THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS.

Getting Ready to Force Justice From Spain.

War Preparations Continue to be Made—Report of the Board of Inquiry Believed to be on Its Way Here—What the President and Congress May Do—Other Phases of the Situation.

THE BOARD OF INQUIRY.

Its Report Anxiously Expected—Likely to be Given to the Public this Week—Momentous Consequences Involved in the Findings.

The findings of the Board of Inquiry into the Maine disaster is as momentous a document as was ever sent to Washington. Just what those findings are no one outside of the Board knows. The officers composing it have acted with the greatest judgment and discretion, and succeeded most admirably in keeping their own counsel.

Quite extraordinary precautions have been taken about the transmission of the report to Washington. It was promptly decided that it would not do to transmit it by telegraph, as even the complicated and ingenious cipher of the Navy Department might not be proof against the intelligence and ingenuity of the Spanish agents, and those of American newspapers. It was decided finally that it should be sealed up with his seal by the Admiral commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, and entrusted to an officer who should be required to deliver it directly into the hands of the President. It was further decided that no information should be given as to when he should leave with it, or what steamer or other route he should take.

Finally it was decided that he must be accompanied by a picked escort of trusty, resolute men, who will wear citizen's clothes, and bear no arms openly, but be equipped with heavy revolvers. They will mingle with the ordinary passengers, and attract as little notice as possible, but they will not relax their vigilance for a minute. They will go on duty by relieis, and the officer and his precious package will be constantly under very alert eyes.

The officer is to arrive in Washington at some unknown time this week, and probably a day or two will be taken by the President and Cabinet to thoroughly consider the momentous subject. Only surmise can be made as to this action. It has been assumed by many that he will first transmit a summary of the findings to Minister Woodford, by cable, together with a demand on Spain, and then send the report, with his demand on Spain, to Congress for action. It is held that he must first make his demand on Spain, to give Congress something to act upon.

Further than the general belief that the decision of the Board will be that the destruction of the Maine was due to external causes, nothing can be safely affirmed as to the findings of the Board. Who were the authors of the unspeakable outrage, and how far the Spanish authorities are implicated are matters of guesswork. On this the public mind will soon be relieved. President McKinley rightfully holds that Congress and the country are fully entitled to all the information that he has, and must share with him the responsibility for the momentous steps which the honor and dignity of the country require to be taken.

A message will accompany the Maine report, and it is believed that soon thereafter the Cuban question proper will be presented to Congress by the transmission of the delayed reports of our Consuls in Cuba, showing a condition of wretchedness on the island that has already been so graphically described by Senator Proctor.

With these reports there will be a momentous recommendation. The consensus of opinion is that this will be that the independence of Cuba be recognized. Such a recommendation Congress would promptly indorse. This, in itself, would not necessarily mean war, but the complications it would produce would unquestionably precipitate a crisis most acute in character, and one that might easily lead to conflict.

If recognition of Cuban independence should be viewed as a hostile act, this country will be prepared to defend its position. The recognition of independence would mean for the Cubans an opportunity to float their bonds, to secure arms and supplies, and to enlist volunteers.

The nature of the findings will, it is believed, necessitate a demand upon Spain for an indemnity, and the exemplary punishment of all concerned in the outrage, and this demand will be promptly and vigorously made. It will be met by a counter-claim from Spain to the effect that the verdict of an ex-parte board of United States Naval officers is not sufficient to warrant the payment of the demand, especially when the Spanish Naval court finds that the explosion was accidental; arbitration will, therefore, be asked.

It is said that the President will ask Congress to decide whether we shall accept arbitration or not. We do not believe that he will, but if he does the response will be a tremendous negative. The matter is one that affects National honor, and cannot be submitted to arbitration.

The President did not attend church last Sunday, but spent most of the day in consultation with his advisers.

COAST PROTECTION.

All Our Seaports Are Being Rapidly Gotten in Good Shape to Resist an Attack.

Gen. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, is going from one seaport to another, inspecting and giving orders for the perfecting of telephone, telegraph, and signal communications between the defenses in the harbor, and also bringing the same into instant communication with Washington.

