THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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THE MAINE COURT.

IT LEAVES KEY WEST FOR HABANA ON THE MANGROVE.

NO NEW EVIDENCE DEVELOPED.

Court as a Body Not Yet Prepared to Render a Decisive Verdict—Work of the Divers—Habana Notes.

KEY WEST, FLA., March 4.—After two postponements of its departure, the court of inquiry left for Habana this evening, on the light-house tender Mangrove.

It is believed by the best informed persons here that the court will complete its labors in the Cuban capital within ten days.

Only three of the six days the court was here were devoted to the work of investigation. The inactivity of yesterday and to-day is still unexplained, except by a semi-official statement that Rear-Admiral Sicard was awaiting instructions from Washington. The sessions, it is generally understood, developed no evidence by which the court could definitely determine the cause of the explosion. A naval officer in close touch with the members of the court, said to this correspondent:

"With one exception, the witnesses who testified here were Maine survivors. The evidence, though in most cases taking longer to tell, can be summed up in the words of an enlisted man, who, when Judge-Advocate Marix asked him what he knew about the explosion, replied: 'Sir, I was blown up; I was saved, and I'm here.'" That was all he could swear to.

One important fact has been learned, however. It is that, although the members of the court may have their individual theories, they are by no means prepared as a body to render a decisive verdict. The officer already quoted, said: "If the court has yet heard any testimony which would enable it to decide intelligently that the Maine was blown up from external causes, I am the most mistaken man in the world. Before the coming Habana sessions are over it may secure such evidence, and possibly find that the blowing up was intentional. It will learn from the divers the actual condition of the ship after the explosion, as it has already learned from the survivors most of the details of the ship's condition before the explosion. With these bases thoroughly established, the court will hear more expert theoretical testimony and then reach a verdict."

WORTHY OF RELIANCE.

This statement can be taken as more worthy of reliance than that of the Maine officer who said the other day he believed the court was bound, on evidence already heard, to find the cause of the explosion external. Its conservatism is also at variance with the opinions of many other naval officers here, especially those of the younger set, and directly contrary to the belief of most of the Maine survivors that their ship was intentionally blown up.

Before sailing to-night, Captain Sampson had a long consultation with Admiral Sicard. Hulse, the court's chief stenographer, has returned to Washington, leaving Bissell, his associate, here.

All the Maine survivors received a month's pay yesterday, and their claims for lost personal property have been filed. Schwantz, a cook of the Maine, has put in a claim for $1,226, which he says he had in his chest, which was blown to pieces. Many other enlisted men lost the savings of years.

There have been no movements of the fleet to-day, except in the case of the Nashville, which towed a coal barge out to the Iowa.

The Mangrove sailed at 8:25 P. M., with all the officers of the court of inquiry, and the stenographer, Mr. Bissell. She will touch at the Tortugas, with mail for the fleet.

NO DATE FOR REPORT.

Impossible Yet Even to Approximate One.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—It was developed this morning, through the telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Long and Admiral Sicard, that the court of inquiry is unable to fix even an approximate date for the conclusion of its investigation into the disaster of the Maine.

Sharing the general anxiety for some information on this point, Secretary Long to-day, at the instance of the Cabinet, sent a telegram to Admiral Sicard, asking him when it was expected that the report of the court would be made, and late to-night the following reply was received:

"Key West, March 4.—Secretary of the Navy,—Have talked with the president of the court of inquiry, and agree with him that it is not yet possible to fix a date for the finding, as so much depends upon the progress of the divers and wreckers, and the results they obtain. Every effort is being made to advance the inquiry. The court returns to Habana by the Mangrove this evening, having about finished the examination at Key West. (Signed), "SICARD."

Admiral Sicard's message is regarded as officially disposing of reports that the court has yet obtained positive or conclusive information bearing upon the object of the investigation. It is taken to mean that upon the testimony or the discoveries of the divers will depend the finding, the examination of the officers and the crew of the ship having been insufficient to enable the court to even form an idea as to what lines may be opened up from the investigation of the wreck itself.

While the telegram was naturally somewhat of a disappointment, in leaving the termination of the inquiry as much in doubt as ever, it was welcomed as practically setting at rest the reports as to the result of the investigation up to date.

It is stated that the board in all probability will not return to Key West, the department having intimated that it was its desire that the examination of the officers and men should be concluded at this sitting, as they are needed for reassignment to ships.

It is probable that the Olympia, flagship at the Asiastic squadron, and the peerless queen of the cruisers, will come home to San Francisco. The Navigation Bureau has this movement under construction, and, in view of the fact that the ship has been three years away from a navy-yard, engaged in hard cruising service, even if there were no other reason, it is probable that the order will be given.

The torpedo-boat Winslow, at Norfolk, has completed her repairs, and will join the flotilla at Key West as soon as the gale on the coast blows itself out and makes the run down safe.

