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CRISIS TO-DAY

Spain's Answer to America's Demand Should Reach Washington this Afternoon.

THE FLYING SQUADRON READY TO MOVE

Spain Declines to Concede to Cuba More Than Autonomy Similar to that of Canada.

Will Go to War Before They Agree to Freedom of Cuba--Senators Frye and Allen Whooping Up Their Resolutions--New York's Quick Appropriation Legislation--Bill Passed and Signed in an Hour.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.—To-day's developments at Madrid may decide the question of peace or war. That Cuba must be free has been determined by the people of the United States.

Spain has been notified that there must be immediate cessation of hostilities. Congress will not wait after Monday.

It is temporarily restrained now only because of the earnest appeal of the President to allow him time to complete the case by making a peremptory demand upon Spain.

After Monday Congress will deal with Spain sharply.

Congressman Grosvenor said, after an interview with the President today: "If the Sagasta Ministry takes immediate action on the demand of the United States we should have a reply by two o'clock to-day. Of course this is in the event that there is no delay on the part of the government in transmitting its decision."

The scheme for the purchase of Cuba formed no part of the demands or suggestions made to Spain.

UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS. After a conference with the President some of his official advisers this morning stated at the White House no message would be sent to Congress during the day in all probability.

The diplomatic communications between Washington and Madrid make unforeseen developments possible. President McKinley stated the situation to members of Congress as follows: The Administration is simply awaiting a definite reply from Madrid. The negotiations in progress all will depend upon the effect of these. The Administration desires to avoid anything tending to a precipitancy of undue haste acting on a matter so fraught with the gravest consequences.

He hopes the issue will come to a definite and early adjustment. If it is settled peacefully it will be gratifying, and if a satisfactory conclusion cannot be reached within a day the Administration will still hope that it will be effected before the week ends. In the meantime he advises no radical or excited talk.

FLYING SQUADRON READY. Commodore Schley and the flying squadron at Hampton Roads have been ordered to be ready at a moment's notice.

FOR INDEPENDENCE. Senator Frye moved to recommit his resolution calling for Cuban correspondence. Senator Allen then took the floor to speak for Cuban independence.

PURCHASE NOT IN IT. Congressman Grosvenor, after a visit to the White House, said in confidence that the Administration has not made any propositions to Spain based on the purchase of Cuba by the insurgents. Senator Hawley is equally confident that the purchase idea is not a part of the Administration's proposition.

BILL PASSED AND SIGNED. ALBANY, N. Y., March 31.—Both house have passed, and the Governor has signed, within an hour and a half, the bill providing for the expenditure of one million dollars for the State militia and naval reserve to place them on a war footing. When the Governor deems it necessary the amount to be made a general tax in next fiscal year.

NO ACTION ON REPORT. The committee on Foreign Relations of the House and Senate, took no action to-day. The House is considering the naval bill.

SPAIN INSISTS ON AUTONOMY. Will Grant the Largest Degree Similar to that of Canada.

By Telegraph to The Times. PARIS, March 31.—The statement comes from an official source here that the chief difficulty in the present differences between Spain and the United States arises from the proposal to proclaim armistice with Cuba, to which Spain would not consent. On the other

hand Spain has informed the European powers interested that she cannot recognize the independence of Cuba, but will grant to that island the largest degree of autonomy.

SPAIN'S PLAN SETTLED. London, March 31.—It is stated on good authority that the Spanish government is willing to concede to Cuba a system of autonomy similar to that of Canada. This is the utmost concession that government will make and rather than grant independence will go to war.

PREMIER SAGASTA'S PLAN. By Telegraph to The Times. MADRID, March 31.—At a conference held to-day between Premier Sagasta and a number of Conservative leaders, the Premier unfolded the terms proposed by the United States. The opposition leaders cancelled their rejection. Senor Sagasta replied that personally he opposed their acceptance. He added that he would like to submit the question of the loss of the "Maine," which was not touched upon at his conference with Minister Woodford, to European powers.

