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## A TERRIFIC ENGAGEMENT

Between Americans and Spaniards At Malato.

## NEAR THE CITY OF MANILA.

The Spaniards Chose a Dark Night for the Attack, Hoping to Turn the Americans Back and Retake the Position by Hurling a Force of 3,000 Men Against It. Three Hours of Hard Fighting Was Required to Drive the Spaniards Back To Manila. Our Loss Slight; the Spaniards Have 200 Killed and 300 Wounded. Official Report From Merritt.

Hon Kong, Aug. 9.—Details have just been received by a special dispatch boat from Manila. They show that a terrific battle on the night of July 31st was had between Americans and Spaniards at Malato.

The battle was fiercely contested, and resulted in a Spanish repulse with great loss. Malato is on Manila bay, near the city of Manila. It has been the outpost of the American and insurgent forces operating between Cavite and Manila.

The Spaniards chose a dark night for the attack, hoping to turn the Americans, and retake the position by hurling a superior force of 3,000 men against it.

The American force comprised the first battalion tenth Pennsylvania volunteers, first California battalion, third United States artillery, battery A., of Utah. It required three hours of fighting to drive the Spaniards back to Manila.

American loss, 9 killed, 44 wounded. Spanish loss, over 200 killed, 300 wounded.

Scarcely any of the Americans were ever under fire before, and they behaved splendidly.

The Spaniards attacked the Americans several times. American fire broke the Spanish center and they retreated. The Spanish forces made a second charge on the Americans but again retreated to the bushes, keeping up an incessant fire on the road.

### Report From Merritt.

Washington, Aug. 9.—The war department gives out the following from Gen. Merritt: "Hong Kong, 8th.—McArthur's troops arrived on July 31st: no epidemic sickness; five deaths; Lieut. Kerr, corps of engineers, died. The landing at camp was delayed on account of high surf.

"To gain approach to the city Greener's outposts were advanced to continue lines to Camino Sunday night. The Spanish attacked sharply. The artillery outposts behaved well and held the position making it unnecessary to call out the brigade.

"Spanish loss is rumored heavy; our loss, 9 killed, seriously wounded 6, slightly wounded 38."

### NO NOTICE OF SPAIN'S REPLY

Has Been Received. Belief Growing That The Reply Will Not Be a Frank Acceptance of Our Terms.

Washington, Aug. 9.—At eleven this morning, hour of the regular meeting of the cabinet, no notice of Spain's reply had been received.

A belief is growing that the reply will not be a frank acceptance of our terms.

### THE MONTEREY AT CAVITE.

Other Transports Conveying Troops Are In the Harbor.

Hong Kong, Aug. 8.—Advices from Cavite say the monitor Monterey arrived on the morning of the 4th. Other transports conveying troops are in the harbor.

### Shafter's Sick.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Shafter's report for the past seven days show 412 new cases of fever; total number, 3,445; deaths, 11.

### BLANCO SEES THE END.

Pardons Cubans by Wholesale and Urges Forgiveness. He Tells the Soldiers That the Mother Country Was Forced to Sue for Peace or Go to War with All Europe.

Washington Post.  
Capt. Gen. Blanco evidently appreciates the Spanish loss and the fact that he must soon withdraw himself and his force from the Island of Cuba. He has assumed a mildness of demeanor which compares strangely with his previous warlike attitude and frequently expressed determination to hold out Havana to the last, and he is now treating the insurgents with great consideration.

News has just reached Washington of a recent proclamation of amnesty, in which he made known to the Spanish people of Cuba that Spain had, through the intervention of foreign powers, been forced to the disgraceful issue of suing for peace, and that there would be no more war and no further use for soldiers. He offered a pardon to all Cuban political prisoners, and over 150 were released in Havana.

In explaining Spain's defeat in his proclamation Gen. Blanco informs his credulous readers that Spain, having suffered so much in the present war, could not resist the interference of the foreign powers and go to war with all the countries at once, so she was compelled to accede to their dictation, and sue for peace. Havana, he says, will be given over to Americans and Cubans, and the Spaniards will be forced to evacuate.

A palsied, decrepit relic of decadent despotism is Ramon Blanco. In spite of his gorgeous military trappings and painful assumption of martial attitude, he has been but a man in buckram—a clown who would emulate the Cid, but who has come nearer realizing the nineteenth century Don Quixote, without that crazy knight's high ideals of chivalry, blameless life, and abstemious habits.

