

THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

Devoted to the Protection of Home and the Interests of the County.

Vol. XIX.

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Editor and Proprietor.

Gastonia, N. C., May 6, 1898.

(\$1.50 per Annum,
Cash in Advance.)

No 18.—EXTRA.

THE GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1898.

W. F. MARSHALL, Editor & Proprietor
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING
Entered at Gastonia, N. C., as second-class
mail matter.

NO WAR NEWS.

We had hoped to give in to-day's extra definite news from Dewey, but there is absolutely none later than that already published.

In Washington, men who ought to know assert that a brief message from Dewey, sent before the cable was cut, is in hands of the department, but the authorities deny it. The message was to the effect that the stars and stripes were floating over Manila.

Up to this writing, noon Friday, the public has no late news from Sampson or Dewey, or the Spanish fleet. If the authorities know, they are keeping their counsel for strategic reasons and wisely, we suppose.

This morning's dispatches tell that relief in the way of explosives, projectiles, supplies, and repair ships will go to Dewey at once from San Francisco, with troops if he needs them. This action of the government would indicate a possibility that Dewey's destruction of the Spanish fleet and ports was wrought at such fearful cost to himself that he is now riding at anchor in distress or, if not in distress, practically helpless.

Had a dispatch boat been sent to Hong Kong right after the battle, her news could have reached us Wednesday morning. If Dewey can once establish cable connection at Manila the wires will put the news in America within 40 minutes afterwards.

HISTORIC BATTLE-CHIEF.

"Remember the Maine," the fleet signal of the Flying Squadron is not the first watch-word of the kind that has spurred Americans to resistless impulse in battle.

During the Texas revolution (1836-8), Col. W. B. Travis and 140 men, including Davis Crockett, were besieged in the Alamo, a fortress near San Antonio, by a force of 4,000 men under Santa Anna. The handful of Texans fought bravely day by day awaiting reinforcements, but they received none save that of 32 men from Goliad who cut their way through to the fort.

Before an overwhelming force the beleaguered Texans divided away as one by one the heroes fell. Crockett was among the last to perish, but he fell upon a heap of twenty Mexicans lying dead about him. Only three escaped. The bodies of the dead Texans were mutilated and buried.

Surrounded by an overwhelming force, Fannin and his men at Colito accepted honorable terms of surrender. They were taken to Goliad, and under orders from Santa Anna were slain to a man. Says the historian:

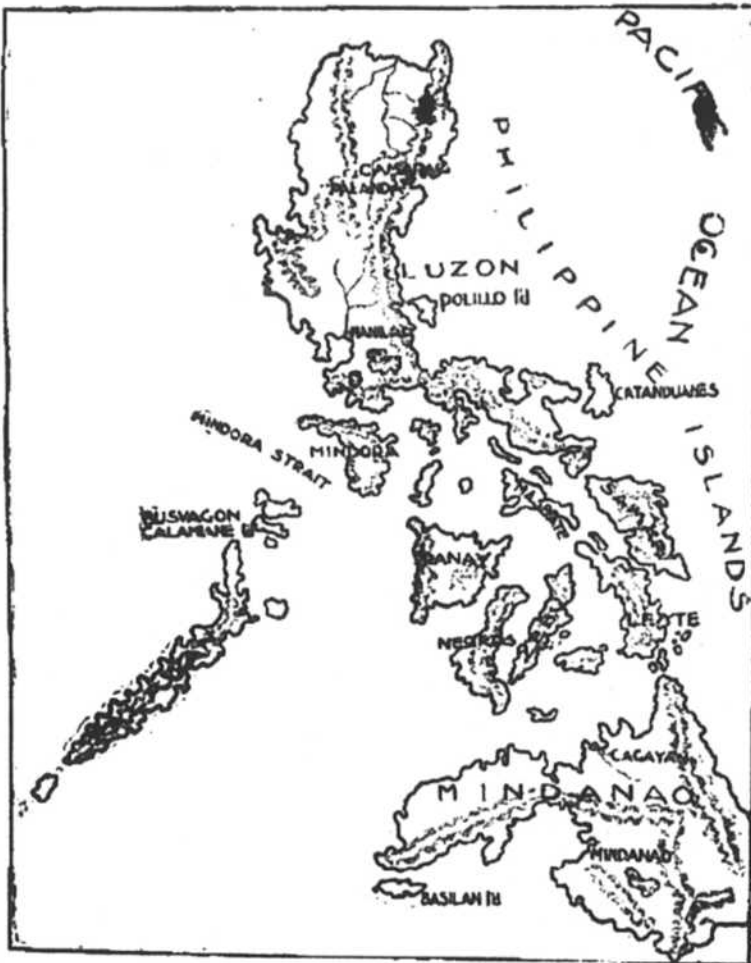
All unsuspectingly they were marched out upon a neighboring prairie, and while the bright sun of a Palm Sunday morn shone kindly upon them, they were shot down in cold blood and their bodies consigned to flames. Small wonder was it that these atrocities served the men of Houston's army to deeds of prowess. At San Jacinto the battle cry was, "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!" and when the Texan onslaught scattered the Mexican forces, and pursuit of the retreating foe was entered into, many a Mexican, realizing how little was his claim for mercy, would fall on his knees when overtaken, and tremblingly repeat, "Me no Alamo!" "Me no Goliad!"

