

The Messenger

OUR FLYING SQUADRON NOTES

Will there be war? Who is the wise man who can answer that question? President McKinley cannot, Hanna cannot, the pope cannot, Uncle Sam cannot, the navy cannot, Spain cannot, So who is equal to the big job? It is plain Major Mc. is not, and it is well known that corruptionist Mark Hanna says there must be no war, and so say the business, legal and literary lights of Boston. How, then, can there be war? Northern mugwumps and republicans say the destruction of the Maine is a mere trifling incident—a bagatelle not worthy of serious consideration. How, then, we repeat, can there be war? It must come through the action of the congress. McKinley asks for unrestricted powers until October. The congress will prove itself a body of fools if they grant it. What has McKinley done to justify such an impudic request? Delay is the game of the administration. That is construed by its organs and friends to mean peace at any price. One of these, The Philadelphia Record, says:

"Delay makes for peace. This understanding of the situation was reflected in the course of the stock markets. The president's message will probably not be sent to congress before tomorrow. Congressional action is not likely to take any more bellicose turn than the acknowledgement of Cuban independence."

In the meantime, there is dissatisfaction among republicans in the congress, and out of it, at the dilatory course of the "powers that be." How far the revolt will extend depends upon the unrolling "of coming events" within a few days or weeks. Europe is inclined to try to have the matters in dispute settled by arbitration. The pope leads in behalf of peace. He is trying to save Spain from a righteous kicking. But Cardinal Gibbons is not meddling at all in the delicate question. He has had no talk with McKinley about the war. Spain is agreeable, it is reported, to the pope's plan as mediator. But it is also stated that our government refused to accede. The Baltimore Herald says on this matter of mediation:

"Of the claims to temporal sovereignty advanced by the Holy See, this government cannot take account. Officially the Catholic Hierarchy can be recognized only as a spiritual power. Its aims are essentially religious and moral, concern for the material welfare of individuals and states being made incidental thereto. The Constitution of the United States distinctly provides that affairs of state and church shall be kept apart."

McKinley has no power under the Constitution to accept mediation, if he so desired. He may be influenced by Northern Methodist bishops as to his course, but not by any foreign potentate or ecclesiastic. The pope is not to be censured for desiring peace. His intentions are doubtless benignant. He can exercise his efforts with good results if he can induce Spain to mend her cruel and devilish ways, and learn something of national honor, mercy and truthfulness. It is hard to deal peacefully with a people who murder and starve and blow up ships belonging to friendly powers. Possibly Spain may be willing to make concessions, but will they bring back to life the 256 murdered Americans and restore to original perfection and power the battle-ship Maine? Will they give liberty and independence and indemnity to the Cubans?

Representative Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, introduced a resolution looking to Cuban independence. Unless the Maine outrage is resented in the proper way, and the liberties of Cuba are assured, the bluster and drum-beating of the United States for months will appear foolish and end in mere "sound and fury, signifying nothing." It is reported from Cuba that the patriots will accept nothing short of independence, and all right thinking, liberty loving, genuine Americans must say that this is right. The navy is resolute and disappointed. When naval officers read the utterances of many mugwump and republican newspapers in the Middle and Eastern states they must feel very indignant and disgusted.

As an abstract question, The Messenger has not favored war, but weeks ago showed its understanding of the great horrors of war and its attending demoralization and losses. It is very costly to life and business and heaps up misery and ruin and suffering. It is indeed a most serious thing to engage a people at any time. There is not much to be gained in war, but war is like some law suits—forced upon you. It is very certain now that the gold democratic press, with but very few exceptions, is opposed to war and in with McKinley in his policy. But some how his policy divides his own party. There is far more division among the newspapers now than two weeks or a month ago. Many of them have forgotten all about the destruction of the Maine and would not favor shooting a gun because of it. The more cumulative the proof of Spanish guilt the more indifferent or opposing is a large part of the most influential papers as to doing anything about it. And yet millions of Americans feel that to leave it as it is will prove disgraceful to this great republic. If the president by his delays can bring peace with honor then good citizens will be satisfied and say God speed him in his efforts. But the pity of it is that there has been so much of talk and writing, of speaking and promising, of preparation and parading, all looking to war, and all to be

followed perhaps by a divided country, a divided press, divided parties and a general back-down. If the United States have not good, safe grounds, the government should have not taken any steps looking to war in any event, and made no note of preparation.

DID SPANISH OFFICIALS BLOW UP THE MAINE?

