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About fifty vessels altogether have been added to our naval strength. The most important are the four swift and large transatlantic steamers of the American line—the St. Louis, St. Paul, Paris and New York, and four steamers of the Morgan line. These last bore the Spanish names El Sud, El Norte, El Rio and El Sol, which have been changed to the Dixie, the Yankee, the Prairie and the Yosemite, in recognition of the Southern, Northern, Central and far Western sections of the country. The Paris has been named the Yale and the New York the Harvard.

LIVING RENT FREE.

Philadelphia Man Who Went Broke Because He Did Not Pay.

A Philadelphia man has lived ten years in a house for which he paid no rent and no taxes. It belonged to the gas company, and he had paid rent regularly until the property of the company was transferred to the city. He says himself: "I don't remember how long it is since I stopped paying rent. It was when the gas office was on 7th street. I went there one day with my rent and offered it to Mr. White, who had charge of the gas company's real estate, but he refused to take it, and told me that it was to be paid at the city treasurer's office in the future. I took it up there and a young man there said he could not take it, as he couldn't find record of any such a house. He told me that they would notify me when they were ready to take my money. I went back to Mr. White and he advised me to go home and wait until I heard from them. Well, I waited." Nobody came to collect money until recently, when the city discovered its title and sent a man to collect. The tenant got a day to consider and promptly skipped. But his experience with a free rent does not seem to be satisfactory, if we may trust to his wife. "Yes" says she, resentfully, "he thought it was a snap, and look where he is now—no money, no business, looking for a job, and a family to support. He wouldn't take my advice and move to where business was good, but he hugged his snap and stuck here in that stagnant neighborhood and spent money on repairs for the house and didn't make any money."—Philadelphia Record.

Origin of Chess.

To-day it is the accepted belief that India was the original home of chess, and that it was transplanted thence to Persia in the sixth century of our era. Firdusi, the Persian poet, tells, in his great epic, "Shah Nameh" (the Book of Kings), a curious story about the introduction of the game. There came one day to the great king, Naushirawan, an envoy from his tributary, the king of Hind, bearing among rich presents a handsome chessboard and the strangest letter ever sent to overlord, proposing a riddle to his almighty majesty, and insisting on a solution to it. Naushirawan was to set his wise men to discover, from the board and the pieces the principles of the game. If they succeeded, then the king of Hind would dutifully pay his tribute as heretofore. If they failed, then clearly, wisdom did not dwell with them, and he could no longer demean himself by paying tribute to the lord of such ignoramuses; rather would he claim tribute himself. Naushirawan was sorely perplexed. He handled the pieces and examined the board; he tried to bribe the envoy to reveal the secret; at length he begged seven days' grace. Then he summoned his wise men from far and near, and put to them the puzzle. They were as nonplused as the Egyptian wise men were to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. They pulled long faces and consulted the stars; they wrangled and argued; but all was in vain. At length a Joseph appeared in the person of the king's chief counsellor, who had hitherto held aloof in regard for his dignity, but who now promised that, given secrecy and seclusion, he would read this riddle. In a day and a night he returned from his study, and expounded to the court the mysteries of the game of chess, to the king's great joy, the envoy's chagrin, and the salvation of the revenue.

No Hearse or Grave in Siam.

When a poor man dies in Siam he is not taken to the grave in a plumed hearse, with friends following behind

CARRIED TO WHERE BUZZARDS WAIT.

in ninety-seven carriages at $6 to $8 apiece. He is bundled into a box and carried by a couple of men to the place where the buzzards wait for him, and that is the last of him.

A FUNNY OLD TOWN.

Some of the Many Amusing Features of Key West.