It is painfully manifest that Dewey has not yet formed the letter writing habit.

American gunners are admitted to be the best in the world. The marksmanship and nerve in the passes so far had with Spanish guns do not in the least destroy their title to that great distinction.

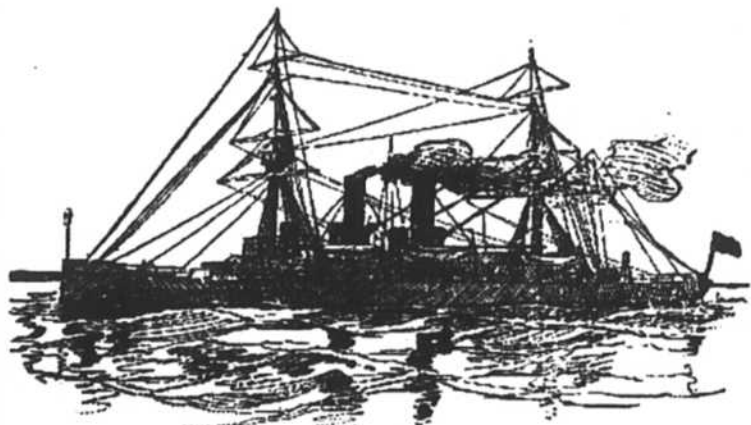
Civil war and general internal destruction are imminent in Spain. The feelings and passions of the conflicting elements are raging at fever heat. The Conservatives and Carlists appear to be the great parties of the future. Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown—and there are others. In the passions of the impetuous populace are powder and dynamite and dry gun-cotton and matches—and rats among the matches.

The invasion of Cuba is not likely to be made before the great conflict expected between Sampson's squadron and Spain's fleet. The Spanish government is believed to be combining and massing all its naval power in one supreme effort to crush the American fleet at Cuba. Failing to win this battle, the foreign power will be practically at the end of her row. With our possession of Cuban waters undisputed, our troops may be safely transported and sustained.



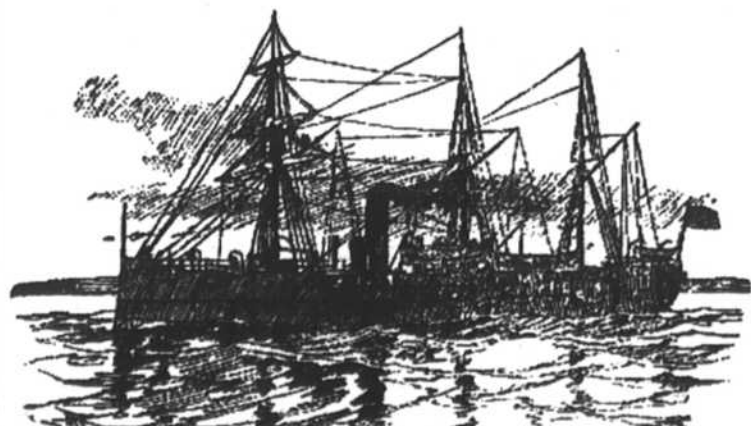
MAP OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

There are so many islands in the Philippines that the exact number is unknown. There are nine very large ones—Luzon, Panay, Zebu, Leyte, Bohol, Negros, Samar, Mindanao and Mindoro—with more than 1,200 smaller ones. They have an entire area of over 130,000 square miles and a population of about 7,500,000. And here again is found the old story—Spanish officials have ruled with a rod of iron, and the worm has turned. Manila, the capital of the Philippines and the chief city of Luzon, contains a population of 330,000, principally Spanish creoles, Chinese half breeds and the original natives. The bay of Manila, the largest and finest in the world, could offer anchorage to the united fleets of Europe.



