

OUR WOMEN IN WAR.

VOICES OF WIVES AND DAUGHTERS ARE NOW HEARD.

Want to Join the Service as Nurses or as Aides of Any Kind—Noble Deeds of Women on Both Sides During the Civil War.

The president and secretary of war are receiving letters from patriotic women all over the country anxious to be mustered into service.

A letter received at the White House, and addressed "President McKinley,



CLARA BARTON.

Washington, D. C., reads: "I write asking if I would be of any use to you in this Cuba trouble. I am only a woman, but I can nurse the sick and wounded. I only wish I were a man. I would go and volunteer to take one of our unfortunate ones' place who went down with the Maine. If you need women to nurse, or if in any way I can be of service to you for my country's sake, please let me know. I am strong, weigh 150 pounds, height five feet five and one-half inches, age 37 years, and a good nurse. Hoping to be of service to my God and my country, I am at your command."

Another says: "I was one of the first volunteer nurses during the war of the rebellion; experience on transports and in hospitals. If there is another war I am ready."

A Canadian woman, who says her brother fought for our flag in the late war, offers her services, and adds in her letter to the president: "Failing the position of nurse, I shall be glad to give my services in any other capacity where I may be of use."

From away down in Colorado another woman, who addresses her letter "War Department," offers her services in these words: "Should there be a war between the United States and Spain, would there be any show for us to get transportation. We are nurses, and strong, healthy women. There are two of us, aged 35 years."

These are but several examples of the correspondence being received from American women.

In the event of an outbreak with Spain positions in the army will be open to many women, the number of course depending upon the extent of the struggle. During the late war hundreds of women served in many capacities with relation to the army, most of them as nurses, some as spies and others as purveyors, laundresses, etc.

Should a great war break out the hospital corps of the army would have to employ a great number of women nurses. Secretary Alger would probably appoint an experienced woman as superintendent of nurses. In 1861, at the beginning of the civil war, Secretary of War Cameron appointed Miss Dorothea Dix for this duty. She offered her services without compensation, and nurses selected by her were found upon every battlefield from Bull Run to Appomattox. They were in every Union hospital.

While the typical army nurse is always described by the idealist as a youthful, tender "angel of mercy," with a beautiful face, it is interesting to know that generals in command of ar-

war was \$12 a month, but it is said that hundreds of women of social rank and position, without waiting to be formally mustered in, served without pay or hope of reward. She who is now volunteering to aid in a conflict with Spain is not the "new woman," but the same patriotic creature who offered herself to her flag in 1861.

General Sherman called "Mother Bickerdyke," the celebrated nurse of the civil war, one of his "best generals."

The woman who would be the most conspicuous of her sex in a great war between the United States and Spain is Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross, who is now caring for the starving Cubans.

Should a war break out with Spain, woman's most valuable military service will be done at home. As soon as the first gun of the civil war was fired, woman's work for both the Union and Confederate causes began in earnest. Within a month after President Lincoln called for the first army of 75,000 volunteers, an association of New York women had chosen from hundreds of candidates 100 competent nurses to be trained by the physicians and surgeons of the city. At the same time women throughout the country organized soldiers' aid societies, sewing circles, fairs and entertainments of various sorts for the purpose of furnishing the brave boys both necessities and delicacies. Trains running into Washington were weighed down with a tremendous accumulation of freight for this purpose. Its distribution was finally turned over to the sanitary commission, which cooperated during the war with women's clubs and societies throughout the entire North. After each battle agents distributed the supplies as received.

Statistics show that during the late

The "Maine's" Sabotage Cannon. The last was the fourth accident that happened to the Maine. In August, 1896, she tripped her anchor in swinging around while at Key West, and drifted on a reef and bent ten plates along the port keel.

In February, 1897, a one-pound cartridge exploded during target practice, and seriously injured three men.

In July, 1897, she was rammed into an East River pier by her captain in an effort to avoid striking a heavily loaded excursion boat. She sustained only the loss of some bow paint this time.

It is a Navy yard tradition that the



COMMODORE HOWELL. (Commander of the Squadron at Hampton Roads, Va.)