SPANISH SOLDIERS KILLED. By Telegraph to The Times. KEY WEST, March 31.—It is reported here that an explosion at Matanzas killed seventy four Spanish soldiers.

GOV. BLACK FOR WAR. Recommends \$1,000,000 for Defraying Expense of State Guard in case of a War.

By Telegraph to The Times. ALBANY, N. Y., March 31.—Governor Black to-day sent a message to the Legislature recommending that one million dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses of the National Guard and naval militia volunteers of this State in case of war with Spain. Assemblyman Nixon introduced a bill carrying out the Governor's recommendations.

SOLELY TO THE MAINE. By Telegraph to The Times. VIENNA, March 31.—The proposed mediation of powers between Spain and the United States refers solely to the American ship Maine.

BEARS ON WAR CRISIS. By Telegraph to The Times. LONDON, March 31.—The request of the Austro-Hungarian government for fifty million florins to increase the navy is generally credited. It is regarded as having a direct bearing on the Spanish-American war crisis.

HARRISON DENIES RUMOR. By Telegraph to The Times. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.—It is emphatically denied this morning that ex-President Harrison's visit here is for the purpose of going into the Cabinet.

TRAINED SAILOR LADS. By Telegraph to The Times. KEY WEST, FLA., March 31.—The practice ship "Annapolis" sailed for the north this morning to deliver her well trained apprentices to other vessels, and to take on a new lot.

ZOLA SENTENCE CONFIRMED. By Telegraph to The Times. PARIS, March 31.—The Court of Appeals affirms the verdict of Zola, but it will not be put into effect. The sentence will probably be remitted.

STEVE BRODIE DEAD. By Telegraph to The Times. ALBANY, March 31.—Steve Brodie, the celebrated bridge jumper, died suddenly on a railway train this morning.

A GENERAL BACK-DOWN. The Rev. Dr. Burns, who up to this time has been bristling for war, is authority for the statement that there has been a general back-down from the President to the Railroad Commission. The Doctor is an authority on the war situation, and could perhaps untangle the present complications as well as McKinley is now doing.

PICKARD HOLDS ON

Mr. Duncan's Answer to Orange County.

INJURED IN HIS DUTY

THEREFORE COLLECTOR WILL SEE HE IS TREATED PROPERLY.

All Deputy Collectors Will Be Reappointed To-Morrow for 30 Days Extension--No Washington News.

News was received at the Revenue Department to-day that Deputy Collector T. Frank Pickard, the Democratic Collector, in Orange county, had been injured and that a successor should be appointed.

The news came from an applicant for Mr. Pickard's position and, it is stated, that letters reached here to-day from "Uncle Tommie" Lloyd, which were urging action by Collector Duncan, and James A. Cheek, of Hillsboro, who has an applicant for the position is here and it is possible that his object is to see Mr. Duncan about Pickard's successor.

Mr. Duncan was seen this morning by a representative of The Times.

He said that he had received a letter from a man in Orange county, and in the letter the man intimated that Mr. Pickard had been injured and that his successor should be appointed. Mr. Duncan says that Mr. Pickard will be reappointed to-morrow and that he wrote to-day a very plain letter to the man who urged the appointment of a successor. Mr. Duncan told him that Mr. Pickard would certainly be reappointed and that since he was injured while he was performing his duty there would certainly be no successor named.

It appears that the Orange county Deputy Collectors have been the hottest contest of the many and from to-day's developments it seems they will go to any extreme to gain their point.

The Deputies who will be reappointed are as follows: Joseph J. Daniel, Halifax; William P. Gibson, Hamlet; Richard C. Hill, Kinston; John W. Jones, Raleigh; John D. Meador, Reidsville; J. Frank Pickard, Chapel Hill; Harry W. Stubbs, Williamston; James A. Thomas, Louisville; Wesley C. Troy, Fayetteville; Alfred B. Williams, Durham.

Mr. Duncan has received no late advices from Washington but still hopes for early action by Congress on the Civil Service law and for this reason does not make the reappointments for a longer period.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson is in Raleigh to-day.

Mr. W. E. White, of Mebane, was in Raleigh this morning.

