

VOL. XVIII.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

In the Stern Turret of the Huge Battleship Missouri.

TWENTY-NINE MEN ARE KILLED

Twelve Inch Gun, One of the Finest in the United States Navy. Exploded After Three Rounds.

A dispatch from Pensacola, Fla., says by the explosion of 2,000 pounds of powder in the after 12-inch turret and in the handling room of the battleship Missouri, Capt. Wm. S. Cowles commanding, 29 men were instantly killed and five injured, two of whom will die.

The Missouri was on the target range with the Texas and Brooklyn at practice about noon, Wednesday when a charge of powder in the 12-inch left hand gun exploded, ignited from a fuse, and dropping below ignited four charges of powder in the handling room and all exploded, and only one man of the entire turret and handling crew survives.

But for the prompt and efficient work of Capt. Cowles in flooding the handling room and magazine with water, one of the magazines would have been exploded and the ship would have been destroyed.

Capt. Cowles, completely overcome with the disaster, referred all newspaper men to Lieut. Hammer, the ordnance officer. The latter gave out a statement of the explosion and its probable cause.

According to him, about noon after the first pointer of the after 12-inch piece had fired his string and the second pointer had fired the third shot of his string the charge ignited. The fourth shot was being loaded from all indications the first half of the charge had been rammed home and the second section was being rammed home, when the gases from the shot previously fired or portions of the cloth cover ignited the powder. The breech was open and a full tube gave notice of something unusual. No loud report was made, but flames were seen to leap from every portion of the turret.

A few seconds later another explosion somewhat more fierce occurred. This was in the handling room below where 1,600 pounds of powder, or four charges, ready to be hoisted above, had ignited. Fire quarters were sounded and every man of the ship responded and the magazine and handling rooms were flooded with water.

In less than five seconds after the first explosion, two streams of water were being played into the rooms and when volunteers were called for, every man of the ship responded, eager to go into the turrets and rescue the crew.

Capt. Cowles gave his commands and but for his presence of mind together with the officers of the ship, the Missouri might have gone down.

The second explosion occurred near one of the magazines and so hot was the fire that the brasswork of the magazines was melted. Smoke and the fumes of the burned powder made it almost impossible to enter either the turret or handling room, but officers and men with banked rifles over their faces made efforts to rescue the men inside.

Leading the rescuing party was Capt. Cowles. The officers endeavored to keep him from going below, as men fell unconscious as they entered and had to be pulled out by their comrades, but unheeding their advice the commanding officer rushed below followed by Lieut. Hammer, the ordnance officer, and Lieut. Cleland and Davis.

Capt. Cowles caught up a diving blue jacket in his arms and staggered to the deck with him. The blue jacket with two others from the handling room had crewed partly from their place of duty when they had been overcome.

Before the fumes of the burning powder had left the turret, officers and men were lifting out the dying and dead men.

Three minutes after the explosion all were on deck and the surgeons from the Missouri, Texas and Brooklyn were attending to those not dead.

The 29 men of the turret were found lying in a heap. They had started for the exit when the first explosion occurred and had just reached there when the more terrible explosion in the handling room occurred, which burned and strangled them to death.

Lieut. Davidson, the officer in charge of the turret, had evidently given some command to the men, but he was on top of the heap of men, having fallen there after he had allowed them to pass him to get out of the turret.

The bodies were hardly recognizable, the terrible and quick fire having burned through the bodies of the men and the flesh hung from them in shreds. The faces were mutilated by the smoke and flames. Only one man was breathing when the turret crew was rescued and he died a moment after he reached deck.

WHO THE OFFICERS WERE.

A dispatch from Washington says both Midshipmen Neumann and Ward are understood to have been engaged to be married. It is said that Midshipman Neumann was to be married to the sister of Midshipman Ward. The two midshipmen were classmates and intimate friends. At their request they were assigned to the same ship.

Lieut. Wm. C. Davidson is a native of Indiana and was appointed from South Dakota. He was assigned to the Missouri when she went into commission and was serving as a turret officer. His wife, Mrs. Juliet L. Davidson, resides in Baltimore.

