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# THE RICHMOND PLANET

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## ALL LOOK ALIKE TO THEM.

### THE KILLING OF POLICE-OFFICER AUSTIN.

### Many Arrests.----Innocent Men Brought To Richmond.

### ARRESTS AT THE TRUE REFORMERS BOARDING HOUSE.—THE SITUATION.

The search for the murderers of Policeman Robert J Austin has been one of the most remarkable performances ever witnessed in this city. Had thi have been a lawless community, no less than six people would have been lynched for a crime committed by only two unknown individuals.

A peculiar feature of these arrests was the fact that all of the men arrested corresponded to the descriptions given and the officers were confident that they had the "right parties."

FIRED UPON THEM.

Two colored men jumped from the train at Orange, Va., on the 12th inst. They were fired upon, but escaped. Two officers were sent on this mission. Officer Clarkson is said to have arrested a 'peg leg' Negro in the slashes on the R. F. & P. R. R. He was put in the station-house in this city.

Two colored men were surrounded in a swamp near Ashland, Va. Two more were surrounded in the Chickahominy Swamp.

A black man was arrested at Ashland and although the Richmond officers said he was not the man, he was held.

ANOTHER INNOCENT.

On the morning of the 13th, James Lindsey was arrested at Charlottesville He was declared to answer the description perfectly A further investigation showed that he was the wrong man, and Mr J. F Koger of Reidsville, N. C., writes us that he left there Monday night, 11th, while the officer was killed Monday morning.

Two colored men were arrested at South Boston, and the officers from Richmond were sent there. These proved to be the wrong parties A correspondent writing for the Dispatch said:

A PECULIAR CONDITION.

"Locked in the various cells of the Second Police Station are five Negroes—three yellow and two black ones—who were arrested in various cities adjacent to Richmond, on suspicion, that they were implicated in the murder of Policeman Robert D. Austin. Not one of the five, however, appear to have known aught of the murder until they were arrested."

On the 14th inst., the two colored men at Orange, C H., were arrested and brought to this city. They were found to be the wrong parties.

Two colored men, Henry Minor and John Fields were arrested at Fredericksburg, Va. They were brought to this city, but were found to be the wrong persons.

ATTEMPTED TO BETRAY THEM.

Some one, who requested the police-officers to with-hold their names informed the authorities that two colored men answering the description were at the True Reformer Boarding House on 6th and Baker Sts.

They were said to have been acting suspiciously. The officers went to the house and were conducted to their rooms where they were rudely awakened and carried to the 2d Police Station. These were declared to be the persons wanted, and the dark spots on the pants of the lighter one were thought to be blood. This was soon found not to be the case.

SCENE AT THE POLICE-COURT.

Going to the Police-Court on Saturday morning last, a large crowd had gathered, Police Justice Crutchfield looked a trifle tired, but discharged his duties.

The two young men were in the department in which prisoners are confined. The bright-skin one looked dejected.

GOOD APPEARANCE.

They were neatly dressed and their spotless white-shirt fronts were in striking contrast to their surroundings The evidence was not sufficiently strong to even send them on to a jury, but they were held.

A colored man was arrested in Washington, and a colored "spotter" went up to identify him. It is said hat he declared him to be one of the men wanted, but it was soon shown that he was mistaken, and the officers returned to this city.

### THE RAMBLER.

It is passing strange why so large a per cent of colored persons the more education they obtain, the further off from God they get. They seem to be more inclined to skepticism, infidelity and bordering on Atheism, than they are inclined to Christianity There are an abundance of Epsecurians among them: "that pleasure is the chief good, let us eat, drink and be merry." Many are Pharissical to their fellow men who are classed as "illiterate." Many are ashamed to beg, to dig they can not. It is astonishing to see the number of graduates in menial position—positions that classical, a professional education are not requisite to successfully prosecute the work.

Some persons of color the more they are educated the less they care for the permanent things of life. The accumulations of money, real estate and other property of beneficial values, they seem to care nothing for.

Why is it that some white Americans have so much love, zeal and sympathy for the oppressed and cruelly treated Cubans, and none such for oppressed and cruelly treated colored Americans? The colored Americans are their fellow countrymen to the manor born. Americans by nature, know no other country but the United States, are republicans by birth. Protestants by training and by choice.

See the vast numbers of them that have been lynched, outraged, their property destroyed, exiled from their homes. What has been done about it? Have any lynchers been punished? Has the President of the United States or Congress done anything about such? What is the Republican party doing to give the colored Americans a white man's chance? Yet colored men will move heaven and earth to put the party in power. After it has obtained the reins of government, what does it do for the colored man?

