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Marion, N. C.

The Messenger.

VOL. II. NO. 49.

MARION, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1898.

\$1. Per Year in Advance.

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FINDING OF THE COURT.

The Investigation Into the Maine
Disaster by the Court of Inquiry

AND WHAT IT REVEALED.

THE PRESIDENT
DETAILS THE FACTS.

The Arrival of the Ship and Her
Subsequent Destruction.

QUEEN REGENT NOTICED.

The President Will Advise Congress
of Her Regency, and Advise Deliberate
Consideration by the Senate.
The Sending of the Maine to Havana
an Act Restoring Friendly
Relations and Was So Regarded
by the Spanish Government--The
Message to Congress.

The President, on the 25th, according
to promise, sent the following
message to Congress:
To the Congress of the United States:
For some time prior to the visit of
the Maine to Havana harbor our con-
sular reports pointed out the advan-
tages to flow from the visit of national
ships to the Cuban waters, in ac-
counting the people to the presence of
our flag as the symbol of good will and
four ships in the fulfillment of the
mission of protection to American in-
terests if ever the need thereof might
exist. Accordingly, on the 23rd of
January last, after conference with the
Spanish minister, in which renewals of
visits of our warships to Spanish waters
was discussed and accepted, the penin-
sular authorities at Madrid and Havana
were advised of the purpose of this
government to resume friendly
naval visits to Cuban ports, and that in
that view the Maine would forthwith
sail for the port of Havana.

The friendly visit,
The announcement was received by
the Spanish government with apprecia-
tion of the friendly character of the
visit, and with notification
of its intention to return the courtesy
by sending Spanish ships to the prin-
cipal ports of the United States. Mean-
while the Maine entered the port of Havana
on the 24th of January, her ar-
rival being marked with no special in-
cidents, and with the exchange of con-
sular courtesies and ceremonial visits.
The Maine remained in the harbor of
Havana during the three weeks follow-
ing her arrival. No appreciable ex-
citement attended her stay, on the
contrary, a feeling of relief and confi-
dence was manifested by the resumption of
the interrupted friendly intercourse.
So favorable was this immediate effect
of the visit that the consul general
at Havana stated that the presence of our
ships in Cuban waters should be
maintained by retaining the Maine at
Havana, or by the visit of her recall,
by sending another vessel there to take
her place.

Destruction of the Ship.
At forty minutes past 9, in the evening
of the 15th of February, the Maine
was destroyed by an explosion by which
the entire forward part of the ship was
destroyed. In this catastrophe
nearly 150 men were killed, and the
ship was destroyed. The ship was
destroyed by the explosion of a
submarine mine which caused the partial
explosion of two or more of her forward
magazines; and that no evidence
fixing the responsibility for the destruction
of the Maine upon any person or
persons.

Her Majesty Informed.
I have directed that the finding of
the court of inquiry and the views of
this government thereupon be com-
municated to the government of Her
Majesty, the Queen Regent, and I do
not permit myself to doubt that the
sense of justice of the Spanish nation
will dictate a course of action suggest-
ed by our friendly relations. It will be
the duty of the executive to advise Con-
gress of the result and in the meantime
deliberate consideration is invoked.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
Executive Mansion, March 28, 1898.

disaster to national vessels of any mar-
ine. A court of inquiry
was at once organized, composed of offi-
cers well qualified by rank and practical
experience to discharge the onerous
duties imposed upon them. Aided by
a strong force of wreckers and divers,
the court proceeded to make a thorough
investigation on the spot, employing
every available means for the impar-
tial and exact determination of the causes
of the explosion. The operations have
been conducted with the utmost delib-
eration and judgment and, while inde-
pendently pursued, no source of in-
formation was neglected, and the fullest
opportunity was allowed for a
simultaneous investigation by the Span-
ish authorities.

