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THE DEATH FLAG.
MORRO'S SOMBER SIGNAL IS IT FOR HOBSON,

Buzzard's Flying Thickly Around
While the Spaniards Dig out Their Dead—Nothing But a Patch of Red Clay Where a Moment Before Were Guns and Men—How a Brave Spanish Officer Met Annihilation Along With the Parapet—Now Believed That a Shell From the Texas Blew Up a Spanish Ship.

Off Santiago, June 18, via Kingston, Jamaica, June 19.—A careful inspection of the fortifications along the crest of the hills defending Santiago harbor since the bombardment Thursday morning, shows that American gunners spread wreck and ruin everywhere. Some of the batteries were demolished beyond repair. The vultures, which circled on level wings over the hills as thick as swallows around the chimney, hours after the firing ceased, furnished gruesome evidence of the fatality among the Spanish soldiers. Hundreds of troops could be seen from the ships, digging in mounds of earth piled up by the explosion of the projectiles from the heavy guns for bodies, while their heads were fanned by the wings of the black scavengers of the battlefield. There were two spots, one on the east and the other on the west of the harbor entrance, which were denuded of their foliage. The hill-tops seem literally blown away. These marked the places where the 200 pound charges of gun-cotton thrown by the Vesuvius landed. But most ominous token of death flew from Morro Castle. The saffron flag of Spain was half-masted on the keep for several hours. The significance of this is not know. It is not customary to half-mast flags, but possibly some Spanish leader was killed by the heavy fire of our guns, though some officers of the squadron believe that the flag was half-masted as a notification to the Americans that Lieutenant Hobson and his brave men were dead. If such is the case, they must have been wantonly murdered. The Spanish might seek to lay their death to the bombardment, but not a shot from the American ships struck the fortress.

Neither Admiral Sampson nor commodore Schley believe that Lieutenant Hobson and his party have been killed. We have 17 prisoners taken at Guantanamo, including a lieutenant, besides a number in the United States, for reprisals or exchange.

There was evident demoralization among the Spanish troops during the bombardment. Officers could be seen, with drawn swords, driving the men to the guns, but even then they could not be forced to stay so long as our guns were directed at them. The fifteen minutes' night work of the Vesuvius had shattered their nerves. It is believed by some that the 13-inch projectile fired from the Texas, which was reported to have exploded the powder magazine in one of the western batteries, did not fall in the battery, but went beyond and blew up one of the ships in the harbor.

A dramatic incident of the bombardment was the act of a Spanish officer, who bravely ran along the parapet under a heavy fire encourag-

ing his men to stand by their guns. Shot and shell rained about him, and after one terrific explosion he was seen no more, and the parapet had disappeared. He could not have escaped death.

From the foretop of the Brooklyn, 2,900 yards distant, the men on the grounds could be noticed, but a minute later dust and flying debris would take their places, and when the smoke cleared away only a spot of red earth could be seen—guns and gunners having been swept away.

It was the most deadly and destructive bombardment of the war thus far. Scarcely a shot from the guns of the squadron went astray. The aim of our gunners was superb, and not only were the coast forts annihilated, but the batteries on Cayo Smith, up the harbor, were destroyed. Had all the ships used smokeless powder, as did the New Orleans, there would remain no sign of guns or fortifications to indicate that there had ever been any defences there.

There were no casualties in the fleet, although the ships held a fixed position, as if inviting the Spaniards to fire upon them. The half stripped ship's gunners never worked with more enthusiasm.

The words of Rear Admiral Sampson were: "First silence the batteries on the shore and then continue firing until the fortifications are reduced." This order was strictly obeyed. It was the first time that such instructions have been given, and the men responded with a will. In thirty-eight minutes the order was given to cease firing, and the message went to each ship from the Admiral: "Well done." Then the officers and men turned in for breakfast. Details of the engagement had been executed to the letter, from the opening of fire by the New York to the last shot from the Iowa. The Spaniards were evidently surprised while strengthening their fortifications.

The shot of the New York landed full and fair on the top of the hills to the east, where the gunners were already at work erecting new pieces. The earth seemed to rise up in a cloud, and when the 12-inch shells of the Iowa and the 13-inch beauties of the Oregon landed squarely and fairly, a great cheer went up from the ships.

The western squadron got into line and began firing before the eastern one did, and the effect of the shots could be plainly seen. The Spanish gunners at the batteries could be noted and a quick fire was returned, but only for a brief time did they withstand the terrible assault of the fleet.

RANSOM FOR HOBSON.
Kingston, Jamaica, June 20.—3 p. m.—Mr. F. W. Ramsden, the British Consul at Santiago de Cuba, who is acting for the United States in the negotiations with the Spaniards for the exchange of Lieutenant Hobson and his comrades of the Merrimac expedition, has suggested to the officials at Washington that even a ransom might be paid to secure the prompt release of the American prisoners. That idea was undoubtedly expressed in the cable dispatches which passed through the colonial authorities here. But in what form it was shaped is not clear.

