



Stars and Stripes on Cuban Soil.

The war is becoming more exciting as time rolls on. This week has shown great activity around Santiago, Cuba, and the latest news last night, not fully confirmed, is that Sampson has entirely destroyed the sea coast batteries at the mouth of Santiago harbor and has landed and planted the stars and strips and prepared to land troops as soon as the transport reaches there.

Lincoln Telegram, Friday, June 3, 6:30 p. m.

There has been no further attack at Santiago, so far as reported and no news from Sampson or Schley whatever. Naval officials say they are not surprised and when news does come it will be sensational. Most important announcement Washington, to-day is that administration backed by prominent advices has determined to take and hold Porto Rico. President and other officials frankly admit to-day that they expect to hear of battle at Santiago, any hour, they are surprised that Spain is still unyielding, have been holding off in belief that she would make overtures for peace, but patience is exhausted and from now on fight will be fast and furious. Bryans 3rd regiment assigned to Philippines. Orders issued to San Francisco, for second expedition to Philippines to start Tuesday. Indiana arrives Tampa, to convoy troops to Santiago.

Lincoln Telegram, Saturday, June 4, 6:30 p. m.

To-days advices confirm last nights dispatches of some sort engagement at Santiago and sinking of coal scow Merrimac instead however of being blown up by Spanish torpedo, was deliberately scuttled by Sampson sunk in harbor at entrance in order to block narrow channel and prevent escape of enemies fleet, this confirmed by report from Sampson himself received Washington says, Merrimac sunk in harbor by naval constructor Hobson, and crew. There are several wild stories to-day of another battle in which Spains fleet was badly whipped and many vessels disabled, it cannot be confirmed. Dispatches from Key West, says Viscaya attempted to leave harbor disabled and made to retire, her guns silenced and she was boarded, nothing received at Washington. Five transports left Mobile, with troops this morning for invasion of Cuba.

Special to the NORTHWESTERN Lincoln, June 5th, 6:30 p. m.

Entire absence of startling war news to-day, and nothing to confirm wild report of sinking spanish fleet yesterday, on contrary every thing goes to prove enemy still in Santiago harbor from which escape is impossible since voluntary sinking of collier Merrimac at harbor entrance. Special from Washington, says beginning of end is in sight, Cervera's fleet caged, Bank of Spain bankrupt, end of hostilities probably near at hand. They think at Washington, that within a week Spain will sue for peace. Basis of this will be independence of Cuba, and cession of Porto Rico to United States, and naval station accorded in Philippines. Transports heavily loaded with troops moving to-day from Tampa, and Mobile.

Lincoln Telegram, Monday, June 6, 6:30 p. m.

Dispatches received at New York, from Kingston Jamaica says at least five thousand American troops landed at Puenta Corbera, a few miles west of Santiago, and made junction with Garcia. No difficulty experienced in landing. Dispatches from Washington says, St. Louis has arrived at Mole St. Nicholas, to day confirms landing of troops at Santiago, this is only vanguard much larger force. War and naval officials at Washington, believe climax of war will be reached this week. Santiago and San Juan, both expected to fall before combined land and sea forces before another Sabbath. Talk now in naval circles of carrying war into Spanish waters. Miles completes inspection at Tampa, and goes to Chickamauga, purpose is to hurry troops along to Cuba.

Lincoln Telegram, Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p. m.

Dispatches to-day continue to insure that big force of American troops has been landed at Santiago, and more to follow. Chicago record usually reliable posts bulletin saying positively that last part of first expedition to Cuba, left Tampa last night expedition made up of forty six transports and carried twenty six thousand men with horses wagons artillery. To-days advices confirm insurgent attack at Manila, and go to prove they are carrying everything before them. eighteen hundred Spaniards made surrender and city may fall within week. Dewey assisted by water. Dispatches arrived to-day, yesterday bombarded Santiago, batteries silenced by American ships and as fire ceased fleet drew near to shore and engaged Spanish vessels lying in harbor Rena Mercedes hit squarely by thirteen inch shell, ten sailors killed by shell and many injured, another vessel said to be sunk but report not confirmed.

Lincoln Telegram, Wednesday June 8th, 6:30 p. m.

If reports coming in to-day from many sources are to be believed Santiago engagement of Monday was bloody with losses heavy on both sides. At Madrid, Spanish officials gave out following: bloody encounter ocured Monday at Santiago, American fleet thrice attacked Spanish land and Morro batteries, but were repulsed with heavy loss, estimate killed and wounded Americans fifteen hundred, however sunk Reina Mercedes whose lieutenant, Acosta, was killed. Nothing to confirm this report received at Washington. Sampson telegraphed late last night that bombardment was kept up many hours and fortifications swept away and said not an American ship or man injured. Sampson does not even claim to have sunk Reina Mercedes, but thinks she was badly damaged. All reports to-day indicate that troops are being hurried away from Tampa, fast as transports can carry them. News of fall of Manila. at hands of insurgents expected any day.