Batteries F, 5th U. S. Art., and F, 4th U. S. Art., have been sent from Fort Riley, Kan., to Tybee Island, in Savannah Harbor. Their progress was marked by an ovation wherever their train stopped.

The Army and Navy Journal assures the timid New Yorkers that they need have no fear about being bombarded. The land fortifications around the city, without the assistance of the Navy, would be ample protection against any fleet that might be sent here.

The Mayor of Savannah has been officially assured that the city is safe from any attack.

Energetic work is going on to place Galveston in a perfectly defensible position. Cannon and mortar batteries are being built at advantageous points. Three carloads of torpedoes have arrived. They are to be charged at once and planted in the channel leading from the sea into Galveston Harbor.

These torpedoes will be connected by wires with the torpedo casemate located at Fort Point. The electrical apparatus to explode them in case a hostile vessel should seek to enter the harbor will be put in immediately, and the planting of the torpedoes and their connection with the casemate is expected to be completed in 10 days.

Preparations are under way for placing in position the new coast defense guns purchased in England last week. The guns are 32 in number and are of the latest rapid-fire pattern. Twelve of them were bought from the Vicker Works in England, and the remaining 20 pieces were purchased from the Armstrongs. The new pieces are fully mounted, and are provided with about 300 rounds of ammunition, enough to last stationary guns a long time even in war. The Department was obliged, under the circumstances, to buy ammunition with the guns, because the English pieces are of different caliber from any guns manufactured in this country. They are known as 12-centimeter or 4.7-inch bore, and the ammunition manufactured in this country is for guns of four-inch, five-inch, and other caliber.

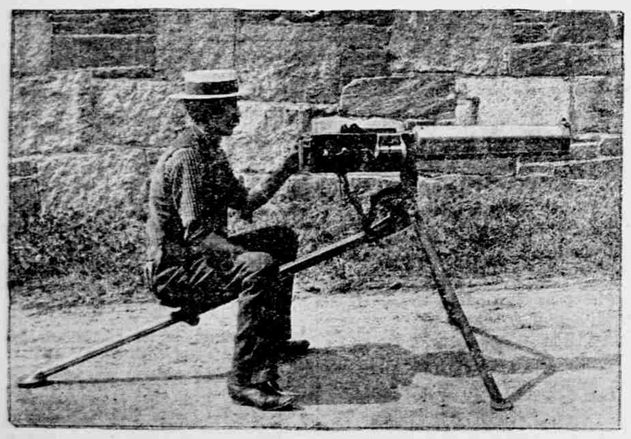
The English guns are of comparatively short range, and will be used in harbors and channels where long-range guns are not needed. They will be employed in fortifications overlooking harbor torpedo fields and other waters where submarine mines are situated. They will be distributed on the northern coast, principally in the vicinity of New York and Long Island Sound.

Forts Delaware and Mott, at Delaware City, will soon be in condition to protect Wilmington and Philadelphia from any foreign fleet of war vessels.

Both forts are garrisoned, and heavy guns will be in place the early part of the week.

Over 100 men worked last Sunday at North Point, placing heavy guns in position to defend Baltimore.

The Norwegian steamer Nordkyn has arrived at New York from Hamburg, with 25 tons of smokeless gunpowder for the United States Government.



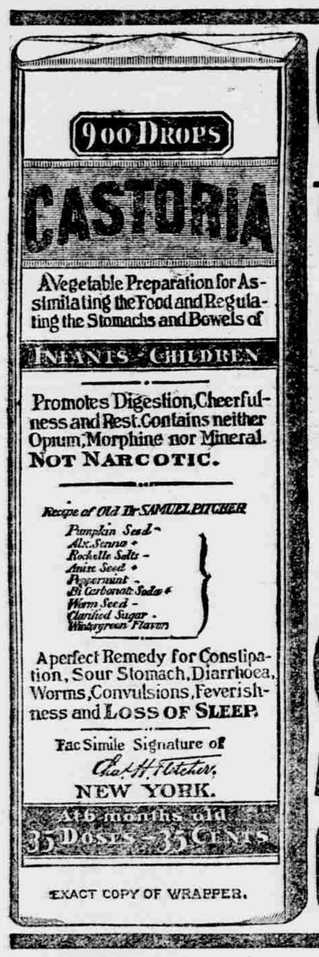
A MAXIM GUN.

