

The Watchman and Southern.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1849.

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ALABAMA LAUNCHED.

The First of Three New Battleships of Her Type.

Philadelphia, May 18.—The battleship Alabama was successfully launched at Gramp's shipyard at 12 50 to day.

There was not a hitch of any sort to mar the success of the launching. Miss Mary E. Morgan, daughter of Senator Morgan of Alabama, named the ship for her native State. The weather was beautiful, but only a few persons witnessed the ceremony, fear of Spanish treachery keeping the gates of the shipyard closed against all except about 200 invited guests and newspaper men. The ship can be made ready for commission in a year if the armor is delivered promptly.

The Alabama is the first to be launched of the three new battleships of her type, the other two being the Illinois and Wisconsin. She presents marked divergencies of design from the first three, the Oregon, Indiana and Massachusetts. These differences involve both the arrangement of the battery and the size of displacement.

The 8-inch guns of the Indiana type are done away with entirely. The main battery of the Alabama type consists of four 13-inch guns in turrets and fourteen 6-inch rapid firing guns, of which 10 are mounted on the gun deck, eight in broadside between the turrets and two firing straight ahead forward of the fore turret on the gun deck. Four are mounted in a small redoubt on the casemate deck, two on each side. The broadside 6-inch guns instead of being mounted in projecting sponsons are mounted in recess ports in order to secure extensive train forward and abaft the beam.

The general dimensions of the Alabama class are as follows: Length over all, 374 feet; breadth 72 feet; free board, forward, 20 feet; free board, abaft the after turret, 13 feet, 3 inches; draught, 23 feet, 6 inches; displacement, 11,520 tons. The guaranteed speed is to be 16 knots and the estimated horse power 10,000.

The main battery has already been described. The secondary battery consists of seventeen 6-pounder rapid fire guns, six 1-pounder rapid fire guns and four gatling.

The Oregon Home.

Believed to Have Joined Sampson's Fleet.

Washington, May 18.—Secretary Long gave out the welcome information to day that the battleship Oregon, the second largest craft in the American navy, had successfully completed her long trip from San Francisco, making the entire circuit of South America, and was now safe. Whether or not she has joined Admiral Sampson's fleet the secretary would not say. The rigid secrecy of the navy department was relaxed only enough to make known the best news the navy department had received since the battle of Manila, as it meant, not only that the Oregon was out of harm's way from a concerted attack on this one ship by the whole Spanish squadron now in southern waters, but also that her great fighting strength would be added to Admiral Sampson's force in the near future, if indeed it had not already augmented the admiral's strength.

The Oregon left San Francisco about six weeks ago, before the war had opened, and at that time it was not admitted that she was to join the ships in Asiatic waters. She stopped at Callao for dispatches and then went round the Horn and then up the east coast of South America. To all the trip covered more than 13,000 miles.

Aside from this bit of information, Secretary Long said at the close of office hours that there was no further news to be given out. Late in the day Secretary Long joined the war board which had been in session for some hours to participate in the discussion of their plans, which he believed to have been materially modified by the news received from the Oregon.

The Grand Old Man Dead.

William Ewart Gladstone Passes Peacefully Away.

Hawarden, May 19.—Mr. Gladstone died at 5 o'clock this morning. He had been unconscious practically all day, though at times he seemed to recognize for a moment some of the watchers about him. Certainly he did recognize his wife, who was beside him all day except when the physician prevailed upon her to rest. She tenderly clasped her husband's hand as she watched him. Apparently he slept a good deal; occasionally he uttered a few words in an incoherent, dreamy way, words which those who were watching were unable to catch. Their only consolation was that he was not suffering pain. No narcotics were administered.

Though a national funeral will probably be accepted by the family, there is little doubt that the remains of Mr. Gladstone will be laid in the peaceful graveyard at Hawarden adjoining the church where he was married more than half a century ago. At Hawarden the happiest portion of his life was passed, and it is truly a retreat sweet enough for any laborer.