Lieut. Ern A. Weichert (junior grade) was atached to the Cleveland and it is assumed at the navy department that he was aboard the Missouri at the time of the disaster as an umpire during target practice. His father, J. Weichert, is a resident of Danbury, Conn.

Lieut. Criley was a son of the late Capt. Griddle, who commanded the battleship of Admiral Dewey when he sailed into Manila bay and fought the Spanish ships. His mother lives at Erie, Pa.

ONE MAN'S IDEA.

Capt. Petty Gives His Reason for the Numerous Murders.

THAT TAKE PLACE IN OUR STATE

He Thinks it Started During Reconstruction Times and Has Grown Worse Since That Time.

The fact that 222 homicides were committed in South Carolina during the year 1903, has been published. Capt. Charles Petty, of Spartanburg, S. C., was asked the other day what in his opinion were the causes leading to such a record. He replied:

"Our own citizens were less shocked by the bloody record than those of other States, for we had by degrees got accustomed to homicide. It did not appear to be a phenomenal record, even to our law-abiding, conservative citizens. They understood how it was brought about. It would be well for people outside of the State to learn that this record is only the logical result of many years' infraction of law.

"The organization of the Union League, principally among negroes, four or five years after Appomattox, was the first step. It required little time for these organizations to learn the power of the mob, and they understood that courts would not hurt them for any outrages committed.

"The second step was the organization of the Ku Klux Klans, the object of which was to check and repress the lawlessness and violence of the leaguers. After striking terror to the negroes and some of the white natives who were united with them, they extended their power and struck down some innocent men and began to turn against each other.

"Just then, when good citizens were shocked and uneasy day and night, the United States government brought its strong arm to bear on the situation and the Klans scattered like thin mist before a driving wind.

"Then came a few years of the darkest political history that any State ever made. Ignorant negroes from rice fields and plantations, calling themselves a legislature, inaugurated a system of robbery and financial fraud that has no parallel.

"The white people endured all that, but not without protest. They openly held conventions and begged the carpetbag government to hold up. But it was too late.

"The State government, like the Ku Klux, had become unmanageable. They would not listen to reason or argument. Their only idea was that so long as there was a dollar to steal it was their privilege to grab it. This high handed rapine and robbery under the name of the law was a third step in this downward course.

"Then came the famous campaign of 1876, when Wade Hampton was elected governor. After the election an open boat was made as to the use of tissue ballots. It was considered a big joke for minors to vote.

"All this seemed well enough until a few years later when the same methods used against the carpet-bag government were used on our primary elections. It was evident that men who had been familiar with election frauds from their youth would exercise the same methods in closely contested elections that concerned only the white people. It came to pass that election laws had to be made rigid showing that our people could not trust each other.

"With the inauguration of the Hampton government came a better understanding between the two races, for Hampton was the governor of all the people. This followed Hugh S. Thompson, now living in New York, and Gen. Johnson Hagood, good and able men, who earnestly desired and labored for the welfare of the whole State.

"During their administration lawlessness was not encouraged. Lynching was not advised in public or private. They sought to enforce the law impartially and to preserve good order.

"For ten years or longer it looked as if the State would retrace the downward steps she had made from 1868 to 1876, and that the white people would get back to the good old fashion of conducting elections fairly and having a high regard for human life. It was a hopeful period.

"But for various reasons there was unrest among the people of the State. They had lost confidence in themselves and everything. It was then that a sharp, shrewd man, understanding well their condition, took advantage of the situation and assumed leadership.

"The famous campaign of 1890 began when the former administrations from 1876 to 1890 were abused for incompetency, dishonesty and every possible political crime. The people, being greatly dissatisfied with their financial condition, began to look on Benjamin R. Tillman as the Messer who was to lead them out of the wilderness.

"Never was a man so much praised and idolized in this State as he was. The people followed him with a wild and unreasonable zeal. They repudiated Hampton, Thompson and hundreds of other true and good men because they were thus instructed.

