

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

Some one writes: "Let jilted lovers have hope." Admiral Dewey's sweetheart married a Spaniard, it is said, and the might-have-been Mrs. Dewey is now in tears.

The Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk last week maintained the high ground it had formerly taken in a "truceless fight" against the liquor traffic.

Truly there is no evil in all the land that is more aggressive in its destruction of every comfort and good of humanity than intemperance. It is past comprehension how any true patriot and lover of his race can be otherwise than opposed to the traffic.

Jumping at conclusions and hasty actions frequently bring about awkward and embarrassing results. This was illustrated the other day in New York when the Democratic Club of that city elected the now famous Dewey an honorary member. One of the members stated that Dewey was "the soundest kind of a Democrat," but it developed after he was elected to honorary membership in the Democratic club that he is a Republican and has been all his life, though like most of the officers in the service he takes no active part in politics.

There was one remarkable fact about the last presidential campaign, namely; that the two candidates were above reproach in their private lives. We do not remember to have heard a word of disparagement concerning the private character of Bryan or McKinley.

We hope that the time may come when this will be the case in every campaign, and every candidate for township constable to president. Let us have pure minded and upright men to vote for always. We ought not to have to make excuses for the private character of a man for whom we cast our ballot.

OUR COUNTRY IT IS.

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DIVISION.
Present Day Thoughts.
BY "NEMO."

When the shells of destruction aimed by steady American hands, hurled against the ill-managed ships and forts in Manila harbor, they did much more than damage the laggard Spain; they did much more than endear Dewey to our hearts; they did much more than add another to the world's deeds of cool courage; they hoarsely sent around the world a proclamation. It was that the American heart is once more one and indivisible. Since the days of '65, when the people "beat their plow-shares and their spears into pruning hooks," there has been needed just such a strong welding influence as the present conflict to make the surface unity of national life a unity in deepest truth.

The unity is here. North to where some rugged opponents to secession still imagined dangers in the southland, South to where equally sturdy and brave men spoke an occasional explanatory "It," West to the States whose majorities were strong against the East whose interests they misunderstood, East where maritime bias and vast commercial interests sometimes foster an apparent pride—from the peaks of the Sierra Madre to the ports of the Atlantic, from the pines of Maine to the palms of Florida—one proud and united endorsement of Deatur's words has gone up "OUR country, may she ever be right! But OUR country, right or wrong."

It is sad to be compelled to agree with Mr. John Fiske when he says "The Spanish system of government in America was so thoroughly bad that even in the hands of saints it could not have succeeded. It was based upon two bad things, commercial monopoly and political despotism."

It is horrible to realize that a peaceful peasantry has been slain to make a desert and then call it "Peace," that a hopeless wail of prolonged agony has gone up to the quiet skies from a thousand times five hundred harmless creatures to a Spanish triumph.

But it is blessed to be able to say that we have heard, and we have answered. Thus, just as with all noble causes espoused, they bring their own sweet reward, and our reward has come, as I pointed out last week, in sinking religious differences, and now in thrilling us all with one spirit of kinship and partnership in the brave deeds done by our navy and projected by our army.

Those poor wretches who have nerved us to strike at the rulers who have fattened on misery, have brought us a greater blessing than we can bring them, much though they need the food-ships and the clothing, the soothing and the solace of friendly regard and treatment. They have brought us into vital union—we are simply setting straight paths before their pierced feet.

moral support that prevented the formation of concerted European action to prevent us from smiting the malefactor. Though our prosperity dates from the time when this her western child went out from the maternal home yet we no longer dwell in the isolation that was once ours, and we welcome her cordially as another gain from this war. In the hearts of some there now arises the desperate hope for a defensive and offensive union of all English speaking people. England rules the eastern hemisphere; the United States rules the western. Their commercial interests are identical, their standards of civilization are the same; they speak one language, inherit one literature and common traditions, and reach toward similar ideals.

