

The News and Observer.

LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

Envoy's Drop Their Mask

THEY ADMIT NOW THEY CAME FROM AGUINALDO.

The Filipino Dictator Knows Ultimate Defeat is Certain, But Will Continue the Struggle if he Cannot Make Terms.

Manila, May 3.—12:10 p. m.—There was a conference lasting two hours today between Major General E. S. Otis and the envoys who came here from General Antonio Luna bearing a proposal for a cessation of hostilities. General Otis adhered to his refusal to recognize the so-called government of the insurgents.

The Filipinos now ask for a truce of three months to enable Aguinaldo to summon the Congress and consult with the insurgent leaders on other of the island. The envoys admitted the contention of General Otis that Aguinaldo has little control over affairs outside of the island of Luzon.

The question of the release of Spanish prisoners in the hands of the Filipinos being mentioned, Major Manuel Arguelles, the chief member of the deputation, said that he considered them as being in the same category with the Americans, the United States being the successor of Spain in dominion over the island and acquiring by treaty all Spanish rights and obligations.

After the close of the conference with General Otis the Filipino envoys had a consultation with the United States Philippine commissioners.

8 p. m.—The Filipino envoys, Major Manuel Arguelles and Lieutenant Jose Bernel have abandoned the pretense under which they came to General Otis that they represented General Antonio Luna and today they announced that they came as representatives of Aguinaldo himself. The two emissaries used all their wiles to secure a reply from General Otis to the letter from Senator Mabini, Aguinaldo's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Dictator's Cabinet, which they presented to General Otis yesterday; but General Otis refused to make any reply on the ground that to do so would be equivalent to a recognition of the so-called government of the Filipinos.

Major Arguelles said that Aguinaldo knew he would be overpowered in time, but that he would be able to continue the fight for months, and that he would do so unless he were given what Major Arguelles termed peace with dignity.

Mr. Schurman, the President of the United States Philippine commission, expresses the opinion that the interviews accorded by General Otis to the Filipino envoys will have a good moral effect, as tending to convince Aguinaldo's representatives that the American authorities mean to give the Filipinos a good government, and not one of the Spanish sort. Certainly it has had a civilizing influence in inducing them to observe the amenities of war and consent to the Americans' furnishing food for American prisoners.

MRS. CHILDS DENIES STORY.

Marriage Between Herself and General Wheeler a Groundless Rumor.

Philadelphia, May 3.—The Ledger will tomorrow make an authoritative denial of the widely published statement that a marriage was contemplated between Mrs. George W. Childs and General Joseph Wheeler. The denial of the truth of the report was made today by Mrs. Childs to Major J. M. Carson, the Washington correspondent of the Ledger, who telegraphs his paper as follows:

Several months ago a story was given wide publicity through the newspapers to the effect that a marriage was contemplated between Mrs. George W. Childs of this city, formerly of Philadelphia, and General Joseph Wheeler, of Alabama. This publication caused Mrs. Childs much annoyance, but she refrained from making any public denial on a mistaken belief that the absence of any foundation for the story would cause it to pass from the public mind and from an aversion to adding to the publicity, which a denial would bring.

The revival of the mischievous story embellished with details that have been invented to give it plausibility, has brought additional annoyance and distress to Mrs. Childs, and has induced her to reconsider the determination not to notice the false report. In a conversation with the Ledger correspondent this afternoon, Mrs. Childs, after expressing surprise at the original story and indignation with the persistence with which it has been adhered to, requested that the fullest and broadest denial be given in the Ledger. There was not at any time the slightest foundation for the story or justification for its publication.

THE APPEAL JUSTIFIED.

Yet the Commissioner of Internal Revenue Can Afford No Relief.

Washington, May 3.—A large holder of cigars purchased from Jacobs and

The exodus of natives from the insurgent lines continues. Daily fillings in the roads where it was required, putting canoes on the rivers and plowing fields south of Malolos, the American army is in a fine position for the expected decisive blow.

General MacArthur has moved his headquarters to San Vicente across the Rio Grande. General Wheaton's brigade has advanced beyond Apalit. General Hale has returned to co-operate with General Lawton.

At Baligog last evening there was a running fight in the course of which one American soldier was killed and three were wounded. The rebels scattered before General Lawton and General Hale.

On yesterday while Captain Wheeler, with a detachment of the Fourth cavalry, was covering General Hale's advance, he discovered a large body of rebels at Pulilan. The cavalry opened fire, but there was no response. Thinking that the rebels wanted to surrender, Lieutenant Bell went forward to parley with them. The Filipinos replied that they did not wish to surrender, but that they had been ordered to refrain from fighting during the negotiations. They asked what Lieutenant Bell wanted, and in reply were given half an hour in which to retire, which they improved.

