

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1898.

PUTTING ON WAR PAINT.

It really looks as if the fierce dogs of war were about to be unleashed. The heavens are now deeply wan as if already "wrapped in drifts of lurid smoke." The American people are indeed profoundly moved. And from all parts of the country, unless New England goes as it did in 1812-'14, "war, war is still the cry, war even to the knife." While millions of Americans do not desire war but greatly prefer peace on honorable terms, they do not favor a surrender, a backdown now just as the insolence of Spain becomes more intense and its bragadoles more virulent. Probably McKinley's backbone has been sufficiently plastered and strengthened by the voice of the country and the demands of half of his party in the house, to do what is proper and patriotic and brave now. If he indeed favors Cuban independence and intervention at last, and even goes so far as to hold Spain responsible for the Maine disaster, a position we do not now believe he will assume without some provision, some loophole of escape, it will cure the suspense and then the fight for peace, independence and liberty will have begun. Once begun it will be pushed with intense vigor and immense activity and pluck.

The report as to the readiness of the queen regent and the little heir to the throne to flee from Madrid means probably that a home in France will be safer for them in view of a possible revolution in Spain and overthrow of the present government. The other report, several times repeated last week, that Spain had sought and still seeks mediation is a sign of anxiety and even weakness in spite of newspaper bluster and "fool talk" by individual Spaniards.

The calling out of the state guard in all the states will occur at once if war is declared. That body numbers over 100,000. The United States have over 130,000 infantry and artillery to begin the racket with. If volunteers were called for from all the states, and the number fixed at half a million it would very soon be met. Once aroused the American war spirit fully and let this country realize that the eyes of the world are upon it, and great deeds and a magnificent display of patriotic enthusiasm and devotion is expected and its soldiers will pour forth from every city and town and village and hamlet, and from tens of thousands of homes in the country. They will come from the mountains and glens, from the hills and the vales—

They will come as the winds come when forests are rended;
They will come as the waves come when navies are stranded.

And yet millions of these patriots loving peace and hating war, will sigh for peace, and tens of thousands of prayers ascend daily to God, the Almighty Ruler of the armies of Heaven and the armies of earth, that the dreadful, most stern arbitrament may be mercifully averted. These are the men who will do the best fighting when the fiery trial visits this country.

The lie sent out about Spanish cruelty to American seamen was a cruel, senseless joke for the 1st of April. The "fool" in that instance was the stupid fellow who fabricates the falsehood.

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HOME FOLKS.

Asheville may well expect two very fine addresses at the unveiling of the monument erected in memory of the great senator, Zebulon Baird Vance, the most popular man ever born within the boundaries of North Carolina and certainly one of the truest, most many-sided and ablest. Senator John W. Daniel, of Virginia, and Colonel Alfred M. Waddell, of Wilmington, are to be the orators.

Mr. Edward Gilliam, the really gift-

ed ex-North Carolina journalist, gave our readers in Sunday's Messenger some appropriate and patriotic verses. The lines rebuking the indemnity idea are pertinent, and the two couplets as to the office of gratitude are awakening:

"Upon their blood we set no price,
Who made supreme their sacrifice.
Let Gratitude their names still trace,
And hallow their last resting place,

Who gave all that they had to give
And died that Liberty might live."

The University of North Carolina by last reports, shows up with 520 students on its roll. What will be the sum of the enrollment of the teachers (women and men) at the coming summer school we cannot anticipate—probably between 150 and 200. The report says:

"The attendance, not counting the summer school, exceeds the highest number ever reached (in 1857-'58) by 47, and includes for the first time women among the list of students. A new department, that of pharmacy, has been added, which enrolls 17 students the first year."

It is to be hoped that the United States government will take immediate steps to afford protection to Beaufort and Morehead in this State. Prior to the war Fort Macon, of the old style, stood ready to be used if dangers threatened. The war department should at once put defenses at the entrance to these towns that will give the Spanish ships trouble if they do not keep them away entirely. It will be very neglectful and unmerciful indeed to leave the inhabitants of those towns and the people living on water courses adjacent, without the best available protection. While North Carolina militia are to be called out at the sound of the first tockin, and her steamers are to be used for war purposes, let the federal authorities not overlook the present defenselessness of the towns indicated.

