

CAN HE BE OBFUSCATED?

OR HAS THAT OPERATION BEEN PERFORMED ALREADY,

OLNEY IS NOTIFIED

THAT IF HE FIGHTS SPAIN HE'LL HAVE EUROPE TO FIGHT.

STORY ORIGINATES AT PARIS

THAT THE POWERS HAVE COME TO THIS RESOLVE.

Story of the Three Friends' Sea Fight is "Officially" Denied—Whereabouts of the Pesky Craft—Cuban News.

London, Eng., Dec. 25.—The Times' correspondent says: "The Washington government has been confidentially informed, although in very friendly terms, that the European powers would not remain passive should the United States recognize or encourage the Cuban insurgents. If my information is correct, an intimation has been further given that Germany is quite ready, even now, to take Spain's side should the United States show a disposition officially to side with the rebels. These warnings originated in the course of four parleys for a European coalition against revolutionary socialism."

THREE FRIENDS STORY DENIED

Vessel is in Key West, Apparently no Worse for Wear.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 25.—A special to the Commercial-Tribune from Key West, Fla., says: Much comment was made today in Havana over the report coming from New York that the filibustering steamer Three Friends had been fired on by Spanish cruisers and that the steamer had disabled a Spanish gunboat. This report is positively denied in official circles, who affirm that nothing of the kind occurred, but that the story is made from whole cloth. It is admitted that the steamer landed on the coast of the island, but it is alleged that there was no fighting. It is furthermore admitted that only a part of the cargo was secured by Gomez. Spanish coast guards having captured a good portion of the Three Friends is here, lying under the guns of the Raleigh. Captain Lewis refuses to say anything about his trip save that he had been ordered to return to the story of a fight, he professes ignorance. None of the crew can be induced to speak of the affair. The vessel does not bear any marks of conflict and the report is doubted here.

Havana advised that Gomez's advance guard has captured the town of Las Pasas, in Santa Clara province, taking the entire garrison and all their stores.

A battalion of fresh troops was sent to Matanzas this morning from Havana to be sent to the front. Great exertions are being made to get a strong force to oppose General Gomez, and three lines are being formed to get the Cubans entangled in between them and crushed.

Key West, Fla., says United States Consul General Fitzhugh Lee and family passed through here today on the Olivette on their way to Havana.

OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD

"Official Advice" Contains Detailed Denial of the Sea Fight.

Havana, Cuba, Dec. 25.—Major Barber reports that the battalion of Cuenos had had a hard fight with the insurgent band under Felino Alvarez, Aldina and Barroli. Lieutenant Freire was mortally wounded and afterwards died. The insurgents left four dead upon the field and carried off many prisoners. They also abandoned a large quantity of arms and munitions. A prisoner who was captured says that there were thirty-seven insurgents in the past insurrection, also captured nine Mauser rifles and 21 Remingtons, which had been left on the field, and nearly a hundred horses. The insurgent dead were buried to the town of Quintana de Guaymas. Among them were Captain Eusebia Rojas and Lieutenant Balleja.

Inquiries in official quarters by the correspondent of the Assoc. Press elicited a denial of the story published in the United States that the filibustering steamer Three Friends fired upon a Spanish coast guard steamer and a Spanish gunboat.

FIGHTING AND FINANCIERING

How These Play at Cross Purposes at Washington.

New York, Dec. 25.—A Madrid special to the World says: "It is rumored that General Weyler has delayed free operations against the insurgents in order to give time to discover the disposition of the bands and their chiefs since the death of Maceo, with a view to feeling his way to preparing the ground for finishing the present Cuban war like the past insurrection in Spain and Cuba, where money and unofficial negotiations proved more telling arguments than force of arms, directly the insurgents saw no more hope of foreign aid."

"It is also believed in diplomatic circles that Spain will take advantage of the disposition of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney to negotiate quickly and directly with the United States to secure American neutrality by granting discriminating concessions in the contemplated Cuban tariff and fair promises of colonial autonomy before the accession of McKinley."

"One of the principal reasons of the Spanish government for insisting upon General Weyler's military decision to attempt to clear the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Matanzas within a few weeks is the urgent necessity for scoring military success before the end of the year to appeal to the native and foreign markets for fresh loans, when she will have exhausted the money obtained by the recent interior loan, which will expire in March of next year."

"At present the minister of the colonies disposes of this cash and Cuban bonds of the value of about \$50,000,000 only out of the proceeds of that loan. The expenses of the war in Cuba are \$12,000,000 monthly, and in the Philippines at least \$4,000,000. Up to the present time the Spanish treasury has associated the Cuban treasury by guaranteeing advances made by foreign and native bankers upon Cuban bonds and by pledging the sources of regular revenue for the recent \$200,000,000 loan."

