



WOODFORD LEAVES MADRID. PASSPORTS SENT TO HIM. HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION AS HIS TRAIN FULLY OUTFULLED.

IT WAS LED BY THE CIVIL GOVERNOR—THE AMERICAN MINISTER DISMISSED BEFORE HE COULD PRESENT THE ULTIMATUM TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

Madrid, April 21.—The ultimatum of the United States was received early this morning in English. The Spanish Government immediately broke off diplomatic relations with the United States, informing Minister Woodford to that effect before he was able to present any note.

GULLON'S NOTE TO WOODFORD.

The following is the text of the note received this morning by General Woodford from Señor Gullon, Minister of Foreign Affairs: "Dear Sir: In compliance with a painful duty I have the honor to inform you that there has been sanctioned by the President of the Republic a resolution of both chambers of the United States, which denies the legitimate sovereignty of Spain and threatens armed intervention in Cuba, which is equivalent to a declaration of war."

The Government of Her Majesty has ordered the Minister to return without loss of time from North American territory, together with the personnel of the Legation. By this act the diplomatic relations hitherto existing between the two countries and all official communications between their respective representatives cease.

"I am thus obliged to inform you, so that you may make such arrangements as you think fit. I beg Your Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of this note at such time as you deem proper. Taking this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration."

CROWD AT THE STATION.

General Woodford arrived at the station about a quarter of an hour in advance of the hour at which the train was scheduled to go. The train started half an hour late, and during the interval General Woodford conversed with the representatives of the foreign press and a number of friends.

An immense crowd gathered at the station, composed of all classes. A strong force of police and civil guards maintained order, while among the crowd moved a large number of private detectives. A detachment of the Civil Guards accompanied General Woodford to the frontier. The retiring Minister maintained his usual aliveness, but looked worn and fatigued. When the crowd was thickest about him General Woodford forced his way through, and, approaching Colonel Morel, the Chief of Police, shook hands with him cordially, thanking him for his kindness and zeal in guarding the United States Legation and his (General Woodford's) residence for so many months.

AN ANGRY SEND-OFF.

When General Woodford took his seat in the train there was a stir among the spectators and a rush toward the window of the carriage. The Minister sat unconcerned and dignified. Señor Aguilera, the Civil Governor of Madrid, his gigantic figure rising head and shoulders above the crowd, in a stentorian voice raised a cheer, which was thrice responded to frantically by the crowd. "Viva España!" resounded throughout the station until the train was fairly out of sight. This was not meant as a kindly farewell, but was an explosion of long pent up feelings.

BRITISH FLAG OVER THE LEGATION.

The British flag is now flying over the American Legation, which is still guarded by the police. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, the British Ambassador, called on Señor Gullon, the Foreign Minister, and informed him that the affairs of the American Legation were in his (the Ambassador's) hands.

G. H. Barclay, the British Chargé d'Affaires, and the Secretary of the German Embassy, Count Von Castell-Ruedenhausen, saw the United States Minister off.

MADRID "FAKIRS" BUSY.

The newspapers of this city to-day print richly colored accounts of how General Woodford received his passports, but the circumstances in the case were as called to the Associated Press. The Spanish Government, having received the text of the ultimatum of the United States from its own sources, did not wait for the United States Minister to present the ultimatum, but sent him his passports.

It is not expected that there will be any formal declaration of war, as Spain's action to-day is considered a virtual declaration of war, and hostilities may begin immediately. Both nations, however, may make to their own people and to all neutrals what is termed "the notification of war."

The authorities of the different Spanish provinces through which the train with General Woodford on board passes, have received instructions to take the necessary steps to protect it until the frontier of France is reached.

AMERICAN CONSULS TO LEAVE SPAIN.

INTERESTS OF THIS COUNTRY IN THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

Washington, April 21.—Minister Woodford's action during the day, as reported to the State Department in a late dispatch, indicated that he was following a carefully prepared programme. A significant feature of his message was the statement that the Spanish Government informed him that it regarded his withdrawal of Minister Polo yesterday as terminating diplomatic negotiations, showing that it was not disposed to accept the expressed intention of this Government to continue Mr. Woodford as a medium of communication until Saturday noon.