A Spanish prisoner who escaped in the American lines reports that after General Hale's advance on Quinang, thirty-five in one trench and twenty-seven in another. This is the largest number of rebels that have been killed in any engagement for several months.

GILMORE IS AT ISEDRO.

Washington, May 3.—The following cablegram has been received from Admiral Dewey:

Manila, May 3.

"Secretary Navy, Washington. The following from the Yorktown are prisoners at insurgent headquarters at San Isidro:

"Lieutenant Gilmore; Chief Quartermaster Wm. Walton; Sailmaker's Mate Paul Vandoit; Coxswain John Ellsworth; Apprentice Third Class Albert Peterson; Landsman Sylvio Brisoleso; Landsman Lyman Paul Edwards and Landsman Fred Anderson.

"Provisions have been sent to them by Otis.

"I am continuing inquiries as to the fate of the other seven. "DEWEY."

ASSAULTING SAN TOMAS.

Manila, May 4.—Noon.—General MacArthur is now assaulting the town of San Tomas, about five miles northwest of Calumpit.

The Americans are fighting for the bridge, and the rebels are burning the town.

Kendig, and bearing counterfeit stamps made personal application to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to-day to modify conditions contained in his recent circular letter requiring innocent holders of these cigars to pay the tax before realizing the same from seizure, and this was urged upon the ground that the Government was for quite a period of time aware of the existence of these counterfeit stamps and their use, before the guilty parties were arrested and their factories seized. The commissioner said that the relief thus claimed was based upon strong equitable grounds, and said that he would grant it if it was in his power to do so, but that the law providing for the forfeiture of these cigars left him no course open but that of accepting a compromise which should at least include the payment of the tax by the holders of the cigars. He suggested that these claims appeared to be so strongly grounded in equity, however, that it would seem but just and proper that the holders of these cigars should be allowed to file claims for the refund of the tax they were required to pay, with the view that these claims should be called to the attention of Congress, through the Secretary of the Treasury with a full statement of all the facts, and that such legislation should be recommended as would authorize the commission to refund and pay back the taxes which should be exacted from these innocent holders of the Jacobs-Kendig cigars.

AN ARMISTICE IN SAMOA.

Auckland, N. Z., Mays 3.—Advice from Apia state that Mataafa has agreed to an armistice pending the arrival of the commission now on its way to Samoa.

TWO KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

Cumberland, Md., May 3.—Howard Fraley and Henry Lewis were killed and Ray Lewis was injured by lightning at Terra Alta, Va., today.

TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS

BILL TO BE INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MORRIS.

Provides for Trial of Accused Within Five Days After His Arrest, With Hanging Five Days After Conviction.

Atlanta, Ga., May 3.—Representative Morris will introduce a bill relative to lynchings at the next session of the Legislature.

Mr. Morris' bill provides for the trial of the accused within five days after his arrest and upon conviction the measure provides for public hanging five days after.

A unique provision of the act is that the testimony of the assailant's victim may be taken in private by a special commissioner in the presence of the accused while the trial is in progress.

ATTEMPTED RESCUE FOILED.

Effort to Free a Bandit Chief Brought Death to His Friends.

Santiago de Cuba, May 3.—Yesterday at Mayari, in this Province, between Holguin and Sagua de Tanamo, an attempt was made by four outlaws to rescue the bandit chief, Miguel Gonzales, and five other bandits who were in the custody of the rural guards.

The sentinal who detected the attempt, fired, wounding one of the outlaws. The guards rushed to the assistance of the sentry and a sharp fight ensued, all the would-be rescuers being killed. Two of the guards were wounded. The prisoners have since been removed to Baracoa.

The efficient service of the gendarmes is rapidly restoring security in this Province.

A CARAVAN ATTACKED.

Fifty Porters Killed and all the Goods Captured.

Cape Town, May 3.—Word has been received here that a caravan under the command of two Europeans was recently attacked near the head waters of the Rovuma river, east of Lake Nyassa, the tribesmen killing fifty porters and capturing all the goods.

The Europeans reached Chickla Fort after wandering three days in the bush.

PARDONED BY PRESIDENT.

Washington, May 3.—The President today pardoned Charles P. Barrett, convicted in South Carolina of violating the postal laws and sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary. He was committed to the Ohio penitentiary July 8th. He was pardoned on account of ill health.

