

THE LADRONE ISLANDS OURS

An important side feature of the war was announced in the dispatches of July 4, which told of the capture of the Ladrone Islands by the United States military expedition to the Philippines. So much new territory is now in course of seizure by the United States that the capture of these twenty islands—which would have been the sensation of the day a year ago—aroused almost no comment. The cruiser Charleston, according to the dispatches, captured Guahan, on June 21, and took the garrison of six officers and 54 men to Manila. The only dramatic element of the capture was its comicality, for when our cruiser fired on the Spanish fortifications, the commanding officer if we may believe the press reports, sent out a small boat to apologize for not returning the "salute" as he had no powder! After arresting the garrison, the American flag replaced the Spanish and a small force was left to hold the islands. The Ladrone Islands, about twenty in number, are some distance east of the Philippines and have a united area of 1,254 square miles. They are said to be mountainous, well watered and wooded and fruitful in rice, maize, cotton and indigo. The population was estimated at 100,000 when the islands were discovered by Magellan, in 1521, but after the three hundred and fifty years of the rule from which they have just passed the population is now estimated at less than 10,000. The inhabitants resemble the Philippine Malays. The islands are said to be of considerable commercial importance.

The Daily Journal, Biddleford Me. takes the view that this capture commits the United States to "imperialism."

"The news of the destruction of Cervera's fleet has overshadowed in importance that of an event of greater international significance, the transfer to the American flag of a group of Spanish islands in the Pacific Ocean, with a population of 60,000. The cruiser Charleston called at Guahan, the largest of the Ladrone islands making prisoners of the governor-general, his staff and their whole military force, and running up the stars and stripes over the ruins of Santa Cruz fort in the harbor.

"The Ladrone islands now belong to the United States by right of conquest pure and simple. Here there are no insurgents and no controversy as to actual possession. A group of Pacific islands has been seized by the United States and 'empire' has become fact while statesmen are discussing it as theory."

The Evening post, Chicago, thinks that our gain in this incident is greater than Spain's loss:

"The report that the Charleston passed in its course to add the Ladrone group to our prizes of war is hardly a surprise to the American public. It was known immediately after the sailing of the expedition that Captain Glass would improve his opportunity to secure control of the islands, owing to their value to us as a naval base. Their commercial importance is slight, and Spain will not deplore their loss; but as a coaling station and port of call they cannot fail to prove of considerable usefulness to a nation expecting rapid development of its Pacific commerce. Guahan (or Guam) is in the line of traffic between our Pacific ports and the Philippines, Hongkong and Japan."

THE EXACT SITUATION

We find a Philadelphia free-trade newspaper affecting to mourn that we are exporting more than we import, and insisting that such inequality of the two movements is unnatural and therefore hurtful. This is the ancient free-trade doctrine, and the existing conditions permit us to perceive if it be sound or not. We are selling to our foreign consumers more than we are buying. The free-traders declare that this stands for loss to us; but how? In the first place, we are thus paying our debts. Is debt payment loss? In the second place, we are making a profit of one kind or another upon our industry. No element of loss can appear in that kind of a transaction. Furthermore, visibly and incontestably we are increasing our share of the world's gold, which means that we are storing up our past labor, our profits, our power to command the world's wealth. In what manner does any element of sacrifice appear there? The exact situation is that we export our surplus product, over and above our own requirements. While engaged in doing this, we buy from foreigners less than we used to buy, because we have learned how to make in our own mills many of the articles which we once took in payment for their surplus. Thus the foreigner is compelled to pay the money, instead of paying with stuff on which he could make a profit. Therefore, as a matter of fact, we have two profits where formerly we had but one, and we employ our labor, consume domestic materials, and engage our own capital. Reason apart, common instinct teaches us that we are the gainers with the balance of trade. "In our favor," as the phrase is. There is not a man in the country, engaged in active business, who does not know that the real advantage, under such conditions, is with us.—"Textile Record."

THE FIGHTING VALUE OF BATTLE-SHIPS.

"In the result of this sudden and unexpected naval encounter, with its impressive sum-total of destruction, the supreme value of the heavily

armed and armored battle-ship has been strikingly demonstrated. The warships in Cervera's squadron were of the latest and most approved construction, and one—the Cristobal Colon, formerly the Giuseppe Garibaldi—was completed scarcely two years ago. The cruisers were built with twelve inches of steel armor at the water line, and with protected decks three inches thick. They had nine inches of steel on the turrets, twelve inches around the conning towers, and eight inches surrounding the ammunition tubes and magazines. Yet this measure of apparently ample protection availed nothing against the tremendous batteries of the Oregon and her two sister ships—the Indiana and Massachusetts (2) and the scarcely lighter armament of the Iowa and the Texas. The rapidity with which the armored Spanish squadron was destroyed by these five vessels vindicates anew the principle so long insisted upon by our naval constructors, that warships of the first class must carry the largest possible guns, even at the sacrifice of some degree of speed. The governments of the world have long been wondering what the modern battle-ship was really worth. They have their answer at length in the swift and tragic destruction of Cervera's squadron."—The Record, Philadelphia.

