

The Commonwealth.

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STILL NO WAR.

THE COMMONWEALTH thought that by the hour of going to press this week, there would be something definite to say about the war situation.

And it does not seem that the crisis is drawing near. In another article we give the joint resolutions between the two houses of Congress on the Cuban question. Those resolutions were passed Monday night, and signed by the Speaker of the House and the Vice-President Tuesday.

The following is how matters stood at the national capital last night, and presumably remained so until 12 o'clock to-day (Wednesday): The President is to sign the Cuban resolutions to-day and will perhaps at the same time sign his ultimatum to Spain.

This will have to be transmitted to American Minister Woodford at Madrid. He will then have to notify the Spanish authorities and a reasonable time will be allowed for Spain to make reply.

All this will take several days although some "hasty writers" have said that Spain must have only twenty-four hours in which to reply.

In this article, together with the article elsewhere in this issue headed "Congress Has Spoken," we give our readers all that has really transpired since our last issue. There has been a good deal of "scintillating" in congressional eloquence, but we have here given you the result in a small space.

So, really, THE COMMONWEALTH can give no more accurate forecast of matters to-day than a week ago; but we are still of the firm conviction that there will be no war. Some papers say that hostilities will probably commence before the end of this week; but we see signs of longer delay than that, and we look for no actual or serious hostilities at all.

Still we believe there will be no war.

TIT FOR TAT.

Congress went wild with impatience while the President was preparing his message, which was printed last week. Mr. McKinley was abused for what some of that august body regarded inexcusable delay. All the while he was doing his best to prepare a sensible and conservative message on a grave question; and he did his work, so far as any one knows, in a dignified manner.

But what did Congress do with the message? Held it eight days, wrangled over it, and actually disgraced the nation by a hand-to-hand fistfight in the House. In the Senate the odious epithet of "liar" passed between some of the members; and take it all in all we think that the Congress behaved somewhat more unseemly over the Cuban question than President McKinley.

"Make haste slowly" is a good motto at any and all times; and it is especially commendable when nations are preparing for awful and indescribable war.

BUTLER TALKED IN CHURCH.

The Washington Post says that Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, spoke at the People's church in Typographical Temple a few nights ago. His theme was "Duty of the Moral Forces in Relation to Trusts and Monopolies." In the course of his remarks about wealth in the hands of those who "loil not, neither do they spin," Mr. Butler made a plea for the good offices of "ministers of the gospel, college professors, educators and other great normal forces" to do more fully their duty in sending better men to Congress. Of course he thinks all such did the right thing in what little help they gave in sending him there; but we opine that if a vote were taken of the real "ministers of the gospel, college professors, educators and other great normal forces" in North Carolina, there would be but a small tally on his side of the sheet.

A BEAUTIFUL AND WELL-SERVED TRIBUTE.

The tribute which Rev. T. J. Taylor paid the late Dr. Fleming, of Warrenton, in this week's Biblical Recorder, is one of the finest we have ever read. The life of such a pure man as Dr. Fleming is worthy of emulation, and it would be well for every young man of the State, whatever his faith or creed, to read the well-deserved tribute paid to Dr. Fleming, in order to see how a man may be eminently successful in a business life and yet live under a halo of heavenly recognition all the time. Deep piety and a wholly religious life are the strongest breakwaters for a successful life of any kind.

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That is the way all druggists sell GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC for Chills, Fever and all forms of Malaria. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. Children love it. Adults prefer it to bitter nauseating tonics. Price, 5¢

CONGRESS HAS SPOKEN.

The Senate of the United States remained in session Saturday night to finish up the debate, in which as many as twenty-five Senators participated, and to take the final vote on the Cuban resolutions. The vote on the House resolutions on 12th stood 324 to 20.

The vote in the Senate was 67 to 24. The two houses of Congress labored throughout Monday and Monday night until 1 o'clock, through conference committees, trying to get together on the resolutions. After much weary waiting the resolutions were finally agreed upon.

The following is the full text of the joint resolutions:

"Joint resolution for the recognition of the independence of the people and republic of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect."

"Whereas, The abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States; have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battleship with 266 of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth in his message to Congress of April 11, 1898, upon which the action of Congress was invited, therefore,

"Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

"First, That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

"Second, That it is the duty of the United States to demand and the government of the United States does hereby demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"Third, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

"Fourth, That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof; and assert their determination when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

HOW ABOUT BUTLER?

"We hear so much complaint of Congress, and it is abused so roundly (and often deservedly) that there is danger of making the people believe it has utterly degenerated. The debate in the Senate on the Cuban question shows that there are giants in these as well as in other days. It is true that the Senate has been lowered by the presence of such men as Quay, Hanna and Elkins, and that from some other States small men rattle around in seats once occupied by great men (as, for instance, Deboe in Henry Clay's and Pritchard in Vance's seat.)"

The foregoing is taken from Mr. Joseph Daniels' editorial correspondence from Washington the News and Observer. It would seem that he might have spoken as appropriately of Butler "rattling around in Ransom's seat as of Pritchard in Vance's." Does Mr. Daniels mean to leave the impression that he thinks Ransom's seat is filled by Butler, and that there is no "rattling" space in it? We hardly think he can mean that.

COULD NOT SEE IT.

Mr. Joseph Daniels, editor of the News and Observer, has been in Washington several days. He writes regularly for his paper. His letter in Tuesday's paper says that most of Washington people are for war, but adds the following:

"Whether many will go from this city is altogether another thing. An order has been issued giving all government clerks a guarantee that if they enlist, their positions will be held for them and they can return to them when the war has ended. Talking with some very intelligent clerks who were saying that this was very generous on the part of the government, I said to them: 'But it falls short. Instead of agreeing to hold the positions open if you go, Congress ought to pass a law requiring every man who has a position in the government to surrender it for the time and go to the front. This certainly ought to be done as to every unmarried man in the departments at Washington. As the clerks have been getting bigger salaries for lighter work than outsiders, it is nothing but right that they should come out to Cuba and bomb-proof positions and go to Cuba and support by arms the government that directly gives them bread and meat.' Strange to say not a single clerk in hearing endorsed this view of their duty!"

