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BOMBARDMENT TODAY.

Only Preliminary Artillery Skirmish Yesterday.

AN AMERICAN SHIP DAMAGED

By a Shot From Spanish Battery, Shafter Cables That the Bombardment Will Begin Today. Other Messages Received But Not Given Out by the Department.

By Telegraph to THE FREE PRESS.

Washington, July 11.—A cablegram from Gen. Shafter was received this morning stating that the bombardment of Santiago will begin today. Yesterday there was only preliminary artillery skirmish.

Other messages have been received, undoubtedly containing details of yesterday's skirmish, but nothing has been given out by the department. It is reported on good authority, however, that an American ship was badly damaged by a shot from the Spanish battery.

YESTERDAY'S SKIRMISH.

A Heavy Storm Interferes With Simultaneous Bombardment. American Loss Slight, Spanish Unknown. A Freighter, With Supplies for Linares, Is Captured.

Aquadores, via Playa Del Este, July 11.—Sampson's ships threw shells into Santiago all the afternoon. It had been arranged for simultaneous firing by ships and the land artillery, beginning at 4 o'clock, but a heavy storm interfered with the telephone and signal work between the army and navy. However, at 4:45 the rattle of artillery on the American lines was heard, which was followed by the Brooklyn opening fire, followed by the Texas and Indiana. Firing lasted an hour.

It is impossible to estimate the damage as hills obstruct the view.

Shortly after the Brooklyn opened fire a danger flag was displayed above Morro castle.

The American loss is slight, Spanish unknown. A general fight expected tomorrow.

The Norwegian freighter Bratton was captured this morning. It was laden with supplies for Gen. Linares.

SOME FREE SILVER.

Over 30,000 Pesetas Recovered and Turned Over to Sampson. Nothing Done With the Dead Spanish Sailors.

By Cable to The Free Press.

Off Santiago July 11.—Nothing has been done with Spanish killed in the naval battle. Some are floating in the currents, while others are beached. On board the hulks of Cervera's ships the bodies of gunners still lie in their own ashes.

Much coin has been recovered from the wreck of the Teresa, the Spanish flagship, and was turned over to Sampson. Over 30,000 silver pesetas have been found.

CAMARA AT PORT SAID.

He Was Allowed to Tranship Coal, On a Written Guarantee that It Was Needed For His Return to Spain.

By Cable to The Free Press.

Port Said, July 11.—The Spanish cruiser Carlos V and ten Spanish transports remain outside the port this morning waiting for Camara, who with the battleship Pelayo, was expected to leave within a few hours.

Camara was allowed to tranship 600 tons of coal from San Augustin on a written guarantee that the Pelayo needed it; also that the entire squadron was returning to Spain.

Heroes Yet to Come—"I understand you have decided to postpone the christening of the baby." "Yes, you see, we can't tell who we may want to name him after by the time this war is done."—Chicago Evening Post.

SINKING OF THE MERRIMAC.

Lieut. Hobson Tells the Story of His Brave Adventure in the Harbor of Santiago.

The return of Assistant Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson, of Merrimac fame, to his ship, the flagship New York, Thursday night, was marked by wild enthusiasm. It was dark when a shout passed along the ship that Hobson was coming. On the superstructure clambered the crew, ten deep, and on the quarter deck the officers clustered around the sea ladder and a hundred hands were stretched out to grasp Hobson's. It was not until he was safe once more on deck that the crew of the New York cheered, and then they broke out into a wild yell which was sent up over and over again until the men were hoarse. Numbers of the crew rushed forward on the quarter-deck and a great group of men struggled around the tall figure of the man who had dared so much.

HOBSON'S STORY.

Hobson sat once more among his messmates and told the story of his experience, his marvelous escape and his imprisonment in Morro Castle, watching the shells explode outside his cell.

"I did not miss the entrance to the harbor," he said, "as Ensign Powell in the launch supposed. I headed east until I got my bearings, and then made for it, straight in. Then came the firing. It was grand; flashing out first from one side of the harbor and then the other from those big guns on the hills, the Vizcaya, laying inside the harbor, joining in."

