The Evening Times

NUMBER 1507. WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1900. PRICE ONE CENT

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Thousands View the Astronomical Spectacle From Washington.

The Moon's Part in the Great Celestial Drama Performed on Schedule Time—Begins to Cross the Disc at 7:44 a. m.—Observation of the First Contact Obscured by Clouds.

Washington was enveloped in the shadow of the moon today. The shades of evening fell in early morning. The sun, which lights all things in life and paints color in the flowers, was overcast, and a shroud of grey was thrown about the city. A band of black, fifty miles wide, swept across the country from southwest to northeast. The shadow cast by the moon in its passing between the earth and the sun began, so far as this world is concerned, away out upon the Pacific Ocean, and rushing onward in its northeasterly course as the sun sped westward and the earth whirled eastward, crossed diagonally through Mexico and entered the United States in southwestern Louisiana. Moving forward at thirty miles a minute, the black shadow rolled over southwestern Mississippi, southern Alabama, central Georgia, central South Carolina, eastern North Carolina, darkening the extreme southeastern points in Virginia; and swept out into the Atlantic Ocean. Thence it passed through Portugal and Spain, and crossing northern Africa entered Egypt and was lost in the Red Sea, three hundred miles south of Cairo. The passage of the shadow from end to end of its journey occupied three hours and twenty minutes and its transit of the United States was accomplished in a fraction less than twenty-five minutes.

The solar eclipse of 1900, foretold for many years, came and went as astronomers said it would.

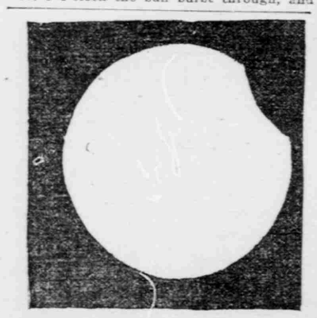
Washington lay about 150 miles north of the central line of the path of totality and in what is called the penumbra of the moon's shadow. To observers in this city eleven-twelfths of the sun's disc was obscured. The phenomenon was watched by thousands of persons with awe. Through smoked glass they studied this unusual manifestation of the great power which holds countless worlds in their orbits and swings them through space. It was one of Nature's greatest sermons.

The sun rose at 4.30. The orb of day glowed red and gave promise of a brilliant morning. As he rolled upward in the east and faded from orange to gold and then to bright and shining silver, a mist sprang up and lines of thin, cumulus cloud appeared low down in the east. A faint, moist breeze blew out of the southeast. It was just strong enough to flutter the topmost foliage of the trees and swerve the pale blue smoke that lazily rose from the breakfast fires of the city. As the cloud bank ascended in the east the symptoms of rain grew more pronounced, and a ghostly grey haze veiled the blue of the morning sky.

The silver maples of the parks and streets began to flutter and display the ashen green of the nether side of their leaves. The dark, thick leaves of the linden rustled and the higher branches of the oaks, elms, and poplars swayed softly and idly. The breakfast smoke clung more closely to the housetops and the signs of rain multiplied. Sparrows that had been chirping and hopping on the ground went aloft into the trees. Servants passed on to their work, and after them came laborers, and behind these were mechanics. Despite the impending eclipse, the great mass of school children and Government employes did not appear upon the streets earlier than usual, though a fair percentage of them peered skyward through open windows. To those who looked out upon the city at 7 o'clock the prospect of seeing the moon throw her black form across the burning face of the sun, was poor. The clouds in the east were steadily rising and the haze that overspread the sky was thickening. To citizens east of the Capitol the sun was shut out by clouds at a few minutes after 7 o'clock and to citizens west of the Capitol a few minutes later. No view of the orb could be had at the moment of contact, 7:44.

At that time the soft breeze that had been coming out of the southeast fell to a mere damp draught and began to veer to the south, finally reaching around to the southwest and breaking rifts in the clouds.

At 8 o'clock the sun burst through, and



First Contact, 7:44 a. m.

