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CREELMAN'S CONFESSION.

A secret which has been kept in-
volute for some time by all writers
regarding the Santiago campaign has
been exposed at length in an article
written by Mr. James Creelman for
the November Review of Reviews.

It seems that because of some con-
fusion, the smoke of the campaign,
or some oversight or intended slight,
the name of the real hero of El Caney
has been suppressed. The cause of
the injustice might perhaps be traced
in the first place to the government
censors, but since the censorship has
been removed the silence of the lead-
ers as to the name of the man who
planned and led the attack of the
American troops upon the Spanish
position can be accounted for only
on the theory that he is another vic-
tim of military jealousy.

A careful reading of Mr. Creel-
man's article in the Review of Re-
views will convince the most cynical
that the victory of El Caney is due
altogether to Mr. Creelman. Indeed,
while attempting to shield himself
from entire responsibility and to hide
his blushes, Mr. Creelman admits this
to be the fact. It was Mr. Creelman,
he acknowledges, who first discovered
the Spanish flag flaunting insolently
over the rude fort that capped the
now historic hill. "The thought came
into my mind," he says, "that per-
haps before night I might have that
flag in my possession." With this
thought struggling against a thousand
conflicting emotions to escape through
the crown of his hat, he determined
to approach the fort before the
troops arrived, and forming himself
into a solid square he moved upon
the Spanish batteries, now wavering,
now ducking, but ever making steady
progress toward the goal he had in
view.

It is unnecessary to say that Mr.
Creelman was practically in posses-
sion of the fort when the main body
of the Yankee troops arrived. He
directed the movements of Captain
Walsh and offered suggestions to
Captain Haskell, which were joyfully
and almost tearfully accepted. Even
when the latter had advanced, Mr.
Creelman's mad impetuosity carried
him ahead of the regular and volun-
teer forces and kept him ahead of
them at least two hundred feet dur-
ing the hottest moments of the fight.
The Review of Reviews article
contains a picture showing Mr. Creel-
man in the act of leading the main
assault upon El Caney. He is away
ahead of the assaulting line, and is
brandishing a couple of revolvers,
which he says were "the finest in the
army, a pair presented to me by Mr.
Hearst, who was at that moment un-
der fire in the center of the army."
What Mr. Hearst was doing under
fire, or how far he was under it, Mr.
Creelman unfortunately neglects to
say, being occupied more particu-
larly with his own position. It was
about this time that Mr. Creelman
stumbled upon the barbed-wire fence
strung in front of the Spanish trench.
After he regained his feet and his
presence of mind simultaneously, and
had resumed his hold on the finest
pair of revolvers in the army, "Cap-
tain Haskell," he says, "hurried for-
ward two gallant fellows, who obeyed
my orders and cut the fence. I
stepped through the fence and found
the trench filled with dead and dying
Spaniards and others unhurt." Mod-
esty intervenes here and forbids Mr.
Creelman to mention how many of
these Spaniards fell at his hands, but
he continues: "I ordered the Span-
iards to surrender (presumably the
live ones) and they leaped up at
once and dropped their rifles. I
jumped across the trench and ran
around to the entrance of the fort.

As I entered the fort a wail of terror
went up from the wounded men. I
went up to the officer in command,
and, looking him straight in the eye,
said in French, 'You are my pris-
oner.' He threw up his hands and
said, 'Do with me as you please.' "

It is too bad that Mr. Hearst, who
happens to be Mr. Creelman's em-
ployer, was at that moment under
fire in the center of the army. Had
he seen Mr. Creelman in the act of
looking the Spanish officer straight in
the eye, and witnessed the surrender
that followed, he would have raised
the salary of his correspondent on, or
at least near, the spot.

Mr. Creelman is now on a peace
footing, but we shall have to watch
him closely lest he precipitate and
carry on another war. This is all
the more necessary because he leaves
the impression that he still retains
the finest pair of revolvers in the
army, presented to him by Mr.
Hearst, whom he leaves under fire in
the center of the army.

THE GERMAN SPECIALIST

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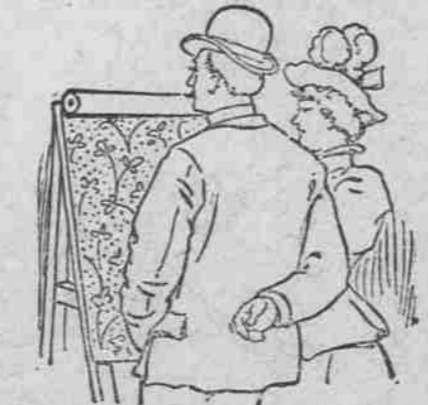
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