Mr. Woodford also announced that he had instructed Consul-General Bowen, at Barcelona, to cause all the American consuls in Spain to withdraw immediately from the country. He further said that he had informed the Spanish Government, after asking for his passports, that he had placed the American Legation in Madrid and American interests in Spain generally in the hands of the British Embassy. The Ambassador, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, is not at present in Madrid, so American interests will be confined to the British Chargé d'Affaires, Sir George G. Bonham. To all intents and purposes this relieves the State Department from further negotiations save those relating to privateering, neutrality observances, and the like. It was found necessary to frame a notice to the Powers of the intention of the Government to establish a blockade of Havana, as required by international law.

DISTINCTION AND DIFFERENCE.

Though the Kentucky was christened with water, the Kentucky was sprung into activity with a mug of Mott & Chandon White Seal Champagne. This favorite wine was served at the luncheon commemorating the occasion. Mott & Chandon, the choice of connoisseurs, is a feature at all prominent banquets and society gatherings.—Adv.

THE ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN. ITS TEXT MADE PUBLIC BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN ARE BROKEN OFF.

Washington, April 21.—The following statement of the text of the ultimatum to Spain was issued to-day:

"On yesterday, April 20, 1898, about 11 o'clock a. m., the Department of State served notice of the purposes of this Government by delivering to Minister Polo a copy of an instruction to Minister Woodford, and also a copy of the resolutions passed by the Congress of the United States on the 19th instant. After the receipt of this notice the Spanish Minister forwarded to the State Department a request for his passports, which were furnished to him on yesterday afternoon. Copy of the instruction to Woodford is herewith appended.

"The United States Minister at Madrid was at the same time instructed to make a like communication to the Government of Spain. This communication was made by General Woodford. A copy of a telegram, copy of which is herewith attached, showing that the Spanish Government had broken off diplomatic relations with this Government. This course renders unnecessary any further diplomatic action on the part of the United States.

"April 20, 1898. "Woodford, Minister, Madrid. "You have been furnished with the text of a joint resolution voted by the Congress of the United States on the 19th instant, approved to-day, in relation to the pacification of the island of Cuba. In obedience to that act, the President directs you to immediately communicate to the Government of Spain said resolution, with the formal demand of the President of the United States that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. In taking this step, the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, upon the fulfillment of the conditions hereinafter set forth, to leave the government and control of the island to its people under such free and independent government as they may establish.

"If by the hour of noon on Saturday next, the 23d day of April instant, there be not communicated to this Government by that of Spain a full and satisfactory response to this demand and a resolution, whereby the ends of peace in Cuba may be secured, the President will proceed without further notice to use the power and authority enjoined and conferred upon him by the said joint resolution, to such extent as may be necessary to carry the same into effect.

SPAIN HAS LITTLE COAL.

THE GOVERNMENT'S NEGLIGENCE MAY PROVE ITS RUIN.

STORY OF A CONDITION OF AFFAIRS WHICH MAY MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE WAR AND OF THE PRESENT MINISTRY.

London, April 22.—A dispatch to "The Daily Telegraph" from Barcelona, via Paris, says: "Grave apprehensions are entertained in the highest Government circles that the issue of war may be decided not by valor and enthusiasm and dogged perseverance, qualities of which the Spaniards possess an abundance, but by reserves of coal and victuals, of which they have made but a scanty provision in Cuba. It appears that in respect of coal in particular they are incomparably worse off than they have hitherto imagined.

"The Spanish Government, firmly believing down to the very last moment that peace would be preserved through the intercession of the Pope and the Powers, neglected to lay in sufficient provision of coal, despite the representations made to them by one or two far-seeing naval officers. Besides this, it is believed they never once inquired of the British or other neutral Governments whether coal would be regarded as contraband of war. The result is said to be a state of things which may be fraught with unpleasant surprises and bring hostilities to a premature end.

"Those in the secret were anxious to overthrow the Cabinet on other grounds before the beginning of war, for patriotic considerations forbade a public discussion of the country's weak point on the eve of hostilities. The short time allowed for the deliberations of Parliament rendered this intention difficult of execution, and the Liberal cabinet, which conducted the negotiations, will be allowed to bear the responsibility for the results during a conflict. "This alarming story comes from an excellent source, quite above all suspicion, even of hostility to the Cabinet. If, as I fear, events should demonstrate its truth, the close of the war may also be the end not only of the Liberal Government, but of much else which is infinitely more worthy of respect than any political party, and which enjoys the sympathy of all Europe. I hear that extreme depression prevails among the few who are initiated into this painful secret."

