

CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

Democrats Win a Great Victory In Congress.

WON CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

Grosvenor the Most Intense Partisan In the House.

PATRIOTISM OF THE SOUTHERNERS

Outshone the Love of Country Exhibited by Northern Republicans—In the Future There Should Be No Question as to Our Foreign Policy—European Powers Tentative at Our Will.

[Special Washington Letter.]

"Twas a famous victory" which the Democrats won in the long and bitter fight over the Cuban question. While the house resolutions as amended by the senate and again amended by the house and again amended by the conferees are not as strong as the resolutions submitted to the house by the Democratic minority of the house foreign affairs committee, they are so much stronger than the milk and cider resolutions originally passed by the house on Wednesday, April 13, that we house Democrats can truthfully and literally claim a decisive victory. True we did not get quite all we wanted, but then the president got a great deal more than he wanted—got the very thing he argued against in his message—to wit, Cuban independence.

The historian of our times will render the verdict that in the hour of the country's peril the Democrats stood foremost for justice, liberty, humanity and the maintenance of the national prestige, dignity and honor.

There has been a good deal of gorgeous eloquence about a reunited country, as though that were a thing brought about in 1898. Not so, however. The country has, thank God, been reunited ever since Grant uttered the noblest words that ever fell from mortal lips, "Let us have peace," and since Joseph E. Johnston attended him to the grave as one of his pallbearers. Every man living in a border state, where passion burned the fiercest, knows this, but it requires a long time for some people to learn a lesson, and I am glad that at last—15 years after the fact—when the dumbest has discovered that this is in very truth a reunited country. As to foreign nations, to borrow the felicitous words of Jefferson in 1801, "We are all Federalists; we are all Republicans!" which, being interpreted into modern phraseology, would read, "We are all Republicans; we are all Democrats."

Patriotic Southerners.

In this struggle to recognize Cuban independence the southern Democrats have been more patriotic than northern Republicans. That fact cannot be gainsaid.

If I were called upon to name the most intense partisan in the house, I would unhesitatingly name General Grosvenor of Ohio. When he is forced to admit publicly the burning patriotism of the southern people, it may be safely assumed that everybody else will admit it also. Having used words in the heat of debate which everybody thought meant that he intended to say that the impending war with Spain would be "a Republican war" and having been so charged by the New York Sun, the general rose in his place and said:

"My purpose was not to intimate that the Democratic party of this country was not as loyal to the country as was the Republican party, and I had taken occasion to state, earnestly, at the time of the passage of the \$50,000,000 emergency bill, my unqualified indorsement, and, indeed, my profound delight, at the record of the Democratic party with reference to it. My proposition, which I was seeking to enforce, was that this administration having three years to serve, the war that we were entering upon probably at that time, and certainly now, would have to be conducted under the administration of the present chief executive of the United States, and I was appealing to gentlemen on this floor not to hamper the administration in any manner, but to stand together solidly in its support. "And now, if it is necessary, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly think it is not, I will say that I believe this war will be as energetically waged, both in the machinery necessary to carry it on and the response to the call for arms by the administration, by the Democrats and by the Republicans as by the Republicans, and especially do I believe that the response of patriotism will come from every southern state from every Confederate soldier who is capable of bearing arms and will be joined in by one triumphant echo of victory among the people of the south and by the loyal men who were the blue." [Prolonged applause.]

Grosvenor's Statement.

I quote the general's statement (I will not call it a recantation, as he disclaimed the construction placed on his words) for the purpose of giving it a wider circulation than that afforded by The Congressional Record. It is by a long shot the noblest thing the grim old soldier ever said.

As illustrative of southern patriotism, and also for the purpose of illuminating this chapter in our history, I make the following quotations from speeches of southern and border state Democrats, to be taken in connection with similar quotations in former letters. They are mere samples, and the whole piece is of the same quality.

Judge David A. De Armond of Missouri is admitted on all hands to be one of the ablest members and one of the most incisive talkers in the house. On Jan. 18, three months ago, on his amendment to the diplomatic and con-

sular appropriation bill to recognize Cuban belligerency, he said inter alia: "I insist that it is in order, in the highest sense of legislation, above and beyond petty little rules made to suppress, destroy, hamper, minimize and defeat the desires of the representatives of the people, to put into the bill a provision which is illustrative of their sense of prevailing conditions and needs."

