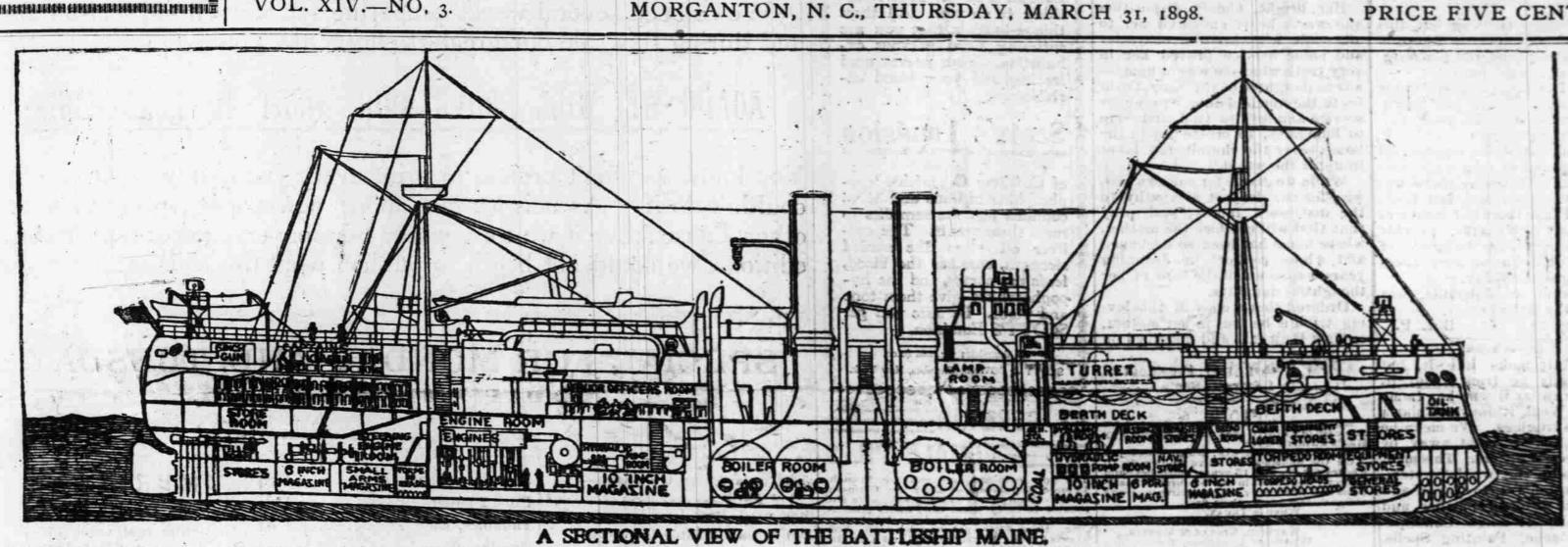
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## M'KINLEY SENDS IN MAINE REPORT WITH A MESSAGE

President Transmits Verdict of the Court to Both the House and Senate.

## BOARD LAYS WRECK

But Spaniards Are Not Mentioned In Connection With the Disaster-The Findings Referred to Foreign Relations Committee Without a Word of

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- The president today sent the following message

To the Congress of the United States-For some time prior to the visit of the Maine to Havana harbor our consular representatives pointed out the advantages to flow from the visit of national ships to the Cuban waters, in accustom-





ing the people to the presence of our flag as the symbol of good will and of our ships in the fulfillment of the mission of protection to American interests, even though no immediate need therefor might exist.