London, May 19.—Every other topic in Great Britain dropped out of sight before the passing of Mr. Gladstone. In two pieces, perhaps, was the tension most keen and most heartfelt—the house of commons and Hawarden.

Just before the house rose yesterday a telegram from Mr. Herbert Gladstone reached Lord Stanley announcing that his father was sinking. Already before his death the hue of grief seemed to fall over the scene of his triumph.

It was generally felt at St. Stephen's that his dying was but the sequel to that great scene witnessed four years ago, when his last speech spoken, he quitted the house without one word of adieu.

In anticipating the inevitable, the members of the government discussed the appropriate procedure to be observed and resolved that no effort on their part should be wanting to mark a suitable sense of their loss.

Disregarding recent procedure it was decided that the programme should be the same as that adopted in the cases of the Earl of Chatham and of the younger Pitt, namely, an address to her majesty for a funeral at the public charge and a monument erected in Westminster abbey.

Throughout the whole kingdom every public gathering added its words of deep grief to the volume of national mourning clearly versed in the telegram from the Prince of Wales to Mr. Henry Gladstone: "My thoughts are with you, your mother and your family at this trying time you are experiencing. God grant your father do not suffer. (Signed) Albert Edward."

Aboard the evidences of sympathy were almost universal. M. Faure, president of the French republic, daily enquired and has regularly received every bulletin. The press of Belgium, France, Italy and Greece, in a spontaneous outburst recalled how many oppressed peoples during Mr. Gladstone's life have offered hymns of praise for his intervention in their behalf; while in Madrid even the prospect of his death has caused a 24 hours' suspension of war animosity against England.

Not the least point in this tribute to Mr. Gladstone was its profound unanimity.

A Wolf Chase in Fort Mill.

A report came to Rock Hill on Monday that a wolf had made its appearance in Fort Mill and that on Sunday John Spratt, colored, had quite an exciting spat with the "varmint." While on the way from church he was attacked by the wolf, which he believed to be a mad dog. He ran to his home to get his gun, and after going back upon the scene the animal made another ferocious spurt at him. He pulled the trigger, a report followed, but his aim was untrue, and the wolf hopped away and was soon out of sight. A crowd gathered with dogs and after chasing the animal for several hours it was captured and turned out to be a genuine wolf. A little girl, child of Mr. James Sutton, was attacked by the wolf, but she was not hurt. Her clothing, however, was much torn.—Rock Hill Herald.

Charleston, May 18.—County Auditor William G. Eason committed suicide early this morning by shooting himself in the left breast with a pistol. The ball entered near the heart; and death must have followed almost instantly, as he was cold in death when found this morning about 7 o'clock by a member of his household.

If you want a good, honest sewing machine trade, see Randall's.

The Southern Methodists.

No Reconsideration of the Election of Drs. Morrison and Candler as Bishops.

Baltimore, Md., May 18.—The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, contrary to general expectations, made no attempt whatever to day to reconsider its action of yesterday in electing the Rev. Drs. Morrison and Candler to Bishoprics, and the expected action of the body in amending the recommendations of the committee on Episcopacy, so as to permit the choice of a third Bishop, in the person of the Rev. Dr. E. E. Hoss, of Nashville, who received 149 votes for the place, did not take place. It is said that an arrangement was made during the night by which, in order to insure harmony in the Church, it was agreed to let the matter stand as it did yesterday, when the session was cut short by an adjournment. At any rate, when the Conference opened this morning the Rev. Dr. Hoss positively declined to accede to any plan looking to the reconsideration of the vote or the election of an additional Bishop. This being the case, the Conference promptly took up the election of minor officers, and, on the first ballot, chose Dr. Hoss to succeed himself as editor of the Daily Advocate, the official organ of the Church, published in Nashville, Tenn. It then took two ballots in an effort to elect a secretary of the board of church extension, but had reached no conclusion when to day's session adjourned. The new Bishops will be ordained to-morrow afternoon.

