

MERRIMAC'S CREW HEROES

Undertaking One Which Meant Certain Capture or Death.

NO POSSIBLE SHOW FOR THEM TO ESCAPE

Result of Their Work is that the Last Chance for the Spanish Squadron to Escape Has Been Taken Away.

(Copyright, 1898, by Associated Press.) OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA (Via Kingston, Jamaica), June 4.—(Our Special Correspondent.) Press dispatch boat Dauntless.—Rear Admiral Sampson during Friday morning decided to close the narrow harbor entrance to Santiago de Cuba by sinking the collier Merrimac loaded with coal in the channel.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—"The cork is driven in the bottle," was the comment of the naval officers of the Navy department this morning upon the news of the sinking of the collier Merrimac in the channel at the entrance of Santiago harbor. They are absolutely satisfied that the ship was sent by design of Sampson to close the channel and prevent the escape of the Spanish squadron and that the admiral's project was a success. If so, this will rank as one of the boldest achievements in naval history. It will outrank even Cushing's famous attack upon the Albatross with his little torpedo boat.

It is the opinion at the Navy department, at least, that the officers say that Cushing had a fighting chance to escape after making his attack, and he did indeed escape. There was no such chance for the men who took the Merrimac into Santiago harbor under the guns which Schley's report described as of great power and over nests of submarine mines, any one of which was sufficient to crush in the bottom of the ship.

It is possible now to learn who made up this crew that is destined to be famous in American history, for the opinion at the Navy department is that Admiral Sampson directed that no man be ordered into such dangerous work, and the officers were called to the ship. There is no doubt, however, regarding at least two of the officers who were aboard, namely Commander J. M. Miller of Missouri and Assistant Engineer R. K. Crank of Texas. The captain could be relied upon, it is said, to stick to his ship to the last and from what is known of Crank's character he would not be likely to leave the ship, being the only commissioned engineer officer on board.

Merrimac was Worthless. One of the reasons that form the basis of the conviction that the Merrimac was purposely sunk in the channel is the fact that the ship was of little value as a naval vessel. It had broken down in its machinery and was kept at work only with difficulty. Some of Crank's letters are at once laudatory and pathetic in the praise of the trials and tribulations the young officer suffered (he is about 25 years old) in his efforts to make the machinery work at all. This was just the kind of craft that would be selected to block up the channel.

Another reason for believing that the Merrimac was purposely sunk is the small number of the crew aboard, according to the reports. There seems to have been just enough men to man the ship and keep the engines moving. The normal crew of the collier was about forty men, so that the others must have been taken off in advance. It is said at the Navy department that there is no possibility that the American sailors captured by the Spaniards will suffer. They are not spies in any sense, but prisoners of war, and so far there has been no disposition shown by the Spaniards to mistreat such prisoners.

As to the change wrought in the situation by this bold exploit, it is said that it will now be possible to send the larger part of the American fleet for service elsewhere than at Santiago, perhaps at San Juan de Puerto Rico, or Havana for instance. A small force of monitors and a cruiser would suffice to keep guard at Santiago, for all that is necessary now is to be able to bring enough guns to bear upon the channel to prevent the Spaniards from attempting to clear away the wreck by the use of torpedoes and to prevent the escape of the small torpedo boats that might be able to pass over the Merrimac's hull.

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The battery consists of three dynamite guns with an accurate range of nearly 5,000 yards, in which the instantaneous ammunition of any battery, however formidable, is almost assured. Since these weapons were mounted and accepted by the government about four years ago they have attracted little attention until recently, but they have now been perfected after careful experiments and are relied upon as perhaps the most effective offensive and defensive units of the fort. In recent tests they have discharged aimed shots at the rate of four in seven and one-third minutes.