We should take heed to what Dr. R. Spiller says in his appeal to the Baptist Brotherhood, in the Virginia Baptist of the 16th inst. He says: "Brethren we can not afford to allow our feelings to get away with us to such an extent as to cause us to say things which reflect upon the intelligence of our Mate Board and also our General Missionary."

A Petersburg pastor (?) in the Virginia Baptist of the 9th inst., virtually charges the said Board with putting a reed, sycophant in charge of the great work The said Board acts in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Conventions, the General Baptist Associations of Virginia and the American Baptist Home Mission Society, therefore all four are virtually charged with putting into the field as a General Missionary "A servile flatterer, parasite, an informer or accuser, living barely at the expense of another person"

There is too much pugilism in some brethren in the ministry. They have got up by self exultation. They need to be taken down at least a "button hole lower." I understand Brother Lewis is prepared to prove all he said about the New Era Institute in Petersburg.

A writer in a religious contemporary who signs himself "Layman" says "We know too little of each other, and that little imperfectly." Before he closed his article he seemed to know a great deal about the colored people, especially about their churches and ministers. He says, "The people have no definite Biblical knowledge, no positively defined ideas of the distinctive doctrines of their denominations, no conception as to wherein their polity differs from that of other denominations." "Somebody," he says, "has not done his duty." That is a fact undeniable. There has been and is a Theological Seminary, and other schools in this state, say for a quarter of a century. Numbers of Missionaries have been sent out. The paper in which the Layman writes, is four years old, and yet we are told that the conditions of the colored people, especially the colored Baptist is deplorable.

Some colored religious papers, and their writers therein seem to take pleasure in making sport and ridicule of churches that have some spirit, some emotion, and some enthusiasm about them. They seem to want unspiritual, unemotional, unenthusiastical, dead, grave-yard churches. They ought to join some fashionable white church, where the still small voice prevails, and the travailing brings forth a mouse.

No wonder some colored papers and preachers do not financially succeed; because they are always throwing stones at the churches and brethren whom they call "illiterate." Ask honest, upright, judicious deacons, who do not want to be ministers of the gospel, govern churches, or dictate to pastors, when they shall open and close their services, and they will tell you that it is the spiritual, emotional, enthusiastic "illiterate" brethren and sisters who maintain, sustain, keep up the churches, and their pastors by attendance and financially. The element to whom "Layman" seems to belong are strangers to prayer-meetings and do not give the churches enough money to enable Uncle Sam to buy a steam launch to meet the Spanish flotilla.

### Theological Seminary Closes.

The closes exercises of the Richmond Theological Seminary will take place at the Ebenezer Baptist Church on Thursday evening, April 28th at 8 o'clock. The Alumni Dinner will take place at the Seminary on Wednesday at 4 p. m., and the public exercises will occur on Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at the Fifth Street Baptist Church.

### Officers Elected—Odd Fellows' Entertainment

To the Editor of PLANET:

On Tuesday night, April 12th, the Quarterly Officers were elected for Palm Tree Association. The following officers were chosen: G. C. Nicholas, President; J. C. Hawkins, Vice President; T. T. Graves, Secretary; Professor S. Harris, Corresponding Secretary; Joseph Wiley, Librarian; Adam Fraction, Treasurer; D. C. Debose, Chaplain; Chairman of Executive Committee, I. F. Anderson; Committee on Admission, R B. Goode, Alexander White, Floyd Clark.

Mr. Albert Madison, late of Chicago, Ill., is mingled with his old comrads once more in life. Madison is one of the old reliable and jolly good fellows.

On Friday and Saturday night, 15th and 15th, the trustees of Harris Lodge of the G. U. O. of O F. gave an entertainment for the benefit of the Board. Quite a handsome sum was realized. The proceeds will be used at once to erect a new fence around our lot.

Rev. Jones preached three able sermons on yesterday at the Valley St. Church. Logical and plain they were.

We are glad to see that our Sunday Schools are increasing. The weather is opening up and the children are turning out to the various Sunday Schools in large bodies, and the older people seem to take interest in the work.

The pastor of the A. M. E. Church preached his farewell sermon on last night and will leave for the Annual Conference this week at Baltimore, Md. Rev. Nixson is an able preacher, and has won the esteem of very many friends during the 12 months he has been in our midst. May the Dove of Peace hover over him wherever his lot may be cast.

Long live the PLANET and its editor.

### Woodson—Mason Nuptial.

The marriage of Miss Comora Woodson to Mr. John A. Mason, both of Manchester, will take place Thursday night, 28th instant, at 9:30 o'clock, at the First Baptist Church. Rev. R. R. Graham will officiate. Friends are invited. No cards.

PERKINS—LOCKETT—The marriage of Mr. Benjamin Perkins and Miss Clemmie Lockett will take place Wednesday evening, April 27, 1898 at half past nine o'clock at 1217 Chaffin St. Reception Sunday afternoon at 523 North St. James St.