The Maxim gun, which is in general use in the British and American Navies, has a single-barrel surrounded by an outer case, the intermediate space being filled with water to prevent heating. The first cartridge is fed in and fired by hand. After that the recoil feeds and fires it automatically. The cartridges are carried on a broad linen belt, to which fresh lengths can be attached. As many as 620 shots have been fired per minute by it, and carried accurately up to 3,000 yards, or nearly two miles.

WANT A PIANO?

If you want an elegant piano or organ, we will send you one by freight to be settled for on easy payments (a few dollars each month) so you can enjoy it while paying. Don't fail to write at once for free new mammoth catalogue and full particulars to Cornish & Co., Washington, N. J., and don't fail to mention that you saw the offer in The National Tribune.

See Prospectus, page 8, and read page 12.



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For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

The Kind You Have Always Bought.

CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

THE NAVY.

Latest Important Movements of the Nation's Floating Forts.

The battleship Oregon, coaled and provisioned for a long cruise, has sailed from San Francisco to Callao, where further orders will await her.

We have now a fleet of six torpedo boats at Key West, all in the best condition.

The Brazilian battleship Amazonas was formally transferred to Lieut. Colwell, Naval Attache of the American Legation at London, March 18. Lieut. Colwell and his Aid went to the prop of the Amazonas in full uniform. Commander Cortes then delivered the ship to Lieut. Colwell through the medium of an interpreter, saying:

"This action of our Government is an action of friendship."

Lieut. Colwell in reply added: "For which my Government thanks you very much."

All heads were then bared, the Brazilian flag was hauled down, and the Stars and Stripes were run up. The American colors were then saluted, and the officers went below, where they were entertained at luncheon. The Orient line steamship Orizaba fired a salute, and the boatmen on shore cheered heartily.

The purchase of the torpedo-boat destroyer Tupy from the Brazilian Government is now practically assured. The Tupy, with two sister craft, is being built at the Armstrong works at Elswick, England, where the Amazonas and her counterpart were constructed, and not at Kiel, Germany, as previously stated. Much gratification is felt by the naval administration over the prospect of securing the Tupy and others of her class, for torpedo-boat destroyers are needed badly.

A number of torpedo-boats have been added to the effective force of the American navy, but not one destroyer has been built or contracted for. Spain is fairly well supplied with these boats, which are dangerous alike to the big battleship and the little torpedo-boat. They have attained a speed of more than thirty knots. The Spanish flotilla now held at the Canaries includes some of these destroyers. They are more feared by naval officers than battleships and armored cruisers, and every energy is being shown to get some of them ready-made abroad to offset the Spanish contingent.

The condition of Admiral Sicard's health has given the Navy Department a great deal of concern, and it is probable that he will be detached from the command of the North Atlantic squadron if hostilities should occur very soon, as it is believed that he is not physically able to manage a big fleet in an engagement. It has been practically decided that Capt. William S. Sampson, of the battleship Iowa, the President of the Maine Court of Inquiry, will relieve Admiral Sicard if the health of the latter does not improve. The faith of the Administration in his courage, cool-headedness and ability is perfect, and he will in all probability receive flag rank if war is declared.

The merchant ships taken by the Navy and equipped as auxiliary cruisers will be well-protected vessels, and in fighting efficiency superior to many of the unprotected ships now with Admiral Sicard. It has been determined to armor the larger of these vessels with a band of steel extending around the sides and near the water-line, for the protection of the vitals, machinery, and magazines to be improvised. This armor will consist of two inches of nickel steel, and while four inches less in thickness than on the armored cruisers New York and Brooklyn, it is equal to the protection afforded the machinery by protective decks on some cruisers, and would render the vessels fairly safe from six-pounders and light-fire guns. The Navy Department has found that the armor firms are capable of quick deliveries of this type of armor, and can in an emergency deliver to the Government 200 tons every 72 hours. For ships of the St. Louis type 50 tons would be required to girdle their sides, and vessels of the El Sol type about half as much. To place this armor on each vessel would require not over 10 days, in which time the guns could be mounted and the vessels fitted out in other respects for service. With this slight belt of armor the vessels of the St. Louis class would be in a sense armored cruisers, and probably the first merchant vessels so protected. The additional weight of 50 tons is not expected to affect their steaming qualities a quarter of a knot. The armor can be removed as readily as put on. The first vessels impressed will be so armored.

