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RALEIGH, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1898.

Leads all Other North Carolina Dailies in Both News and Irculation.

Such Seems to Be the Best Naval Opinion.

10 BE INVESTIGATED

LIST OF OFFICERS COMPOSING THE BOARD.

Orders to Put the Flag at Half Mast Have Been Sent to All the Naval Stations and Army Posts -The Funeral To-day.

ing attitude in respect to the terrible given way to a clamor and more judicial state of mind and realizing from the events of the day that the court of inawait the results of that inquiry by a court ordered to-day by the Navy De- patch this morning from Admiral Si partment. There was little new to add card, in command of the North Atlantic to the sum of information as to the disaster during the forenoon. No telegrams came and all that could be gleaned was a denial of some absurd story or other that had crept into print or became currrent gossip. The news of the day all came in the late afternoon in the shape of Capt. Sigbee's report of the funeral of his dead sailors. and General Lee's graphic story of the terrible struggle for life in the dark hull of the Maine.

The officials at the Navy Department devoted the day to the effort to correct the lists of living and dead; to answering frantic telegraphic appeals from relatives of men on the battleship and last, but not least, in meeting with unwavering courtesy and patience the exacting demands upon their time of the press reports. The disposition of the survivors, Capt. Dickens, acting Chief of the Navigation Bureau, has arranged for as well as could be done from this distance. The wounded sailors in the Havana hospitals, on the Spanish flagship and eleswhere, when not in condi-tion to be brought back to Key West will be carefully looked after by Miss

CLARA BARTON IN CHARGE. Clara Barton, who has been given

conspicuous that of "Cuba Libre" which HARDLY A TORPEDO flies from the staff on the Hotel Raleigh, the headquarters of the Cuban Junta. A bulletin from Key West was received this morning to the effect that divers had found an eight inch percussion hole in the bottom of the Maine. Also that

all proofs of the torpedo work will be removed. The Navy Department absolutely discredits this story. NOT A TORPEDO.

Secretary Long says that there is no such thing as a percussion hole; that there is no eight inch torpedo, and there is no other way in which such a hole could be accounted for. It is of course possible that a shell exploding inside of the ship pierced a nole of that kind in the outer skin but that would be readily revealed by the character of the angle and whether or not the skin was bulged in or out. It is more likely if THE BUNKERS THEORY NOW POPULAR there is any hole at all of the kind that it is simply the outlet of one of the numerous pieces from the inside of the

Laine. Secretary Long positively denies that Captain Sigsbee has in any suppressed telegram expressed the opinion that a torpedo caused the disaster, or that it came from an external cause. The Captain said on the contrary that he could

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The government has settled back into a waitof the Maine and referring to the work Marine disaster in Havana harbor. The of a torpedo was sent to the White House by the Associated Press and was great shock caused by the news has shown to President McKinley. His only comment was that it was the first he had heard of it. The President does not wish to make any statement concerning reevents of the day that the court of in-quiry is the sole dependence in the search for the cause of the Maine's loss, the that the administration had no advices Naval officials are now resigned to tending to confirm the Key West report.

The Navy Department received a dissquadron, giving the detail of the court of inquiry to investigate the Maine dis aster as follows: "Capt. Sampson, president of the

court; Captain Chadwick, Liqutenant Commander Schroeder, Lieutenant Commander Marix."

Captain Sampson, the president of the court, is commander of the battleship now at the Tortugas; Captain Iowa. Chadwick is commander of the New York at Key West; Lieutenant Commander Schroeder is executive officer of the battleship Massachusetts, now at the Tortugas; Lieutenant Commander Marix is executive officer of the Vermont. He was formerly with the Maine as executive officer before the detail of Lieutenant Commander Wainwright who relieved him.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