CHARLESTON HARBOR PROTECTION.

Major Ruffner, chief of the engineer corps at Charleston, received yesterday a large and powerful electric searchlight and this will be mounted at once on the upper fortifications at Sullivan's Island. It will be operated from the electric plant already installed in the mortar battery, and will be used to assist the patrol boats in watching the channel entrance at night.

The harbor is now thickly "sown" with mines and all vessels coming in or going out are shown the way by the patrol boat Cecilia. If it should become necessary the channel can, and will be, laid with "contact" mines, such as now protect New York harbor at night. These latter war machines are put down every night and taken up in the morning. While they are in position no vessel, foreign or friendly, could enter or leave the harbor without the greatest danger.—News and Courier, May 19.

The Position of France.

The apprehension that France would take a hand against us in our war with Spain is being rapidly allayed.

The French government has never done anything to arouse such expectations and the tone of the French press is by no means as threatening toward the United States as it was some days ago. In fact, some of the leading newspapers of Paris, while deploring the war, declare that our government has acted with entire propriety. The action of the French authorities in the Harvard case should be accepted as proof positive that they may be relied upon to maintain strict neutrality. When it was announced that our disabled cruiser was to be permitted to remain at St. Pierre, Martinique, seven days to make necessary repairs, the Spanish government protested that this was an unreasonable concession. The French foreign office promptly and emphatically declined to recede from its position. Surely no power which had the slightest intention of interfering in a manner unfriendly to us would have taken such a course. France acted in this matter with decided liberality toward the United States, and the official attitude of our government that the attitude of France had been misrepresented in this country was proper and timely.

That the weight of popular sympathy in France is with Spain is probably true, and there are reasons why it should be. There is a racial tie between the two nations; they are neighbors and have often been allies; the French people have an immense financial interest in Spain, their Spanish investments of all kinds amounting, it is said, to \$800,000,000.

We cannot reasonably object to French popular sympathy for Spain, but we have no reason to believe that the French government intends or desires to take part against us.—Atlanta Journal.

The populists of Georgia have nominated J. R. Hogan, of Lincoln county, for Governor.

Frank Caldwell, a boy fourteen years old, was thrown from a dog cart in Columbia yesterday afternoon and killed. Mrs. Frank Leidy who was with him was seriously injured.

The State Democratic Convention.

Columbia, May 19.—The Democratic May State convention has been held and nothing very astonishing has resulted therefrom. All efforts to do away with the State campaign this year or to reduce the number of meetings failed utterly and the schedule will call for 41 of the meetings. The candidates for public office this year will accordingly get harder campaign work no doubt than the soldiers in the army. A resolution endorsing the State administration was presented and referred to the committee on resolutions, but when the committee's report came in that particular resolution was missing.

The convention's action as to the prohibition movement and the dispensary law is embraced in the following, which was everything adopted on the subject:

"That we pledge the Democratic party to a continued support of the dispensary law as the best solution of the liquor question and call upon all lovers of temperance and good order to hold up the hands of our public servants in their efforts to administer it in the interest of morality, good conduct and prosperity."

It was a fine and a representative body of men. All classes and conditions were present. The attendance was not as large as usual. Some of the delegates were absent, and some had to skirmish around and try to fill up their delegations, and even by getting friends into the Convention many of the delegations were short several members.

At 12 08 o'clock State Chairman Tompkins called the convention to order and asked for nominations for chairman.

Senator Mayfield nominated "the tried Democrat from Abbeville," Senator I. H. McCalla.

Senator McCalla was unanimously elected and was conducted to the chair.

A committee on credentials was appointed and the convention adjourned until 3 o'clock.

