The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1898.

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WAR is not yet certain, but seems most probable. A few days ago it seemed inevitable. Much depends on Congress. The President is doing his best to avert war, but Congress seems determined to have war. The European Powers have been conferring with the hope of successfully mediating between Spain and the United States, but they will not probably succeed. Americans are leaving Havana, for fear of being caught there when hostilities begin. Gen. Lee is still there and will be the last to leave.

This war, which now seems probable, will be a disgrace not merely to Christianity but also to the civilization of this enlightened age. And a more inexcusable war has rarely ever been waged. It is a war that should have been averted, and one which the governments of both Spain and the United States have seemed anxious to avoid. The government of each country has seemed more disposed for peace than the people of either country. Each government seems to have reluctantly yielded to popular clamor and fury.

And yet, while there has been a great clamor for war in this country, we do not believe that the great mass of the working people of the United States desire this war—certainly not the farmers and the people of the sixteen sections. And they have good reason for not wishing for war, for they have much to lose and nothing to gain by it. This is especially true of the people of the Southern States. Our section being nearer to the seacoast and seaports will be in greater danger than the more Northern portion of the United States. Cotton is the chief staple of the South and its price will reasonably be expected to go down during the war. And that financial relief, which the people of the South have been so long and so eagerly waiting for, of course will be delayed and postponed by the war. And not only will this relief be delayed indefinitely, but still heavier burdens will be laid upon our people to pay. Of course war is costly and its expenses must increase taxation.

No, those who have been loudly clamoring for war know not what a calamity they are bringing upon our people, just as we knew not thirty-seven years ago with those who so wildly shouted for that terrible war which almost ruined our beloved Southland. It is a great pity that the innocent must suffer with the guilty. If the horrors of war could be visited only on those who bring on a war there would be fewer wars to disgrace civilized people.

THE Democratic convention of this (the fifth) judicial district will be held at Durham on Wednesday, the 25th of May, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for judge of the superior court and a candidate for solicitor.

The convention is called to meet on that day, so that the delegates can next day attend the State convention at Raleigh, and thus save two trips.

The candidates for the judicial nomination, so far as we have heard, are Messrs. E. S. Parker, of Alamance, and T. J. Shaw and D. Schenck Jr., of Guilford. There are several candidates for the nomination for solicitor.

THE State executive committee of the People's party held a meeting at Raleigh on last Tuesday, and decided to hold their State convention at Raleigh, on the 17th of May. What the Populists will do at that convention no man can now tell, but we doubt if they will nominate any candidates for judge. They will more probably leave that power with a committee with instructions to see with which party they can make the best bargain. They are after the offices and will fuse or trade with either the Democratic or Republican party—whichever will give the best terms.

It is said that Senator Butler urged the committee to hold the convention on the 25th of May.

RALEIGH'S two morning dailies, the *News and Observer* and the *Post*, issued an edition last Monday morning and can now be truly called "dailies."

The President's Message.

Washington, April 4.—The President has completed his Cuban message, and it will be presented to Congress on Wednesday. Secretary Long, after the special meeting tonight, authorized the Associated Press to make this statement. The message, which is in its fifteenth hour, will not be accompanied by the consular reports touching upon the situation in Cuba. These will go to the committee on foreign relations of the senate for their perusal in confidence, and will not be made public just now. The diplomatic correspondence will not be submitted at present.

The cabinet meeting lasted from 8 till after 11 o'clock, and was devoted entirely to the crucial reading and discussion of the President's draft of his message. Every member of the cabinet was present. The document is spoken of by those who have read it as a powerful state paper. The only changes made were in a few points of the first message. When the meeting broke up and the members dispersed there was a general air of relief and satisfaction on all faces, as though the air had been cleared of doubt, and the members had resolved upon what they deemed the proper course of action, and set out to follow the course to its logical conclusion. The suspense is thereby ended.

Secretary Long, apparently in high spirits, came out to the waiting newspaper men and gave the above brief statement. As to the contents of the message, he refused to speak. He was asked if it was true that the message would contain a recommendation that the power be given to declare a state of war between the United States and Spain, or to recognize the independence of Cuba, or to authorize the President to employ the army and navy to compel the withdrawal of the Spanish troops from the island. He said he was not at liberty to say what recommendation the message would contain, if any, but he was willing to say that the message would be a strong state paper, and that it would be found to contain a recommendation which, if adopted by Congress, would be found to be the best way out of the difficulty.

Mr. McKinley's friends here are very reticent about the character of the message, but it is known that it does not contain a recommendation that Congress recognize the independence of the Cuban insurgents, or even that it recommend the recognition of the belligerent rights of the insurgents. It is known that it does not contain a recommendation that the President be empowered to employ the army and navy to force the withdrawal of the Spanish troops from the island, and it is known that it does not contain a recommendation that Congress declare war against Spain. It is known that it does not contain a recommendation that Congress recognize the independence of the Cuban insurgents, and it is known that it does not contain a recommendation that Congress recognize the belligerent rights of the insurgents