Was the Maine blown up outside? What fool thinks otherwise? Was it destroyed by a mine planted previously by the Spanish government or officials. The gallant and slighted Captain Sigsbee says it was. Did the Spaniards place the ship over a planted mine when it was taken to its anchorage upon arrival? We cannot doubt it. Captain Sigsbee refrains to charge directly the destruction of the doomed ship to Spanish officials, but we have no doubt that he believes it was so done. His recent testimony before the house committee on foreign affairs is certainly illuminative. He distinctly stated that his vessel was anchored by the Spanish captain of the port in the most unfrequented part of the harbor, and that the Maine could be fired into by both forts and at the same time. Take this evidence, and the revelations of the wreckers, and the testimony taken before the court of investigation, and what the Englishman said as to his manufacturing mines for the Spaniards, and the general bad character of the Spaniards, their cruelty, their treachery, their hatred of the American people, and there is certainly an immensely probable case established of the destruction of the Maine by Spanish officials. Then there come from fresh testimony from Lieutenant Commander J. C. Colwell, of the United States navy, that is very significant and important. It is so startling and certain that any genuine American will be fully justified to believe in Spanish guilt when it is taken in consideration with all other evidence bearing upon the complexity of the Spanish government.

What is the evidence freshly revealed by Lieutenant Commander Colwell? It gives the lie direct to the denial of the Spanish officials as to the harbor of Havana being entirely free from all mines. Weyler and all who have followed him in denying that mines had been planted have lied deliberately, openly, pertinaciously and specifically. The information obtained now is to the effect that Spain bought mines on two occasions of Lattimer, Rhodes & Clark, of London; that the last purchase from them was in 1896—possibly not more than eighteen months ago—and that some of these mines were sent to Havana. The witness who tells this confirmatory statement is J. P. Gibson, who is superintendent of the torpedo department of the firm. The fact now stares Spain out of countenance and out of character. The truth of all this has been concealed and general lying has been resorted to that Spain's guilt and ignominy in blowing up the great American cruiser might be shielded from the public view. But as "murder will out," so crimes committed against civilization and honor and all virtue will be exposed soon or late. The fact that the mines bought required three keys in the electrical connections intensifies certainty and makes the damning act the more conspicuous. The three keys must be in possession of those on shore who would explode the mines. If the combinations were not perfectly understood there could be no explosion from the shore. The government alone held the secret. This ought to convince the most stiff-necked sceptic and pull the wool from the eyes of a bandaged McKinley.

BREVITIES

McKinley has driven the splitting wedge into the republican log. The divisions in both houses are reported "serious." It is to be hoped that the senate foreign affairs committee will be firm in its declarations of purpose. The anti-war Philadelphia Record gives it that it will include in its demands—independence, armed intervention and the destruction of the Maine. That will please eight-tenths of the American people outside of New England. The Germans will use \$15,000,000 in strengthening their navy during the next eight years. The sum is divided into annual appropriations. The Philadelphia Record says that McKinley has "disquieting reports" as to the "stubbornness" of republicans in both houses. The New York Tribune—anti-south and anti-war—is trying to placate the south by misrepresentation. It insists that the south does not despise the very names of Hunter and Sherman, and it might add Tecumseh Sherman. The "current opinion" among all informed southerners is that they were brutes, bummers and scoundrels, and disgraced the uniforms they wore. Old "Cump" Sherman said "war is hell." The people of Georgia and South Carolina who were burnt out and robbed by the old scoundrel and his organized Corps of Bummers, perhaps agreed with the marauder. They may have thought Sherman a capital representative of the Mephistophelian master of ceremonies in the dark regions. When war is conducted as Sherman and Weyler conducted it, it will be admitted that there was no little of "hell" in it.

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HOME FOLKS.

The Messenger is much pleased to read that the United States government will take immediate steps to protect Beaufort harbor and to garrison Fort Macon. It cannot be too speedily done if there is to be war, which now may be classed as extremely doubtful.

The many friends in Wilmington will share with us in sincere regret that Captain Samuel A. Ashe met with so severe an accident on the cars, and will rejoice that he escaped without more serious injury. We hope he will soon recover and be himself again. In our state news the accident is reported.

There are reasons for asserting that the first revolving pistol made in this country was by a North Carolinian who lived at Salisbury. Was not the first typewriter attempted by a North Carolinian, Foster, of Louisburg? We believe the first efforts to forecast weather was by a North Carolinian. The first rapid firing gun was by Dr. Gatling, a native, and it was a great discovery. And was it not a native North Carolinian who first invented the torpedo of modern construction and for ordinary warfare? We copy an interesting article from the Augusta, (Ga.) Chronicle on the torpedo, and it will be seen that General Gabriel J. Rains, a North Carolinian, is specially mentioned in connection with it.