The Navy Department recently sent to Key West the largest consignment of powder ever shipped in this country. In all there were 300,000 pounds of the powder, contained in cases, each holding an amount of powder equal to the amount carried by a gun of the size it was intended for. The cases were of polished copper, with brass handles, and each case was so marked as to show the size of gun for which the powder was intended. The cases were put aboard the train by gunners from the Navy-yard, who also went South with it.

Charles R. Flint, the great South American merchant, has been in conference, and it was through him that negotiations were carried on for the purchase of the Brazilian vessels. He says:

"Both Chile and the Argentine Republic have the warmest friendship and admiration for the United States and her institutions. Neither country is anxious to sell ships to this Government, basing this indisposition on the belief that we have an excellent navy of our own. They want these vessels themselves. If the time should come, however, when it was apparent that the United States needed these vessels they would gladly part with them to us."

GEN. MILES TO THE VETERANS.

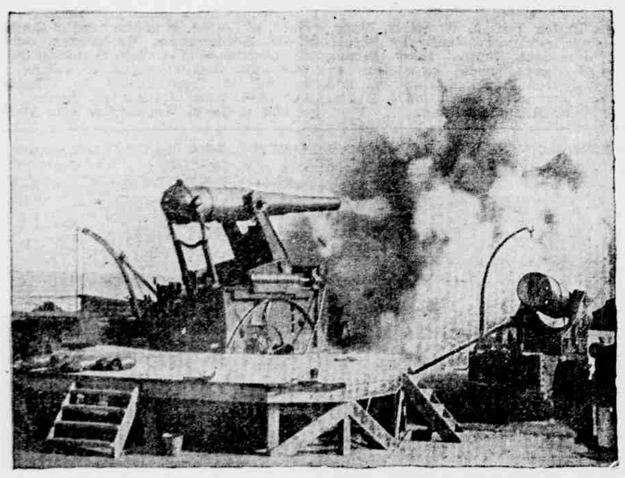
If War Should Come He says We Would Be Ready to Make It Short, Sharp, and Decisive.

In his speech at the annual banquet of the Second Corps at Washington, March 16, Gen. Miles, who commanded a division in the corps, said:

"During the last few weeks we have witnessed a memorable display of patriotism. Hundreds of our brave sailors have gone down in the Maine; have met death in the terrible steel-bound compartments of the battleship. They are entitled to all credit and honor as national heroes. Notwithstanding the horrors of that night in Havana harbor, we have seen hundreds of men marching up ready and anxious to take the places of those noble sailors on the ships of our navy, regardless of the fate that may befall them. No grander sight was ever presented than that at our recruiting stations during the last two weeks.

"Uncle Sam fired a gun up at the Capitol the other day—a $50,000,000 gun—that sent a thrill of patriotism throughout this land and re-echoed all over the world. And Mr. McKinley was made to understand that if $50,000,000 was not enough to defend this country and its honor, he might add another cipher to the right of the figures, and the money was his. It was the grandest exhibition that a people ever gave that slumbering deep in their hearts is a loyalty, patriotism, and spirit of sacrifice never equalled in any legislative body on the face of God's earth.

"Is there to be war? I hope not. I, as a warrier, would not like to see a war begin with two or three Bull Runs, but would rather have the Appomattox instead. But if war should come we would be ready to make the conflict short, sharp, and decisive."



THE DISAPPEARING GUN CARRIAGE.

An Ingenious Invention which is Bound to Play a Great Part in Warfare.

