The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1898.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

War has begun and actual hostilities have commenced between the United States and Spain. Congress has adopted a resolution, which the President promptly signed, officially declaring that war exists and has existed since the 21st of this month. The United States navy is blockading the Spanish ports, and a volunteer army of 125,000 soldiers is being rapidly recruited in every part of our country. The number of volunteers called for from North Carolina is 2,574, to be organized into two regiments of infantry, one battery of artillery, three companies of cavalry and one battalion of engineers. The executive, war and state departments have been actively engaged all day Monday, and their work is being rapidly completed for the immediate transmission of all mail to each country. More than the ordinary mail can be expected to be carried at this time. The Spanish troops will be concentrated, it is said, at first at Key West, Tampa and Mobile, and ordered to the Gulf coast. Part of the rebel Southern regiments will be called out, and no doubt an overwhelming force will be raised during the next twenty days to carry the war into Spanish territory.

The first gun fired in the war with Spain was on the 23rd inst. and the first one to reach us was on the 25th. It announced that Admiral Sampson's fleet had captured a Spanish vessel, named the Buena Ventura, full of coal, supposed originally for the Spanish fleet at Cape Verde Islands, but which had been ordered to Havana. The vessel was brought to Key West, and was probably sailing along with no intention or ability to run the blockade. But it was the first capture and the first gun.

How long will the war last? Already this perplexing question is being asked, and no man can answer. We sincerely hope that the time, for the two peoples, who prefer that it will end in a few weeks. We remember, however, that just thirty-seven years ago many of our wisest men predicted that the war upon which we were then entering would end in a few weeks. Even as wise a man as President Lincoln thought it would soon be over, and so he issued his proclamation calling for only 75,000 volunteers to serve only three months. And yet that war lasted four years, and nearly 3,000,000 men were enlisted in the Federal armies!

Profiting by the lesson taught by that experience, President McKinley has call for 125,000 volunteers to serve two years, and we doubt not that every man of them will be needed. While, of course, our country will be victorious, yet we will not have such an "easy walk-over" as some so confidently assert.

Now that we have begun we hope it will be short, sharp and decisive. While the Record had earnestly hoped there would be no war, yet now that war—horrid war—has actually begun we sincerely hope, and confidently predict, that our country will be completely victorious. All true Americans, whether they favored or opposed this war, should now discard their past differences and unite solidly together in urging it to a successful and early conclusion. Divided counsels and discussions as to whether the war is right or wrong would now be unpatriotic and opposition would be almost treason. In our country's hours of peril our country's dawes be right, but right or wrong our country still!

Now that we have begun we hope it will be short, sharp and decisive. While the Record had earnestly hoped there would be no war, yet now that war—horrid war—has actually begun we sincerely hope, and confidently predict, that our country will be completely victorious. All true Americans, whether they favored or opposed this war, should now discard their past differences and unite solidly together in urging it to a successful and early conclusion. Divided counsels and discussions as to whether the war is right or wrong would now be unpatriotic and opposition would be almost treason. In our country's hours of peril our country's dawes be right, but right or wrong our country still!

Transaction of their Philippine and Ladrone Islands in our conflict with Spain deserves and should receive the thanks of all Americans, and should also receive the unfounded prejudice of political demagogues here, but it proves to our people against that country.

When Mr. Woodford, our Minister to Spain, left Madrid and when Captain General Blanco left Havana, each of them entrusted to the care and protection of the British subjects left the persons and property that they left behind, and placed under their protection all the interests of our countrymen who remain in Cuba and Spain. And the British that will afford a valuable and complete protection.

Just why the Spanish government was so very slow in sending Admiral Cervera and his fighting fleet of cruisers and torpedo boats to Martinique with orders to proceed to Santiago de Cuba is a mystery. Had they been sent there as soon as they could have done so, they would have reached there before Admiral Sampson's fleet could have arrived, and their combination at some central point on the Atlantic coast from which they would be enabled to make a quick movement for the protection of Northern cities, or to repel the vessels in the West Indies.