"Troops from Santiago had rushed down when the news of the Merrimac's coming was telegraphed and soldiers lined the foot of the cliffs firing wildly across and killing each other with their cross-fire. The Merrimac's steering bar broke as she got to Estrella Point. Only three of the torpedoes on the side exploded when I touched the button. A huge submarine mine caught her full amidships, hurling the water high in the air and tearing a great rent in the Merrimac's side. Her stern ran upon Estrella Point. The work done by the mine, she began sinking slowly. At that time she was across the channel, but before she settled the tide drifted her around. Shells and bullets whistled around us. Six-inch shells from the Vizcaya came tearing into the Merrimac, crashing into wood and iron and passing clear through, while the plunging shots from the fort broke through her decks, and it was only owing to the splendid discipline of the men that we were not all killed. Shells rained over us, and minutes became hours of suspense. The men's mouths grew parched, but we must lie there until daylight, I told them. Now and again one or the other of the men lying with his face glued to the deck and wondering whether the next shell would not come our way, would say: 'Hadn't we better drop off now, sir,' but I said, 'wait till daylight.'"

"It would have been impossible to get the catamaran anywhere but to the shore, where the soldiers stood shooting, and I hoped that by daylight we might be recognized and saved. The grand old Merrimac kept sinking. I wanted to go forward and see the damage done there, where nearly all the fire was directed; but one man said that if I rose it would draw all the fire on the rest. So I lay motionless. It was splendid the way these men behaved. The fire of the soldiers, the batteries and the Vizcaya was awful. When the water came up on the Merrimac's decks the catamaran floated amid the wreckage, but was still made fast to the boom and we caught hold of the edge and clung on, our heads being above the water.

"One man thought we were safer right there; it was quite light, the firing had ceased except that directed at the New York launch, and I feared Ensign Powell and his men had been killed.

"A Spanish launch came towards the Merrimac. We agreed to capture her and run. Just as she came close the Spaniards saw us and half a dozen marines jumped up and pointed their rifles at our heads. Is there any officer in that boat to receive a surrender of prisoners of war? I shouted. An old man leaned out under the awning and waved his hand. It was Admiral Cervera. The marines lowered their rifles and we were helped into the launch.

"Then we were put in cells in Morro Castle. It was a grand sight a few days later to see the bombardment, the shells striking and bursting around El Morro. Then we were taken into Santiago. I had the court martial room in the barracks. My men were kept prisoners in the hospital. From my window I could see the army moving, and it was terrible to see those poor lads moving across the open and being shot down by the Spaniards in the rifle pits in front of us. Yesterday the Spaniards became as polite as could be. I knew something was coming, and then I was exchanged."

SAMPSON VS. SCHLEY.

After the Destruction of Cervera's Fleet Off Santiago.

SCHLEY CLAIMED VICTORY

And So Signalled the Flagship. He Sent An Officer Ashore to Cable the Victory To the Government, but Sampson, Hearing of This, Absolutely Prohibited the Sending of Any Message Save His Own.

By Cable to THE FREE PRESS.

Siboney Stn, via Port Antonio, 11.—The friction between Sampson and Schley, becoming more intense daily, reached a climax on the day of the naval battle off Santiago. As soon as the Colon had been beached, Schley signalled to the flagship: "I claim capture." The same evening he sent an officer ashore to cable home to the government a report of the capture. Sampson, upon hearing of this, sent an officer ashore and absolutely prohibited the sending of any message save his own. Sampson has cabled for wreckers to raise the Colon.

Hospital Train Wrecked.

By Telegraph to The Free Press.

Washington, July 11.—A hospital train from Tampa to Atlanta, bearing wounded troops from Santiago, was wrecked at Highlands this morning by a rear collision. No injuries are reported.

Why Schley Was Decriminated Against.

News-Observer.

