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ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1884.

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THE AMERICAN NAVY

Senator Miller on the Necessity for Pro viding Means of Defense for the Pacific Coast.

On July 7th Senator Miller of California made an able speech before the United States senate in behalf of the American navy, which is published in full in the Congressional Record. In the following summary some inng provisions for the naval service.

nator Miller opposed the motion. and referred to the defenseless condition of the Pacific coast and the need of rebuilding the navy. It is admitted on all sides that the United States is without a navy, and the fact has been reiterated hundreds of culties which threaten it in the near times. It has also been stated that the country is destitute of coast defenses. The modern iron-clad of other nations can steam along in front of our forts and batteries without feeling even a jar as our weightiest projectiles are hurled against her ponderous sides. They strike her as feathers shot from a toy gun. She neither heeds nor hears, nor feels the soft pattering of their caressing contact, but goes forward in the im-mensity of her power and upon her mission of destruction to the very center pier of our greatest commercial city. Or if she prefers to speak her wrath at a distance, beyond the sound of our guns, she stands eight or ten miles away and burls her awful thunderbolts of more that a ton in weight crashing through the very heart of our metropolis. This may be done, and in despite of all the torpedoes and all the guns and enginery which we as a nation possess, and the Democratic party says that this condition shall continue, because we propose to appropriate money to build a navy great guns by an appropriation

The effect of the defenseless con dition and non-combatant character of our government is to repress the spirit and destroy the courage of American diplomacy. The power and influence of a nation in international councils is proportioned precisely by her capability to inflict in-jury upon her enemies. Her dignity s in the ratio of her power to fight. Intelligence counts for something, wealth for more, but the strongest is the greatest in the conflict of nations, No government destitute of military power can present an ultimatum. Such a government must be prepared to submit to the will of others who are stronger, not wiser, in international concerns. Applying these prin-

Reference was made to the "Monroe Doctrine," which is enforced with
a vigor proportionate to the efficacy
of our military and naval power, and
it was affirmed that something like a

the recent charges of scandal." crisis in the affairs of more than one so plain that it could not and has not been misunderstood, that we cannot permit the isthmus transit to be used interests as a nation on land or sea. Our government said to the world that an agreement between European states to jointly guarantee the neu trality and in effect control the politi cal character of a highway of commerce remote from them and near to us, forming substantially a part of our coast line and promising to become the chief means of transporta-tion between our Atlantic and Pacific states, would be viewed by this government with grave concern, and that such action by European powers which maintained vast armies and patrol the sea with immense fleets, would partake of the nature of an would partage of the nature of an alliance against the United States of the has accepted? Is it conceivable that he would withdraw under the America. The work of construction that he would still goes on, and the senator asked if the United States had any control over it, in spite of the doctrine it had asserted. Do we propose that this which exposes our comwhich exposes our comwhich exposes our commerce with the Pacific to the absolute control of foreign nations, whose interests are hostile to ours, and our western coasts to the mercy of hose weight and just \$400 with which to pay all expenses of the campaign. That was western coasts to the mercy of hos-tile fleets, shall be consummated and hardly enough to pay for tickets. We pass under the domination of Euro- have no rich men in the party. pean powers? Do we intend to make our words good? Suppose our treaties our words good? Suppose our treaties with Colombia are superseded by treaties of alliance and guarantee between Colombia and European powers? What is our government to Cleveland's election." powers? What is our government to do? Protest against it? But how shall the protest be made effective without a navy? How strong will be the protest if our coast cities are left defenseless? The State of Panama is now virtually a French colony, and we may expect at any time with-in six months, perhaps within sixty days, that the French government will consider it necessary for the preservation of French interests in Panama to establish military posts there and station troops along the line of the projected canal Schemes for the colonization by the French of various parts of the United States of Colombia are now in progress. They have gone so far as to change the name of the towns and places along the Panama canal, giving them French names, and that whole region is becoming Frenchified, and the Monroe doctrine (so called) is violated energetically, flagrantly, and persistently by the French every