These projectiles are in reality aerial torpedoes, weighing 1,600 pounds, and containing 100 pounds of nitro-cellulose, one of the most destructive explosives known to chemists. The effect of one of these projectiles touching any portion of a first-class battleship is simply incalculable, but surgeons agree in the belief that all human life would be destroyed by the concussion within 100 yards of such an explosion. While the range of the projectiles is limited to about two and one-half miles, and some of Fort Hancock's guns are effective at a distance of twelve miles distant, the devastation is that of the latter shells, and is not limited by that of the dynamite that is contained in the projectile. The accuracy of the pneumatic guns is unparalleled up to the limit of their range. Submarine torpedoes have been known to hit a target the size of a ship's broadside nearly a mile away, but the tactical distance of torpedoes based on land and on sea the rebellion has not exceeded 500 yards under the most favorable circumstances. The guns at Sandy Hook are thoroughly protected against bombardment.

Rise in Increase in Earnings. DENVER, June 4.—The gross earnings of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad for the fiscal year to date are \$7,815,854, an increase of \$1,235,886, or 16 per cent over the earnings for the corresponding period last year.

PREPARATION FOR TROUBLE

Sampson Orders Noncombatants Away to a Safe Distance.

TEN MILES THE LIMIT FOR PRESS BOATS

Garcia in Daily Expectation of Arrival of United States Fleet—Southwest Coast the Best Place to Land.

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This meant business for the fleet before morning, whether a dash into the harbor or otherwise will probably be known on the arrival of the second Associated Press dispatch boat at the nearest cable station tomorrow. All indications are that southern eastern Cuba will be the scene of active naval and military operations for some time. Here are assembled the squadrons of great fighting ships and looking down upon them from the adjacent hills are the watchful hands of insurgents, forming the nucleus of General Garcia's army, which is strong enough unaided to strike the Spanish land forces a hard blow, and if reinforced by the American army of invasion, to seize and hold the entire eastern half of the island.

Talk with Garcia's scouts show that they confidently expect American troops soon. They say this is the best part of the island for the landing and the acclimatization of our soldiers. Well drained and healthy camps can be established on the high plateaus that lie on the sea front, or on slopes of the mountains at any desired altitude. Pure water is found in the springs and mountain streams, while the fertile surrounding country yields abundant fruits and vegetables and everything is favorable to the good sanitary condition of a well disciplined army. The rainy season, the insurgents say, is drawing to a close, when camps can be quickly formed on drained elevations. The island already shows the effect of the beginning of this season. Showers occur daily, and soft, white rain mists are seen on the slopes every morning. The smoke and fire of the burning plantations are being extinguished, and luxuriant nature is rapidly healing many of the ravages of the war. These tropical storms at night are wonderful exhibitions of electrical pyrotechnics. At times the lightning flashes on the horizon look like the regular firing of a gun for a distance. Again, the entire horizon seems aflame in a vivid glare, and forked tongues of fire appear to run down the mountain slopes. A drenching rain falls for an hour or two and then the skies clear and all is serene and the calm, the full moon and the brilliant constellations of the heavens are again visible. Again, the entire horizon seems aflame in a vivid glare, and forked tongues of fire appear to run down the mountain slopes. A drenching rain falls for an hour or two and then the skies clear and all is serene and the calm, the full moon and the brilliant constellations of the heavens are again visible.

THANKS OF CONGRESS. Officers and Men of the Army and Navy Who Were Honored by Name.

KANSAS CITY, June 4.—Commander James M. Miller of the Merrimac, reported sunk in Santiago harbor, is from Liberty, Mo., where his mother, Mrs. Ann Miller, is still living. He has seen over thirty years of service in the navy, having been appointed midshipman in 1863. He rose through successive grades and was appointed commander last year, just after he had brought home the Yacht from South American waters. For six years he was in the Asiatic station, where he saw the naval battles of the Chinese-Japanese war. Before his assignment to the Merrimac with the flying squadron at Hampton Roads Commander Miller was on duty at the Brooklyn navy yard.

