

MORRO CASTLE FIRES ON OUR SQUADRON.

Ten Shots Sent at Our Vessels.

None of Them, However, Took Effect.

The Big Ships Fired No Shots in Retaliation.

Captain Chadwick Turned His Back in Silent Contempt.

The New York Captures the Spanish Trading Steamer Pedro and Sends Her to Key West—Dispatch Boat Anita's Narrow Escape.

OFF HAVANA (on board the flagship New York, April 23.—Copyrighted 1898, by the Associated Press), 2 a. m.—Morro Castle opened fire on the fighting squadron of the United States fleet at 12 o'clock last night. About ten shots were sent in the direction of our ships, but not one of them took effect and no shots were fired in return.

The Spaniards evidently had seen the lights of the New York while the latter was signaling to a ship of the squadron.

The firing was reported by the officer of the deck, Ensign J. R. Edie, to Captain Chadwick, who was asleep at the time. The young officer asked the Captain in command whether the New York had not better discontinue signaling.

"No," muttered Captain Chadwick, with the utmost coolness. "There is no necessity for stopping the signals, go ahead."

A little later Captain Chadwick was on the forward bridge, whence he watched the tongues of flames shoot out from Morro Castle. He glanced in the direction of the Spanish fortifications for a few seconds and then turned his back on them in silent contempt and went back to his bed, perfectly certain the Spaniards could do no damage at five miles, which was then the approximate distance of the flagship from Morro Castle.

Another officer said: "The Spaniards probably became nervous and decided they could not sleep without some fireworks. They can't hit anything anyway."

There was no excitement on board the flagship during the castle's futile attempt at gunnery. The discipline was really splendid.

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WAR WILL BE FORMALLY DECLARED.

President Will Ask Congress To Do So.

A Resolution Will Be Introduced To-day.

Spain Has Made a Formal Reply to Our Ultimatum.

The Document is a Formal Acknowledgment of Its Acceptance by that Country as a Virtual Declaration of War.

HOW THE FLEET SAILED.

Left Key West and Took Its Station Before Havana.

OFF HAVANA (On board the U. S. flagship New York, April 22.—Copyrighted 1898, by the Associated Press.—A few minutes before 10 o'clock (yesterday) morning the signal was flashed from the flagship to get under way and at 4:25 the capstan was hauling up the anchor.

Dawn was breaking as the great gray warships crept out from Key West harbor and took their stations in line. Rear Admiral Sampson, in command of the fleet, paced the quarter deck briskly and on the New York's forward bridge stood Captain Chadwick, in command of the fleet's armored cruiser as ever led a fleet of warships.

The captain creaked and groaned as it dragged the anchor from its bed, where it had been lying since the day after the battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor. There was no confusion, no shouting and no singing.

When at 5 minutes past 5 Captain Chadwick gave the order to go ahead, the clang of the engine bell could be heard all over the ship.

At slow speed, the flagship leading, the fighting squadron took a south-southwest course and Key West faded out of sight.

About fifteen miles off Key West between 7 and 8 a. m. a tramp steamer was sighted bearing down on the fleet and off the cruiser Nashville's quarter.

The steamer hoisted a Spanish flag whereupon the Nashville promptly signaled her to stop. The Spaniard paid no attention to the signal and continued on her way at full speed.

The Nashville then put a shot across her bows. This had no effect, but in a minute a puff of smoke curled out from the Nashville and the first shot of the war, fired in earnest, sped close to the Spanish steamer.

A second later down came the Spanish flag and the steamer hoisted the Buena Ventura flag. She was boarded by the Nashville, the fleet stopped and after a hurried investigation the Nashville was ordered to take her prize back to Key West. It was not a very important capture nor was it an exciting one.

The entire plan of action here is fraught with danger, not so much from the Spanish guns as from the difficulties of maneuvering a large squadron at night without showing any lights to the enemy on shore.

Speculation is rife as to what the Spaniards are doing and as to what they intend to do. It is not believed Admiral Sampson will confine himself entirely to a blockade of the island, although he informed the correspondent that he did not expect any action to occur in the immediate future.

It is certain, however, that some movement will be made on Matanzas, probably tomorrow. Whether this will be simply in the nature of a blockade or for the purpose of securing a base of supplies cannot be ascertained with any degree of assurance.

POOR GUNNERY.