Admiral Sicard's board has ample au thority to make the most searching in-vestigation into the cause of the dis-aster. The Fern and the Mangrove reported their arrival at Havana last even ing. The former is provided with diving apparatus, and as every warship's company includes at least several expert divers, there will be no lack of men to make the necessary search. These men can be depended upon to report the exact facts. They, moreover, will be subject to orders of the court of inquiry in every particular, and as they are familiar with the bottom of a war ship of the type of the Maine, they are not likely to be led into the mistake of sup posing the outlet hole or pipe from the interior to be a torpedo hole. It is believed that under the most fa vorable circumstances this investigation cannot be made for several days. Lieutenant Commander Marix, who will be a member of the Court of Inquiry, left Washington at 11 o'clock today by train for Key West, and he is supposed to be assigned to duty as Judge Advocate of the court. Probably the board will be conveyed from Ha vana to Key West by the Olivette or one of the light house tenders, as it i again stated today that the Navy De partment has no intention of sending another man of war to Havana immediately. General fear is expressed by the older officers at the Navy Department that the destruction of the Maine has been so complete, at least in the forward portion of the ship where the explosion is believed to have occurred, that it would be perhaps impossible to find sufficent evidence in the wreck of the hull to be able to declare with cer tainty the cause of the disaster. It may be said, however, that nothing has yet developed in the news from Ha vana as to the appearance of the wreck or in the conflicting stories of the survivors to change the opinion of the ma ority of the officers stationed in the Navy Department that the Maine sunk as the result of an internal explosion. As to the origin of this explosion there is still a wide difference of opinion, bu the coal bunker theory today finds very many more strong supporters than any other theory. This theory is based on the suppopsition that spontaneous combustion in one of the bunkers, which in the Maine are separated from the magazine forward by a single thin partition of iron, ignited the magazine and caused the destruction of the vessel. Proofs of similar fires on other vessels of the Navy are being produced in profusion at the Navy Department today.

her stock from the Naval store at the her stock from the Naval store at the arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arise arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arise arisen in connection with the question the port side forward. Then can arise arisen in connection with the question the perfect rain of missiles of all description for day docks perfect rain of missiles of cement to ford said "is no more subject to spon- in the Naval appropriation which keep tions, from huge pieces of cement to such provisions out of the bill in the blocks of wood, steel railings, fragments are arisen in the provisions out of the bill in the blocks of gratings, and all the debris that ford said "is no more subject to such provisions out of the bill in the blocks of wood, steel ratings. Tagent and stones." The Maine took on 280 tons in Committee of the hole during the of this coal in December, and in Jann-of this coal in December, and in Jann-or before she left for Hayana, she ary, before she left for Havana, she loaded up with 271 tons more, This loaded up with 271 tons more. This coal at Key West is kept behind a picket fence very much exposed to any evil minded person who might desire to onceal a bomb therein; something which could only be effected with great difficulty after the coal was stored in the ounkers. In spite of the British reflections upon the discipline on American warships, the officers here do not hesitate to say that in the matter of care ful inspection of the coal bunkers, the magazines and the like, our Navy is second to none in the world.

ALL FLAGS AT HALF MAST.

Captain General Blanco today cabled o Senor Du Bosc, Charge of the Spanish Legation, giving the formal action of the insular government of Cuba expressing to the President of the United States profound sorrow over the catas-trophe to the Maine, and the resulting oss of life to Americans. At the same ime the Alcalde, or Mayor of Havana. ent resolutions of the municipality expressing to the President the grief of the authorities and the people of Havana. Senor Du Bosc presented the dispatches to Assistant Secretary Day, who laid them before President Me Kinley.

In execution of the decision of the President last evening to have a national observance of mourning, the following order was today communicated by telegraph from the War Department to ommanding officers of the Army:

"As appropriate honors to the deceased a the recent disaster to the battleship Maine, the President directs that flags at all army headquarters, military posts and on army buildings be displayed from sunrise to sunset at half mas until further orders.

"SAMUEL BRECK, "Adjutant General." (Signed.)

Secretary Long today directed that lispatches be sent to the commandants f naval stations and the chief officers of United States vessels throughout the world to display all flags at half mast until further orders, as a mark of respect to the officers and men drowned from the battleship Maine.

Admiral Sicard telegraphed Secretary Long from Key West this afternoon as follows:

"In the opinion of Lieutenant John Hood, of the Maine, who has just an rived from Havana, says that the Maine an never again be utilized as a ship. He describes the whole forward body of the ship as completely collapsed where the shock of explosion was heaviest. Phoographs of the wreck will be sent to the Department today." The State Department this afternoon

received the following dispatch from Consul General Lee:

"Havana, February 17.

Mexico, however, she probably consumed zing the ship recommended by the Sec- a sharp explosion, some say, numerous detonations. I remember only one. It A parliamentary complication has seemed to me that the sound came from A parliamentary

> whole dry dock scheme, it is estimated, of cement and knocked down but I was bills are against the incorporation or not hurt, and got to my feet in a mo-appropriations for dry docks. The ment. Lieutenant Hood had ran to the would cost in the neighborhood of \$5,- poop and I supposed, as I followed, he 000,000.