Findings of the Court.
The finding of the court of inquiry
was reached after twenty-three days
of continuous labor, on the 21st of
March, instant, and having been ap-
proved on the 25th, by the commander-
in-chief of the United States naval
force of the North Atlantic station,
was transmitted to the executive. It is
herewith laid before the Congress, to-
gether with the voluminous testimony
taken before the court. Its purport in
brief, is as follows:

When the Maine arrived at Havana
she was conducted by the regular gov-
ernment pilot to buoy No. 1, to which
she was moored in from five and one-
half to six fathoms of water.

The state of discipline on board and
the condition of her magazines, boilers,
coal bunkers and storage compart-
ments were in review, with the con-
clusion that excellent order prevail-

ed and that no indication of any cause
for an internal explosion existed in any
quarter.

At 8 o'clock in the evening of Feb-
ruary 15, everything had been reported
secure and all was quiet.

At forty minutes past 9, the vessel
was suddenly destroyed.

There were two explosions, with a
brief interval between them. The first
lifted the forward part of the ship very
slightly intact and sank in that condi-
tion a very few minutes after the ex-
plosion. The forward part was com-
pletely demolished. The evidence of a
concurrent external cause, the finding
of the court is as follows:

The Nature of the Injury to the Ship.
At frame 17, the outer shell of the
ship, from a point eleven and one-half
feet from the middle line of the ship
and six feet above the keel when in its
normal position, has been forced up so
as to be now about four feet above the
surface of the water, there being about
eight feet above where it would have
been had the ship sunk unimpeded. The
outside bottom plating is bent into a
shape, the after wing of which, about
11 feet broad and 32 feet in length
from frame 17 to frame 25, is doubled
back upon itself against the contin-
uation of the same plating, extending
forward.

At frame 18, the vertical keel is broken
in two, and the flat keel bent into
an angle similar to the angle formed by
the outside bottom plating. This break
is now about 6 feet below the surface
of the water and about 30 feet above
its normal position. In the opinion of
the court this effect could have been
produced only by the explosion of a
mine situated under the bottom of the
ship, at about frame 18, and somewhat
on the port side of the ship.

The Conclusions.
The conclusions of the court are:
That the loss of the Maine was not in
any respect due to fault or negligence
on the part of any of the officers or
members of her crew. That the ship
was destroyed by the explosion of a
submarine mine which caused the partial
explosion of two or more of her forward
magazines; and that no evidence
fixing the responsibility for the destruction
of the Maine upon any person or
persons.

I have directed that the finding of
the court of inquiry and the views of
this government thereupon be com-
municated to the government of Her
Majesty, the Queen Regent, and I do
not permit myself to doubt that the
sense of justice of the Spanish nation
will dictate a course of action suggest-
ed by our friendly relations. It will be
the duty of the executive to advise Con-
gress of the result and in the meantime
deliberate consideration is invoked.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
Executive Mansion, March 28, 1898.

REPORT OF THE COURT.
Text of the Findings of the Board of
Inquiry into the Destruction of the
Maine.

The following is the report of the
court of inquiry:
In re-explosion of the United States
Battleship Maine, Before a Court of
Inquiry, Key West, Fla., United
States Steamship Line, first rate, Key
West, Fla., Monday March 21, 1898.

After full and mature consideration of
all the testimony before it, the court
finds, as follows:

I. That the United States battleship
Maine arrived in the harbor of Havana,
Cuba, on the twenty-fifth day of Janu-
ary, eighteen hundred and ninety-
eight, and was taken to buoy No. 4, in
from five and one-half to six fathoms
of water, by the regular government pilot.

The United States consul general at
Havana had notified the authorities at
that place on the previous evening of
the arrival of the Maine.

The state of discipline on board the
Maine was excellent, and all orders and
regulations in regard to the care and
safety of the ship were strictly carried
out.

All ammunition was stored in ac-
cordance with prescribed instructions,
and proper care was taken whenever
ammunition was handled.

Nothing was stored in any of the
magazines or shell rooms which was
not permitted to be stored there.