Key West is one of the oldest and funniest towns in the United States. It is made up of innumerable little wooden houses without chimneys, but crowded in irregular groups. Many of the houses have wooden shutters in place of glass windows. On most of the streets there are no sidewalks, but people stumble over the jagged edges of coral rock. The natives who wear shoes ride in carriages. There are a great number of public vehicles, and one can be hailed at any corner and engaged for 10 cents. Some of these carriages are quite respectable in appearance. They are generally double-seated affairs which have been discarded in the North. The horses are wrecks and they show by their appearance that fodder is dear and that they are not half fed. One of the sounds of Key West is the whacking of the horses which draw the carriages and the mules which move the street cars from place to place. The street cars look as if they had been dug up from the neighborhood of the pyramids. Ropes are used for reins and the only substantial thing about the whole outfit is the great rawhide whip, with which the street car driver labors incessantly. The people, as a rule, are opposed to excessive exertion, but they make an exception in the case of labor with a whip.

The town has one struggling newspaper, which is worthy of a better support. The climate, of which much has been written, is too good to be wasted, and there are traditions against excessive mental effort by either the makers or the readers of newspapers. Hundreds of dogs, cats, roosters, goats and "razorbacks" run at large through the streets, and the three former combine to make the night hideous. In the early evening the sound of negro meetings and jubilations predominates. Then the cats begin where the shouters leave off. Later, the dogs, sneaking and sore-eyed, and more numerous than any other species, take up the refrain. There is a strange mixture of races at Key West, but the negroes are the most patriotic class. They alone celebrate Fourth of July and other national holidays. While the town has its enlightened and respectable people, it also has its shoddy class, whose ignorance of the rest of the world carries them to grotesque extremes in their efforts to proclaim their greatness. Even in its schools, Key West is peculiar. The schoolhouses are built like cigar factories, and each has mounted upon the roof the bell of an old locomotive. When the school bells are ringing it is easy to close your eyes and imagine yourself in one of the great railroad depots of the North. The classes are large, the teachers have a constant struggle with the climate, so the scholars have time to make pea-shooters and other instruments of torture for the unsuspecting visitor who falls into their ambush.

If the teachers have a hard time, the clergy have a worse one. The churches are much-abused institutions, with a large patronage and a meagre support. The theaters are seldom open, and are even more grudgingly supported than the churches. The decorations have been likened to a cockney on a holiday, and the galleries amuse themselves between the acts by shouting "fire," to startle strangers who do not know the joke.

Men that smoke presume that cigars are manufactured in Key West, but there is another source of income of scarcely less importance. Any unfortunate ship that ventures into port is considered legitimate prey, and it is a bold man that dares to protest against the confiscation of his property. When a ship is seen approaching the reefs the greatest excitement prevails, and some people even fall on their knees to petition for her speedy destruction.

If a vessel strikes she is immediately surrounded by a crowd of wreckers, who cling to her like flies to a molasses barrel. After there has been a wreck, storekeepers have money in their pockets and do not care whether you buy of them or not. The proprietor of a shop will stretch himself, yawn and finally saunter over toward his customer to find what is wanted.

"No doubt," said the lamented Mr. Gladstone, "I have suffered a good deal for the last six months. But then I have had one hundred and seventy-six months almost without pain." A great man's acceptance of the reverent words of an ancient sufferer, "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

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A GREAT BATTLE.

More Than 400 Americans Killed or Wounded.

ATTACKING SANTIAGO.

The Spanish Outworks Taken By Shafter.

THE VESUVIUS GUNS.

Both Sampson and Cervera Join in the Conflict of the Land Forces—Caney and Aguadores Were the First Points of Attack.—The Spaniards Gave a Desperate Resistance, But Were Forced Back Gradually—Americans Were Eager For the Fray.

The first great battle between the American and Spanish military forces in Cuba was fought Friday before Santiago. Between four and five hundred brave American soldiers were killed or wounded. From eight o'clock in the morning until sundown the conflict raged. There was fierce fighting all along the line. General Lawton's division and General Bates' brigade succeeded, after a hard fight, in carrying and holding El Caney, an important position. Official dispatches from General Shafter state that the enemy's outworks were carried, and his forces are now within three-quarters of a mile of the city, with open country before them. His entire force was concentrating during the night for a final attack on the Spanish stronghold.