BREVITIES

Late London papers are of the opinion that Spain has waited long for peace—has lost her opportunity to settle the dispute with the United States amicably.

Diplomacy is at an end; will mediation of the European powers come? If so it must come quickly or it will come in vain.

Senator McMillan merely voices what everybody understands, that McKinley's delay from time to time as a dodge to get the country ready for the final appeal. He says:

"The president is flat-footed on the proposition that Spain must move out bodily.

"He also knows absolutely that Spain cannot or at least will not consent to this complete abandonment. That means war."

The state guard of Pennsylvania and New Jersey is reported ready for action. Miles says the United States army is ready. Of course, is Miles ready also? Is his new uniform of European cut ready and are his mustaches waxed and twisted?

Northern Methodists now have deaconesses and they are licensed like the preachers are. Next.

The able New York Times in its issue of Saturday says that the "testimony against Spain" as to the destruction of the Maine "is simply overwhelming." Of course it is, and Spain knows it, but plays a set-off, a sort of bluff game.

The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record dared to censure the course of the New York Evening Post in its intense opposition to war with Spain. One John M. Grath, of New York, in sympathy with the Post, writes to the Record that "it ought to be burned." That fate ought to be reserved for traitors. Grath thinks this country is as bad as Spain and has an antidote ready for those who dare to think for themselves and are faithful to home and country.

It is now President McKinley's crisis as well as Spain's. What will he do with it?

Boss Hanna with infantile innocence cries in the night for peace, and says there must be no war. It is understood that the Boss is in the mighty meshes of Wall street peace-makers. What will Major Mc. do with Hanna?

It is admitted by many republicans of the Dingley following that even if no war comes there will be a currency deficiency of full \$25,000,000. It will no doubt be even larger than that sum. With 996,000 blood suckers on the pension roll thirty-three years after peace a deficiency may be long expected. It takes nearly \$150,000,000 to fill the prodigious pension maw.

How to Look Good

Good looks are really more than skin deep, depending entirely on a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver be inactive, you have a bilious look; if your stomach be disordered; you have a dyspeptic look; if your kidneys be affected, you have a pinched look. Secure your good health, and you will surely have good looks. "Electric Bitters" is a good Alternative and Tonic. Acts directly on the stomach, liver and kidneys. Purifies the blood, cures pimples, blotches and boils, and gives a good complexion. Every bottle guaranteed. Sold at R. R. Bellamy's drug store. 50 cents per bottle.

EDITORIAL ENTRIES

It is a fact that although times have not been favorable to large profits in cotton for some time as they were some years ago, that most southern mills have realized profits, and in some instances very satisfactory profits. In the South Carolina cotton mills in the upper or piedmont section, the rewards of industry have been good. Mr. Hammond, of Greenville, has published some statistical information. He writes that one mill near his town cost \$100,000, plant and working capital included. It now has a plant costing \$1,250,000, has paid out dividends amounting to more than the capital stock, and is continuing them as the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. Another started with 3,000 spindles and now has 12,000, and all increase and expenditures came from the earnings. At Danville, Va., there is a mill which began in 1883, with a capital stock of 50,000, and today is capitalized at \$2,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 is in preferred stock, which pays 5 per cent. semi-annually, and \$1,000,000 is in common stock, which pays 4 per cent. semi-annually.

One of the abuses in our country is the senseless hostility displayed by demagogues and unreflecting people to corporations generally. These "institutions" are assailed mercilessly as if a cotton factory, or a bank, or a railroad, were necessarily a public enemy, and should be warred upon as a sacred duty by every patriot, and particularly by all who never expect to have money enough to invest in any enterprise requiring capital and of public utility. There are 2,400,000 persons who live off the railroads in the United States, and are to a very great extent dependent upon them for daily bread and comforts. The actual employees are put at 800,000. Mr. St. John, vice president of the Seaboard Air Line, in opposing a reduction of passenger rates lately, said:

"Let us deal fairly with this great interest and see to it that it is not only permitted to exist, but to earn from just and reasonable rates sufficient to meet not only its operating expenses and taxes, but to have something over to meet its physical necessities and to pay that debt which it justly owes to its bond and stockholders, viz., the interest upon its bonds, coupled with a reasonable dividend upon its stock; and right here let me say that the railroads comprising this line have no bonds or stock which does not represent actual cash expenditures."