James A. Cheek, of Hillsboro, is in Raleigh to-day.

H. L. Taylor, of Washington, is registered at the Yarrowburgh.

Mayor Russ has returned from Southern Pines.

L. O'B. Branch Camp of Confederate Veterans will meet to-night in the Mayor's office at 8:30 o'clock.

Editor H. B. Varner, of the Lexington Dispatch, is in the city, registered at the Yarrowburgh.

The trustees of Elon College will hold a meeting in Raleigh on the 29th of April at 4:30 p. m., on important business—the same date that the Southern Christian Convention will convene in Raleigh.

There is universal regret at the Orange that we are to part with one of our best boys, Seth Gay, who has for years done faithful work on Charity and Children, leaves us to-morrow to accept a position with the News and Observer, of Raleigh. Seth is a bright boy of fine character and will reflect honor on the institution that sheltered him through his childhood. He has made good use of the excellent training he received under Foreman Jones, and is a printer of more than usual talent and skill. The very best wishes of us all follow him to his new home, where we believe he will deserve and hold the confidence and esteem of his employers and friends.—Charity and Children.

TO BE MARRIED.

Invitations have been received here announcing the marriage of Miss Corinna Louise Smith to Mr. Hugh Ira Satterfield. This happy event will be solemnized at the home of the bride, 408, North Person street, Raleigh, N. C. on April 13, 1898. The groom to be, is well known here, having lived here a number of years, and has many friends who will join in extending congratulations in advance.—Durham Sun.

GONE HOME TO DIE

John Evans' Penalty on the Gallows.

HE IS NOT EXCITED

"THE FAIREST AND NOBLEST WORK OF GOD TO BE AVENGED."

Sheriff Smith This Afternoon Took John Evans Back to Richmond County--Will Hang To-Morrow--

On the morning train from the South arrived two men who came to Raleigh on an important mission.

The two men are Sheriff Smith, of Richmond county, and Mr. W. D. McLaurin, who is here to aid him. The object of their visit to Raleigh was to take into their custody John Evans, who to-morrow will hang at Rockingham for the rape of Miss Cole, near that town not many months ago.

Evans, it will be remembered, was given a speedy trial, but a full and careful hearing and was sentenced to be hanged by the neck until dead. The date was set for over two months ago, but rumors of the discovery of new evidence which would clear Evans caused Governor Russell to postpone the fatal day for thirty days. During that time no new evidence was furnished until at the last moment when the execution was again postponed for 30 days. The Governor and Council of State again postponed the date one week.

During the past few days the evidence gathered by Clerk Sims, of the Auditor's office, was reviewed, and the decision was given out that Evans would hang Friday, April 1st. The report has been circulated in Raleigh that the Council of State was unanimous in favor of commutation and that the Governor over-ruled them.

This is denied by an authority who states that Auditor Ayer and Secretary of State Thompson voted with the Governor, Treasurer Worth for commutation and Mr. Mebane's attitude is unknown.

Evans, when he left the jail this afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock, did not appear excited or worried. He remains firm in declaring his innocence. Just before leaving he thanked the jailer and sheriffs for their kindness to him while in prison.

To-morrow a great crowd will be in Rockingham to see the hanging, arrangements for which have been completed.

The Rockingham Rocket, which has just reached here, contains the following:

"The Governor has at last decided to interfere no further in the Evans case, and consequently, John Evans will pay the penalty of his awful crime on the gallows of Rockingham to to-morrow (Friday).

"Let us not rejoice that a human being is to be executed, but rather, that the supremacy of the law is to be vindicated, even at the sacrifice of human life; and that to-morrow, the fairest and noblest work of God is to be avenged. The prisoner who meets his sad fate receives but the just penalty of the law, and yet his punishment is even then not commensurate with the wrong he has done, the happiness he has blighted. Let it ever be the purpose of the law to vindicate virtue, and when a fiendish brute is convicted of assault after a fair and impartial trial, let there be no tardiness in the execution of the sentence of the law. This has been a peculiar case. Every effort that counsel could make (except the natural, reasonable and usual method to appeal to the higher court) has been made, and hitherto it seemed that justice would be thwarted, but at last, the God who presides over the destinies of nations and individuals, by his providence, overruled the trend of matters and the supremacy of the law is maintained, justice enthroned, and woman avenged."

