Literary News and Criticism

A Soldier's Analysis of the Campaign of Santiago de Cuba.

THE CAMPAIGN OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA. By Herbert H. Sargent. In three volumes. With maps. 12mo, pp. xii, 274, 236, 268. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

This work of Captain Sargent's gives much more than an account of the campaign of Santiago de Cuba. It embodies a complete history of the preliminary events, survey of the military and naval forces of both sides and a discussion of the strategical situation. The author has already acquired a reputation as a military writer through several works on Napoleon's early campaigns. In the present instance, besides having served upon the scene of the events described, he has given the subject the careful study of several busy years and has had exceptional advantages to get information and data from the Spanish government and from our own War Department. It has been a serious defect of American historians, particularly of those treating of military operations, that they are provided with few and incomplete maps. It appears to be difficult for authors to realize that a good map is often better than the most brilliant narrative in giving a clear idea of military operations. It is a serious handicap upon the study of the Civil War that the most valuable accounts are generally accompanied by wretched maps. "The Campaign of Santiago de Cuba" happily avoids this error and provides us a number of excellent maps. Captain Sargent is gifted with a clear and attractive literary style, which keeps up the interest of the reader, does not harass him with pedantic military discussions, but retains sufficient of a professional character to be valuable to the military reader.

An army officer who assumes the task of writing the history of contemporary events must labor under a certain disadvantage. His praise and his censure, if he indulges in either, are levelled at his comrades and his superiors. He must be careful not to transgress the rules of military decorum in speaking of the latter, and the personal element will color his feelings about the former. The only way to avoid this is to state the bald facts and and let the reader draw his own deductions—a policy which, in this case at least, would take away much of the interest in the book. On the whole, it may be said that the author performs his difficult task with discretion and judgment. If any criticism were made it would perhaps be that his praise is sometimes extravagant and that his censure is often too mild. In treating of the unfortunate occurrence of the 71st New York in the advance on San Juan Hill he states the facts and leaves them without comment. But it may be that something more should be said. Was not some one responsible for the fact that the newest troops in the army were placed in the most trying position? Such things have often happened, and it is also usual to give all the blame to the troops and to say nothing about the person who issued the orders. Elsewhere our author quotes the saying that "the main difference among men is not courage, but training"—a self-evident proposition which might have been remembered in this case.

The book begins with a review of the Cuban insurrection. It appears that the Spanish forces at the beginning of the war with the United States numbered 196,820 officers and men, of whom about 8,000 were cavalry and 5,000 were artillery. The insurgents, according to the writer's estimate, were never more than twenty-five or thirty thousand, but according to the estimate of the Spanish War Department, which would certainly be more likely to overstate than to understate the figures, they were not more than 15,000. The use that the Spanish commanders made of their ill-assorted command is an illuminating example of inefficiency. Captain Sargent, who is a cavalry officer, ridicules the Spanish campaign. He says:

> The cavalry force of the Spaniards was too small. The oppressive heat and unhealthful climate of the island made active campaigning there very debilitating for dismounted troops. Mounted troops would have been much more suitable for aggressive warfare. Cavalry was needed to scout the country thoroughly, to hunt out the insurgents from their hiding places and to attack and crush them when found. There never was a time during the insurrection when the insurgents, with their lack of organization, poor discipline and disinclination to concentrate and fight, could have prevented a single brigade of United States cavalry from marching victoriously anywhere on the island. Such being the case, it is plain that if Spain had possessed twenty or twenty-five good cavalry regiments in Cuba and had energetically taken the offensive and overrun the rebellious parts of the island she could hardly have failed to conquer.

Strange reflections arise when we read of the changed conditions in our land, which thirty-two years before disbanded more than a million and a half of men in arms, and now by the greatest exertions sends forth a corps of 17,000 men in seven weeks. Nor is it pleasant reading to find our great Republic going to war with obsolete arms, smoky powder in a smokeless age, wearing winter clothing in the tropics. Our cavalry author does not permit us to forget that early mistakes of the Civil War—bitterly repented though they were—have been persistently and monotonously repeated in this—for instance, 1½ per cent of cavalry in a call for 200,000 men.