SPANISH PURCHASE OF SHIPS.

Naval officials are deeply interested in the reports of the purchase of warships by Spain, and make the reports of these transactions the text for complaints of the inability of our Navy Department to do likewise.

However, as to the report from London to-day of the purchase of the Amazonius by Spain, it is said at the department that this vessel sailed for Brazil several months ago, and has been delivered to the Brazilian Government. Her sister ship is near completion in the Armstrong yards. They are useful cruisers, copies of the Barossa, now of the Brazilian navy, and their strong point is their great radius of action—8,000 miles—which would enable them to cross the Atlantic and recross it, without renewing their supply of coal. The other two ships building for Brazil in France, which are also reported to be about to pass into Spanish possession, are presumed to be the Deadoro and the Floriona, which are building at La Seine, Toulon. These are small but powerful battleships. Their tonnage is only 3,162, but they carry four 10-inch rifles in turrets, in addition to two 6-inch and four 4.7-inch guns, and a good secondary battery. Their coal endurance, however, is small, and their forte would seem to be coast-defence operations, or cruising near a base of supplies.

The London reports also caused comment at the State Department. In some quarters the feeling was expressed that pending the finding of a court of inquiry on a case having the international phases of the Maine explosion, the obligations of neutrality were as strongly imposed on Great Britain and Brazil as in time of war. But, as a general rule, foreign governments are free to sell warships, either directly or through their citizens, up to the actual date of hostilities.

ARMY MATTERS QUIET.

Matters were very quiet, at least externally, in the War Department to-day, so it was unknown officially that the troops at Salt Lake are being reviewed, and it was said that if this were so it could be nothing more than the usual periodical inspection required by the regulations.

As for the reported orders for the inspectors of ordnance at Bethlehem to be ready for an instant start, it is said that Captain McNutt and Lieutenant Bennett, who have been on inspection duty there for several years past, are not to be disturbed, and have had no orders such as are reported from Bethlehem.

Admiral Sicard's precept convening the court of inquiry now investigating the disaster to the battleships Maine has been received by the Navy Department, and was made public to-day. It is important mainly in showing the exact scope of the inquiry, and the extent to which the report will go.

Aside from the usual order directing the court to report both findings of fact and its opinions on these findings, Admiral Sicard directs the court to record any information as to person or persons, "not connected with the navy of the United States, who are in its opinion responsible, in part or wholly, directly or indirectly, for the explosion and loss of the Maine, with names and the degree of responsibility in each case." The court is to make its report to Admiral Sicard.

LEE ESTABLISHES ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The State Department received the following telegram from Consul-General Lee last night:

"Habana, March 3.—Have established asylum for destitute small orphans, regardless of nationality. The money sent by you was applied to the purchase of food for said orphans."

The War Department, it is understood, will endeavor to induce the Treasury officials to return the Tortugas Islands to its jurisdiction, but at the Treasury Department it is said that no request has yet been made upon the Secretary of the Treasury for the retransfer. Should the request be made, it is said it would be complied with at once.

Some years ago this island, then under the control of the War Department, was turned over to the Treasury Department, for use as a quarantine station, with the stipulation that it would be retransferred at any time, upon request. Since then the government has established on Tortugas one of the most complete quarantine stations in the country. This fact, however, would not even be considered, should the War Department need it for its own purposes. Possession, it is said, would be given within forty-eight hours.

WORK OF THE DIVERS.

Proctor, Lee, and Sigsbee Attend Ceremony of Decorating Graves.

HABANA, March 4.—The American divers, having examined more or less thoroughly the ward-room of the Maine, and the senior and junior officers' messrooms, are to-day trying to effect an entrance into the petty officers' compartment, in the hope of finding some bodies there. However, each day the belief grow stronger that few, if any, more bodies will be recovered. Not one was recovered to-day.

Captain Sharpe, who is in charge of the Merritt & Chapman wrecking outfit, appreciates the difficulties of the situation better than others. He will not specify any time when the big guns will be released. It is necessary to first remove the tops of the turrets. These are held in place by steel bolts, which must be cut loose. The best-informed people here think a month will elapse before the turrets are opened. In the mean time, work on the minor details of the wreck will proceed with all possible speed.

The discipline on board the Spanish cruiser Vizcaya is very high, which naturally gratifies the Spaniards.

Senator Proctor, General Fitzhugh Lee, Captain Sigsbee, and many other prominent Americans attended the ceremony of decorating the graves of the Maine's dead to-day.

A hurricane which has swept over the port of Batabano, on the south coast of Cuba, opposite Habana, has done great damage. It destroyed a hut in which were quartered a number of soldiers belonging to the Castilian battalion, killing two of the men and wounding twenty-five others. Thousands of trees were swept away, and the ships in the harbor were obliged to put hurriedly to sea, to prevent being wrecked.

The cable dispatches deny the reports that a flotilla of Spanish torpedo-boats and torpedo-boat destroyers is to come to Cuba.

