

The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1898.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The victory of our fleet at Manila is the most complete and remarkable that has ever been won at sea. The latest official dispatches show that our victory was more complete and wonderful than was indicated by the first telegrams.

While so crushing to the Spaniards this naval battle resulted in little loss to the Americans, recalling Jackson's wonderful victory at New Orleans over the British. The Spanish squadron of eleven ships was destroyed and 618 of their crews were killed or wounded, while not a single American ship was even disabled, not one soldier killed and only a few slightly wounded. The only American ship injured was the Baltimore, and her injuries were slight and caused chiefly by an explosion of some ammunition on board.

Commodore Dewey displayed great skill and nerve, and his crew fought with remarkable courage, and all European navies speak well in their praises of the prowess of our navy.

A large body of troops will be sent from San Francisco in a few days as an army of occupation for the Philippine Islands, to take possession and protect property, for these Islands are now forever lost to Spain.

Our soldier boys will begin to leave Raleigh in a few days, as the first regiment has received orders to go to Chickamauga, in Tennessee, where a large army of volunteers will be encamped and drilled, before being sent to Cuba. The second regiment is being organized this week at Camp Grimes, and may remain there two or three weeks.

A battalion of three-colored companies will be organized and stationed at Fort Macon, near Morehead city, where they will no doubt greatly enjoy themselves. Gov. Russell has appointed as major of this battalion James H. Young, the noted colored politician at Raleigh.

Later news is that our volunteers will be sent to Tampa, Florida, instead of to Chickamauga.

WHEN our North Carolina volunteers arrived at their camp near Raleigh, last week, they experienced an unpleasant foretaste of a soldier's hardships. No arrangements seem to have been made for feeding them, or even furnishing sufficient water for them to drink, and consequently they were a hungry and thirsty set for two or three days. There seems to have been gross negligence or incompetency on the part of the officers having charge of that duty.

"Tramp, tramp, the boys are marching". Yes, all over the United States are thousands of our young men organizing into regiments and drilling as soldiers for the war with Spain. In every state are encampments of these volunteers learning the duties of soldiers and preparing for battle at their country's call. How forcibly do these camps and brave young soldiers recall the exciting days of 1861!

Our Supreme Court decided last week, in a case from Duplin county, that the county commissioners could refuse to grant a license to retail liquor without assigning any reason for their refusal. This decision affirms the law as decided by Judge Adams in a similar case in this county last fall, and sustains the opinion and advice given at that time to our county commissioners by their attorney.

The Southern Baptist Convention met at Norfolk on last Friday, and Judge Harnden, of Alabama, was elected president for the tenth time. There were 719 delegates present, besides hundreds of visitors. The sum of \$500 was set aside as the Matthew T. Yates publishing fund, as a memorial of that distinguished missionary and for education in missions.

A great naval battle was expected the first of this week, near Porto Rico, between our fleet and the Spanish fleet, which had started for Cuba, but the latter returned to Spain and thus deprived us of another glorious victory. It is now thought that our army will once prepare to invade Cuba, and to make short work of the war.

Battle of Crete.

Washington, May 8.—The War Department saw fit today to gratify the universal desire and inform the country through the press just where the various State volunteer organizations are to be concentrated. It is the first time that any official statement has been made as to the points of concentration. The order, as published by the Department, warrants the assumption that it connotes a steady movement of the United States' military forces upon China, in much greater force than was originally planned. The War Department officials refused to say anything on this point, but facts are every evidence that they expect a short sharp, conclusive and indecisive campaign, such as could not be waged by 4000 veteran soldiers. It is also to be noted that preparations made by one organization's department and the commanding department, so far as those they control, indicate that operation will be made to subdue and to destroy the rebels.

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The rebels confirmed the story of the total destruction of the Spanish squadron.

Their statement that the loss of the day was fully 2000 men.

These figures include the 800 lost at Corregidor and Cagayan Island.

A hundred wounded Spaniards were taken to the hospital of the Americans, and were treated kindly.

SANTA SORURIA.

Great surprise and satisfaction were expressed here when it was learned that not an American warship was damaged during the entire month of May, and not a single American in the squadron was lost.

Several Americans were wounded but they are all recovering.

The Americans are anxious to know the result of the fight.

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