

## LOSS OF THE MARIA TERESA

### This Cruiser Goes Down in a Storm.

## THE HEROIC EFFORTS

**Of Her Commander and Crew to Save Her—Caught in a Storm off the Bahamas—Her Plates Open and Let in the Water—Her Engines Become Useless—She Rapidly Fills—Her Crew Stand by the Last—The Men Transferred to Her Consorts.**

Washington, November 5.—The Maria Teresa was lost during a heavy gale Tuesday night, thirty miles north of Watling Island, in the Bahamas. She sank in 2,600 fathoms of water. All the crew were saved.

A thrilling story of the loss of the cruiser is given in the official report of Lieutenant Commander Harris to the secretary of the navy, received by telegraph at the navy department late this afternoon. It is dated on board the wrecking steamer Merritt, fifty miles off Charleston, November 4th, and says:

"I have the honor to make the following report of the loss of the Infanta Maria Teresa on November 1st. At 1 o'clock a. m. I found that it was blowing hard and went on the lower bridge. We had left Watling Island light abeam at 10 o'clock, and up till midnight the weather was pleasant and all went well with the ship, although we had trouble in keeping the pump in the forward fire room from being choked with coal. The wind continued to increase in force until perhaps 3 o'clock a. m., when it reached its height, although there were times all day when it blew as hard as ever. The direction was about northeast. The sea continued to rise until perhaps 6:00 o'clock a. m. There was a heavy sea all the following day. The pumps were reported every hour. Soon after 1 o'clock a. m. I received the second mate, Mr. Johnson, so that he could go below to fight the water. About 3:30 o'clock the first mate, Captain Lecato, came up and he also went below to work. Captain Chittenden, who was on duty at the time, gave his attention to the pumps and especially to priming the centrifugal pump in the forward fire room.

"There were many new leaks. When a heavy sea struck the sides the plates leaked at the butts and seams, showing that after the fire they had resumed their former appearance, but were not tight. There was at the mainmast an inch of thwartship vibration and only half an inch of longitudinal vibration.

"While making this examination about 4:30 o'clock a. m., Captain Chittenden was thrown down and fell on the chain, hurting his side and back enough to temporarily disable him. He continued to give us valuable advice. At 3 o'clock a. m. we made signal to the Vulcan and Merritt to go to windward, which they did as well as they could. Up to 1 o'clock a. m. we were running the starboard main engines and had steam on the two central boilers and three of the short forward boilers, but the trouble in the forward fire room caused the steam to run low, and we lighted fires under the starboard after boiler and stopped the engine so as to run the steam up for the pumps.

"The pump for keeping the water from the forward compartment was driven by a belt and when the sea broke over the bows the belt became wet and slipped. As soon as the water was up to the floor place in the forward fire room the rolling of the ship washed it into the coal bunkers and carried the coal out, choking the pump and carrying the floor plates about, which made it difficult and dangerous to work there.

"About 8 o'clock I called for volunteers to hoist coal and water in the ash-hoist. Everybody responded and the work was continued as long as it seemed of any use.

"About 3:30 a. m. it was reported that water was coming into one of the starboard forward coal bunkers and running into the fire rooms. Where the water came from we do not know.

"About 2 o'clock the 11-inch gun in the after turret ran out and twice. When it recoiled the second time something gave way and it settled to extreme elevation and remained stationary. We asked the Vulcan to signal the Leonidas to stay close to us, and the latter hoisted the flag at the signal yardarm, which was a signal agreed upon to call the Leonidas to come within hail. She was steaming ahead of us and making rather bad weather. It seems as if she feared to turn in the heavy sea, but eventually she did cross ahead of the Merritt and twice passed under the Teresa's stern, although at some distance. I think she picked up the life rafts which the Vulcan threw over.

"About 11:30 o'clock we signaled the Vulcan to ask the Merritt if we could be turned safely to run for the lee of Watling's Island. To this Captain Wolcott replied 'No,' and as Captain Chittenden thought we would sink if we tried to turn this idea was given up. Both the Vulcan and the Merritt could with difficulty keep us head to wind and the sea was running so high that the Vulcan's bits started or the tow lines parted. The ship would fall into the trough of the sea.

