 5 per cent per annum allowed payable April and October.
September 21-1y

THE LEXINGTON DISPATCH.

VOL. XXVIII. LEXINGTON, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1898. NO. 25.

GLOBE DRY GOODS COMPANY,

W. H. MONCKTON, JR., MANAGER,
COLUMBIA, S. C.,
1620 MAIN STREET,
Solicits a Share of Your Valued Patronage. Prompt and Polite Attention.

SPANISH NEWS KEPT SECRET

Portugal to Prevent Advances Regarding Verde Fleet Reaching Public.
DECISION BENEFITS DON'S
Movements of the Squadron at St. Vincent Will in Future Be Known Only to the Government in Madrid.

LONDON, April 28.—The Official Gazette today announces that the Portuguese government has, so far as the public is concerned, stopped the dispatch of telegraphic information regarding the movements of warships on the seaboard, or in the harbors of Portugal. The Spanish torpedo flotilla, together with several first-class Spanish cruisers, has been at St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands, a Portuguese port, for some time past. Daily bulletins have been received from there by the Associated Press, but the action of the Portuguese government apparently closes this source of information regarding the movements and whereabouts of the Spanish fleet.

ACTION CAUSES SENSATION.

Decision of the Portuguese Government Stirs London.
LONDON, April 28.—A sensation has been caused by the action of the Portuguese government in stopping the transmission of telegraphic information, so far as the public is concerned, regarding the movements of warships in Portuguese waters, as it reveals the hitherto concealed fact that Portugal is doing everything possible to aid Spain. The decision of the Portuguese government today is undoubtedly in response to the pressure brought to bear upon her by Spain, and the sole object of the order, it is believed, is to prevent news of the departure of the Spanish fleet from being cabled from St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands. A dispatch received here from Lisbon this morning, in retreating the denial made in the Portuguese house of peers yesterday that President McKinley had called upon Portugal to obtain the departure of the Spanish squadron from St. Vincent, Cape Verde islands, adds to the impression that Portugal is doing everything possible to aid Spain. The Spanish were ordered to leave St. Vincent, that the United States regard Portugal as an ally of Spain and treat her accordingly.

TROOPS MOVE ON TAMPA.

Whole Army is Likely to Start South Early Next Week.
TAMPA, Fla., April 28.—Camping grounds are being laid out for 35,000 men, which is the number of volunteers expected here next week. Within a few days regular field movement practice will begin, when the entire command will be marched out to remain for days, taking nothing with them except what they carry in their knapsacks. The conditions will be made as like as possible to those which they will encounter in Cuba. Advertisements were issued today for coal for the docks at Port Tampa, and it is stated that over 200,000 tons is wanted. It was learned at headquarters today that all the troops stationed at Chickamauga will be moving this way next week.

FILIBUSTER MAY GO FREE.

President Likely to Pardon Captain Hart of Philadelphia.
WASHINGTON, April 28.—The president has been asked to pardon Captain J. D. Hart of Philadelphia. The captain is the owner of the Laurada, a vessel that made a number of filibustering expeditions to Cuba. He was convicted of participating in the preparation of one of these expeditions, and on March 8, 1897, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Philadelphia penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500. He appealed from the conviction, but the higher court sustained it in a decision rendered March 8, 1898, Justice Achison dissenting.

British Government Warned.

LONDON, April 28.—The Spanish embassy has informed the foreign office that the ports of Cuba, the Philippine islands and Porto Rico are defended by torpedoes and that entry is only possible under the guidance of pilots in waiting outside. Great Britain May Protest.
LONDON, April 28.—The Spanish ambassador having opened a fund here to increase the strength of the Spanish fleet, the matter is regarded as a serious abuse of diplomatic privileges and it will be brought up in the house of commons.

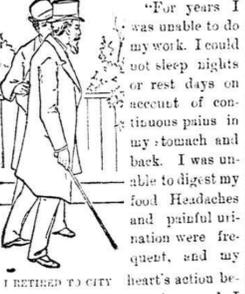
Unable to Secure Coal.

PLYMOUTH, England, April 28.—A steamer which arrived here today from St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, reports that the Spanish warships there are unable to get half the amount of coal which they require to fill their bunkers. Spanish Fleet May Suffer.
St. VINCENT, Cape Verde Islands, April 28.—Although the Spanish squadron is still at anchor here, it is believed the warships will probably sail tomorrow, as the paymasters have been getting up accounts today. Wattersons Go to War.
LOUISVILLE, April 28.—Henry Wattersons sends his two sons to the war. They are splendid young Kentuckians.

Send us what you owe us.

Gained Forty-eight Pounds.