"Is this subject worthy of consideration? Is it worth while for the representatives of the American people to declare what they think about the situation in Cuba? Is it worth while for them, when every day's newspapers bring the most harrowing tales of suffering and outrage and wrong, to consider whether anything shall be done? "Should these representatives hold themselves within the narrow, petty limits of little rules; fiddle while Rome is burning; bow here, complainant and acquiescent, merely because some little rule is invoked, when principles as mighty, principles as glorious, principles as holy as patriots ever espoused or heroes ever defended are involved in the consideration? It would be more orderly, it would be more in seeming with the general performance under the rules, if the resolution looking to the recognition of Cuban belligerency were before us formally, to be acted upon formally and regularly; but it is not here. We are not allowed to have it thus before us. For months the senate resolution has slept in some of the secret places in the room of the committee on foreign affairs."

Shameful Dilly Dallying.
"The power that is dominant in the house, the mighty power of the speaker, and the acquiescence of you gentlemen upon the other side in the suppression of that which your constituents as well as mine desire to have considered have kept that resolution away from us. What promise have we, what ground of hope have we, that the representatives upon this floor will be unshackled voluntarily; that the bonds will be broken; that the despotic power exerted over them will be staid; that graciously they will be permitted to consider here the things which their constituents demand shall be considered, which in the name of humanity and justice and patriotism and right ought to be considered, and which too long have been delayed?"

"The attitude of the government with respect to Cuban affairs has been shameful. It is a disgrace to American manhood, an insult to American patriotism. It is contrary to the traditions, contrary to the history, contrary to the impulses and the aspirations of the people of this great republic." [Loud applause.]

Jan. 20, in my speech on Cuba and "The Monroe Doctrine as Interpreted by a Missouri Democrat," I said:

"Surely the time for dilly dallying and shilly shallying on the Cuban question is past. There never was any sense in mincing words about it. The hour for honest, courageous, unequivocal speech and action is at hand. "This republic ought to grant belligerent rights to the Cuban patriots. She should recognize the independence of Cuba. If Spain does not bring the war to a speedy conclusion, the United States ought to expel her from the western hemisphere. These things ought to be done in the cause of humanity. They ought to be done as the beginning of a sound and permanent business policy. They ought to be done as evidence of our settled determination to be supreme in the affairs of our half of the world. Man does not live for himself alone. Neither does a nation."

Rebel and Revolutionist.
"We were the first rebels or revolutionists in this hemisphere, for let it never be forgotten that the only distinction between a rebel and a revolutionist is that the latter succeeds, while the former fails. It is not a difference of principle, but of results—that is all."

"There can be no doubt as to what has been our traditional foreign policy. What our foreign policy is under the McKinley administration, like the peace of God, passeth all understanding. [Laughter.] There ought to be no question as to our foreign policy in the future. Tersely and bluntly stated, it is this—and it ought to be enforced with iron hand—that we intend at all hazards and at whatever cost to thoroughly dominate the western world."

Then, after stating the language of Jefferson and Monroe as to the Monroe doctrine, I said:
"The Monroe doctrine has grown with our growth, strengthened with our strength, increased with our territory. It ought to be enlarged, stretched, expanded, until it becomes an irresistible force in international politics. In its infancy Mr. Monroe simply notified European nations that new schemes of colonization in this hemisphere would be regarded with an unfriendly eye by this republic. That was a sufficient assertion of our position so long as we were a feeble folk, but now that we are the most puissant nation on the globe we should restate our position and should at once signify to all European powers that they retain a foothold in the western hemisphere only by our sufferance, that they are mere tenants at will, and that when notified by us they must vacate the premises." [Applause.]

"Congress should formulate the Monroe doctrine as we now understand it, and it should be in words about as follows: 'The American republic hereby takes all of North America, Central America, South America and all the islands of the adjacent seas under the shadow of her protecting wing, guaranteeing to them any form of government they choose and warns Europe, Asia and Africa to keep their hands off the western hemisphere on the penalty of being thrashed within an inch of their lives.' [Applause.]

A Memorable Step.
"That is the Monroe doctrine as interpreted by a Missouri Democrat. [Laughter.] We should extend a moral protectorate over them all. Not one of these Central or South American republics can maintain its independence without our support. They caught the spirit of freedom from us. They copied their

form of government from ours. Round about the young and feeble republics already established in this hemisphere we should throw our friendship and influence, and we should encourage Cuba and all the rest of the West India islands to unite themselves into a republic of their own. The habit of representative government is healthy and laudable. It should be fostered by us in every way possible. We should not only lend them our moral support, but should give them physical aid in cases of necessity."