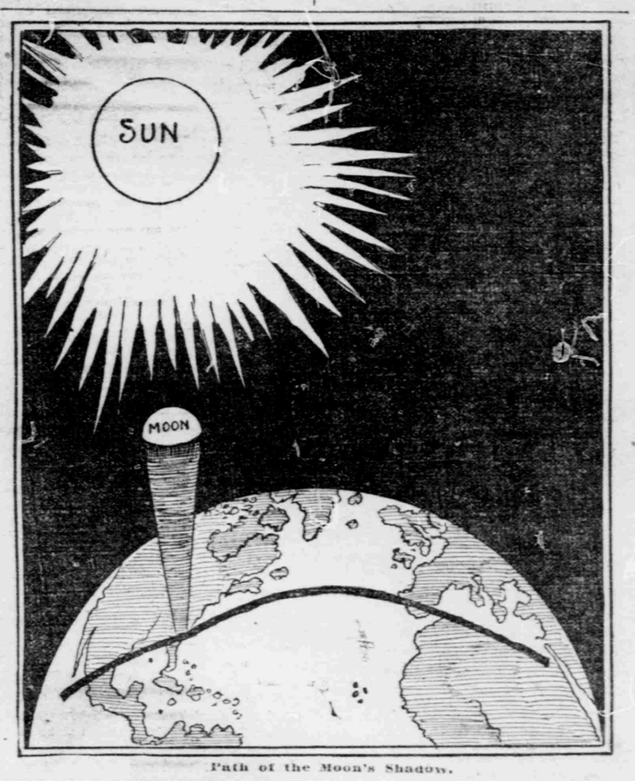
by that hour late sleepers and children were at windows, upon roofs, and in the streets. Smoked glass, opera glasses, and spy glasses were called into use. Then the moon was well upon her way across the sun's disc. The golden crescent grew thinner and sharper as the inky black ball ate its way through, and twilight seemed to fall upon the earth. Then followed weird scenes. Though it appeared to be late in the afternoon, trees and men cast shadows to the westward. The sparrows in the trees ceased to chirp. In the country thrushes sang their evening songs and swallows flitted here and there. In the woods the whip-poor-will cried. Some chickens went to roost, but others that were wiser remained abroad, though with astonished glances in their round, red eyes.

Groups of people collected on available street corners and on the west side of the numbered streets. Old and forgotten candles were lighted that glass might be coated with soot. Every broken bit of glass became precious, and children and adults, like ostriches, picked the shining fragments from the streets and alleys. Many thousand eyes followed the round, black moon in her course.

At 8:30 o'clock the sun had been whittled away to a thin crescent of orange red flaming and swinging in a choppy sea of white and black clouds. At 8:55 the obscuration was at its greatest, and the seeming twilight was deepest. Then was the greatest hush upon the city. The western sky looked like the morning sky and good eyes could see a few bright stars twinkling rather faintly in the patches of blue. The Heights of Arlington looked as the hills of Good Hope had looked only a few hours before.

Then the scene began to change the day slowly grew brighter. Whenever the morning sunshine came through foliage, against a wall, or upon a sward sloping to the southeast in such a way that on ordinary days there are circular dapples of light overlapping among the shadows, there were instead of the dapples, interlaced crescents—the multitudinous imperfect images of the luminous edge of the sun. The interstices of the foliage had the effect of the lens of a camera, and reproduced many little suns in the shade.

At 9:30 the sparrows had hopped from the branches to the ground and were chirping as though gaily gossiping about what had passed. The groups of people had dispersed, and at 10:14 the sun, the moon, and the earth, so far as Washington is concerned, had resumed the even tenor of their way.



Path of the Moon's Shadow.

AT THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

Slight Difference Between Computed Time and the Actual Contact.

The astronomers at the Naval Observatory were up bright and early this morning tuning up their various instruments, and adjusting them with delicate nicety to the task they were expected to perform. This was the determination of the two contacts (the time of the first and last appearance of the moon over the sun's

8:30 a. m.

disc) to as close a fraction of a second as possible. To obtain this desired result three separate instruments were to be used, namely the two equatorial telescopes and a comet-seeker.

Messrs. E. A. Boeger, at the great 26-inch equatorial, William M. Brown at the 12-inch equatorial, and M. E. Porter at the comet seeker, were busy before 7 o'clock with their respective instruments and watching with anxious eyes the appearance of the sky in the vicinity of the sun. Mr. Brown had stayed at the Observatory all night, and when at about 5 o'clock this morning he noted the huge bank of clouds in the east he despaired of success.

As the morning wore on from that time, however, things celestial began to look brighter, until, at about 7 a. m., the sun appeared in all its radiance. But light clouds began to gather and so rapidly did these accumulate in number and intensity that it was soon seen the best results could no longer be expected.