Ramon Blanco is a Baron Chevallier in uniform. Deep lines mark his swarthy face, like a score card of all the carnal sins. His little, furtive eyes, set in heavy black circles, resemble burnt holes in an old army blanket. His whitish beard and military mustache look like stage whiskers stuck on the face of a revived mummy.

Attired in all the bravery of his rank and station, his evidently padded breast spangled with insignia and decorations, he doddles about the palace at the public receptions and tries to be impressive, whereas to the casual spectator he is only pitiful. A dipsomaniac Cortes, a paretic Pizarro, a palsied Ponce de Leon whom no "Fountain of Youth" can restore, he is the final embodiment of all the worst traits of his race.

His bloodless lips commanded Cervantes to sail forth to certain destruction and bade Toral deliberately murder his army in the trenches of Santiago. His false tongue uttered those long-explored lies concerning the strength of the Spanish arms in Cuba and the enthusiasm of the so-called "volunteers" for the cause of their oppressors. With transparent reports of fictitious victories he tried to brace the spirits of his half-starved, thoroughly disheartened regulars, and with vicious predictions concerning the treatment they would receive at the hands of the Americans, he endeavored to frighten the volunteers into making a last stand.

And now, when the end has come, he assures the soldiery and all Spanish residents who wish to return to Spain or go to other Spanish possessions that they will be given free transportation by their mother country to their destination, and will be protected from interference on the part of either Cubans or Americans. He suggests that the Cubans be forgiven and no longer regarded as enemies, and that no unkind feelings be cherished.

### A Weak Brother.

Penn had a very strong aversion to tobacco. Once, he came unexpectedly upon some of the Friends who were enjoying the fragrant weed, but out of respect for their great leader they hid their pipes, which, however, still continued to emit smoke. Perceiving this, the governor said pleasantly, "Well, friends, I am glad to see that you are at last ashamed of your old practice."

"Not entirely so," replied one of the brethren, "but we preferred laying down our pipes to the danger of offending a weaker brother."—London Tit-Bits.

### No Chance to Get Old.

Mrs. Wicks—Why is old china so valuable?

Mrs. Ricks—On account of its rarity.

Mrs. Wicks—But I don't see why it should be so very rare?

Mrs. Ricks—Well, with my experience of servants, I must confess that a piece of china that lasts a month is a wonder to me.—Harper's Bazar.

## CLOSING ON SAN JUAN.

Practically All of Our Troops Are In Motion.

## A SPANISH OFFICER KILLED

In a Skirmish Between Porto Ricans and Spanish. Miles to Be First to Enter San Juan. Officers Believe There Will Be No More Fighting.

Ponce, Aug. 8th, via cable August 9.—Henry, with the sixth Illinois and sixth Massachusetts, will move tomorrow by way of Adjuntas on Arecibo. The roads are in very bad condition. Practically all of our troops will be then in motion toward San Juan—Schwan at Yauco, Wilson near Coamo and Brooke near Guayama.

The Porto Ricans, engaged by Gen. Stone, skirmished with the Spanish near Adjuntas last night. A Spanish officer was killed.

Gen. Miles with several troops of cavalry expects to follow Gen. Henry soon. If peace is promptly declared General Miles will be the first to enter San Juan.

In view of the news received relating to peace negotiations the army officers appear to believe that there will be no more fighting.

### FRENCH AMBASSADOR

Carefully Studying Spain's Reply, Which Has Not Yet Been Presented to The State Department.

Washington, August 9.—The Spanish answer to the American peace terms will probably be presented to the state department this afternoon. It was definitely settled that it would not be delivered prior to today's cabinet meeting, and no time will be fixed until Ambassador Cambon has time for careful consideration and study. The reply, which has been deciphered in full, is now receiving his close examination. The only notification received by the American government is that the reply itself has been received at the French embassy.

### LAGRANGE NEWS.

Two Tobacco Barns Burned. Drowned in Neuse River. Children's Day Exercises. Tobacco Board of Trade Organized.

FREE PRESS BUREAU, LAGRANGE, August 8, 1898.

Mrs. R. M. Harper is visiting at Mr. L. E. Pridden's, near Snow Hill.

Mrs. James Dawson, of Newbern, is visiting at Mr. A. W. Kennedy's.

Mr. Lam Herring, of near Bizzell Mill, lost a son by drowning in Neuse river Sunday.