That strategy is the warfare of peace is well recognized by what are called military nations. The idea is that all the probabilities of a state of war are fully considered and thought out in time of peace. If we had done this perhaps we would not have begun the war with a divided fleet, nor would we have challenged fate by propositions to bombard Havana, by the actual bombardment of San Juan, by plans to land a small force west of Havana at Muriel and to send a part of Sampson's fleet to the Philippines. Upon this the author says: "No one can study the strategy of this campaign without feeling that the President of the Unied States had need at the time of an advisory council composed of a few able officers."

Viewing events in the light of the exhaustive study of a later day, it is a matter of congratulation that our commander in the field, notwithstanding his disadvantages, came to a correct solution enough of the tactical and strategical problems to come off victorious. Strangely favored though we were by the passivity and incompetence of our enemies, there were many times when a serious error on our part would have been disastrous. Much of our success was, of course, due to good luck, which we had no right to expect; but much more was due to boldness, which we always regard as a national asset and we were entitled to its logical results. Yet never again will we probably find in a single campaign such helpless inefficiency on the part of an enemy. The failure to provision their troops, to concentrate available forces upon threatened points that were well known to them, to oppose the landing which could have been so easily made, to defend favorable positions—these were a few of the questions which it required no uncommon ability to solve correctly, and in either case the result might have been serious for us. Not the least of these errors was the failure to consider the effect of disease upon our unacclimated troops.

The landing operations and the fighting are well described, although we feel inclined to pause to ask for further enlightenment on some points. Why should 520 men hold at bay during an entire day twelve times their number, assisted by a battery? Why should the attack lose almost one man for each defender? For those who may have to make future attacks it would be interesting to know how many fell in the actual attack. Proceeding to San Juan Hill, there were 8,412 men, with several batteries, engaged against one-sixteenth their numbers, losing 1,09?. The number to be charged to the assault is not given here, either. The subject of the advance under the fire of modern weapons has been studied among military men for many years. Certain conclusions have been reached as to preparation, objectives, number of men a yard and methods of advance. Apparently much of it is wrong if these assaults at Santiago were right. There will probably be dissent from the opinion of the author that frontal attacks are impossible. The Japanese "methodical" attack, copied from the German drill book, appears to have succeeded with less loss and smaller odds of numbers than at Santiago. In the same line of thought may be mentioned the crowding of troops into the narrow roads under fire, under the theory that the country was impassable. Lieutenant John Bigelow gives testimony that he actually marched his troops through it in line of skirmishers. Again, there was the lack of reconnoissance, and the 278 mounted cavalrymen securely tied to headquarters, after the manner so popular in the early days of the Civil War. All this seems to afford a simple argument for better training—even better than that possessed by the regular army at Santiago.

A naval battle is hard to describe, but Captain Sargent has given a clear account of the destruction of Cervera's fleet. The American fleet seems to have done good shooting—at least better than we expect on land—with 123 hits out of 6,000 shots. Those who think that men in battle will shoot as well as in a shooting match will not agree with this. Occasionally the Santiago campaign is mentioned with a smile. Compared with the great campaigns of the Civil War it certainly appears to be insignificant in numbers and losses; but where since the days of Alexander and of Cortez have greater results been accomplished by 17,000 men—an army of 200,000 veterans surrendered, an empire conquered? With the advantage of full knowledge, such as we have now, can we imagine greater odds than those our army faced so gayly when it embarked for Santiago? When in the history of the world has fortune given greater favor or audacity reaped a greater reward?

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

Changes in Important Military Commands.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, November 3.