Expedience says—united, we double our resources; increase our prestige; improve our trade prospects; and, in the certain guarantee of peace, raise the standard of living and increase the opportunity for progress of all the world. Sentiment says—"blood is thicker than water;" union with England means the greatest race triumph the world has ever seen; the ultimate universality of the grand old tongue in which Shakespeare spoke; and the final and speedy victory of freedom and enlightenment.

Let us see to it that we are large-hearted enough to do our share in that which, as Ambassador Hay thinks, is coming upon us with resistless force of a natural law; lest, in the blindness of petty resentment, we be found fighting against racial destiny.

Business Bars The Drunkard.

"Drunkness to-day is deemed disreputable in the very quarters where only a little while ago it was looked upon simply as a misfortune," writes Edward W. Bok, in the *May Ladies' Home Journal*. "Every line of business shuts its doors absolutely to the drunkard. It has no use for him. Business competition has become so keen that only the men of steadiest habits can find employment. This fact the habitual indulger in alcoholics has found out, and the different 'cure' establishments for drunkenness—and Godsend they are, too, to humanity—are to-day filled with men who have come to a realization of the changed conditions. The man of steady habits is the man of the hour, and the drunkard realizes this. In the social world the same thing is true. The excessive indulgence of even a few years ago would not be tolerated at any dinner to-day. Society has become intolerant of the behavior which inevitably results from excessive indulgence in drinking, and men realize this. It is bad manners to-day to drink to excess. Good taste is spreading, and moderation is necessarily following."

A Pocket Book That Had Been Lost 13 Months.

Durham, N. C.
Mr. A. Parker, a farmer who sells his tobacco here, arrived in the city yesterday and tells the following interesting incident:
About the 7th of April, 1897, his father, Thomas Parker, was here and sold his tobacco, and on his way home he (his father), lost his pocket book, which contained \$10.62, a key and a fishing hook. The money in the pocket book was in two \$5 bills, 50 cents in silver, 10 cents in silver and two copper cents. The old man went home and told his son of his loss, and in a few weeks the old man died. His son was the administrator of the estate, and while on his way here yesterday he camped out, and it happened to be at the same place his father had camped over a year ago. He found the pocket book, which contained just what his father had told him it did over a year ago.

The silver, keys and fishing hook were in a good condition, but the bills were so blackened that they were returned to Washington to have them renewed.

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FIRST AMERICAN BLOOD.

NORTH CAROLINA BOY FALLS FIRST.
Ensign Worth Bagley Killed.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 12.—When the United States gunboat Hudson came up to the government dock at 8 o'clock this morning the bodies of five dead men were lying on her after-deck. They were the remains of Ensign W. Bagley and four members of the crew of the torpedo boat Winslow, who were killed in an engagement in Cardenas harbor yesterday afternoon. The bodies were covered by the stars and stripes.

In the cabin of the Hudson was Captain John B. Bernadou, of the Winslow, who is slightly injured in the left leg, and several others of the Winslow's crew, who are slightly wounded.

The dead are:
ENSIGN WORTH BAGLEY.
JOHN VARVERLES, oiler.
JOSIAH TUNNETT, cabin cook.
J. V. MEEKS, fireman.
J. DANIEL, fireman.

The engagement took place inside the harbor of Cardenas. The gunboat Wilmington, the torpedo boat Winslow and the gunboat Hudson were the only vessels engaged. They entered the harbor for the purpose of attacking some Spanish gunboats which were known to be there. These latter, however, were not injured by the American force until the Spanish opened fire. The land batteries of Cardenas supported the fire of the Spanish gunboats.

The engagement commenced at 2:05 p. m., and lasted for about an hour.

The wounded are:
R. E. COX, gunners-mate; D. McKeon, quartermaster; J. Patterson, fireman; F. Gray, and Lieut. J. B. Bernadou.

All are slightly wounded, except Patterson, whose condition is serious.