"At 1 o'clock p. m. Captain Chittenden asked to signal the Vulcan to cast off the Merritt's tow lines and have the Merritt come alongside. I then assumed the command, told the men what was to be done and assigned them stations. I told the chief engineer to start the engine to aid the Vulcan in keeping our head up. He did so, but could run but a short time with the

steam we had. We signaled the Vulcan: 'We are about to abandon ship. Try to keep us head to wind.' I ordered Captain Lecato to take charge of the lee surf boat and when it was lowered to the rail ordered Captain Chittenden into it. Against his repeated protests, he was placed in the boat with his son. This boat was unable to reach the lines we had astern, but the Merritt picked it up, and after taking Captain Chittenden aboard towed the boat to our leeward, and repeated this maneuver, each trip forming a lee for the boats to come here and then towing them back. She was splendidly handled. From 2 until 5 o'clock the work of transferring the crew continued. Captain Lecato made two more trips, when his arm being disabled, his place was taken by Mr. Johnson, who also took two boatloads.

"The life raft was gotten over and capsize, but was righted. It was put in charge of James Bashford, ordinary seaman, of the Illinois naval militia. He and his crew took six Cubans to the Merritt. The smaller surf boat stowed in board on the lee side was then gotten out, and I put it in charge of James A. Dunne, quartermaster, first class. I gave him nearly all the good seamen left for a crew. It was launched very handsomely and made two trips. In all these trips we poured oil from the sponsons on both sides, and the Vulcan used oil to make it smooth where the embarking was done. I doubt if we could have worked without it.

"The ship labored more and more heavily. Before I left the bridge she rolled her sponsons under, which I should estimate to be 30 degrees, and her pitching was enough to show her rudder, propellers and perhaps twelve feet of her keel. She was about four feet by the head. She fell into the sea very heavily and shuddered as she rose. There was no water aft. The Vulcan did her best to keep our head up, steering to starboard and going to full speed while the sea beat the Teresa's head to port.

"Throughout the day the Vulcan did everything possible. We were constantly signaling.

"With the exception of three men who got drunk and gave much trouble, all the crew behaved well. Every man did his duty and my orders were instantly obeyed by wreckers and men of the navy.

"When the fires were low I called for volunteers and the donkey boilers were at once filled up. Twice I asked C. F. Smith and James F. Brien, chief machinists, to oil the steering engine and they did so and the engine ran till we left. When I took Dunne from the helm to lower the smaller surf boat his place was taken by William C. Morhoff, machinist, second class, who steered the wreck until we left the bridge together, when he lashed the wheel amidships. Willard Crosscut, helmsman, signalled and was as cool as possible. He made no mistakes and was very useful to me as a messenger. About 4:30 o'clock he made signal: 'Hang on to the wreck until you are sure she is sinking, to which the Vulcan replied: 'We will hold on until she sinks or parts the low line.' The last signal he made was: 'These two boats will take all.' After that I had to go aft to force the drunken men overboard and about 5 o'clock we were all of the boats were hauled under the stem as near as it was safe, where the oil and lee of the ship made it smooth, and were held by one line, while another line, with a ladder attached, floated the stern on this line. Two double bights were stopped on the right side to go over a man's shoulder. The end was slacked from the ship and when two men jumped, they were hauled into the boat. A very fine fellow named Olsen attended to this. When all had gone but he and I, he cut the line and we jumped together.

"It was perhaps 5:30 o'clock when we reached the Merritt. While she was getting in the surf boats the Vulcan slipped the hawser of the Infanta Maria Teresa. I expect that the wreck department up to port brought all the strain on the port bridle and started the bits. When the boats were in, the Merritt, at my request, started to speak the Vulcan, but was unable to reach her, and she apparently did not hear our whistle. The Merritt then returned to find the wreck, but could not do so. The search continued until 1 o'clock p. m. The following day she headed for Charleston.

Very respectfully,  
"IRA HARRIS,  
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. N."

"Commenting on that feature of the report stating that some of the men got drunk, naval officials expressed the opinion that these men were not seamen of the navy, but were sailors from the wrecking crew.