WALKER—ANDERSON—The marriage of Miss Patsy L. Winston to Mr. Henry Walker will take place Wednesday April 27th at 9 p m, at the residence of the bride's cousin, Mrs. Isabella Lewis, 812 North 3rd St Reception Sunday May 1st at their residence, 906 North 9th St., from 6 to 10 p. m. Friends are invited. No cards.

### Mr. Johnson's Purchase

Mr W. Isaac Johnson has purchased a fine new buggy. On Saturday last, he received a new carriage, latest patent, with the rubber-tire wheels. The fine equipage has been put into active service.

### A Grand Entertainment.

The Hyacinth Club, No. 1, gave its first entertainment, Friday evening April 15, 1898 at 1000 North 3rd St.

Among those present were Mrs. Lizzie Shell, President, white laces and ribbons; Mrs. Frances Roane, Vice-President, white satin and pink ribbons; Mrs. Lizzie Coleman, Treasurer, black silk and duchess lace; Miss Lucy Reid, Secretary, pink silk and laces and white satin ribbons; Miss Rosa B. Anderson, cream colored silk and duchess lace trimmings; Miss Katie Perkins, changeable colored silk and pointed laces; Miss Martha Booker, green organdie, ribbon and laces; Mrs. Samuel L. Johnson, black brocaded silk, with ribbon and laces; Miss Nannie B. Yenille, green brocaded silk; Miss Carrie L. Anderson, lavender silk and laces; Miss Ella Mason, English tweed and pearl gray buttons; Miss Drucilla Townes, white organdie, ribbons and lace; Miss Helen Chiles, white organdie, ribbons and laces, Miss Nannie Hackett, white organdie, ribbons and laces; Miss Alzarah Mayo, blue silk, laces and ribbons; Miss Maria Hackett, white organdie over yellow satin; Miss Ella Cheatham cream colored cashmere; Miss Kate Raine, pink or audie and ribbons; Miss Dora Bunson, blue china silk; Miss Summa Watkins, white mull over pink; Miss Bessie Young, white organdie; Miss Peachy Randolph, lavender organdie; Miss Sarah Sutton, brown flowered china silk; Georgie Johnson, pink cashmere and laces; Miss Martha Richardson, figured china silk; Mrs. Mary Reid, brown silk and white satin trimmings; Mary Powell, pink lace.

Messrs. Peter Shell, William Green, Benjamin Ford, Joseph Peterson, I. J. Mactuch, L. Johnson W. J. C. Mason, George Woodson, James Raine, Andrew Johnson, Albert Munson, Benjamin Walker, Willie Coleman, Robert M. Burrell; Sammie Roane, William Johnson, Johnnie Reid, Johnnie Roane Masters George A. Coleman, James A. Coleman, ——Saunders.

——Bishop A. Walters of the 6th Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Zion Church called on us last Monday. He was buoyant and patriotic. He will attend the Board of Bishops at Petersburg this week. This able divine is enthusiastic over the prospects of the resurrection of the National Afro-American League.

——We return thanks for an invitation to the 20th marriage anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Steward of Louisville, Ky. Our journalistic friend has our best wishes.

——The Court of Calanthe club being organized by Miss Mabel Holmes of which Miss Florence Isham is chairman will meet at Price's Hall, Wednesday, 27th inst., at 5 P. M. All are welcome.

Royal Court will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, May 2, 1898 at 5 P. M., at Price's New Hall. All new members of the original club who desire to join then are earnestly requested to be present.

Have your prescriptions filled by Blanks, the Prescription Druggist, Hancock and Clay Sts.

B. & S. Dime Liver Pills are guaranteed to act directly on the liver, prepared by Blanks the Prescription Druggist, Hancock & Clay Sts., Richmond, Va. Price 10c per box or 3 boxes for 25c. ap23-4t.

### "Seventy-Seven (77)."

"77" is Dr. Humphrey's Famous Specific for the cure of Grip and Colds and the prevention of Pneumonia. All druggists, 25c.

### LYNCHBURG SPECIAL.

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 20th, 1898.

The Emancipation Celebration of the I. O. G. S. and D. of S., was celebrated on Monday, April 11th, 1898, at Jackson Street Methodist Church with a good attendance. Although it was rainy men braved the weather to celebrate the Negro's freedom. Prof. G E. Stevens was the orator of the day

Last Sunday was clear and all the churches were attended.

At Jackson St. M E Church, Rev. H. A. Carroll preached two soul stirring sermons. At 3:30 o'clock the Epworth League held their regular services which were largely attended.

Diamond Hill Baptist Church Rev. B. Tyrell filled the stand all day. At 3:30 o'clock the funeral services of Mr. James Hamlet took place. The church was packed to its uttermost capacity to pay their last respects to the dead.