In the case of W. J. E. Thomson, convicted from Georgia in 1896 for conspiracy and sentenced to five years in prison, the President has granted a full pardon as he is said to be dying from consumption.

MONUMENT TO BLUE AND GRAY

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 3.—The beautiful granite monument erected by the State of Kentucky in Chickamauga Park was dedicated this afternoon by imposing ceremonies, Governor Bradley, his staff and other prominent Kentuckians being present.

The monument, which is one of the handsomest at Chickamauga, was erected to the memory of the Kentuckians who wore both the blue and the grey and both sides are equally represented in the inscriptions.

ATKINSON'S BOOKS SEIZED.

San Francisco, Cal., May 3.—The local postoffice officials today seized some of the pamphlets sent out by Edward Atkinson, Vice-President of the Anti-Imperialistic League of Boston, Mass.

The pamphlets are addressed to Admiral Dewey, General H. G. Otis, General Miller and Professors Schurman and Worcester, the latter two gentlemen being members of the Philippine commission.

STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 3.—The three-story triangular structure of Bacharach & Company, retail clothing, was totally destroyed by fire today. At least twenty-five dwellings and stores situated near the burned building were more or less damaged by fire and water.

A number of the larger houses were very badly damaged by fire. The loss sustained by Bacharach & Company will reach \$175,000, which is fully covered by insurance. The loss to the surrounding properties will amount to about \$30,000, partially covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

NEGROES SET A DAY OF PRAYER

New York, May 3.—The National Afro-American Council of the United States has issued a proclamation calling upon the colored people of the country to set apart Friday, June 2nd, as a day of fasting and prayer, and has called upon all colored ministers to devote the sunrise hour of the following Sunday, June 4th, to special exercises, in order that "God, the Father of mercies, may take our deplorable case in his own hands, and that if vengeance is to be meted out let God himself repay."

DELEGATES TO THE HAGUE.

New York, May 3.—President Seth Low, of Columbia University, Captain A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., and Frederick W. Holls, the American delegates to the peace conference at The Hague, sailed today on the American liner St. Louis.

A SENSATIONAL MURDER

ALEXANDER MASTERSON KILLED BY JAS. NEALE PLUMB.

The Crime Premeditated. Plumb Declares he Was Driven to it by the Systematic Hourding of Masterston.

New York, May 3.—Alexander Masterston, a director of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, and 72 years of years of age, was shot and killed this afternoon by James Neale Plumb, in the Burlington Hotel on West Thirtieth street.

The murder was premeditated, as evidence by a voluminous statement written in advance by Plumb and given out after his arrest.

At present the real motive for the crime is unknown. Plumb, in his statements issued to the public and entitled "Why I, J. Neale Plumb, shot Alexander Masterston," declares that he had been actuated to do the shooting because of a systematic hounding of him by Masterston had nearly ruined him financially, and had attempted to alienate the affections of his wife and children and to cause his social downfall.

Plumb's statements, one of which was addressed to the Associated Press, and with a period of his career embracing the past thirty-five years, are rambling in many places, and concludes with the following:

"No man has a higher regard for human life than I have; but the just and righteous punishment of Alexander Masterston is decreed by an outraged God, and I am simply the humble instrument in His hand, as He has selected me as His chosen instrument of wrathful vengeance. I have rid the world of a man who was not fit to live, and whose death a thousand times over could never atone for the monstrous wrongs done me."

Masterston and Plumb met by agreement in the Burlington Hotel at 130 p. m., in the apartments occupied by Manager Cole. They had been there but a short time when five shots were fired in rapid succession. Plumb then came out of the apartments and walked into the reception room, where he was arrested.

He was later given a hearing, but nothing was brought out that could be accepted as a reason for the killing, beyond the statement made by Plumb that Masterston had hounded him for many years.

In his statement, Plumb writes as follows: "The reason for taking the serious step was that for upwards of 35 years, commencing as far back as 1862 at the time of my marriage engagement, this man has followed me like a sleuthhound from that time to this, and yet I was never able to discover the cause or motive of his vindictive animosity toward me, as when he commenced to attack me I had never seen the man nor even heard of him."

Plumb declares that the wrongs which Masterston had done him no law could reach.

A chambermaid at the Burlington, who was the only one near the room in which the shooting occurred, told the police that she heard the man in angry conversation just before she heard the pistol shots. One of the men, she said, and she was positive that it was not Masterston, said in a loud angry tone: "I will not be satisfied with that amount." Two shots were fired in quick succession a moment later, and then three more. Plumb came out of the room perfectly collected and said to her:

"There's a man in trouble in there."