HATRED OF GREAT BRITAIN.

SPANIARDS BELIEVE THAT ENGLAND IS PLAYING THE AMERICAN PART.

Madrid, April 21.—There is a bitter feeling here against Great Britain, especially on the contraband of war and privateer questions. It is the belief of the general public that Great Britain is playing in an underhand manner the game of the United States.

ANXIOUS TO GET THE AUDAZ AWAY.

AN ENGLISH ADMIRAL'S ACTION SHOWS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DEPOSITION.

Cork, April 21.—Rear-Admiral Lake, senior officer on the coast of Ireland, had a long conference to-day with the commander of the Spanish torpedo-boat Audaz, which was seriously injured in March while on her way to Spain and brought to Queenstown for repairs, which it was believed would occupy a month in connection with the matter of hastening the Audaz's departure. Men are working on the boat day and night, but it will be impossible for her to get away until next Monday. She will take ninety tons of coal.

THE NETHERBY TO START AT ONCE.

WILL LEAVE RIO JANEIRO WITH THREE THOUSAND TONS OF COAL ON BOARD.

Rio Janeiro, April 21.—The warship Netherby, bought by the United States, will start immediately with 3,000 tons of coal.

THE ONTARIO PURCHASED.

BEAVER LINE STEAMSHIP SECURED BY THE UNITED STATES.

London, April 21.—The United States Government, according to a special dispatch from Liverpool, has bought the Beaver Line steamer Ontario.

ARMAMENT OF WARSHIPS.

A full statement of the armament of each of the ships of the American Navy is contained in the Tribune Almanac for 1898. Price, 25 cents a copy. Tribune Almanac, for sale at the Tribune office, but postage paid. For sale at all news-dealers.—Adv. can be ordered through any news-dealer.—Adv.

SPAIN SAYS WAR EXISTS. HER VIEW OF THE ULTIMATUM.

ONLY AWAITING THE TIME NAMED IN IT TO BEGIN HOSTILITIES.

AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HER "FLEET IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY TO MEET THAT OF THE UNITED STATES"—PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

Madrid, April 21.—A semi-official note, issued this afternoon, says: "The Spanish Government, having received the ultimatum of the President of the United States, considers that the document constitutes a declaration of war against Spain, and that the proper form to be adopted is not to make any further reply, but to await the expiration of the time mentioned in the ultimatum before opening hostilities.

"In the mean time, the Spanish authorities have placed their possessions in a state of defence, and their fleet is already on its way to meet that of the United States."

MEETING OF THE CABINET.

The Queen Regent presided this afternoon at the Cabinet Council. Señor Sagasta, the Premier, announced the departure of Señor Polo de Bernabe from Washington, and that the United States Minister, General Woodford, had been informed that it would be useless to present any note. Señor Sagasta addressed the Queen Regent thus: "In this solemn moment, when the first cannon shot is almost audible, the Government is prepared to assume the entire responsibility for its decisions, but it considers it opportune that the Queen Regent should hear the opinion of all the political leaders and the influential men of all parties, as well as the principal generals."

CAMPOS'S FERVID ORATORY.

In the Spanish Senate to-day Marshal Martinez Campos asked Señor Gullon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to make a statement regarding the relations between Spain and the United States, whereupon the Minister replied that all relations were broken off. The former Captain-General of Cuba then made a patriotic speech, in which he declared that Cuba would never lose her Spanish sovereignty.

Marshal Campos said he warmly approved the wisdom displayed by the Government, which had "accepted voluntarily all propositions compatible with the dignity of Spain." He added that ever since 1820 the United States had "pursued its aim of selling Cuba." If America belonged to Americans, he argued, Spain ought to be considered an American Power, for "she has watered the soil of America with her blood." He recalled the fact that there existed in America forty million inhabitants of Spanish origin, "all favorable to the Mother Country."