The greater part of the guns now being placed in position to defend the entrances to our harbors are mounted on what is known as the "Buffington-Crozier Disappearing Gun Carriage," a most ingenious device, which is certain to prove highly effective. Under the old system guns were either placed in embrasures pierced through the parapets or walls, or they were mounted "en barbet"—that is, above the parapets or walls. There were strong defects in both these systems. The embrasures restricted the sweep of the gun, they made weak points at which the enemy could aim his fire, and they gave insufficient protection to the men working the guns. The barbet system gave a wider sweep of fire, but both the gun and the men working it were out in the open, without a protection from the enemy's fire.

The disappearing gun carriage does away with all this. It enables the gun to be loaded behind a parapet sufficiently strong to protect the men and gun from the enemy's fire. When it is loaded it rises above the parapet, fires, and by its own recoil throws itself down behind the parapet again, ready for reloading. This is accomplished by simple yet ingenious mechanism. The gun is counter-balanced by a mass of lead, and the recoil is taken up by air and oil pressure in cylinders.

Now, the commander of a hostile vessel will have none of the old guides to determine where he must expect resistance as he feels his way into a port. He sees nothing but the lines of the shores. There are no breastworks, no frowning parapets, no deep embrasures with black guns, no solid walls of masonry. Suddenly, a heavy gun pops up somewhere above the miles of greensward, fires a heavy rifled shot at him, and before he can fairly see where it is, sinks out of sight. He has no mark at which to direct his return fire.

The disappearing gun carriage is the invention of Col. A. R. Buffington and Capt. Wm. Crozier, of the Ordnance Department, U. S. A., and, without doubt, is the very best thing of the kind yet devised.

UNCLE SAM IN THE SADDLE.

BY KATE BROWNLEE SHERWOOD.

The veteran's comment on the vote of 311 to 0 in the House of Representatives on the bill to appropriate $50,000,000 to be used by the President in the event of a war with Spain.

'Taint Sixteen to One,
But Three-Eleven to none;
'Tis no time to argify or straddle;
But we'll up and fight like men,
Should the long-roll call again,
With Uncle Sam in the saddle.

You can't tell a "Yank"
From the "Johnny" on our flank,
And the old craft's true to the paddle;
For everything is "Blue,"
And 'tis "Yankee Doodle Doo,"
With Uncle Sam in the saddle.

Hurrah for the flag,
And not a man to lag!
Hurrah for a grand skedaddle,
Should Spain come fooling 'round,
On Columbia's stamping ground,
And Uncle Sam in the saddle.

PENSION DECISIONS.

Cases Disposed of by Assistant Secretary Davis.

In the case of Isaac Goodwin, Co. I, 34th Ind., the Assistant Secretary reversed the decision of the Bureau. The soldier is pensioned at $24 a month. He filed claim for increase, June 18, 1897, and requested that he be granted a "home examination," as he was physically unable to appear before a Board of Surgeons. An order for a home examination was accordingly issued Sept. 13, 1897, and sent to a physician in a Nebraska town, although he had ceased to be a member of the Board at that place Aug. 31, 1897; notwithstanding which fact he made an examination and forwarded his certificate dated Sept. 21. Other evidence was filed. The claim in due course was rejected. The claimant's attorney appealed, claiming that he had not been accorded an impartial examination by a duly-qualified and sworn Medical Examiner, etc., as provided by law, and that at the time a protest had been made, on account of alleged prejudice on the part of the physician. The Assistant Secretary says that without entering into the question as to whether the claimant is entitled to an increase by reason of pensioned causes or any pathological sequelæ thereof, which fact, however, can only be determined after the claimant shall have been examined by a properly authorized Examining Surgeon or Board, there is not room for doubt but what the order for the medical examination held in consequence of the claim for increase was issued to a physician whose official connection with the Bureau as an Examining Surgeon had terminated; that the examination was without warrant of law, and that his certificate of the same should be regarded as null and void. Neither can the certificate be looked upon in the light of that of a civil surgeon, as it is not sworn to, nor was the order issued with that object." The case is ordered reopened.

