

# THE NATION'S LEADING STATESMEN WRITE ON "THE MAINE"

## Prominent Members of the United States Senate Declare That They Will Stand by the President in any Demand He May Make on Spain, If It Is Officially Decided That the Maine Was Blown Up

### GOV. LON V. STEPHENS:

"I believe every patriotic and loyal citizen of the United States presents in his bosom all the insinuations of the Spanish press that the officers and sailors of the ill-fated Maine were derelict in duty, cowardly in behavior and indolent in nature. This is the first aspersion cast upon the valor of American seamen, and such a slander could only emanate from those who are themselves guilty; from a people who were once the master of the high seas and almost had Europe at their feet, but now have degenerated into a sluggish class, whose only occupations are the amusements of the cockpit, the bull ring, and an all-day siesta under the orange trees. Surely none of the blood of Charles V. or Philip II. is coursing through the veins of the miserable conspirators who so basely defiled the honor of their country in the ignominious treachery which resulted in the untimely death of 260 brave sailors. I am informed that these men had been subjected to a drill and discipline unsurpassable by those of any battleship, were skilled in the science of naval warfare, and were eager to surrender their lives in sacrifice for the preservation of their country's honor.

"Little did they expect that their lives would be blotted out by reason of a foul plot, and their memories should be the more revered and respected by our sympathetic nation. Of the bravery displayed by Orderly Anthony and the coolness showed by Captain Sigsbee, we Missourians doff our hats with admiration, and express the hope that higher honors are awaiting them for the future. May all the survivors of the unfortunate Maine live long and prosperous, but if disaster should, in the course of events, overtake them, let them succumb on an honorable battlefield, and not as victims of ignominious treachery. LON V. STEPHENS, Governor of Missouri."

### GOVERNOR BLOXHAM:

"My personal opinion on the heroism displayed by the officers and sailors of the Maine is that the officers and sailors of the battleship Maine did their full duty. Duty thus performed is all that can be done. Patriotism can ask no more. "While honoring the survivors, let us enshrine in our hearts the memory of the dead, and rear a monument which, with tongueless eloquence, shall forever tell the story of their country's service, and at the post of duty. W. D. BLOXHAM, Governor of Florida."

### GOV. LLEWELLYN POWERS:

"I have been on board of several of the warships of the United States during the past summer. I had the honor of receiving Admiral Sigsbee when in Portland, and also when visiting his fleet. "I do not believe that there is one particle of foundation for the statement that there is a lack of discipline in the navy of the United States. I believe we have as intrepid, gallant and competent officers and as brave and trustworthy men as any navy in the world. LLEWELLYN POWERS, Governor of Maine."

### SENATOR W. A. HARRIS:

"The coolness, courage and devotion to duty displayed by the officers and men of the Maine in the face of the sudden and terrific catastrophe will forever remain an immortal tribute to the honor and glory of our country which should be preserved in story and in song for all time. "If it should be officially decided to have been the result of Spanish treachery, I should not be satisfied with less than the complete expulsion of every vestige of Spanish power from Cuba, the surrender of two of her best battleships, and such an indemnity for officers and men that no Spaniard would forget it in a hundred years. This should be the basis of the demand for the sake of peace and regard for the innocent, but I should hardly feel sorry should the gods make Spain mad enough to refuse. "The president cannot go so far or so severe but that I will heartily support him, nor will I be satisfied with less than indicated. W. A. HARRIS."

### SENATOR FRANK J. CANNON:

"Our martyrs of the Maine did not die in vain. The intrepidity with which they sailed into the hell of Havana waters, and the glorious courage with which they faced the death-dealing crash, are ours forevermore. F. J. CANNON."

### SENATOR FRANCIS E. WARREN:

"Referring to the melancholy fate of the battleship Maine, if the heroic officers and sailors of that unfortunate ship are proven to be the victims of treachery, full reparation must be demanded. The president will be expected by the people of this country to act immediately and firmly. I believe he will so act, and he will have the almost solid support of congress and the country. "While it is right that judgment should be suspended and excitement suppressed until the facts are known, yet, if occasion requires, action should be quickly had and the United States alone should make and enforce the terms. FRANCIS E. WARREN."