"The teaching of the campaign of 1890 and subsequent ones was that all who were opposed to the Tillman movement were enemies, moonshiners, dogs for all these epithets were used by their leader. It was publicly taught that a negro had no political rights that a white man was bound to respect. Lynching was the proper punishment for a certain crime and when done for a misdemeanor or for no crime, the perpetrators were not punished.

"It was only one step from killing a negro to killing a white man. So it has come to pass in a most logical way that white men are shot down with impunity these days.

"It has got to be that there is not much respect of color in the killing business. All one has to prove or swear to is that some one scowled at him or that he had at some time threatened him. Once sure of his

GHOST STORIES.

Peculiar Conduct of Some Restless Spirits from the Other World.

GHOST REVEALS BURIED CITY.

Some Spooks That Stood a House. Strange Reappearance of a Young Woman in Maine. Haunted Spot.

Coadecpe, a little village in the State of Michoacan, Mexico, has always had a reputation for ghosts and spirits. In the past year, especially, inhabitants of the air or the streams or the graves of the many dead that lie buried all about the village have been wandering about like a colony of restless night birds.

They have not been the least shy, like ordinary ghosts, for they have been seen by hundreds. In fact, there is hardly an inhabitant of the place that has not made an acquaintance with some spirit or other from the past.

Jose Miranda of all the people seems to have profited most by their acquaintance. One night several weeks ago he was coming home from a neighboring village a ghost all in white, its gray coat falling back from its shoulders leaving its head exposed to view, met him. It was standing between him and the moon, which was shining brightly through the hollow sockets of its eyes and a bullet hole in its skull.

It stood still and pointed with one bony hand toward the mountains. Miranda was unable to move, but the horse, as soon as it caught sight of the ghost made for the village as fast as it could run.

A week later Miranda was riding along this same road when the ghost met him in the same place. This time he seized the animal by the bridle with his hand and pointed with the other in the direction of the hills. Jose thought he had better humor the ghost, and turning round went in the direction indicated.

In about a quarter of an hour they arrived at the foothills. The ghost stopped and pointed to a huge stone at the foot of a tall tree and then immediately disappeared.

It was two weeks before Miranda could persuade any person to go with him to the spot, which he had marked by a cross. He succeeded at last in persuading an Indian and a missionary from Mexico City to accompany him.

When they got to the place they tried to move the big stone, but could not. They then dug under one side of it and it fell to the ground. After about an hour's work they came upon a circle of skulls, stone axes and relics of a long past age. Examination showed that the big stone had carved upon its surface a gigantic hand and the name of Skulls, as the place is now called, was part of the remains of a great ancient city which had been buried by landslides.

At Nasonville, in the town of Burlington, R. I., there was a large house which had for some time been boarded up with showers of stones. The people of the neighborhood, after weeks of careful investigation and many conferences with their neighbors, are at a loss to explain where the stones could have come from.

They had all heard the bombardment often, and as many as fifty men, women and children had seen the house looking behind a tree trying to throw a stone within a hundred yards, and had even scored a distance of about 100 feet. The stones were of various sizes and shapes, and were of a kind of being either flesh or a spirit that could have been suspected of throwing stones.

Finally, the owner of the house offered a reward of \$25 for the solution of the mystery. Then the bombardment ceased. Many people argued that a human being was at the bottom of the whole affair, contending that ghosts would not stop their devilish simply because a price had been set on their apprehension. "If a man isn't afraid of being called 'bughouse,' what then is it?"

The North Woods Cemetery, at Haines street and York road, Philadelphia, was the scene of much excitement among the residents of that neighborhood. Many people declared that they had seen spooks.

The supposed ghost appeared regularly as soon as darkness fell, and with an uncanny motion of walking upon air, flitted from one grave to another. There was no conversation, groaning or clanking of chains, but a general sense of uneasiness as if drawn crowds of awestricken people night after night.

A horseman named Edward Hogan awaited the spook's arrival, and when it appeared ran toward it. The ghost proved to be the reflection of an ascetic lamp. The light reflected on a large polished granite monument, was distributed about as the spook flickered and gave the appearance of a ghostly moving picture.

