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The AMERICAN SPANISH WAR

Its History Written by the Men Who Participated in It.

Edited by JOHN McELROY.

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THE WORK OF THE PRESIDENT.

BY HON. PERRY S. HEATH,
Late First Assistant Postmaster-General.

HON. PERRY S. HEATH, Late First Assistant Postmaster-General.

"WE want no wars of conquest. We must avoid the temptation of territorial aggression. War should never be entered upon until every agency of peace has failed."

These were the ringing words of William McKinley, when he took the oath of office as President of the United States, on the 4th of March, 1897, with the shadow of an impending conflict with Spain resting darkly over him. From the views thus expressed he never deviated during all the trying period that afterward intervened. When every agency of peace had failed, and war became inevitable, he accepted all of its grave responsibilities. Just as after the protocol of peace had been signed, he declared that where the flag had once been raised it should not be hauled down with his consent, and that, as far as in him lay, he would carry out to their logical and legitimate conclusions the results achieved by the war.

DREAD RESPONSIBILITIES.

More fully than anyone else Mr. McKinley appreciated, when he entered upon the duties of Chief Executive, the dread responsibilities which a declaration of war would impose. He knew that though war might be demanded or proclaimed by the people of any nation—Imperial, Monarchical or Republican—the responsibilities for its conduct and for its results must fall upon the Executive. He comprehended the peculiar difficulties which surrounded our relations with Spain, the greatest of these being that which had the least popular consideration—the possibility that a declaration of war with Spain would bring about the hostile intervention of other European Powers, intimately connected with that country by ties of common interest and family relationship. Traditions and international understandings, the Monroe Doctrine, the inviolability of which has so recently been asserted by this country, and questions of politics and religion all aided to complicate the situation. While it is true that each of the great political parties in the campaign which preceded the election of President McKinley had condemned in strong terms the existing condition of affairs in Cuba, and declared a readiness to exhaust every effort to secure to the people of that island the blessings of freedom and good Government, no pledge was given by either party which could, even by inference, be held to bind the Government of the United States to take up arms to accomplish the end which was rhetorically advocated.

When Mr. McKinley left his home in Canton, Ohio, to assume the duties of the Presidency, he had in mind a plan, which he had carefully thought out, for the emancipation of Cuba and the establishment of an independent form of Government in that island. His purpose was to bring about this result by a series of swift and positive diplomatic movements, which included an appeal to motives of humanity and justice, and an array of the more powerful, if less disinterested, motives of self-interest. There can be little doubt that one of his leading ideas for the pacification of Cuba was the surrender of Spanish sovereignty to be brought about by diplomatic negotiation or by friendly purchase, the United States to be either the direct purchaser or the guarantor in behalf of an independent Cuban Republic. He immediately proceeded to put in operation all of the agencies of diplomacy to secure an amelioration of the condition of the people of Cuba. Contemporaneously with these efforts he called Congress in extra session, to enact laws which should place the industrial, commercial and agricultural interests of our own country upon a more satisfactory basis. He asked Congress, before transacting any other business, first to provide sufficient revenue to administer the Government faithfully, without the contraction of further debt or the continued disturbance of our finances. In the light of events that followed, it may well be claimed that Divine Providence shaped the ends to which the President directed the nation. Without the revival of prosperity, which almost immediately followed the legislation recommended—the enactment of which consumed time and tended to create a feeling of unrest on the part of those who desired speedy action in Cuba—there could not have been the National cohesion which enabled us to secure the results afterward achieved.

PRESSURE UPON THE EXTRA SESSION.

During this extra session, called only to consider economic questions, events in Cuba so progressed as to excite the public mind almost beyond the limits of repression. Gen. Weyler's policy of concentration, inaugurated Feb. 16, 1896, removed from the provinces controlled by the Spanish army the rural population, including women, children and helpless old people. The massing of these in the neighborhood of the cities, and the leaving of them there to die of starvation, had reached a culmination of horror which shocked the civilized world. The President issued an appeal to the people of the United States to relieve the necessities of these innocent sufferers; Congress made an appropriation for the purpose; and the noble organization of the Red Cross, and, later on, many newspapers and private agencies of benevolence were drawn to their assistance.

