

THE HERALD

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SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1898

MADRID MANEUVERS

It is perfectly obvious that it has never been the intention of the Spanish government to part with Cuba, or to tolerate interference with its affairs by the United States. Its seeming disposition to do so has been with the sole purpose of gaining time. The president only has been deceived by that "false, hypocritical Spanish suavity" which Prince Bismarck affects to so much despise.

MARTIAL STRENGTH COMPARED

Only the educated class in Spain fully appreciates what a war with the United States would comprehend, and the educated class forms a very small minority of the eighteen million people of the kingdom. Sixty-eight per cent of the population can neither read nor write.

THE Y. M. C. A.

It is a matter of surprise to the great majority of the people of Los Angeles to learn that the Young Men's Christian association, just at the time of its greatest usefulness, is seriously hampered for want of funds to carry on its work.

FOR EDUCATION OF THE DEAF

Many institutions for the education of the deaf have discarded the sign language and are devoting themselves wholly to the oral system of teaching, thus extending the intercourse of the deaf with all, instead of being confined to converse and associate, practically, with only those who have mastered the sign language.

POSSIBILITIES REMOTE

Tomorrow's developments will doubtless end the nation's suspense and definitely determine the course of this government. The most aggressive steps are likely to be taken, but in what direction may not be known until congress convenes.

THE PASSION PLAY

It has come at last. The Passion play has a press agent. The Herald is in receipt of a neatly worded circular from Selzach, Switzerland, asking it to announce that the Passion play will be reproduced in that village next summer.

THE DANISH ISLANDS

All the arguments advanced against the annexation of Hawaii or Cuba apply with equal force to the proposed acquisition of the Danish islands in the West Indies. Their purchase at this time can only be justified as a war necessity, and

recently declared that the insurgents would never consent to a compromise upon a money basis.

Simultaneously with the rejection by the Sagasta ministry of the demands of the Washington government, a radical change in the Cuban program was inaugurated, comprehending the withdrawal of the concentration order and a movement looking to the relief of the reconcentrados. May not the Madrid authorities, taking advantage of the delay in action by the Washington government, make terms with Gomez along the lines suggested by himself, and thus leave the United States without cause for war, unless that cause shall be found in the real facts regarding responsibility for the Maine disaster, which facts neither congress nor the people believe have yet been given publicity?

The other contingency, possible, yet quite as remote, is European interference—not the interference hoped for by Spain, but taking the form of a joint appeal to Sagasta and the queen regent to accept the terms imposed by the United States, as the best that will be offered.

Germany and Austria are dynastically sympathetic; the pope is being impelled by religious considerations; France is deeply concerned in a financial way. All Europe wants peace. It can have it by persuading Spain to accept the inevitable. May it not be impelled to act while the issue is suspended upon the single thread?

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duced by a company of two hundred and fifty people, consisting of actors, singers and musicians; that "the character of the play has been improved by the addition of several new dramatic scenes." As if anything could be added to such an incident!

Thus has the decadency of the Passion play idea been manifested in a most offensive way. The Swiss enterprise, with its bold reaching out after the almighty dollar and its borrowing of modern theatrical methods, should not be confounded with the famous presentation at Ober-Ammergau, which, while it has not altogether withstood the attack of modern innovations, is still free, to a very large degree, from the repugnant, almost sacrilegious features that mark its imitators.

Ober-Ammergau is a village of Upper Bavaria, with a population of about one thousand one hundred, the people being principally engaged in wood-carving. The Passion play originated in a vow taken by the population in 1634 to perform it every ten years, in the event of their escape from the plague, which then prevailed.

Everybody who has attended a performance of the Passion play at this Bavarian village has been greatly impressed by the sincerity and ability with which it has been performed by the simple and uneducated villagers. The fame of the presentation has spread far and wide, and it has had a number of imitations, all of which, like the Swiss affair, have been mere sordid, money-making enterprises. It will be recalled that a few years ago a plan was entered upon to produce the Passion play in New York city; but public sentiment was so much against the idea that it was abandoned in its incipency.

The Swiss performance may catch a few vulgar tourists who wish to be able to say that they have seen a Passion play, but that is all. A Passion play with a press agent is a thing to be regarded with suspicion.

The senate committee on foreign relations has taken up the Maine investigation where the naval board left off, and it is hinted that some startling information, bearing upon the cause of the explosion and pointing to the responsible source, has already been unearthed. If this statement is verified the Maine incident is likely to be decidedly in evidence in the report of the committee to be presented to congress this week. It is at all events not likely soon to lapse into a reminiscence.

An esteemed Republican contemporary accuses Representative Bailey of unpatriotically attempting to drag politics into the treatment of the Cuban question in the house. This, in view of the obvious determination of a partisan Republican majority to rule out a Cuban resolution which perfectly corresponded with their sentiments, simply because it had been offered by a Democrat, is suggestively humorous.

The court of cassation has quashed the sentence of fine and imprisonment imposed upon M. Zola, and granted him a new trial before another court. The decree is based upon a technicality, but it is safe to assume that the distinguished gentleman will not again be sent to prison.

Spain has no official regrets to express that the Maine was blown up in one of its harbors. The soft phrases which struck such a tender chord in the president's breast and found echo in his late message, were only unofficial Spanish utterances, not to be taken seriously.

An important amendment to the naval appropriation bill, which has just passed the house, increases the number of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers to be constructed from twelve to twenty-four. The Lord is still supposed to fight on the side of the heaviest battalions.

Between the dual menace of the Carlists and the Yankees, the Spanish royal family is said to be preparing for flight. The report is probably premature, yet that is the historical alternative when a monarchy begins to fall to pieces.