GRAND JURIES AND WORTHY CANDIDATES.

The Messenger many times has essayed to expose the insufficiency of jury trials in the south as now conducted. There is too much of race prejudice and antagonism in it, as well as race ignorance and incompetency, to obtain uniform justice and vindication. The grand juries also need overhauling. Not all, for some are good, faithful and efficient. But in the newspapers we meet with complaints and exposures of the inefficiency of these juries, and that it is simply impossible for some forms of viciousness and depravity to be brought to justice. The Richmond (Va.) Central Presbyterian lately had a timely editorial upon "Grand Juries" in which were discussed properly as "the fountain head of our government." Let this fountain be impure, corrupt, and let its stream of duty and fidelity become turbid and weak, and cease at last to flow, and a great evil befalls a state. A gentleman living at Darien, Georgia, Mr. Joseph A. Walker, writes to the Central Presbyterian in hearty approval, and from his communication we take this:

"A pure fountain must send pure water. There is no source to which a community looks for the vindication of the law with as perfect right as to its grand jury—yet how many grand juries—even under oath—go back on first principles? Surely, 'Politics without religion are fatal to society' nevertheless, how many of our chief officials, professing godliness, publicly disregard the commandments of God and live irreligious, and consider the sanctity of the Sabbath of no importance? Is it not time for God's people to cry out against these things?"

The nominating conventions in North Carolina are soon to be held. North Carolina has had a most unfortunate and sad experience for some years in the bad character and general venality of some of its officials. It is a sore affliction to a commonwealth to fall under the baleful control of bad, unprincipled men. There is too much indifference shown as to who are appointed delegates. How can men of low principles and easy virtue be relied upon to elect upright, conscientious, faithful, tried men for office? They will not rise above themselves—above their own standard in selection in all probability. Only really worthy men, who can be trusted to do right and be honest, and faithful, should be named for any office. When ever venal, vicious men are forced upon the party it is the duty of the upright, self-respecting democrats to refuse to vote for such fellows "of the baser sort." No good and true man ought to vote knowingly for a

rascal or for a man of doubtful record. Dare to do right when you vote. Think of North Carolina's fate and your own welfare and conscience.

"THE COUNTRY EDITOR."

A competent editor of a country newspaper is able to render important service to his patrons and the community in which he labors and in the section in which his paper circulates. If he is a man of intelligence, a man of personal integrity, of good morals and a friend to truth, he can be an educator, a benefactor, a true friend of the people. He can aid in all deserving enterprises, expose all crying abuses, uphold morality and religion, stand forth as the champion of education, in a score of ways help on good government, justice between man and man, and help to develop a better system of farming. In fact a faithful, well equipped country editor is a public blessing. He is to be relied upon always to favor and defend the rule of virtue, the conservation of the public peace, the maintenance of upright government, the purity and fidelity of the courts, and the great, fundamental inviolable principles of civil and religious liberty, the freedom of the press, the right to think and to print. We have been led to indulge this brief train of reflection by a simple head line in the Annapolis (Mo.) Gazette—"The Country Editor." Now we turn to read what followed, and will copy the main part if not all, if it strikes us as good, as impressive, as supplemental in any way to our own short screed above. We find it very good and as true as gold. Thank us for the following concerning the much neglected "Country Editor," one of the most useful of men and best of citizens:

"He is the packhorse of every community, the promoter of every laudable enterprise, the worst underpaid laborer in the vineyard. Counting his space as his capital, he gives more to charity, his means considered, than any other member of society. He is a power in politics, a pillar of the church, a leader in the crusade for better morals. He is pre-eminently the friend of humanity. Line upon line, paragraph by paragraph, he is embalming in cold type the facts from which the Herodotus, Tacitus, Sismondi or Macaulay of the future will write the history of our time. He fully chronicles our advent into the world, briefly notes our uprisings and our downfalls, and sorrowfully records our exit.

We are all more or less generally more—his handwork, and the creature should not be ungrateful to his creator. Without his generous and enthusiastic labors most of us would never have been here; and when he tires of us, most of us will return to private life, amid rural scenes propitious for secret meditation and silent prayer, Working right and day during the campaign, when the election is over and the time comes for the distribution of the graves and fishes—now vulgarly called "pie"—by some strange lapse of memory, he is generally forgotten."