Just at the computed moment for the first contact the western limb of the sun upon which the moon's disc was to appear was cloud-obscured and the telescopes with the dark shade glasses attached to their eyepieces showed, as before stated, a dark, undistinguishable mass of rapidly moving vapor. By what might be termed a happy accident, the observer at the great equatorial removed the shade glass attached to

Greatest Obscuration, 8:55 a. m.

that instrument just as the darker clouds moved away for an instant, and showed the moon's disc so slightly indented that none but a practiced eye could have discovered any alteration. Nevertheless the contact had passed, but the record of the chronograph showed only a difference of thirty seconds between the computed time for the compact and the moment of observation.

Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co.

Delightful trips daily at 6:30 p. m. to Old Point Comfort, Newport News, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Ocean View. For schedule see page 7.

Opening of Chautauqua Beach.

A remarkable transformation of Bay Ridge. Opens for the season May 30. Unlimited attractions. Trains leave B. & O. Depot Washington, week days, 9:30 a. m., 4:30 p. m. Sundays, 9:30 a. m.. Rate for adults 50 cents, children 25 cents.

Going to buy Lumber?

Call first and see our $1.50 best boards. F. Libbey & Co.

Washington-Cleveland Sleeper via B. & O.

Quick service and superior accommodations daily on 8:30 p. m. train, without change, arriving Cleveland 10:35 next morning.

Going to build a house?

Consult us first and buy doors, $1.25, at 6th and N. Y. ave.

WORK OF THE SCIENTISTS

How the Eclipse Was Observed at the Southern Stations.

Astronomers Satisfied That They Have Secured Magnificent Photographic Results—The Corona Extends on Each Side of the Sun's Equator—Shadow Band Prominent.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 28.—Bright skies and crisp, clear atmosphere, with but the slightest interruption, has made all the observations of the solar eclipse perfect.

The eclipse, for which the most distinguished astronomers in the world have been laboriously preparing at five stations in Georgia, is now a matter of astronomical history, and from what the jubilant scientists say, the results have been all and more than were anticipated. At all of the observatories operations were conducted under ideal conditions, and the experts confidently expect that when they have worked out and elaborated all of the details which they noted at the time the sum total of information will constitute a vast addition to the data of science on features of this rather mysterious and uncertain phenomenon.

The greatest interest perhaps centres at Thomaston. This was the mathematical centre of totality. The eclipse began at 6:31:34 a. m. and ended at 8:55:46, a duration of 2:24:12. The period of totality was 1 minute and 25 seconds.

The Lick Observatory had a large and extensively equipped delegation here, and perhaps the most important work of the present eclipse on this side was accomplished. The whole range of the phenomena was covered, including spectroscopic, telescopic, and photographic work.

Of course it is too early as yet to prophesy anything as to what has been accomplished, but the astronomers are certain that they have secured magnificent results. Many valuable negatives are now being developed, and the gentlemen in charge of spectroscopic work, which includes the analysis of the light phenomena, preceding, attending, and following totality, say that they will be able to add much valuable data to the text-books from their observations of today.

The Phenomenon Described.

The spectacular feature of the eclipse, of course, is the one which attracted the attention of laymen, and which was most startling. The description of it at Thomaston will be all that is necessary, as it duplicates that at the other stations.

Beginning with 6:32 o'clock, a thin black wedge displayed itself on the outer edge of the glaring sun. The astronomers sprang to their instruments and began the work which continued for nearly two hours and a half. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, the inky shadow spread itself over the flaming globe and so intent were the unoccupied onlookers that they saw with a start that where the sunlight had cast strong and well-defined shadows around them, the lines were becoming less precise and the surrounding light dimmed with each minute. Within a few minutes of totality, and when weird twilight began to descend over the observing parties, the striking shadow band, one of the curious phenomena, appeared slowly creeping in upon the parties. Hardly had the watchers ceased to marvel at the feature, when, with an abruptness almost appalling, the last ray of sunlight disappeared.

A more intense degree of twilight now prevailed, relieved by the pearly radiance of the corona. The corona was in the form of two broad streams of light, extending on each side of the sun's equator. Fine polar rays radiated from around the sun's polar region, and the streamers were in a fever of activity. The steady click of the instruments, sounded in the hazy stillness.

Ignorant and superstitious negroes in the outlying districts began to be fearfully frightened. Some of them prayed, or shrieked hysterically. The barking of dogs and spasmodic lowing of distressed cattle combined to make the spectacle one of indescribable weirdness.

At nearly 7:40 the first ray of sunshine shot forth like a golden dagger, causing a scene of dazzling and surpasssing loveliness. The scientists worked on steadily, taking large numbers of photographs, using their spectroscopes industriously, and making observations of the shadow bands which now made their re-appearance. At about 8:56 the last vestige of shadow had disappeared from the sun's surface. The weary workers announced to the bystanders that the long-looked for eclipse was a thing of the past.