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TAXES FOR WAR.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee of the House have practically completed the preparation of the revenue sufficient to prosecute the war. The members propose that the present generation shall bear the burdens of the war, and proceeding upon that theory they have prepared a bill that will raise between \$100,000,000 or \$120,000,000 additional revenue per annum. The bill will provide for an additional tax of one dollar per barrel upon beer; on manufactured tobacco and snuff the internal revenue tax will be increased from six to twelve cents. The increase on cigars and cigarettes has not been absolutely fixed, but it probably will be one dollar on all classes. The proposition which the Senate placed on the tariff bill, but which went out in conference to tax all stocks and transfers of corporations is embodied in the measure, together with practically all the scheme of internal revenue taxation of the act of 1866, which includes a stamp tax on all checks, drafts and all instruments of business—mortgages, and loans and bonds. A tax on patent and proprietary medicines and a tax on telegraph messages and express packages is also incorporated in the bill. This scheme of taxation is estimated to raise \$35,000,000.

The tax on proprietary and patent medicines will be two cents on packages or bottles retailing at 25 cents or under, and four cents on those retailing above that price. The tax on telegraph messages will be one cent on all messages which cost 25 cents or less, and two cents on all above 25 cents. A duty of ten cents per pound is placed upon tea and three cents per pound upon coffee.

Bottled waters are to bear a tax similar to patent medicines. For the pressing needs of the government the Secretary of the Treasury is given the general power to issue certificates of indebtedness payable in one year and to bear not to exceed 3 per cent interest. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorized to borrow on the credit of the government by popular subscription of a loan of \$500,000,000. This loan is to be placed through the postoffices of the country, the sub-treasuries and government depositories in low-rate bonds, which are to be sold at par. They are to bear 3 per cent interest and to be redeemable after five years at the option of the government and to be due in twenty years. The principal and interest are to be payable in coin.

A LEVEL-HEADED CONTEMPORARY.

Wilmington Star Tuesday.

Nothing has occurred since Sunday morning to change our views as to actual war between the United States and Spain. Our dispatches this morning indicate that a call may be issued for 75,000 volunteers, to be followed by another call for 100,000. But it may be fairly assumed that this is a bluff pure and simple, as, in addition to the regular army, no such number of troops could be used in a war with Spain.

A reasonable forecast now of the plans of the Navy Department is that the port of Havana will be blockaded for a time in order to give Spain an opportunity to relinquish her sovereignty over Cuba without war. In the meantime preparations will be made for landing troops in Cuba; and as soon as Spain sees that she is to be attacked by our navy in front and by our army and that of the Cubans in the rear she will consent to evacuate the island.

We admit the possibility of a sort of French duel at Havana, with the usual understanding that nobody is to be hurt, but we do not expect even that. With a blockade of Havana the Spaniards can be starved into a surrender in thirty days, and this, we are inclined to think, will be the kind of warfare the United States will try first. Spain has made no effort recently to reinforce her army in Cuba, to strengthen the defenses of Havana, or to provision it for a siege; and the Monitor Puritan could sink every war vessel she now has in the harbor. How then, can she make good her boast that she will never surrender the island?

NEWS FROM WHITAKERS.

(Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.)

WHITAKERS, N. C., April 18, 1898. The special services at the M. P. Church on Easter Monday night were well attended and much enjoyed. The decorations were beautiful, the music inspiring and the children's part especially good. Those who had the management of it are to be congratulated upon the success and deserve credit for the faultless manner in which the program was carried out. They have recently had their benches and windows painted, which greatly improves the appearance of the church.

And perhaps it may not be out of place to say just here, that we are a church going people, delight in that kind of work, and can boast of three as nice, comfortable churches as can be found in any town of same size in the State. Mr. B. C. Holland, the popular salesman of a Baltimore House, was here Monday shaking hands with his many friends.

Quite a crowd of ladies left Friday on a shopping expedition. Among them were: Mesdames Knight, Mann, Johnson and Braswell, also Misses Alicetueh and Florida Knight.

Mrs. J. T. Strickland left Friday for Nashville.

Mr. J. C. Arrington and son Ernest were here last week.

Mr. J. W. Exum left Saturday for Norfolk.

Mrs. Lawrence Battle spent Sunday night here.

Miss Mary Battle returned from Rocky Mount Saturday.

Miss Florence Arrington of Nashville is visiting at Mr. M. J. Battle's.

A birthday party for benefit of M. E. church will be given here Friday night 22nd. Everybody invited to come and bring as many pennies as they are years old. Ice cream and cake will be served free. Music will be furnished by Rocky Mount Orchestra.

A Narrow Escape.

Thankful words written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Groton, S. D. "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs, cough set in and finally terminated in Consumption. Four Doctors gave me up, saying I could live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial, took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and thank God I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s Drug Store. Regular size 50c and \$1.00. Guaranteed to cure or price refunded.

Major Clement Dowd, the biographer of Zeb Vance, died at his home in Charlotte last week. He was especially well beloved by the people of his own town and county, and had many warm friends throughout the State. He had made a good record both as a private citizen and as a Representative in Congress.

His last work was the writing of the life of Vance.

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EDGECOMBE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.—The Edgecombe Democratic county convention will be held in Tarboro Wednesday, May 4th. The township primaries will be held on Saturday before, April 30th.

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