### SENATOR W. P. FRYE:

"There is no nation on earth on whose naval ships such strict discipline is maintained as on ours. From the earliest days of the republic down to the present our officers and sailors have displayed marvelous heroism wherever heroism was demanded. "Captain Sigsbee, living, has erected his own monument. Both he and his sailors, living and dead, have enshrined themselves in the hearts of their countrymen. W. P. FRYE."

### SENATOR GEORGE W. M'BRIDE:

"The conduct of the officers and seamen of the battleship Maine at the time of the explosion that wrecked that vessel and destroyed the lives of hundreds of American sailors is the strongest refutation of the unfounded imputation made by General Weyler and others that there was laxity of discipline or neglect of duty on that ship. Every known incident of their behavior during the terrible catastrophe in Havana harbor showed a state of perfect discipline, of obedience to orders and of self-control on the part of both officers and men, proving that they worthily maintained the high and honorable traditions of the American navy. GEO. W. M'BRIDE."

### SENATOR MARION BUTLER:

"The charge made by General Weyler and re-echoed by some Tory Americans that the Maine was destroyed by an accident due to the indolence, carelessness

and want of discipline of the officers and crew of that vessel is clearly untrue and positively absurd. If the officers of the Maine were responsible for any carelessness it was in not dredging the harbor immediately under the Maine to see whether or not Spanish officers had purposely located the vessel over a mine formerly planted to blow her up. The facts will soon be officially made known. I feel sure that they will not only vindicate the officers of the Maine from such a charge, but will at the same time place the responsibility for this horrible and most foul deed where it properly belongs, and then such action must promptly be taken as becomes Americans. MARION BUTLER."

### SENATOR STEVE B. ELKINS:

"I beg to state that I am ready to follow and stand by the president in any course he may pursue towards Spain, growing out of the blowing up of the Maine, and out of the Cuban situation. So far as the facts are disclosed, I do not think there is any ground for war. War could only come about on our being

satisfied that Spain was a party to the blowing up of the Maine, which I do not believe. I fully believe the government of Spain will be willing to do whatever is right in the premises by way of apology and indemnity touching this disaster, if any responsibility should attach under international law or otherwise. S. B. ELKINS."

### EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON:

"I beg to be excused from offering any contribution upon the subject. I do not care to discuss in any of its phases the terrible tragedy that was recently enacted in the harbor of Havana at this time. BENJAMIN HARRISON."

### SENATOR C. J. FAULKNER:

"I have so far refused to be interviewed on the subject of the Maine disaster. I am unwilling to give an opinion on a subject touching which I have such indelible information. I have entire confidence in the board of naval officers appointed to investigate this great calamity, and whatever may be my opinion on this subject with the limited information now in my possession will

yield at once to the verdict of that board. "I can assure you that congress, in my opinion, will uphold and sustain the president in any action he may take to maintain the honor and dignity of this nation in this, or any other matter. "The conduct of the officers and men on the Maine has shown them to be possessed with those high qualities that made our earlier navy so conspicuous. CHAS. J. FAULKNER."

### SENATOR WILLIAM J. DEBOE:

"I fully realize the critical situation of affairs now existing on account of the destruction of the warship Maine, as well as the relations existing between the United States and Spain in relation to Cuba. "While I think Spain has been and is doing a great injustice to the people of Cuba, and that this government ought to have recognized the belligerency of Cuba some time ago, we should now be very cautious as to any action in this matter. If there has been any treachery on the part of the Spanish government in the destruction of the

Maine, Spain must and will be held responsible. I shall stand by whatever action the president may take in the matter, as I have unlimited confidence in his patriotism and ability to manage affairs of this character. "The American people can ever be proud of the bravery and heroism of the lamented sailors who perished on the Maine. WM. J. DEBOE."

### SENATOR ALLEN:

"I do not deem it wise at this time to say what should be done in the event the wreck of the Maine may be proved to be the work of design. That will be for the administration, and not for congress, to determine, in the first instance. I have thus far studiously refrained from expressing an opinion in advance of the present inquiry being made public. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." It will be ample time for congress to speak authoritatively and definitely when the indisputable facts are made known. I will not anticipate what should be done after an uncertain event, or one that may never happen. WILLIAM V. ALLEN."

### SENATOR J. H. KYLE:

"As a loyal American, I have only words of praise for the heroes whose lives were sacrificed by the Maine disaster. As a nation, we should reverse their memory. The heroism and presence of mind displayed by privates as well as officers show them worthy examples of the American navy. Should this prove to be traceable to Spanish treachery, the president will be justified in maintaining the honor of our nation, even at the cost of war, and the people will give him loyal support. JAMES H. KYLE."