About two miles from the village of Canton, Me., is a cosy, old-fashioned farm house which is located directly opposite a graveyard, with no other house in sight. From the window of this little house nothing can be seen except the graveyard with its gleaming stones, and the hills and mountains round about.

The family that has been occupying the house moved out not long ago, declaring that they could not stand it any longer, that they were welligh distressed by the demonstrations. When they told their story a former resident, who now lives in Hartford, announced that he had known for years that the place was haunted. He had not told any one for fear of the ridicule of his neighbors.

The demonstrations were not only in the house, but in the barn and around the premises. Regularly every night at 12 o'clock a team of horses rushes from the direction of the village, rumbles over the little bridge at a slugging gait, and then disappears. It never reaches the house.

Plot Failed.

Pete Dozson, one of five negroes who failed in a plot to escape from the prison at Nashville, Tenn., on Monday committed suicide by cutting his throat.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Section Director Bauer's Report for the Week Ending Wednesday.

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The following is Section Director Bauer's weekly climate and crop report for the week ending the 11th:

The week ending 8 a. m., April 11th, had a mean temperature of about 58 degrees which is nearly 3 degrees below normal, due to cool weather at the beginning and the close, and warm during the middle of the week. The lowest temperature along the coast ranged from 40 degrees at Charleston to 31 degrees at Conway, with an extreme minimum for the week of 28 degrees at Liberty, Pickens county. Thin ice was noted generally on the morning of the 4th, and light to heavy to killing frost on the 5th. The frost was very damaging in places, killing, or seriously injuring peaches, figs, plums, corn and garden truck. In many localities fruit escaped serious injury, and in the commercial peach orchards of the "ridge" section, it is estimated that three-fourths of a full crop remains. Apples and cherries suffered only slight injury, although some correspondents report both destroyed. Corn and white potatoes were nipped, and latter killed in places. The frost was not destructive in the commercial truck raising districts, except to cucumbers that will have to be replanted, and was also ruinous to strawberries in the interior that were left exposed. Timely frost warning made it practicable to cover a large part of the strawberry crop.

Rains fell on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, but the week's rainfall was comparatively light, averaging less than a quarter of an inch. Scattered localities had amounts ranging from half an inch to over an inch. The rainfall was entirely insufficient along the coast where droughty conditions prevail, and in the north central counties were the ground is becoming too hard to plow. A general rain would prove very beneficial.

Farm work made very rapid progress, and the preparation of lands is well advanced. Planting operations were confined largely to corn, rice and sea-island cotton, although some upland cotton had been planted in all parts of the State. The soil is in excellent till, but the temperature has been too low for a favorable germination of cotton.

Corn planting is nearly finished in the eastern half, and is well advanced in the western parts. Considerable is up to fairly good stands, with exceptions where worms and birds have been destructive, necessitating considerable replanting. Some corn has received its first cultivation.

Rice planting made uninterrupted progress. Lands have been prepared for tobacco, but none will be transplanted until the moisture conditions are more favorable. The acreage will be much less than last year. Plants are plentiful in fields.

Wheat and oats continue to improve slowly, but, with few exceptions, are in good condition. Shipments of early vegetables are heavy, and truck crops very fine, but will soon need rain to prevent deterioration.

Apple and cherry trees are now in full bloom in the northwestern counties.

Served Him Right.

Sam Hunnicutt, a young white man was tried before the mayor of Rock Hill Monday morning on eight separate charges, the most serious of which was receiving money for ladies. He was convicted on each of the counts and was fined \$200 or 240 days on the county chain gang. It is understood that Hunnicutt will appeal to the circuit court.

Disaster in British Navy.

The British torpedo boat destroyed, Teaser, which ran ashore during the naval maneuvers off Portsmouth Thursday night, has been towed off and ducked. During a sham battle during the night the Teaser's officers were dazzled by the searchlights and the boat ran at full speed into a sea wall. All of the crew were saved.

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This is the political statement made by Senator Tillman since his dangerous illness. He returned to Washington from his home in Edgefield and was given a cordial greeting in the senate by his associates on both sides of the chamber.

The Deadly Parlor Rifle.