REV. BARKER FINED.

He Struck Mr. Frank Heartt a Blow That Cost \$13.65.

This afternoon Rev. J. C. Barker, the colored preacher who has charge of the old folks' home for the colored people, was fined \$13.65 for an assault upon Mr. Frank Heartt, of the firm of Heartt and Heartt, druggists.

Barker is a large and powerful man, and with little cause jumped on Mr. Heartt, who is rheumatic and unable to defend himself.

The cause of Barker's anger was that Mr. Heartt stepped on his foot. The trial was before Justice H. H. Roberts.

The young ladies of chapter No. 6, S. M. G. Guild, will give an Egg Hunt Tuesday afternoon of Easter week, at 4 o'clock, at Mrs. Elizabeth Grimes's. The admission fee will be ten cents. All the children are invited to come.

FOR LIFE OR DEATH

Jury Now Has Booker's Case.

DAY IN COURT ROOM

SPEECHES BY COUNSEL ON BOTH SIDES CONCLUDED THIS AFTERNOON.

Jim Booker Faces the Mother of His Victim, Meheley White--Has Not Raised His Head To-day.

Superior court met this morning at 10 o'clock, and long before that hour the court room was over-crowded. Solicitor Poul took his seat on the right of the judge's desk at 10 o'clock promptly. Attorneys Ryan and J. C. L. Harris, who are counsel for defense in the case of the day, came in a moment later, and Judge Timberlake, when he arrived, had some difficulty in pushing his way through the crowd.

A special venire of fifty men was present, and the work of selecting the jury to try Jim Booker for the murder of Meheley White in August, 1896, was begun. Time and again defense refused the would-be jurymen; prosecution told more than one to stand aside and nineteen were dismissed for cause. The jury when it was completed was composed entirely of white men. During the work of selecting the jury nearly every colored man who was sworn was asked by Attorney Harris if he had made up his mind as to the guilt of Booker, invariably the negroes answered yes.

The jury as finally selected, was one of the most intelligent that has tried a case in Wake county in years. Those composing the twelve, which will settle the fate of Jim Booker, are: G. S. Wrenn, M. S. Barbee, Thomas Busbee, W. H. Hood, W. H. Candler, B. H. Mitchell, W. A. Straughn, Bryant Smith, C. T. Bailey, Henry Pace, Joseph Blake and E. R. Pace.

Penny White, the mother of Meheley White, the alleged victim of James Booker, was placed on the stand.

She told the story of her daughter's death from an unnatural cause. She told of the night that Jim Booker came to the house about nine or ten o'clock and asked for some black pepper. Meheley gave him the black pepper, and he went away the same way he came. Then she went out in the garden, threw something in the crib, and then sat down on the door step.

He had no gun when he came after the pepper, but when he returned an hour later Jim had a gun. He was down back of the barrel and she said nothing more than, "Lord, mama, come here." When he shot her she fell dead. I cried, "Lord, Jim, you've shot my child," and he didn't say nothing, but went from my house toward Crabtree.

After he left Penny said she cried and when Mr. Richard Blake came I told him the whole story. He told me not to let anything be done with her until he came back. She said she was in hearing distance of Meheley and Jim Booker, and there was no light or fuss. "I know, Mr. Poul," said Penny, "that's the man that shot my child."

She pointed her long forefinger at Jim Booker, who winced as their eyes met. He lowered his lids and for a long time looked steadily at the floor.

Mr. J. C. L. Harris, one of counsel for defense, cross-examined Meheley's mother. She said there were two rooms to her house, and there are two doors to the south room. The house is on the edge of the woods, but in a cleared field. The house is not a mile from where Booker lived. In the morning she went over to carry the iron's back and she wasn't gone long when she returned, and Jim was with her.