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BAILEY,

13 Years. 3d Floor Paxton Bldg. Experience. 10th and Farnam.

We have been trying for the past ten or eleven years to educate the people of Omaha and adjoining country to the importance of looking after their mouths, caring for the teeth not only from a standpoint of looks, but for the better preservation of them—Many a case of disrepair may be traced directly to poor mastication caused by bad teeth—Remember that a little expense from time to time would keep your teeth in perfect condition—Teeth extracted absolutely without pain or gas—gas administered if desired—Lady attendant.

De telegraf yesterday said dat de Harvard boat lee and Stoecker clears to Santa Agra—de lee wuz fur Cervara fur fear he wouldn't keep—but de Stoeckers wuz fur de boys dat stand by old glory and dey won't keep long ether—an' my dad don't want dem ter—dey was made ter smoke and yonse fellows never has smoked a cigar dat eim cum up ter it for de price—a nicker—dey are lots of de ten-cent fellows dat smoke de Stoecker now, fur dey say its as good as most of de ten-cent kind—My dad's smokehouse is de headquarters fur smoke.

W. F. STOECKER 1404 Douglas St.

LIGHT ON THE CARPET QUESTION. These ads of ours are signal lights—they point out the path of wisdom and economy—they show you where to come for the best and most dependable carpets and draperies—where to make a little money go a long way—Our carpets tell their own story—their quality are so plainly apparent and the prices speak so eloquently of genuine bargains—no persuasive salesmen—just come and look over the offerings—use your own unflinching judgment—buy or not as you think best.

Omaha Carpet Co Omaha's Exclusive Carpet House, 1515 Dodge St.

ECHOES OF THE ANTE ROOM. Sumner Fidelity Chapter, Rose Croix, hold a lodge of sorrow Thursday night in honor of the recently deceased Mrs. W. F. Stoecker, who died in Omaha since 1890. The lodge was held in the Masonic temple and the ceremonies were very impressive. The halls were decorated especially for the occasion and the names of the Masons whose death the lodge mourns were placed on shields about the room. An excellent dinner was served by Mrs. Kelly, Miss Holter, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Wickscham, and Messrs. Williams, Goble, McCreey and Moore, sang the following selections: "De Profundis," "Light on Evening Time," "The Night of Dark and Storm," "Miserere," "There's a Wisdom in God's Mercy," "Lead, Kindly Light," "Magnificat," "Come Ye Disciples," "Te Deum Laudamus" and "Nunc Dimittis." Short addresses were made by prominent members of the lodge and the services were closed with a prayer.

Convert lodge elected the following officers on Wednesday night: Edwin K. Perdue, worshipful master; James W. Maynard, senior warden; Tillman W. Shirley, junior warden; Henry C. Akin, treasurer; Elia K. Long, secretary.

On Thursday night St. John's lodge elected the following officers: George J. Nielsen, worshipful master; John N. Neely, senior warden; Charles S. Sobotnik, junior warden; William W. Kesser, treasurer; Samuel D. Caldwell, secretary.

Capital lodge, No. 1, on Tuesday evening held election of officers Monday evening and Nebraska lodge, No. 1, on Tuesday evening, installation of officers will occur on June 24.

Woodmen of the World. The Woodmen of the World of Omaha treated John T. Yates, sovereign clerk of the order, to a very pleasant surprise on Thursday night, which was the forty-second anniversary of Mr. Yates' birthday. Mr. Yates had no intimation of the affair and when he arrived home at 8 o'clock he found that the house was filled with a merry company. J. C. Root presented Mr. Yates with a handsome picture on behalf of his many friends, and Mr. Yates responded very heartily to the presentation. After the speaking was finished refreshments were served and the remainder of the evening was devoted to social amusements.

Royal Arcanum. The twenty-first session of the supreme council of the Royal Arcanum has just closed at Cleveland, O. One of the important matters disposed of at this meeting was the plan of levying and collecting assessments. The new law, which goes into effect August 1, provides for twenty-one assessments per year, according to the present rates, divided into twelve monthly payments, to be paid within the month without notice. The excess of one assessment on hand will be set aside for a reserve fund.