Those present at Thomaston actually engaged in the work were:

Prof. W. W. Campbell, astronomer, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, Cal.; Prof. C. D. Perrine, assistant astronomer, Lick Observatory; Prof. A. A. Nyland, director of Utrecht Observatory, Utrecht, Holland; Dr. J. H. Wilterdink, astronomer, Royal Observatory, Leiden, Holland; Prof. H. D. Curtis, professor of mathematics and astronomy, University of Pacific, San Jose, Cal.; Prof. John A. Miller, professor of astronomy, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.; Prof. W. P. Russell, professor of mathematics and astronomy, Lincoln University, Lincoln, Ill.; G. E. Lumsden, president of Toronto Astronomical Society, Toronto, Canada.

The story from Thomaston might be duplicated for the other stations, at Barnesville, Griffin, Washington, and Siloam. The gentlemen at all of these places announce that their results were eminently satisfactory. The same class of work was done at the different stations as at the Lick branch, the only difference being that all departments were covered simultaneously at Thomaston.

The Government's station as Barnesville was in charge of Prof. I. J. Brown, astronomical director of the Washington Naval Observatory, the station being in immediate charge of Prof. Milton Updegraff, assisted by the following members of the Naval Observatory:

Prof. T. J. J. See, G. A. Hill, F. H. Littell, G. H. Peters, and M. A. Coulon.

The work here was photographic and telescopic. At Griffin, it was confined solely to spectroscopic features, which were taken care of by Prof. S. J. Brown, of the Naval Observatory; Prof. Henry Crew, and Prof. R. R. Tatnall, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; L. E. Jewell, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; S. A. Mitchell, Columbia University, New York city; Prof. W. J. Humphreys and W. W. Dinwiddie, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and Prof. C. A. Perkins, University of Tennessee.

At Washington, Ga., there were delegations from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Howard College Observatory, Blue Hill Observatory, St. Louis University, Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., and St. Xavier College, Cincinnati. At Siloam the Chabat Observatory had representatives, the expenses of the expedition being borne by John Dalbeer, of San Francisco, a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of England.

VIEWED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. McKinley Sees the Eclipse From the Dolphin.

NORFOLK, Va., May 28.—President McKinley and his party had a splendid view of the solar eclipse from aboard the Dolphin, off Norfolk, this morning, and were greatly pleased. Mr. McKinley and his guests watched the obscuration of the sun's disc with undivided interest from the moment of first contact until the end of the phenomenon.

The Presidential party yesterday went aboard and inspected the battleship Kearsarge. They will leave for Washington tonight, and will arrive at the Capital tomorrow morning.

BOSTON'S SKY OVERCAST.

Unsatisfactory Glimpses of the Eclipse at the Hub.

BOSTON, May 28.—An overcast sky this morning gave Bostonians but two short glimpses of the eclipse and both were unsatisfactory.

The darkness was very noticeable. The stores were all lighted and the trolley cars ran with their lamps burning.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN CHICAGO.

Rain Prevents Thousands From Seeing the Eclipse.

CHICAGO, May 28.—Thousands were greatly disappointed here this morning because they were unable to witness the eclipse of the sun.

It rained during the morning and not a glimpse of the phenomenon could be obtained.

ELECTRIC WIRES UNAFFECTED.

Tests of Telegraph and Telephone Instruments During the Eclipse.

An interesting feature of the eclipse was the observations for electrical variations, which some scientists have contended would be produced by the moon's shadow. At the Postal Telegraph Cable Company's office a volt metre was put into circuit by Chief Operator Slater between Washington and Baltimore and between Washington and Richmond. Mr. Slater considers, however, that whatever variations in the circuit were experienced were due to ordinary causes. George W. Rebble, Manager of the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, stated that the office was not equipped for scientific tests of this delicate nature, and the ordinary tests with the volt metre indicated conditions which were apparently normal.

A series of tests, conducted over a period of many months, enabling the office to make an accurate estimate of normal conditions, Mr. Rebble explained, would be necessary, preceding the eclipse, before a proper comparison with the conditions during the eclipse could be made. Owing to the difference in potentialities between the various cities, a current of electricity is continually flowing from one place to the other to establish an electrical equilibrium, which would account for such variations as were observed this morning, and which are of daily occurrence.