The Presbyterian Church, Rev. Barrett, pastor held their regular services Sunday with a good attendance.

At White Rock Baptist Church the Evangelist S. L. Johnson, filled the pulpit all day.

Miss Clara Lattimore left here Thursday enroute for Washington to spend a few days with her father from Washington She will return home to Saratoga, N. Y.

The many friends of Mrs. Bessie Morgan will be glad to know she is out again.

We learn that Mr. J—A— will be married soon. We hope him a happy future. X

## YIELD OR FIGHT.

### That Is President McKinley's Ultimatum to Spain.

### ANSWER MUST BE PROMPT.

### The Resolution Which Dictated the President's Action.

### IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE CUBA,

### But Declares That "the People of the Island Are and of Right Ought to Be Free and Independent"—A Call For Eighty Thousand Volunteers Will Be Issued, and the Members of the National Guards of the Various States Will Be Given the First Opportunity to Defend the Flag—Speculators on Wall Street Believe War Will Yet Be Averted.

Washington, April 20.—Spain will be informed today that the Cuban resolutions passed by congress at an early hour yesterday morning are now a part of the laws of the United States, and an ultimatum has been sent demanding compliance with this law and an answer within a short time, probably 24 hours. Compliance is not expected, and a forward movement on Cuba will commence the latter part of this week, according to the plans of the administration.

The congressional Cuban resolution was not signed until this morning. The ultimatum to Spain was signed at the same time. The president early decided to make the two practically one act by a simultaneous signature of each.

The resolution was passed by the senate at 1:27 Tuesday morning, after a night of weary waiting on the conference committee, interspersed with the singing of patriotic and popular airs. The senate vote was 43 yeas to 35 nays, the adherents of Cuban recognition voting nay to emphasize their objection to the expunging of the recognition clause. The house adopted the resolution shortly before 3 o'clock by a vote of 310 to 6. Those voting nay were Boutelle of Maine, Brewer of Alabama, Gardner of New Jersey, Johnson of Indiana, Loud of California and McCall of Massachusetts. Brewer is the only Democrat voting against the resolution. The resolution, which is now the law of the land, is as follows:

Joint resolution for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters and directing the president of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

Whereas, The abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have brought disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating as they have in the destruction of a United States battleship with 266 of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth by the president of the United States in his message to congress of April 11, 1898, upon which the action of congress was invited; therefore,

Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,

First, That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second, That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the government of the United States does hereby demand, 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.

Third, That the president of the United States be and he hereby is directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth, That the United States hereby disclaim any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for pacification thereof, and asserts its determination when that is accomplished to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

The adoption of the conference report brought to a close one of the most interesting and tumultuous sessions of the senate held in years. Such scenes of confusion and excitement have rarely been witnessed in the ordinarily staid and dignified body as characterized its proceedings from Monday noon until nearly 2 o'clock Tuesday morning. Interest in all other questions was dwarfed into insignificance by the one overwhelming question of war—war, which all now regard to be absolutely inevitable. Efforts were made to transact the regular business of the senate, but it was with utmost indifference that senators performed their work.

The scene in the senate, even up to the minute of adjournment, was one of wonderful beauty and impressiveness. Hundreds of brilliantly attired women and men in evening dress filled the galleries. On the floor were the makers of the country's history awaiting the verdict from the conference committee. When finally it came there was a hush in the great chamber, which a few seconds before had been thrilling with animation. When the verdict had been returned and accepted by the senate the great audience dispersed—dispersed quietly, almost solemnly. All realized that the verdict meant war, and the action taken was too momentous to inspire anything less than awe.

The house, after one of the hardest and most desperate fights in its history, succeeded in forcing the senate to yield the main contention in the war resolutions—the independence of the existing government in Cuba. With that exception the house accepted the resolutions. The Republicans who joined with Democrats in an attempt to concur in the senate amendments entire rallied 14 votes at one time, and on every vote thereafter the vote dwindled.

Two cabinet meetings were held yesterday, the first beginning at 11 and lasting nearly two hours, and the second lasting from 3 until 5:30 o'clock. At their close announcement that executive action was delayed until today was made. The ultimatum itself, it is believed, is short and to the point. It recites the main features of the resolutions passed by congress, and demands compliance therewith. The decument which it is believed unquestionably will precipitate war probably will not be made public here until notice is received that it is in the hands of the Spanish government, diplomatic etiquette requiring this.

The Cuban resolution passed by congress arrived at the White House at 1:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a little over an hour having been consumed in the formalities of securing the signatures of Speaker Reed and Vice President Hobart to the resolution in open session and its delivery at the White House by Representative Hager, of Iowa, chairman of the committee on enrolled bills, and Representative Overstreet, of Indiana.

