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## BIG NAVAL BATTLE

### Three Insurgent Ships Attack Three Colombian Government Ships. One Dispatch Says That Five Vessels Have Been Sunk.

Colon, Colombia, Jan. 20.—(via Galveston, Texas.)—A naval battle, which began at 6 o'clock this morning, is in progress in the harbor of Panama. The revolutionary fleet consists of the steamers Padilla, Darien and Gaitan. They are trying to force a landing off Saona. The government ships are the Chilean Line steamer Lautaro, the Pacific Steam Navigation company's steamer Chicuito, and the Panama Canal company's steamer Boyaca. The first named steamer was seized by Gen. Alban and the other two have been chartered by the Colombian government. As this dispatch is sent three shots have just passed over the Chicuito and she has answered with several shots. They fell close to the Padilla which is seen to be retreating. The guns at Las Bovedagas are also firing at the rebel ships. The government forces are throwing up entrenchments. The United States cruiser Philadelphia is close to the scene of the fighting.

### Five Reported Sunk.

New York, Jan. 20.—The Panama Railway company today received a cablegram from Colon saying that three insurgent and two government vessels had been sunk in the naval engagement in Panama harbor. The cable came from Col. J. R. Shaler, general superintendent at Colon for the Panama Railway company.

### The Excitement Great.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The state department has received the following cablegram from Consul General Gudgeon, dated Panama today: "Fighting in bay. Governor killed. Excitement great." The secretary of the navy has received the following cablegram from Captain Meade, commander of the United States ship Philadelphia, dated Panama, today: "The insurgent steamer Padilla attacked the Lautaro this morning at close quarters. Crew has deserted her. Is now on fire and sinking."

### DEATH OF GEN. ALBAN.

#### Sinking of the Lautaro. Burying Dead. The Padilla Damaged.

Panama, Jan. 20.—Gen. Carlos Alban, the military commander of this district and the governor of Panama, was killed during the fighting this morning. His death is deeply deplored, for Gen. Alban was loved by his soldiers and enjoyed the esteem of the community. It is asserted that the death of the Colombian leader may have the effect of bringing to the government side large numbers of men anxious to avenge his loss. Some of the men killed on board the government ship Lautaro have been brought to shore where they are being buried. The Lautaro is on fire. The revolutionary gunboat Darien, as this dispatch is written, is approaching the United States cruiser Philadelphia in the harbor, probably for the purpose of a conference. The firing has ceased. It is impossible to locate the revolutionary gunboats Padilla and Gaitan. The crew of the Philadelphia are assisting to put out the fire on board the Lautaro. It is reported here on shore that the firing of the Lautaro is a result of treason. Later.—The Lautaro has just sunk. It is reported here that her crew rebelled. The revolutionary gunboat Padilla surprised the Lautaro at the opening of the fight this morning and began shooting at close range. Many men on board the Lautaro were killed. A gasoline launch has just left here to obtain details of the fighting. The slow movements of the Padilla, which are noticeable from the shore, lead to the belief that she has been damaged.

### Too Much of It.

A high army officer whose fad was ventilation was one day making an inspection of a frontier post which was much in need of repair. In some places the roof showed the blue sky overhead and the walls were ornamented with gaps. The brigadier general was escorted through the building by the colonel in charge, a sergeant going on before, as is the custom, to warn the men to stand at attention in honor of the general. As they proceeded the general asked: "And how is the ventilation, colonel?" Before the colonel could reply the old sergeant, with a familiarity born of long service, said: "Sure, general, and the ventilation is bad, sorr, verra bad, sorr. The place is all full of holes, sorr."

## MR. KITCHIN EXPLAINS.

### There Is Delay in Establishing Rural Free Delivery Routes Because of So Many Applications. Congressman Kitchin Is Doing His Best to Hurry Establishing Them in His District.

A special from Newbern to the Raleigh Post says: "The rural free delivery of mail is now in full operation on three circuits in Craven county and seems to be much appreciated by the country people. The first route is from Newbern to the section directly across Neuse river. The second is from Dover and the third is a circuit from Fort Barnwell. The amount of mail matter handled is said to be satisfactory." Other sections are ahead of Kinston in obtaining rural free delivery routes. It ought not to be thus. Applications have been made for a number of routes leading from Kinston, the establishment of which would not only be convenient and beneficial to the farmers along the proposed routes but also of advantage to the business interest of Kinston. THE FREE PRESS would be glad if Congressman Claude Kitchin and Senator Simmons would both interest themselves in hurrying the postal authorities about this matter. We believe that their many friends among our farmers and business people would appreciate the efforts they may make along this line.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, Jan. 17, 1902.