> victims of the Maine disaster will be answered that he had run to the poop cared for by the government as were the to help lower the boats. When I got Cullan, of New York, introduced a joint resolution appropriating \$150,000 for the purpose in the House to-day.

> ted to carry out the provisions of this "Lieutenant Commander Wainwright ted to carry out the provisions of this not?

orphans of sldiers r sanors who die in "Meantime four boats from the Span-time of peace but Congress in view of "Meantime four boats from the Span-the extrardinary circumstances undoubt- ish cruiser Alfonso XII arrived, to be edly will be quick to grant the relief followed soon by two from the Ward edly will be Mr. McClellan. [Line steamer City of Washington. The orphans of sldiers r sailors who die in ently unexcited.

AN INCENDIARY CIRCULAR.

Trouble.

cal Director Wood by an officer of the of any. Personally I do not believe the Maine, who picked it up while on a Spanish had anything to do with the train returning from a bull fight. The circular is as follows:

SPANIARDS.

imposed on us to set to one side, and to the bottom of the sea were groaning in States.

was dazed by the shock and about to It is probable that the families of the jump overboard. I hailed him and he

Samoan hurricane several years ago have elapsed, I had to wade in water when fifty-faur American officers and to my knees and almost instantly the sailors were lost from the Nipsic, Van-dalia and Trenton, which were wrecked I found Captain Sigsbee, as cool as if on that occasion. Representative Me-callan of Norr Vork were wrecked in the ball, and soon all the officers ex-

bee ordered the launch and gig lower-The resolution is as fllows: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the Secretary this time had assembled got the boats out and resonance and men, who by this time had assembled got the boats out and resonance and men, who by of the Navy be, and he is hereby, direc- out and rescued a number in the water. ted to pay out of any money in the Captain Sigsbee ordered Lieutenant Treasury, not otherwise provided a sum Commander Wainwright forward to see equal to twelve months pay to the legal the extent of the damage and if any-heirs or representatives of each of the thing could be done to rescue those forofficers and crew of the United States ward or to extinguish the flames, which battleship Maine who perished in the followed close upon the explosion and disaster in Havana, February 15, 1898, burned fiercely as long as there were and the sum of \$150,000 or so much any combustibles above the water to

on his return reported the total and aw-A special act of similar tenor was ful character of the calamity, and Cappassed for the relief of the victims of tain Sigsbee gave the last sad order the Samoan disaster. It is not custo- "abandon' ship" to men overwhelmed mary to grant pensions to the widows or with grief indeed, but calm and appar-

two boats lowered from the City of Washington were found to be riddled with flying debris from the Maine and Was Picked Up on Streets of Havana unfit for use. Captain Sigsbee was the Lieutenant Jungen, it Seems, Feared last man to leave his vessel and left in his own gig.

"I have no theories as to the cause of New York, Feb. 17 .- Medical Director the explosion. I cannot form any. An Wood, of the Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, examination by divers may tell some-is in posession of the copy of a circular, thing to a court of inquiry. I with othincendiary and outrageous, which was ers, had heard that the Havana Harpassed about the streets, on railway cats hor was full of torpedoes, but the offi-and other places in Havana, A transla- cers whose duty it was to examine into tion of this circular was sent to Medi- that reported that they found no signs

"We were in a delicate position on the Maine so far as taking any precautions were concerned. We were friends

Do you not see what they have done to convinced that her intention was hos-us in withdrawing our brave and be-loved Weyler, who at this very time. "I wish to heaven I could forget it. I firms its view and decision after reading would have finished with this unworthy have been in two wrecks now and have rebellious rabble, who are tramping on had my share. But the reverberations our flag and our honor? Autonomy is of that sullen yet resonant roar, as if

give posts of honor and authority to torture, will haunt me for many a day, those who initiated this rebellion, these and the reflection of that pillar of flame ugrateful sons of comes to me when I close my eyes

Minister Woodford Receives a Note of Apology.

THE CENSURES DISOWNED

THE STATEMENTS OF DeLOME ARE DISAUTHORIZED.

SINCERITY OF SPAIN INSISTED UPON

Its Conduct as to Autonomy Since the Writing of the De Lome Letter is Cited -- The

Artful Abstracting of the

Letter Condemned.