A WAR FUNERAL.

Two generations have learned, by heart the line poem on "The Burial of Sir John Moore." Its truth as a "general sketch" is emphasized by the scene at the burial of Surgeon Gibbs and his three comrades at Guantanamo, Cuba, last June. At the point where

But half of our heavy task was done.

When we heard the distant and

dom gun.

That the foe was suddenly firing,

the repetition of history is striking

though the situation in the Cuban

incident is far more critical and thir-

ling than in Chaplain Wolfe's poem.

It was the same national "foe" who

"sudden firing" had slain four bra-

ve American marines, and threatened

again the lives of the men who bu-

ried them.

By the new graves on the hill-

side near the camp of the marines,

troop of several hundred stood un-

covered heads while Chap-

lain Jones of the warship Texas began

service for the dead.

He had scarcely pronounced

words "I am the Resurrection

and the Life," when a volley from a

battery of concealed Spaniards on a

neighboring ridge startled them with

half of scattering bullets. Most

of the marines retired to their trench,

but a few remained with the

chaplain.

Falling flat in the grass, the

sighted their rifles at the ridge,

gave the hidden enemy shot for shot

while the chaplain, partly shield-

ed by a little mound of earth, went

on with the funeral service, utter-

ing every word with a calm, strong

and apparently as undisturbed as

he had been in his own pulpit.

The more excited marines watched

and fought the foe, but did not for a

moment forget the solemn ceremony.

In the face of all perils they resolved

to suitably honor the remains of

their uncoffined comrades. Their

guns strangely accented the reverent

responses they gave to the chaplain's

recital, and the closing "Our Father"

mingled with the dropping of Span-

ish bullets all around them. When

before was the Lord's Prayer ever

THE TROOPS WANTED TO FIGHT.

Many of the American troops expressed disappointment that they had not had an opportunity to take the city by assault.

Latest reports showed that there were 2,000 Americans killed, wounded or missing in the fighting about Santiago. This loss was much greater than had been expected, and the authorities in Washington, hoping to avert the loss of life as much as possible, instructed Gen. Miles to take honorable steps to terminate the siege without further fighting, provided the city would be surrendered by the Spanish.

Gen. Toral attempted to get better terms for the Spaniards, but the American General reminded him that his position was hopeless and that he must agree to give up the city at once or prepare to resist in immediate assault by an overwhelming force and a bombardment by the entire American fleet. He was reminded that all of Admiral Sampson's vessels were in position to bombard, and that the gunners were ready to fire the moment the signal was given.—Courier Journal.

The official statistics prove that the value of the exports from the United States during the present fiscal year will average about \$3,500,000 for every day during the fiscal year, including all the Sundays. The world stands amazed over that record, yet only twelve months ago it was being argued that the enactment of the Dingley Tariff would ruin the foreign trade of the United States by closing the world's markets against our products.—Des Moines "Register."

The tremendous exports of manu-

factures into history as one of the most

brilliant and memorable incidents in

the history of the United States.

Issue of \$200,000,000 has been

issued seven times over, and it is

taken in its entirety by individuals

instead of syndicates. The man

who subscribed for \$500 or less

estimated Thursday evening

168,500 and will probably go to

\$200. A very considerable por-

tion of these subscriptions was in

small lots of \$20 to \$100 each.

When we recall that the 5 per

cent of February, 1894, was offe-

red public on the same interest

that it was not subscribed for

all but a few days of the allotted

had passed and then was taken

syndicate only at the earnest

instance of Mr. John Stewart and

bankers, we see that a tremen-

dous revolution has been wrought

in national credit. As a mat-

ter, the financial condition of

people has vastly improved,

then, but there was an abundance

of money in 1894, which the

would not lead to so good a

as Uncle Sam. Why then, have

been so distrustful of the

effort of the memory to re-

great is the change from the

ness of that time to the con-

of the present. It is chiefly

ter of confidence, for this coun-

try is rich in resources, then as

now, and just as able to use them

as in the days when Nestor sat

back in his chair and exhorted his

sons to war with tales of his own

youthful deeds.

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troubled with colic and cholera

infantum since his birth, and all

that we could do for him did not

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is a problem in most job offices. Not so with the Hillsboro Independent. We have a large force of men at work all the time and can "rush" a job for you without any trouble. When you want work done quickly give the Hillsboro Independent a trial.

If You Were He

Yes, if you were the creditor and saw the merchant sitting idly in his shop, accumulating more debt, colic and cholera, you would probably feel like asking, "Why don't you?"

Wake Up

use the advertising columns of the HILLSBORO INDEPENDENT and exchange your stock for legal tender. What say you?

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