At the office of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, the vice president and general manager, Arthur G. Fuller, stated that while no special tests directed toward the discovery of electrical variations had been made, the instruments employed in the usual operations of the telephone system were so delicate and trustworthy in character that any unusual disturbance would be noted. He stated that no variations other than what were apparently of usual demonstration had been observed.

VARIATIONS OF TEMPERATURE.

A Fall of One Degree at the Period of Greatest Obscuration.

The temperature as recorded by the instruments of the Weather Bureau during the eclipse showed sensible variations as the sun's disc became gradually obscured.

The temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, at which time the eclipse was of about a quarter of an hour's duration, was normal at 64 1-2 degrees, but at 8.55, the period of greatest obscuration, the mercury had dropped almost a degree.

At the end of the eclipse the weather became warmer with remarkable rapidity, and at 1.30 p. m. the thermometer registered 74 degrees.

The determination of the atmospheric conditions at all times during the eclipse will be published by the Weather Bureau tomorrow. There was a large amount of moisture in the upper regions, which accounted for the rainbow noticeable during the progress of the phenomenon.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH--ON THE BAY.

Always cool. Excursion trains leave daily, 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Last train leaves Beach 6:30 p. m. Take Columbia car to depot.

Antietam Battlefield—May 30.

Account Maryland Monument dedication, the B. & O. R. R. will sell excursion tickets to Keedysville and return at rate $1.75, leaving Washington 8:35 a. m., returning leave Keedysville 6:30 p. m. Also reduced rates from Washington and Metropolitan Branch points.

Flynn's Business College, 5th and K.

$5——Census Office Examination——$5

Have you a Lumber List to get a bid on? Mail it to us. Best shingles, 6x20, $6. 6th and N. Y. ave.

Decoration Day at Chautauqua Beach.

You can enjoy a pleasant outing at this delightful salt water resort on Chesapeake Bay. Rate for adults 50 cents, children half fare. Trains leave Washington B. & O. Depot 9:30 a. m., 1:30, and 4:30 p. m. Returning, leave Chautauqua Beach 7:45 and 9:45 p. m.

Do you want Millwork?

We sell window frames, 75c. F. Libbey & Co.

APPEAL FOR THE BOERS

England Bitterly Attacked by Senator Wellington.

He Accuses the President of Being in an Underhand League With Great Britain—Speaks of a Midnight Council—The Resolution of Sympathy Goes Over Until Tomorrow.

Mr. Wellington today addressed the Senate on the resolution offered by Mr. Teller, expressing sympathy with the Boers and praying that the war in South Africa might be speedily ended. He accused the President with being in an underhand league with Great Britain and with holding midnight council that the United States might be brought into an entanglement with England, and demanded the seizure of the Dominion of Canada.

He stated that Congress would not have performed its duty if before adjournment some matters were not attended to. These were the release of Cuba to the people of the island; an expression of what was intended to be done in the Philippines, and some recognition of the fearless, intrepid people who were fighting for their homes in South Africa.

"We should act on this matter before adjourment," said he, "and express our sympathy ere it is too late." He spoke of the recent mass meeting in this city and the desire to have the Teller resolution adopted.

"It is natural that republics should have sympathy for each other. The foe of the Boers has been our foe and their struggle resembles our struggle," he said. "When the British came over here to lay the mailed hand of authority upon the little bands of colonists who desired to be free, the latter began the Revolutionary War. They drew up a document which will stand forever as an arraignment of British domination.

"It was a recital of crime and injury, and it awakened the world to the rights of these people to liberty. We sought aid in Europe, and from every land came aid and patriots, Lafayette, Pulaski, and others. After seven years of struggle we compelled Great Britain to abandon the endeavor, and we were free. Then began our great Constitutional Government.

Attempt to Disrupt the Union.

"But Britain did not cease here. She endeavored in every way to disrupt the union, and endeavored to bring about war again, that she might recover the country which she had ceded under a treaty of peace. Again we went to war. Great Britain sought to crush us with great armies and great fleets. She burned our Capital and wrought other harm, but Perry and Jackson forced her to again flee and leave us in peace.

"We went westward and carved great States out of forests. We wrought liberty and progress—and what of England? She had been thwarted, but she still bore us hatred. She endeavored to cause dissension in the Union and succeeded. She saw with pleasure the conflict between the North and South and fanned the smothering flames. And all this under the guise of hatred of slavery. Yet she showed her hatred by aiding the side which upheld slavery and endeavoring to make matters worse by lending aid. But she failed in her purpose of disruption. Providence came to our aid and held the Union together, one and inseparable. Again Great Britain watched with bitterness and envy the wonderful growth and progress of our nation. She then cast about her for another scheme.

