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WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 23, 1898

COMPARATIVE STRENGTH.

Just at this time the relative strength of the American and Spanish navies is a matter of common interest. Yesterday's Oregonian published a table making a comparison between the fighting strength on sea of the two countries. A resume shows that the United States has nine battleships of the first class; Spain has one. On her nine ships this country has 136 heavy guns and 297 second battery guns. The destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor leaves this country with only one second-class fighting ship, the Texas. In coast defense sea-going vessels the United States is strong. Spain outnumbers the United States in the matter of torpedo boats; but, taking it all in all, the American navy is very much stronger than that of Spain.

It should be borne in mind that the first-class battleships of the United States are admittedly among the finest in the world, and that the Pelayo is some thousands of tons lighter, is older in style of construction, and much lighter in her armament. The Spanish armored cruisers are good ships from every point of view, having two guns that are heavier than any carried by the New York or the Brooklyn, but either of these two Yankee boats would be more than a match for one of the Vizcaya class, because of the preponderance of its guns. The Texas and the now defunct Maine have been compared with the Numancia and the Victoria, but neither of the latter could stand for five minutes before either of the former. Indeed, the Texas or the Maine, if it were still above water, singly could capture or sink both of the Spaniards of the second class.

Spain has more men in her navy than the United States. She has a total of 1009 officers, and the United States 982, including those of the marine corps. Spain has 16,300 seamen; the United States 12,600. The total active list in the Spanish navy is 24,629, and that in the United States navy 13,582. Spain has 25,000 naval reserves, or as many men in that department as there are in the army of the United States. The total number of reserves for the United States navy is 2800.

WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN.

February will always remain a month of impressive patriotic lessons, for in that month the United States was given its twin of noblest characters—Washington and Lincoln. The lives of these patriots form so perfect a complement to each other that one can almost believe the celebration of the anniversary of their birth within a fortnight was brought about by providential design.

Lincoln's career abounds in splendid lessons for the plain people of the land. He was of the common people. His childhood was set among the rude surroundings of the backwoods. By day he played and tolled barefoot in the clearing and on the prairie. By night he climbed a rude ladder to his rude bed of corn husks. Child of destiny, called of God to crush the growing intolerance of the slave-holding oligarchy and

break down a false "chivalry" and a pernicious social system which sought to degrade labor and destroy democracy.

The life of Washington is a noble lesson to every American born to wealth and social power. His precepts, his deeds, his lofty patriotism and splendid sacrifice stand as a stern rebuke to that dangerous and unpatriotic element which is willing to prostitute its duties as men and citizens to the mere absorption of wealth and envy-begetting display.

In a sense, Washington was an aristocrat; but above his aristocracy he held patriotism, justice, exalted respect for labor, and abhorrence of snobbery and coarse display. With such "aristocrats" the plain people have no feud. They recognize that high character has a right to carry itself with dignity; that it is needed in the council and the camp, and its influence is benign.—Spokesman-Review.

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