THE CRUISER BOSTON.

The Boston is a protected cruiser and was built in 1883. She displaces 3,000 tons of water. Her horsepower is 4,080 and her speed 15.6 knots. She has six 6 inch and two 5 inch breechloading rifles, two 6 pound, two 3 pound and two 1 pound rapid fire guns, two Hotchkiss revolving cannon and two Gatlings.



THE GUNBOAT PETREL.

The Petrel was built in 1887. Her displacement is 893 tons, her horsepower 1,095, her speed 11.7 knots. She has four 6 inch breechloading rifles, one 1 pound rapid fire gun, two Hotchkiss revolving cannon and two Gatlings.



VIEW OF MANILLA.

Manilla, the capital and largest city of the Philippine Islands, has a population of about 330,000, consisting of Spanish creoles, Chinese half breeds and natives. Up to within 25 years ago it was a city of imposing appearance, the houses being solidly built of stone, but an earthquake shook most of them to pieces, and when the inhabitants rebuilt they made low, lightly constructed edifices of wood and bamboo.



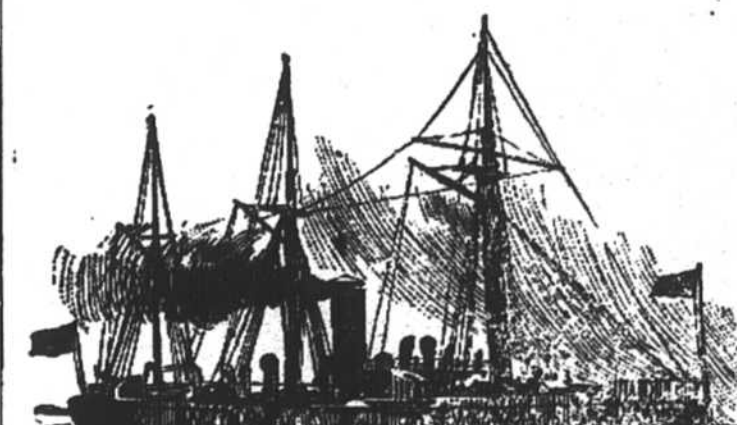
COMMODORE GEORGE DEWEY.

The Asiatic squadron of the United States navy is commanded by Commodore George Dewey, a veteran of the civil war. He is 60 years old and an officer of ripe experience. He took part in the capture of New Orleans, the engagements at Fort Hudson and Donaldsonville, and he fought in the two attacks on Fort Fisher, being on the steam gunboat Agawam. He came out of the war with the rank of lieutenant commander.



THE CRUISER BALTIMORE.

The Baltimore is a protected cruiser and was built in 1887. Her displacement is 4,418 tons; horsepower, 10,004; speed, 20.9 knots. She has four 6 pound and two 3 pound rapid fire guns, two 1 pound rapid fire cannon, four Hotchkiss revolving cannon and two Gatlings.



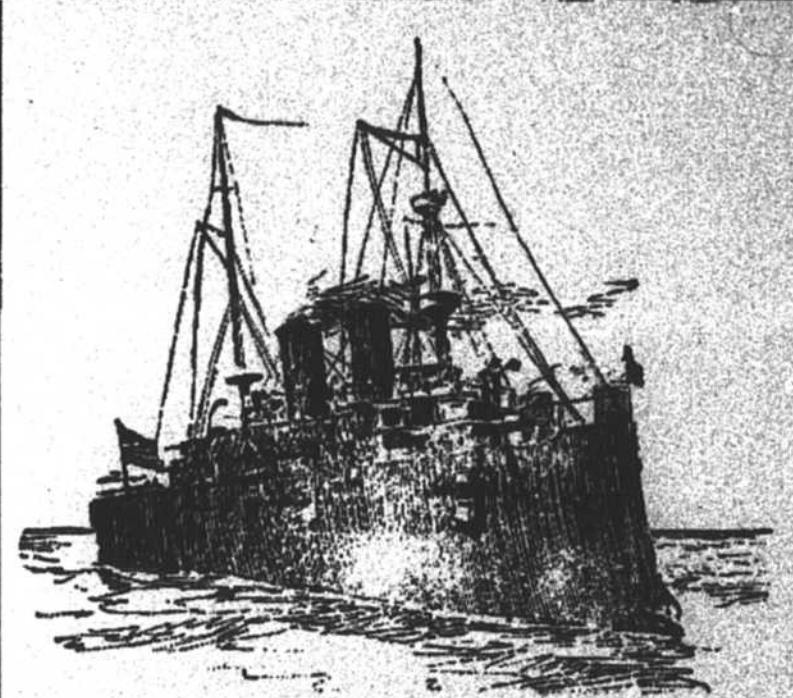
THE GUNBOAT CONCORD.