"The moment is fast approaching when the Spanish parliament and the Spanish tax payers must be asked to provide in the shape of additional taxation \$36,000,000 annually for the interest and sinking fund of \$200,000,000 thus raised, to meet only in part the expense of the Cuban war up to March, 1897, and which the Cuban budget and the Cuban tax payers could not possibly undertake to pay, even if the war were soon terminated considering that their budgets show

ed deficits averaging \$5,000,000 annually before the present insurrection."

WHAT THURSTON THINKS

Nebraska Senator Gives His Views Upon Congressional Action.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 25.—Senator John M. Thurston spent Christmas day with his family in this city. "I think there will be no tariff or financial legislation at this season of congress," said the senator. "I am satisfied, however, that there will be an extra session of congress called to consider these matters soon after the advent of the Republican administration, probably about March 15. It is pretty certain that there will be a new tariff bill by the first of July."

"Do you think the government will foreclose its lien on the Union Pacific at an early date?" "I altogether probable that the attorney general will appear early in January for the government in the pending suits and ask for a foreclosure of the government's lien. The president will not wait for congress to act in this matter. Congress may or may not pass the funding bill. Of course, if it should, that would not affect the foreclosure proceedings. If it does not, the foreclosure will go on. The truth is that I have not taken a great interest in this matter and may not be fully posted. I know an opposite opinion is held, but what I've said is a fact nevertheless."

"Do you think that the present congress is pro?" "I should say that it is likely to pass the house. In the senate probably a majority of the members are in favor of it, still it may not pass. The time is so short, and the matters are so great, that any measure that is hard fought is likely to fail, though it might pass there more time. However, I am in favor of it, and I believe the government will get through it, though I believe this means that by the funding bill."

SICK OF IT ALREADY

Bryan Doesn't Like Non-Partisan Lecturing at All.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 25.—William J. Bryan stopped very early on his way home through this city this morning. While saying that his lecture at Atlanta was a success, it is understood that he does not like the non-partisan lecturing engagement, and may ask to be released. He remarked to a close friend that he had made a mistake in undertaking to deliver a series of non-partisan lectures.

CHRISTMAS AT CANTON

Major and Mrs. McKinley Eat Turkey With Mother McKinley.

Canton, O., Dec. 25.—Ideal Christmas weather prevailed in Canton today. The McKinleys spent the morning at the home of the major, where the most of the opportunities offered. No thought was given to work or business during the day. Private Secretary Boyle joined the McKinleys at the home of the major, Hon. Joseph P. Smith went to his home in Urbana, and others of the official household went to their homes.

The greater part of the morning Major and Mrs. McKinley spent in driving about in a double-seated cutter, having with them on their little jaunts the various members of the family at the old home in the White House library. The dinner was served at the old-fashioned hour of mid-day and digested while the family sat around the open fire.

The evening was spent at the major's home with the guests at the dinner party. A close friends, who dropped in informally, before the McKinleys, with musical accomplishments were in the party and sang and played the favorite selections of Mrs. McKinley.

None of the night music was during the day, but they were not numerous and there was none from out of the city, whose mission was of public significance, who showed up at the McKinleys' home by Mr. Major and Mrs. McKinley.

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WANTED TO LYNCH

MOB IN OHIO GETS AFTER A MOTORMAN.

He Runs His Car Over a Boy and Kills Him, Whereupon a Few Hundred Residents of the Vicinity Make a Rush for Him, Drag Him From His Car and Beat Him Severely—Man With a Winchester Interferes—Police Reach Him in Time—List of Christmas Murders—Crime News in General.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Geo. E. Denmark, 7 years old, was killed by a trolley car at Throp and Eleventh streets this afternoon. Fred Bernier, motorman, was threatened with lynching for killing the boy, and was with great difficulty rescued from a mob of Bohemians, who, incensed at the terrible accident, surrounded the car and dragged Bernier from the platform, determined to hang him. Patrick Hanley, the conductor, managed to save Bernier from the mob, and then a riot was started in the well street station. The police took charge of the motorman and conductor and locked them up.

After the boy had been killed Motorman Bernier took refuge in the car, which stood still within a few feet of where the boy was killed, and in an instant he was besieged by angry men. He attempted to keep them out by latching the doors on the inside, but they broke down the door, knocked him down and kicked and beat him for a few minutes in a shocking manner. He managed, however, to get away from them and ran to the door of a drug store, where he also was surrounded by a mob and admitted inside by Mr. Kvietsky, the proprietor, before any further harm befell him.

The crowd surged around the door yelling, "Break it in! Kill him! Kill him!" It looked for a moment as if the store would be raided. But Mr. Kvietsky brought out a Winchester rifle and pointed it at the door, but no one dared enter. The crowd believed what he said and fell back.

In the meantime Mr. Kvietsky had also phoned his telephone. He called on the Maxwell station first for an ambulance, but by that time matters had got so warm that he requested a patrol wagon. In a few minutes the wagon brought a number of officers, who did all they could to quiet the mob. When some degree of quiet had been restored the police arrested the motorman and the conductor.