Agitation for the recognition of Cuban independence, or for forcible intervention by the United States, was rampant all over the country, sustained by the pulpit, the press and the lecture forum. Resolutions by the hundred were adopted at public gatherings and forwarded to the President, almost as urgent in tone as those addressed to President Lincoln prior to the Proclamation of Emancipation. So many Americans, impelled by righteous indignation at the stories of Cuban wrongs, had entered the service of the Cuban army of freedom that there was scarcely a Congressional District which did not number one or more of these recruits, whose relatives were importunate in beseeching their Representatives in Congress to take speedy measures to put an end to the struggle.

Expeditions, unauthorized by international law, but quite generally sanctioned by public sentiment, fitted out in our ports to carry arms, ammunition and men to aid the cause of Cuba Libre, became so alarmingly frequent and formidable that the President ordered a special patrol by revenue cutters and naval vessels of our coast adjacent to Cuba, and directed the appointment of special officers of the Department of Justice to prosecute the offenders against our neutrality laws. Among those intercepted and prosecuted as the result of these measures was Gen. Calixto Garcia, the Cuban patriot, whose death in December, 1898, while on a mission of peace and conciliation to the City of Washington, was generally deplored.

To the different delegations from Congress who waited upon him to urge immediate action, President McKinley, with the frankness which always characterized his dealings with the legislative branch of the Government, explained his plans and his aspirations for a peaceful settlement, and asked them to give him further time. Congress trusted the President, and respected his wishes by adjourning the extra session without taking decisive action on the Cuban question.

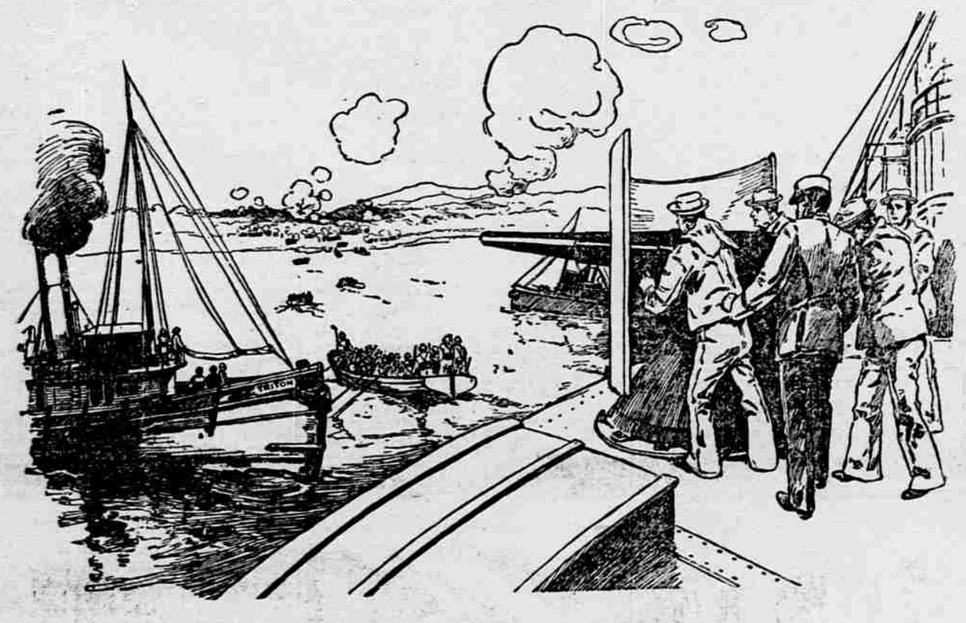
Diplomatic efforts to effect an adjustment were continued with increased vigor. The President, it is understood, went just as far in his demands as he could within the constitutional limits of his power, stopping short only of such action as might be construed into a practical declaration of war. Spain replied, in her customary manner, by promises and prevarication. The pressure of public sentiment increased in volume. Local militia organizations, covertly or openly abetted by Governors of States, and many individual citizens of military training, undertook the organization of volunteer forces to proceed to Cuba to aid in the liberation of its people. Political parties and geographical lines were ignored. The men who carried on the agitation were those who had fought on each side of the most desperate civil war of modern history.