The Concord was built in 1888. She has six 6 inch breechloading rifles, two 6 pound and two 3 pound rapid fire guns, two Hotchkiss revolving cannon and two Gatlings. Her displacement is 1,710, her horsepower 3,045 and her speed 16.8 knots.



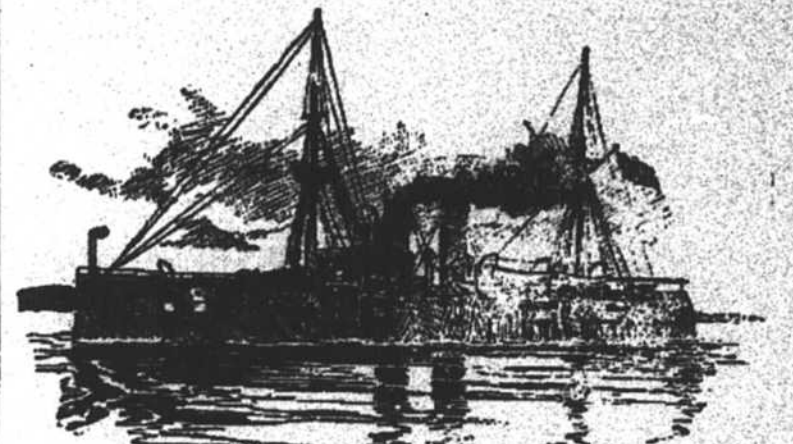
SHOOTING REBELS.

About two years ago the Spanish tried to discourage the rebellion in the Philippines by shooting to death some 63 natives who had been excited for political offenses. There were 46 others who were shot, but not killed. Some folks would call it a massacre. The general who ordered it reported it as a "punishment."



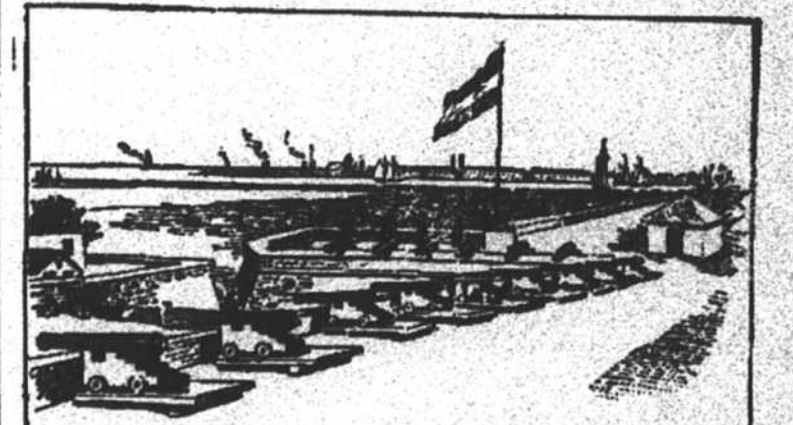
THE FLAGSHIP OLYMPIA.

The Olympia, the flagship of the Asiatic squadron, was built in 1891. Her displacement is 6,570; horsepower, 17,312; speed, 21.6 knots. She has four 10 inch breechloading rifles, ten 5 inch rapid fire guns, fourteen 6 pound and six 1 pound rapid fire guns and four Gatlings. She is a modern protected cruiser.



THE CRUISER RALEIGH.

The Raleigh is a protected cruiser. She was built in 1888, and her statistics are the following: Displacement, 3,218; horsepower, 10,000; speed, 19 knots. She has two 5 inch and one 6 inch rapid fire guns, eight 6 pound and four 1 pound rapid fire cannon and two Gatlings.



SEA WALL AND BATTERIES AT MANILLA.

Manilla, Philippine Islands, is very poorly protected against attack. It has a 500 sea wall extending around the harbor, and above this are some batteries which may look formidable to the civilian, but are not. The guns are of old style, entirely inadequate to cope against the big rifles mounted by modern warships.



NATIVE INSURGENT SOLDIERS.

The natives of the Philippine Islands, who have been for some time fighting for freedom from Spain, are a small, dark brown people and a branch of the Malay race. The features of the men are coarse and ugly, but they have fine, mild eyes. They are tenacious and docile when well treated, but neither quality has been developed by the Spanish.