KEYSTONE GOLD DEMOCRATS.

They Will Nominate a Full State Ticket—Letter from Cleveland.

PHILADELPHIA, March 4.—Representatives of the State organization of the Jeffersonian, or Gold-Democratic, party met here to-day, and resolved to put in the field a ticket of their own for State officers, from the governorship down, and for members of Congress in every district.

A letter was read from ex-President Cleveland, in which he says:

"I cannot account for the arrogant confidence of the free-silver forces, except upon the theory that they are led to believe that there is very little aggressive force to be feared from their opponents. If any one believing with us supposes that free silver can be prevented from controlling the two houses of the next Congress without effective organization and hard work, the quicker he abandons that idea the more useful he will be as a sound-money man.

"I am so earnest in my desire to see our country blessed with safe money and a suitable financial system, that I am of the opinion we ought to give patriotic and consistent support to any plan which insures this result, and which has the elements that promise its successful advocacy."

SPANISH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Bilbao Sees No Necessity for It—Cuba Purchase Idea.

MADRID, March 4.—The government has consulted the chambers of commerce throughout the country, respecting the proposed commercial treaty with the United States. The Bilbao Chamber replies that, considering the present condition of mercantile relations, it can see no necessity for a treaty. If the negotiations, however, are successful, it is of the opinion that two treaties will be requisite—one between America and the Peninsula, and another between America and the Antilles.

Commenting on the proposition that President McKinley purchase Cuba, the Imparcial says: "Behold a solution for the settlement of the Cuban war, and the termination of any present heartburning of the nation."

Postmasters for Virginia.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—The President to-day nominated the following Virginia postmasters:

J. M. Taylor, Ashland; C. P. Nair, Clifton Forge; S. H. Hoge, Roanoke.

SPAIN BUYS CRUISERS

HAS SECURED TWO AND IS NEGOTIATING FOR TWO OTHERS.

PAYING FOR THEM IN CASH, TOO.

Diplomats in London Think French Financiers Are Helping Her—Ships Uncle Sam Might Buy If He Should Wish to Purchase.

LONDON, March 4.—Spain has purchased two cruisers which the Armstrongs have been building for Brazil, the Amazonius and a sister-ship, unnamed, of 4,000 tons each, twenty-three knots, and ten guns.

Spain is also negotiating for, and will probably secure, two cruisers of a similar type which have been building in France for Brazil.

The Amazonius is ready for launching, and her sister-ship will soon be ready.

The Spanish Government is also endeavoring to secure guns and large supplies of ammunition in England and on the Continent, for immediate use.

The Government of Spain seems to have funds, for it is understood to be paying a large part of the purchase money in cash, giving good security for the balance, these being the only terms upon which the Armstrongs would deal.

Some weeks ago Spain attempted to purchase ships and supplies in England on credit from prominent firms having close relations with the government, but after inquiries, the firms refused to give credit. Since then, Spain had raised funds from unknown sources. Diplomats in London express the belief that French financiers are helping the Spanish Government.

It is known that Spain is trying to purchase three other ships which are being built by the Armstrongs, but she has not yet succeeded in making a bargain; consequently, there is still time if the United States wishes to forestall her. The United States could also forestall Spain in the purchase of other ships building in English and Continental dock-yards.

While Chile denies that any of the ships ordered for that country are for sale, it is believed by naval constructors that Chile's best cruiser, the O'Higgins, which is just finished, could be purchased.

FRESH SPANISH SQUADRON.

LONDON, March 4.—A letter just received here from Madrid, says it is definitely reported there that a fresh Spanish squadron, destined for Cuba, is being organized at Cadiz. It consists of four ironclads—the Carlos V., Pelayo, Alfonso XIII., and another—several gunboats, and a Transatlantic steamer.

Active work is also proceeding upon the torpedo-boat destroyers Prosperina, Audaz, and Osada, and upon the torpedo-boats Habana, Retamosa, and Barcelo, which form the second torpedo-boat flotilla that Spain is sending to Cuba.

IT IS DISCREDITED.

Sensational Report About Blowing Up of Maine—Washington Notes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—(Special.)—The sensational report published to-day to the effect that Spanish officers had the Maine blown up by a diver, who was paid $20,000 for placing the mine under the vessel and then murdered by his employers, is discredited here by the administration and department officials. If such had been the case it would have been known to Consul-General Lee, and would have been promptly reported to the President.

It is the impression that the report of the Board of Inquiry will not be made for at least two weeks, and that no action will be taken until that has been fully discussed by the Cabinet. Speaking of the matter, Chairman Hitt, of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House, said this in effect, in a conversation this morning. In his opinion, until all the available facts in connection with the Maine's destruction are at hand, it is unwise to reach conclusions. He added that he did not believe that the report of the board would be delayed, and he ridiculed the idea that Congress would adjourn before there was time to transmit it to that body.

