

# Watauga Democrat.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Shall the most dastardly piece of treachery perpetrated in the nineteenth century be condoned for a cash consideration? That is the question Mr. McKinley raised when he sent Secretary Sherman—at least the old man is given something to do, but it was a nauseating job—to circulate among his former colleagues of the Senate, for the purpose of informing them that the administration had decided, if the naval court reported that the Maine was blown up by intention, to demand a cash indemnity of Spain. If Mr. Sherman correctly reported some of the remarks made by Senators with whom he discussed the matter, Mr. McKinley must have blushed.

Ever since it has been practically known that the court has found unmistakable evidence that the Maine was wrecked by treachery, the administration has been gradually, through divers newspaper interviews, and by other methods, preparing the public for this indemnity business, by dropping hints about the injustice of holding Spain responsible when it disavowed the crime or any knowledge of it, and of the probability that the crime was committed by some Spaniard who was an enemy of the present Spanish Ministry, etc., etc. The Spanish charges in Washington also took a hand in the attempt to have this country let down easily by officially stating that no mines or torpedos have ever been planted in the harbor at Havana. The fact that this fellow was once associated with De Lome was enough to prevent belief of any statement he might make.

There is not the slightest doubt that any overwhelming majority of Congress believes with a majority of the people of the country that Spanish blood should be shed to avenge the poor devils who were the victims of Spanish treachery in Havana harbor; but there is also a strong desire in Congress to act in concert with the administration, if possible, in order that it cannot be said by the Spaniard, or other foreigners, that there is a division of sentiment in the United States. This desire may result in Congress allowing the demand for a money indemnity to be made on Spain, but it will be, even then, largely because of the belief that Spain could not pay the indemnity, and would not if it could, and that war would be the result, anyway.

Although Mr. McKinley continues to talk peace, his sections, through his subordinates, show that he believes with almost everybody else in Washington, that war with Spain is inevitable, and, to his credit be it placed, he is taking vigorous steps to see that we are fully prepared to do our share of the

fighting when it once gets started. The more promptly and vigorously he acts upon that Maine report, which is expected this week, the better he will stand with Congress and the people.

Mr. McKinley must have been a little bit afraid that the well-known scrapping propensities of Teddy Roosevelt made him a dangerous man to have in charge of the Navy Department at this time, or Secretary Long would now be taking several days rest and Teddy would be in charge. Mr. Long announced his intention of going away for three or four days, but Mr. McKinley persuaded him to change his mind. Most persons would rather see Teddy running the machine just now.

Representative Sulzer, of N. Y., who has been somewhat harshly criticised because of his objection, when unanimous consent was asked in the House that the bill, already passed by the Senate, providing for the enlistment of two additional regiments of artillery, be taken up and considered until disposed of, immediately after the passage of the sundry civil bill, says he did so because he thought there was no necessity to increase the regular army, and that he regarded the bill as an attempt on the part of the plutocrats to take advantage of existing conditions to increase the army and thus still further entrench themselves against the people. As to the special need of these men now to fight Spain, Mr. Sulzer said: "Why, if war should be declared, I would resign my seat in Congress in 24 hours and would raise a regiment in my district. I would get a thousand young able bodied fellows who would fight and we would go to the front under some Federal brigade commander; and there would be no lack of such regiments."

The defeat of the republicans by the combined votes of the democrats and populists several times recently, when the House was in committee of the whole, has so aggravated the republican leaders, that they have notified the republican members that they must be more regular in their attendance and have given them a hint that if they are not, a list of the absentees will be daily published, as was done in the forty-seventh Congress.

Louis Bray, who lived in Marsh township, died last Saturday and was buried Sunday in the family graveyard. Mr. J. G. Burrus conducted the burial services. Bray was buried in his night clothes, without any stock inge, as he desired it to be so. He made his own coffin about 15 years ago, and called it his "meat box," and when the neighbor boys called in he would get out his coffin and they would play cards on it. By his request Esq. Burrus conducted the funeral services and Mr. Luther Reese tramped down the dirt on his grave. He was 90 years old.—Elkin Times.

Educate Your Bowels With Cascara. Candy Cathartic, cure constipation forever. 10c, 25c. If C. C. C. fail, druggists refund money.

## In Memory of D. W. Hagaman.

One by one the children of God lay down their arms; one by one they finish their life's work having fought the last battle and gained the last victory. The Lord taketh them to himself; to the Celestial plains of eternal glory.

On the 10th, of February, 1898, at 4 o'clock, p. m., D. W. Hagaman breathed his last, being surrounded by many relatives and friends. His remains were taken to the Zion Hill church where the funeral services were held conducted by the Pastor R. L. Parmer. He was then taken to the cemetery overlooking the church and buried in the presence of a large concourse of people.

D. W. Hagaman was born in the beautiful valley of Beavertown February 15th, 1857. Here he grew to manhood. He became a member of Beavertown church about 1877. In 1879 he moved with his father to Big Laurel, Ashe county, and was in the constitution of the church at that place. He then returned to this county and was married to the widow Mary Farthing, daughter of Elder A. J. Harman, in 1884, with whom he lived happily till his death. By this marriage there were five children, one of which preceded him to the spirit land. He, with others, was constituted a church at Zion Hill, of which he remained a member and clerk till his death. If all the people who knew him, D. W. Hagaman, were asked there would be but one answer, He was a descendant of a noble family and by no act of his did he ever tarnish their good name.