The "good offices" of France, in behalf of peace, having been tendered and respectfully declined, the French people will have naught to do but lie low and see us wallop their greatest and most numerous creditors.

The commander of the Spanish torpedo fleet may well consider whether he can find a healthier summer resort than Cape Verde islands. The temperature on this side of the Atlantic appears to be rising rapidly.

In the event of war Spanish fours will sink lower than the hull of the Maine in twenty-four hours. They took a big tumble yesterday on the London market.

Probably Mr. Vanderbilt thinks there will be time to build a battleship to his order before war is declared. But, if so, he may have to guess again.

General Weyler says that in the event of war he will go at once to Cuba. Good! It will be a little more convenient to get at him.

All of the states whose legislatures are in session have made appropriations to put their militia on a war footing.

As minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary, the Infanta Eulalie has not been a brilliant success.

We trust President Dole will not take advantage of us on our busy day and seize the country.

One thing is certain: This will be the last Sunday of suspense.

"Cuba shall be free!" This is official, final and irrevocable.

THE HERALD'S MUSE

How Long?
By the side of a desolate hamlet,
In the midst of a fertile vale,
A manly form is dying,
With features drawn and pale;
Dying of slow starvation,
By the side of a starving wife;
Dying beside a starving child,
Crying for bread and for life.

Weeping—suffering—dying—
In a ruined, desolate place!
Can you read the untold agony
That shows in that human face?
Can you see the hopes that are blighted?
Can you feel the grinding pain?
Can you know the terrible dread of death,
And the yearning to live again?

Have you ever loved a human soul?
Have you ever suffered pain?
Have you ever felt the need of help,
And called upon God in vain?
Have you ever lost a child you loved,
Or buried a loving wife?
If you have, you may know the value
Of a suffering human life.

When you meet the God that made you,
Can you tell him that your life
Was more to him than the Cuban man
And his dying child and wife?
Was more to the Father of all
Than another human life?
Was more than the helpless, starving ones,
Who died 'midst useless strife?

The Cuban man is dying
In the midst of a fertile land—
How long will the praying Christian
Withhold the helping hand?
How long will the praying statesman,
Who kneels in his cushioned pew,
Withhold our hands from helping
For the sake of a favored few?

How many millions of Spanish bonds
Will pay for a Cuban's starving wife?
How many millions of Spanish trade
Will pay for a disregard of life?
For the hardened heart that passes them
By—
And measures their lives by the measure
Of greed.

Will be hardened still when it hear the cry
Of its country in the hour of need. C. D.

Invocation
(In behalf of Cuban sufferers and the Maine martyrs.)
Triune Omnipotence, to thee we cry;
Supreme o'er heaven and hell, o'er earth and sky;
Thyself make known; thy power and might bring nigh;
Display thy sovereignty.

Dispel the clouds of want and woe that lower;
Break down the bulwarks of oppression's power;
Be to the crushed a strong and mighty tower;
Grant Cuba liberty!

Inspire true hearts that give thee homage, praise;
Defend the ranks that high thy standard raise;
Lead on to triumph through the conflict's maze;
Direct their destiny!

The traitor hearts that lurk within the land,
The miscreant ones that scorn thy guiding hand,
Cast them aside; save by thy chosen band,
And rule in majesty!

And those who fall while fighting thus for thee,
Baptizing with their blood the land or sea,
Crowned victors, 'mid thy hosts, grant they may be,
Renowned through loyalty!
CARRIE C. SHARP.
Oceanside, March 31, 1898.

The Soldier's Dream
Comrades, did you hear the rumpus?
There's excitement everywhere,
There are wigs upon the greensward and
There's murder in the air;
For the Done have sworn to lick us, though
They haven't got a soul,
But they'll get it like the chickens—comrades, that's 'twix me and you!

See the mighty preparations—ev'ry weapon's shining bright;
Lectric guns are good and ready—boys are speaking for a fight;
And Old Glory flutters o'er us as if longing for the glee—
Won't there be some hot tangles when the Grandees cross the sea!

And when sounds the call to arms we'll have willing hearts again,
From the cities and the hill-sides, and the cowboys from the plain;
Then to notes of Yankee Doodle we'll go dancing to the fray,
As we did 'neath Lee or Sherman when we wore the blue or gray.

Tho' we're somewhat old and crippled, yet we'll rally with our sons,
For our cause today's as noble as was that of Washington's;
So you get your belts and knapsacks and you follow glory's call;
If we'll have a Spanish picnic we'll play concerts at the ball.
T. D. S.
Los Angeles, March 31, 1898.

By War If Necessary
The people of Cuba are now, and for these many years have been, deprived of their rights and most cruelly and inhumanly treated. In a parallel case the so-called Christian nations of Europe stood calmly by while the unspeakable Turk murdered and outraged the unfortunate Armenians. For this they have been condemned by the best sentiment of the civilized world. Shall the United States now emulate England and Germany and allow a neighboring people to be similarly treated? After years of most cruel warfare, Spain has failed to enforce her claims and put down the rebellion, and the question is, shall she be allowed to continue indefinitely a war of extermination against her unfortunate subjects?

Our sympathies are with all oppressed peoples, and whether the oppressor be Protestant England, Mohammedan Turkey or Catholic Spain, our duty in the premises is not changed. The Tidings believes that the United States should at once put a stop to this murderous state of affairs, even though she be compelled to wage war to do it.—Los Angeles Tidings (Catholic).

Colorado Is Willing
Colorado is willing to join California in the golden jubilee of its admission to the union, if California will promise to reciprocate when Colorado shall hold its silver jubilee.—Denver Republican.

Russia as a Wine Producer
Russia already ranks as sixth among the wine-producing countries of the world.

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GOOD TASTE IN DRESS