Washington, Feb. 17 .- Spain has officially disclaimed in positive manner the reflections contained in the De Lome letter, and as officially announced by the State Department to-day the incident is satisfactorily closed. The statement given out is as follows:

"February 17, 1898.

"The following is an abstract of a note sent last evening by the Spanish government to Minister Woodford at Madrid:

"The Spanish government on learning of the incident in which Minister Dupuy De Lome was concerned, and being advised of his objectionable communication, with entire sincerity laments the inci-dent which was the cause of the interview with the Minister. It states that Minister De Lome had presented his resignation and it had been accepted before the presentation of the matter by Minister Woodford; that the Spanish Minister, in accepting the resignation of a functionary whose services they have been utilizing and valuing up to that time, leaves it perfectly well established that they do not share or rather, on the contrary, disauthorize the criticisms tending to offend or censure the chief of a friendly State, although such criticisms have been written within the field of friendship, and had reach ed publicity by artful and criminal means; that this meaning had taken shape in a resolution by the council of Long Live Spain and Honor. In a friendly, or alleged friendly port "What are ye doing, that ye allow and could not fire upon or challenge the yourselves to be insulted in this way? approach of any boat boarding us unless telegraphic reports concerning the senti-ments alluded to; that the Spanish nution, with equal and greater reason, af-

> the words contained in the letter reflecting upon the President of the United "As to the paragraph concerning the desirability of negotiations of commercial relations, if even for effect, and

carte blanche to buy any and everything necessary, food, clothing, delicacies and hire nurses and physicians. The wounded able to get across to Key West will be taken care of in the Marine Hospital there. The sound survivors will be quartered in the spare army barracks there. As for the Maine herself, notwithstanding discouraging reports from Lieutenant Hood as to her condition. the Navy Department will make an effort to raise her; while this is re quired by every creditable sentiment. they say that they are bound to remove the hull from the small harbor in any case, and it may be as easy, on easier to raise her as it would be to de stroy the hull and machinery slowly by the use of divers and dynamite. It believed that this work can best be done by private wrecking corporations and negotiations are already afoot for placing the contract, based on work the day, at an estimated cost of \$200,-000

At the Navy Department specific denial was given of the report emanating from Madrid that a torpedo flotilla was about to leave Key West for Cuba. It was stated that only two torpedo boats, theCushing and the Ericcsson, are at Key West. These have not been ordered and will not be ordered, accord ing to present plans, to Cuba. It was strongly asserted that no present purpose existed of sending any war ship there.

ALL QUIET AT WHITE HOUSE.

Senor Du Bosc, the Spanish charge, had received no instructions up to six p. m., as to going to New York and stopping the Spanish ship Vizcaya from entering the port, and reports to this effect were discredited.

The air of suppressed excitement which characterized the movement of the employes and visitors at the White House yesterday was not noticeable today. There were comparatively few visitors during the morning hours and for a considerable time in the middle of the day the White House bore an almost deserted appearance. Only a limited number of members of Congress called during the morning and the interviews were brief. Postmaster General Gary was the only member of the Cabinet who called and his business related entirely to departmental matters. Assis-tant Secretary Day saw the President for a few minutes, but he had nothing of importance to communicate until af ter four o'clock when he carried to the White House official information of the closing of the De Lme letter incident So far as could be learned the only in formation as to the situation in Havana that reached the President direct came through the Associated Press. On the streets there was noticeably less excite-

ment than yesterday, when the people were loth to believe that under the circumstances the loss of the Maine could be traced to other than Spanish sources. All the flags throughout the city, in eluding those on the capitol and the department buildings are flying at half

mast to-day, and among the others is

CAPTAIN BRADFORD'S REPORT.

Captain Royal Bradford today pro duced the quarterly report required by regulations to show exactly the state of the Maine's coal supply and the quality of the coal. At the end of December the vessel had fifty-two tons of coal only in her bunkers. This was made up of Pocahontas and New River coal. Captain Bradford said that Pocahontas is the standard naval coal, and is rated at 100. New River following next and is set down at 90 per cent. These are semi-bituminous coals of a quality close approaching that of the celebrated Welsh navigation coal, the British naval standard.