Accordingly, on Jan. 24, last, after a conference with the Spanish minister in which the renewal of visits of our war vessels to Spanish waters was discussed and accepted, the peninsula authorities at Madrid and Havana were advised of the purpose of this government to resume friendly naval visits at Cuban ports and that in that view the Maine would forthwith call at the port of Havana. This announcement was received by the Spanish government with appreciation of the friendly character of the visit of the Maine and with notification of intention to return the courtesy by sending Spanish ships to the principal ports of the United States. Mean-while the Maine entered the port of Havana on Jan. 25, her arrival being marked with no special incident besides the exchange of customary salutes and

The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following. No appreciable excitement ex-citement attended her stay. On the contrary, a feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of the long interrupted friendly intercouse. So noticeable was this immediate effect of her visit that the consul general strongly urged that the presence of our ships in Cuban waters should be kept up by retaining the maine at Havana, or in the event of her recall, by sending

At 40 minutes past 9 in the evening of Feb. 15 the Maine was destroyed by an explosion, by which the entire for-ward part of the ship was utterly wrecked. In this catastrophe two offi-cers and 264 of her crew perished, those who were not killed outright by her explosion being penned between decks by the tangle of wreckage and drowned by the immediate sinking of the hull. Prompt assistance was rendered by the neighboring vessels anchored in the harbor, aid being especially given by the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII and the Ward line steamer City of Washington, which lay not far distant.

## Wounded Cared For.

The wounded were generously cared for by the authorities of Havana, the hospitals being freely opened to them, while the earliest recovered bodies of the dead were interred by the municipality in a public cometery in the city. Tributes of grief and upathy were

offered from all official quarters of the

The appalling calamity fell upon the people of our country with crushing force and for a brief time an intense excitement prevailed, which, in a commu-nity less just and self controlled than ours, might have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, how-ever, soon gave way to the calmer pro-cesses of reason and to the resolve to investigate the facts and await material proof before forming a judgment as to the cause, the responsibility, and if the facts warranted, the remedy due. This course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the executive for only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature and measure of its full duty in the matter.

The usual procedure was followed, as in all cases of casualty or disaster to national vessels of any maritime state. A naval court of inquiry was at once or-ganized, composed of officers well quali-fied by rank and practical experience to discharge the onerous duty imposed apon 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 impartial and exact determination of the causes of the explosion. Its operations have been conducted with the utmost deliberation and judgment while independently pursued no source of information was neglected and the fullest opportunity was allowed for a simultaneous investigation by the Spanish authorities.

The finding of the court of inquiry was reached after 28 days of continuous labor, on March 21, inst., and having been approved on the twentysecond by the commander-in-chief of the United States naval force on the North Atlantic station was transmitted to the executive.

## Verdict In Brief.

It is herewith laid before the congress together with the voluminous testimony taken before the court.

Its purport is, in brief, as follows: When the Maine arrived at Havana she was conducted by the regular gov-ernment pilot to buoy No. 4, to which the condition of her magazines, boilers,

was moored in from 5% to 6 fathoms of The state of discipline on board and coal bunkers and storage compartments are passed in review, with the conclusion that excellent order prevailed and that no indication of any cause for an internal explosion existed in any quar-

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

At 9:40 o'clock the vessel was suddenly destroyed.

There were two distinct explosions, with a brief interval between them. The first lifted the forward part of the ship very perceptibly; the second, which was more upon, prolonged and of greater volume, is attributed by the court to the partial explosion of two or

more of the forward magazines. The evidence of the divers establishes that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the explosion. The forward part was completely de-

Upon the evidence of a concurrent external cause the finding of the court is

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, was 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 uninjured. The outside bottom plating is bent into a reverse V shape, the after wing of which, about 15 feet broad and 32. feet in length (from frame 17 to frame 25), is doubled back up in itself against

the continuation of the same plating extending forward. At frame 18 the vertical keel is broken in two and the flat keel is bent into an angle similar to the angle formed by the outside bottom plates. The break is now about 6 feet below the surface of the water and about 30 feet above its

#### normal position. Mine Caused Wreck.

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

The conclusions of the court are: The loss of tha Maine was not due to 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 has been obtainable showing the responsibility of the de-struction 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 thereon be communicated to the government of her majesty, the queen, and I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and the frienly relations of the two govern-

it will be the duty or the executive to advise the congress of the result, and in the meantime deliberate consideration is invoked. WILLIAM MCKINLEY. In neither senate or house was there any debate on the reference of the president's message and other documents to committees having charge of our Cuban

#### FULL TEXT OF THE MAINE COURT'S REPORT

Findings as Sent to Congress by Pres ident McKinley.