The steady progress of military and naval preparations indicate the conviction on the part of the administration that a peaceful solution of existing difficulties is not probable. As to the course of events in the immediate future, the only prediction that can be made is one based on precedents. According to these, Minister Woodford will notify the Spanish government of the action of the government of the United States, and should Spain's answer be unsatisfactory, as is expected, the next step in order will be for him to ask for his passports and leave Madrid. That would be followed instantly by the withdrawal from Washington of Senor Polo, the Spanish minister.

At this point it can be said that the state department officials are confident that the Spanish government will so shape every phase of the negotiations as to oblige us to take the initiative at every point. After the withdrawal of the ministers, and assuming Spain does not back down, will follow actual war, but whether or not the first overt act will be preceded by a formal declaration of war, which would insure the immediate neutralization of the powers, or whether the North Atlantic squadron will make its appearance off Havana as a beginning, cannot yet be predicted.

In this connection it may be stated that the army and navy experts are beginning to take a less hopeful view of an easy and quick campaign than they entertained a short time ago. Months are now mentioned instead of weeks as the probable length of hostilities, and one eminent naval officer who had experience in the late war professes a belief that unless outside pressure is brought to bear a war may easily drag along for a year under the existing conditions.

Apparently the powers have abandoned open efforts in Washington to influence the course of our government. Matters were very quiet at all legations yesterday, and no instructions were received by any of the ambassadors or ministers in the line of mediation.

### THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN.

#### State Militiamen Will Be Given First Opportunity to Enlist.

Washington, April 20.—The authoritative statement was made at the war department that on the first call for troops only the National Guard will be given an opportunity to volunteer for service in the war. This statement is in accordance with that made by Secretary Alger to the National Guardsmen who called upon him at the war department on Saturday, when the modified Hull bill for the expansion of the army in time of war was under consideration. Secretary Alger thinks that such a course is in keeping with sound discretion and the dictates of common sense, for the organized militia have gone to great expense and have devoted much time to perfecting themselves for military duty. Any other course, he believes, would be destructive of the best interests of the guard.

As far as practicable the state organizations entering the volunteer service will remain intact, the governors of the various states being permitted, as they

GENERAL MILES.

were in 1861, to designate the regimental officers, which will include those of the grades of second lieutenants to colonels. The president will reserve to himself the right to appoint the staff and field officers. Many applications have been made to the war department for permission to volunteer, and among men of all creeds, nationalities and politics there is an expressed intention and desire to uphold the honor and integrity of the flag of the republic.

It was stated that the first call for troops would be for 80,000 men, which, it is believed, will exhaust the entire available strength of the National Guard at this time, after deducting those who are sick and otherwise incapacitated for immediate service. The total strength of the guard as reported to the war department, is 113,764 men.

General Miles made another addition to his staff yesterday. Brgadier General J. C. Breckinridge, now inspector general of the United States, will serve on General Miles' staff as chief of the inspection department. This makes four staff officers selected for assignment on General Miles' staff within the last few days, and it is the general's intention to have all the staff departments of the army represented, so that it will be necessary to add a signal officer and an ordnance officer.

Both military and naval preparations continued yesterday with unabated vigor. Seven fleet steam yachts suitable for navigation in Cuban waters were procured, and several bids for steam colliers were made. Arrangements are making to utilize a number of the powerful converted smooth bore guns, survivors of the late war, as armament for the auxiliary cruisers. Many agents for ship owners were at the navy department offering to sell craft to the government, but where the vessels are suitable the prices are said to be excessive, and no purchases were made.

All the troops of the regular army have been ordered to concentrate at southern points, and are now en route.

### NAVAL PLAN OF ACTION.

#### To Blockade Cuba, But Not to Bombard Havana.

Key West, April 20.—The naval plan of action, it is understood, has been finally and definitely decided upon. It involves the blockade of Cuba, but not a bombardment of Havana. The blockade will involve no engagements, it is expected, except the accidental encounters which, more or less, are bound to occur.

The senior naval officers of the fighting squadron believe that Spain is playing a clever game in concentrating her entire naval forces at a distance from the immediate scene of action.

Great satisfaction is felt among all the officers at the adoption of the joint resolution by congress, as assuring the independence of Cuba. They regard it as equivalent to a declaration of war, and expect that the fleet will shortly be under orders to sail for Cuban waters.

Captain Sampson, Captain Evans, of the Iowa, and Captain Taylor, of the Indiana, had a consultation yesterday afternoon in the admiral's cabin on the flagship New York, and then came ashore.