General Shafter, in his report, says the American casualties are not over 500, but they are mostly in wounded. Not many were killed.

While the land forces were driving the Spaniards back into the doomed city, Admiral Sampson's fleet, including the terrible Vesuvius, were pouring a terrific fire into the forts. The dynamite guns of the Vesuvius did great damage.

General Shafter now evidently intends to take Santiago at all hazards, and as quick as possible, for the reason that only about 5,000 Cubans at different points are holding in check some 20,000 Spanish reinforcements including General Pando's division. The strength of the Cuban forces has been so exaggerated by the insurgent generals that but little dependence can be placed in their ability to hold back the enemy any great length of time.

General Shafter's Report.

A Washington special says: The War Department received the following from General Shafter, dated at Siboney:

Had a very heavy engagement, which lasted from 8 A. M. until sundown. We have carried their outworks, and are now in possession of them. There is now about three-quarters of a mile of open between my lines and the city.

By morning troops will be entrenched, and considerable augmentation of forces will be there. General Lawton's division and General Bates' brigade, which have been engaged all day in carrying El Caney, which was accomplished at 4 P. M., will be in line and in front of Santiago during the night. I regret to say that our casualties will be above 400. Of these not many killed.

(Signed) SHAFTER.

The Vesuvius In It.

Playa del Este, Province of Santiago de Cuba, (Special.)—A general assault on the city of Santiago de Cuba by the land and sea forces of the United States began at seven o'clock Friday morning.

General Lawton advanced and took possession of Cabona, a suburb of Santiago.

Morro Castle and the other forts at the entrance of the harbor were bombarded by our fleet. The Vesuvius used her dynamite guns with good effect.

The Spanish fleet in the harbor fired on the American troops, who were very close to the city.

At one o'clock Friday afternoon, after five hours terrific fighting, the Spanish began to leave their entrenchments and retreat into the city. Many Americans were wounded and are being brought in. One man had both arms shot off and was wounded in the hip, but was laughing.

The fighting continued until dark. Our forces carried the enemy's outer works, and have occupied them.

The battle will probably be resumed at daybreak.

The American loss is heavy.

Some estimates place it at five hundred killed and wounded.

A Spanish Shell's Frightful Havoc.

The New York Herald's special cable from the front says:

Four hundred of our men were killed and wounded in Friday's engagements. The Spaniards, with improved aim, sent a shell into our lines, and the explosion which followed annihilated an entire company.

The advance of General Shafter's forces was checked by the Spaniards only at the city gates. It was dark when the fighting ceased for the day. At sunset our troops were in possession of the ground they had gained.

From three directions the American forces advanced toward the doomed city. While General Lawton and General Wheeler were attacking Caney, northeast of Santiago, General Kent was advancing toward Aguadores. General Garcia, with his Cuban troops, at the same time approached Caney from the southeast, and the other divisions of the American army pressed toward Santiago from the east, our forces thus presenting a solid front from the coast to General Linares' northern defenses.

Four members of the Twenty-first Regiment of Regulars were killed in the fighting between Sevilla and Aguadores, while sixteen other Americans, all members of the Twenty-first, were wounded.

Both the American and Spanish fleets early joined in the battle. While Admiral Sampson's men were reducing the recently emplaced batteries at Aguadores, Admiral Cervera's fleet was hurling shells in the direction of the American and Cuban lines.

The Artillery Begin It.

Two batteries of light artillery, acting under orders from Major General Shafter, who went to the front at the head of the troops, began the battle of Santiago by attacking Caney.

From this village a direct road leads into Santiago, and the advance of our forces will be irresistible when they gain possession of this road.

General Wheeler, with a detachment of his cavalry command, and General Garcia, with his Cuban troops, quickly joined General Lawton's men in the advance upon Caney.

The Spaniards for a time fought desperately to prevent Caney from falling into the hands of our forces. It was a vain effort.

Before the fighting had been long under way the American and Cuban forces gained advanced ground. Foot by foot the enemy was driven back into the village.