VIRGINIA POSTMASTERSHIPS.

Among the appointments for Virginia to-day were those of Captain J. M. Taylor, to be postmaster at Ashland, and Samuel Harris Hoge to be postmaster at Roanoke. Mr. Wray T. Knight left for home last evening, fully assured that he would be appointed as Mr. Cullingworth's successor.

Among the charges made by Senator Butler against ex-Congressman Ewart, to prevent his confirmation as Judge of the Western District of North Carolina is one alleging a misappropriation of money placed in his hand as an attorney, an offence for which an attorney can be disbarred upon the filing of a motion with the court. Senator Pritchard and other friends of Ewart's say that there is nothing in the charge, and they are prepared to meet the issue before the committee.

PERSONAL.

Z. N. Estes, University of Virginia, is at the Metropolitan.

Mr. Daniel O'Connell, of the Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs, was in the city yesterday, on business.

R. G. Bickford, Newport News; J. A. August, Jr., Winchester; R. H. Battle, Raleigh, N. C.; C. H. Terrell and wife, Norfolk, and J. T. Anderson, Richmond—The Raleigh.

W. H. Fairless, of Portsmouth, who is an applicant for the position of Inspector of Steamboats for the Norfolk District, which includes several States, is at the St. James.

Rev. J. Turner, Staunton; W. C. Ruffin, North Carolina; E. S. Ferguson, Winchester; J. Hirshinger, Charlotte, N. C.—St. James.

POSTAL.

Among the postmasters commissioned March 1st were: Presidential, William L. Mustard, Pocahontas, Va.; March 2d—not money-order offices—Ethel L. Rhyne, Costner, N. C.; Ocie O. Sampson, Progress, Va.; Rosa E. Buster, Rabat, Va.; Matilda Dooley, Ridgemont, Va.

A new office has been established at Wake, Middlesex county, Va., with Byron B. Wake as postmaster.

THE LAKE CITY KILLING.

Cabinet Considers Report—Government Offers of Reward Increased.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—To-day's Cabinet meeting occupied about three hours, and at its conclusion it was announced that nothing of an important nature had occurred. No information, of any character, it was stated, had been received, either from General Lee or the court of inquiry.

An hour or more of the time of the Cabinet session was occupied in the reading of a long report from a special agent of the Post-Office Department on the killing of Baker, the colored postmaster at Lake City, S. C.

In view of the peculiar circumstances connected with the murder, and the enormity of the crime, it was decided to increase the government's reward to $1,500 in each case.

Every effort will be made by the Federal authorities to bring the guilty parties to justice.

The report on the case was presented by Postmaster-General Gary, and the action taken by the Cabinet in the offering of rewards for the apprehension and conviction of the guilty persons is said to be the most energetic ever agreed on by any administration in a similar case. It is probable that the Post-Office Department will detail other inspectors to assist those now in the field in ferreting out the murderers, and the large amount of reward offered, it is thought, will induce private detectives to work on the case.

It is said that Attorney-General Griggs holds to the opinion that the Federal Government will have jurisdiction over the murderers, even if they are first taken by the State authorities. Baker, it is held, was an officer of the government, in the discharge of his duty, and the attack upon him was similar to an attack upon a deputy marshal or other official.

Postmaster-General Gary expresses the determination to do everything in his power to ascertain the identity of the guilty parties. In response to inquiries, he made public the following statement:

"The department is in possession of a preliminary report from its representatives in regard to this sad tragedy, from which a few details may be given.

"The widow of the murdered postmaster has been interviewed, and her story in brief is about as follows:

THE WIDOW'S STORY.

"They were awakened some time in the early morning by the smell of fire and smoke, and, upon rising, found that the house was in flames. Baker attempted to extinguish the flames, but soon discovered that this would be impossible. He then told his wife he would go to the door and call for help. As soon as he opened the door the firing began, and a storm of bullets struck the door and house. The widow Baker said that her husband then fell on his knees and prayed for protection. The heat and smoke became so unbearable at length that they could no longer remain in the house. On again appearing at the door they were greeted with another volley of bullets.

"The first one of the family to be killed was the baby, in its mother's arms, a bullet striking it in the side. The widow saw the wound, and told her husband that the baby was killed. A second later he fell back against her dead. She and the other children were struck by the bullets at this time, or just as they escaped from the building.

"The widow had the younger girls with her when they got out. They ran until they were exhausted, and they fell down. The older girls went into a neighboring field, and remained there until they heard no more sounds from the vicinity of their old dwelling. Late at night all found shelter at the house of some of their colored friends.

"The mother and children say they saw men standing about the trees and bushes near the house, but were unable to recognize any one.