WAITING THE RIPENING OF TIME.

To withstand this pressure until the time was ripe; to continue to enforce our neutrality laws in the face of a hostile public sentiment; and scrupulously to observe all our international obligations toward Spain, imposed upon the President duties which called for the exercise of the highest executive ability and tact.

When the 356 members of the House of Representatives and the 90 Senators, fresh from intercourse with their people, met in regular session of Congress on Dec. 6, 1897, it was as the commingling of many streams forming one mighty flood of public sentiment in favor of the immediate evacuation of Cuba by Spain, or an open declaration of war by the United States as the alternative. The President addressed to Congress a thoughtful, firm, but temperate message. Summarizing the historical facts, he reminded Congress that our relations toward Spain and Cuba had been almost a continuous question since the first enfranchisement of the colonial possessions of Spain in the Western Hemisphere in 1823, and that the possibility that some other European Power might take advantage of the weakness of Spain's hold upon Cuba to establish a foothold on that island to the detriment of the United States, had called forth repeated declarations that this country would permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain, unless in the direction of independence, or the acquisition of the island by the United States through purchase.

While maintaining in his communications to Congress the reticence which must accompany uncompleted negotiations, and withholding any statement of precise propositions, so as to avoid embarrassment to the Government of Spain, he stated that our new Minister to that country (Gen. Stewart L. Woodford) had been instructed to inquire seriously whether the time was not ripe for Spain, of her own volition, moved by her own interests, to make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and just to her Cuban colony; and also instructed to intimate in plainest terms, that the United States, as a neighboring country, with large interests, both commercial and humane, in Cuba, could not be required to wait much longer for the restoration of peace and order in that island. The President still counselled a last appeal to peaceful negotiation. Forcible annexation of Cuba by the United States, he said, would be an act of criminal aggression. Recognition of the belligerency or of the independence of the Cuban Republic he also put aside, for the reason that the essential qualifications of sovereignty required by international law had not, in his judgment, been yet attained. Denouncing Gen. Weyler's concentration order as an act not of civilized warfare, but of extermination, he gave full faith to the declarations of the new Spanish Government of Premier Sagasta, which had succeeded that of Premier Canovas, under whom this cruel policy originated, that it would be reversed, and that a broad and liberal scheme of home rule or autonomy would be granted to Cuba. These propositions he thought were in the line of a better understanding between this Government and that of Spain. He felt that it was honestly due to Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations and to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things to which she stood irrevocably committed.



A BRUSH WITH THE ENEMY ON THE CUBAN COAST.

NEARING THE CRISIS.

At the same time he added these pregnant words:

"Sure of the right, keeping free from all offense ourselves, actuated only by upright and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the Government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens, and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be honorable and enduring. If it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity, to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part and only because the necessity for such action shall be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world."

This declaration was afterward abundantly fulfilled. On the night of Feb. 15, 11 weeks after the assembling of Congress, the United States battleship Maine, while on a friendly visit to the harbor of Havana, and lying at a mooring especially assigned to her by the Captain of the Port, was destroyed by a submarine mine, and in this catastrophe two of her officers and 264 of her crew perished.

The horror and suspicion which this occurrence created in the minds of the President and his advisers were increased by the fact that Consul-General Fitzhugh Lee at Havana had cabled, suggesting delay in sending the Maine to that city, on the ground that the Spanish authorities professed to think her presence had some ulterior purpose, and would obstruct autonomy and most probably produce a demonstration. This telegram was received after the Maine had sailed for Havana.

Those who saw President McKinley the night this fateful news was received say that the anguish depicted on his face was as great as that which Abraham Lincoln exhibited when he visited the battlefield of Gettysburg. He knew then that all his efforts to avert a war, of which no one could foretell the duration or extent, had been unavailing.

A PERTINENT DEVICE.