Mess. K. E. Sutton and O. Taylor left Sunday, and Mr. Thos. Harvey on Monday, for Baltimore.

On account of sickness Rev. Mr. Forlines could not fill his appointment Sunday at Hickory Grove. He is improving.

Mrs. J. M. Hodges and Miss Florence Speight attended the "Big August" at Saratoga last Sunday and returned today.

Mr. Thomas Hart, of Institute section, and Mr. George Sutton, of Bucklesberry, each lost a barn and contents of tobacco last week.

Mr. Alex Sutton, of this place, had a barn of tobacco to catch fire last week, but it was put out, and the barn and half the tobacco saved.

The Children's Day exercises came off in the M. E. church Sunday morning. Mrs. C. P. Barrow spared no pains in training the little folks, as was shown by the rendering of each piece and each song. The church was beautifully decorated with overgreen and beautiful flowers.

A tobacco board of trade was organized in the city hall Friday night, August 5th, at which Mr. J. L. Abbott was made president and Mr. R. M. Harper secretary and treasurer. Mess. Alex Sutton, Jno. Slaughter, A. V. Smith and Jno. D. Walters were appointed as arbitration committee. Mess. Smith, Richmond, Walters and Sutton were appointed a committee to form by-laws and regulations. The meeting adjourned to meet Monday night, August 8th.

### PREPARING TO CEASE WAR.

Administration Giving Attention to the Problem of Peace.

Washington Post.

Although as yet without official confirmation of the cable advices that the Spanish government has decided to accept the terms laid down by the United States as essential to the negotiations of a treaty of peace, the officials here are proceeding under the conviction that the end has come and are giving attention to the steps to be taken next. In view of the delay in coming to a conclusion the idea was beginning to prevail that the Spanish government was about to enter a plea in abatement and that the answer would again be inconclusive. In this case the president was disposed to deal firmly with the issue; to give notice that our proposals were withdrawn and to let it be understood that when Spain again sued for peace the conditions would be more severe than those first laid down.

Some reference has been made in the dispatches of British newspapers to a desire on the part of the Spanish government to include in the preliminary agreement a clause exempting it from liability for the Cuban debt. The formal statements of the points of the United States note given out from the white house made no reference to this subject and it cannot be known as yet whether or not the full text shows anything more. But presuming that no reference whatever is made to the Cuban debt, it is possible the subject may be regarded as one that should be treated by the peace commissioners who are to meet later to frame the treaty, which, of course, will embody many details that are left untouched in the main proposition, though cabinet officers have authorized the statement that no part of the Cuban or Porto Rican debts would be assumed by the United States.

### Our Troops in Fajardo.

Madrid, Aug. 7.—An official dispatch from Porto Rico says the Americans yesterday seized the custom house in the village of Fajardo, which place was without a garrison.

An American column, the dispatch also adds, supported by artillery, advanced on Guayama. The Spaniards made a brave defense, but were forced to withdraw to Altaras. Seventeen of the Spaniards were killed.

Mama—I'm surprised at you, Johnny! Johnny (thoughtfully)—I wonder if you'll ever get used to me, mamma? You're always surprised at me.—Puck.

## DOLE FIRST GOVERNOR.

Morgan Says Dole Will Be First Governor of Hawaii.

## \$50,000 LOSS BY BIG FIRE.

Business Section of Bismarck, N. D., Is Wiped Out by the Fire Fiend.

San Francisco, August 9.—Senator Morgan says that ex-President Dole will be the first governor of Hawaii.

### Big Loss by Fire.

Bismarck, N. D., August 9.—The larger part of the city was destroyed by fire last evening. The loss is over a half a million dollars. The business section is wiped out.

### Spain Accepts Peace Terms.

Paris, August 8.—Spain's answer was cabled to the United States this morning.

Washington, August 8.—Spain's acceptance of the peace terms has been received at the French embassy and is now being translated.

### Cleared From Quarantine.

New York, August 9.—The transport Lampasas cleared from quarantine this morning. Twenty-four nurses arrived on her. Gen. Miles asks that they be sent to Porto Rico.

### Two More Blockaders Captured.

Key West, August 9.—Two Norwegian steamers, the Alladin and the Bergin, arrived today in charge of prize crews. They were captured trying to run the blockade.

### Torpedo Boat Arrives at New York.

New York, Aug. 9.—The torpedo boat Dupont arrived this morning from Guantanamo.

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