MR. EDITOR:—While I know you did not intend it, the above editorial, which recently appeared in your paper, does me a little injustice, and I am sure you will take pleasure in publishing this, not only to correct a possible unfavorable construction, but also to give your people some information relative to the status of the petitions for rural delivery in your county.

After the first petition from a county is filed, it generally takes at least six months, oftener twelve (12) months, before an agent is sent to inspect the routes, unless a petition happens to be filed just before the agent strikes the district. I have talked with every Democratic representative from our State and the experience of all has been that the average time from the filing of petitions to the sending of the special agent and establishment of the routes is about 12 months, unless a petition happens to come in just before the agent is sent. Representative Pou (who found, when he was elected, several petitions on file from his district and four (4) routes already established and in operation), and some others make it a rule, when a petition is sent in, to write to the petitioners not to expect the establishment of the route within 12 months after filing of petition.

The Craven county routes, mentioned in your editorial, had been on file, two for 13 months and one for 6 months, before their establishment. The first petition from Lenoir county was received November 13, 1901—had been on file less than two months when your editorial appeared. Since then several other petitions from Lenoir have been received and filed. Since receipt of the first petition from our district, I have been persistent in urging the department to let us have an agent. I have written the superintendent and seen him in person several times for this purpose, and have from time to time notified the senders of the petitions the status of matters. However, the superintendent has promised me that he will send an agent to our district the last of this or first of next month. Should he do so, even within the next three months, our district shall have secured an inspector sooner than any district in the State after the filing of the first petition. Our people should remember (1) that before my election every district in the State had on file numbers of petitions and, in several, routes had already been established and in operation, and the people's interest in rural delivery had been thoroughly aroused; George White had been our representative and the people of the second had taken no interest in the matter and had given no thought to it; (2) that within the last three months, since the first petition from Lenoir, more petitions have been filed than, perhaps, during the 12 months preceding, with no additional force of inspectors. The attention of the people is called to two other matters: (1) The inspector hardly ever recommends all the routes petitioned for and even after his recommendation, the department frequently "turns down" some; (2) Senator Pritchard has the selection of one-half of the routes and the naming of carriers for same. However, the department is now contemplating putting the appointment of all carriers under the civil service, to take effect Feb. 1, 1902, which will take the naming of carriers entirely out of the hands of members of congress. I fully appreciate the impatience and anxiety of our people in the matter of establishment of the routes petitioned for, and share the same with them. I shall continue to do all in my power to establish every route asked for in our district. CLAUDE KITCHIN.

Until the stock (of which a good bargain was secured) gives out the THE FREE PRESS will furnish 500 good blue or pink bond note heads, 500 blue or pink bond bill heads and 500 white XXX envelopes for the very low price of \$3.75, cash with the order. Considering quality of material this is a bargain offer.

## LEE'S BIRTHDAY.

### Appropriately Observed by Exercises Under Auspices of Waddell Chapter Daughters of the Confederacy. Col. Dennis Worthington Makes An Address Couched In Beautiful Language. Crosses Of Honor Presented.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday was observed here yesterday by appropriate exercises in the opera house under the auspices of the Alfred Moore Waddell Chapter Daughters of the Confederacy. Col. Dennis Worthington, of Wilson, was the orator of the occasion.

At 2:25 o'clock about 300 children of the white graded schools, comprising all the grades except the first and second, marched in in pairs to the tap of the drum and were assigned seats by their teachers.

Promptly at 2:30 o'clock the exercises started with Schubert's military march, beautifully rendered by Miss Caroline Claypool on the piano, after which Dr. H. D. Harper, Sr., introduced the speaker in a few appropriate, well chosen words. Col. Worthington prefaced his address by expressing his pleasure and appreciation of the honor bestowed upon him in selecting him for the address. He said in part:

"You have witnessed the raging of the elements when the blackening clouds gathered for the floods. You have seen forked flashes blaze upon the mountain and yet the rock that crowned its brow remained unscathed. You have heard the clamoring of the winds as they leaped madly out of their lair, and seen the towering forest bend before the sweep of the gale—the appalling majesty of nature—but in the darkest hour of the elemental strife there was the blessed assurance that by and by the storm will husband its wrath, the sun will again shed its gladdening rays on herb, tree, fruit and flower, displaying its beauty and grandeur of nature in refreshed vegetation. "I have seen the storm gather with destructive momentum in the strife of battle, heard the fanfare of trumpets, the clangor of careering squadrons, the resounding of fire throated cannons, seen the glittering of small arms, the slippery ground drunken with the blood of our martyred dead and felt that the slaughter here began in all the pride, pomp and circumstances of glorious war would go on and on till there was no blood to shed. "Our sweethearts, our mothers, back yonder in the sixties were a revelation in the flesh. There has never been an occasion when the habit of instantaneous obedience to the voice of love, of duty, of country, has produced more affecting, more constant examples of devotion and loyalty upon the part of our heroic women than in the harvesting of the spoils by hands that were saturated with every crime on the calendar. God bless the women of our sunny south. "Every man, woman and child believed in the southern cause as if it were a revelation from God. "That was the inspiration that made every hill a Bunker, every plain a Marathon and every mountain pass a Thermopylae. "Whatever exhibition of biography may be held in reserve for the south, this fact is assuredly plain, 'men may come and men may go' but the affectionate confidence in which the memory of Robert E. Lee is cherished is secured to the remotest generations. In every endowment of nature he was a patriot, a lover of liberty, a hater of oppression, the seductions of wealth, the blandishments of power; the overshadowing gallows with its clanking chains, its gruesome-revolting perspective, were alike incapable of impairing his resolution, controlling his judgment or diminishing his ardor. He knew that while revolution flamed like a sunburst upon the armor of the victorious warrior the conquered patriot is dragged in chains to the gibbet with treason branded upon his brow. When the mother of states and statesmen was made the target of battalions that were forging the Potomac the sword of Lee flashed from its scabbard with a twofold defiance. Virginia was beckoning to her son, to touch a hair on her sacred head, was it not a sacrilege? Every footfall of the foe upon her venerated soil dishonored the graves of Washington, of Jefferson, of Marshall, of Madison, of the Lees. When the seductive power of the huge "Ansonda" was broken at Fredericksburg, when victory was lured from her chosen eyrie by southern heroes and found refreshing rest on our southern banners, how the great heart of Lee must have thrilled with joy. "In him labor was associated with patriotism. By the young and the aspiring the contemplation of this illustrious hero cannot be too frequent or too intense. "And now the curtain falls upon the darkest tragedy of the files of time. Tightly the coils of the huge serpent are contracting and when the cloud veil is lifted, the army of Northern Virginia has dissolved, the stars and stripes are flying victoriously from Lee's headquarters. "I have done what I could for you boys, said Lee as the tears ran down his

haggard face. 'I had to yield to overwhelming forces.' "His great heart was consecrated to his country and broken by its fall. Patriotism chafed his temples and pillowed his dying head. His last moments were tranquil and resigned. "Surviving affection has raised the sculptured marble over his dust, but the last enduring stone shall crumble and decay ere his exalted name shall fade from the memory of mankind. Eternal fame has wreathed an evergreen around his godlike brow. Adieu, illustrious chieftain, until we greet thee again upon God's eternal camping ground, where angels shall pipe the reveille."

The address was well received and highly appreciated by the large audience in attendance as was shown by the hearty applause given the speaker. Dr. H. D. Harper, Sr., thanked Col. Worthington on behalf of the Alfred Moore Waddell Chapter after which the following veterans were presented with the Southern Cross of the Legion of Honor: Mess. Geo. L. Kilpatrick, Shade Wooten, Sr., S. H. Abbott, J. A. Darden and E. J. Brooks. Mrs. H. E. Shaw read the presentation address, couched in elegant language, with ease and grace. The crosses were pinned on by Miss Jebble Whitfield. The meeting then closed with another selection on the piano by Miss Claypool. The stage was beautifully decorated with Confederate flags, palms and evergreens.

### THE LADY THE WINNER.

#### Amusing Occurrence in an Office Building Elevator in Chicago.

People who ride in "lifts" in this city acquire some queer experiences at times. The calling of the floors where passengers desire to disembark or embark not infrequently produces some amusing situations. It all depends upon the style of the person making the announcement. Of course conductors are mute participants in the game. Here is one happening of yesterday which is certainly out of the usual run. Half a dozen passengers entered an elevator in a big downtown office building. Doctors office there almost to the exclusion of other professions. One boy with a package asked to be deposited at the second floor. A woman stood mute while a medical man thought he would leave at the fifth. The conductor turned an inquiring head and the remaining passengers with one voice chiming in full chorus shouted: "Tenth."

"Seven up," murmured a gentle voice as the car reached the indicated floor. Two men seeking the tenth floor glanced at each other with grins of appreciation as a stenographer, and a pretty one, by the way, entered the car. She seemed unconscious of having created more than passing interest, but the conductor was alive to the situation. "The lady wins," he muttered to himself as he gave the lever a yank and the car shot upward again.—Chicago Chronicle.

### One on the Rector.

The little daughter of a local clergyman has reached the age where big words are apt to floor her and where she is very sensitive to the remarks of an older brother. Not long ago she came running to her father. "Papa, papa, George called me names." "Why, what did Georgie say?" "Oh," said the little girl, with a strong expression of disgust, "he said I practiced what I preached! I don't, do I?" "Well, my child, I!" "But I don't, do I, papa? I don't any more than you do, do I?" And then the rector choked up. But he took a half hour from his sermon and explained the meaning of the obnoxious expression to the best of his ability.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Coincidence.