"No orders were issued by the navy department up to the close of office hours as to the disposition of Lieutenant Commander Harris and his crew, and Captain Crowninshield, of the bureau of navigation, said no orders would be formulated tonight.

"It is said at the navy department that the provision was made by which the Teresa could have weathered any ordinary storm. Rough wooden decks had been nailed over her upper works. Her hull was then sheathed, and heavy chains were wound around her so as to hold her together. Although far from seaworthy, all that was expected was that the cruiser might be kept afloat until docked in this country. She had been stripped of all guns and valuables save the big turret 11-inch guns, before starting, so that it is believed there will be no loss on that account. It is the opinion of the navy department that the government has lost, besides the value of the ship herself, only the amount of the per diem of \$800 per day through the sinking of the vessel, because the contract appears to have required the delivery by the wrecking company of the vessel at the navy yard at Norfolk, Va.

"The first thing in order now is a court of inquiry, in fact the department has no option in the case of a loss of a vessel under such conditions. This court is required to fix the responsibility for loss, to examine into the considerations which led Commander Harris to choose the easterly course around Cape Mayes and eastward of the Bahamas, to that around Cape Antonio and to the Florida channel. It must determine also as near as it can whether the work of preparing the ship for the homeward voyage was properly executed and also whether

## A POLITICAL FRAUD

### Attempted by a Republican Registrar in Richmond County.

## REGISTRATION BOOKS STOLEN.

### Republican Effort to Prevent Trial of Challenges by Democrats at Maxton—A Red Letter Day for the Democrats at Rockingham—Laurinburg Democrats to Close Business Houses and Devote the Day to the Cause of Democracy—A Big Time at Whiteville—Wilmington Naval Reserves on Hand with One of their Howitzers.

Rockingham, N. C., November 5.—This was a red letter day for the white people of Richmond county. Four thousand people came together to express their determination that they shall be free from negro domination—over 1,000 mounted red shirts.

Senator Tillman was brought on a special all the way from Monroe, and accomplished much good.

James A. Lockhart, of Anson; and James T. Legrand, of Richmond, were among the prominent speakers.

Everything is quiet and orderly, but determination was expressed in the countenance of all.

Richmond is safe by a large majority.

Laurinburg, N. C., November 5.—All places of business in Laurinburg will be closed at 4 o'clock on Monday and every man will put on his red shirt to wear it until old North Carolina has been redeemed.

Richmond county will give a good round majority. There is no way to prevent the whites of Richmond from having their own after Tuesday next. Republicans and the one or two remaining populists conceded this.

Whiteville, N. C., November 5.—Hon. C. B. Aycock spoke to 2,000 people here today. One hundred red shirts paraded and filled the town with shouts of joy at the prospect of Columbus being redeemed from the rule and ruin of fusion.

Many men who formerly were populists were in the parade and are now working zealously for the democratic ticket.

The fusion forces are disorganized and scattered. Among all the vast assembly here today it was difficult to find any white man who would admit that he would support fusion.

Many ladies listened with rapt attention to the masterly eloquence of Mr. Aycock.

The six gunners of the Wilmington division of naval reserves were on hand with their cannon and lived up to the people with its booming.

The democrats are jubilant over their certainty of carrying Columbus and placing it once more in the democratic column, by a handsome majority next Tuesday.

Maxton, N. C., November 5.—When the precinct board met here today to consider challenges it was found that B. F. McLean, republican chairman of the board of registrars, was absent and the book could not be found. Upon statements made by W. A. Lowe, populist registrar, a warrant was issued for McLean who was arrested upon arrival of the Wilmington train. He waived examination and was held in \$200 bail. J. M. Burke, D. A. Patterson and Angus Shaw and others becoming security.

The precinct board organized today by electing W. S. McNair chairman, who demanded the custody of the registration book of McLean tonight, but was refused.

The people are highly wrought up over the apparent conspiracy of the fusionists to commit fraud.