This was the crucial moment in the President's life; a turning point in the life of the Republic. Then the sturdy characteristics of firmness and readiness of mind derived from his ancestry were displayed. Mr. McKinley, as is well known, was of Scotch-Irish descent. The crest of "James McKinlay the Trooper," head of the Scotch clan of McKinlay, from whom the McKinleys of Pennsylvania and Ohio descended, was an olive branch clasped in mailed hand. The motto accompanying this emblem implied Moderation and Patience. Its literal reading was, "Not too much." In transition from Scotland to the North of Ireland the "a" of the name was changed to "e," and under the Scotch-Irish name of "McKinley," the ancestors of the late President of the United States came to America, where, in York County, Pa., his great grandfather, David McKinley, a gallant private soldier of the War of the Revolution, was born.

These old heraldic bearings derived new significance in the present crisis. The "olive branch" had been extended for 11 months; the "mailed hand" was now to come into play. Not for the first time was William McKinley, the soldier, called upon to take heroic assumption of responsibility, but never before in so vast a theater and with the world for a spectator. William McKinley was a gallant soldier in the war of 1861-'5. He entered that war as a private and emerged as a Major. He participated in many battles, and won promotion for distinguished services. He knew what war meant, and had shown his capacity in positions of great difficulty and responsibility.

An incident recorded of him in that struggle illustrates the self-reliance of the man, and the qualities which were now to be brought into operation on a far grander scale. The story, as told by one of his biographers, is this:

"At the battle of Opequan, McKinley (who, like his ancestor of Revolutionary fame, had entered the war as a private, but who was now a Captain and Aid on Gen. Crook's staff), was sent with an order to Gen. Isaac H. Duval to move his command quickly to a position on the right of the Sixth Corps; but Duval, not knowing the topography of the country, asked the young Aid, 'By what route shall I move my command?' Capt. McKinley was without definite orders or knowledge of the country, but having a general idea of the direction of the water courses and location of the troops, replied, 'I would move up this creek.' Duval then said, 'I shall not move without definite orders.' McKinley knew that any delay was hazardous, and so, acting on his own view of the position of the armies, at once replied: 'This is a case of great emergency, General, and so I order you, by command of Gen. Crook, to move your command on the road up this ravine to a position on the right of the army!' The movement proved exactly right, and Duval's command was soon in position to do effective work. It drove the enemy in confusion from their works and contributed to the victory of the day. Still, it is not hard to conjecture what would have been the young Aid's fate, if the order had been a mistake."

WELL-BALANCED CHARACTER.

The admirable equipoise of Mr. McKinley's character, and his readiness to meet emergencies whenever they occurred, and however unexpectedly they confronted him, have been manifested on many occasions since the termination of this great epoch in American history. Three years before he was called to enter upon the duties of Chief Executive of the Nation, when he was filling a similar but less exalted position, that of Chief Executive of the great State of Ohio, disturbances of a most threatening character broke out among the coal miners. Governor McKinley assumed personal direction of the State troops sent to suppress rioting, and by his firmness and moderation averted what threatened to be a sanguinary and widespread disturbance.

His 12 years' service in Congress, his experience in other walks of life, in all of which he acquitted himself in the most trying circumstances with credit and distinction, marked him as the man destined for the hour when the storm of foreign war broke over the United States.

On the day after the news of the destruction of the battleship Maine the President was visited by nearly every member of Congress, urging immediate warlike action. He counselled prudence and delay; he asked them all to suspend judgment before determining the responsibility for the tragic occurrence. In point of fact, he sustained the wise cable message sent by Capt. Sigsbee of the Maine in announcing the disaster.

President McKinley knew—none better—that the country was not prepared for war. We had an army of but 27,500 men, while Spain had sent 135,000 troops to Cuba alone. The Spanish Navy, on paper at least, was equal, if not superior, to that of the United States. Very little had been done since the war of 1861-'5 in the way of fortifying our sea coast or providing siege guns or fixed ammunition. It is related that at this juncture a distinguished Army officer reported to the President, "If we should go to war with Spain to-morrow, we have not enough small ammunition for a continuous battle of two hours."