The magazines and shell rooms were

always locked after having been opened
and after the destruction of the Maine
the keys were found in their proper
place in the captain's cabin, everything
having been reported secure that evening
at 8 o'clock.

The temperature of the magazines
and shell rooms was taken daily and
reported. The only magazine which
had an undue amount of heat was not
explicated at the time the Maine was
destroyed.

The torpedoes were all stowed in
the afterpart of the ship under the
ward room, and neither caused nor
participated in the destruction of the
Maine. The dry gun cotton primers
and detonators were stowed on
or above the main deck, and could
not have had anything to do with the
destruction of the Maine.

The medical stores were stowed aft
under the ward room and remote from
the scene of the explosion.

No dangerous stores of any kind were
stowed below in any of the other stor-
erooms.

The coal bunkers were inspected
daily. Of these bunkers and adjacent
to the forward magazine and shell rooms,
four were empty, namely, "B 3," "B
4," "B 5" and "B 6." "A 1" had been

completely intact, and sank in that con-
dition a very few minutes after the ex-
plosion of the torpedoes.

The evidence of witnesses compara-
tively close to the Maine at the moment
of the explosion of the torpedoes, is
to the effect that only one explosion
occurred; that an amount of water was
thrown into the air; that no shock to
the ship or the water was felt, and that
no dead fish were found.

The evidence of the nature of the
injury to the ship, as shown by the
condition of the bottom plating, the
vertical keel, and the flat keel, is to the
effect that the explosion of a mine
situated under the bottom of the ship,
at about frame 18, and somewhat on
the port side of the ship, caused the
partial explosion of two or more of the
forward magazines of the Maine.

At frame 17, the outer shell of the
ship, from a point 11 feet from the
middle line of the ship, and 6 feet above
the keel when in its normal position,
has been forced up so as to be now
about 4 feet above the surface of the
water; therefore about 34 feet above
where it would be, had the ship sunk
unimpeded.

A minute examination of the bottom
of the harbor around the vessel shows
absolutely no sign of the bottom of
the ship or the bottom of the keel, and
no remains of the torpedoes, or of the
explosion of the torpedoes, or of the
explosion of a mine situated under the
bottom of the ship at about frame

18, and somewhat on the port side of
the ship.

No insurance on Cotton.
A special to the St. Louis (Mo.) Re-
publican from Austin, Tex., says: The
cotton buyers and brokers of the State
are becoming alarmed at the situation
in the insurance market, brought on by
rumors. They find it impossible to se-
cure insurance on export cotton from
either Galveston or New Orleans, as
the insurance people will not accept
the cotton with the present war risk
hauling over the country.

Texas Gains \$100,000 a Year.
Judge Gates of the Texas Federal
District Court, has refused an injunc-
tion asked for by the Arkansas Rail-
road and Loan Association against the
State of Texas, compelling the collection
of a franchise tax. The State winning
this case means some \$100,000 addi-
tional income from foreign corporations.

Extradition Bank Wreckers Denied.
Governor Russell, of North Carolina,
denied the request of the Governor
of Georgia for James A. Mahan and
H. T. Latham, ex-president and ex-
cashier, respectively, of the Abbeville
(S. C.) Bank. The warrants of the
Georgia court are given as reason for the denial.

Brief Notes.
The two-cent fare bill, requiring
the sale of 25-cent tickets by rail-
roads, has been passed by the Ohio
Legislature.

The Peoples Bank of Philadelphia
has been closed. Its cashier, John S.
Hopkins, shot himself after leaving
\$20,000 worthless paper.

John S. Hopkins, one of the youngest
members of the United States House of
Representatives is dead. He repre-
sented the Thirteenth district of Massa-
chusetts and had served in the Fifty-
fourth and Fifty-fifth Congresses.

The twin battleships Kentucky and
Kearsage were launched successfully at
Newport News, Va., last week.