### WAR NEWS OF THE WEEK.

#### The House Announced a Determination to Defeat Cuban Recognition.

Washington, April 20.—On Wednesday of last week the foreign relations committees of both houses presented warlike resolutions. The senate resolutions demand that Spain withdraw her troops from Cuba at once and relinquish authority over the island, and the president is directed to use our army and navy to enforce the demands. In the house the resolution presented by the foreign relations committee was adopted by a vote of 322 to 19 after only 40 minutes' debate. It provided for immediate intervention, but without recognizing the insurgents.

Meantime the war preparations were rushed with increased activity. It was announced by the navy department that the American line steamers St. Louis and St. Paul had been purchased as auxiliary cruisers, and they will be speedily transferred into war vessels. Soon afterward came the announcement that the flying squadron had raised anchors at Hampton Roads and put to sea. This caused considerable excitement, but it has since been demonstrated that they were out on a practice cruise, which was eminently successful.

On Wednesday there was a disgraceful scene in the house. During a heated discussion Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, called Mr. Bartlett, of Georgia, a liar. Quick as a flash the Georgian hurled a large bound copy of the Congressional Directory at the Pennsylvanian. It fell short, but for a time there was a perfect pandemonium on the floor of the house, while the speaker rapped vainly for order. One of the house employes was knocked down by Mr. Brumm while trying to pacify that member. After it was all over both members discovered that it was "all a mistake," and mutual apologies followed.

The principal news event of Thursday was an intimation that the European powers would endeavor to coerce our government into giving Spain further time in which to try the armistice recently proclaimed, but later events make the prospect of European action improbable. The navy department announced the purchase of another auxiliary cruiser—the Venezuela, of the Red D line. The Twenty-first regiment of infantry (colored) encamped at Chickamagua Park, near Chattanooga, Tenn., and the camp is known as Camp Boynton. The men are eager to face the Spaniards. The cruiser New Orleans, formerly the Brazilian cruiser Amazonas, arrived at New York. Testifying before the senate foreign relations committee, Consul General Lee expressed the belief that a Spanish officer touched the button that exploded the bomb which destroyed the Maine.

During the debate in the senate on the Cuban resolutions last Friday Senators Money of Mississippi and Wellington of Maryland indulged in a personal controversy, during which Mr. Money called Wellington a liar. There was considerable excitement, but no violence. Mr. Money afterward apologized to the senate for using unparliamentary language. The navy department announced the lease of the American line steamers Paris and New York, in addition to the Saint Louis and St. Paul, already secured, and the purchase of the Old Dominion liner Yorktown and the Ward liner Yumuri. The war department ordered the concentration at four southern points—New Orleans, Mobile, Tampa and Chickamauga—of six regiments of cavalry, 22 regiments of infantry and the light batteries of five regiments of artillery. The officers who will command will be General Shafter at New Orleans, General Coppinger at Mobile, General Wade at Tampa and General Brooke at Chicamauga. General Miles will probably soon establish headquarters at Atlanta. Dispatches from abroad plainly intimated that the efforts of Austria and France to induce foreign intervention to prevent war had failed.

The great event of Saturday was the passage by the senate of resolutions which included recognition by this government of the Cuban republic. The house majority at once announced a determination to defeat recognition.

It was announced at the war department Monday that Frank Thomson, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, had been selected as aide to Secretary of War Alger. Mr. Thomson will take charge of the transportation of troops. A dispatch from England stated that the torpedo boat Somers, recently purchased in Germany, had met with another accident and was again laid up for repairs. In an interview at Rome Marquis Rudini, Italy's premier, announced that Italy would remain neutral.

#### The Cuban Junta Gratified.

New York, April 20.—The Cuban junta displayed the American and Cuban flags side by side today in celebration of the adoption by congress of the resolutions declaring the island free and independent. T. Estrada Palma said: "My first duty, in the name of the brave Cubans, is to thank the stalwart, liberty loving American people for the staunch and unwavering sympathy and support they have given us. Just as soon as the Spaniards are driven from the island the Cubans will call a new assembly and draft a constitution and elect a government, just as done in the United States. If Spain goes to war, and I doubt very much if she will, I think it will be a question of not more than four or five weeks when she will be forced ignominiously relinquish her hold of Cuba."

#### The Question of Privateering.

Paris, April 20.—The Temps says the question of privateering is receiving "the closest attention in proper quarters." It says that it has been suggested that the powers should addres notes to Washington and Madrid, expressing the hope that they will not employ privateers. The Temps continues: "This, however, might be resented, especially in America, and it is pointed out that indirect pressure could be exercised by the maritime powers in making their favors, such as coaling, dependent upon non-recourse to privateering."

#### To Feed Refugees at Key West.

New York, April 20.—J. K. Elwell, agent of the central Cuban relief committee, has appointed a relief committee at Key West consisting of Mayor Maloney, United States Consul Hyatt, formerly of Santiago, and Dr. O'Ferrell. They have been notified by telegraph of their appointment, with instructions to dispose of 17 tons of miscellaneous supplies now there among the 800 Cuban refugees at Key West.