If the state democratic press really is in touch with the democratic masses in its almost unanimous opposition to dicking with the leaders of other parties or factions, then there will be no "combine" or swapping with the populists. The plan of the democratic party is not to bargain with any party to secure strength, but to cordially welcome all voters who may unite with them in trying to rid the people of their oppressors and save the dear old state from farther detriment.

The President Stands Firm

(Washington Post, April 7.) The temporary withholding of President McKinley's message from congress was due solely to the receipt of a cablegram from General Fitzhugh Lee, our consul general at Havana, advising that if the message contemplated armed intervention, it was deferred until all Americans in Cuba could leave the island. He stated that the exodus could be completed by the 10th instant. Members of the foreign affairs committee of the senate and house, upon being shown this dispatch, promptly concurred in the opinion of the president and cabinet that the message should be delayed until next Monday. The utmost confidence is felt by the administration and congress in the wisdom and good judgment of General Lee in any emergency. The rumors of disturbances in Havana are not confirmed, but the conditions there are extremely threatening. Consul General Lee is still at his post, and will remain there until all other Americans are safe.

The president's message has only been changed in that it will ask congress to authorize and direct immediate intervention. Otherwise the message will stand as heretofore outlined, and, as The Post stated on Tuesday morning, it will be of such a vigorous, ringing character as to meet the full expectations of congress and the country. It will inevitably mean war. Hostilities can only be averted by Spain herself making a judgment of General Lee in any emergency. The rumors of disturbances in Havana are not confirmed, but the conditions there are extremely threatening. Consul General Lee is still at his post, and will remain there until all other Americans are safe.

Negotiations with Spain have not been reopened by the United States and will not be. The queen-regent has not sent a personal message to the president making a new proposal for peace. With the influences now at work, through foreign diplomatic channels, to bring about a settlement of the difficulties between Spain and her rebellious subjects in Cuba, this government has absolutely nothing to do, except to stand by the side of the administration and congress stand pledged to the freedom of Cuba, and will accept no solution that does not involve the withdrawal of Spanish troops from the island and the hauling down of the Spanish flag.

The five great powers have not sent a joint note to the United States counseling against war. Mediation of any sort has not been offered to this government and will not be accepted. Minister Woodford is keeping the president fully advised as to all that is transpiring in Madrid. His latest dispatch indicated that the queen-regent was disposed to concede all our demands, but the ministry was opposing further concession. France, Austria and Italy are reported to be ready to support the dynasty in Spain in case the government should grant the independence of Cuba.

STATE PRESS.

If the Democratic party of North Carolina ever expects to get out of the "slough of despond" into which it has stumbled, it will have to entirely repudiate the trimmers and time servers who have led it to its present position.—Rocky Mount Argonaut. Russell has blundered in his appointments, he has blundered in his official policy. No man perhaps ever did more poorly who meant to do well. From his inauguration to the present time his career can only be characterized as unfortunate.—Greensboro Telegram. In Concord last week two of the Mormon elders escaped a chastising at the hands of an irate citizen only by flight, and our usually conservative contemporary, The Standard, practically advocates expelling them from the community by force. Our Troutman's correspondent, writing last week, also indirectly advised the use of force to rid his community of the Mormons. Brethren, don't do it. In the first place it is wrong to do violence to the innocent and acts of lawlessness do not redound to the advantage of any community. Secondly, we feel sure that persecution would aid the Mormons in the propagation of their doctrines.—Statesville Landmark.

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The First Southern Torpedo

Glancing over an article entitled "Torpedoes for War," the mention of "one most curious" and "controversial floating torpedo—suggests, that a few remarks copied from the diary of General Gabriel J. Rains, the inventor of the modern torpedo, and used by him during the civil war, may be very interesting. Torpedoes have been known from the earliest ages. They were used at the siege of Antwerp, and Bushmoot's machine, used during the revolution, we all know from history—but it was never perfected. Years rolled away, and although frequent experiments were made with the torpedo, nothing practical was established. But it seems that General Rains had for years conceived the idea of using them in a mode of warfare, which the little sketch copied from his torpedo book will show.