WESTON FIRST TO RETIRE.—The first appointment which the new President will make to the grade of general officer in the army will be by virtue of the retirement of Major General John F. Weston, now in command of the Philippine Division. While this will not take place until November, 1909, it presents an interesting topic of discussion for army officers. In the first place, it will require a general shaking up in the details of general officers who command departments. A part of the current gossip suggests the detail of Major General J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff, to the command of the Philippine Division, but it is understood that Mr. Taft desires General Bell to remain in Washington in his present post, and the chances are that Major General Leonard Wood, who succeeds General Grant in command of the Department of the East, will ask to be returned to the Philippines and reassume the comand, in which he takes a keen interest. In that event, probably Major General Thomas H. Barry will succeed to the command of the Department of the East. Another part of the gossip in which army officers are indulging has to do with the appointment of Brigadier General Clarence R. Edwards, who holds that rank by virtue of his detail as chief of the bureau of insular affairs, as a major general in place of Weston. This will be a keen disappointment to some of the brigadier generals, but they are inclined to expect that circumstance by virtue of Mr. Taft's admiration for General Edwards, and the intimacy which has existed between them. Brigadier General Frederick Funston would remain at the head of the list of brigadier generals, where, it is understood, he will stay for some years until the older brigadiers who are his juniors have been promoted or retired.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Major CHARLES J. STEVENS, 5th Cavalry, from 2d Squadron and from Fort Apache, to Hawaii, with squadron 5th Cavalry to which assigned.
Captain EDWARD W. MCCASKEY, 21st Infantry, found by examining board physically disqualified for major of infantry, retirement announced.
Captain JOHN W. FURLONG, General Staff, from Cuba to Washington, reporting to chief of staff.
Captain CHARLES E. PAY, Jr., from 11th to 24th Infantry.
Captain ROBERT H. WESCOTT, from 24th to 11th Infantry.
Second Lieutenant LOUIS A. CLAUSEN, 2d Regiment, District of Columbia National Guard, to garrison school, Fort Myer.

NAVY.

Surgeon O. D. NORTON, detached marine recruiting station; to navy recruiting station, New York, vice Surgeon E. S. BOGERT, Jr., to marine recruiting station, New York.
Surgeon W. H. BUCHER, from naval hospital, Las Animas; leave three months.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.—The following movements of vessels have been reported to the Navy Department:

ARRIVED.

Nov. 1—The Foote and the Winslow, at Charleston; the Tecumseh, at Washington; the Tacoma, at Guantanamo.
Nov. 2—The Connecticut, the Georgia and the Minnesota, at Cavité; the Ranger, at Gibraltar.

SAILED.

Nov. 1—The Sioux, from Boston for Rockland; the Salem, from Guantanamo for St. Thomas; the Prairie, from Annapolis for Philadelphia.
Nov. 2—The Connecticut, the Georgia and the Minnesota, from Olongapo for Cavité; the Chester, from Provincetown for Rockland; the Nero, from Boston for Bradford.
Nov. 3—The Nanshan, from Amoy for Cavité.

KILLED IN COLLISION.

Alexandria Merchant Loses Life When Vessels Crash in Potomac.

Washington, Nov. 3.—A collision occurred early to-day between the Norfolk and Washington steamer City of Washington, bound from Norfolk for this city, and the Washington and Alexandria ferryboat Lackawanna, bound from Washington to Alexandria, in the Potomac River, three miles below Washington. Samuel Belanker, a merchant of Alexandria, was killed.

The collision is said to have been due to a confusion of signals and inability, on account of the low stage of water, of the ferryboat's crew properly to handle her. The starboard side of the Lackawanna was torn away, and the bow of the City of Washington was slightly damaged. The Lackawanna was beached.

Mrs. Emma F. Swan, thirty-two years old, and her three-year-old son, Richard, and Mrs. Fanny B. Smith, thirty-one years old, all of this city, were painfully but not seriously injured.

PLAN PASSENGER POOL.

To Divide Eastbound Second Class Traffic from Chicago.

Chicago, Nov. 3.—A plan for pooling the eastbound second class passenger traffic moving from Chicago and the West on through railroad and steamship steerage tickets is now being worked out by the passenger officials of the roads in the Central Passenger Association. If the details of the plan for regulating competition are approved at a meeting of the association in New York on November 10, all the eastbound steamship business, consisting principally of foreign residents of this country returning to their homes in Europe, will be divided among the various lines which are the largest participants in the business, according to a prearranged percentage plan.