"I had a strong appetite for liquor which was the beginning of the breaking down of my health. I was also a slave to tea and coffee drinking. I took the gold cure, but it did not help me."
This is a portion of an interview clipped from the Daily Herald, of Clinton, Iowa. It might well be taken for the subject of a temperance lecture but that is not our object in publishing it. It is to show how a system, run down by drink and disease, may be restored. We cannot do better than quote further from the same:
"For years I was unable to do my work. I could not sleep nights or rest days on account of continuous pains in my stomach and back. I was unable to digest my food. Headaches and painful urination were frequent, and my heart's action became increased. I left my farm and retired to city life. For I was a confirmed invalid, and the doctors said I would never be well again."
"Soon after I happened to use four boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and since then I have been free from all pain, headache and dyspepsia. I eat heartily and have no appetite for strong drink or tea or coffee, and feel twenty years younger."
"My weight has increased 48 pounds. I cannot say too much for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and claim that they have cured me."
John B. Cook.



I RETURNED TO CITY LIFE FOR I WAS A CONFIRMED INVALID, AND THE DOCTORS SAID I WOULD NEVER BE WELL AGAIN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this sixteenth day of February, 1897.
A. P. Barker, Notary Public.
To people run down in health from whatever cause—drink or disease—the above interview will be of interest. The truth of it is undoubted as the statement is sworn to, and we reproduce the oath here. For any further facts concerning this medicine write to Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.
The name and address of the subject of above interview is John B. Cook, of 208 South 5th Street, Lyon, Iowa.

WAR NEWS OF A WEEK

Record of Events Leading Up to the Rupture.
Woodford's Train Attacked.
General Stewart L. Woodford, the United States minister to Spain, accompanied by his staff and others, reached the French frontier at 8 o'clock Friday morning in safety after some exciting experiences. The Spanish police attempted to capture a member of the legation and at Valladolid the train was attacked. First Shot Fired.
The first gun of the war between the United States and Spain was fired Friday. The American cruiser Nashville captured just off Key West, the Spanish ship Buena Ventura, of 1,000 tons, having on board a cargo of lumber. The Nashville at first fired a blank shot, which the Spaniard ignored. This was followed by a shot from a 6-pounder. The Buena Ventura then surrendered with her crew of 49 men. A Call For Volunteers.
The president Saturday issued a proclamation calling for 15,000 troops to serve two years unless sooner discharged. Another Spanish Prize.
A United States warship captured another Spanish vessel Saturday. The cruiser New York, while about 15 miles off Havana, sighted a steamer which proved to be the Pedro, bound for Pensacola. One ship fired on the enemy and the latter surrendered with the crew. She was taken to Key West. Fired on Our Fleet.
News reached Key West Sunday to the effect that the Spanish fleet opened fire on the fighting squadron of the United States at 11 o'clock Saturday night. About ten shots were sent in the direction of our ships, but not one of them took effect and no shots were fired in return. Spanish Steamers Seized.
Two more Spanish prizes were landed by American warships Saturday. The cruiser Dupont captured a steamer of 3,400 tons and the auxiliary Helena took a vessel of 2,000 tons, which with her cargo, was valued at \$200,000. War Formally Declared.
Monday the president sent to congress a message requesting that formal declaration of war be made and that body responded promptly by adopting the following without division:
A bill declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.
To it enacted, etc.
First. That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist and that war has existed since the twenty-first day of April, A. D. 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.
Second. That the president of the United States be and he hereby is directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states, to such an extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect. The action of the president in recommending a formal declaration of war was welcomed by officials in every direction as putting the present struggle on a more dignified basis and tending to the avoidance of international complications. Nations Will Be Neutral.
Notice came to the state department from the four quarters of the globe Tuesday showing that the nations are, as a rule, prepared to assume an attitude of strict neutrality as between the United States and Spain in the present struggle. In some cases they were in answer to the identical note sent out Monday by the state department to all United States embassies and legations instructing them to inform the governments to which they were accredited that war has existed since April 21.
Spanish Cruiser Captured.
The lightship tender Mangrove arrived at Key West Tuesday with a rich prize. The captive was the Panama, Captain Quiviro, a big transatlantic liner and an auxiliary cruiser of the Spanish navy, which has been plying off late between New York and Havana. Manifesto by McKinley.
The president issued a proclamation Tuesday laying down rules as to the seizure of prizes, etc. The proclamation pledged this country to refrain from privateering and abdicating the declaration of Paris of 1856. Blanco Wants No Warships.
Captain General Blanco called the government at Madrid Tuesday to the effect that the Spanish squadron of warships might be utilized elsewhere, as he could account for the defense of Havana without the assistance of the fleet. Matanzas Forts Bombarded.
The cruisers New York and Cincinnati and the monitor Puritan bombarded the forts at Matanzas, Cuba, Wednesday afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but great damage and loss of life is believed to have been done to the enemy. About 300 shots were exchanged. The Spanish guns proved too weak to reach the American vessels. The subject of the attack, which lasted a little less than an hour, was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda. The half completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently all puffed up by the shells. Big Naval Fight Expected.
An official dispatch from Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, Wednesday, announced that the Spanish fleet had sailed to take up its position to meet the American squadron. The latter had not been sighted within the cable message was sent, but the American warships were expected at any moment.