Excitement Down South

A gentleman arriving in Richmond from the southern part of Florida yesterday said that the excitement in the "land of ovens" at this time by reason of the threatening condition of affairs between the United States government and that of Spain was growing more intense daily. "The inhabitants of St. Augustine, Ormond, Maitai and other coast towns of Florida," said he, "are greatly aroused over the situation and are afraid that the Spanish warships will blow them off the face of the earth in case of war. Down at Key West, there is a general feeling of alarm. At Tampa and Clearwater harbor on the west coast, one hears nothing but war talk and expressions of uneasiness. You see, the issue of operations will be shown in the vicinity, more than anywhere else, should war be declared. You people up here are feeling secure enough, because you won't see much of the conflict if they get to fighting, but it will be a hot time for the seaport towns of Florida when the Vizcaya, the Maria Theresa, Alphonso XII and that fleet of torpedo boats get to work down in Florida. I don't wonder the folks down there get scared up. Why, think of the havoc the Spanish warships would do when they once turned loose on Flagler's palatial hotels strung along the east coast, and Plants beautiful Tampa bay, Bel Air, and other handsome structures on the west coast. "Many tourists have been running out of Florida of late by reason of the war scare. I know of a whole party who were going to Key West and Biscayne bay, but got scared, they might get down there about the time the bombardment commenced so gave up the trip. It's no laughing matter with those folks. I tell you it isn't."—Richmond Times.

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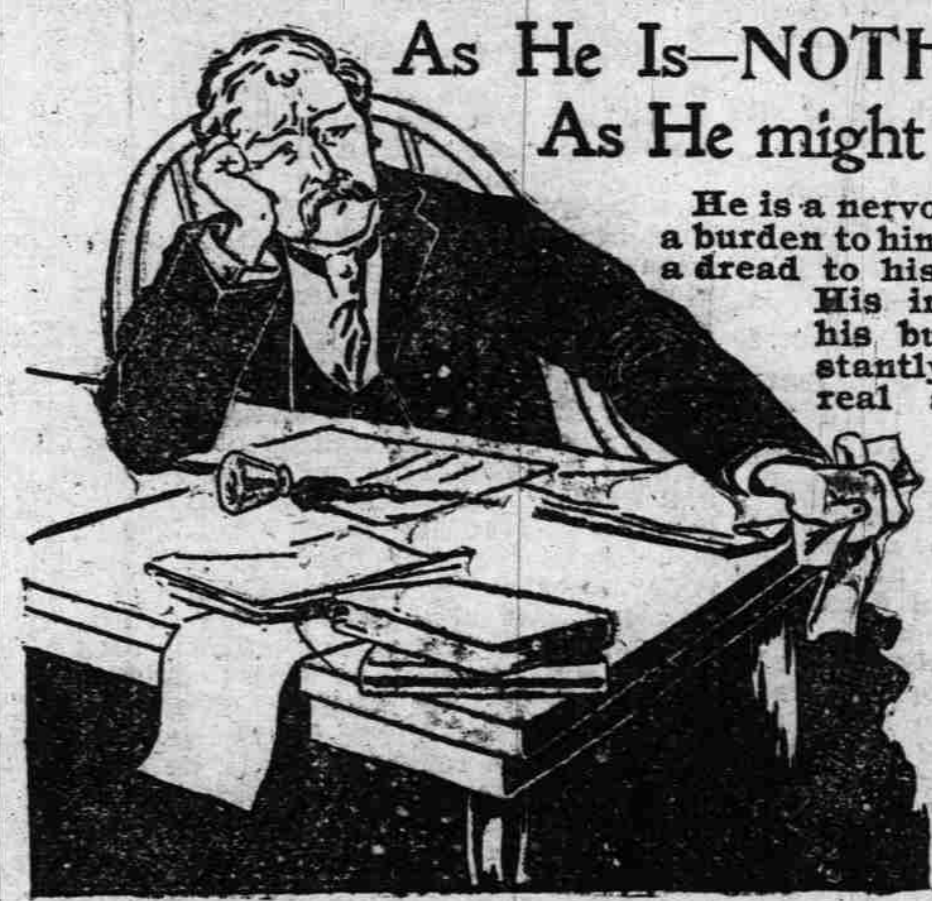
Hyannis, Nebr., Jan. 2, 1898.

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