In the case of Mary, widow of James H. Brady, Co. E, 6th Prov. En. Mo. Mil., claimant's husband served as a substitute in the organization mentioned, from the Fall of 1863 until the day of his death, Jan. 25, 1864. This organization was accepted and mustered into the service of the United States in August, 1864. The claim was rejected Jan. 16, 1880, on the ground that the soldier was not in the service of the United States at the date of his death, and the 6th Prov. En. Mo. Mil. did not become the 16th Mo. Cav., and in the United States service, until August, 1864. The claim was reopened on report from the Auditor for the War Department—Thomas F. Jessup, private (the man for whom Brady was substitute), Co. E, 6th Prov. En. Mo. Mil., ordered into active service June 15, 1863; relieved from further duty with the company Feb. 29, 1864; 259 days' actual service. The claim was again rejected on the ground that it appeared from the War Department records and evidence obtained on special examination that claimant's husband was never mustered into the service of the United States. Appeal was taken, the contention being that the War Department records and the evidence show that the company in which Brady served received pay back to November, 1863.

The special examination evidence makes it appear that Brady joined the company in the Fall of 1863, taking the place of Jessup, who hired him, but was not mustered into the service, and that he died Jan. 25, 1864. All the members of the old organization who joined the new one were mustered back to date June 15, 1863, and those who did not enter the new organization were relieved. "Hence," the decision says, "it will be seen that although claimant's husband may have served as a substitute in the State organization, his untimely death prevented his being mustered into the United States service, and thereby securing a possible pensionable status for his widow by reason of his death."

Work of the Pension Office.

The report of certificates issued for the week ending March 19 shows—

Army invalid: Original, 56; increase and additional, 208; reissue, 48; restoration and renewal, 28; duplicate, 25; accrued, 100; total, 465.

Army invalid (act June 27, 1890): Original, 709; increase, 192; additional, 69; supplementals, 1; reissue, 16; restoration and renewal, 52; duplicate, 21; accrued, 127; total, 1,187.

Army widow, etc.: Original, 69; reissue, 1; duplicate, 7; accrued, 1; total, 78.

Army widow, etc. (act June 27, 1890): Original, 292; increase and additional, 1; reissue, 2; restoration, 1; supplementals, 3; duplicate, 9; accrued, 6; total, 314.

Navy invalid: Original, 5; increase and additional, 2; reissue, 1; restoration and renewal, 2; duplicate, 1; accrued, 1; total, 12.

Navy invalid (act June 27, 1890): Original, 32; increase and additional, 13; restoration and renewal, 2; duplicate, 12; accrued, 3; total, 52.

Navy widow, etc.: Original, 2.

Navy widow (act June 27, 1890): Original, 12.

Indian Wars—Survivors: Accrued, 7.

Indian Wars—Widows: Original, 9.

Old War Invalid: Accrued, 1.

Mexican War—Survivors: Original, 1; increase and additional, 4; accrued, 10; total, 15.

Mexican War—Widows: Original, 12; duplicate, 1; total, 13.

Totals: Original, 1,199; increase and additional, 489; reissue, 68; restoration and renewal, 85; supplementals, 4; duplicate, 66; accrued, 256. Grand total, 2,167.

CASTORIA.

The facsimile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

A DOCTOR'S DIRECTIONS.

They save a daughter from blindness.

When a father writes that yours "is the best medicine in the world," you can allow something for seeming extravagance in the statement if you know that the medicine so praised, cured a loved daughter of disease and restored to her the eyesight nearly lost. The best medicine in the world for you is the medicine that cures you. There can't be anything better. No medicine can do more than cure. That is why John S. Goode, of Orrick, Mo., writes in these strong terms:

"Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine in the world. My daughter had a relapse after the measles, due to taking cold. She was nearly blind, and was obliged to remain in a dark room all the time. The doctors could give her no relief; one of them directed me to give her Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Two bottles cured her completely."

The thousands of testimonials to the value of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla repeat over and over again, in one form or another the expression: "The doctors gave her no relief; one of them directed me to give her Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Two bottles completely cured her."

It is a common experience to try Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla as a last resort. It is a common experience to have Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla prescribed by a physician. It is a common experience to see a "complete cure" follow the use of a few bottles of this great blood purifying medicine.

Because, it is a specific for all forms of blood disease. If a disease has its origin in bad or impure blood, Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla, acting directly on the blood, removing its impurities and giving to it vitalizing energy, will promptly eradicate the disease.

