

FIGHTING JOE AND HIS FAMILY

'In the Wheeler Blood—One Son in the Army, Another in the Navy and a Daughter Wearing the Red Cross

Fighting families seem to constitute one of the unusual features of our war with Spain. Patriotism is as catching as the measles. Whole households are stricken with it.

Fighting Joe Wheeler was a mere boy when the civil war broke out, but he soon demonstrated that he had in him the stuff that great soldiers are made of.

General Wheeler's appointment as major general in command of the cavalry division received the plaudits of both the north and south.

Another interesting member of the patriotic family is Miss Annie Wheeler, the 20-year-old daughter of General Wheeler.

She has accompanied her father to Europe, and is in charge of applying E. C. Elwell, who is in charge of the general to go to Cuba as a nurse.

Joseph Wheeler, Jr., the general's elder son, is instructor of mathematics at West Point. He had been granted a furlough until September.

But the patriotism so characteristic of the Wheeler family caused him to alter his plans.

And now he is spending his furlough in the service of the government, having received an appointment on his father's staff.

Tom Wheeler is only seventeen, but his youthful blood is just as hot as it would be were he twice that age.

PUZZLING SPANISH TERMS.

Many Other Facts Concerning the Present War.

Porto means port. Rico means noble, rich, illustrious, opulent.

San Juan (St. John) was the name given the island of Porto Rico by Columbus in 1493.

The Caribbean sea washes the territories of the Caribs, whose name means "cruel men."

All code books carried on war ships have leaden backs, to assure their sinking if lost overboard.

The letters in a code book are printed in an ink that fades when it comes in contact with water.

Jamaica is a corruption of Xaymaco, a native West Indian name, signifying the country abounding in springs.

Haiti is a native name, meaning mountainous country. The name Cuba is of native origin; the meaning is unknown.

At present 3,000 projectiles of the heaviest sort are completed daily and shipped to naval stations for transfer to warships.

The area of the main island of Cuba is estimated at from 40,000 to 43,000 square miles; the Isle of Pines at 1,214 square miles.

British war vessels are furnished with lightning rods, and Mr. Edison claims that they are an indispensable protection to all ships.

Santiago is the Spanish form for St. James. The city of Santiago de Cuba was founded in 1514 and for several years was the capital of the island.

Manila was founded by the Spaniards in 1571. It was taken by the English in 1638, restored to the Spaniards and has often been devastated by earthquakes.

Tobago island was so called by Columbus from its fancied resemblance to the tobacco or inhaling tube of the aborigines. Our word tobacco is thence derived.

Yucatan is a compound Indian word meaning "what do you say?" which was the only answer the Spaniards could obtain from the natives concerning their country.

Spain expressed the English of Hispania, word founded upon the punie "span," a rabbit, owing to the number of wild rabbits found in the peninsula by the Carthaginians.

The present output of powder in the United States amounts to 16,000 pounds a day of which 12,000 pounds is furnished by one eastern firm and the remainder by a Pacific coast concern.

Porto Rico was discovered by Columbus in 1493, but was conquered by Ponce de Leon in 1508-20, who, it is said, reduced 600,000 natives to slavery. They were afterward exterminated.

More powder has been burned in the San Juan bombardment and the occasional small engagements along the Cuban coast than has been consumed for saluting purposes since the civil war.

Telegraph operators in war are mere civilians, but Congressman Belknap has a plan to organize the telegraph branch of the service into an officered department, having rank and prestige with the medical corps.

It costs the auxiliary cruisers St. Louis and Hazard \$50,000 a year for the handling and loading of coal after the fuel is purchased. It requires forty hours for one of the ships to take on 3,000 tons. Coal is worth \$10 to \$25 a ton in the West Indian ports.

MAKES FRIGHTFUL WOUNDS.

Spanish guerrillas, whose shots killed American marines at Guantanamo, may not have mutilated the bodies after the fashion it is possible that they may have been guilty of a crime just as brutal—that of using explosive bullets.

Surgeons who examined the bodies of the men who died at Guantanamo have reported that it is possible that the ghastly mutilations were caused only by the bullets from the Mauser rifles used by the Spanish, but in the opinion of men who have studied the work of the Mauser rifle, there is much evidence to show that the Spaniards used bullets that were practically explosive.

Dr. Von Coker witnessed the effects of one of these explosive bullets, which struck the forehead of a man at 34 yards.

"The skull was shattered completely, the bones and scalp were torn into the smallest atoms and scattered in all directions.

The entire base of the skull was broken up into separate pieces of brain pulp. Nothing was left of the brain but a little pulpy substance mixed with fragments of bone.

Many years ago every military power agreed that, in war, it would use no explosive projectile less than one inch in diameter.