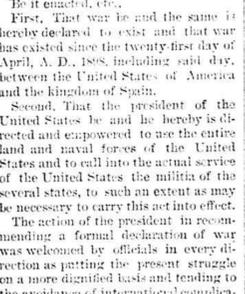
Free Pill.

Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of Constipation and Sick Headache. For Malaria and Liver troubles they have been proven invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 25c. per box. Sold by Julian E. Kaufmann.

ASTOR TO JOIN THE ARMY.

Wealthy New Yorker Announces That He is Ready For War.
WASHINGTON, April 28.—John Jacob Astor of New York came to Washington to see President McKinley and to offer him his services for war duty in any capacity for which he may be considered fit.
Mr. McKinley received the multi-millionaire most cordially, and in the conversation Mr. Astor earnestly told the president that he would raise and equip a regiment in New York. The president was much impressed by this generous offer, and warmly thanked Mr. Astor, and told him that his patriotic offer would undoubtedly lead others in the country to follow his example.
After talking over the present condition of Cuban affairs, and just as Mr. Astor was about to take his departure, he told the president that he was ready to go to Cuba tomorrow if his services could be of use. It is expected that the offer will be accepted by the president to some extent.
One friend of the executive, in speaking of the offer made by Mr. Astor, said he thought such acts on the part of rich men will weaken the selfishness of the country and the indifference of rich men to serve their country in times of trouble.
Pine, a sure cure for Piles. Try it. 50 cents a bottle. Murray Drug Company. Call for it.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure
ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

BIGGEST SHIP YET BAGGED

itor Terror Takes Vessel Having Aboard Food and Large Sum of Money.
SPANIARD ALMOST SUNK
Her Pilothouse Nearly Blown Into the Water by Solid Shot From the American and One of the Crew Badly Hurt.
Key West, April 28.—The United States Monitor Terror, Captain Lindoy, captured the big Spanish steamer Guido, bound from Coruna, Spain, for Havana, yesterday. The prize had on board a large cargo of provisions and money intended for the Spanish troops in Cuba. The capture took place 10 miles off Cardenas, after a desperate chase, during which the Terror and the gunboat Machias fired, almost blowing the Spaniard's pilothouse to bits. The Terror was alone when the Guido was sighted, and another American boat gave chase. After a blank shot had been fired to order the steamer to heave to, the Spaniard put out all her lights and fired up in an attempt to run away. The big monitor, plowing after her, brought her 6-pounders to bear on the latter, nearly all of which took effect on the Guido's pilothouse. One man in the pilothouse was injured, but how seriously could not be learned. The Machias, which was some distance away, heard the sound of the firing, came up and brought her 4-inch guns to bear, firing a shot which failed to hit the Spaniard. This, however, brought her to and Lieutenant Quail and a prize crew were put on board her and brought the prize in here this morning. The money captured is in an iron sack. The amount is not known. The Guido is one of the richest prizes captured. It is estimated that the Guido with her cargo is worth \$400,000. The Spanish steamer Guido, Captain Amarrucha, is a vessel of 2,065 tons net, owned by the navigation company of Bilbao. She was built at Belfast in 1887, is 220 feet long, has 41 feet beam and is 26 feet deep. The Guido left Liverpool on April 2 and Coruna on April 9 for Havana.

SQUADRON IN FERCE STORM

Warships at Hampton Roads Tossed About Like Toys by Angry Winds.
CRASH SEEMED CERTAIN
The Massachusetts and Texas Almost Went Together—Daring and Cool-headed Together Averted a Great Disaster.
FORT MONROE, Va., April 28.—For 23 hours the flying squadron has been unable to communicate with shore. The storm, which still prevails, makes it unsafe to use the steam launches or cutters, a tug brought out the mail this morning. Towards morning it increased in violence and as the tide turned flood, the lookout on the forward bridge of the Brooklyn announced that the ship was dragging its anchor. The officer of the deck immediately reported that the Brooklyn was getting in dangerous proximity to the lighthouse Massachusetts. Captain Cook and Executive Officer Mason went to the bridge immediately and ordered the steam anchor to be prepared to get under way and in the meantime it was hoped that the anchors would catch and hold.