THE MERRIMAC PLANTED.

HOBSON THE HERO.—THE MAN WHO FORCED THE HARBOR AND SUNK HIS SHIP.—REMARKABLE BRAVERY.

Dispatches in the Monday morning dailies give in detail a glowing account of the sinking of the Merrimac, by Lieutenant Hobson and his crew of eight volunteers. By their single deed of American daring Spain has lost the powerful fleet of Admiral Cervera.

Just before dawn on Friday, June 3, seven gallant seaman took the collier Merrimac under the blazing Morro batteries and anchored and sunk her beneath a fitful fire of musketry and heavy cannonading from the shore and the wrecked hull of the sunken vessel effectually closes the entrance to the harbor within which the Spanish squadron is helplessly and hopelessly locked.

This splendid stroke, which leaves the government at Washington free to act without further fear of the Spanish fleet, was planned by Lieut. Hobson who commanded the expedition. He is a naval constructor, attached to Annapolis and his home is in Brooklyn. With him went D. Montague, Geo. Charette, J. E. Murphy, Oscar Deignan, John P. Phillips and John Kelley, all non-commissioned officers or enlisted men.

A steam launch from the flagship New York, commanded by Cadet J. W. Powell, followed the Merrimac to the mouth of the harbor, and despite the fire from the forts cruised in the vicinity for an hour and a half after the collier was sunk, but no sign of the brave Americans was seen and Powell rejoined the flag ship.

The plan to block the entrance to Santiago harbor had been under consideration for several days, as Rear Admiral Sampson had decided that it was impossible to take his fleet inside. Lieut. Hobson had expected to do the work Wednesday night, but owing to the delay in preparing the ship it was deferred.

The daring officer attempted to run in after daylight on Thursday, and was only stopped under protest after stern orders to return from the admiral. All day he preparations proceeded and by nightfall the craft was in readiness. A row of torpedoes had been arranged outside the hull so that Lieutenant Hobson could explode them from the vessel and thus insure her rapid sinking. At nightfall the various ships of the fleet passed the doomed Merrimac cheering her lustily.

Hundreds of men and scores of officers volunteered for the duty, and Commander Merrill, who had been the captain of the Merrimac, begged permission of Admiral Sampson to go, but Lieutenant Hobson was assigned. By 10 o'clock all but the

men who were going on the dangerous errand had been taken from the Merrimac and the collier awaited the appointed hour. It was an impressive night among the men of the fleet, for few expected that the members of the little crew would see another sunrise. The night was cloudy, with fitful lightning flashes, behind the dark lines of the hostile shore, now and then showing the grim shadows of the battlements. Soon after 3 o'clock the black hull of the Merrimac began to drift slowly toward the land, and in a half hour was lost to sight. It was Lieutenant Hobson's plan to steam past Morro, swing crosswise of the channel, drop his anchors, open the valves, explode the torpedoes on the port side, leap overboard, preceded by his crew and make their escape in a little lifeboat which was towed astern if possible, and if not to attempt to swim ashore. All the men were heavily armed ready to make a fierce resistance to capture.

Scarcely had the ship disappeared when a flash from Morro's guns proclaimed that she had been discovered. Immediately the other batteries opened fire, but the ship went steadily on, for this morning the top of her masts can be seen in the water beyond Morro and near Estrella battery. A heavy cannon and musketry fire continued for half an hour and guns were fired at intervals until long after daylight. None of the American ships dared to fire for fear of striking the Merrimac's crew.

As daylight came on the steam launch could be seen cruising close to the harbor entrance. Until half past five the search was continued and then, under a shower of Spanish shells, which flew wide off their mark. Cadet Powell steamed away and a half hour later boarded the New York, and reported to Admiral Sampson that he believed the entire crew of the Merrimac had been lost.

Not one of them did he catch sight of. The Merrimac, he said, lay well across the channel, her masts showing that Lieutenant Hobson had done his work well, sinking the ship almost in the exact spot decided upon. The channel is not as wide as the Merrimac's length and it is impossible for the Spaniards to raise or destroy the wreck under the guns of the American fleet.

A somewhat reckless youth who had enlisted for the war, and had spent his time in camp in writing home for money, finally sent this telegram as a "clinger."

"Father—Leg shot off in sham battle. Send all funds you can."