The great feature of Dr. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the radical cures that result from its use. Many medicines only suppress disease—they push the pimples down under the skin, they paint the complexion with subtle arsenical compounds, but the disease rages in the veins like a pent-up fire, and some day breaks out in a volcanic eruption that eats up the body. Ayer's Sarsaparilla goes to the root. It makes the fountain clean and the waters are clean. It makes the root good and the fruit is good. It gives Nature the elements she needs to build up the broken down constitution—not to brace it up with stimulants or patch it up on the surface. Send for Dr. Ayer's Curebook, and learn more about the cures effected by this remedy. It's sent free, on request, by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Pussonal Rekollekshuns of an Army Cook. The War Viewed from the Rear.

We had a nawful time a-gittin' Mistuh Jo ober de ribber tuh de horsepistle at Falmouth. I rid all de way wid him in de ambulance, holdin' his leg an' easin' 'im up ober de rough spots. De driber wah so keerless dat I had tuh git out wunst an' hammer some sense intuh 'im wid a fence-stake. Dey did pick up some ob de orneriest men dat ebber breathed for dribers endurin' de wah. If my mule, Caliber 65, hadn't had no mo' sense dan dey did, I'd 'a busted his haid wid a rock afore a week.

No cook-jentleman who thought anything ob hisself would be seen associatin' wid any teamster, not eben de driber ob de Headquarters wagon. De swell-haid niggeh who druv de Kunnel's mewels wunst wanted tuh set into a little game ob poker wid me, but I was stiff.

"No, sah," sez I, in my sternest way. "Yore nacherul 'soshiates is mewels an' men what 'soshiates wid mewels. It onfits yo' foh de sosiety ob jentlemen ob talent an' standin' in deir perfession. You smell ob mewels, an' it'll taint our cookin'.

"You blubber-lipped niggeh," sez he, raisin' de butt ob his whip, "what'd yo' do if yo' diddent hab men like me tuh haul yore grub up tuh you?"

"You'ze all right in yore place," sez I, pickin' up a fryin'-pan; "but yore place is wid de mewels. We hab tuh hab yo' same as we hab tuh hab de mewels an' wagons tuh bring up de raw materials, but it requires men ob brains tuh make de stuff fit tuh eat."

He done made a pass at me wid de whip, but I ketched 'im on de ear wid de fryin'-pan, an' Napoleon Bonypart, de Surgeon's cook, ketched 'im in de wais'-band with de end ob a tent-pole, an' we managed tuh preserve the 'sclusiveness ob out social circle.

Put I'me wanderin' agin. Dey let me stay 'roun' de horsepistle awhile dressin' Mistuh Jo's wounds, an' gittin' 'im little things dat he wanted. It wah awful hard, for Mistuh Jo's temper wah bad. He couldn' do nothin' but lay dah on his back an' cuss, an' Mistuh Jo knowed all de cuss-words dat ebber wah invented. But when he wuz feelin' better he would say dat I wah de greatest comfort tuh 'im, an' he couldn't git along widdout me. Dis paid up foh it all.

Bimeby, Mistuh Jo he got well enuf tuh sen' back tuh de horsepistles up Norte, an' my heart wah jest broke bekase dey wouldn't let me go 'long wid 'im. But one ob de Doctors tuk me intuh his office, tuh help groun'. Dah wah a good deal ob whisky as well as udder things in his office, an' de ossifers an' udder Surgeons would come in dah tuh tek a quiet drink. It wah part ob my business tuh look out foh de glasses an' wash dem arter dey wuz froo wid dem. Dey'd offen leab a little ob de likker in de glasses. It seem' tuh me a sin tuh frow sich good likker away, an' I got in de habit ob drinkin' what wah left.

Wun day I went intuh de office an' foun' wun glass 'bout quarter-full. I thought I heared de Doctor a-comin', so I jes' downed it, washed de glasses out, an' went out tuh cut some wood foh de fire. It seemed a new kin' ob likker, but I radder liked it. It seemed tuh hab more take-hold about it. It bit my tongue, an' tore at my froat, but it made me feel radder warm and comfortable.