Mr. Harris tried to get Aunt Penny to say that one of them brought some potatoes, but she denied. It was a sunshiney Saturday when the crime was committed. He didn't shoot but one time; didn't know what sort of gun it was. Booker took it away with him.

Robert White, a young boy about years of age and the son of Meheley, the murdered woman, was next placed on the stand. He said that the day his mother was murdered he went hunting. When he got home his grandmother was there and his mother was lying against the house dead. Penny White, the grandmother, told him Jim Booker killed his mother.

On cross-examination he said there were two guns and when he returned the double barrelled gun was still loaded as it was when he left. He was hunting with a single barrel gun. He went home when he heard his grandmother screaming.

Mr. Richard Blake, who lives about two hundred yards from Meheley (Continued on third page.)

THE DAY AT SHAW

Final Commencement Exercises Held.

DR. BUTLER SPEAKS

HIS SUBJECT, "THE COLLEGE AND AMERICAN LIFE," WELL HANDLED.

Thirteen Professional Graduates from Law, Medical and Pharmaceutical Departments--Annual Address.

The final exercises of the commencement of the professional schools of Shaw University took place at 11 a. m. to-day. The exercises opened with prayer by Rev. J. E. King, of this city.

The principal address was delivered by President Butler, of Colby University, Maine, from the subject: "The College and American Life." It was a masterly address, and all that he claimed for college training was fully illustrated by his own appearance and ability.

The Hon. H. P. Cheatham, LL. D., being unavoidably prevented from attending, General T. J. Morgan, LL. D., Secretary of the Home Mission Society of New York, was requested to present the various diplomas and address the graduates. This he gracefully did in a short but most impressive speech, replete with rhetoric embellishment and such advice as comes from a man of his great learning and experience.

There were thirteen graduates from all the departments, and these were arrayed in their college caps and gowns, as was also President Meserve.

The annual address of President Meserve was then read by himself, and showed much progress in all these departments, as well as much practical work done for the community during the past session.

One of the most attractive features of the programme was the music. Miss Lovina Haywood, the musical directress, rendered a piano selection, accompanied by the orchestra. She showed remarkable skill as a pianist and fully sustained the reputation which she had made the previous night by the most excellent programme which she had arranged for the Soiree Musicale.

There were many distinguished persons on the platform with the medical, law and pharmaceutical faculty, persons from Raleigh and abroad. Among them was Mr. Shaw, who always attends the commencement after the custom of his great and good father.

These exercises were on a high order and fully measure up to such exercises in any school of the country.

THE WEATHER.

For Raleigh and Vicinity: Fair to-night and Friday. Heavy frost Friday morning.

Weather Conditions.—The storm has moved off the north Atlantic coast. The weather is still cloudy over all the Atlantic States, with some rain in the past 24 hours, but is likely to clear to-day. An extensive high pressure area is central over Mississippi and Ohio valley, with quite cold weather. The temperature is 32 at Cincinnati and 36 at Knoxville.

The temperature is rising in the west.

SUPREME COURT.

Eighth District. Howard v. Railroad, argued by Avery; Overman, Long and Long for plaintiff; Price, Bason for defendant.

Kinney v. Railroad, submitted in briefs by F. C. Robbins; Long & Long for plaintiff; Charles Price and Geo. Bason for defendant.

Faggart v. Bost, submitted under Rule 12, on printed briefs, by Armfield & Turner; J. A. Hartness for appellee.

CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS.

The Christian Church to be Fitted up With Electric Lights.

This week's Christian Sun contains the following item that will interest many readers:

A series of meetings has been in progress at the Raleigh Christian church since the third Sunday. Brother Foster has been doing some earnest preaching and faithful work, and considerable interest has been manifested in the meetings. The church will be fitted up with electric lights now in a few days. They are much needed, as the gas lights are not bright enough. The church is to be congratulated on this contemplated improvement.

OTHO FOR CONGRESS.

The Raleigh correspondent of the Wilmington Star, says: "Orho Wilson announces his candidacy for the Populist nomination for Congress. Orho says Congressman Stroud promised him at the last election to give him his support should he ever ask for it."