In the opinion of Captain Bradford individual members of the committee weither of these coals is particularly sub-yesterday and to-day expressed them-came a dull, sullen roar. Would to God sages went. In view of this present ject to spontaneous combustion. Since selves as in favor of building a ship to that I could blot out the sound and attitude I shall now quote what Secretathe Maine has been in the Gulf of replace the Maine and also of authori- the scenes that followed. Then came

"Assistant Secretary Day, Washingon:

"Merritt in junior officers mess room, Jenkins in ward mess room at the time of the explosion. Latter left before an officer who was saved. Must have one the wrong way. Lights out imme diately and water rusing in. Merritt got to hatch with Naval Cadet Boyd, Ladder gone. Boyd climbed through and tried to pull Merritt up, but latter let go his hands, fell back and was drowned Bodies of these officers not yet found, possibly in wreck. Sailors fnueral to-day at 3. Will be an immense proces-

The following message was received it the Navy Department at 3:35 p. m., rom Captain Sigsbee, at Havana:

"Secretary Long, Washington:

"General Blanco called on me person ally at the hotel last night and also the mayor of the city. They have requested me to permit the government here to give a public burial to the dead already found in order that public sympathy may e expressed thereby and Jue none shown the dead. Ground for the burial has been secured. It is assumed that I am expected by the department to oury the dead here. In fact would be impracticable to transport remains to the United States. Means and facilities are lacking. I have accepted the offer of the authorities and there will be a public funeral at 3 o'clock to-day. All tere from the maine will go, also a dele-

gation from the Fern. Fifteen bodies recovered during operations. Operations prevented by rough weather." There was unabated interest in both nds of the capitol to-day, in the Maine

disaster, but expressions generally takthe shape of inquiry for new light upon subject and of demands for most rigid investigation.

The present disposition, especially about the Senate, appears to be to allow the matter to rest where it is until more light can be secured than at present. The disaster to the Maine has aroused feeling among members of the House in favor of extreme liberality in appropriations for the naval and military establishments, the practical result of which is likely to be the acceptance by the House with little contest, of the Senate amendments increasing the appropriations for fortifications about \$4. 000,000, the authorizzation in the Naval

stead of one, and possibly the authoriza- normal. mended by the dry dock board appointed of after eight o'clock in the evening, press have sent home foreboding mes-by the Secretary of the Navy. The reby the Secretary of the Navy. The re-commendation of the Secretary of the Navy was for only addition to the Navy this year, a first class battleship, but the this year, a first class battleship, but the now, I moved to the starboard side and loss of the Maine maes it likely that sat down there. I was feeling a bit appropriations for two ships will be re- glum and in fact was so quiet that Lieu- the cable for the messages of the ported by the Naval Committee. The tenant J. Hood came up and asked Maine's officers, he coldly said it was subject has not yet bene considered by laughingly if I was asleep. I said 'No,

the Naval Committee, but most of the I am on watch.

born autonomists.

our beloved country. And, finally these yankee hogs who meddle in our affairs, humiliating us to the last degree, and for still greater taunt order to us one, of the ships of war of their rotted squadron after insulting us in their rewspapers and driving us from our homes. Spaniarda, the moment of action has arrived. Sleep not. Let us show these vile traitors that we have not yet lost shame, and that we know how to protect with energy befitting a nation worthy and strong as our Spain

and always will be. 'Death to Americans, death to au-

"Long live Spain. Long live Weyler. W. Jungen, watch officer of the Maine said:

"Oh! In all the letters from my husband he has spoken of the bitter feeling the battleship that her remains now the significant expresison, 'If we don't deck

get away from here soon there will be trouble.

A SURVIVOR'S ACCOUNT.

Tells in Vivid Language of the Moment of Horror.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 17.-Lieutenant It is impossible to identify them. John J. Blandin, of Baltimore, one of Key West Hotel, gave the correspondent of the Associated Press this evening a succinct account of the disaster, saying not until now has he been able to recollect the sequence of events in the awful ten minutes following the explo-Tuesday evening. Lieutenant sion Blandin was on the Trenton at the time His Angry and Indiscreet Words Seemof the terrible disaster off Samoa in March 1889, when American and German vessels lost 244 men all told.

Lieutenant Blandin says: "I was on watch, and when the men had been piped below, I looked down the main hatches and over the side of Appropriation bill o. two battleships in- the ship. Everything was absolutely story of the blowing up of the battle-I walked aft to the quarter ship and says: deck behind the rear turret as is allow-

"Scarcely had I spoken when there

MAINE OPEN TO STRANGERS.