It was evident after the first hour's fighting that General Shafter accurately had gauged the strength of the enemy, and that he would be able to drive the Spaniards into Santiago at his pleasure.

It was with difficulty that the commanding officers restrained the ardor of our troops until the hour for beginning the attack came.

COMMODORE JOHN C. WATSON, U. S. N.

—From Baltimore Herald.

He will Command the Squadron Which has been Ordered to the Spanish Coast.

TERROR CRIPPLED.

The Destroyer Attacks St. Paul and Gets Worst of It.

AN OFFICER KILLED.

The Fight Occurred Off San Juan and the Spanish in Their Report of it, Said the Terror Was "Slightly Damaged"—The Cruiser Isabel II. Was Also Engaged.

A Washington special says: The Navy Department Tuesday posted the following bulletin:

"Captain Sigsbee reports that last Wednesday afternoon while off San Juan, Porto Rico, he was attacked by a Spanish unprotected cruiser and the Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Terror. The Terror made a dash, which was awaited by the St. Paul. The St. Paul hit the Terror three times, killing one officer and two men and wounding several others.

"The Terror dropped back under cover of the fortifications with difficulty and was towed into the harbor in a sinking condition. She is now being repaired. Later a cruiser and a gunboat started out, but remained under the protection of the forts."

In defeating the Terror Captain Sigsbee has rendered an important service to the Navy. He has not only deprived Sampson's fleet for a time of apprehension of any attack in the rear some dark night by this vicious little boat, but he has demonstrated that an auxiliary cruiser is able to take care of herself against a torpedo gunboat.

The torpedo gunboat was an untried quantity in naval warfare up to this time. Swifter than a torpedo boat, seaworthy and possessed of armament of which the torpedo boat is void, it has been a terror in imagination to all naval men. The presence of such a Spanish gunboat, the Temerario, in the River Platte, in the pathway of the Oregon on her cruise around South America was for several weeks a cause for great anxiety at the Navy Department. Now Captain Sigsbee has shown that with an unarmored cruiser, armed with only 5-inch guns, the torpedo gunboats need not be feared, at least in daylight.

The Terror is of English build, having been turned out at Clyde Bank in 1896. She is a low-lying steel craft with steel funnels, is of 370 tons, 220 feet long, 22 feet beam and 5 feet 6 inches draught. The boat is filled with engines and boilers, her horse-power being 6,000, capable of driving her at a speed of 28 knots with Norman boilers. While the ordinary torpedo boat carries only a little one-pounder gun, the torpedo gunboat is armed with a formidable battery for a vessel of her size, consisting of two four-pounders, two six-pounders and two one-pounders, all quick-firing. She has two fourteen-inch torpedo tubes on deck.

The Spanish account of the fight was given in the following Havana dispatch sent out several days ago:

"Advices from Porto Rico report that an American cruiser appeared off the harbor on June 22 and the Spanish gunboat Isabel II. and the torpedo-boat destroyer Terror went out to engage her. The American cruiser retired. She was apparently damaged. The Terror was slightly damaged."

PRESIDENT WILL NOT LEAVE.

Likely to Remain at White House All Summer, As His Health Is Good.

A Washington special says: Some annoyance has been caused the President by statements concerning his plans for the summer. Secretary Porter announces that the President not only has no plans as yet for the summer, but has not even considered any.

So long as the situation in Cuba continues critical it is said to be the President's intention to remain in Washington, where he can direct better the operations of the war than he could at any other point.

Despite the tremendous strain which he is undergoing, the President is in excellent health. The construction of the Executive Mansion renders it a pleasant residence, even in the hottest of weather, and President McKinley has announced his purpose to remain here throughout the summer if his official duties can better be performed here than elsewhere.

MERRITT OFF FOR MANILA.

Newport Starts with Military Governor of Philippines.