The Spartanburg Herald says Thursday afternoon about 1 o'clock Mrs. C. D. West was accidentally shot by an eleven-year-old negro boy named Lewin Thornton, while she was walking along in St. Paul's street. Thornton and several other little negroes were in a grove near the old Union depot, some twenty or thirty yards from the sidewalk, shooting at birds with a parlor rifle. Thornton was the lad with the gun. Mrs. West, who lives on Park avenue, started to visit her sister, Mrs. J. H. O'Dell on Pine street. Walking along in St. Paul's street, she was suddenly struck in the back of the head by a bullet. The negro boy had fired the rifle and the bullet sped wide of its mark and hit the lady. The ball struck just at the base of the brain, behind the left ear and entered the brain. Medical aid was quickly summoned. It is not thought that Mrs. West is dangerously injured, although the bullet has not been extracted. She stood the shock and nervous excitement remarkably well. The negro boys disappeared immediately after the occurrence. The Thornton boy had not been arrested up to last night. The shooting was purely accidental.

The Law in Charleston.

The Greenville News, the editor of which knows Charleston pretty thoroughly, writes in his experience there as a reporter, says: "The congressional party which I arrive in Charleston Thursday will be met by a committee which is composed of men whose names have always been foremost in society and State, and by others whose names have been identified with violations of the dispensary law. This might lead to the impression that the old social lines in Charleston have been blotted out, it likewise proves the Congressman Legare is a very smooth politician." And it also helps to an understanding of the failure of Charleston juries to convict violators of the dispensary law. When men who habitually violate a law are put forward as representative citizens of their community we need not expect juries to send them to jail.—The Spectator.

A Great Discovery.

A dispatch from Washington says a discovery which may prove to be the most beneficial to mankind since that of chloroform has been made by the scientists of the Department of Agriculture and will probably be placed at the disposal of physicians and health reformers by being introduced into the blood through other channels than water will be left for science to find the remedy of the preventive. If the discovery proves to be all that it is expected the germ of typhoid will be a simple thing to kill, and all vegetable germs that are harmful to mankind will be at the mercy of the chemical that has been found to be their most deadly enemy.

Named the Man.

During the session of the house on Tuesday Representative Bartlett of Georgia, in the course of a speech, said he knew who would be nominated for president by the democrats. Upon being asked by a republican member who it would be, he answered: "Judge Parker of New York." The announcement elicited considerable applause from the democratic side.

AN AWFUL DISASTER.

A Russian Battleship Sinks With Six Hundred of Her Crew.

THE SHIP TOUCHED A MINE.

The Russian Squadron Had Gone Out from Port Arthur to Meet Japanese Fleet, and Was Returning.

A dispatch from Port Arthur to the Czar says: "The Petropavlovsk struck a mine, which blew her up and she turned turtle. Our squadron was under Golden Hill. The Japanese squadron was approaching. Vice Admiral Makaroff evidently was lost. Grand Duke Cyril was saved. He is slightly injured. Capt. Jakovlev was saved, though severely injured, as were five officers and 32 men, all more or less injured. The enemy's fleet has disappeared. Rear Admiral Prince Oultskoy has assumed command of the fleet."

Another dispatch from Viceoyr Alexieff to the Czar says: "According to reports from the commandant at Port Arthur, the battle ships and cruisers went out to meet the enemy, but in consequence of the enemy's relieving reinforcements, making his total strength thirty vessels, our squadron returned to the roadstead, whereupon the Petropavlovsk struck a mine, resulting in her destruction. Grand Duke Cyril, who was on board, was saved. He was slightly injured. The whole squadron then re-entered the port. The Japanese are now off Cape Liao-Shan. No reports have been received from the acting commander of the fleet up to the time this dispatch was sent."

DETAILS OF THE DISASTER.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says: "The awful disaster to the battleship Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur, with the loss of almost her entire crew of over six hundred men, and the death of Vice Admiral Makaroff, has been a terrible blow. It would have fallen less heavily if the ship and the commander-in-chief of the fleet had been lost in battle, but to be the result of another accident, following upon the heels of a succession of tragedies of which the Port Arthur fleet has been the victim, has created something like consternation."