WAR TARIFF AFFECT EVERYBODY
FAR REACHING EFFECTS JUST REALIZED.

A War Stamp Must be Had For Every Business Transaction—Some of the Details of the Law Explained

The war tariff act passed by Congress is a subject of much discussion now. People are beginning to realize its effects.

The Raleigh banks will have a heavy burden to bear. The new prescribes a tax of \$50 on the first \$25,000 of their capital, and \$2 on each \$1,000 additional. On every bank check or draft or certificate of deposit a 2 cent stamp will have to be pasted.

THE TAX ON LEASES.

Leases of property must bear a 25 cent stamp if it is for one year; 50 cents for three years, and \$1 for leases for a larger term. So on every mortgage executed here for more than \$1,000 and less than \$1,000 tax of 25 cents for each additional \$500. If a note comes due is not paid and it protested, a 25 cent stamp must go on the protest notice. So, if a check or bill of exchange is protested.

A power of attorney to sell or lease real estate also requires a 25-cent stamp; and incorporated companies or associations 10 cents.

Thousands of telegraph messages pass through the officers each week and will amount to a goodly sum in the course of two months.

One of the most disappointing features of the bill is the tax on amusements. Every entertainment to which an admission fee is charged will be subject to a tax of \$10, except where otherwise specified. This tax holds good for a year, so amusement managers may take out the licenses at the beginning of the season.

Sales and agreements to sell securities of any kind, promissory notes foreign certificates issued by notaries and other law officers, all these carry their share of taxation.

An inheritance tax is also claimed on all bequests of more than \$10,000.

Each druggist who puts up a compound of his own will have to buy stamps to put upon his bottles at the rate of one-quarter of 1 cent on a 5 cent article; one-half of a 1 cent on a 10 cent article; 1 cent on a 25 cent article; 2 cents on 50 cent articles, and so on.


The stock and share-brokers will pay \$50 each as a license tax. Every time one of them sells 10 shares of stock of it means \$2 more, either out of his pocket or the pocket of the man who owned the securities. The money lenders will probably come under this same tax.

Pawnbrokers must pay \$200 a year to the war fund.

Billiard rooms must pay \$5 for each and every table.

It is when business documents are considered that it is made apparent how thoroughly the work of creating sources of revenue has been done by the Congressional committees. There is not any form of business paper that will not be subject to a stamp tax, ranging from 1 cent up to \$5. Every time a bill of more than \$5 is paid the creditor must put a 1 cent stamp on it, under a penalty of a fine of \$1,000, or five years at hard labor in the penitentiary.—Raleigh Post.

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MORE SPANIARDS SEEN.
Increased Activity Along the Shore Line Near Santiago.

OFF SANTIAGO, June 17.—That there are more Spanish troops along the coast near Santiago than there were when the fleet first arrived here ten days ago, is attested by the fact that whenever one of the ships' small boats approach the shore it is peppered by a volley from Spanish riflemen. These bullets from small arms have as yet resulted in no fatalities to those on American ships, yet everybody on deck is in danger from them.

While the cutter of the New York under Naval Cadet Powell, and the cutter of the Massachusetts, together with the Vixen, were reconnoitering along shore yesterday near Santiago they were fired upon from a blockhouse. The men on the cutters returned the fire, and the Texas and Vixen, which was steaming not far off, opened fire on the enemy also and the Spanish fire soon ceased. In a short engagement, however, the New York's cutter was hit several times, some of the bullets striking dangerously near to the marines on board.

The Yankee had an experience Monday off Cienfuegos, when she met a Spanish gunboat. The gunboat opened fire on the Yankee, and the latter returned it with vigor. The gunboat took to her heels and got back into the harbor, the Yankee ran close enough to the harbor to draw the fire of the forts at the entrance, a shell from one of which burst over her. One of the pieces hit Solon P. Kenedy, of New York, wounding him slightly.

How To Look Good.
Good looks are really more than skin deep, depending entirely on a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver be inactive, you have a bilious look; if your stomach be disordered, you have a dyspeptic look; if your kidneys be affected, you have a pinched look. Secure good health, and you will surely have good looks. "Electric Bitters," is a good Alterative and Tonic. Acts directly on the stomach, liver and kidneys. Purifies the blood, cures pimples, blotches and boils, and gives a good complexion. Every bottle guaranteed. Sold at J. De Morris' Drug Store. 50 cents per bottle.

Sold by J. D. Morris, Druggist.

Bryan and His Regiment to be Assigned to General Lee's Corps.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—It is regarded as probable that Colonel William Jennings Bryan and the Nebraska regiment under his command will be assigned to the army corps commanded by Major General Fitzhugh Lee. There is excellent authority for the statement that the assignment will be made.