Ancient Order of United Workmen. On Thursday evening Al-Sar-Ben Lodge, No. 322, Ancient Order of United Workmen, met and elected the following officers for the ensuing six months of 1898: Past master, William H. Harvey; master workman, William Lamb; foreman, John B. Wittig; overseer, J. J. Schmitt; recorder, J. W. Shaw; financier, William S. Stricker; receiver, Martin Hogan; guide, Charles Clausen; inside watchman, Phillip Seize; outside watchman, John Van trustee for eighteen months, P. Morgan, sr.; medical examiners,



The Aloe & Penfold Co

Largest Retail Drug House. 106 Farnam Street. Opposite Paxton Hotel. OMAHA

Turn over a new leaf and go to a reliable druggist with your prescription—The doctors' advice—after properly diagnosing a case and writing his prescription—is, without your medicines are fresh and pure, their skill is faultless and that to have prescriptions properly filled to the letter and with the purest drugs it is to your interest to take them to a druggist that has only the purest of drugs—and only the most competent prescription clerks—our clerks are all registered pharmacists that can be relied upon at any hour of the day or night.

Drexel Shoe Co., Omaha's Up-to-date Shoe House, 1419 FARNAM STREET

Drexel L. Shooman is coming right to the front—reinforcing our shoe stock with the largest and most complete line of ladies' oxfords ever shown in one store—the swiftest of the swell is shown among the new spring arrivals—"The southern tie"—a beautiful and tasty low shoe in the coin toe and black cloth upper—tie over the instep with wide ribbon—These are usually a much more expensive shoe than we've priced these at—We have the oxfords in all the new tan shades and shapes at prices from \$1.25 to \$3—We guarantee their value.

Some things not seen on the Midway—Insurance gasoline stoves—The best, safest and most economical stove ever made—you cannot blow it up. Jewel refrigerators—The greatest ice saving, food keeping invention of the age—we've them in all sizes. The Jewel lawn mowers—Ball bearings? Well, you'll think so when you push them—they're so easy—and cut the grass so smooth. Our reputation as bargain givers will not suffer from the prices we make on these goods.

A. C. RAYMER, WE DELIVER YOUR PURCHASE, 1514 Farnam St.

We wish to call the attention of the music loving public to our unprecedented showing of fine pianos made especially for this, the exposition time—Beautiful designs in natural wood cases that have never been shown before—and the one great remarkable feature about these pianos is the prices—it's the same on these specially made instruments as on the regular catalogue stock—Our line includes such well known makes as Kimball—Knabe—Kramach & Bach—Whitney—Heintz—Howard and many others—We can easily please you and invite you to call and inspect our stock.

A. HOSPE, Music and Art. 1513 Douglas

W. L. Ross, M. D., and George H. Bicknell, M. D. United Pacific lodge, No. 17, Ancient Order of United Workmen, elected the following officers on Friday night: Master workman, David C. Middleton; foreman, Alex. M. Thorn; overseer, Parley E. Brooks; recorder, Henry Vingling; banner, Al D. Small; receiver, Charles A. Wagner; guide, A. L. Brunett; inside watchman, James A. Daly; outside watchman, Carl A. Helmer; trustee, William Turner; medical examiners, Drs. Wornersley, Miller, Lord and Campbell.

Independent Workmen of America. A new lodge was organized in South Omaha on May 20, which bears the name of Dewey lodge. The lodge started out with twenty-five charter members and has the following officers: Alonzo V. Miller, noble master; Mrs. Gramlich, vice noble master; Mrs. L. J. Brown, noble treasurer; Mrs. Alice Sullivan, noble secretary; M. S. Bates, noble escort; W. A. Watkins, noble inner guard; A. M. McLaughlin, noble outer guard; Dr. H. J. Aberley, Dr. W. L. Curtis, E. L. Cui-ver, noble directors.