"Baker's widow is reported to be a small, frail woman, about 35 years old. She has a gunshot wound in the left forearm, and the bones are fractured. Rosa, the oldest daughter, aged about 16 years, received a gunshot wound, which broke the bones above the left elbow. Cora, the next girl, was shot in the right hand and wrist. A son, about 11 years of age, has one serious wound in the abdomen, and another wound in the right forearm, both bones of the arm being broken and badly shattered. He is not expected to live. Two very young girls, completing the family, escaped unhurt.

"It is needless for me to add that the administration, together with all good citizens of the country, in whatever section they may reside, fully appreciate the enormity of the crime which has been committed, not only against this unoffending man and his family, but against the government, as represented by the postmaster, and I assure you that the Post-Office Department, in co-operation with the Department of Justice, will do everything in its power to apprehend and convict the men who committed this terrible outrage. Both of the departments mentioned are using every means in their power to the end that justice may be meted out to the criminals."

A FAMILY POISONED.

Deed Done by Ex-Convict—Threats of Lynching.

MERIDIAN, MISS., March 4.—Supervisor J. R. Royals and wife and the latter's sister, Miss Annie McKenzie, were poisoned this morning by "Rough on Rats," placed in their coffee by William Hill, a 16-year-old negro and an ex-convict, bought out of the stockade by Royals to serve as a chore-boy. Mrs. Royals and Miss McKenzie are at the point of death.

Hill's motive was revenge, the boy having been thrashed yesterday by Royals for insolence.

Hill was lodged in jail, but will not long remain there in the event of the women's death. Even now all that is needed for an assault on the bastile seems to be a leader.

THE ALABAMA G. A. R.

Confederate Veterans Guests of Honor at Camp Fire.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., March 4.—The tenth annual encampment of the Alabama Grand Army of the Republic met in Decatur to-day. A number of distinguished men, including Commander-in-Chief Gobin, were present. The annual camp-fire was held before a crowded house, the Confederate veterans being guests of honor.

Officers elected were: A. G. Bethard, commander; Samuel Griscom, senior vice-commander; A. J. Harper, junior vice-commander; Monoah Bostick, chaplain; A. M. Ballard, medical director; R. M. Allison, delegate national encampment; A. W. Fullam, alternate.

LUETGERT SAUSAGE-MAKER STILL

This Will Be the Line of His Prison Employment.

CHICAGO, March 4.—Wife-Murderer Luetgert has been told the task selected for him during his life imprisonment. It is the intention of the Joliet penitentiary officials to manufacture sausage for use in the big penitentiary, and Luetgert will be given charge of the work. The idea pleases Luetgert.

THE KENTUCKY DERBY.

Every Prominent Colt on Western Turf to Run.

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 4.—Secretary Price, of the Louisville Jockey Club, to-day completed a list of the horses that have qualified by making the final payment in the coming Kentucky Derby. Every prominent colt on the western turf, except one, is included in the list.

For a National Quarantine.

VICKSBURG, MISS., March 4.—The Cotton Exchange to-day adopted a resolution requesting the Mississippi representatives in Congress to advocate a national quarantine, and hoping "that under the 'general welfare' clause of the Constitution Congress will find some way to protect the lives of the people of the Southern States, besides contributing to the maintenance hereafter of a republican form of government in such States where epidemics may prevail, a form of government which experience taught us ceased to exist during the late epidemic."

Steel and Wire Combine Formed.

NEW YORK, March 4.—The plan for a combination of the steel wire rod and nail manufacturers, which has been under consideration for the past six months, was practically consummated at a meeting held in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in this city to-day.

The combination will represent about $60,000,000 in capital. The name selected for the combination is the American Steel and Wire Company.

Bank Clearings.

NEW YORK, March 4.—Total bank clearings in the United States, $1,541,855,208; per cent. increase 82.2; exclusive of New York, $560,208,533; per cent. increase, 65.1.

Brace Up.

You are suffering. You do not know what is the matter with you. You are all run down, nervous, weak, and broken in health. Dr. Greene, No. 35 west Fourteenth street, New York city, the eminent and distinguished specialist, whose marvellous cures have astonished the world, has in his investigations discovered medicines that are simply infallible in all cases of blood and nerve affliction and what are called chronic diseases. You can consult Dr. Greene personally or by letter, free. Write to him and he will explain your case so plainly that you will understand exactly what ails you, and he will cure you if you wish.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH.

DR. HOGE LECTURES BEFORE THE A. P. V. A. ON THIS THEME.

THEIR PART IN OUR HISTORY.

The Eminent Divine Discusses the Characteristic Virtues of Our Forefathers, Their Training and Influence in Shaping Our Government.

Those who heard Rev. Dr. Hoge's lecture last night in the Assembly Hall of the Chamber of Commerce enjoyed an intellectual treat, and listened to an address, not only highly entertaining, but very instructive.

The lecture was the second one of a series given annually under the auspices of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The distinguished divine took for his subject "The Scotch-Irish; Their Characteristic Virtues; Their Training, and Their Influence on the Structure of Our Political Government." The address was replete with historic information, and the lecturer clothed in beautiful language the incidents upon which he touched during his discourse.