tary control of Panama? Do we propose to permit the colonization schemes to go on without objection or interruption? It is perfectly evi-dent that the French government, which has of late become the most aggressive government on the earth, intends to assume and maintain perfect and exclusive control over the Panama canal whenever it shall be finished. The time has come for the practical assertion and maintenance teresting points of special interest to of the Monroe doctrine with respect this coast are given in brief. The to the Panama isthmus or for its total repediation and abandonment. That speech was called forth on the motion of Senator Hale that the senate recede from its amendment to the bill making provisions for the naval service. war in its relation to the isthmian problem, I fully believe. We are drift-ing, and drifting into serious complications- The diplomatic negotiations now supposed to be in progress may extricate this nation from the diffi-

future in respect to Nicaragua. Senator Miller then asked why the senate should hesitate to place the country in a position to maintain its rights, interests and honor, when complications are liable at any time to arise." Some three years ago our government presented by its state department an alternative to Mexico if she refused to settle the boundary dispute with Guatemala. Happily, Guatemala acknowledged herself in the wrong and settled upon Mexico's basis and all difficulty was averted. The Chilean affair is fresh in the minds of the senate and the humiliation which every American felt when the Chilean ironglad steamed into San Francisco bay, peacefully it is true, but with the ocular demon-stration that Chile might have bombarded or laid San Francisco under contribution by means of that one vessel, and this great nation had not the power to prevent it. These may be considered small affairs, but out of a number of small things great mat-ters grow. From small affairs great wars sometimes come.

### WHAT THEY SAY.

New York, Aug. 2. The Sun continues its eccentric course. It re-bukes the Times for its perversion of facts in the Mulligan letter case, and says the Sun prefers to conduct its operations against Blaine with some regard to the principles of justice and a due appreciation of the value of ascertained facts. The Sun returns again to the charges against Cleve-land. It says: "The charges must either be wholly ignored by Cleveland's friends, treated with silent contempt as Hendricks says, or met and an-swered inthe fullest and most conclus-ive manner. Which is the proper course to pursue, under the circum ciples to our government in our pres-ent condition, do we not see that at this very moment what humiliation is in prospect for us as a nation in the Sun also says: "We confess that all our researches into philosophy and

The democrats are feeling rather of the nations on the American conti- sorrowful for the positive announce nents was pending. Attention was ment that Roscoe Conkling will take called to the official correspondence the stump for Blaine and Logan. It with Colombia on the subject of the has been supposed the distinguished Panama caual. We have objected to statesman would take no part in the the Colombian government seeking guarantees of the freedom and neutrality of the canal at the Panama isthmus from European governments. and have insisted that all the guarantees in respect of the free use of such a canal should be from the United States alone. Our government his determination to take no part in the campaign, and the democrats were jubilant over the fact that the greatest leader of the republican campaign of 1880 would be absent from the field. A dispatch from this city to the San Francisco Chronicle toted States alone. Our government his determination to take the stump has said more than once in language for Blaine and Logan, and half promised to speak not only in New York, but in Ohio and Indiana. New York permit the isthmus transit to be used republicans in this city say that in any event offensively against our Conkling's aid in New York state will bring many thousands who heritated back to the republican ticket

> WOULD CLEVELAND WITHDRAW? New York, August 2-The Star, Kelly's organ, says of the Sun's double leaded article yesterday on Cleve-land's withdrawal: "We find the proposition discussed in other papers Undoubtedly the substitution of Tilden for Cleveland would produce a marvelous effect, It would harmonize the democracy, endow them with new energy, and leave no possible room for doubt as to the result. But would it be decorous to ask Cleveland to withdraw, now that

> should like to get some good speakers

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and persistently by the French every day and every hour in the day. It is a question which I here suggest, How long will this be permitted to continue? Do we intend to stand by and see the French government in mili



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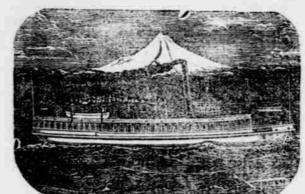
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