The plan of the Spanish fleet is very likely to be to sail to New York, Boston, or some other important place for the purpose of bombarding them. In this hope that the government will not be able to send a sufficient force to meet them before they have done much damage.

Several vessels are loading for and preparing to go to the Orient with supplies for the Spanish fleet.

Cuba, however, is the first to start off for Philippines, and it is expected that the first naval battle of the war will be fought in those waters before the end of the present week.

Great Britain has issued a proclamation announcing her neutrality in the war between the United States and Spain. The other European powers will follow her example, and their neutrality will be helpful to us and hurtful to Spain.

One of our army officers has landed in Cuba and gone to Gen. Garcia's camp to arrange with him the plans for the landing of our army in Cuba and co-operating with the insurgents.

The President has issued a proclamation declaring that Spanish merchant vessels in United States ports will be allowed until May 21st for departure.

Among the thousands now volunteering to fight Spain are none of the Bull-moose Congressmen and editors who have been clamoring so loudly for war.

Blockade Proclamation.

Washington, April 22.—The following proclamation, announcing a blockade of Cuban ports, was issued today:

By the President of the United States. A proclamation: Whereas, By a joint resolution passed by Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated to the government of Spain, it was demanded that said government at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters; and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such extent as might be necessary to carry said resolution into effect; and

Whereas, In carrying into effect said resolution the President of the United States deems it necessary to set on foot and maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including all ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda; and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba, aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and the usages of nations applicable to such cases. An effective force will be posted so as to prevent the entrance to said ports. No vessels will be allowed to enter said ports and if the same vessel shall attempt to enter a second time, after being warned by the commander of the blockading squadron, she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceeding as prize, and her cargo as prize, may be decreed and adjudged.

Neutral vessels lying in any of said ports at the time of the establishment of said blockade will be allowed 30 days to leave therefrom.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this 22d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

By the President: William McKinley.
By the President, John Sherman, Secretary of State.

Call for 125,000 Volunteers.

Washington, April 23. The President today issued the following proclamation calling for 125,000 troops to serve two years:

Whereas, a joint resolution of Congress was approved on the twentieth day of April, 1898, entitled "Resolution for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect, and

Whereas, by an act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide for temporarily increasing the military establishment of the United States in time of war and for other purposes," approved April 22, 1898, the President is authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation for volunteers to serve in the Army of the United States.

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, volunteers to the aggregate number of 125,000, in order to carry into effect the purpose of the said resolution; the same to be apportioned, as far as practicable, among the several States and Territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, and to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the proper authorities, through the War Department.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twenty-third day of April A. D. 1898, and the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

By the President: John Sherman, Secretary of State.

Boy Killed by Lightning.

Special to the Chatham Record.

Winston, April 24.—The 7-year-son of Solomon Tesh was killed by lightning three miles south of Salem last evening. The boy had a hoe on his shoulder and lightning struck the blade, ran down the handle and killed him instantly. A brother who was near him was knocked down, but he soon recovered.

The Ohio State Senate has adopted a report charging that Senator Hanna attempted to bribe a member of the Legislature to procure his election.

Facts About Cuba.

THE POPULATION, SQUARE MILES, INHABITANTS, AND CHIEF PRODUCTS OF THE ISLAND.

From the Atlanta Journal.

Although Cuba is only ninety miles from our coast and has been the subject of much discussion among our people during the last three years, but few other country. It is remarkable how much ignorance exists among the people of the United States. In the first place the Island is much larger than is generally supposed. It is of regular elevation shape, is 730 miles long, and has an average width of 60 miles, which includes 2,000 square miles of water. Although mountainous in the interior, much of the coast line is low, level and different parts of the country are the lands. Nearly [illegible] tons of the [illegible] other island in the world, [illegible] Bahia, Honda, [illegible] ships and [illegible] side, and [illegible] dal, Santiago and Cienfuegos on the South coast are the principal and best harbors.

Cuba is rich in [illegible] products, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]