On re-assembling the temporary organization was made permanent and the convention then proceeded to elect one vice president from each congressional district, the election resulting as follows, each being unanimous:

- First—Jos W Barwell.
- Second—D S Henderson.
- Third—Josh W Ashley.
- Fourth—M L Donaldson.
- Fifth—Wm Jeffries.
- Sixth—W J Montgomery.
- Seventh—D F Efrd.

Committees, consisting of one from each county, on Platforms and Resolutions and Constitution and By-Laws were appointed. It was agreed that all resolutions should be referred without discussion, to these committees.

The following was offered by Col. Robert Aldrich, which he read himself, from the press stand, concluding amid applause:

1. Be it resolved by the Democratic party of South Carolina in convention assembled:

That we renew our fealty to the Democratic party of the United States, and again endorse its principles as enunciated in the Chicago platform of 1896, and declare anew our unabated confidence in its peerless leader—Wm. Jennings Bryan.

2. That we view with pride and satisfaction the Democratic administration of our State government for the present term, and confer upon it the well done of an approving constituency.

3. That we pledge the Democratic party to a continued support of the dispensary law, as the best solution of the liquor question and call upon all lovers of temperance and good order to hold up the hands of our public servants in their efforts to administer it in the interest of morality, good conduct and prosperity.

4. That we pledge the State of South Carolina to a royal support of the government of the United States in the present war with Spain, and assure our fellow countrymen throughout the Union that the spirit which animated our forefathers in the olden time, still lives in the heart and minds of their descendants.

5. That we bid our gallant soldiers who have taken up arms in defense of the country God speed, and promise that in the hardships they undergo and the sacrifices they may make that at home they will not be forgotten.

The committee on resolutions reported favorably on Mr. Gaines' resolution empowering County Executive Committees to fill the chairmanship by election in case it should become vacant by death or resignation.

Mr. Patton's resolution to permit volunteer soldiers who shall be absent from the State to vote by proxy in the democratic primary was adopted.

The effort to have Masters, Supervisors and Magistrates nominated at the primaries was defeated.

All resolutions looking toward

Mackey in Morro Castle.

An Interesting Story that Sounds Like Part Fiction.

When in Washington a few days ago we met Hon. Thomas J. Mackey, who some years ago was a familiar figure in South Carolina politics. He was in fine health and spirits and told us one of his interesting adventures at the close of the Civil War. When he surrendered he was captain of Engineers in the Confederate States Army. He surrendered in Texas and as it was the rule to give paroled soldiers transportation home he got a ticket to Charleston by way of Havana. His wife and one child were with him on the trip. Like most of the Confederate soldiers he was without money but good luck came to his assistance. He sold his sword to a United States officer for fifty dollars. And about that time he was attacked by a number of roughs. Although the odds were against him he drew his Colt's Navy and in the fracas killed three of the roughs. A United States officer who saw how he handled his pistol when he turned it loose on the roughs, paid him five hundred dollars for the weapon. Judge Mackey was glad enough to get rid of his pistol for he did not care to keep it after killing so many men with it. Just at this time the United States officer in command seized two hundred bales of cotton which belonged to a young Cuban and was worth forty cents a pound, in gold. The young Cuban was sent to jail and shortly afterwards sent for Judge Mackey who during the investigation had declared in Spanish that the young Cuban had a clear legal right to the cotton and it was not subject to confiscation. Being on good terms with Gen. Smith, of the United States Army, who was in command of that department, Judge Mackey succeeded in having the cotton restored to the young Cuban. He declined to charge any fee for the service, but the young man compelled him to take a large sum of money and wrote a letter to his father setting forth the handsome way in which he had been treated by Judge Mackey. The father was a man of high social position in Havana and of immense wealth. When Judge Mackey and his wife and child reached Havana he stopped at the English Hotel, but the old gentleman took him to his home and made him his guest of honor. It happened that the host was a brother-in-law of the colonel who was in command of Morro Castle. The colonel invited the whole party to a swell dining and insisted upon Judge Mackey spending several days with him. He thought Judge Mackey was a lawyer and had no idea that he was a military engineer. During the stay Judge Mackey had the freedom of the fort and misled the colonel by asking if powder was kept in certain big water tanks. The colonel then pointed out where the magazines were located.