#### Lee to Lead the Virginias.

Charleston, W. Va., April 20.—Governor Atkinson yesterday sent the following telegram to Governor Tyler, of Virginia: "I suggest, if possible to accomplish it, that the volunteers of the two Virginias be consolidated into a brigade, and that we ask the president to appoint Fitzhugh Lee as the brigade commander." Governor Tyler promptly replied, endorsing the plan.

#### Our Warships in Japan Preparing.

Hong Kong, April 20.—The warships of the United States squadron are painting their hulls, upper works, smokestacks, etc., a dark gray, landing their spare gear and otherwise generally preparing for active service. The revenue cutter Hugh McCulloch, now belonging to the auxiliary fleet, has arrived here from the United States.

#### Italy Will Remain Neutral.

Rome, April 19.—Marquis Rudini, president of Italy's council of ministers, said in an interview: "Italy, in conjunction with other powers, will make every effort to prevent war; but if, unfortunately, war should break out, Italy will preserve an attitude of absolute neutrality.

### THEIR FIRST ANNUAL SOIREE.

On last Friday night, April 15th, Mr. A. D. Price's new hall was the scene of a magnificent gathering of young gentlemen and ladies as guest of the Armenian Social Club in their first annual soiree. As early as eight o'clock the carringes could be seen conveying the happy couples to the banquet hall where they tipped the light fantastic toe until the wee sma hours of morn.

At 2 o'clock they marched by the sweet strains of music to the dining hall where they were made welcome by a few well chosen and appropriate remarks by the president, Mr. Wm. W. Wilson.

The table was tastefully decorated and fairly groaned under the burden of the many delicacies of the season which amply satisfied the inner man. Truly can it be said that the Armenian Social Club has the lead of the social circle. The officers who deserve much credit are president, Wm. W. Wilson, vice-president, Mercer G. Ramsey, secretary, M. L. Taylor, Asst. secretary, Alex. W. Jackson, treasurer, Luke H. Hughes.

### PYTHIAN NOTES.

Planet Lodge, 23, held a most excellent meeting Monday night at Price's new hall on Leigh St. Chancellor Commander W. A. Kyles was in the chair and he wielded the gavel with much precision. The attendance was good and the rank of Page was conferred on one candidate and the rank of Esquire on two Pages. The members were quite enthusiastic over the Grand Lodge and will go in a body.

Planet Company, 8, had its regular monthly drill on Monday night.

Richmond Lodge, 1, met Monday night at Masonic Temple, Clay St. The attendance was good and the meeting was quite interesting throughout. C. C. J. C. Farley was in the chair and all present were aware of the fact. This lodge after a hard struggle is forging ahead and is on the road to success.

Sylvia Court met Tuesday afternoon and the attendance was good notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. Worthy Counsellor T. W. Mitchell is at home as a presiding officer and this fact has been conceded by all who have had an opportunity to sit under his ruling, The following on the sick list Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell and Mrs. Harriet Pierce.

Sir W. A. Jackson of Planet Lodge is out again.

Pure Gold Court met Monday evening. The meeting was full of interest and several new candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the order. The Court is in excellent condition and its membership is continually on the increase.

Blooming Lily Lodge meets Tuesday night at their Castle Hall on P Street near 31st. All members are requested to be present at 8 o'clock.

Blooming Lily Company is in excellent condition and is making rapid strides to uniform themselves. It is known that they have purchased several sets of equipments and are expecting several more in the near future. This is a commendable step and should arouse enthusiasm.

Blooming Lily Court is on a boom and meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month. The meetings are well attended and the Court is progressing nicely.

Excelsior Court meets Monday evening. All members are requested to be present. This Court will also give a Whang Doodle Bazaar at Price's New Hall three nights commencing Monday May 2nd and lasting to the 4th. All are invited to attend.

The Bazaar which has been in progress during this week was under the auspices of the Planet Court. It has been well attended and has no doubt been a success.

Samson Court meets Monday evening.

Samson Lodge meets Monday night.

Virginia Lodge meets Monday night.

The Captains of the Companies are requested to assemble them at Price Hall on Friday night April 29th in fatigue uniform. This night has been set aside for Battalion drill and all must be present at 8 o'clock sharp.

As soon as thorough information has been received concerning the rates over the several railroad lines running into Danville the lodges will be notified.