He then went down stairs and in to the reception room, where he was arrested.

Alexander Masterston was a leading resident of Mount Vernon, where he occupied a handsome home with his wife and two children, Mrs. C. B. Tibbals and Mrs. W. N. Ferris. He was formerly connected with the old Manufacturers and Merchants Bank of New York, and later was interested in the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company. He had the management of many estates, and was interested heavily in West Chester real estate. He had held a number of public offices. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity and was a popular man in Mount Vernon.

J. Neale Plumb, at one time, was very wealthy, occupying a fine residence on Fifth avenue and having a half million dollar villa at Islip, Long Island. It is said by those who are intimately acquainted with Plumb that he lost most of his fortune, although he had sufficient to retire from business twenty years ago. He also is said by those who know him best to be a popular, easy going man.

THE G. A. R. ELECT OFFICERS.

Richmond, Va., May 3.—The Department of Virginia and North Carolina, G. A. R., met here today. There was a very large attendance, all the posts in the two States being represented.

The following officers were elected and installed: W. Rutter, Department Commander, Portsmouth, Va.

Edward Mitchell, Senior Vice-Commander, Richmond, Va.

E. M. Houston, Junior Vice-Commander, Winchester, Va.

A. B. Hoistand, Medical Director, Norfolk, Va.

J. L. Gibbs, Chaplain, Norfolk, Va.

The following were elected delegates and alternates to the National Encampment: Peter Morton, Richmond, Va.; R. G. Griffin, Yorktown, Va.

Alternates: Dred Smith, Portsmouth, Va.; O. J. Chavers, Richmond, Va.

A Woman Reigns in Cuba

MADAME CESPEDES WILL SHAPE THE ISLAND'S FUTURE.

Together With Gomez She Will Make its Next President—Influence of Her Salon in Havana is Felt Throughout Cuba.

Havana, May 3.—The future of Cuba will probably be largely influenced by a woman, and one who holds a salon which is visited by the best known men, not only of Havana, but of the entire island. General Maximo Gomez is a constant visitor and a welcome guest of this lady, and dines with her from three to five times a week. Madame Cespedes, the lady in question, is the widow of the first President of Cuba in the ten years' war. She is a brilliant and witty woman who has lived many years in Paris. It is considered in Havana to be a great honor to be on Mme. Cespedes' visiting list. Decisions reached at Mme. Cespedes' salon are far more effective than any decrees passed by the recently defunct Cuban Assembly.

It is believed by persons who are in a position to know, that a full understanding has been reached by Mme. Cespedes and General Gomez, regarding Cuba's future and the first real president of the proposed republic, for all former presidents have had office without power. At one time General Gomez was seriously considered for the Presidency, but after the action of the Assembly in assailing his course, it was considered that his candidacy would probably meet with strong opposition. The result of consultations at Mme. Cespedes' salon is, it is asserted, that the first President of Cuba shall be Carlos Cespedes, son of the war President.

The party of General Gomez believe that it is none too early to begin a movement in behalf of Carlos Cespedes, as they expect that American occupation of the island will end before next summer and probably by April, 1900.

Carlos Cespedes was a colonel during the war with Spain on the staff of General Garcia and possesses a good record as a soldier. He is well educated and speaks the English, French and Spanish languages with equal fluency. He is about 40 years of age and unmarried.

The most recent reports regarding the health of Havana's population show a great and continuing improvement, with a death rate only two-thirds of that officially recorded for the corresponding period of last year. Not a single case of yellow fever is known to exist.

The health of the American troops throughout the island is exceptionally good.

The Havana Herald publishes a sensational article today charging the grossest corruption in the management of the city jail. It asserts that the prison officials take money from prisoners and then place them at liberty under a pledge to return if they are ever asked for. As many accused persons are never brought to trial at all, and as it often happens that the judges have no notion as to who is supposed to be locked up, the jailors find it an easy matter to speculate in this fashion.

On the Constancia plantation, near Cienfuegos, Santa Clara Province, bandits have burned 1,000,000 arrobas of sugar cane. (The arroba is a Spanish weight of twenty-five pounds, containing each 16 ounces.)

During the month of April, Havana exported to New York 7,771 tercios of tobacco baled and 18,402,710 cigars.

Major Francis S. Dodge, of the Pay department, who has been selected by the War Department to disburse the \$3,000,000 allotted by the Government for the payment of the troops of the Cuban army, arrived here today.