In closing, in order to get what we wanted, I said:

"My Republican friends, I urgently invite you to lay aside the weight that is holding you down, assert your rights and come out on the side of eternal justice and human liberty, thereby demonstrating that you are worthy of the high vocation wherein you are called. We Democrats and Populists stand here ready and anxious to remove from America her great reproach. We on this side will contribute 155 votes to the good cause. If only 24 righteous men can be found in this Republican Sodom—if only 24 Republicans will break their heavy yoke, defy their merciless taskmasters and join us in this noble work, before the sun sets this day we will send the glad tidings ringing round the world that 'Cuba is free! Free, thank God, by the act of the American congress!'" [Applause.]

At the time of their delivery these utterances were denounced by certain newspapers of "the peace at any price" variety as wild jingoism. However, for weal or woe, in less than 90 days the two houses of congress solemnly placed the same ideas—a little veiled perhaps, but the same, nevertheless—into a joint resolution, which the president signed. So that in the blessed year 1898 we have taken a bold and memorable step by announcing that henceforth and forever we are the sole masters of this western hemisphere. What was "jingo raving" in January is the settled policy of a mighty people in April. Verily, "the world does move."

Citizens Must Be Protected.

March 8, in speaking in favor of the \$50,000,000 peace (?) appropriation, Thomas C. McKee, the dean of the Arkansas delegation, a man of influence, capacity and conservatism, said and in so saying spoke the sentiments of his state and section:

"Mr. Speaker, this is an important occasion, perhaps the most important since that memorable one that divided our people and put them to fighting among themselves. It is an occasion when patriotism should and I dare say will obscure sectionalism and partisanship. It is an occasion when Americanism should assert itself in behalf of the defense of American honor."

"I join with my friend from Mississippi (Mr. Allen) in saying for the people of the south, and particularly for the state from which I come, that there is but one sentiment, and that is that if this impending war can be honorably averted without injury to the cause of freedom it ought to be, but if some reckless, impetuous foreign foe shall invade our shores or assault our citizens we will show them 'whose dripping blade and stalwart arm will hew a red circle in their line and fence our country's flag from harm.'"

"Mr. Speaker, the flag which floats over this capitol and the flag that so gracefully hangs over your chair is the flag of the south as it is of the north. We have no other flag. We want no other flag. This is good enough for us and has behind it power enough to protect every American citizen. And in this hour of threatened and impending war every man who claims to be an American and who would desire to exalt American manhood should bury his partisanship and by an affirmative vote on this bill say that the honor of this government and the liberty and rights of our citizens everywhere shall be protected by it without regard to cost." [Loud applause.]

A Glorious Record.

Hon. Benton McMillin, one of the house leaders, who missed a United States senatorship recently only by two votes, and who after 20 years of splendid service in congress declines a reelection in order to be governor of Tennessee, in discussing the question of time for debate on the majority and minority house resolutions said in part:

"There is, Mr. Speaker, a great difference between these two resolutions. It is known that a year ago, or nearly a year ago, there came from the senate a resolution recognizing the belligerent rights of Cuba. I, on behalf of gentlemen on this side, moved to suspend the rules and pass it."

"That side of the house fled from it by forcing an adjournment of the house and preventing consideration. It is the most unfortunate day that this congress has experienced when that side action was taken; for if that day we had simply recognized the rights of Cuba and given her a chance to win her independence—if we had taken our revenue cutters from around her borders and given the patriotic people of this country a chance to send them supplies, and for them to buy supplies, without armies that will perish from yellow fever, and without foreign complications, Cuba would have been free from today and we would have been free from obligations." [Applause on the Democratic side.]

"And today 260 gallant American sailors, whose glory will not fade until that flag flutters on account of their sacrifice for their country, would have been living American sailors."

There were many other speeches of like tenor as those above quoted. I wish I could give them all, as they make a glorious record for Democrats—a record which demonstrates beyond all question that we are what we have always claimed to be—the great, patriotic party of America."

Champ Clark

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FINE ARTS AT THE EXPOSITION.

Director A. H. Griffith of the fine arts bureau has come to Omaha to superintend the installation of the works of art in the fine arts building, and will be here continuously from this time on until the close of the exposition.

He and his assistants will probably be able to begin hanging pictures Wednesday, for it is stated that one of the rooms in the building will be ready for them at that time. About 150 pictures are here and more are coming.

In all, about 700 pictures have been secured. More have been promised and will be shipped, but the original intention of making the collection not large but excellent will be carried out, and it is not likely that more than 600 pictures will go on the walls.

Among the foreign paintings will be a lot of seventy shipped by Commissioner Mayer of Paris, and these are supposed to be in New York now, having been sent on the Navarre from Harve, April 30. So that the war, however it may affect foreign exhibits in general, is not going to have any effect in impairing the art display.—Omaha World-Herald.

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Champ Clark

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