"Somehow I'm awfully stupid tonight," remarked young Borum languidly the other evening. "Indeed you are," retorted Miss Cutting, somewhat impulsively. "Do you really mean that?" asked the young man in surprise. "I merely indorsed your remarks. Didn't you just now assert that you were stupid?" she queried. "Yes," he responded, "but I only said so without thinking." "And up to the time you spoke of it," she replied, "I only thought so without saying it."—Pearson's Weekly.

### Nothing Special.

Library Assistant (to visitor who is wandering about in a puzzled manner)—Can I help you? Are you looking for anything special? Visitor (absently)—No, thank you. I was only looking for my wife.—Library Journal.

## STATE NEWS.

### Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form

The governor will call a great good roads convention to meet in Raleigh February 13th and 14th. A large attendance is expected.

Durham Herald: It is true that there is some gold mined in North Carolina, but it may also be true that there has been more money put into mines in the State than has been taken out.

Grand Secretary B. H. Woodell says the growth of the Odd Fellows in North Carolina is phenomenal. There are now 8,000 members, a gain of 100 per cent. in the past three years. The receipts for the year will very closely approximate \$11,500.

Reidsville Review: Caswell county is entitled to the credit for the first coal cured bright tobacco. It was made by Wm. Slade long before flues were known. It brought good prices for him and was the beginning of the methods which made North Carolina brights bring high prices.

News-Observer: The New York World Almanac for 1902 gives a list of nearly 4,000 Americans worth \$1,000,000 and over—many of them very much over. The rich men credited to Durham are given as follows: Julian S. Carr, B. N. Duke, James B. Duke, Washington Duke and G. W. Watts.

Burlington News: Southern Railway officials announce that a double track between Charlotte and Spencer is almost a certainty. Estimates are being completed for the work and the building of the new track may be expected to commence in the near future. It is reckoned that the new track will cost about \$250,000.

Raleigh News-Observer: The Newton Enterprise is informed by a competent authority that there is not one-fourth as much cotton remaining unsold in Catawba now as there was at this time last year. There is much evidence going to show that the crop of 1901-'02 has been much more closely marketed than is usual at this date.

Charlotte Observer: Our Greensboro correspondent blunders out a blunt truth when he says "it is impossible for a government distillery of the type in operation in this State to pay expenses, to say nothing of making money, unless the law is violated." Any one who has even the most superficial knowledge of the business knows this is a fact.

In the murder trial of Parish at Fayetteville last week Judge Robinson sent the jury out and told counsel that he thought the case was clearly one of self-defense, so a verdict of not guilty was ordered. Judge Robinson also apologized to Major Shaw for the way he treated him the other day, causing the latter to abandon his case. Major Shaw accepted the other's advances and the matter was settled with satisfaction to both.

### KINSTON MARKET.

Prices quoted for Country Produce are those paid by dealers.

Beans, per pound	80
Corn, per bushel	85
Meal, per bushel	85
L. C. Sides, pound	91-2
Ham, Country new, per pound	15
Salt, per sack	85
Lard, Country, per pound	10
Chickens, per pair	25 to 30
Eggs, per dozen	17 1/2
Sweet potatoes	60
Peanuts, per bushel	50 to 75
Sheep	1.00 to 1.25
Lamb	1.00 to 1.25
Hides, Dry	6 to 10
Hides, Green	5
Beef, on foot, fat	9-2-2
Beef, Gross net	6
Fresh Pork	7
Fodder	75 to 1.00
Molasses	35 to 50
Flour	4.75 to 5.25

### Dreams Without Sleep.

Mistress—Well, Bridget, and how is your husband?  
Washerwoman—Sure, an' he's all used up, mum.  
Mistress—Why, what ails him?  
Washerwoman—Indade, thin, mum, last night he had sich bad dreams that he couldn't slape a wink all night, mum.—Harlem Life.

### That Sinking Feeling.

When the self made man says, "Gimme some of the pumms de terre," and the waiter wants him to repeat it, he has a feeling of fear that never comes over him in the busy marts of trade.—Chicago Record-Herald.

### REMARKABLE CURE OF ROUP

#### A Little Boy's Life Saved.

I have a few words to say regarding Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It saved my little boy's life and I feel that I cannot praise it enough. I bought a bottle of it from A. E. Steere, of Goodwin, S. D., and when I got home with it the poor baby could hardly breathe. I gave the medicine as directed every ten minutes until he "threw up" and then I thought sure he was going to choke to death. We had to pull the phlegm out of his mouth in great long strings. I am positive that if I had not got that bottle of cough medicine, my boy would not be on earth today.—JOEL DUMOST, Inwood, Iowa. For sale by J. E. Hood.