Although he suffered intensely for nearly four months, he never murmured nor complained. He bore it all with christian resignation, expressing no regret only the leaving of loved ones behind.

As a citizen he was faithful in the discharge of all his duties incumbent upon him as a husband, affectionate as a father, kind and indulgent as a neighbor, ever ready to oblige and to help the poor. His benevolence was limited only by his means.

Brother Hagaman was a faithful in his attendance at his church meetings, ever ready to contribute to the support of his pastor and to all the necessities of the church.

Oh! how sad to know he is gone. The whole community is clothed in deepest mourning and you hear but one opinion by all. His place will be hard to fill but he is gone. His family will hear his returning footsteps no more. Never more will he sit with loved ones in the family circle. No more will we see him in his seat at the church. But we would bow in humble submission to the providence of Him who doeth all things well, being assured that our loss is his eternal gain. And while loved ones mourn his absence he is doubtless walking the elysian plains of never fading and eternal glory.

A FRIEND.

## THE TEST OF DEMOCRACY.

News and Observer.

The Texas Democracy has prescribed a test that will be propounded to such voters as desire to take part in the primaries, whose democracy the managers of the primaries may have reason to doubt. The questions to be asked are:

1. Are you a democrat and will you vote for the democratic nominee at the ensuing election? 2. Did you vote for the opposition to either the National democratic ticket nominated at Chicago or the State democratic ticket nominated at Fort Worth at the general election in November, 1896?

This intended to deny a voice in the primaries to all Democrats who bolted either the State or National ticket in 1896, and those who are unwilling to abide by the conventions of 1898. This is a new method in party policy and its wisdom is to be doubted. It is the part of wisdom not only to invite recruits from other parties, but to open the doors wide also to those who have departed from the faith, or, in other words, to give backsliders as well as sinners a chance to come back into the fold upon conditions such as will bind them to sin no more.

The action of the Democratic Executive committee of North Carolina was much more to our notion of correct party policy. Its action was expressed in the following resolution:

"Resolved, That in accordance with the resolution heretofore adopted, all white electors who intend to vote with us in the next election, and who desire the re-establishment of Anglo-Saxon supremacy and honest government in North Carolina, are cordially invited to participate in all of our primaries and conventions."

Under the terms of this resolution men who voted for McKinley or Palmer in 1896, Weaver in 1892, or for any other candidates of any party, who "intend to vote with us (the Democrats) in the next election, and who desire the re-establishment of Anglo-Saxon supremacy and honest government in North Carolina," will be admitted to the primaries. The doors are open so broad that two hundred thousand voters ought to be glad to respond to the invitation.

They advocate fusion with Populists, one of whom is Rev. Hal Ayer. Ayer voted for Russell and Walser and Jim Young. Jim Young voted for Senator Pritchard, a gold bugman, and vote for a Republican at once? Why employ Rev. Mr. Ayer to do it for you? Instead of fusing with the Pope, take the short cut and "jine" the Rads. You'll save time and a few little offices that are now filled by Pop henchmen.

The idea of fusion is simply nauseating.—Smithfield Her

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## READY TO FIGHT SPAIN.

News and Observer.

A number of letters have been received at the Executive office from parties tendering their services to the State and nation in case of war between the United States and Spain.

Col. William H. S. Burgwyn of Henderson, writes:

"In view of the possible declaration of war between this country and Spain and a call upon you by the President to furnish North Carolina's quota of troops for the purpose, I have the honor to tender you my services to raise a regiment of infantry composed of the sons of ex-Confederate soldiers, to serve in that war."

Captain Thomas W. Patton, also an ex-Confederate and 57 years of age, has become a member of the Fourth regiment, at Asheville, on the belief that there will be war. Colonel James M. Ray makes an offer to raise a regiment of ex-Confederates, sound and fit for military duty west of the Blue Ridge.

Mr. George H. Hill, of Charlottesville, Va., an old school fellow of Governor Russell, writes tendering his services and speaks in glowing terms of his record during the war as Colonel of an artillery battalion.

Also Mr. J. W. St. John, late Captain Thirty-Third Sep. Co. N. G. N. Y., desires to offer his services in case the National Guard of this State are needed.

"I have considerable experience as you will see by my record, which is as follows: Enlisted as private 33rd separate company, New York National Guard, 1879; 2nd Lieut. Mar. 1888; 1st Lieut. April, 1890; Captain, July, 1892; Hon. Discharge, September, 1896.

"I am well posted and up-to-date in the latest army tactics and manual of arms and feel competent to command a battalion and would esteem it an honor to receive a commission from you.

"I think you will remember me as I first had the pleasure of meeting you in the Republican headquarters the night you were elected and also called on you in Raleigh last winter. I can furnish you with the best references from New York should you desire it."

The anti-trust bill, explicit in its terms and naming a penalty of \$10,000 fine, or imprisonment from two to fifteen years, has been introduced into the House. It ought to pass in a day, but watch the very demagogues who denounce trusts on the stump. They will work for them in Congress.—Biblical Recorder.

An encouraging feature of the report of the Secretary of the Interior is the statement that the area of land still owned by the government is 500,000,000 acres, without counting Alaska. This is, of course, the poorest land, the best having been pre-empted by settlers and given to rail roads.—Biblical Recorder.

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