### SENATOR R. R. KENNEY:

"I have no opinion as to the loss of the Maine, nor could I have until informed by the result of the official examination. "The sailors of the Maine at the time of her loss were in every sense true American boys—brave and heroic, they gave their lives to the nation. "If it is demonstrated by the investigation that there was treachery, then there is no one who would exact repara-

tion sooner than I, and it would have to be of such a character as to leave no doubt as to its measuring up to the full honor of the nation. RICHARD R. KENNEY."

### SENATOR BURROWS:

"I feel as though there was not much to be said in relation to the Maine disaster until the report of the board in relation to the cause of the disaster shall be received. If that report should disclose that the destruction of the ship was caused from within, then, of course, neither the Spanish government nor anyone else outside of our own people would be held responsible. On the other hand, if it should be proved that the Spanish government was in any way responsible therefor, the situation would become more serious. It is difficult, however, to express an opinion without a thorough knowledge of all the facts, and I think it is wise and prudent to withhold final judgment or any expression of opinion as to the cause of the disaster until the report of the board is received. I am sure the administration will not hesitate for a moment when the facts are known to do whatever may be necessary to maintain the dignity and preserve the rights of the American nation. J. C. BURROWS."

### SENATOR MORRILL:

"There is no lack of patriotism on the part of any senator, and while we wish for war, all desire peace in Cuba, and will unanimously support the president in maintaining the honor of our country. JUSTIN S. MORRILL."

### SENATOR EUGENE HALE:

"Everything that we know goes to show that the conduct of officers and men on board the ill-fated Maine was all that could be wished for. I do not believe for a moment that there is any truth in the charge that there is a lack of discipline or lack of discipline on board the ship. The whole country should feel that all through the melancholy affair every man did his duty. EUGENE HALE."

### SENATOR W. E. MASON:

"There is absolutely no foundation for the statement of Weyler, that the men on the Maine were either careless or indolent. Captain Sigsbee showed himself to be remarkably cool, and his asking for a suspension of public opinion as all speak to his credit. Whatever the evidence may show as to what caused the accident, it is undoubtedly true that the officers and men on board the Maine did their whole duty. WILLIAM E. MASON."

### GOVERNOR G. W. ATKINSON:

"The charge made by General Weyler, who is naturally our enemy, that the men on the ill-fated Maine were guilty of indolence is untrue and libelous. I regard the commander of the ship as a man of unusual coolness and bravery. His conservative course since his vessel went down proves him to be a man of extraordinary ability. Under the circumstances it was impossible to save the lives of the men who were in the hold of the vessel, nor was it possible to prevent the accident by the officers of the ship. "From the first, I have felt that there was foul play—not by Spanish officials, but by some crank like Gulteau, who doubtless felt that it was his duty to 'remove' the Maine from active service in our navy. I may be wrong in this premise, but I nevertheless believe it; I can hardly see how it was possible for the explosion to occur from causes wholly within. At any event, the people of our country will not soon forget the men who went down on the Maine. I trust a massive monument will be erected at Washington to perpetuate their valor. G. W. ATKINSON, Governor of West Virginia."

### REPRESENTATIVE M. BULL:

"I am personally acquainted with Captain Sigsbee and many officers of the ill-fated Maine, and the high opinion in which I have always held them was more than confirmed by the reports of their splendid conduct at the time of and since the explosion. I regard Captain Sigsbee as one of the brainiest, and as well as one of the most capable officers that ever commanded a vessel, and his advice to the American people, to suspend judgment as to the cause of the explosion until officially ascertained showed a depth of foresight so spontaneous and wise and given under such harassing circumstances as to stamp him not only as a great commander, but as a diplomat and man of superior judgment. His subordinates who survived the terrible catastrophe followed in their conduct the influence of the example set them by their brave commander, supplemented by their own inherent courage and well-disciplined education. "The charge that these brave men were guilty of indolence, which caused the explosion, is utterly unworthy of a moment's consideration. "Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt deserve, in my opinion, the highest commendation that can be bestowed upon them for their masterly conduct of affairs at home in connection with the disaster. While all sorts of rumors and sensational stories have had the effect of working the nation up into a high pitch of excitement, and demands have been made upon the administration for radical hasty retaliatory measures in advance of the receipt of facts upon which to base any action, those gentlemen and the able officers under them have pursued a dignified, statesmanlike and conservative policy, prompt as the circumstances would permit, yet vigorous, sound and businesslike, which, in my opinion, are laid before the American people, cannot help but impress them with the wisdom of the course taken by the navy department. "Whatever the results of the pending investigation may show, I feel sure that the verdict of the American people will be that the navy department, from its able head down to the humblest marine, is worthy of the most absolute confidence and faith, and in any crisis can be depended upon to uphold the dignity and honor of this great nation, either by the application of peaceful methods or by the stern alternative of war. MELVILLE BULL."