Faster and faster she went back, her big bowsprit swinging towards the lighthouse. The French cruiser, when these advances left San Juan, were seeking refuge on board the French cruiser Admiral Ruyani de Genouilly. An American ship's estate, it is announced, was plundered after the receipt of the news of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States. The British consul at San Juan, who has charge of American interests, has called to his government that a British warship be sent to that port. Danger is apprehended from incompetent and youthful volunteers of Porto Rico. They are armed with Manner rifles and are displaying considerable proficiency. Arrived here, on the west coast of the island, has been planted with torpedoes from the signal station to a point about 1 mile west of it. There are many Spanish volunteers here and on their way to Porto Rico. Spanish steamers landed at Matanzas, 20 miles from San Juan, on Wednesday a quantity of arms and ammunition, and these were under guard by a detachment of Spanish troops. Besides this, about 5,000 tons of provisions were landed at San Juan on last Sunday. The warehouses of Porto Rico are reported to be full of provisions and the Spanish authorities say they can stand a siege of two months. All the coast lights have now been ordered to be extinguished. No United States warships are known to be in the vicinity of Porto Rico.

Florida Troops to Front.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 28.—All the Florida troops have volunteered for active service with the understanding that they go as organizations intact, and that the companies with the government. The governor will appoint the officers for the companies and regiment that the men select and vote for, respecting their wishes instead of his own. All the companies, with hardly an exception, voted to go solidly and all their ranks are full. Governor Bloxham has not issued any orders as yet to move, but an order to mobilize and camp will be received very soon. Russian Jews Volunteer.
NEW YORK, April 28.—The Russian Jewish colony, composing the Baron De Hirsch colony of Woodbine, N. J., have offered their services to the governor of New Jersey for the war and a large number who have served in the Russian army are likely to be accepted. On the east side a company of Russian Hussars, numbering 10, all of them Jews, and about 250 others, have signed applications for enlistment, and recruiting continues very lively. On the Stock Exchanges.
LONDON, April 28.—The market for American securities opened fractionally lower on the New York parity and at 12:30 ruled steady. Spanish 4s and 5s advanced to 31. The closing price yesterday was 31. Spanish 4s opened in the Paris house today at 34 7/16, 1/2 under yesterday's closing price. After American Yachts.
LONDON, April 28.—According to a special dispatch from Cadix, the new torpedo boat destroyer Destructor, sailed yesterday for Cadix and Central probably to attempt to intercept American yachts in the Mediterranean. Dewey Must Take Manila.
WASHINGTON, April 28.—Naval officers say they expect the first big war news from the Philippines, as Dewey either must capture a Philippine port as a base of operations or sail for San Francisco. The war department is short to the amount of \$31,019,997.

Beats the Klondike.

Mr. A. C. Thomas, of Marysville, Tex., has found a more valuable discovery than has yet been made in the Klondike. For years he suffered untold agony from consumption, accompanied by hemorrhages and was absolutely cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. He declares that gold is of little value in comparison with this marvelous cure: would have it, even if it cost a hundred dollars a bottle. Asthma, Bronchitis and all throat and lung affections are positively cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Trial bottles free at J. E. Kaufmann's Drug Store. Regular size 50 cents and \$1.00. Guaranteed to cure or price refunded.

PORTO RICO PREPARING

Torpedoes Laid to Keep Out Invading Troops.
NO LIGHTS DURING NIGHT
Martial Law Proclaimed and Being Enforced in a Most Tyrannical Manner—American Sugar Estate is Attacked.
ST. THOMAS, West Indies, April 28.—Porto Rico advises received here today say that four Spanish gunboats are at San Juan de Porto Rico. They are being painted black or possibly gray. Martial law has been proclaimed in Porto Rico and it is being enforced in a tyrannical manner. Crowds of people are leaving for the interior and the capital is almost deserted by the civilian population. The military authorities are most actively engaged in preparing for the defense of the island. Thirty-four torpedoes have been planted in the main channel. They are controlled from Morro Castle. In addition, an old steamship has been sunk across the harbor entrance, the bows in the channel have been attacked and from Monday, after the blockade of Havana, accompanied by a report that the capital had been bombarded, all lights were ordered to be extinguished at night. The French residents, when these advances left San Juan, were seeking refuge on board the French cruiser Admiral Ruyani de Genouilly. An American ship's estate, it is announced, was plundered after the receipt of the news of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States. The British consul at San Juan, who has charge of American interests, has called to his government that a British warship be sent to that port. Danger is apprehended from incompetent and youthful volunteers of Porto Rico. They are armed with Manner rifles and are displaying considerable proficiency. Arrived here, on the west coast of the island, has been planted with torpedoes from the signal station to a point about 1 mile west of it. There are many Spanish volunteers here and on their way to Porto Rico. Spanish steamers landed at Matanzas, 20 miles from San Juan, on Wednesday a quantity of arms and ammunition, and these were under guard by a detachment of Spanish troops. Besides this, about 5,000 tons of provisions were landed at San Juan on last Sunday. The warehouses of Porto Rico are reported to be full of provisions and the Spanish authorities say they can stand a siege of two months. All the coast lights have now been ordered to be extinguished. No United States warships are known to be in the vicinity of Porto Rico.