The following is the full text of the report of the court of inquiry: KEY WEST, Monday, March 21

After full and mature consideration of all the testimony before it the court finds as follows: 1. That the United States battleship Maine arrived in the barbor of Havana,

Cuba, on Jan. 25, 1898, and was taken to buoy No. 4, in from 516 to 6 fathoms of water, by the regular government The United States consul general at Havana had notified the authorities at

that place the previous evening of the intended arrival of the Maine. 2. 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

All ammunitions were stowed in ac-cordance with prescribed instructions, and proper care was taken with which

ammunition was handled. Nothing was stowed in any one of the magazines or shell rooms which was not

permitted to be stowed there. The magazines and shell rooms were always locked after having been entered, 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 p. m.

The temperature of the magazines and shellrooms were taken daily and reported. The only magazine which had an undue amount of heat was the after 10-inch magazine, and that did not explode at the time the Maine was de-

The torpedo warheads were all stowed in the after part of the ship under the wardroom, and neither caused nor participated in the destruction of the

The dry gun primers and detonators were stowed in the cabin aft, and remote from the scene of the explosion.

Waste was carefully looked after on board the Maine to obviate danger.

Great Care Exercised. Varnishes, dryers, alcohol and other combustibles of this nature were stowed on or above the main deck and could not have had anything to do with the de-

struction of the Maine. The medical stores were stowed aft under the ward room and remote from the scene of the explosion; no danger-ous stores of any kind were stowed be-

low in any of the other store rooms. The coal bunkers were inspected daily. The fire alarms in the bunkers were in working order, and there had never been a case of spontaneous combustion of coal on board the Maine.

The two after boilers of the ship were in use at the time of the disaster, but for auxiliary purposes only, with a comparatively low pressure of steam, and being tended by a reliable watch. These boilers could not have caused the explosion of the ship. The four forward bollers have since been found by the livers and are in a fair condition.

On the night of the destruction of the Maine everything had been reported se-cure for the night, at 8 p. m., by relia-ble persons, through the proper authorities to the commanding officer. At the time the Maine was destroyed the ship was quiet, and therefore least liable to accident caused by movements from those on board.

8. The destruction of the Maine occurred at 9:40 p. m. on Feb. 15, 1898, in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, she being at the time moored to the buoy to which she had been taken on her arrive

## Were Two Explosions.

There were two explosions of a distinctly different character, with a very short but distinct interval between them, and the forward part of the ship was lifted to a marked degree at the time of the first explosion.

The first explosion was more in the nature of a report, like that of a gun; while the second explosion was more open, prolonged and of greater volume. This second explosion was in the opinion of the court caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward

magazines of the Maine. 4. The evidence bearing upon this, being principally obtained from divers, did not enable the court to form a definite conclusion as to the condition of the wreck, although it was established that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition in a very few minutes after the destruc-

tion of the forward part. The following facts in regard to the forward part of the ship are, however, established by the testimony:

#### rnat portion of the port side of the protective deck which extends from **CUBAN WAR MUST** about frame 80 to 41 was blown up, aft and over to the port. The main deck from about frame 30 to about frame 41 were blown up and slightly starboard folding the forward part of the middle superstructure over and on top of the

This was, in the opinion of the court. caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines of the Maine.

5. At frame 17 the outer shell of the ship from a point 111/6 feet from the middle 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 where it would be had it sunk uninjured. The side bottom plating is bent into a reverse in the V shape, the after wing of which, 15 feet broad and 82 feet in length (from frame 17 to 25), is doubled back upon itself against the continuation of the plate extending

#### Keel Broken in Two.

At frame 18 the vertical keel is brokin two, and the flat keel bent into L 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 cont, this effect could have been produced only by the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of a ship at about frame 18, and somewhat on the

port side of the ship.
6. The court finds 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 the crew of said vessel

7. In the opinion of the court the Maine was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her forward magazines.

8. The court has been unable to obtain evidence fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine upon

any person or persons. d) W. T. Sampson, Captain U. S. N., President, A. MARIX, Lieutenant Commander U. S. N.