It is a fact, proved by many experiments, that the British campaign in the Crimea, that only under exceptional circumstances will one of the small caliber bullets used in modern military rifles cause mutilation.

The Mauser bullet inflicts a wound horrible enough, even without the Spanish improvement. If one of the ordinary bullets hits a man in the chest at 1,000 yards it will pass through him.

Under the same circumstances, with one of the Mauser rifle bullets, the wound at the point of entrance would admit a man's fist.

Partly to prevent this loss of weight in the bullet and partly from the dictates of humanity the ordnance experts of every country have invariably insisted that the leaden bullet should be enclosed in a hardened casing of copper, German silver or nickle steel.

The flat footedness of the race is a fact that has been established by the inspection of volunteers, who have offered themselves for enlistment.

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THE BLACK HOLE OF MANILA.

Spaniards had Prepared a Dungeon for Dewey and His Sailors—A Most Horrible Place.

Seattle, (Correspondence).—An astonishing bit of news has just reached this city from Manila. It is that the Spaniards of that place were preparing their prisons for receiving soldiers of Dewey's fleet when they heard the Americans were coming.

The room which has been the scene of such tragedies and which was kept in reserve for Admiral Dewey and his staff, is a small, narrow room in the lowest part of this grim old prison.

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COULD THROW A LASSO.

A very thick set, compactly built man, who wore glasses and had a sort of ruminant smile on his broad, healthy looking countenance, was swinging along a street in the northwest section a few afternoons ago, apparently taking his time and observing things as he went along, says the Washington Star.

The thick set, smiling man stopped, leaned up against a tree netting and watched this sport amusedly. It could be seen from the expression of his face that he liked boys.

The boys, highly pleased at getting a crowd, good looking and good natured men, gathered around the thick set man with interest.

This isn't such a good lasso as it might be, for it's not heavy enough, but maybe it'll do.

Then he gathered the lariat up into a coil carefully, swung it about his head a few times in a realistic manner that made the boys stare.

"Cracky!" exclaimed the boys in a chorus. "I'll bet he's with Buffalo Bill's show, all right. Aren't you, mister?"

"No, I'm not with any show just now," said the thick set man pleasantly. "I expect to be with a very big show indeed, though, a little later on.

Then the good natured man stepped from the lawn onto the sidewalk. As he was resuming his stroll a young man passed him, and, touching his hat, said:

Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt courteously acknowledged the salutation and passed on, still wearing that ruminant smile of his.

TROUBLES OF THE LOVERS.

At one of the big hotels of the town, relates the Washington Post, there is staying in a room a recently married young couple whose honeymoon began under most unromantic circumstances.

They came from a city in the middle west, and their names—well, let's call them Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Mr. Smith is a slightly young man whose chaff has made it his pleasure to annoy and embarrass such of his friends as were indiscreet enough to wed.

He has strapped rice into their umbrellas, he has tied white ribbons and old shoes to their baggage, and the bride has "We're just been married" on their carriages, he has sent telegrams and postal cards after them addressed to "So-and-So and Bride," he has, in fact, done everything he could think of to make honeymoons unpopular.

They were in the habit of stopping at a restaurant where the wedding was announced divers and sundry persons determined to get even with him. Mr. Smith is sagacious as well as sportily, and he boldly declared that he'd outwit them all.

He engaged a room for himself and his bride in three different hotels and berths on three different trains. Several days before the wedding the bride's trunk was sent, empty, to the express office and her belongings were carried down to an installments store. The trunk was filled with what she had packed. Mr. Smith smiled to himself. After the wedding there was a reception at a fashionable club house and the divers and sundry revengeful persons lay in wait.

They were to enter this, be driven to the lively stable, step into another carriage, waiting there with horns to be blown, and to the hotel where the end of their resources, went to the house of a surgeon they knew, rank him up, and asked shelter for the night. He had only his office to offer them, and there, with a skeleton grinning cheerfully at them, and an operating chair only a comfortable piece of furniture the room contained, they stayed till morning and then stole out to the railway station and left town. They do say, too, that the bride wouldn't speak to the bridegroom for two days, and I don't blame her nor do I blame the revengeful persons. Mr. Smith will annoy no more bridal couples.

With a Rifle.

Marvelous young rifle shot, has just performed another of his astonishing feats. With a 22-caliber rifle he stood at a distance of 20 feet from a double thickness of heavy paper, about three feet long by two wide, and shot on it the outline of an Indian's head. It took exactly 152 shots to do the trick. It was freehand drawing, as the figure was not traced on the paper beforehand. This made the feat especially difficult, as "Tep" had to place every shot with reference to where its predecessor had gone, and where all the following shots were to go. In other words, he had to have every detail of the "drawing" planned, and constantly in his mind's eye while he shot. One shot fired a fraction of an inch wild would have spoiled the whole picture.