"Today the two nations are closer—have a bond of fellowship, and the old feuds are but memories. But in a diplomatic way Great Britain has endeavored to inoculate our liberties with her methods. Our representatives have all fallen under her crafty methods. She has obtained great power in an underhanded way. England dare not attack us as of yore. But she is fighting us beneath the surface. She fears and hates us.

"The treaty which we killed and spurned was an unholy scheme. The only danger which we now face is an English alliance. The President cannot make a treaty, but he has an underhand understanding and midnight council with Great Britain and is fighting and longing to force us into an entanglement with England. This is a serious charge, but I know of what I speak, and such an alliance would be the death of our liberties and our Government.

"Wherever England has laid her hand, that nation has become a burdened colony. Her subjects have been reduced, simply because Great Britain was strong enough to plunder and hold. Her unjust attack on the Boers is but a sample of her past. It is claimed that the Transvaal courts gave unjust decisions. I have known an English chief justice who sold decisions and I know that some of the courts of Great Britain are today as polluted as the waters of the Potomac.

Climax of Britain's Policy.

"Great Britain has reached the climax of her policy when she endeavors to strike down a free people who have formed a republic. She has tired of savage conquests in Africa and semi-savage conquests in Asia, and she dares to strike down free, white, enlightened people who for years have lived in peace and seclusion. But England, in 1806, in the guise of the East India Company, followed and endeavored to seize the little band of settlers. And England has endeavored to get the settlers ever since. What England cannot get by force she endeavors to secure by misrepresentation.

"Can any man with one spark of humanity in his bosom believe that the Boers were not goaded into their present defence? Year after year the British have followed enviously and attempted to secure the rights held by the Boers. They made a convention with them and when a diamond field was discovered, Great Britain denied the convention until defeated in a struggle which cost her heavily. This was not forgotten. Cecil Rhodes and Salisbury conspired to obtain the envied territory.

"Now, what would an American say if the Englishman came over here and demanded by force citizenship in the United States without foreswearing his allegiance to Great Britain? But the Boers, were weak, and they could be forced. The world has witnessed the grandest spectacle ever known in history. There have been great fights in history, but the struggle between the Boer and the Briton is the noblest and the most sublime. Dare we, as freemen, stand aside and, without protest, see the extermination of the bravest people that God's sun ever shone on? White lost one-half his force. Buller was defeated. And the odds grew greater until today, under Roberts, there are only 300,000 English soldiers determined to extinguish 30,000 men. The Boers had a right to hope for sympathy. But it has not come. Shall our doors be closed against their envoys? If the Bourbon King of France could recognize us in our trouble, can we not offer sympathy to those people? Shall American sympathy cease with the freedom of Cuba?

"England is now, as ever, our enemy. What excuse has she for entering into this war? Dare she claim the diamond mines? The excuse given is that English Government will bring Christian civilization to the Transvaal. God save the mark! If England's treatment of the Chinese, the people of India, and others is 'Christian civilization' I want none of it.

"There is no danger of war with Germany today. She is our friend. Russia is arming for war. If she attempts to fight with England, will we be supposed to protect the Dominion of Canada for England! No, a thousand times no. Let us first strike down British rule in Canada and annex it to our own territory. The Monroe Doctrine is in no danger. Let us look to ourselves and have no understanding with Great Britain."

"You speak of 'secret understanding' between the President and Great Britain," said Mr. Lodge. "What do you refer to? Can you explain?

"I have explained and will explain further," said Mr. Wellington. "I have not spoken in a desire to attack the Administration, but for truth.

"There can be no open proof of my statements until the State Department furnishes the secret papers which are locked up there. But until that is done I will believe there is a secret understanding, and will continue to believe it."

"Secretary Hay is an honorable man, and he has denied this," said Mr. Lodge.

"I believe it, nevertheless," said Mr. Wellington.

Mr. Bacon asked leave to print a speech made by Daniel Webster on the reception of Kossuth.

Mr. Wolcott objected on the ground that the speech was made fifty years ago. The Teller resolution then went over until tomorrow, when a vote will be taken on it.

MICHIGAN MINE ABLAZE.

Workmen Driven From the Great Calumet and Hecla Shafts.

HOUGHTON, Mich., May 28.—The great Calumet and Hecla mine is on fire again, and workmen are fleeing from all the shafts. One miner, Will McRae, has perished and five others, one of whom is expected to die, have been taken to the hospital.