While details of the plan have not yet been definitely determined, and the success of the entire arrangement is dependent upon its being assented to by the Interstate Commerce Commission, it has been practically decided that four of the differential lines—the Erie, Grand Trunk, Nickel Plate and the Wabash—will each receive one-sixth of the business, and the other three differential roads—the Baltimore & Ohio, Michigan Central and the Pennsylvania-Panhandle route—will divide the other two-sixths.

MORMON GIRL DEPORTED.

Refusing to Renounce Polyamy, She Is Sent Home for Second Time.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 3.—Rather than deny an article of her faith Delphine Doddsworth, a little English girl twenty-one years old, has twice submitted to exile from those she holds dear, and went forth among strangers, homeless. Miss Doddsworth became a convert to Mormonism in England. At the immigration office in Boston she was asked if she believed in the practice of polygamy.

"I believe in the doctrine of plural marriage," she replied.

Under the law no believer in polygamy can enter the United States. The girl was set aside for deportation, and later, despite the personal appeal of Senator Smoot at Washington, she was sent back to England. An attempt to enter the United States by way of Montreal proved more successful, and two weeks ago the young woman joined her family in Salt Lake City. News of her coming reached the ears of the immigration authorities, and to-day she is on a train bound for Montreal in the custody of an immigration officer.

WOMAN FOOLS BROKERS

Gets Bonds with Worthless Check and Tries to Beat Hotel Bill, Too.

Chicago, Nov. 3.—With $20,000 of bonds which she is said to have obtained from the firm of Babcock, Rushton & Louderback, bond dealers in the Rookery Building, a woman known as Alice Cheney Brown was arrested last night at the Union Station and made to return the securities. She had a ticket for Denver, and was aboard the train waiting for its departure when Detective Frank Repetto found her preparing to retire for the night.

Repetto's instructions from the brokers were not to detain the woman if she restored the $20,000 worth of bonds. This she readily assented to, and she took them from a handbag on the seat beside her.

The woman had also passed a worthless check, it is charged, for $63 on the management of the Congress Hotel Company. Repetto, who is employed by the hotel company, had this little score to settle with the woman. She made good the amount of the check and was allowed to go her way.

The method by which the woman obtained the bonds was by passing a worthless check on the brokers for $19,720. Soon after the transaction Orville E. Babcock, one of the firm, became suspicious of the genuineness of the check, and telegraphed to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, of New York, on which bank it was drawn. An answer was received that the woman purporting to be Alice Cheney Brown had no account with the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company.

It was known to the firm that Mrs. Brown was staying at the Annex, and a messenger was sent there to find her. At the hotel it was learned that the woman had paid her bill and left. She had paid with a check on the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, and had ordered a carriage to take her to the Lasalle street station.

Mr. Southgate, manager of the Annex, examined the check passed on the hotel, and, inasmuch as the check on the brokerage firm was worthless, he declared that the smaller one was worthless also.

Repetto was called in, and with Mr. Babcock went to the municipal court, where a warrant was sworn out charging the woman with operating a confidence game.

The cabman who drove the woman from the Annex was found, and he said she discharged him at the Lasalle street station. It was learned that a woman answering the description of Mrs. Brown had engaged another cabman, and that he drove her to the Northwestern depot. After discharging the second cabman she entered a third vehicle and was driven to the Union Station.

In the baggage room it was discovered that the woman had checked a suitcase to Denver, presenting her railroad ticket at the same time. The Burlington train for Denver was not to leave Chicago until 11:30 o'clock, and Repetto remained in the station until shortly before the time of its departure. How the woman got past him and aboard the train without being seen is a mystery to the detective. When questioned on that point by Repetto she looked out of the car window and laughed.

At first Mrs. Brown pleaded for leniency, asking that she be permitted to pay the hotel bill and continue on her trip to Denver. The detective agreed to accept the $63 for the hotel bill, and she paid him in cash. Then she turned over the bonds. When she did so she told, amid sobs, that she had planned to obtain the bonds which she hoped to sell in Denver, so she could get funds with which to aid a brother who is under arrest in the East for some offence.