New York, Feb. 17 .- The Evening World has received from Sylvester Scovel, its correspondent at davana, the following reply to an inquiry as to whether strangers were allowed on the Maine the day of the disaster:

'Yes, visitors were on the Maine all afternoon of the day of the explosion. The bomb might then have been deposited near the magazine, as I have alreay cabled. Cables are much delayed here

This dispatch bears date of to-day. A MERE PILE OF WRECKAUL.

Havana, Feb. 17 .- The night of the Mrs. Jungen, wife of Lieutenant Carl disaster to the Maine a light wind from e southwest was blowing and her at the home of her uncle, Medical head pointed in a southeasterly direction. Director Wood. In answer to questions She was moored in about twelve metres as to whether any of her husband's let- of water forward and drew about thirters indicated a feeling existing in Ha- teen metres aft. The Spanish cruiser vana against the American officers, she Alfonso XII was about two hundred metres from the American battleship.

The explosion so disjoined and twisted against the Americans, which was pear like a pile of wreckage. All the everywhere apparent. This was among upper deck structure, turrets, and guns, the lower class of Spanish, I under- are in a heap, one boiler has been blown stand-Weyler's followers. In a letter out of its place and at 2 o'clock yesterdated as late as February 10th, he used day afternoon was still smoking ou

> The foremast and bow of the Maine have collapsed, and now only the end of her main masts remains above wa-

The boats of the Spanish cruiser Al-Lieutenant Blandin who was or Board fonso XII have picked up a quantity of wreckage, including boats and a flag. and to-day ten more bodies were found in the harbor and taken to the morgue.

Contrary to the reports current here the Maine's survivors, who is at the yesterday the divers have not yet made any investigation of the wreck and the general opinion expressed in Spanish that the explosion occurred inside the Maine.

CONGOSTO'S DISCOURTESY.

ed to Have Been Pregnant With Prophecy.

New York, Feb. 17 .- The Evening World to-day contains a copyrighted ca blegram from Havana signed by Sylves ter Scovel, which repeats graphically the

"The correspondents of the Madrid Solano over securing the re-opening of none of his buisness, tht General Solano

was in sole charge. Fortunately that gentleman was courteous and the mes (Continued on Second Page.)

importance of using a representative for the purpose stated in Senor Dupuy De Lome's letter, the government expresses concern that in the light of its conduct long after the writing of the letter, and in view of the unanswerable testimony of simultaneous and subsequent facts,

any doubt should exist that the Spanish government has given proof of its real desire and of its innermost convictions with respect to the new commercial system, and the projected treaty of com merce; that the Spanish government does not now consider it necessary to lay stress upon or to demonstrate anew the truth and sincerity of its purpose and the unstained good faith of its intentions; that publicly and solemnly the government of Spain contracted before the mother country and its colonies the responsibility for the political and tariff changes which it has inaugurated in both Antilles, the natural ends of which in domestic and international spheres. it pursues with firmness, which will ever inspire its conduct."

HER PRESENCE OF MIND

Averted a Terrible Disaster-Fires Raging in the Mountains.

Lenoir, N. C., Feb. 17 .- (Special.)-During the hardest windstorm yesterday afternoon, ever known to our citizens, the roof of the kitchen to Hon. Edmund Jones' residence caught on fire. There was no one at home except Miss Sadie Jones and the cook. Miss Sadie's presence of mind is the talk of the town. She immediately telephoned to Central and 250 persons with the fire outfit were on the way in a few minutes. Miss Sadie after telephoning went to the bed and took the bed clothes, and wet them in a tub of water, and Mr. Clinton Whitted who arrived about that time, climbed to the roof, and with the wet clothes subdued the fire before the en-

gine arrived. It was a narrow escape. Fires have been raging in the mountains for two days, and the wind yesterday and last night brought the fire within two miles of town. Much damage to fences and timber is the result, and it may be houses have been burned. One man about Patterson lost his barn.

CONSUL TO SIERRA LEONE.

John T. Williams, of North Carolina, Nominated Yesterday.

Washington, Feb. 17.-The President o-day sent to the Senate the nomina-ions of John T. Williams, of North Larolina, to be Consul at Sierra Leone, Africa.

To be assistant Surgeons Marine Hospital Service-J. F. Anderson, Virginia; L. L. Lumsden, Virginia.

MRS. WILLARD DEAD.

New York, Feb. 17 .- Frances E. Willard died at midnight at the Imperial Hotel.