The Kentucky and Kearsage are to cost
\$2,250,000 each. Save the Indiana
class, they carry the heaviest batteries
in accord with modern naval practice,
and with primary batteries fully equal to
that class they mount secondary guns
of such fashion as to make the combina-
tion almost unequalled in naval archi-
tecture.

Spain Accepts
McKinley's Proposed Armistice
in Cuba Until October.

Spain has agreed to accept Presi-
dent McKinley's plan in regard to
Cuba.

The President's plan is:
First, an armistice between the
Cubans and Spaniards until Octo-
ber.

Second, the United States to
feed the reconcentrated with
Spain's consent.

Third, the Maine report to be
held in committee indefinitely.

The President believes this
country will support him in thus
avoiding war.

The court, having finished its in-
quiry, was ordered to make adjourn-
ment at 11 a. m., to await the action of
the convening authority.

A. MARIX, Lieut.-Gen. U. S. N.,
Judge Advocate.

A. MARIX, Commander U. S. N.,
United States Flagship, New York,
March 21, 1898, off Key West, Fla.

The proceedings and findings of the
court of inquiry in the above cases are
approved.

M. SIXTHS, Rear Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief of the United
States Naval Forces on the North At-
lantic Station.

THE SPANISH REPORT.
Claims That the Explosion Was Inter-
nal--A Very Weak Document.

A full synopsis of the report of
the Spanish naval commission
which investigated the destruc-
tion of the battleship, is taken
from a copy of the original report,
which is now in the hands of the
United States consul general at Havana,
the synopsis being cabled to the
mainland, and has been placed in the
hands of this government. The conclu-
sions reached are directly opposite to
those in the report of the court of in-
quiry submitted to Congress. The syn-
opsis is as follows:

The report contains declarations
made by several witnesses and experts.
From these statements it clearly dis-
tinguishes and proves the absence of all
those attendant circumstances which
are ordinarily present on the occasion
of the explosion of a torpedo.

The evidence of witnesses compara-
tively close to the Maine at the moment
of the explosion of the torpedoes, is
to the effect that only one explosion
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tion almost unequalled in naval archi-
tecture.

18, and somewhat on the port side of
the ship.

VI.
The court finds that the loss of the
Maine on the occasion named was not
in any respect due to fault or negli-
gence on the part of any of the officers
or members of the crew of said vessel.

VII.
In the opinion of the court, the Maine
was destroyed by the explosion of a sub-
marine mine, which caused the partial
explosion of two or more of her forward
magazines.

VIII.
The court has been unable to obtain
evidence fixing the responsibility for
the destruction of the Maine upon any
person or persons.

W. T. SAMPSON, Capt. U. S. N.,
President.

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tion almost unequalled in naval archi-
tecture.

CONGRESS WANTS WAR.
Many Resolutions Introduced Look-
ing to That End.

HOUSE TAKES A FIRM STAND.
McKinley Has Been Given Reasonable
Time and Congress May Now Exer-
cise Its Function.

THE SENATE.
28TH DAY.--A scene of intense inter-
est was presented in the Senate when
the President's message, transmitting
the findings of the Maine court of in-
quiry was received. The galleries were
packed to the doors, and the attendance
of Senators was quite as large as it has
been at any time during the present
session. Eager to ascertain the full
findings of the court, scores of the
members of the House, after adjourn-
ment of that body, had hurried to the
Senate chamber, and the floor was
crowded with them. When the read-
ing of the President's message was
begun a hush so marked fell over
the chamber that one literally
might have heard a pin fall. Throug-
out the reading of both the message
and the findings of the court there was
not the slightest demonstration. The
documents were referred to the com-
mittee on foreign relations. Following
closely upon the message and findings,
came the speech of Money, of Missis-
sippi, on his recent observations in
Cuba and the destruction of the Maine.
His speech was along the same lines
as those of Senators Fracker,
Gallinger and Thurston. Upon the
announcement of Representative Simp-
kins' death, the Senate adjourned.