"Reverses we can endure," said a prominent Russian, "but to have the Petropavlovsk, the fate of the Yensen and the Borzhin in heart, is a disaster. Besides, it has just been known that the battleship Poltava, several weeks ago, had a hole rammed in her by the battleship Sevostopol while the latter was manoeuvring in the harbor of Port Arthur.

The day has been one of intense excitement in St. Petersburg. The first inkling of the catastrophe leaked out on account of a telegram to Grand Duke Vladimir, from his son, Grand Duke Boris, announcing the wounding of Grand Duke Cyril, who was first officer of the Grand Duchess Vladimir. The telegram, being convinced that the message was only a precursor of worse news, as it was signed by Grand Duke Boris, instead of by the aide to Grand Duke Cyril, Lieut. Von Kube. Lieut. Von Kube had gone down with the ship.

REAR ADMIRAL PRINCE OULTSKOY.

Rear Admiral Prince Oultskoy wired from Port Arthur Thursday that the Beustrashni one of the Russian torpedo boat destroyers sent out during the night to reconnoiter, became separated from the rest of the fleet, owing to the bad weather prevailing, was surrounded by Japanese torpedo boat destroyers and was sunk in the fight. Five men were saved. Admiral Oultskoy adds: "I have taken command provisionally of the fleet since the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. During some manoeuvring of the battleship squadron the Polubda struck against a mine amidships on the starboard side. She was able to regain port by herself. No one on board of her was killed or wounded."

THE JAPS LURED THEM.

A dispatch from Chefoo says it has been learned from Japanese source here that the attack on the Russian Port Arthur fleet of Thursday morning was planned and put into effect in the following manner: At daylight the Japanese torpedo boats made the outer entrance to the harbor. They then retired and joined the main squadron. The squadron then advanced and as it drew near the Russian ships were seen coming out. The battleship Petropavlovsk struck one of the mines laid by the Japanese torpedo boats and was destroyed.

GOES FOR CLEVELAND.

In the House of Representatives Thursday Mr. Cochran, Democrat of Missouri, attacked ex-President Cleveland for forcing his financial policies on the country which, he said, were at variance with those of the majority of voters, and said that Mr. Cleveland's arbitrary way of doing so was a menace to constitutional government. Mr. Cleveland was a man "whose friendship means paralysis and whose support means dishonor." The ex-president had been exiled "never again to reinstate himself in the confidence of his countrymen." He said that now the country was returning to patriotism and sanity, he would commend to those in charge of the booms of certain men seeking the Democratic nomination to bear in mind that one of the most circuitous routes possible or imaginable was a certificate of good character from Mr. Cleveland, "late Republican president of the United States."

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The Greenville News, the editor of which knows Charleston pretty thoroughly, writes in his experience there as a reporter, says: "The congressional party which I arrive in Charleston Thursday will be met by a committee which is composed of men whose names have always been foremost in society and State, and by others whose names have been identified with violations of the dispensary law. This might lead to the impression that the old social lines in Charleston have been blotted out, it likewise proves the Congressman Legare is a very smooth politician." And it also helps to an understanding of the failure of Charleston juries to convict violators of the dispensary law. When men who habitually violate a law are put forward as representative citizens of their community we need not expect juries to send them to jail.—The Spectator.

A Great Discovery.

A dispatch from Washington says a discovery which may prove to be the most beneficial to mankind since that of chloroform has been made by the scientists of the Department of Agriculture and will probably be placed at the disposal of physicians and health reformers by being introduced into the blood through other channels than water will be left for science to find the remedy of the preventive. If the discovery proves to be all that it is expected the germ of typhoid will be a simple thing to kill, and all vegetable germs that are harmful to mankind will be at the mercy of the chemical that has been found to be their most deadly enemy.

Named the Man.

During the session of the house on Tuesday Representative Bartlett of Georgia, in the course of a speech, said he knew who would be nominated for president by the democrats. Upon being asked by a republican member who it would be, he answered: "Judge Parker of New York." The announcement elicited considerable applause from the democratic side.