Florida All Right Politically  
Jacksonville, Fla., November 5.—On Tuesday Florida will elect two justices of the supreme court, three members of the railroad commission, a state treasurer, legislature, which will meet in April and name a successor to Senator Pasco, and two congressmen to succeed M. Sparkman in the First district and R. W. Davis in the Second. Both are democrats and each has been nominated to succeed himself. Their only opponents are white republicans of more than average intelligence. They have made a more active canvass of the districts than has been made since the days of Horatio Bisbee. The gold democrats have returned to the democratic fold and populism has gradually returned to the party from which it became estranged, so that the state chairman of the democratic executive committee predicts that each democratic congressman will be returned by even a larger majority than in 1896.

In Florida the causes influencing the return of the populists and gold democrats to the old party are in a less degree than those obtaining in North Carolina. Joseph E. Lee, the negro leader of the Florida republicans, has recently been elevated to the highest federal office in the state—collector of internal revenue—and this fact has not only alienated and made lukewarm the "illy whites," but has as well had its influence in cementing the whites of the state in closer unity. All of Florida's democratic state ticket will be elected and almost every member of the state legislature and senate. Florida's educational qualifications—the Australian ballot—is an insurmountable barrier to misrule.

Just What She Needed  
"My appetite was very poor and I was so nervous I could not sleep. I was troubled with dyspepsia and was very weak. After I had taken a few bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I could eat anything I wished, could sleep well and was much stronger."—Mrs. John J. Marshall, Werrington, North Carolina.

General Wood's Sanitary Report  
Washington, November 5.—Following is General Wood's fever report from Santiago for today: "Fever cases, all kinds, 619; total sick, 1,154; deaths, none."

## PREDICTING RESULTS.

### Opinions of the Three Party Leaders.

## THE CLAIM OF VICTORY

Made by Each One of Them—Chairman Holton Pretends to Think that His Party will Sweep Everything in Sight  
Holton's Circular to His Pollholders. Wake County to be Redeemed by the Democrats—Names Stricken from Registration Book by Justice Clark.

Messenger Bureau  
Raleigh, N. C., November 5.

Today the representatives of the three political parties were specially interviewed.

Democratic State Chairman Simmons said: "I have the poll from most of the counties in the state. There is no longer any doubt that the democrats will carry the state by a large majority, even larger than I expected. Both branches of the legislature will be democratic, the house by an overwhelming majority and the senate by a safe one. There will be the greatest political revolution which has ever taken place in North Carolina. The white people have come together and made up their minds that negro office-holding must cease in North Carolina. Their verdict will be unmistakable and will be that no party can ever again with impunity place negroes over white people. The great majority of the white people will vote down negroism in North Carolina. It simply means that North Carolina white men propose and intend to make and administer the laws. We are going to elect four congressmen—Kitchen in the Fifth, Bellamy in the Sixth, Klutz in the Seventh and Crawford in the Ninth district. The chances are decidedly in favor of Small in the First. There is 'good fighting chance for Thomas in the Third, Atwater in the Fourth and Lovell in the Eighth."

Chairman Simmons further said: "I have information that the republicans have planned frauds and will make an attempt to practice them election day. They may as well understand, and we intend they shall understand that the white people of North Carolina will not permit themselves to be swindled out of this election. I have warned our people everywhere to be on their guard and all proper precautions have been taken and the man who attempts frauds on election day will find himself thwarted."

There was a great democratic rally at Burlington today, at which 8,000 people from all parts of Alamance county are said to have been present. The nineteen cotton mills in that county shut down for the day.

Chairman Simmons was asked if the democrats would support Atwater in the Fourth and replied: "Atwater bolted the populist convention in Chatham county when it adopted resolutions for fusion with republicans. As a member of the last legislature he voted against every bill to negroize cities and towns in eastern North Carolina. He is making a splendid campaign, denouncing republican-populist fusion and asking the populists to refuse to vote the fusion ticket. He is advocating good, honest and economical government and white supremacy. The democratic congressional committee has advised that his candidacy be supported by democrats. I sincerely hope and believe that throughout the district he will receive the united support of the democrats. He is honest and sincere and represents a class of populists who have been flocking to the democratic party, and helping us to carry the state on the great issues which have been brought to the front."