Señor Fernandez Gonzalez declared, in the name of the Republicans, that "party spirit is now drowned," adding: "There is only one voice throughout Spain, to repel foreign aggression."

A resolution eloquently supported by several leading Senators, pledging the assistance of the Chamber to save the dignity of Spain, was carried with acclamation.

Señor Gullon, the Foreign Minister, thanked the Senate, "not in the name of the Liberal Cabinet, but in the name of the Government."

ACTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

The chambers have elected provisional officers, the Marquis Vexa d'Arriba being chosen President of the Congress, the Lower House of the Cortes. At the outset of the proceedings in the Congress the President urged the necessity of the quickest possible organization of the House "to enable us to defend the honor and flag of our country."

The Chamber began forthwith the election of committees, and it is believed that the work of organization will be completed by Saturday.

In the lobbies Deputies of all parties were unanimous in saying that America must be resisted to the utmost.

QUEEN CONSULTS PARTY LEADERS.

Midnight.—The Queen Regent has consulted the political leaders of all parties and the President of the Senate. They advise her that the existing Cabinet, without any modification, ought to continue, to meet the difficulties of the situation.

Señor Montero Rios and the Marquis d'Arriba, in substantially the same terms as Marshal Campos, declared to the Queen Regent their opinion that it was reasonable and patriotic that the Crown should continue to give full confidence to the Liberal party, which expects co-operation and unanimous support from all other parties in the defence of the honor, integrity and dignity of the country.

SPANISH FLEET STILL AT ST. VINCENT.

SQUADRON AWAITING ORDERS WITH FRESH BATTERIES—THREE MORE WARSHIPS EXPECTED—CONTRIBUTORY REPORTS.

St. Vincent, Cape Verd Islands, April 21, 8.30 p. m.—The Spanish ironclads are coaling from the transport San Francisco.

The whole squadron is waiting orders with fresh batteries.

London, April 21.—"The Evening News" publishes a dispatch this afternoon from St. Vincent, Cape Verd Islands, dated to-day at noon, which says: "The Spanish fleet is still here, awaiting orders, with fresh fires. Three additional ironclads are expected forthwith."

Washington, April 21.—The Navy Department has received a dispatch from Madrid saying it is reported there that the Spanish squadron of 11 Cape Verd Islands left there last night, destination unknown. It confirmed press dispatches, but the Department does not accept it as certainly accurate.

FRENCH MINISTERS IN CONFERENCE.

CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF A DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY.

Paris, April 21.—M. Hanotaux, Minister of Foreign Affairs, convened a meeting this evening of the high officials of the various Ministries to consider the question of a declaration of neutrality and its consequences. Professor Renault had prepared a report on the question, which was submitted to the meeting.

THE PARIS SAILS TO-DAY.

AMERICAN LINER MUST TRUST TO HER HEELS TO GET TO NEW-YORK.

Southampton, April 21.—The American Line steamer Paris, Captain Watkins, which arrived here yesterday, will sail for New-York to-morrow. Her regular sailing day would be Saturday, but in view of the fact that she is chartered by the United States Government, her departure has been accelerated. It is considered probable that she will sail in ballast, though she may take the last lots of war material purchased for the United States Government.

24 HOURS OF SOLID COMFORT.

can be had on the limited trains of the New-York Central between New-York and the West every day in the year. See time-table, this paper.—Adv.

FACE TO FACE WITH SPAIN. ALL RELATIONS SEVERED.

CAPTAIN SAMPSON'S FLEET ORDERED TO BLOCKADE HAVANA.

VOLUNTEERS TO BE CALLED FOR TO-DAY.

THE PRESENT SITUATION NEITHER PEACE NOR WAR—ACTUAL HOSTILITIES EXPECTED TO BEGIN TO-MORROW OR SUNDAY—WAR MEASURES PASSED BY CONGRESS.

—THE DAY IN WASHINGTON—CROWDED WITH STIR-RING INCIDENTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 21.—As was anticipated in yesterday's dispatches to The Tribune, the final rupture of relations between the United States and Spain was precipitated to-day, not by a formal refusal on Spain's part to accede to the peremptory demands made upon her by this Government, but by the dismissal, without comment or explanation of Minister Woodford from his post at Madrid. General Woodford received a notice this morning from the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs informing him that diplomatic relations between the two countries were at an end, and that his mission at the Spanish capital must be considered closed. Accordingly, without having had an opportunity to present to the Sagasta Cabinet the ultimatum telegraphed to him yesterday afternoon, the American Minister was obliged to ask for passports and take his way across the boundary to France.