### CONGRESSMAN W. R. ELLIS:

"I have only words of praise for the heroism and courage displayed by the officers and sailors of the Maine, and regard any allegation made by anyone that there was any display of indolence or want of courage on the part of either officers or sailors as wholly unwarranted and untrue. W. R. ELLIS."



### LION HUNTING

Adventures With the King of Beasts in Africa  
The South African papers contain several accounts which indicate that in Rhodesia and the neighborhood of the Zambesi the "king of beasts" is by no means quite extinct yet. J. C. Bick, a brother-in-law of "Scout" Burnham, writes as follows from the Geelong mine: "I was coming round the base of a little rocky hill when I heard, as I thought, some lions grunting up on a little 'bench' jutting out from this hill. I cocked the old gun, slapped Bess to keep her quiet, and climbed up on to the bench, expecting to see a big old bear, and all ready to take a snap shot if he ran. When I got up there I could see nothing, so I stepped up on a big log which was lying across the path. Her mouth was open, and the cub appeared to be trying to get into it. I am sure her mouth looked big enough. She was facing me, with her head up, when I first saw her, but just as I covered her she dropped it and gave me a good, square shot at her head. Being at very close range, I gave her a center shot with a hollow bullet. She never got on her feet. She uttered

one snarl, and, after partially rising, rolled over without kicking. "Next morning John Ingram and I started back with four blacks. We got there before sunrise and found everything O. K. I saw by the spoor that the cubs were still with her. After skinning her, we went up the kopje and found two of the cubs. Then the fun began. The first one we ran out was a male and a scrapper, and by the way he roared and switched his tail you would have thought he was papa. We ran him down the kopje and across a little flat about 100 yards, and about 100 yards up another kopje. Bess grabbed him by the ear, and they both rolled clear to the bot-

tom, the pup (Gwanda) trying to get a hold, the negroes yelling, and the little lion roaring for all he was worth. We tore off our shirts and coats and threw them over the lion, and finally, by getting on top of him, succeeded in tying his legs. We then took him back to the old one and tied him. We afterward went up in the kopje and caught a cub lioness. She had taken a stand in a crevice of rock, and the dogs could not tackle her. With a short lasso and a forked stick we got her out. The cubs are beauties and just the right age. It requires half a day to sing the national hymns of China.

### GERMAN CYCLIST CLEVER

Teuton Had a Simple Way to Ride Down a Steep Cliff  
"We Americans traveling abroad are apt to be very proud of our reputation for cleverness," said a tourist who went bicycling in Europe last summer. "And no doubt we have reason to be. But I am going to tell you how I had some of the conceit taken out of me: "We were going through Switzerland, and had reached the close of the first day's descent toward Geneva. The road had been too steep to coast without the aid of a

### McKinley Out of Line

brake, and as we were afraid to use our brakes for fear our tires would not last us through our trip, we back-pedaled all the way. "As we were sitting after supper on the verandah of the lodge discussing the fatigue of our unusual exercise, and dreading the morrow, which meant more of the same sort, our attention was suddenly called to a cloud of dust descending the mountain side. Then we saw a cyclist roasting as nice as you please, towing a good-sized sapling, which acted as an effective brake, without injury to the tires. One of the boys ejaculated: "Well! Why didn't we think of that?" The rest were

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simply dumb. That man was a German. I now take off my hat to our German brethren of the wheel."—Chicago Chronicle.

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The senate of the state of Iowa, largely Republican, has just voted down a resolution endorsing Hawaiian annexation. It is noteworthy that wherever and whenever an opportunity is given for popular or legislative expression Hawaiian annexation is kicked out of court. The people want none of it. President McKinley will be converted eventually.—Pittsburgh Post.