Nevertheless a caucus of the House of Representatives, confined to no one political party, decided almost unanimously on an immediate declaration of war; and a sufficient number of members of Congress were present at this conference to indicate that the strength of the war party of both Houses was sufficient to override even a Presidential veto.

SPAIN'S NEW POLICY.

The President had asked Congress, at the beginning of the session, to await the result of Spain's new policy of granting autonomy to Cuba, and of reversing Gen. Weyler's order of concentration. The hopes of peace which these propositions held out failed him at this critical juncture. Our Consuls in Cuba reported the continuance of such sickening scenes of starvation, cruelty and death in the camps of the reconcentrados that the correspondence, though called for by Congress, was for the time prudently withheld by the President from publication, lest in the excited state of the public mind it might prove a spark in the powder magazine, already dangerously near explosion. These Consuls also reported that autonomy was an absolute failure; that coercion and bribery had been tried in vain to induce Cubans of character to give countenance to the movement. Sr. Manuel Rafael Angulo, sent to Washington as a Delegate from the so-called Colonial or Autonomist Government of Cuba, about this time cabled Governor-General Blanco at Havana, through the Spanish Minister in Washington, that it was necessary, in order to offset what he termed "the perfidious machinations of Lee and his copartners," to have a cable message sent him giving the names of representative native-born Cubans of standing who adhered to the Autonomist Government. When the reply was received on April 15, 1898, he wrote despairingly to Sr. Jose Maria Galvez, President of the Council of the so-called Colonial Government at Havana, that the names which had been forwarded to him were all "Peninsulares" (that is, Spaniards), not Cubans; that he had seen the President of the "Chamber of Congress" by appointment, and had also had an interview with the Hon. John Addison Porter, Secretary to the President, at the White House, who had made it apparent that if the Autonomist solution was to be well received in the United States it must be shown to be, not a Spanish proposition, but a Cuban; also that it must be shown that affairs had changed in Cuba, not in appearance only, but substantially.

Autonomy was thus admitted to be a subterfuge, even by its originators, and the promised reforms a failure.

A SPLENDID ACT OF CONGRESS.

Amid all these discouragements the President remained undismayed; his courage never failed him; he abated none of his high purposes; and Congress showed its unlimited confidence in him by an act which excited the wonder and admiration of Europe. On the mere suggestion of the Executive, by a unanimous vote of both Houses, on March 9, 1898, an appropriation of $50,000,000 was made "for the National defense and for each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the direction of the President." It is a matter of history that Congress subsequently supplemented this grant by authorization to negotiate a 3 per cent. loan to the extent, if necessary, of $400,000,000, only half of which was called out, and which was subscribed by the people in sums ranging from $20 upward, no one subscription accepted exceeding $5,000.

Immediate steps were taken by the President so to utilize the fund created by the special appropriation of $50,000,000 as to place the country on a war footing. Agents were sent abroad to purchase all available warships before the outbreak of hostilities brought the neutrality laws into force. On the suggestion of the President, the four swift ocean steamers of the International Navigation Company were chartered and fitted out as cruisers and scouts, and other vessels were bought for colliers and transports. At home every arsenal and navy yard, and all private firms

(Continued on fifth page.)

With the WESTERN ARMY

OCCUPATION OF SAVANNAH.

By GEN. GREEN B. RAUM.

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BRINGING THE CITY DOWN TO NORMAL.

Disposition of the Captured Cotton—Clearing Obstructions from the Harbor to Allow Resumption of Trade—Visit of Secretary Stanton—Courtesies Between Army and Navy.

After Gen. Sherman had become properly settled in his headquarters, he decided to bring the officers of the Army and Navy together at a reception to be given to Admiral Dahlgren. The building occupied as headquarters was a large private residence owned by a Mr. Charles Green, an Englishman, who tendered the house to Gen. Sherman for that purpose.

GEN. SHERMAN GIVES A RECEPTION TO ADMIRAL DAHLGREN AND NAVAL OFFICERS.