During his stay Judge Mackey found out all about Morro Castle and put his information down in writing after he retired to his room at night. When he returned to America he presented a diagram of Morro Castle and of surrounding forts to the War Department. His diagram is highly prized by the Department at this time and it is expected that it will be used when Havana is besieged.—Abbeville Medium.

Mexico as an Ally.

Austin, Texas, May 18.—President Diaz, of Mexico, has written to Governor Culberson that he has ordered the Mexican troops on the border to render assistance and protect citizens on the Texas side, if called on. He says he has sent additional troops to the border, with orders, to co-operate with the United States troops in preventing depredations on Texas soil, and has instructed them to ask the co-operation of United States troops, if necessary. He closes his letter by saying: "With the hope that the good relations of true and candid friendship, which for so many years have united the two Republics of North America, may continue, and with the purpose of cultivating them on my part, interpreting the will of this country towards yours, I subscribe myself your attentive servant and friend."

A Lesson.

When President Cleveland and Secretary Whitney in 1885 urged the reconstruction of the navy in accordance with modern science there were narrow-minded men in congress who opposed the necessary appropriations as a waste of the dear people's money. At every subsequent stage of this great reform the same class of hickory-nut heads have popped up in both houses of congress.

Fortunately they have not been strong enough to prevent the progress of the good work but they have deterred it in several instances and then gone home to boast of their watchfulness at the door of the treasury.

If these petty demagogues had controlled legislation during the past twelve years where would we have been when the occasion for war arose?

There is hardly a South American republic that would not have been our superior on the seas and we would have been helpless against the navy of Spain. The war will teach us many useful lessons, but one of the best of them will be that there is an economy which is the worst possible waste and that the obnoxious congressman is a bad guide to safe public policies.—Atlanta Journal.

WHAT SPAIN INTENDS TO DO.

London, May 20.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says: "The Spanish correspondent says that Gibraltar has received within a fortnight one hundred thousand tons of coal and large quantities of ammunition."

The new Spanish Cabinet nearly came to grief on Senor Gamazo's demand that it should not be bound by the outgoing ministry. The Government intends to increase the means of defence of territories exposed to foreign greed, and is considering the necessity of keeping a basis of operations in Spain.

In the Philippines a majority of the people are loyal, and the Americans and their few native soldiers are unable to conquer another acre of soil. Spain will, therefore, keep at home the 7,000 troops intended for the Philippines until further notice, and will immediately send the Cadiz reserve squadron to Manila to chastise Dewey.

We had to go and muse beside a car load of guano to get a good smell in our nostrils when we heard of the appointment of John Gary Evans to the United States army. However, he has his uses. He will be a valuable officer if a raid is planned on the enemy's treasury and a most active leader in time of retreat. Were he commissioned to raise a regiment, it would be necessary for him to scour the country from the mountains to the sea to get the requisite number of men to follow him. If he is to be connected with the militia of this State a further call for volunteer troops will be met by absolute silence in South Carolina.—Greenwood Index.

Paris, May 10.—Senor Leon y Castillo, Spanish ambassador to France, who has been tendered the foreign office portfolio in the reconstructed cabinet of Senor Sagasta, has replied to Senor Sagasta declining to accept.

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Washington, May 20.—The navy department states that the Oregon and the auxiliary cruiser Harvard are cruising off the Coast of San Domingo in search of the Spanish fleet and will be ready to go to the assistance of Sampson in the event of a battle occurring in that quarter of the sea.

Good sewing machine from \$10 up at Randall's.

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The best Salve in the world for Cuts Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever, Sore Throat, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded price 25 cents per box. For sale by Dr. J. F. W. DeLorne.

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