The bottle, while it lasted, was terrible. The Wilmington and the Hudson were ahead and opened fire on the Spanish boats which were lying at the docks. The firing being at a range of 3,500 yards. A few minutes later, the Winslow came up and also opened fire. In an instant the entire attention of the Spanish gunboats and land batteries was directed upon her. From all sides shot and shell seemed to pour in upon the little torpedo boat.

The Wilmington and the Hudson still kept up their fire but they could not turn aside the terrible storm of fire and death pouring in upon the torpedo boat.

The crew of the Winslow, however, never faltered for a second. At 2:35 p. m., a solid shot crashed into the hull of the Winslow and knocked out her boiler. In an instant she began to roll and drift helplessly.

The torpedo boat, disabled and helpless, rolled and swayed under the fury of the fire from the Spanish gunboats. When the shell burst in the group on board the Winslow another wild shout of triumph went up from the Spanish boats and batteries and again a heavy fire was opened on the torpedo.

Finally, the Hudson succeeded in getting a line on board the Winslow and was towing her out of the deadly range, when the line parted, and again both boats were at the mercy of the Spanish fire.

At 3:30 p. m., the Hudson managed to get another line on the deck of the Winslow; but there were only three men left there at that time to make it fast. The line was finally secured and the Winslow was towed up to Pedro Island, where she was anchored, with her dead and wounded on her decks. Three who were taken on board the gunboat Machias died there shortly afterward.

At 9:15 p. m. yesterday the Hudson, with the dead bodies and some of the wounded started for Key West, arriving here at 8 o'clock this morning.

Lieutenant Bernadou, with the surgeon bringing him over told the story of the battle to the reporter of the Associated Press as calmly as if talking of the weather. He began: "We went under full speed to attack the Spanish boats in the harbor, and you know the result. We went under orders from the commander of the Wilmington. Our boat is badly damaged, but she will be brought here for repairs, and I think she will be ready for service again in two weeks."

Continuing, the Lieutenant said: "The Winslow was the worst injured, and had five of her men killed and I don't know how many injured. We were ordered to attack the Spanish gunboats at Cardenas, we steamed in under a full head of steam and were fired upon as soon as we were in range. The Spanish boats were tied up at the docks and had a fair range on us. The batteries on shore also opened on us, and I think we received most of the fire. I do not know whether any one was hurt on the Wilmington or on the Hudson, but I think not.

"I have no fault to find with the Winslow's crew. They acted nobly all the way through. The men who were killed all fell at the same time. We were standing in a group and the aim of the Spanish was perfect. A shell burst in our very faces."

The dead and wounded brought here by the Hudson were taken in small boats to the Government dock. This was the first news of the engagement to reach Key West.

No time was lost in ministering to the wounded. A quick call was sent to the Marine Hospital and an ambulance came later down to the dock. The dead were taken to an undertaker shop and the wounded were conveyed to the hospital.

In the meantime, the news had spread and crowds gathered about the dock, but there was no sort of demonstration. The success of the American ships in every action thus far has been so overwhelming that it is hard to realize that death has at last come to some of our men.

Ensign Bagley was about 26 years old and while the fleet was stationed here he was one of the most popular men in the service. The news of his death came as a terrible shock to all who knew him.

It has always been a foregone conclusion that the torpedo boat men were among the first to fall, as their work is most dangerous, but, in spite of this, when the fleet was stationed here and assignments were made, all the young men of the service were eager for torpedo boat duty.

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Yesterday morning a farmer, who hailed from Harnett county, came into a handsome store on Fayetteville street and purchased quite an extensive bill of goods. He appeared to be a fairly prosperous farmer and as an evidence of this fact he had the hard cash with him. After buying the goods he began to converse with one of the proprietors of the establishment. The farmer's attention was attracted by several passing soldiers and he asked if it was a holiday or if there would be a parade. He was dumfounded when he was informed that this country was at war with Spain. He had not heard one word about any trouble between the countries. He excused himself by saying: "Well, I never take a weekly paper, but my eyes are bad and I stopped it three years ago."

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