Despite the inclement weather, the hall was filled with an appreciative and intellectual audience.

Mr. W. W. Henry introduced Dr. Hoge in a few words, this formality being, of course, entirely unnecessary, though in accordance with the custom usually adopted on similar occasions.

Dr. Hoge, before taking up his theme, said that though he was not "Scotch-Irish himself, he had the most profound respect for those who were. He would probably be called "Scotch-Huguenot," he said. "I would not for any consideration," he said, "give to the Scotch-Irish a monopoly of the credit for the establishment of the great institutions under which we live. There were others who contributed their part to the development of the institutions of this country." On some future occasion Dr. Hoge said he would probably deliver an address on the cavalier of Virginia, and then again on the Huguenot element, and the part taken by the latter in developing the institutions of the country.

NOBLE AND CONGENIAL THEME.

Dr. Hoge begun his address proper by saying that the subject upon which he was going to speak was not one selected by himself, but was assigned to him by the committee that honored him with the invitation. The theme was a noble and congenial one, and he hoped to gain something by stating the order in which he proposed to discuss it. His plan was, first, to speak of the characteristic virtues of the Scotch-Irish; second, of the peculiar training they received for the work they were to accomplish; and third, their direct influence in shaping the civil and religious institutions of our country. "There is sometimes," said the speaker, "great pleasure and profit in these historical researches. It is only by such studies that we catch the spirit of the great heroes who have been potent in shaping the institutions of our own times. We thus take a new interest in the men themselves, and in the work they achieved; and while we embalm their memories and deeds in grateful recollection, we catch the fire which yet lives in their ashes, and we feel the inspiration which their great example of devotion to duty enkindles in our hearts."

Dr. Hoge vividly pictured the progress of this nation, drawing a striking contrast between the country of to-day and that in which the Colonists lived prior to 1776; discussed at some length the question of whence we derived the institutions, civil and religious, under which the United States have made such progress in population, wealth, and power; spoke of the Constitution, not as the fountain out of which streams of liberty flow, but the reservoir into which these little rills had been running until it finally overflowed with waters to refresh and fertilize the land, and returning to the question, "What is the fountain from which these streams originally issued?" said he would answer, first, the Word of God, from which the true idea of representative government is derived; second, the great reformation of the sixteenth century, which awakened the world afresh to a recognition of the sacredness of the demands of conscience, and "as the third influence which shaped the institutions of this land, I mention the peculiar training received by the early emigrants to these shores, and of the patriotic sages who were most influential in framing our form of government. This training was in the school of conflict; it was the decipline enforced by that sternest of teachers—adversity; that development of the truest and noblest manhood which comes from patient, determined, rugged resistance to civil and religious tyranny."

PROTEST AGAINST OPPRESSION.

"In Scotland," continued Dr. Hoge, "under the reign of James VI. (declared by Henry IV. to be 'the wisest fool in Europe'), and Charles I., and that lecherous and treacherous King, Charles II., when royal promises were made only to be broken, and solemn oaths taken only to be violated; when courts of high commission were established armed with inquisitorial powers; when householders were required to give bond that their families should not attend the services of the Church endeared to them by all that was most sacred in their traditions and memory; when, to enforce submission, torture was used to extort confession; when prisons were filled with the victims of intolerance; when soldiers were quartered upon defenceless householders and restrained from no outrage, then it was that this great protest against oppression found a voice which will never cease to sound while the sun shines and waters flow, and the heart of humanity thrills in sympathy with the sorrows of those who suffer for conscience's sake. These protests took the form of covenants, as they are called. Among the Scotch-Irish people, no phrase is better or more widely understood than the phrase 'Solemn League and Covenant.' This was the document written on parchment in 1638, protesting against tyranny in all its forms, and pledging the signers to maintain, at any cost, the inalienable rights which belong to manhood, not by permission of kings and concessions of Parliaments, but as the direct gift of God. Six thousand Scotchmen assembled around old Gray Friars church, in Edinburgh, and when the parchment containing a declaration of the peoples rights and their determination to defend them was laid on a tombstone in the churchyard which covered the ashes of one of the old Caledonian worthies, it was covered with names. Then, because the nation was waiting, the parchment was enlarged by the addition of sheet after sheet, that it might make a circuit of the whole land, and everywhere receive the signature of those who were ready to bow the knee before God, and 'render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's,' but equally ready to resist until blood all who sought to invade the sacred rights of conscience and usurp the authority which belongs alone to the Great Lord of Conscience. Such was this early proclamation of the great principles which have fired the souls of patriots in all ages and all countries where liberty has been held so dear as to be worthy of any sacrifice."