On the evening designated there was a large assemblage of officers of the army and navy. Introductions all round were the order of the evening; much good feeling prevailed on all hands. Everybody enjoyed the occasion.

This was the first social gathering of this kind that had occurred with the officers of the army, and it was made all the more interesting to have present officers of the navy with their great Admiral. I felt honored by an introduction to Admiral Dahlgren. In the coarse of the evening I had a very pleasant conversation with him in regard to certain naval movements, particularly concerning the battle between the Kearsarge and Alabama. The Admiral spoke in glowing terms of that great naval battle, paying a handsome tribute to Winslow, who commanded the Kearsarge; his conclusion was that the fight was particularly a test of the respective merits of the "Dahlgren gun," with which the Kearsarge was armed, and the "Armstrong gun," with which the Alabama was armed, the result being favorable to the American gun.

Admiral Dahlgren obviously enjoyed meeting officers of the army. Many agreeable compliments were paid him and his efficient subordinates for their prompt and efficient work in communicating with the army and bringing up much-needed supplies.

Among those of the army who were present to do honor to the navy were Gen. Sherman, the host of the evening; Gens. Howard, Slocum, Osterhaus, Blair, Williams, Davis, Jackson, Geary, Ward, Carlin, Morgan, Baird, Mower, Leggett, Giles A. Smith, Woods, Hazen, John E. Smith, Corse, Kilpatrick and a great array of Brigade Commanders.

There was one lady present, with her husband, namely, Mrs. A. H. Markland, wife of Col. A. H. Markland, who, at Gen. Grant's request, had been assigned to duty by the Post Office Department as Special Agent of Mails for Sherman's army. Mrs. Markland was a handsome and spirited woman; was beautifully attired, and added interest and grace to the occasion. She was the first and only loyal woman from the North that we had seen since the campaign began, and it can well be understood that great respect was shown her.

Gen. Sherman had a very agreeable social side to his nature. He put everybody entirely at their ease. He spoke interestingly of the late campaign, and insisted that the great merit of the enterprise was the decision to divide the army.

I must confess that I now look back upon that interesting meeting with a feeling of profound melancholy pleasure. Most of the men present that night have passed over the Great River, and are resting happily, I trust, in the Great Campground beyond.

SCENES IN SAVANNAH.

Savannah, the old historical city of about 20,000 inhabitants, was a source of interest to every officer and soldier of the army. The streets are laid off at right angles, with a number of very broad streets, along which are standing four rows of stately live-oak trees, dividing the street into three driveways; the sidewalks were of ample width and in good condition; on one or more of the streets are a number of small squares, inclosed and handsomely kept; the residences in the central part of the city were commodious, well built, and had an air of home-like comfort.

The Court House was a large building with four entrances, with halls crossing each other in the center. The Exchange was a large, imposing building.

The city was remarkable for its shade: the boughs of the live-oaks in the broad streets interlocked each other so that the thick leaves almost kept out the sun the year round. I pronounced Savannah a beautiful city.

I visited the old Bonaventure Cemetery, laid off, I was told, in the days of Oglethorpe. Here the live-oak trees reigned supreme. They had been set out years before in regular rows; they had grown to great size, their limbs interlocked, and in addition to their leaves, great quantities of that wonderful parasite, Spanish moss, hung suspended from every bough. Here and there large and expensive monuments and tombs had been built; but it appeared that the place was too solemn, even for the repose of the dead, as I saw no new-made graves. I lingered until after sundown, riding from place to place through this majestic receptacle for the dead; it was the most weird and solemn place I had ever entered. It is certainly worthy a visit of any one who may go to the city of Savannah.

The most interesting object to me, however, in Savannah was the fine monument erected to the memory of Count Pulaski. A view of this memorial shaft recalled to my mind the great struggle of the Revolution, when Georgia adhered firmly to the cause of independence; of the capture of the city by the British forces, and of the great struggle for its recovery, in October, 1779, when Pulaski fell. It brought to mind, also, the visit of Lafayette and the laying of the corner-stone of this monument by him.