The unexpectedly prompt dismissal of General Woodford has given color to the suspicion current here yesterday that it was Spain's purpose from the first to make the presentation of this country's ultimatum a diplomatic impossibility, and thus put the United States in the attitude of attempting intervention in Cuba without due notice to the Spanish Government of the purpose and motives of its interference. In Madrid the plan worked perfectly, for Minister Woodford was to-day sent across the border with the American ultimatum remaining in his pocket undelivered.

SPANISH CABINET'S SCHEME BLOCKED.

But the Spanish Cabinet's scheme to forestall the presentation of the American demand for the evacuation of Cuba was effectively blocked in Washington, for with an eye to such a contingency the President sent yesterday to Señor Polo de Bernabe a copy of the Cuban ultimatum before the intervention resolution of Congress had been signed, and before that wary official had felt himself justified in terminating his mission by asking for a safe-conduct to Canada.

The withdrawal of each country's diplomatic representative from the other's capital, and the consequent cessation of friendly intercourse, without a definite declaration from either side of actual hostilities, leaves the two nations face to face to-night in an attitude which can be described as neither that of peace nor that of war. Though the North Atlantic Squadron, which has been lying ready at Key West for months, has at last been ordered to begin the blockade of Cuba, twenty-four hours yet remain in which, according to the terms of the President's ultimatum of Thursday, Spain may yet consider the expediency of conforming to the wishes of this Government and preparing for a peaceful withdrawal of her naval and military forces from that island.

NEITHER PEACE NOR WAR.

In one sense, therefore, war already exists; in another, it cannot be held to exist until after the expiration of the term set for the receipt of Spain's answer, noon of Saturday, April 23. That the American Navy will not engage in actual hostilities until Saturday or Sunday next seems certain. It will merely undertake a patrol of the approaches to the chief Cuban ports, for the purpose of turning back vessels destined for those ports laden with provisions or supplies which might be of use in sustaining the Spanish military forces now in Cuba. Doubtless much manoeuvring will be resorted to to determine which country shall fire the first hostile shot, for, though war is accepted on both sides as inevitable, an actual declaration of hostilities is scarcely to be expected now from either nation.

Reference is made in other dispatches to the plans for a campaign by sea which have so far been adopted by the naval authorities. Evidently nothing further than a strict blockade of Cuban ports will be attempted for the present, uncertainty as to the destination of the formidable Spanish fleet, which will now have to leave the Cape Verd Islands, making any extended disposition of the forces available in the Atlantic undesirable.

ORGANIZING AN ARMY OF INVASION.

In the mean time the collection and organization of a land force equal to the task of occupying Cuba will be pushed with all possible energy. The mobilization of the regular troops or near the Gulf coast having now been practically completed, the Administration is prepared to issue a call for volunteers to fill up the ranks of the proposed army of invasion. A proclamation will be issued to-morrow by the President summoning the Governors of the various States to furnish volunteers to the number of 100,000. Each State will be expected to supply a quota proportionate to its population, and under the terms of the Volunteer bill, which has now passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the organized militia forces of each may practically be turned over in toto to the National Government. The Senate to-day, in approving the Volunteer bill reduced the fixed term of enlistment to one year, and made a few other unimportant changes; so that the amended measure may not reach the President for a day or two. It is sure, however, to receive his signature in time to allow the troops furnished by the States to be organized and officered under its provisions.

The House of Representatives will also probably take up for consideration to-morrow the bill now pending in the Committee of Military Affairs for the increase of the strength of the Regular Army in time of war to something like 58,000 men. This measure will undoubtedly pass the two houses within the next few days, and its approval by the President will increase the total of the military forces available to about 155,000 officers and men. That the troops thus raised can be equipped and hardened for service in less than a month is, perhaps, doubtful; but with a large proportion of fairly drilled National Guardsmen in the ranks, the work of effecting an organization satisfactory in the military sense will be greatly reduced.