The securities were turned over later to Mr. Babcock, who was waiting for Repetto at the Auditorium Annex. Mr. Babcock said the firm would make no effort to prosecute Mrs. Brown. The bonds were twenty in number and of $1,000 each. They are first mortgage 5 per cent bonds of the Madison River Power Company.

Mrs. Brown went to the Annex last Thursday. She registered as "Mrs. Frank E. Brown, New York." The day following her arrival she called on Babcock, Rushton & Louderback with letters, presumably forged, purporting to be from a New York broker. Negotiations were begun for the purchase of the bonds, but the deal was not closed until yesterday. It was learned after the Denver train had gone that Mrs. Brown got through the station without being seen by Repetto by a clever ruse. Outside the station she saw a tired woman holding a baby and engaged her in conversation. Without arousing the woman's suspicions, she induced her to let her hold the baby and then accompany the child and its new friend to the train. In passing through the station Mrs. Brown was seemingly intent on the child, and, as she was not supposed to have a baby, passed unnoticed.

LAWYER'S FUNDS SHORT.

Great Northern Confirms Deficit in Spokane Counsel's Office.

St. Paul, Nov. 3.—W. R. Begg, general solicitor of the Great Northern Railroad, confirmed to-day the reports of the shortage of $50,000 in the accounts of A. J. Gordon, of Spokane, Wash., formerly general counsel for the Great Northern at Spokane.

Speaking of the matter, Mr. Begg said: "It is true that Mr. Gordon is short in his accounts $50,000. As I understand it he was sent two drafts to pay into court the amount of taxes in litigation in Ferry County. One of the drafts, I understand, was for $30,000, and the other for $20,000. He took the money and we are sorry."

"Has he promised to pay up?" was asked.

"Yes, but we doubt if he can do it. We haven't decided whether or not we will prosecute."

MAN KILLED IN KENTUCKY FEUD.

Eight Barrels of Whiskey, to Celebrate Election, Bring About Fatal Fight.

Lexington, Ky., Nov. 3.—As a result of a feudal war at Campon Junction, about twenty miles west of Jackson, Oslow Allen, aged twenty years, was shot and killed last night and Alvin Garver, aged twenty-two, was badly injured. Clarence Sherman, who did the shooting, was shot in the head, but managed to escape to the mountains. Eight barrels of whiskey shipped into town for the election brought on the trouble, although family troubles of long standing played a prominent part.

WOMAN SHOOTS CHIEF OF POLICE.

Alaskan Official Killed When He Seeks to Arrest Her as Insane.

Fairbanks, Alaska, Nov. 3.—A. L. Miller, Chief of Police of Fairbanks, was shot by Blanche Duval, at the Pioneer Hotel yesterday, and later died from his wounds.

Chief Miller was breaking in the door of the woman's rooms in order to arrest her on a charge of insanity, sworn to by the proprietor of the hotel. Three shots were fired at him, only one of which was effective.

The woman is now in the federal jail. She says she has no recollection of the shooting. The dead man's father is A. H. Miller, of Urbana, Ill.

SCHOONER BRINGS DEAD CAPTAIN.

The Charles G. Endicott Bears Body of Master, Washed Overboard in Heavy Gale.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 3.—The four masted schooner Charles G. Endicott, bound from Charleston, S. C., to Baltimore, arrived in Hampton Roads to-day bearing the body of her deceased master, Captain Marvin Bailey, of Manasquan, N. J.

The captain was washed overboard from the Endicott while at sea off Cape Hatteras on October 31. He was rescued, but died from exhaustion and shock upon being taken aboard his vessel. The body will be sent to his home.

DEER CLOGS STEEL PLANT MACHINE.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Nov. 3.—A frightened deer yesterday leaped into the rolls of the steel rail plant, which were in action, and as a result one thousand men were idle for some hours. A buck and a doe appeared wandering around the railroad tracks. A yard engine scared the buck into the river, but the doe dashed in the direction of the mill and, leaping over the heads of the startled workmen, landed in the steel rollers. The animal was so badly injured that it had to be killed.

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