I felt that a city whose early history was so intimately and patriotically identified with the great struggle of forming the Union, must be saved to the Union.

REMOVING OBSTRUCTIONS IN RIVER AND REMODELING FORTIFICATIONS.

Two very important matters were undertaken without delay; namely, the removal of obstructions, torpedoes, etc., from the Savannah River, and the remodeling of the defensive works around Savannah to fit it to be held by a small Union garrison.

Admiral Dahlgren undertook the task of clearing out the river. This work was performed with great expedition and skill, so that in a short time it was safe for vessels to come up to the city to transact their business.

Very soon the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments established extensive depots of supplies in the city for the use of the army.

Savannah now took on an air of business that she had not enjoyed for nearly four years. It is proper to state that Admiral Dahlgren and the whole navy under him co-operated with the army in the most hearty manner in every work to make the occupation of Savannah a success.

The remodeling of the defensive works was entrusted to Capt. O. M. Poe, Chief of Engineers, on Gen. Sherman's staff, and to Maj. T. W. Osborn, Chief of Artillery, Department and Army of the Tennessee. These officers were ordered to dismantle the forts on the coast and river and to abandon and destroy such forts around the city as were not required for its defense by a small garrison. A large force of men was put on this work and a line of defenses was erected for a garrison of 10,000 men.

CAPTURED COTTON.

When our army took possession of Savannah 31,000 bales of cotton were found in store. This was taken possession of at once by our officers, and by direction of Gen. Sherman was carefully guarded as prize of war. If this capture had been made on the high seas by the navy, it would have been converted into cash and distributed as prize money to the officers and sailors of the ships engaged in the capture, but no such good luck was provided for by law for the army. All the soldiers were entitled to, of captured property, was enough to eat, if it could be found. So, in respect to this captured cotton, then worth probably $10,000,000 or $12,000,000, the soldiers whose fortitude and valor had secured its capture were not entitled to a penny of the proceeds of its sale. This cotton was by direction of Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, turned over to Simeon Draper, Esq., Special Agent of the United States Treasury Department.

Mr. Draper came to Savannah on a revenue cutter, reaching there Jan. 11. On the same vessel came Secretary of War Stanton, Quartermaster-General Meigs and Adjutant-General Townsend, besides a number of civilian clerks.

(From a sketch made in 1864.)

VIEW IN SAVANNAH, SHOWING MONUMENT ERECTED TO COUNT PULASKI, OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR FAME.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

The success of the Union Army in Georgia for eight months, from May to December, during which time the State was traversed from north to south, completely relaxed the hold of the master class upon their slaves. This was so also in South Carolina, along the coast, where our army had penetrated. The negroes everywhere were restless, and anxious to gain our military lines.

With the advent of our army at Savannah appeared at least 10,000 negroes, who joined our columns as we marched through the State. This number could have been increased to 40,000 if the word had been passed along for them to come, but women, children and old men were discouraged from leaving their homes. It was only the young, able-bodied men who were encouraged to join us. But even with the greatest care, it was found that many women had accompanied the men, and that immediate provision must be made for their care. These people were loyal to the flag, and were ready to do anything required of them in connection with military affairs, but their numbers were greatly in excess of the demand of our army for pioneer corps, servants, etc.

State Agents from some of the Northern States appeared on the ground, authorized to enlist negroes, to be mustered into the service as substitutes and credited to those States upon the calls for troops. It is hardly necessary to say that the soldiers at Savannah were not in sympathy with this movement. They felt that the States should fill their quotas for troops from their own citizens, and not send down to Georgia to enlist negroes to fill up the ranks of regiments which should be filled by white men.

All questions involving the negro pressed upon the attention of Gen. Sherman, and Secretary Stanton, on his arrival, and an order was agreed upon between them, and was issued by Gen. Sherman, so as to give form and system to the whole matter. This is the order:

"Special Field Order, No. 15.

"Headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, in the Field.

"Savannah, Ga., Jan. 16, 1865.

"1. The islands from Charleston south, the abandoned rice fields along the rivers for 30 miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. Johns River, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes, now made free by the acts of war and the proclamation of the President of the United States.