Dr. Hoge told of the unexpected refuge being providentially opened for the persecuted Scots in the North of Ireland, where King James planted a Scotch colony, who made the province of Ulster the garden of Ireland, which it has been ever since; reviewed the hardships, restrictions, and impositions to which the Scotch-Irish colonists were subjected after nearly a century of comparative peace and quiet, and the arguments they advanced, but to no avail, and continued:

"Just then something occurred which changed the very course of history, and put a new face on the world by putting a new heart into it. Beyond the Atlantic, with its wide waste of waters, was a new world—new in more senses than one, new in the promise it gave for the enjoyment of life, liberty, and happiness no longer possible in the Old World. No wonder the tides of emigration set to flowing; no wonder that men whose ideal was a free Church and a free State left their native shores by hundreds and by thousands; no wonder the tide of emigration continued to flow, deepening and widening as it went, until it became wide enough to reach New York on the north and the Carolinas on the south, while it ran with steady flow through Pennsylvania and Virginia, and subsequently into Kentucky and Tennessee. As early as 1725 there was a Scotch-Irish settlement in nearly every one of the old Colonies. For many years there were never less than 12,000 landed annually at the different ports of the country, all along the coast from New York to Savannah. Thirty thousand came from Ulster alone. At the time of the Revolution of 1776, when the population of the Colonies was only 3,000,000, the Scotch-Irish people numbered nearly one third of the entire number."

PART IN THE REVOLUTION.

Dr. Hoge beautifully emphasized the fact that when our forefathers came from their fields of conflict with oppression in the old world, they came bringing the principles for which they had sacrificed all but honor and conscience, and said that "as soon as the dispute between the Colonies and the mother country commenced, the entire Scotch-Irish people united with one mind and heart in support of the cause of independence. The part taken by them in that contest was then made a matter of reproach, and it is the recorded testimony of those who were least in sympathy with their purpose that they were the first to enlist from the conflict and the last to retire from it." Dr. Hoge then went on to describe the battle of Saratoga, at which Burgoyne met with an entire defeat—an event that induced France to acknowledge the independence of the American States and enter into a treaty of alliance with them. Then the speaker gave a description of the battle of King's Mountain, followed by the victories of Cowpens and Guilditofd, finally leading to the surrender of the English army at Yorktown, and the close of the Revolutionary war. But, while brilliant victories on the fields of war may secure the independence of a country, no constitutional government can be organized by arms. To accomplish this great task, the soldier must be succeeded by the statesman; and this leads to another most interesting division of the discussion—the influence of the Scotch-Irish statesmen and of their fellow-countrymen in framing the political institutions of these United States.

MADISON AND JEFFERSON.

Dr. Hoge presented a sketch of James Madison, and then of Thomas Jefferson, and continued:

"When the Declaration of Independence was under debate in the Constitutional Congress, doubts and forebodings were whispered through the hall. The House hesitated, and the destiny of the nation seemed poised, as it were, upon a single point. It was then that an aged patriarch arose, his hair white with the frosts of age. He cast over the assembly a look of inexpressible interest and unconquerable resolution, while on his cheek the hue of age was lost in the fiery patriotism which illuminated his face. 'There is a tide,' said he, when he saw the House was wavering, 'there is a tide in the affairs of men, which we perceive now before us. To hesitate is to consent to our bondage. That noble instrument upon your table should be subscribed this morning by every pen in the House. For my own part, I have of property some, of reputation more. That reputation is staked, that property is pledged upon the issue of this contest, and although these gray hairs must soon descend into the grave, I would infinitely rather they should descend by the hand of the public executioner than to desert at this crisis the sacred cause of my country.' Who was it that uttered that memorable speech, potent to turn the scale of the nation's destiny. It was the venerable John Witherspoon, president of Princeton College, and a lineal descendant of John Knox. Under the influence of Witherspoon's appeal the Declaration was at once signed, and each signature, though some of them were written with a trembling hand, made the signer immortal. Fourteen of these signers were of Scotch-Irish blood, whose ancestors had signed the Solemn League and Covenant in the Grey Friars churchyard, in Edinburgh, one hundred and thirty-eight years before."

MEN OF FAME.

Dr. Hoge concluded by saying he did not know how he could give his hearers a better impression of the influence of the Scotch-Irish race in shaping the civil and religious institutions of the country, than of calling their attention to the names of some of the eminent men whose fame belongs to the whole country, all of whom were descendants of the sturdy stock of which it was his privilege to speak. Of those who won honors in the field he mentioned Anthony Wayne, who at Stony Point achieved one of the most brilliant victories of the war; Hugh Mercer, who fell in the battle of Princeton; Colonel Rogers Clarke, who captured the whole line of forts between the lakes and the Mississippi river, and thus secured that magnificent domain which Virginia, with a generosity unparalleled, gave to the Government of the United States. John Randolph declared that the campaign of Clarke was worthy to be likened to that of Hannibal in Italy. He also spoke of Generals Knox, Montgomery, Sullivan, Starke, Morgan, Marion, Andrew Jackson, who commanded 6,000 men at New Orleans, and defeated 12,000 of Wellington's finest troops commanded by Wellington's brother-in-law, Sir Edward Packingham; General Sam Houston, the hero of San Jacinto; Stonewall Jackson, who filled two hemispheres with the glory of his name. Among statesmen he enumerated Alexander Hamilton, of whom Talleyrand said that of the three most illustrious men known to him, Hamilton was the greatest; Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina, three times Speaker of the National House of Representatives; Iredel, worthy associate of John Marshall on the Supreme Bench; John J. Crittenden, Attorney-General of the United States, and John J. Hardin, the patroit and peerless soldier. It was of Hardin and his comrades in arms that the Irish-American O'Hara wrote the oft-quoted stanza:

"On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
While Glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead."

To these I may add President James Buchanan; Judge John McLean, of the Supreme Court of Ohio; Thomas Corwin, Governor of the same State, scarcely less eloquent than Mirabeau; Allen G. Thurman, Thomas Hendricks; Thomas H. Benton, senator for a third of a century from Missouri; John C. Calhoun, George McDuffy, James L. Pettigrew, William G. Preston; Felix Grundy, Attorney-General; John Bell, Union candidate for the presidency in 1860, and James K. Polk, President of the United States.

This catalogue of illustrious statesmen, judges, senators, soldiers, and presidents is an oration in itself, and tells the story of the contributions made by the men of the Scotch-Irish race to the progress, power, and prosperity of our country.

THE NEW ORLEANS RACES.

Mt. Washington and Nabob Only Winners Approaching Favoritism.

NEW ORLEANS, March 4.—The weather was fine, but the track was lumpy to-day. Mount Washington was the only winner, except Nabob, who approached favoritism, and he was on even terms with Van Brunt in his race.

First race—six furlongs—Belle of Fordham (5 to 1) won, Scrivener (12 to 1 and 4 to 1) second, and Duchess of York (20 to 1) third. Time, 1:19. Wolford fell turning into the stretch.

Second race—for 2-year-olds, half a mile—Nellie Prince (8 to 1) won, Pansy H. (13 to 5 and even) second, and Lafayette (15 to 1) third. Time, :52.

Third race—one mile—Mount Washington (7 to 2) won, Van Brunt (7 to 2 and 3 to 2) second, and Rockwood (10 to 1) third. Time, 1:48.

Fourth race—handicap, one mile—Elkin (9 to 1) won, David (even and 10 to 2) second, and Tabouret (8 to 1) third. Time, 1:35 1-2.

Fifth race—seven furlorgs—Nabob (7 to 10) won, Domsie (4 to 1 and 8 to 5) second, and The Doctor (15 to 1) third. Time, 1:33.

Sixth race—six and a half furlongs—Little Billy (4 to 1) won, Mitt Boykin (2 to 1 and 4 to 5) second, and Little Music (12 to 1) third. Time, 1:24.

SHERIFF MARTIN'S TRIAL.

The Taking of Testimony Concluded. Argument Begins To-Day.

WILKESBARRE, PA., March 4.—The taking of testimony in the trial of Sheriff Martin and his deputies was concluded to-day.

When the defence closed the Commonwealth introduced a number of witnesses in rebuttal. Counsel for the defence then asked the Court to charge the jury on a number of points, the gist of which was that no evidence had been introduced which would warrant a finding that the defendants were an unlawful assemblage; also, that the evidence had failed to identify the party who shot Mike Schlack, as charged in the indictment. Judge Woodward will pass upon these points later. Argument will begin to-morrow.

Why suffer with asthma when the famous Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will cure you?

"KID" M'COY WINS.

HE KNOCKS OUT NICK BURLEY IN THE SECOND ROUND.

A HIGHLY-EXCITING CONTEST.

It Is Pulled Off in Disregard of the Governor's Instructions—A Large Attendance—The "Kid" in Hiding—Burley to Follow.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., March 4.—"Kid" McCoy, champion middle-weight pugilist of the world, met and defeated Nick Burley, of California, in the arena at Whittington Park to-day. The Californian was knocked out in the second round.

The fight was the most exciting and interesting ever witnessed in this city.

The fact that it was pulled off in disregard of the Governor's instructions increased the general interest in the contest.

The large attendance, 2,000 persons being present, surprised everybody, in view of the fact that the fight had been declared off yesterday. Though the promoters were busily engaged in arranging for the affair yesterday evening, their work was done so quietly that no one knew the fight would take place until a late hour last night, and then only a very few.

OFFICIALS OUTGENERALED.

Prosecuting-Attorney Cloud, who had been ordered here by the Governor from Benton, to stop the contest, returned yesterday, after having satisfied himself that it would not take place. The Sheriff failed to put in an appearance until the fight was over.

Governor Jones wired the officials of the Hot Springs railroad to hold the train at Malvern so that he could reach the city on a special train, but his instructions were either ignored or misc