A San Francisco special says: The speedy steamer, Newport, bearing Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt, military Governor of the Philippines, and his staff, besides the Astor Light Battery and Companies H and K of the Third United States Artillery and detachments from the Signal Corps is now on its way to Manila.

Great crowds had gathered to witness the departure of the vessel, and many fashionable equipages on the dock told of the presence of the representatives of the four hundred, who had come to bid farewell to friends among the members of the Astor Battery.

Many tugboats and yachts chartered for the occasion accompanied the Newport down the bay and out through the Golden Gate to the Pacific.

The Newport will make an effort to overtake the third fleet of transports, which sailed on Monday, after the fleet reaches Honolulu, where the vessels will coal and take on fresh supplies before proceeding to Manila.

Gen. Merritt is very anxious to avoid an encounter with any vessel of the Spanish navy and will issue orders to the fleet at Honolulu to make all possible speed. It is probable that the Newport will not wait for the other vessels of the fleet at Honolulu, but will proceed with as little delay as possible to Manila.

ADVANCE THE WORD.

American Forces Mobilizing in Vicinity of Aquadores.

SHAFTER AT THE FRONT.

Troops Moving Forward Rapidly, But the Progress of Pack Trains, Wagons, and Artillery is Slow on Account of the Character of the Country—Light Guns Have Reached Juragua.

Santiago, via Kingston, (Special.)—The American Army is being mobilized as rapidly as possible in the vicinity of Aguadores, four miles from Santiago. The moment this tedious task is completed the attack will begin. When that will be General Shafter himself cannot say.

The troops can be moved without much delay and are pushing forward rapidly, but the movement of the pack trains, wagons, ambulances and artillery is taxing the skill and endurances of officers and men to the utmost. From Baiquiri, where the artillery was landed, to the present place of concentration the road runs through a tangle of tropical undergrowth, up and down steep hillsides and over treacherous swamp-bordered streams for more than twelve miles.

Through this continuous thicket the army is cutting a path. Engineers are at work levelling the road and filling pits, while a large force of regulars and volunteers, with axes, aided by Cubans, with machetes, are hacking down trees and clearing out the brush. A few light cannon have reached the advance, but the siege guns are not yet within five miles of the vanguard.

The railroad from Juragua to Santiago is being rapidly pushed by the engineers and a large force of troops. Its completion will greatly simplify the movement of supplies, and the pack train will have no more arduous work than transporting the food and ammunition from point to point at the front.

Caney Almost Evacuated.

General Shafter, with a small escort, went almost to Caney, a small town five miles northeast of Santiago, with which city it is connected by railroad. Lieutenant Standing and a detail of Cubans and American sharpshooters occupied a small hill northwest of the American lines and looking directly down on both Caney and Santiago.

Caney now seems to hold only about three hundred Spanish troops, in spite of the belief of the Americans first here that the three thousand Spaniards driven forward by the advance on Baiquiri and Juragua had all retreated on Caney and not on Santiago. The small number of troops now at Caney indicates that the Spaniards have practically evacuated the place.

Lieutenant Standing was not molested during his observation, though he passed through a camp which twenty-four hours previously had been occupied by a strong Spanish outpost.

General Shafter has taken up his quarters with General Wheeler at the front.

The advance forces are in a semicircle, the left flank resting about two miles from the sea, under command of General Chaffee, with the extreme right, under the command of Colonel Miles, to the northwest. Beginning with the Twelfth Infantry at the extreme left, the Seventh, Seventeenth, Fourth, Twenty-fifth and Tenth Infantry extend to the right in the order named. Beyond them picket lines are established three-quarters of a mile nearer Santiago city, being in plain sight of General Chaffee's and Colonel Miles' troops.

Much amusement has been caused among the officers by the large number of Red Cross flags flying from buildings in Santiago. They are all flying from the largest and most prominent buildings, and the American officers say the Spanish soldiers evidently intend thus to try to protect every place in the city offering a good mark for the American artillery.

Soldiers Have Their Jokes.