"2. At Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, the blacks may remain in their chosen or accustomed vocations; but on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established no white person whatever, unless military officers and soldiers detached for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves, subject only to the United States military authority and the Acts of Congress. By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to conscription, or forced military service, save by the written orders of the highest military authority of the Department, under such regulations as the President and Congress may prescribe. Domestic servants, blacksmiths, carpenters and other mechanics will be free to select their own work and residence, but the young and able-bodied negroes must be encouraged to enlist as soldiers in the service of the United States, to contribute their share toward maintaining their own freedom, and securing their rights as citizens of the United States. Negroes so enlisted will be organized into companies, battalions and regiments, under the orders of the United States military authorities, and will be paid, fed and clothed according to law. The bounties paid on enlistment may, with the consent of the recruit, go to assist his family and settlement in procuring agricultural implements, seeds, tools, boots, clothing, and other articles necessary for their livelihood.

"3. Whenever three respectable negroes, heads of families, shall desire to settle on land, and shall have selected for that purpose an island or a locality clearly defined within the limits above designated, the Inspector of Settlements and Plantations will himself, or by such subordinate officer as he may appoint, give them a license to settle such land or district, and afford them such assistance as he can to enable them to establish a peaceful agricultural settlement. The three parties named will subdivide the land under the supervision of the Inspector, among themselves, and such others as may choose to settle near them, so that each family shall have a plot of not more than 40 acres of tillable ground, and, when it borders on some water channel, with not more than 800 feet water front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title. The Quartermaster may, on the requisition of the Inspector of Settlements and Plantations, place at the disposal of the Inspector one or more of the captured steamers to ply between the settlements and one or more of the commercial points heretofore named, in order to afford the settlers the opportunity to supply their necessary wants, and to sell the products of their land and labor.

"4. Whenever a negro has enlisted in the military service of the United States, he may locate his family in any one of the settlements at pleasure and acquire a homestead, and all other rights and privileges of a settler, as though present in person. In like manner, negroes may settle their families and engage on board the gunboats, or in fishing or in the navigation of the inland waters, without losing any claim to land or other advantages derived from this system. But no one, unless an actual settler as above defined, or unless absent on Government service, will be entitled to claim any right to land or property in any settlement by virtue of these orders.

"5. In order to carry out this system of settlement, a general officer will be detached as Inspector of Settlements and Plantations, whose duty it shall be to visit the settlements, to regulate their police and general arrangement, and who will furnish personally to each head of a family, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, a possessory title in writing, giving as near as possible the description of boundaries; and who shall adjust all claims or conflicts that may arise under the same, subject to the approval, treating such titles altogether as possessory. The same general officer will also be charged with the enlistment and organization of negro recruits, and protecting their interests while absent from their settlements; and will be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the War Department for such purposes.

"6. Brig.-Gen. R. Saxton is hereby appointed Inspector of Settlements and Plantations, and will at once enter upon the performance of his duties. No change is intended or desired in the settlement now on Beaufort Island, nor will any rights of property heretofore acquired be affected thereby.

"By order of

"MAJ.-GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

"L. M. DAYTON,
"Assistant Adjutant-General."

This order was on a line with a bill then pending before Congress, and which had been under consideration for about a year. The necessity for legislation on this subject was better understood by military Commanders in the field than by members of Congress, whose duties kept them at Washington. It was important that these people, who had been set free by the war, should have the temporary care of the Government to secure for them opportunity to work and receive wages and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The duties and powers conferred upon Gen. Saxton were absorbed by the Freedman's Bureau, which was created by Act of Congress passed March 3, 1865, a month and a half after this order was issued.

The campaign in Georgia brought Gen. Sherman face to face with many interesting and important questions not strictly of a military character, but which grew out of the war and had to be settled by military orders. The manner in which all these matters were handled and disposed of by Gen. Sherman shows the strong grasp he had upon public questions, and the readiness with which he adopted means to ends.

But the great question that engaged Gen. Sherman's attention at this time were plans for his great Winter campaign through the Carolinas.

(To be continued.)