Judge Advocate. The court having finished the inquiry it was ordered to make, adjourned at 11 a. m. to await the action of the convening authority.

(Signed) W. L. Sandent. Captain U. S. N., President. A. MARIX, Lieutenant Commander U. S. N., Judge Advocate. U. S. Flagship, New York, March 22.

Off Key West, Fla.—The proceedings and findings of the court of inquiry in the above case are approved .-(Signed)

M. SICARD, Rear Admiral, Commander-ip-Chief of the United States Naval Force on the North Atlantic Station. SAUCY TALK BY SPANIARDS. They Declare Their Readiness to Take Care of Themselves.

MADRID, March 20 .- The Imparcial and The Liberal today agree in saying that the mediation of the European powers will be difficult in view of the crisis in the far east, adding: "Anyway Spain is able herself to resent insults and repudiate unjust pretension." The Liberal also says:

"If the United States desires to assist Cuba the simplest means is to confine the mission to Spanish Red Cross, which was recently belied in the same object by France, Russia, Hungary, Portugal, Venezuela and Argentine. The Spanish Red Cross is well organized in Cuba. and besides many members are ready to go there from Spain if necessary.
"However, if the United States wants

war let her say so frankly and not seel charitable or humanitarian excuses. The Diaro quotes the minister for the colonies, Senor Moret, as replying to a question of the minister of marine, Admiral Bermejo, with the remark, "the storm continues, but the barometer is

This is regarded as meaning that the situation is not so unfavorable to Spain

Spain Asks Further Delay. New York, March 29 .- Spain, although apparently deflant, has asked for further delay before the United States does anything more about Ouba says the Washington correspondent of The Herald. This request was made through Senor Polo de Bernabe, the Spanish minister in Washington. He promised in Spain's behalf that she would lay before the state department at an early day a plan for a more liberal government of Cuba.

## Guns Coming to Georgia.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Senator Bacon has received from Chief of Engineers Wilson of the army department a letter containing assurances that four rapid fire guns will be sent to Savannah as soon as they arrive from England.
Two of these are to be erected on Tybes
island and two are to be placed at some
location yet to be determined upon for
defense of the Wilmington and Warsaw

# **SOON BE CLOSED**

The President to Give Spain Short Time In Which to End Trouble.

IF SHE FAILS TO DO SO WE WILL INTERVENE

Affairs on the Island Intolerable to the People of America-Note Demanding Speedy Termination of Hostilities May Be on the Way to Madrid

WASHINGTON, March 28 .- It can be stated on positive information that this government will, if indeed it has not already done so, inform Spain that THE CONDITIONS NOW EXISTING IN CUBA HAVE BECOME INTOL ERABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, AND THAT HOSTILL TIES ON THE ISLAND MUST OLOSE. This policy is directly in line with the views of the president as expressed in his last message to congress on Doc. 6. In this message he said:

"The instructions given to our new minister to Spain, before his departure for his post, directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward the ending of the war in Cuba by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. These instructions recited the character and duration of the contest, the widespread losses it entails, its burdens and restraints it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests, and the injury resulting from an indefinite con-tinuance of this state of things. No solution was proposed to which the slight idea of humiliation to Spain could attach, and indeed, precise proposals were withheld to avoid embarassment to that government."

After reciting the substance of Spain's reply, received on Oct. 23, last, the president says:

"The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted and therewithal the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States."