Corporal Huebt, of company D, Seventh United States Infantry, who, with seven men, was sent on outpost duty two miles from Santiago, and who was forgotten, was found by General Shafter and sent into camp. The men considered the whole affair a good joke. They had repeatedly seen the Spaniards, who did not offer to molest them, and the Americans spent the day as if enjoying a picnic in the woods. The corporal said that if he had with him sufficient force he could have brought in forty Spanish prisoners.

A detail of a company of the Seventh Regiment returned here in a state of great hilarity, inquiring where they could corral a captured "pack train." In the centre of the group of soldiers was the "pack train," a Spanish pony accurately described by a corporal as being "as thick as a shingle and as long as a lath." The prisoner had been dedicated by the men to carry their captain's baggage.

The camp conditions continue hard. Heavy rains set everything afloat. Rations are being served out more regularly, but they are still not plentiful. Officers and men fare alike. The latter are suffering during the cold nights from lack of the blankets thrown away on the march. These have been appropriated by the Cubans, who take everything in sight. On the whole, they actually fare better than the Americans.

Ships in Range of Morro's Guns.

All day long four American men-of-war lay within a mile and a half of Morro's guns, but not a shot was exchanged. The fact that the Spaniards did not risk a shot or two is taken to indicate that perhaps they are short of ammunition. The Iowa, Massachusetts, Indiana and New Orleans could easily have been hit as they lay almost motionless within such easy range, but Morro might have been a country schoolhouse for all the hostile demonstration it made.

WHEELER'S REPORT

His Official Account of the Cavalry Attack.

WERE NOT AMBUSCADED

Our Men Opened Fire at Gen. Wheeler's Command With Hotchkiss Guns, to Which the Spaniards Immediately Replied—Enemy Fired in Volleys and Were Lavish in Use of Ammunition.

Camp Jaragua, via Kingston, Jamaica, (Special).—Gen. Wheeler's official report to Major-General Shafter of what is known as the battle of Siboney, is as follows:

"In Camp, Jaragua, June 29.

"To the Adjutant General of the Fifth Army Corps:

"Sir: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to the instructions of the Major-General commanding, given me in person on June 23, I proceeded to Siboney (Jaraguasito). The enemy had evacuated the place at daylight that morning, taking a course toward Sevilla. A body of about one hundred Cubans had followed and engaged the enemy's rear guard. About nine of them were wounded.

"I rode out to the front and found the enemy had halted and established themselves at a point about three miles from Siboney. At night the Cubans returned to the vicinity of the town. At eight o'clock that evening, the 23d, Gen. Young reached Siboney with eight troops of Col. Wood's regiment, A, B, D, E, F, G, K and L, 500 strong; Troops A, B, C and K, First Cavalry, in all 244 men, and Troops A, B, E and I, of the Tenth Cavalry, in all 220 men, taking the total force 964 men, which included nearly all of my command, which had marched from Baiquiri, eleven miles.

"With the assistance of Gen. Castillo, a rough map of the country was prepared, and the position of the enemy was fully explained, and I determined to make an attack at daylight on the 24th. Colonel Wood's regiment was sent by General Young, accompanied by two of his staff officers, Lieuts. Tyrree, R. Rivers and W. R. Smedburg, Jr., to approach the enemy on the left hand, or more westerly road, while Gen. Young, myself and about fifty troops of the First and Tenth Cavalry, with three Hotchkiss mountain guns, approached the enemy on the regular Sevilla road.

Began With Hotchkiss Guns.

"Gen. Young and myself examined the position of the enemy, the lines were deployed and I directed him to open fire with the Hotchkiss guns. The enemy replied and fire immediately became general. Col. Wood had deployed his right, nearly reaching the left of the regulars.

"For an hour the fight was very warm, the enemy being very lavish in expenditure of ammunition, most of their firing being by volleys.

"Finally the enemy gave way and retreated rapidly. We followed them over the line, our side keeping well closed upon them, but our men being physically exhausted by both their exertions and the great heat, were incapable of maintaining the pursuit.