There were many versions given of the accident. Well informed people, living in the neighborhood, said they had been expecting something of the kind for a long time and were very surprised that it had not happened long since.

WHILE GOING TO A FIRE

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 25.—William A. Dougherty was killed, and James Nedli and Stephen Neisler badly injured in a collision between a trolley car and a horse-drawn wagon on the Pennsylvania avenue crossing. They were thrown one hundred feet and hurled against the side of a building. Dougherty died within an hour. He was returning from a visit to his mother, to whom he had given a Christmas gift, when the alarm struck, and being a member of another fire company, Dougherty jumped upon the engine.

ON A GRADE CROSSING

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 25.—Persons were injured on a grade crossing accident. A passenger train on the Central railroad of New Jersey struck a trolley car. L. W. Taylor, aged 40, was killed, and was instantly killed. The injured are, Geo. Cressler, trolley car conductor; Mr. and Mrs. John Brink, P. Gehman and Ed. Meyer. The last four are in Bethlehem.

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CLAIMING SELF-DEFENSE

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 25.—A. Butte, Mont. special says: In a shooting scrape at the Southern Cross mine in Deer Lodge county, D. A. Kelly, the well known mining man, was shot through the heart and instantly killed, and John McIntyre, his slayer, also received a bullet in his right hand. McIntyre, immediately after the shooting, was found by the doctor and gave himself up to the authorities and had his wound dressed. McIntyre refused to say anything after being locked up, except that "shot in self-defense, the trouble would prove it when the proper time came."

ABUSED HOSPITALITY

Worthville, Ky., Dec. 25.—A fatal shooting occurred at Eagle station this morning. The Frank Harris has invited Henry Medley to dinner. After dinner Harris went out and as he was returning is said to have seen Mrs. Harris and a Kelly in a compromising position. Both men drew revolvers and opened fire. Medley was shot five times and Harris twice. Medley is dead and Harris will die.

SUICIDE WOULD'NT GO

Clarke, S. D., Dec. 25.—Christian Christiansen has just been convicted of wife murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. It was supposed that his wife had committed suicide, as she was found hanging from a tree from his wagon and drove out from under, leaving her there. Circumstantial evidence was found which rendered the suicide theory untenable.

ARKANSAS RACE WAR

McNell, Ark., Dec. 25.—A correspondent has just returned from the lower part of the state, where a race war is being waged. It is a race between the whites and the negroes. The whites are endeavoring to keep down the negroes, and the negroes are endeavoring to keep down the whites. The situation is such that the war may break out any time.

HELPED THE TAYLORS

Fulton, Mo., Dec. 25.—John Hall, under arrest here for being drunk, is believed to have been connected with the Taylor brothers in the murder of the Meeks family. He is believed to have been in the country yesterday and went on a spree, and during the night, talked of his connection with the crime. Today he was released, and is believed to be a boy, and is believed to be in a barn out of town, nearly frozen to death, where they had been left by their father.

NEW CANADIAN RAILROADS

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 25.—Among the applications to be made to the Dominion government at the coming session of parliament for charters to build railways are those of the Trans-Canadian Railway company, which proposes to build a road from Winnipeg to York City, Hudson Bay, and the Albert Railway and Coal company, which wishes to build a line from Lethbridge, N. W. T., to the American boundary.

COULD BUILD MERCHANT SHIPS

London, Dec. 25.—The Times has a special article this morning comparing the English and American mercantile marine. It is a comparative study of the two nations, and is a very interesting and valuable contribution to the knowledge of the shipping industry. It is a comparative study of the two nations, and is a very interesting and valuable contribution to the knowledge of the shipping industry.

HONORED BY TWO POPES

Washington, Dec. 25.—Mrs. Anna Dorsey, the pioneer of Catholic literature in this country, died here today, aged 83 years. She was a daughter of the late Rev. Wm. McKenney, a chaplain in the United States navy. She was honored with personal letters from Pius IX and also from Pope Leo.

NOT BETWEEN THE NATIONS

Russo-Chinese Treaty Has the Russo-Chinese Treaty as One Party. London, Eng., Dec. 25.—A Times dispatch from St. Petersburg says: "It is alleged that the Russo-Chinese treaty, which recently caused so much comment, is not between the two governments, but between the Chinese government and the Russo-Chinese bank, which was formed a year ago by the directors of the Russian International bank. The treaty is dated Sept. 8. The Russo-Chinese bank formed the railway company, which an imperial organization recently sanctioned under the name of the Eastern Railway company, with a capital of \$50,000,000, to construct and work a railway from the Russian frontier of Hei-Tung-Chiang to the Eastern frontier of Kirin, in Manchuria, to connect with branches of the Siberian railway. It is believed that the directors of the