Hugh Melcher, supreme master of the order, has returned from Chicago and will make Omaha his permanent home. Roger Dickens, supreme secretary of the order, went to Dunlap, Ia., Friday night, where he assisted with the degree work.

Fraternite Union of America. New lodges were organized last week at Cedar Bluffs and Springfield, Neb. Mondamin lodge will entertain its members with a box social on the night of June 20.

Banner lodge held an interesting meeting last night and voted on the applications of fifteen new members. The lodge is planning an entertainment to be held June 20. Mrs. Sprague of Banner lodge desires to extend her thanks to the members of the lodge who gave her their kind assistance during the sickness and death of her husband.

Secret Society Notes. Forest council No. 1, Knights of the Forest, will give a musical and literary entertainment in the Odd Fellows' temple next Wednesday evening. After the program is completed there will be dancing.

There will be a meeting of all Lady Macabees Monday evening, June 6, at Labor temple, Seventeenth and Douglas streets, to make arrangements for the annual excursion, one-half to be paid January 1 and one-half July 1. Favorable resolutions were introduced regarding members who have deserted military service.

The Sons of Veterans of Nebraska have Recruiting Officer Jones traveling over the state and securing volunteers for the regiment which that order proposes to raise and offer to the government. Any Omaha Sons of Veterans who desire to enlist in the regiment may do so by calling on W. J. Jacobs, regimental adjutant, who will be in his office at 402 New York Life building, from 7 till 9 every evening.

Quite a number of fraternal orders raised money and gave hearty support to the proposed excursion to the Exposition. The excursion, but others were so slow in lending their assistance and the matter was delayed so long that it was thought best to abandon the plan entirely. The Omaha representa-

Maps of Cuba at The Bee office—Omaha-Council Bluffs or South Omaha. Cut a coupon from page 2. Address Cuban map dept.



CITY STEAM LAUNDRY Bundles called for and delivered to all parts of the city free of charge. Laundry, 11th, between Farnam and Douglas.

OLDEST — LARGEST — BEST Bundles called for and delivered to all parts of the city free of charge. Laundry, 11th, between Farnam and Douglas.

Ladies' Waists a specialty.

Members of the various fraternal organizations have not lost their interest in the exposition, however, and weekly meetings are being held for the purpose of providing for the comfort of fraternity men who visit the exposition.

Arnold's bromo Celery cures headaches, 10c, 25c, 50c. All druggists.

THE OLD-TIMERS. Mrs. Merry Maria Gray, who has just died at Oakland, Cal., aged 99 years, during her life gave over \$1,000,000 to the advancement of the Baptist church and to the prosecution of charitable work of all kinds.

Thomas Towndown, who has just died in New York at the age of 88, was probably the oldest newspaper reporter in the country. He worked with and for the elder Bennett and Horva Greeley.

Six old cronies of Hudson, Columbia county, New York, who are wont to meet and gossip at a point store in the town, counted up the years they had spent together and found the aggregate to be 561.

The bishop of Liverpool, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ryle, has just returned on his 84th year. He is the oldest bishop on the English bench, and is still vigorous with his pen and speech. He is the only surviving bishop who was appointed by Lord Bunsfield.

"In the local history of this city," said the Prichard Record recently, "there is no more interesting character than the venerable Frederick Fraley, who recently celebrated his 94th birthday. Mr. Fraley, who is in remarkably good health and is keenly interested as ever in public affairs, spent the day quietly with a number of his friends at his residence, in De Lancy Place. The venerable gentleman's daily life is an unusually active one for a man of his extreme old age. He has a family card party once a week, which he greatly enjoys. He leaves his home promptly at 9:15 o'clock every morning for his business office, and presides with much satisfaction over a meeting of the Philosophical society, of which he has been president for twenty years. He also presides over the council of the Philadelphia Board of Trade."