To this the old man replied: "Son—Don't know your number, but wooden leg goes to you by express. If doesn't fit get camp carpenter to plane it. Best love. All well here."—Atlanta Constitution.

"One Minute Cough Cure is the best preparation I have ever sold or used and I can't say too much in its praise."—L. M. Kenon, Merchant, Odell, Ga.—Oden-dahl Bro's.

Don't fail to get the latest edition of Rand McNally's great War Map if you want to be posted on the exact spot that the Spaniards are receiving Allopathic doses of American "Jingoism." Only 15 cents, at this office.

TAKEN BY SURPRISE. INSURGENTS WIN A VICTORY.

A New York dispatch says that news has just reached the Cuban Junta of a victory by the Cuban forces over a division of the Spanish army at Jiguani, province of Santiago, May 22. It was one of the most decisive battles the patriots have gained in many months and the most important one since war has been declared by the United States against Spain. A column of Spanish soldiers, 1,300 strong acting under orders from Havana to abandon the interior and advance towards the coast, evacuated the town of La Piedra, after having destroyed the fortifications to prevent them falling into the hands of the insurgents. They were also joined there by a detachment of 300 Spanish soldiers from Santa Rica, and the two forces were united in camp at Jiguani. The Spaniards were surprised on the morning of May 22, by being attacked by a division of the forces belonging to General Garcia's command under the leadership of Col. Jesus Rabi. With him were also Col. Lora, commanded the First cavalry, and Colonel Montaire of the infantry regiment "Cuba Libre."

The Cubans numbered a little more than 1,000 men. The Cubans advanced in good order, being well equipped with arms and ammunition and took the enemy completely by surprise. At the start the Spaniards scattered, but afterwards made an effort to rally their forces. They only succeeded in being able to retreat in regular order to the village of Palma. There they were reinforced by several hundred men, and turned upon the Cubans, and the battle was renewed with fury. The Spaniards were beginning to recover some of the ground which they had lost, when at a most opportune moment the Cuban regiment "Aguilera" came up from General Garcia's command and attacked the enemy in the rear. Simultaneously with this the regiment "Santiago" attacked them upon the left flank, so the Spaniards were forced to fight, hemmed in on both sides. The Cubans succeeded in taking several advantageous positions, which they held.

In their flight from camp at Jiguani,

ni, the Spaniards were forced to leave behind much of their ammunition and supplies, so that they were to a considerable extent handicapped in fighting, while on the otherhand the Cubans seemed to be well equipped and on the aggressive. After six hours hard fighting at Palma the Spaniards raised a flag of truce and expressed themselves as being willing to surrender. Terms were arranged, and the Cubans took as prisoners one Spanish colonel, seven captains and several other officers, besides 1,003 soldiers. The Spanish loss amounted to seventy-six dead, besides a large number wounded. Included in the Spanish losses were thirteen officers. The Cubans sustained a heavy loss, but it was smaller than that of the Spaniards. It is reported there were forty-six killed, including five officers of lesser rank and about sixty wounded.

After the battle which was one of the bitterest of the war, the Cubans returned to Jiguani. There they recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the deserted spanish camp, together with provisions and supply wagons. These were sent to Garcia's camp at Bayamo.

The people of Jiguani and Santa Rica came to greet the Cubans and there was great rejoicing among the inhabitant, who had before that time been forced to conceal their sympathy while the towns were occupied by Spanish soldiers. General Jesus Rabi, at once set to work organizing a civil government for the town acting under the orders of General Garcia.

Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, of Kansas, whose fame as a brilliant writer, a man of remarkable scholarship and literary attainments, is even greater than that of the distinguished senator, announces a new book on the subject of the American-Spanish Cuban War. It is entitled "America's War For Humanity in Picture and Story." It is published by the N. D. Thompson Publishing Co., of St. Louis, Mo., and is an exhaustive discussion of the causes of the war, and an equally exhaustive history of its incidents, and a brilliant analysis of the famous characters conducting it. It promises to be the one great and popular work called forth by this wonderfully interesting national episode. Whatever Senator Ingalls touches he adorns; and this book shines and sparkles in the light of his genius. The present work is worthy of his genius, and will be a monument to his fame. The subject now so engrosses the popular mind as to forecast for this book a sale that will be universal. It will be sold by subscription only, and the canvassing samples are now ready for agents. We advertise it in another column.

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HURRAH FOR OREGON!

Ten thousand Republican majority: A gain of eight thousand over last year.

S. E. Parker, Sharon, Wis., writes: "I have tried DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve for itching piles and it always stops them in two minutes. I consider DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve the greatest pile cure on the market."—Oden-dahl Bro's.