Since the delivery of this message evidence has accumulated showing be yourd question that the promise in behalf of the new administration, to relieve the conditions in Cuba, have not been fulfilled or accomplished. On the contrary, the evidence which has reached the president showed conclusively that the situation is daily becoming more

In view of these facts this govern-ment has decided to take, if it has not already taken, definite action by informing Spain, that while disavowing any interest other than that dictated by a sense of honor and justice to a stricken and starving people, it must insist that hostilities be brought to a speedy termination. So far as known no specific date has been fixed within which the war must be terminated, but it is be-lieved it is the purpose of the adminis-

lieved it is the purpose of the adminis-tration not to permit of any unnecessary or extended delay.

It is known in high official circles that many of the people highest in authority in Spain, including members of the ministry, are extremely weary of the conflict in Cuba and would willingly accede to any reasonable terms for a set-tlement of the whole question by grant-ing to Cuba her independence on an in-demnity basis. The opposition to this plan comes from the factions opposed to the present administration, who demand extreme measures if necessary to retain control of the island. In view of these conditions what would be the answer to our demands cannot be foretold.

#### GENERAL LEE IS GUARDED. Consul Protected as He Goes About the Cuban Capital.

New York, March 29 .- A dispatch to The Herald from Havana says: Secretary General Congosto asked Consul General Lee to permit him to furnish him a personal body guard. General Lee de-clined this offer and General Congosto contented himself with increasing the detail of plain clothes detectives which for weeks has kept a careful eye on Gen-eral Lee at all times with a view to his

protection as he goes about the city.

Consul General Lee, believing that a serious crisis in affairs is likely to occur now at any moment, is today preparing a revised list of all Americans now in Havana, together with their addresses, so that in case of emergency they may be communicated with at short notice.

There is an extra great now around the There is an extra guard now around the American consulate.

## SAVANNAH PEOPLE STIRRED.

Fine Benefit Entertainment For the Maine Monument Fund.

SAVANNAH, March 28 .- The report of the Maine inquiry board showing that the destruction of the ship and the death of the men was due to a floating mine beneath the ship, stirred up people here. A grand benefit entertainment will be held next Saturday evening for the Maine monument fund at the Savannah theater. "Star Spangled Banner" will be sung.

Amateur and professional talent will take part. All military will attend in full uniform and the courtmartial members will occupy boxes. The Savannah Evening Press is arranging the affair.

Blacks Anxious For Battle. THARLESTON, March 28 .- The negroes

ground Charleston are wild to go to war. Colonel Robertson, commanding the First regiment National guards of South Carolina, notifies Governor Ellerbe that he has 10,000 men ready to march toward Havana at the tap of the druin. All of these are not fully armed, but the governor has been asked to rush the guns here. Along the sea islands volunteer companies are bein r organized. Common broomsticks are being used for guns on the drill ground.

PRINCETON ABOUT READY. New American Gunboat Is Now Near

ing Completion. PHILADELPHIA, March 29 .- It was announced today that the United States gunboat Princeton, which is being built at Dialogue's shipyard, Camden, is rapidly nearing completion and that she will leave the shipyard in about a week for League island navyyard to receive her fittings preparatory to her final trial trip. Since the first indication of possibility of trouble with Spain workmen have been engaged night and day on the warship and as a result she is now practically ready for sea.

The Princeton is not a large craft, but is perfect in her appointments and admirably adapted to cruising in shallow Chineseland South American waters, for which she is intended. She draws but 12 feet of water and her other dimensions are 168 feet water line, 204 all

sions are 168 feet water line, 204 all over, 36 feet beam and 1,000 tone displacements. She is fitted with 850 horsepower engines and is expected to attain a speed of 12 knots per hour.

The new boat is equipped with 6-inch quick firing guns, 4-pounders, two 1-pounders, one 8-inch breechloading Howitzer and one gatling gun. Her complement will be 160 officers and men. The boat has a steel hull, with a woodskin and convert owing to which woodskin and copper, owing to which she will be able to remain a long time at sea without having to be docked.

Young Man Tries to Elope With Mere Girl and Is Shot.