None of Morro Castle's Shot Reached Their Mark.

KEY WEST, April 23.—6:30 p. m.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The first shot from Morro Castle opened its batteries on the United States fleet. This news brought here this afternoon by the torpedo boat Ericsson, which left the fleet at 10 o'clock this morning and reached here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Captain Usher of the Ericsson says his boat was ordered out early last night on scout duty. The fleet was lying about eight miles off Havana. Lights were out and all hands were ready for action. The little craft scudded swiftly towards the enemy and brought up almost under Morro's guns, being enabled to reach such a close point be-

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SPAIN OUTLINES HER POLICY.

Maintains Her Right to Privateer.

Only Auxiliary Cruisers Will be Used at Present,

But She Will Treat Foreign Privateers as Pirates.

Thirty Days Will be Given to United States Ships Anchored in Her Harbors to Depart Free From Hindrance.

MADRID, April 24.—1 p. m.—The royal decree says Spain maintains her right to have recourse to privateering and announces that for the present only auxiliary cruisers will be fitted out. All treaties with the United States are annulled; thirty days are given to the United States ships to leave Spanish ports, and the rules Spain will observe during the war are outlined in five clauses, covering neutral flags and goods contraband of war, what will be considered a blockade, the right of search and what constitutes contraband of war, ending with saying that foreign privateers will be regarded as pirates. Continuing, the decree adds:

"We have striven with the strictest fidelity to observe the principles of international law, and have shown the most scrupulous respect for morality and the right of government. There is an opinion that the fact that we have not adhered to the Declaration of Paris does not relieve us from the duty of respecting the principles therein enunciated. The principle Spain unquestionably refused to admit then was the abolition of privateering. The Government now considers it most indispensable to have recourse to privateering when we consider it expedient, first organizing immediately a force of cruisers auxiliary to the navy, which will be composed of vessels of our mercantile marine, and with equal distinction in the work of our navy."

"Following is a summary of the more important of the five clauses outlining the rules Spain will observe during the war:

Clause 1—The state of war existing between Spain and the United States annuls the treaty of peace and amity of October 27, 1765, and the protocol of January 12, 1877, and all other agreements, treaties or conventions in force between the two countries.

Clause 2—From the publication of these presents thirty days are granted to all ships of the United States anchored in our harbors to take their departure free of hindrance.

Clause 3—The Government of Spain has not adhered to the Declaration of Paris, the Government, respecting the law of nations, proposes to observe, and hereby orders to be observed, the following regulations of maritime law:

1. Neutral flags cover the enemy's merchandise except contraband of war.

2. Neutral merchandise, except contraband of war, is not seizable under the enemy's flag.

3. A blockade to be obligatory must be effective, viz., it must be maintained with sufficient force to prevent access to the enemy's littoral.

4. The Spanish Government, upholding its right to grant letters of marque, will at present confine itself to organizing, with the vessels of the merchant marine, a force of auxiliary cruisers, which will co-operate with the navy according to the needs of the campaign, and will be under naval control.

5. In order to capture the enemy's ships and confiscate the enemy's merchandise and contraband of war under whatever form, auxiliary cruisers will exercise the right of search on the high seas and in the waters under the enemy's jurisdiction, in accordance with international law and the regulations of which will be published.

6. Defines that is included as contraband of war, naming weapons, ammunition, equipments, engines and in general all the appliances used in war.

7. To be regarded and judged as pirates with all the vigor of the law are Captains, masters, officers and two-thirds of the crew of vessels which, not being American, shall commit acts of war against Spain, even if provided with letters of marque issued by the United States.

SPAIN'S ATTITUDE.

State Department Officials Deliberating Upon It.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The Spanish attitude published by the "Gazeta" as to the attitude of that Government regarding privateering and the question whether or not coal shall be held contraband of war, was discussed by the State Department officials to-day. In response to questions put to him by a representative of the Associated Press, Judge William L. Penfield, the solicitor of the Department, made the following official statement, which he said is not to be regarded as indicating in any way the action and policy of this Government, but is given for the information of merchants and shippers:

"This Government has not yet officially prescribed a list of articles which it will treat as contraband of war. If Spain has taken any such action it is not yet made public.

"Each Government is competent to prescribe its own list for the guidance of its own authorities. Such list is conclusive upon the Government making it.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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