Maine was hoodooed from her launching day. Rear-Admiral Braine, who superintended her building and whose pride she was, had obtained a bottle of real American wine for her christening. He was then superintendent of the Brooklyn navy yard, and he and Mrs. Braine sent to Kelly's Island, in Lake Erie, near the scene of Com-



THE HARBOR OF HAVANA, SHOWING MORRO CASTLE.

war the women's organizations raised altogether \$50,000,000 among their societies in the Northern states, the amount recently appropriated by congress to put the nation upon an effective defensive footing. The little girls of the North, by their miniature fairs and handiwork, contributed \$100,000.

Women might serve this government as spies in a great war. That a woman



THE STEAMER OLIVETTE. (In the Service of Uncle Sam Between Havana and Key West.)

cannot keep a secret herself or let any one else keep one is not borne out by certain secret archives kept in a large fire-proof safe in the war department. One of the most active and reliable Union spies in the late war was a woman, who worked successfully for a long period. Eventually, however, she was caught by the enemy and hanged to a tree. Martial law, which states that "the spy is punishable by death by hanging by the neck," has no respect for sex.

Had the South Won.

We can measure the value of this commemoration day if we reconsider what would have been had the Confederacy succeeded. Macaulay, in one of those brilliant, haphazard speculations with which he was wont to supplement what Providence had failed to do in the making of the universe, saw in the future of the United States a half dozen federations. England could hold her empire by the power of the sword, but where was the sword in a democracy? Let us suppose, as Macaulay seemed to anticipate, that the United States should have accepted the Southern Confederacy. If independence had been conceded to the South after Chancellorsville—then the darkest hour for the North—what then? The lines of separation would have been drawn through West Virginia, with the Rocky Mountains as a western barrier. The French would have held the Rio Grande, Canada would have been a neighbor in arms.

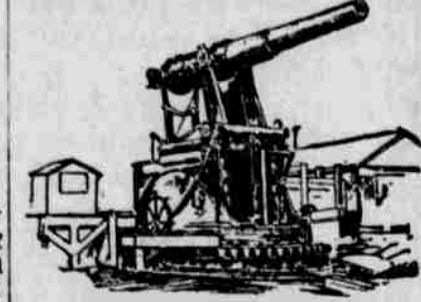
mander Perry's famous whipping of the British, and secured a quart of champagne, made right there from American grapes.

Miss Alice Wilmerding, a granddaughter of Secretary of the Navy Tracy, christened the big armored cruiser, and brought with her a bottle of champagne from the hills of France. She used this, and it was a severe disappointment to Admiral Braine. He has his bottle of American wine still in a prominent place in his library, and will wish now, more than ever, that it had been the one to have been smashed over the Maine's bow.

Besides her accidents the Maine has twice come in for severe criticism as to top weight and seaworthiness. In September, 1896, it was found that she could not carry on her decks the two torpedo boats designed therefor, and the boats, which cost \$50,000, were sent up to Newport for practice work at the training station.

In February of last year Admiral Bunce had to make to Assistant Secretary McAdoo, after his experience with his squadron off Cape Hatteras in the gale of February 5 and 6, the following report:

"The Maine's behavior at sea in heavy weather is bad. Her pitching and rolling is excessive, and is attributed to faulty design in placing too much heavy weight at her extremities, which



GUN AT WILLET'S POINT, N. Y. (Can Pierce Four-inch Armor at a Distance of Nineteen Miles.)

was increased by attempting to correct another error when she was commissioned. Her battery cannot be used as designed without destruction of boats and other fittings, and in some instances loss of life, if the crews remain at their guns. For this reason there has been no attempt to make such use of the guns as is contemplated in the design of the ship and arrangement of her batteries."



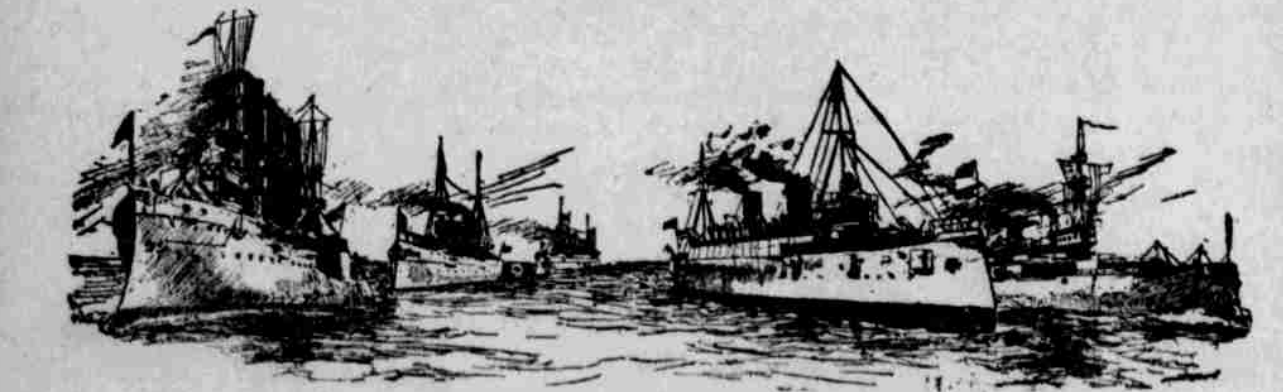
LIEUT-GEN. PANDO.