THE NET SET FOR DREYFUS.

Is Closing Around Those by Whom it Was Woven.

Paris, May 3.—Slowly but steadily the net is closing around the French General Staff in the Dreyfus revision inquiry. General Mercier, who was Minister of War at the time Dreyfus was condemned, on being called upon by M. De Freycinet, the present Minister of War, to produce the report regarding the secret dossier which Lieutenant Colonel Du Paty de Clam testified he had sent to Mercier, replied that he had destroyed it, and he called General Gouze as a witness to the truth of this statement. Unfortunately for Mercier, General Gouze had already testified before the Court of Cassation that although Mercier destroyed the original, he kept a copy.

Another anti-Dreyfus argument has received its death blow. General Zurlinden, military Governor of Paris, and others, while testifying before the Court of Cassation, attached great importance to the closing sentence of the bordereau, "I am starting for the manoeuvres," as proving the guilt of Dreyfus and the innocence of Esterhazy, inasmuch as the staff producers were only notified on August 29th that they would not be required to attend the manoeuvres. It has now been proved that this notification was actually dated May 17th. Therefore Dreyfus could not have written, "I am starting for the manoeuvres" in the following August.

It is rumored that it was Lieutenant Colonel Du Paty de Clam himself who communicated to Figaro the depositions made before the Court of Cassation.

THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Ninety Per Cent of All Eaten and Drunk Here Thus Treated.

Chicago, Ills., May 3.—According to Dr. H. W. Wiley, Chief Chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture, who was called to the stand today to testify before the Senatorial pure food investigating committee, now in session here, fully ninety per cent of the articles of food and drink manufactured and used in this country are frauds. All kinds of dairy products, he said, as well as nearly every variety of condiments, including even coffee in the berry, were adulterated. Dr. Wiley gave in detail the methods of manufacturers in adulterating different articles of food.

In milk, according to his testimony, the most common practice is the abstraction of the fatty substance in taking away the cream.

In butter the common way of defrauding the public was the substitution of other fats, both animal and vegetable, for the natural fat of the milk. Both cotton seed oil and high grades of lard were employed in this work. Honey, Dr. Wiley said, prob-

ably was a more abused article in the line of adulteration than any other. The principal method of adulterating land is the mixing of vegetable oils with the natural fat of the hog. Fats and oils, he said, instead of being injurious to the health, are wholesome to a great degree.

The witness in recent investigations had found molasses and flour moulded into berries, colored, mixed with the genuine and sold as high grade coffee. Dr. Wiley said there was very little pure beer made in this country. Fully seventy per cent of the beer sold here is made of some other article than malt.

Very little pure jelly is manufactured. There also is a great amount of adulteration in the manufacture of vinegar.

Dr. Wiley said that Vermont maple sugar was manufactured in Davenport, Iowa, out of brown sugar and an extract of hickory bark, and it was not deleterious. In fact, he said, it was impossible for chemists to distinguish the two.

Spices, he said, were adulterated and peanut shells were palmed off as ground cinnamon.

TO IMPORT ARMED MINERS.

Governor Jones Will Oppose Such Importation With All His Power.

Little Rock, Ark., May 4.—Governor Jones has been informed of a movement to bring into the coal mining district an armed body of men to take the places of the strikers. He has given instructions to State authorities to summon every able bodied man in Sebastian county if necessary to enforce the injunction of Judge Brown prohibiting the importation of laborers. All such armed men are to be met at the State line and placed under arrest as are also those who supply the arms. Mine operators will also be arrested by State authorities when they attempt to bring in armed laborers under protection of deputy marshals.

The injunctions issued by the State and Federal courts are in direct conflict, and the Governor regards the situation as critical. He is determined that the writ of the State Court shall be carried out, and if necessary will go to the mining district in person to take the places of the strikers. He has given instructions to State authorities to summon every able bodied man in Sebastian county if necessary to enforce the injunction of Judge Brown prohibiting the importation of laborers. All such armed men are to be met at the State line and placed under arrest as are also those who supply the arms. Mine operators will also be arrested by State authorities when they attempt to bring in armed laborers under protection of deputy marshals.

DAVIS IS DISCHARGED.

Bristol, Va., May 3.—Today, in the case of the Commonwealth against George E. Davis, charged with shooting Ex-Congressman James A. Walker, only two witnesses were examined. Their evidence was not material, and at 4:30 o'clock the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was discharged. An attempt at applause was quickly suppressed.