RALEIGH, March 28.—George Teel of Hartford county has been a constant visitor at the house of Mr. Vann, a wellto-do farmer, the object of Teel's affection being the 14-year-old Pauline Vann. a beautiful woman quite well grown for

She was under Teel's influence and could not refuse his request to elope, Her young brother told of the planned

Teel had every detail arranged and as he leaped over a fence Vann pulled the trigger, and a yell told the shot had his Teel. His back was completely filled from the shoulders to the knees with equirrel shot. Pauline broke down in one of the reasons for objections to Teel to which they now is said to be he is an infidel. Pauline tion of the public. has been taken from school and is at home being watched.

RICHMOND, March 28 .- A special from Roanoke save that three postoffice in spectors have arrived there and think that Howard and Moore, two men ar-

Carolina Crooks Captured.

rested on suspicion of attempting to blow open the Salem postoffice safe, are the leaders of a gang of postoffice burg-lars in North Carolina that for two years have baffled the secret service. Russell Refuses Requisition.

RALESON, March 29.—Governor Russell has denied the requisition of the governor of Georgia for J. J. Mehagan and G. J. Latham, ex-president and cashier, respectively, of the Abbeville, Ga., bank. Irregularities of the warrant are given as a reason for the denial.

A Constable is Killed. KNOXVILLE, Macrh 29 .- James Bozeman, aged 60, shot and killed James Fennell, aged 30, near Lee Springs, Granger county, last night. Fennell was a constable seeking to arrest Bozeman for illicit liquor selling. The murderer escaped and a posse is after him.



## Missouri Pacific Railw'y IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE.

If you are going to

Arkansas, Texas, Indian Territory, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, California,

or anywhere west of the Mississippi River, you will find it to your interest to communicate with the undersigned. Solid trains, " No Changes," free reclining chair cars. Write for maps, books, etc. I will take pleasure in calling on you in person and assist you in getting off in good shape. We are the Short Line to all points West.

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HE undersigned, J. G. Hall, WESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., UNITED STATES CASUALTY Co., and a number of Leading Fire Insurance Companies, has associated with himself Mr. W. M. Dickson for the more thorough establishment and conduct of an up to date insurance office. The companies we represent are known of all men to be leaders in the insurance field, whether it be life, accident or fire protection that is sought. We are prepared to furnish any manner of insurance that may be desired. Our senior brings to his aid in this business many years of active business experience, which especially fit bim for the insurance business, and he proposes to give to it that energy elopement and last night Mr. Vann and activity of purpose which has hid behind a bush in his yard with a been the characteristic of his life. With his care of office in the town of Morganton, immediately under the supervision of one or more of his sons and Mr. W. M. Dickson. there can be no better guarantee that they will lead in this specialty to which they now invite the atten-

> Very respectfully, HALL & CO.

## LAND SALE

BY VIRTUE of a power of sale contained in a certain mortgage deed executed by S. V. Michaux on the 6th day of March, 1897, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Burkecounty, North Carolina, in Book D No. 2, page 329, I will sell at public auction for cash, at the Court House door in the town of Morganton, N. C., on

Monday, April 25, 1898,

the following described piece or parcel of land lying and being in the town of Morganton, Burke county, North Carolina, being the house and lot where W. F. Hudson lived in 1896, and known and designated as follows, viz.: Beginning on stake on Valdese avenue and runs with said Valdese avenue north 43° cast 8 poles and 6 feet to stake corner of adjoining lot known as Walls lot; then with the line of said lot 19½ poles to a stake on Concord street; then south 43° west with said street 11 poles and 6 feet to stake, the corner of the Hallyburton lot; then with the line of the Hallyburton line to the beginning on Valdese avenue, containing one and one-third acres, more or less, including said dwelling, stable, and all faxtures pertaining to said lot.

Said land to be sold by reason of default made in the payment of the debt secured by said mortgage.

This the 24th day of March, 1898.

WILLIAM A. McCALL, Monday, April 25, 1898,

WILLIAM A. McCALL, Mortgages

mch24-5w.