(One of Spain's Military Leaders in Cuba.)

mies prefer middle-aged and homely women for such service. A circular distributed by the superintendent of nurses in 1861 read:

"No women under 30 need apply. All nurses are required to be very plain-looking women. Their dresses must be either brown or black, with no bows, no curls or jewelry, and no hoop skirts."

The pay given to nurses in the late



THE SQUADRON AT HAMPTON ROADS.

THE MARCH 4TH EDITION OF THE AMERICAN CONTAINS A COMPLETE REPORT OF THE SALINA CLEWETT CASE AGAINST THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, of St. Paul, Minnesota. THE Daily Newspapers have not dared to publish the proceedings in this celebrated case, which has been on trial in the St. Paul Courts for some weeks, but THE AMERICAN will give its readers a full report made up from the Court Records. Everybody should read it. Owing to the large demand for extra copies of the March 4th edition of THE AMERICAN already booked we have decided to print many thousands of extra papers and will supply them at the following prices: 1,000 copies, \$10.00; 500 copies, \$7.50; 100 copies, \$2.00; 50 copies, \$1.25; 10 copies, 30 cents. Cash must accompany the order. AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1615 Howard Street, OMAHA, NEB.

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HIS WORST BLOW YET FOR ROME! BISHOP J. V. MCNAMARA, The Converted Priest, has brought through Press His New Book, entitled "Rev. Mother Rose. A Bishop and Two Priests." Price in Paper Cover 25 cts. Sent by Mail. W. A. SAUNDERS, Attorney, Merchants National Bank. SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1898, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the EAST front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the property described in said order of sale as follows to-wit: Lots four (4) in block 134, and lot five (5) in block 184 of the Original Plat of the city of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded, all situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Walter E. Keeler, plaintiff herein, the sums as follows, to-wit: On lot 4 in block 134, above described, the sum of \$1,877.00, together with an attorney's fee of \$108.75; On lot 5 in block 184, above described, the sum of \$975.45, together with an attorney's fee of \$67.54; Which said amounts according to the judgments of the district court bear interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum from September 25th, 1896, and are first lien upon said property. To satisfy the further sum of three hundred and ninety and 13/100 (\$399.13) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its September term, A. D. 1896, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Walter E. Keeler is plaintiff and Phoebe Rebecca Elizabeth Elwine Linton and Adolphus Frederick Linton, her husband, John Morris, William Morris and Frank Crisp, co-partners doing business as Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Company, John Whitaker Cooper and William Isaac Shurd are defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, March 11th, 1897. Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. W. A. Saunders, Attorney. Keeler vs. Linton, et al. Dec. 55; No. 119. Ex-Doc. I; Page 96. 2-11-5

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RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES. An Essay by Chase Roys, throwing a blaze of light on American history—shows that the Jesuits were the cause of all the colonial wars, Indian and French massacres of those times and many startling facts not generally known. In pamphlet form—Price 10 Cents. Address: CHASE ROYS, Washington, D. C. No greater, no more interesting, no more fearless exposure of Romanism was ever written than that penned by Rev. Charles Chignoly and popularly known as "Fifty Years in the Church of Rome." Price \$2.25. Send us \$2.00 and get the book. American Pub. Co., 1615 Howard St., Omaha, Neb. MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY FOR INDIAN TERRITORY THE CHEROKEE STRIP OKLAHOMA, FT. SMITH LITTLE ROCK and HOT SPRINGS, ARK Ticket Office, E. E. Corner 15th and Farnam Sts.