"I cannot speak to highly of the gallant and excellent conduct of the officers and men throughout my command. General Young deserves special commendation for his cool, deliberate and skillful management.

"I also specially commend his Acting Adjutant General, Lieut. A. L. Miles, who, under Gen. Young's direction, was at various parts of the line, acting with energy and cool courage.

"The imperative necessity of disembarking with promptitude had compelled me to leave most of my staff to hasten this important matter, and, unfortunately I only had with me Major W. D. Beach and Mr. Mostro, an acting volunteer aid, both of whom during the engagement creditably and bravely performed their duties.

"I am especially indebted to Maj. Beach for his cool and good judgment.

Cols. Wood and Roosevelt Mentioned.

"Col. Wood's regiment was on the extreme left of the line and too far distant for me to be a personal witness of the individual conduct of the officers and men, but the magnificent bravery shown by the regiment under the lead of Col. Wood testifies to his courage and skill and the energy and determination of his officers, which has been marked from the moment he reported to me at Tampa, and I have abundant evidence of his brave and good conduct on the field, and I recommend him for the consideration of the government. I must rely upon his report to do justice to his officers and men. I desire personally to add all that I have said regarding Col. Wood applies equally to Col. Roosevelt.

"I was immediately with the troops of the First and Tenth Regiment Cavalry, dismounted, and I personally noticed their brave and good conduct, which will be specially mentioned by Gen. Young.

"I personally noticed the good conduct of Capt. W. H. Beck, Robert P. Wainwright and Jacob G. Galbraith, Major James M. Bell, Capt. Thomas T. Know and Lieut. Geo. E. Brown. The last three were wounded. Major Bell, as he lay on the ground with a broken leg, said: 'I only regret I can't go on with you further.'

"Capt. Know, though severely wounded, continued as long as possible to exercise his command and insisted to me that he was not much hurt, and Lieut. Brown also made light of his wound to me and continued upon the line until he fainted. I recommend those officers for the favorable consideration of the government.

Spanish Loss Was Heavy.

"I cannot state positively as to the size of the Spanish force which we engaged or the extent of their casualties further than that the force was much greater than ours, and that information I have would indicate that their killed and wounded very far exceeded the loss which our troops sustained, but our estimate on these points can only be verified when we have access to the reports of the Spanish commanders. The engagement inspired our troops and must have had a bad effect upon the spirits of the Spanish soldiers. It also gave our army the beautiful and well-watered country in which we have established our encampments. It has also given us a full view of Santiago and the surrounding country, and has enabled us to reconnoitre close to the fortifications of that place.

"Very respectfully,
"JOSEPH WHEELER.
"Major General United States Volunteers, commanding."

"The casualties in the engagement were:

"First United States Volunteer Cavalry, strength 500, killed 8, wounded 34.

"First United States Regular Cavalry, strength 244, killed 7, wounded 8.

"Tenth United States Regular Cavalry, strength 220, killed 1, wounded 10.

"Total strength 964, killed 16, wounded 52.

"Respectfully submitted,
"JOSEPH WHEELER,
"Major General United States Volunteers, commanding."

CAPTURED BY THE YANKEE.

Five Spanish Vessels Destroyed Off the Isle of Pines.

A Havana special says: The commander of the Spanish gunboat Ardilla reports that while reconnoitering at Coloma, Punta Cortes, and others places at Coyaela, he was informed that a strange steamer with one smokestack, apparently a warship of 3,000 tons, was in sight. The stranger soon caught sight of the Ardilla and pursued her. The gunboat kept within the blue sea and succeeded in keeping out of range of the guns of her pursuer. To the southeastward the stranger, which turned out to be an American ship, appeared to be in company with several other [illegible] made a reconnoitering [illegible] day and discovered [illegible] America had captured the sloop Nemesia, of Cabano, province of Havana; Amistad Manuelita, of Coloma, province of Pinar del Rio, and the pilot-boats Luz and Jas[illegible]

It is claimed that when the sloop sighted the American ship hoisted the Spanish flag, which caused Pilot J[illegible]nandez, of the Luz, to hoist the flag, believing he had to [illegible] Spanish warship. The pilot also [illegible]ed the American vessel, and did [illegible] his mistake until a blank shot [illegible]ward loaded shells, were fired [illegible] boat. The shells, it is claimed, [illegible] near her. The American [illegible] Amistad, Nemesia and Manuelita, [illegible]ter, it is further alleged, let go their anchors and were abandoned by their crews.