The story of his first torpedo, which was invented and used by him during the war with the Seminole Indians, April 1860, ended in the fighting of sixteen soldiers (who had gone with General Rains to investigate the cause of the torpedo explosion,) with some 100 or more Indians, and among the casualties the wounding of General Rains and his being carried to Fort King in the arms of his men. Another and second torpedo had been previously placed at the post by him, and soon after the night 1,000 or more troops were collected there, and it became such a dread to the whole army that a soldier guard was put over it until Captain Rains was able to go and take it up. "Suppose," said one officer to another high in rank, "that the captain had died of the wound, what would have been done?" "I thought," said he, "of firing at it with a 6-pounder at a safe distance, and then knocking it to pieces."

Consignment Positively Cured

Mr. R. B. Greeve, merchant, of Chilhowie, Va., certifies that he had consumption, was given up to die, sought all medical treatment that money could procure, tried all cough remedies he could hear of, but got no relief; spent many nights sitting up in a chair; was induced to try Dr. King's New Discovery, and was cured by use of two bottles. For past three years has been attending to business and says Dr. King's New Discovery is the grandest remedy ever made, as it has done so much for him and also for others in his community. Dr. King's New Discovery is guaranteed for Coughs, Colds and Consumption. It don't fail. Trial bottles free at R. R. Bellamy's drug store.

Chapel Hill Notes

(Correspondence of The Messenger.) Chapel Hill, N. C., April 7. Last Saturday morning the base ball team went to Wake Forest where, in the afternoon, they defeated the "deep water" boys by the score of 7 to 1. The game was called at the end of the seventh inning to allow Carolina to catch a train.

Tuesday the university received its first defeat at the hands of Lafayette college of Pennsylvania. Lafayette had a good team and especially good fielders, and beat by the score of 19 to 9. Yesterday we returned the compliment and defeated them by the score of 9 to 7. Our team played excellent ball and Lawson, our "invincible" twirler, especially so, allowing the visitors only eight hits. Belden, who was indisposed in the first game, held down his old position, second base, all right, and made an excellent catch of a foul, while many of the team made hits.

For Lafayette they had in another twirler yesterday, Nevin, but our boys succeeded in getting nine hits off him. Lafayette's features were their battery work, while their hitting was distributed between Hill, Wallridge and Bray, second, short and centre, respectively. The Lafayette team left this afternoon. Next Monday our team plays Johns Hopkins in Winston; Tuesday at the same place, Pennsylvania and Thursday at Charlottesville the University of Virginia, returning to "the Hill" in time for Harvard on Field Day, April 15th.

Many of the preparatory schools have entered the field-day contests. In the afternoon all the visitors will be given reserved seats for the Harvard game. A large number of students left today, some for home, and a crowd for Winston to see the base ball next week. The dramatic club leaves next Saturday for Winston where, on Monday night, they will present John A. Fraser, Jr.'s "A Modern Amias." After leaving Winston they will go to Greensboro, Reidsville and Danville, Va., respectively.

A box has been placed in the bursar's office for the press association, where the other members may place any news which they may wish to appear in the newspapers of the state. Mr. T. G. Pearson, assistant curator of the Biological Museum of the university, has been employed to do some taxidermy for Mr. Geo. Vanderbilt, who has directed his preparator to have taken mounted specimens of birds, etc., found on the Billmore estate.

The "Tar Heel," the official organ of the university, speaking on the excitement at present, says: "In this tension of excitement when our people are watching with breathless anxiety the lowering storm clouds, which threaten to break with all its fury on our nation, the little village of Chapel Hill and the university are quietly pursuing their wonted course and calmly awaiting results. Believing in the wisdom of our national officers, we feel that we shall not be hurried into a war that is unjust, nor yet allowed to see our flag dishonored. If peace is preserved, we shall thank God for it; if war must come, none are more ready to do their martial duty than the sons of the university of North Carolina."

The Chapel Hill choral society, composed of the most talented and many of the university boys, announces an entertainment for April 15th. The chorus will be composed of fifty voices. Talent from elsewhere in the state is also secured. Work on the alumni hall is progressing nicely. Dr. Byrd, the third university preacher, did not stay his whole time as one of his congregation died and he had to leave.

Russell Appoints the President of the Atlantic Railroad (Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., April 7.—Governor Russel ends the hot fight for the presidency of the Atlantic and North Carolina railway by appointing David W. Patrick president and Frank Brown and Lester Hoyt directors. The directors are ordered to meet at New Bern, next Tuesday, April 12th at 8 o'clock p.m.

Ask Your Neighbor whose house is conspicuously clean, whose work worries her least, whose leisure time is greatest, how she manages. The chances are ten to one she will answer: "I do all my cleaning with GOLD DUST Washing Powder." Sold by all grocers. Largest package—greatest economy. THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston, Philadelphia.

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