### New Court Organized.

Grand Worthy Counsellor John Mitchell, Jr., instituted on Friday night, March 25th, Royal Court, worked up by our Deputy Worthy Counsellor Pellie Nicholas with a membership of 65. The following officers were duly installed: W. C., Prof. J. E. Jones, W. I., Miss M. J. Judah; W. P., Mr. Joshua Lewis; S. D., Mrs. Fannie J. Anderson; J. D., Mrs. Bessie B. Davis; N. O., Miss Janie Boyd; W. I., Mrs. Elija B. Miller; R. of D., Mrs. Myrtle A. Chiles; R. of A., Miss Mattie West; W. H., Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders; W. E., Miss Anna J. Harris; W. C., Miss Lizzie Brown; A. C., Miss Lavenia B. Scott.

### Commencement Exercises of the V. N. & C. I.

Bishop A. Walters, D. D., will preach the Baccalaureate sermon to the graduates of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute Sunday, May 8, 1898.

Rev. Thomas H. Lee will deliver an address before the Literary Society Thursday, May 12, 1898

The Commencement Exercises will take place Friday evening, May 13th.

## SPANIARDS WILL FIGHT

### To Defend the Honor of Their Nation and Their Flag.

### PREMIER SAGASTA'S SPEECH.

#### "Spain Will Not Allow a Parcel of Her Territory to Be Taken, Nor Will She Be a Party to Any Trafficking For Her Possessions."

Madrid, April 20.—The supporters of the government in both houses of parliament met in the senate chamber at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Senor Sagasta, the premier, addressed them as follows:

"The times are so grave and the circumstances are so exceptional that acts, not words, are necessary to face the present difficulty. Attempts are being made to sully the glorious history of Spain by an infamous calumny. The different Spanish governments have done their utmost to avert the war to which we are being provoked. We have now reached the limits of concession, compatible with honor and territorial integrity. We consented to the last concession at the instance of the pope and the powers. We yielded, in fact; but now attempts are made upon our honor and menaces directed against our territory. That is a thing to which Spaniards will never consent. This is not the moment to trace a parliamentary program, but the moment to unite ourselves, as our fathers have done, in the face of an odious attempt against the integrity of our territory. The insult offered us today is the most infamous that has ever been offered."

Continuing, Senor Sagasta counseled the rapid constitution of the chambers in order to accord to the government the means to defend the country's interests.

"Spain," he added, "will not allow a parcel of her territory to be taken from her with impunity; nor will she be a party to any trafficking for her possessions."

Seldom has there been witnessed a more impressive and significant scene. The large hall of the entire senate was densely crowded with Liberal senators and deputies, who listened with breathless attention to the short speech of Senor Sagasta, only interrupting him with unanimous and loud applause. It the idea still existed in the mind of any one here that war could be avoided, Senor Sagasta's firm speech is regarded as finally settling all doubts.

Senor Silvela, leader of the Dissident Conservatives, when addressing his party, declared it "inopportune to formulate a political program." He announced that his party would loyally support the government in the existing grave crisis.

It is learned on unquestionable authority that the queen regent recently made the following statement:

"I prefer even the horrors of war rather than tarnish on the prestige of the army or an impairment of the rights of the crown."

Contrary to the general opinion that the queen regent has been negotiating for peace at any price, her attitude to-for peace at any price, her attitude had much to do with the firm action of the cabinet.

A dispatch from Malaga reports a resumption of the riots there on Monday. The American consul's negro servant was killed and many persons in the crowd were wounded.

#### A Proposed Peculiar Request.

Rome, April 20.—Italia, the organ of the foreign office, publishes the following note: "The powers are on the eve of taking a new step, namely, requesting the United States and Spain, in the event of war, to localize the hostilities to Cuba and the neighboring waters. This step will be taken immediately after the declaration of war." Utter pessimism prevails in diplomatic quarters here, the Vatican alone continuing hopeful of peace. The pope is working energetically to be accepted as arbitrator, but he admits that Cuba has already morally ceased to belong to Spain.

### NO SPECIAL SESSION.

#### Advice of Pennsylvania Lawmakers Not Needed on War Matters.

Harrisburg, April 20.—Governor Hastings has decided not to call an extra session of the legislature to raise money to put the National Guard and, if necessary, other Pennsylvania troops in the field in the event of war with Spain. The legislature, if in session, could do no more than is provided for by existing law. The governor has been urged by a large number of members of the legislature to call an extra session. The cost of holding such a session would not fall short of $100,000 a month, and would probably exceed in the aggregate the entire cost of the maintenance of the troops prior to the mustering into the service of the United States.

### Mrs. Harriet Well's Funeral.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church was filled by a sympathetic throng Thursday, April 14, 1898, at 3 p. m., the occasion being the funeral of Mrs. Harriet Wells, the beloved and faithful wife of Rev. Richard Wells, Ebenezer's honored pastor.

Mrs. Wells has been for 47 years the faithful wife of Rev. Richard Wells,