Manager Ayer of the populist state committee said: "The situation is not changed. We have the Sixth district now, and don't care what happens there. Congress will decide that Dockery is elected there. I don't know much about the Second. The democrats have put up Fountain there and that I think means White's election without doubt. I think Caldwell in the Seventh has a chance to win by 1,200 to 1,500; but say it is a hard fight there. We have thirty-nine senators and sixty-five members of the house 'dead sure,' with fair chances for almost everything else in sight."

Republican State Chairman Holton said: "I think the election will pass off quietly. The closest vote will be in the Seventh congressional district, but that will go anti-democratic and elect Caldwell by 800 to 1,200."

Chairman Holton yesterday sent to all the fusion registrars and judges of election a circular in which he says: "We are absolutely sure of seventy-six members in the house, with an even chance of twenty-five more. We have thirty-four senators certain, with an even chance of ten more. Our judicial ticket will be elected by between 30,000 and 35,000, possibly 40,000, with not a democratic congressman in the state. Now mark this prediction. See that everybody votes the cooperation ticket who desires to avoid being disfranchised. Report by wire violations of the law on election day."

This circular is headed: "Pollhold-

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ers Must Know That They Put the Ballot in the Proper Box." Chairman Holton says in it that section 17, of the election law says "the voter shall hand in his ballot to the judges, who shall carefully deposit the same in the proper ballot box." Then the chairman says: "If the ballot is folded the judges have the right, and it is their duty, to make an inspection sufficient for them to know that there is but one ballot and that it is the ballot for the box the voter is desiring to vote in. We want reported to republican headquarters all violations of the law." There is a postscript which requests that "our judges and registrars have a copy of this."

It was said at the executive office today that it was not thought Governor Russell would go to Wilmington for the election.

Everything is perfectly quiet here and in fact everywhere in this immediate section. Interest in the election is very keen and the Raleigh democrats are determined to make a fine record on election day by polling a heavy vote. There appears to be entire confidence that they will carry this county.

Estimates are made that Wake county will give as much as 1,000 democratic majority. Perhaps 250 to 300 will be a safer figure.

Three miles of track on the Cape Fear and Northern railway has been laid, from Apex towards Holly Springs.

Judge Clark has stricken from the registration book of the outside east precinct of this township no fewer than eighty-eight names. The fusion registrars had refused to allow the book to be revised.

## PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT

By a Negro Congregation in Washington City to Intercede in the North Carolina Election

Washington, D. C., November 5.—The following address was presented to the president today by a committee:

To the President of the United States:

Sir:—At a meeting of citizens from many portions of the United States held under the auspices of the Lyceum of the Second Baptist church, Washington, D. C., on Tuesday evening, the 1st instant, a committee was appointed to present to you the situation in the state of North Carolina, and to ask you to exercise your good offices to preserve the peace and to maintain constitutional government in all portions of our common country.

We do not come to you as politicians, seeking some partisan end, nor simply as colored men roused by the passions of the hour, but, sir, we come as economists, as students of history, and the science of government as patriots zealous of our country's well, as American citizens, to ask you, the chief executive of this great nation and commander-in-chief of the land and naval forces, to exercise all constitutional power in you vested to protect every American citizen in the enjoyment of his constitutional rights.

The present situation in the state of North Carolina is but an act in the series of reign of terror inaugurated in the year of 1873, to wrest from the legitimate electors the state government, in certain sections of the country and to nullify the recent amendment to the constitution of the United States, by resorting, first, to mob violence, and then to subterfuge in order to deprive citizens of their right to vote and hold office.

The lawless reign was first inaugurated in the state of Louisiana and step by step it has worked its way eastward and northward, until it now borders on the state of Virginia, and will soon overshadow the national capital, and ere long the late slaveholder will call his slaves at the base of Bunker Hill.

The thing has gone far enough. This nation is now dealing with new problems in establishing governments in the island of the sea, and we do not want our usefulness impaired before the eyes of the nations of the world by the charge, even though it be but tolerably well founded, that we have only a quasi-constitutional government in the United States. The present situation is a grave one, and the attitude of lawless men in the state of North Carolina, will be far-reaching in its effects unless it is contracted by the strong arm of the government.

JESSE LAWSON,  
R. W. THOMPSON,  
H. A. CLARK,  
THOMAS WARE,  
C. L. MARSHALL,  
Committee.