Fire was discovered at 5:45 p. m. yesterday afternoon at the time of the change of shifts. The blaze started at the bottom of No. 2 shaft at a point 5,000 feet below the surface.

Only the watchmen, pumpmen, and a few timbermen were below at the time. Some came up directly, reporting trouble, while others made their escape by other shafts with which No. 2 is connected by levels.

Immediately after the fire was discovered shaft No. 2 was closed and covered over with earth, men and teams being engaged in the work for hours. Gas from the fire soon flooded No. 3 shaft. A party was organized to go down No. 3 shaft to close the trapdoors in the drifts with clay, and all of these men were brought to the surface almost in a dying condition.

The party consisted of twelve men. Gas came upon them so suddenly that, although they fled for their lives, they barely escaped. They crawled up the ladders in twos and threes, helping each other along, but finally one man had to be dropped behind. This was Will McRae, a young Finnman. A rescuing party was sent after him twice before he was found at the ninth level, still hanging to the ladder.

When the men reached the surface they were laid out on the ground and doctors worked over them with an oxygen apparatus. For half an hour they labored over McRae, but their efforts were unavailing. The men who were taken to the hospital are Ben Saunders, John Haun, Richard Martin, Richard Richards, and Simon Roberts. Roberts is expected to die.

At 1 a. m. the men in other parts of the mine began coming to the surface as gas from the burning shaft was penetrating the other shafts. The company's preparations for fire fighting are elaborate and mine men believe that the blaze can be confined to shaft No. 2.

DEWEY'S PRIZE MONEY.

The Supreme Court Upholds the Decision of the Lower Tribunal.

Admiral Dewey's claim for prize money on account of the battle of Manila was settled by the Supreme Court today. It approved the judgment of the Court of Claims, which fixed the amount at $100 for each man of the force, on the ground that the enemy's force was inferior to his own. He claimed $200, asserting that the enemy's force was superior, including as it did the guns on the land batteries and the mines in the bay, some of which exploded during the battle.

This was conceded by the court, but the only rule of the court in similar cases, said Justice Harlan, had been to give $100 a man when the enemy's vessels were inferior to the captors, and $200 when the enemy's vessels were the superior. The total amount awarded Dewey by the judgment is about $9,500.

Chief Justice Fuller read a dissent, holding that the intent of the law was to take into account all the forces of the enemy, land as well as sea, and to give a bounty for overcoming them. Justices White and McKenna concurred in the dissent.

Justice Harlan, in his opinion, paid a high tribute to the patriotism and gallantry of the American Navy on that occasion, which every American remembered with joy and pride, but such considerations could not be permitted to influence the court in determining a purely judicial matter.

Later in the day, Former Secretary Herbert, counsel for Admiral Dewey, obtained leave to file a petition for a rehearing of the case.

JUDGE FOR POLICE COURT.

Favorable Report on a Bill to Provide an Additional One.

In the Senate today, Mr. McMillan, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported favorably the bill providing for an extra judge for the District Police Court, and the bill exempting from taxation the property of the Y. M. C. A.

He also asked that the Senate concur in the House amendments to the bill relating to the District of Columbia Reform School, and providing that any boy under seventeen years, convicted of wrongdoing, should be sent to the Reform School, in place of the workhouse, until he is twenty-one years old. This was agreed to.

Telephone Bill Laid Over.

The resolution offered by Mr. Jones of Arkansas on Saturday, providing that the Committee on the District of Columbia be discharged from further consideration of the bill incorporating the Washington Telephone Company, and that the same go back to the calendar, was brought up in the Senate today, and was laid over until tomorrow.

$13.25 to Louisville, Ky., and Return Via Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company. Account Confederate Veterans' Reunion.

Tickets on sale May 27, 28, and 29, good returning until June 10, 1900, with extension until June 25 if deposited with joint agent at Louisville and payment of 50 cents fee. Tickets and Pullman reservations at 513 Pennsylvania Avenue, 609 Fourteenth Street, or Baltimore and Potomac station.

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FALL OF JOHANNESBURG

French's Cavalry Reported to Have Entered the Town.

London Ready to Believe All Rumors of the British Army's Progress—Federalists at Laing's Nek Said to Be Preparing for a Pitched Battle With the Force Under Buller

LONDON, May 28.—A despatch from Cape Town, dated today, says: "It is reported here that General French, with a force of cavalry, has entered Johannesburg." Although this report has not been verified by despatches from other points, it is accepted here with willingness, especially since the rapid and unopposed advance of General Roberts' forces has made everybody willing to believe all reports of progress from South African points.