ALLEGED SPY IS ARRESTED.

Supposed to Be Securing Views of Mexico to Remain Neutral.
CITY OF MEXICO, April 28.—United States Minister Clayton has communicated to the foreign department of the government of Mexico the resolution of congress declaring war with Spain. Minister Mariscal of the foreign department has replied lamenting the war and hoping for its speedy termination. He assures the United States minister, on the part of President Diaz, that Mexico will maintain the strictest neutrality. Mexico to Remain Neutral.
CITY OF MEXICO, April 28.—United States Minister Clayton has communicated to the foreign department of the government of Mexico the resolution of congress declaring war with Spain. Minister Mariscal of the foreign department has replied lamenting the war and hoping for its speedy termination. He assures the United States minister, on the part of President Diaz, that Mexico will maintain the strictest neutrality. Sisters of Mercy Ready.
DUBUQUE, Ia., April 28.—Rev. Mother Agnes of Mercy hospital announces that the Sisters of Mercy here will enlist as nurses to go south or to Cuba as the government may direct. A New Man.
"I was a sufferer from dyspepsia, gout and rheumatism caused by impure blood. I tried various medicines but obtained no relief until I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine has made me a new man and is the best I ever took. It has been a blessing to me." William M. James, Bredon, S. C.
Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Easy and yet efficient.

ATTACK WAS SMALL AFFAIR

Fleet Off Cuba Made No Effort to Reduce the Matanzas Fortifications.
BUT SOUNDING BATTERIES
Sampson Only Wanted to Ascertain the Strength of the Spanish Lines. Likely to Open Fire in Earnest Later.
WASHINGTON, April 28.—Intense interest was shown at the navy department today in the published reports from on board the flagship New York and from Key West of the engagement with Matanzas yesterday noon between the shore batteries and three vessels of Admiral Sampson's fleet. The navy department itself had absolutely no report from any of its agents or any of the officers of the blockading fleet of this affair. It, of course, could not be expected that news would be had from Havana, with a Spanish censor manning the end of the cable there. The fact that Admiral Sampson has not made any report to the secretary as yet, notwithstanding he must have had the same opportunity to communicate with Key West as was enjoyed by the press, leads the officials of the department to believe that the affair was not of great consequence. Indeed they say that the same opportunity that any extensive damage could have been inflicted upon properly placed batteries at the distance reported, varying from 2 1/2 to 4 miles, in the short space of 18 minutes, during which, it is said, the engagement lasted. A member of the strategy board, who is of course thoroughly conversant with the plans of Admiral Sampson, so far as they have been generalized, is authority for the statement that the admiral had no intention whatever at this time to bombard the Matanzas battery. To do so now would be bad strategy and of little avail, for in the absence of any landing force the admiral would be unprepared to take advantage of the victory he might gain through a reduction of the forts and the Spaniards might have ample opportunity over night to repair in a large measure the damage inflicted on their fortifications. It is stated positively that Admiral Sampson's purpose was simply to ascertain in any show batteries existed at Matanzas and if so determined to retire beyond range. In other words, it was simply a naval reconnaissance. In the event that during his observations the admiral discovered that the new defenses were of such a character as to be well prepared to take advantage of the opportunity to cripple them by throwing a few shells into the earthworks and endeavoring to knock over a gun or two. It is of general belief at the department, however, that Matanzas is to be soon reduced and made a base of operations in the campaign against Havana.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rate of one cent per word for first insertion, and one half cent for each subsequent insertion.
Liberal contracts made with those wishing to advertise for three, six and twelve months.
Notices in the local column 5 cents per line each insertion.
Obituaries charged for at the rate of one cent a word, when they exceed 100 words.
Marriage notices inserted free.
Address
G. M. HARMAN, Editor and Publisher.

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