The American auxiliary cruiser referred to in the dispatch from Havana was undoubtedly the Yankee, manned by the Naval Reserves, which arrived at Key West from Cienfuegos, on Monday last. She then reported that off the Isle of Pines, [illegible] coast of Cuba, she captured, burned and [illegible]stroyed five Spanish small craft loaded with fish, and that she also captured two prisoners, who were released.

BATTLE GROUND AROUND SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The Yankee also reported having been engaged with a Spanish gunboat, undoubtedly the Ardilla, referred to in the dispatch from Havana. The Yankee met the Spaniard off Cienfuegos, and opened fire on her with the result that the Ardilla was greatly damaged, the officers of the American ship say, and probably sank soon afterward.

SPANISH VESSEL BLOWN UP.

Defective Boiler Wrecks a Blockade Runner Near San Juan.

The cruiser Antonio Lopez, while secretly trying to enter the river San Juan, near San Juan de Porto Rico, with a cargo of provisions and war material, was detected by two American warships, but escaped by swiftly changing her course.

Her captain was determined to land his cargo and headed for a shore at Sailnao, The shock of grounding exploded the boiler. It is not known whether there was any loss of life.

The lake and rail arrangements of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for this year are practically the same as were in effect in 1897. Freight for Lake Superior ports is sent by way of the Northern Steamship Company, and the Owen line is used for the Lake Michigan ports. The Trans-Lake Erie arrangements are with the Detroit Steam Navigation Company, between Cleveland and Detroit, and the Ashley & Dustin Line and the Michigan & Ohio Car Ferry Company, between Sandusky and Detroit.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The steamer Fram, which was used by Nansen, left Christiana, Norway, with a new arctic expedition, headed by Capt. Otto Sverdrup, who was with Nansen in 1895.

It is reported that the Khalifa has left the Dervish headquarters, near Khartoum, and is fleeing southward.

A House of Commons committee has decided to raise the flash point standard of petroleum in consequence of complaints of danger from American oil.

M. Paul Peytral has succeeded in forming a French cabinet, which includes De Freycinet, Sarrien and Dupuy.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain denies the rumor that he is about to retire from Lord Salisbury's cabinet.

Nineteen editors and members of the Chamber of Deputies have been convicted of participating in the recent riots at Milan and sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

Lady Yarde-Buller, once a noted California beauty, is said to be in an insane asylum at Paris.

A dispatch to St. Petersburg stated that a Chinese torpedo-boat destroyer was wrecked at Port Arthur during a recent typhoon and 130 sailors lost their lives.

A London court has decided that Sir Tatton Sykes need not pay forged notes given to the Alliance Assurance Company by Lady Sykes.

SCHLEY'S FLEET NO MORE.

The Flying Squadron Formally Merged in Sampson's Big Aggregation.

Off Santiago, via Port Antonio, (Special.)—The flying squadron heretofore commanded by Commodore Schley, has lost its identity by an order issued by Rear Admiral Sampson. It has been merged into the fleet under the admiral.

The order caused considerable surprise on board the Brooklyn, which has been the flagship of the flying squadron, where it was supposed the squadron would remain intact at least until the fall of Santiago de Cuba.

Commodore Schley has been assigned to command the second squadron, attached to Admiral Sampson's fleet.

DISPATCHES FROM CERVERA.

Intercepted Messages Show a Critical State of Things at Santiago.

Intercepted dispatches from Admiral Cervera show a critical state of affairs at Santiago. Provisions and ammunition are re-

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