The passage of the Vaal River by Roberts' immense army of 30,000 foot and 20,000 horse, with 150 guns, removes the greatest natural barrier to the advance on Pretoria and the fact that the British army was unopposed at this Boer vantage point leads military experts here to believe that the burgers have abandoned all ideas of resistance and to credit the Cape Town report of the occupation of Johannesburg. Early today, however, there were more disquieting rumors in circulation concerning Boer plots to destroy the Johannesburg mines. These reports come from Pretoria by way of Lourenco Marques.

A despatch from a correspondent, sent early today, says that he has received trustworthy information that the Boers will try to lure the British into appearing to threaten Johannesburg with an attack, whereby a reason will be given for the destruction of property.

The Federal force at Laing's Nek is variously estimated at from 7,000 to 10,000 men. The burghers are, it is said, resolved to oppose General Buller's advance and a pitched battle is imminent.

It is reported that communication between Pretoria and Heidleburg has been cut off. The latter town is on the railway by which the Boers at Laing's Nek would be withdrawn for defence of the capital.

In view of the Cape Town report, word from General Roberts is being awaited with intense interest. If General French has secured possession of Johannesburg, as reported, it will not be a great while before Pretoria is entered by Roberts' forces.

There is every reason to believe that the Boer spirit of resistance is rapidly dying out, and that evidence of that fact will soon be forthcoming from the authorities at Pretoria in the form of a proposition for an armistice to arrange terms of surrender. It is said that Kruger is becoming more and more favorable to negotiations for peace as Roberts' army nears the Transvaal capital, and that he is likely to overrule those who desire to continue the fight.

STOWE TO VISIT ROBERTS.

American Consul at Cape Town Going to the Front.

CAPE TOWN, May 28.—Mr. James G. Stowe, the American Consul here, will shortly visit General Roberts.

The object of the visit is not known.

ATTACKED BY THE BOXERS.

Liu-Lino Station Burned and Railroad Employes Slain.

TIEN TSIN, May 28.—Yesterday afternoon the "Boxers" burned Liu-Lino station, twenty-nine miles from Pekin, and murdered the Chinese employes of the railroad company.

It is rumored that the "Boxers" are marching on Pekin.

LONDON, May 28.—A dispatch to Dalziel's News Agency from Shanghai says the "China Gazette" states that the foreign Ambassadors regard the attitude of the Chinese Government toward the "Boxers" as very unsatisfactory. The foreign representatives, the "Gazette" says, are again discussing the question of bringing strong pressure to bear on the Government.

The troubles have now extended to the Liu-Han Railroad, on which work has almost stopped. Five hundred Christians have taken refuge in the French Cathedral at Pekin.

The Navy Department announced this morning that the Newark left Nagasaki Friday, and on Saturday arrived at Taku, China. Coincident with this comes the announcement that the Newark has been assigned as the flagship of Senior Squadron Commander Kempff. Secretary Long stated this morning that these events had no significance so far as he knew and that he had received no communications from the President or the State Department in the matter.

At the State Department is was said by a high official that the movement and the presence of Rear Admiral Kempff at Taku had no special meaning save that the Boxers in the Tien Tsin province were daily becoming more alarming, and it was natural that the commander of the Asiatic squadron should wish to be on hand in order to give protection to Americans, and to assist the American legation when needed.

That there is more in the movement than appears on the surface is apparent. For some time there have been English, German, French, and other warships at Taku. The United States has been represented by the Wheeling, a gunboat of antiquated design and armament. Now the Wheeling is transferred to Alaska and in her place is sent the protected cruiser Newark, a vastly superior ship, and the newly appointed flagship of the Asiatic squadron. The United States has long ago notified China that she expected that country to protect American citizens from the violent acts of the rebellious Boxers and has recently intimated that in the event of China's failure or inability to act she was ready to employ force. At the same time it was declared that there was to be no concerted action with the European powers.

Another significant event this morning was an early visit of the Chinese Minister, Wu Ting-fang, to the State Department. He was closeted for some time with Assistant Secretary Hill, acting in the absence of Secretary Hay, who is of the Presidential party down the river. It is believed that Minister Wu called to speak about the informal charges of lobbying recently published, and that during the conversation the Boxer outrages were discussed. Minister Wu declined to speak of the purpose of his visit.

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