The roast that the papers are giving Sampson and the praise they are bestowing on Schley have caused much inquiry as to the reason that operated to give Captain Sampson command of the fleet over Commodore Schley. The papers have referred to some "mysterious influence" exerted to prevent Schley having just treatment, and yet none of them have indicated the true reason.

In a way not to be disclosed the story has come to us and in brief it is as follows: When Schley was an ensign or lieutenant, he was on board ship with a fellow officer, now a rear admiral, who shall be nameless here, and a difficulty occurred between them which has always rankled in the breast of the rear admiral. It seems that he has had the influence to prejudice the superior officers against Schley. The story is that one day the rear admiral, then a lieutenant, missed some bananas which he had hung up in ship to ripen. He was very much put out at the loss of his fruit and tried to find the thief. Finally he came to the conclusion that a certain marine was the thief, sent for him, and accused him of taking his bananas. The marine replied indignantly that he had not seen the bananas and was no thief. This infuriated the officer who said, "I will punish you for lying as well as stealing," and sending for the druggist gave the poor marine an immense dose of ipecac. At that time Schley was ashore, but upon his return saw the marine suffering fearfully, and enquired of the officer, who had administered the dose, what had caused the suffering of the sailor. The future rear admiral told him the whole incident. The injustice and heartlessness of it overpowered Schley, and in a passion of indignation, he turned to his brother officer and said: "No gentleman would treat a poor marine that way," and slapped the officer in the face. A scene followed, perhaps an exchange of blows, when the officer struck demanded satisfaction. Schley reminded him that it was against regulations for naval officers to receive or send challenges, but added: "That need not prevent your getting satisfaction. We can both resign today and fight it out." The man who had been struck did not resign, did not seek satisfaction, and the matter dropped there. But the malign influence of the man who was quickly punished for his injustice has been able to make Schley feel the weight of his wrath in a manner that makes the incident one of national interest.

The American people when aroused are a just people. They will give honor to whom honor is due. The naval authorities may deny Schley the commanding position to which his ability and rank entitle him. Congress may adjourn without giving him a vote of thanks, but in the heart of the American people he is the hero of Santiago just as Dewey is the hero of Manila.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

At Wilson Friday Tarboro shut the home team out in a game of ball. The score was 5 to 0.

The appointment of I. D. Hargett, colored, as postmaster at Rocky Mount failed of confirmation by the senate.

Three Spanish flags, one being Admiral Mantijo's, captured by the cruiser Raleigh at the battle of Manila, have been presented to the city of Raleigh, and will soon be on exhibition in that city.

Attorney General Walser has granted leave to Judge W. L. Norwood to bring an action as relator in the name of the State against Eugene D. Carter to try the right and title of the office of judge of the twelfth judicial district of North Carolina.

In Winston Friday a white man swore out a warrant against a negro merchant, charging him with embezzlement of five dozen eggs on Saturday, July 2. It seems that the white man sold the negro the eggs in the morning with the colored man's promise to pay him at noon. The latter did not meet his promise, hence the warrant.

News-Observer: General Cowles stated last night that from information received from Fort Macon, only 83 men were now needed to complete the third regiment. Captain Leatherwood will take down 40 men from the Maceo volunteers of Asheville, and R. B. Jones, of Chapel Hill, will take down 43, which, with the Greensboro band, will complete the regiment.

Henry F. Gettings, burglar, a life prisoner, and Aaron Cox, a Federal prisoner for four years, made their escape from the penitentiary Friday morning before day. This escape was a daring one. The prisoners made their way to the roof of the building, and swung themselves down to the ground, a distance of 55 feet, by means of an improvised rope made of strips of blankets wrapped with twine. They scaled the prison fence and made their escape. Gettings, who has half a dozen aliases, is said to be a dangerous man and will commit murder in an instant. He is from New Jersey. Two more prisoners made their escape Saturday in the daytime by crawling under the wall enclosing the penitentiary building. The blame is laid on the guards.

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