Bimeby de Doctor and two or free udders cum a-runnin' out widout deir hats. De Doctor he rushes up tuh me, an' sezzee:

"Snowball, did you drink what wuz in dat glass on de broad shelf?"

"Yes, sah," sez I, seein' dar wah no use lyin'. "I wuzzent feelin' berry well dis mornin', an' I wanted something tuh brace me up, an' I thought it wah a sin to frow away good likker, and——"

"Don't yo' feel nothin' strange?" axed de Doctor, lookin' mighty anxious.

"No, sah," sez I, beginnin' tuh feel a little trembly myself, "'cept dat I've noticed dat every time I wipe my mouf on my shut-sleeve dis a-way, I burn a hole in my shut wid my bref."

De udders dey jes' yelled wid laffin'.

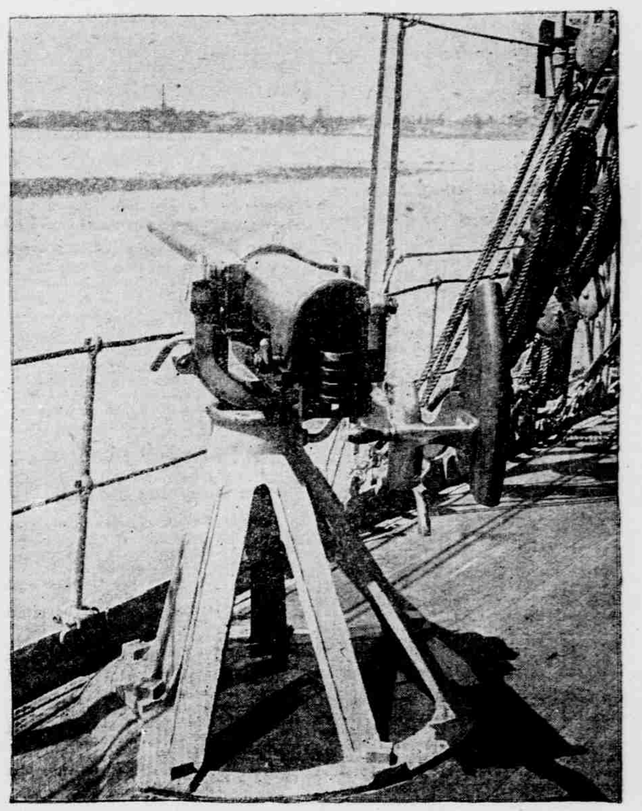
"Doctor, yo' couldn't kill a young niggeh if you tried," dey said. "He's proof agin you, if a white man ain't.

"Snowball," sez de Doctor, mighty serious, "dat glass had aqua fortis in it, which I'd poured out tuh use on de Quartermaster's hoss. Come right in de office, dis minnit, an' let me treat yo'.

He tuk me in an' poured chalk an' water down me, an' pumped me out agin, an' bamboozled wid me, until I wisht I wah dead. I wah so skeered dat I could hardly breathe. It wah all blimmed nonsense too. Me an' the aqua fortis wah gittin' 'long all right, if he had only let us 'lone.

I diddent want no more foolin' 'roun' de horsepistle, and as soon as I wuz able tuh trabbel, I went back tuh see how Caliber 65 wuz gittin' along.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—"Uncle Snowball" will tell the readers of The National Tribune a chapter of his wonderful war experience whenever the Editor can persuade him to do so, which will be often, as he grows more talkative with age. One thing can be depended upon—the story will always be a good one.



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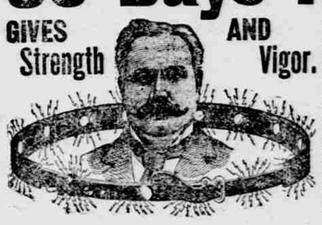

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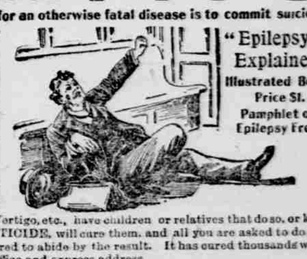

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