Both houses of Congress passed to-day as a war emergency measure a joint resolution forbidding the export from the United States until

MOVING OUT FROM KEY WEST. ACTIVITY WHICH INDICATES THAT SAMPSON'S FLEET HAS SAILED.

Key West, Fla., April 22—3.15 a. m.—The warships lying in the inner harbor are apparently drawing nearer the flagship. Two are now moving out. They are thought to be the monitor Amphitrite and the gunboat Helena. The signalling is continuous, and the searchlights of the Iowa and the New-York are sweeping the waters of the outer harbor.

ORDERS FOR SCHLEY'S FLEET.

READY TO MOVE ON THIRTY MINUTES' NOTICE.

MASSACHUSETTS MAY JOIN CAPTAIN SAMPSON'S SQUADRON—HER SUPPLIES HASTENED.

ABOARD NEW BATTERY TO PROTECT NORFOLK NAVY YARD—

ANOTHER HOSPITAL SHIP.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Old Point Comfort, Va., April 21.—An official statement is to the effect that the Flying Squadron will sail either at midnight or at daybreak to-morrow for Southern waters unless countermanding orders are received in the mean time. The officers have been made aware of the early sailing. Many officers here have taken leave of their families at the hotels. All liberty was cut off at 8.30 o'clock to-night, and at that hour no naval attachés of the squadron were ashore. The squadron this afternoon received "thirty-minute orders." It is reported here to-night that Captain Higginson, commanding the battleship Massachusetts, has been ordered to hold himself in readiness to sail, on receipt of orders, for Key West or Havana, depending on the position of the North Atlantic Squadron at the time of his arrival, and to report to Captain Sampson, commanding.

NOT LIKELY TO GO TO-NIGHT.

A naval officer, in position to speak, stated to-night that, while it is possible, it is hardly probable that the squadron will go to sea at any time to-night. Commodore Schley, at any rate, does not anticipate any such orders, and preparations are making on all of the warships for the customary nightly programme.

By "thirty-minute orders" is meant that Commodore Schley must have his powerful command in perfect condition, fully equipped and ready to weigh anchor within thirty minutes from the time final orders are received. The Commodore has issued all of the necessary orders enabling the squadron to sail at command. While the possible sailing of the Massachusetts is only report and lacking confirmation, all indications point to unusual activity aboard the "Queen of the American Navy," as the battleship is now characterized by officers and seamen alike.

A coal barge was hastily summoned this afternoon, and the ship now has her bunkers full. A large quantity of medical supplies, which ordinarily would not have been handled until to-morrow, was hastened aboard the battleship on arrival this evening.

MASSACHUSETTS WANTED AT HAVANA.

The necessity for the presence of the Massachusetts with Captain Sampson's fleet is apparent in the proposed bombardment of Havana. Battleships are the most effective of all naval vessels in this mode of warfare, and, in the opinion of an officer of the squadron, it is not unlikely that the Oregon will arrive on the scene under orders in time to take part.

The ram Katahdin passed Old Point this afternoon under sealed orders from the Norfolk Navy Yard. It is presumed that she is on the way to Provincetown. The torpedo-boat Rodgers also passed out of Hampton Roads to-day to join the flotilla at Key West.

At the suggestion of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, a rapid-fire battery of six guns will be constructed at Point Breeze, one mile below the city, for the protection of the shipyard and the battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky, recently launched, and now in danger of destruction by torpedo.

It is stated on good authority that the Plantier La Grande Duchesse will be purchased by the War Department as an Army hospital ship. She is the best ship available, but it is not likely that she can be secured under \$1,000,000, as she has already cost H. B. Plant, that amount. The plans of the vessel are here, and it will be only a matter of a few days before she can be converted into a floating hospital in every way superior to the Solace, and capable of providing for at least two hundred more patients.

A box float loaded with dynamite and carrying red danger lights is anchored off Hotel Chamberlin to-night.

COMMODORE SCHLEY SILENT.

Fort Monroe, Va., April 21.—Small ammunition was given to the ships of the squadron this afternoon, and there was sub-calibre practice with the big guns. Commodore Schley asked the Associated Press to-day to say that he had refused to express any opinion upon prospective war, Government action or movement of his squadron to anybody, and that publication of quoted remarks ascribed to him was not authorized.