29TH DAY.--Interest in the Cuban
affairs--the interest named almost
terminated excitement, so intense was it--
reached a climax in the proceedings of
the Senate to-day. As on previous
days of the discussion of the Cuban
question, thousands of people flocked
to the capital, but only a few of them
were admitted to the galleries, and
the galleries were crowded with
the members of the Senate. Within five
minutes after the Senate convened, Allen,
of Nebraska, introduced a resolution
re-cognizing the independence of the
Cuban republic. This was followed by
a resolution proposed by Hawkins, of
Utah, declaring war against the
kingdom of Spain, foraker, of Ohio,
then introduced a resolution for such
intervention in the Cuban war as would
bring about the independence of
the Cuban republic. Following this came
a resolution by Mr. Fracker, of
Maine, demanding that Cuba be made free
of the resolutions followed in order
so rapidly, as almost to stun the
auditors, both Senators and spectators.
This was the condition when the vice-
president recognized Mr. Mason, of Illi-
nois, for his amendment to the resolution,
demanding that Cuba be made free
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nois, for his amendment to the resolution,
demanding that Cuba be made free
of the resolutions followed in order
so rapidly, as almost to stun the
auditors, both Senators and spectators.

THE HOUSE.
27TH DAY.--The reading of the Presi-
dent's message in the House was listen-
ed to with breathless interest by the
members, and the speaker in the
course of his remarks, declared that
the resolution was a moral one, and
should be passed without delay. Just
before the death of Representative Simp-
kins, of Massachusetts, was an-
nounced, and the House adjourned.
The message was referred to the com-
mittee on foreign relations. After
the adjournment of the House there
was considerable discussion over a pro-
posed consolidation of the forces in the
House who favor some form of im-
mediate action on the Cuban issue. There
was a strong feeling shown over the
avoidance in the message of any out-
line of a definite administration policy,
and a decided disposition against not
to wait any further delay, nor resort to
unpopular measures. The project to
furnish an instant relief supplies to the
Cuban non-combatants is meeting with
opposition to which members on both
sides of the House have given their
private discussion on the ground, first,
that Spain alone is responsible for the
condition on the island, and second,
the extending of such large and probably
contaminated aid abroad is unjust to
the people of this country. The steps
taken on this issue were of an informal
nature.

28TH DAY.--The result in the House
was a further delay of action on the
Cuban issue culminated on the 26th in
a conference of Republican members
whose ideas are in accordance with a
positive early course. About fifty rep-
resentatives, attending, representing all
sections of the country, were present,
and a number of the ways and means
committee, presided. Representative
Stevenson, of Missouri, was secretary.
The meeting was called to take steps to
secure immediate intervention in some
definite manner. It was the first de-
cisive step following discussions in the
committee rooms and lobbies since the President's
message was submitted by many mem-
bers who favor immediate and aggressive
action. Up to this present senti-
ment was a half-concealed, but strong
feeling against voting money for Cuba
relief unless accompanied by a declara-
tion to stop the war. The meeting was
called with a view to accomplishing the
immediate removal of the Spanish
troops from Cuba and the prompt armed
intervention in the affairs of that island.
Representative Hopkins, as chairman,
briefly stated the objects of the meet-
ing. He indicated his disappointment
in the President's message carried
to outline of definite rearmative policy

to ward Spain, and that he did not
believe further delay would be brooked.
He, however, thought the adminis-
tration might have another
day or two within which
to act, and failing to do so, Congress
should take that time into its own
hands independently and act. He
favored action looking to Cuban in-
dependence, but made no specific sugges-
tion as to the method of its accom-
plishment. Various views were pre-
sented as to the best means for secur-
ing action, though the feeling that no
action other than the cessation of hos-
tilities on the island and absolute inde-
pendence should be taken apparently
was unanimous.

NAPOLEON'S LAST WORDS.
Dying Thoughts of the Man Whom
Europe Feared.

On his death bed Napoleon expressed
his conviction that England would end
like the proud republic of Venice.