The new collier for the Flying Squadron, the Saturn, arrived this morning, and Commodore Schley sent it to Norfolk at once to get its complement of coal.

Beginning with the reception of the first news bulletins from Washington to-day intense excitement prevailed here, both on shore and among the officers and men of the squadron.

The officers who came ashore in the afternoon were informed that they must report on board at 10 o'clock at the latest, and that no all-night hours leave would be granted. The officers of the Massachusetts were told that they must report at 5.30 o'clock on board, when leave might be granted for a few hours to see friends. These two orders led to all sorts of rumors, one being that the Massachusetts had been detached, which was promptly denied. At the hotels, where many of the officers' wives are staying, there was excitement, it being believed that the squadron would sail before morning.

EVERY PREPARATION MADE.

At 4 o'clock, after the receipt of the Associated Press bulletin that the Spanish believed the ultimatum to be a declaration of war, Commodore Schley signalled from the Brooklyn by nodding his coupole. In port ships' engines all engines were coupled, and are not usually coupled until at sea. Arrangements were made for the telegraph stations on shore to remain open all night to receive dispatches.

Despite the strain on all nerves to-night, men and officers are enthusiastic, as was demonstrated when the torpedo-boat Rodgers stopped at Key West Saturday on her way to join the Flying Squadron, to ask permission of Commodore Schley to proceed. The men flocked to the forecastles of the vessels and cheered heartily.

The Rodgers went out once before, but rubbed on a sand bar and slightly injured her screw. While the injury was not severe, it was thought best to fix it, and the work was completed to-day. She went out of Hampton Roads at full speed.

The colliers assigned to the squadron, the Merrimack and the Saturn, are not yet quite ready but may be in a day. The hospital boat is still in the hands of the shipbuilders, being converted, and cannot be ready with a crew for several days. Captain Higginson said to-night that any statement to the effect that the Massachusetts had been ordered to go to New-York City for defence of that harbor was untrue.

DON'T GO AWAY.

without a gutta serena or banyo, best and cheapest at KRELL'S, 115 Fifth Ave. (2d St.)—Adv.

FLEET ORDERED TO HAVANA. FIRST STEP IN INTERVENTION.

CAPTAIN SAMPSON INSTRUCTED TO BLOCKADE THE CUBAN PORT.

PLANS FOR USING THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE NAVY EXPECTED TO BE PUT INTO EXECUTION BY SUNDAY—FLYING SQUADRON READY TO SAIL FOR PORTO RICO, AND COMMODORE DEWEY'S FLEET TO STRIKE THE PHILIPPINES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, April 21.—A naval demonstration before Havana has been ordered. During the special Cabinet meeting shortly after 1 o'clock to-day a telegram was sent to Captain Sampson, commanding the squadron at Key West, directing him to proceed to sea and execute his orders. These orders had been carefully considered by the Strategy Board and had received the approval of the President, contingent upon the necessities of the occasion. They are the initial part of the adopted programme of naval operations of an extended character, involving Captain Sampson's squadron as well as those of Commodore Dewey, at Hong Kong, and Commodore Schley, at Hampton Roads.

Under his instructions it is expected that Captain Sampson's fleet, or such portions of it as may be deemed essential, will proceed at once to establish a complete and effective blockade of the port of Havana, preventing the ingress or egress of all vessels to or from that harbor, while retaining positions beyond the range of the highest-powered guns of the shore batteries. It is not contemplated that the vessels in Captain Sampson's command will be required to fire a single shot to maintain a complete cessation of communication between Havana and the outer world by sea. His fleet will be so disposed as to intercept all merchant vessels desiring to enter the port, and to warn them back in the direction whence they appear.

FIGHTING NOT EXPECTED AT PRESENT.

The only possibility of a fight during this blockade that can now be anticipated lies in the exhibition of an inclination on the part of vessels bound in or out of Havana to decline to recognize the blockade, and this possibility is considered extremely remote. Captain Sampson will maintain frequent, and perhaps hourly communication through Key West and the new naval cable station at Dry Tortugas with the authorities in Washington, and will receive, as occasion may demand, instructions to execute further details of the plan of operations which has been furnished to him.</