

This Paper not to be taken from the Library.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT HOUSECLEANING WILL BE THOROUGH AND NO MERCY WILL BE SHOWN THE GUILTY, DECLARES PAYNE

THE investigation will continue, and if any wrong-doing is disclosed the parties guilty of such wrong-doing will be summarily dealt with. If the system or method of doing business in the department is faulty, the proper remedies will be applied without fear or favor. I inaugurated the investigation with the determination that it should be exhaustive.—Statement by Postmaster General Payne.

Every Division Is to Be Carefully Overhauled.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Postmaster General Payne, who returned to-day from his voyage to the West Indies, gave out a statement in which he announced that the investigation of the affairs of the Postoffice Department would be continued and that any persons found guilty of wrongdoing would be dealt with summarily. The statement follows: "During the months of January and February information and reports reached me which I deemed it for the public interest to investigate and I personally gathered such information and facts as would enable the proper officers of the department to undertake a thorough investigation as to the truth or falsity of these reports. I directed Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow to take the proper steps to institute the necessary inquiry, using for that purpose the postoffice inspector's division and such other methods as would thoroughly

CHINA'S IRE SPEEDS PLAN TO MASSACRE

Gigantic Conspiracy Against Foreigners.

British Army Officer Predicts Fearful Slaughter.

Empress Dowager Is Secretly Preparing for Tremendous War.

Special Dispatch to The Call. TACOMA, Wash., April 12.—"Unless the Empress Dowager dies or becomes insane the Imperial Chinese army will be turned against foreigners within the next five years and there will be a massacre beside which the Boxer uprising was child's play."

This is the statement made by Captain Farmer of the Twentieth Fusilier British Infantry Regiment, who is returning home after five years' service in China. He declares that the entire Chinese Government, from the Empress down, is preparing for war. The armed forces have been doubled and are still being increased in every province.

Arms and ammunition are being purchased wherever possible in quantities and stored in safe places for future use. Five great arsenals, working to their utmost capacity, are being maintained by the interior provinces. Reform officials are being deposed as Governors and Viceroys, and in their places are installed reactionaries who will carry out the Empress' bloodthirsty policy without hesitation.

Captain Farmer says the Chinese people are being taxed to the utmost under the pretense that the money is necessary for paying indemnity. Only a portion of it is so used. The balance is being converted into the manufacture and purchase of arms and ammunition. Among military men serving in China the Empress' pretended friendship for Mrs. Conger is but a clever ruse to gain time to accomplish her end. When the time is ripe, in Farmer's opinion, the treaty ports of Tientsin, Chefoo, Amoy and even Shanghai will be attacked by well-drilled armies and all foreigners will be killed.

FOREIGNERS IN DANGER. Quick Action of American Naval Officer Prevents an Outbreak.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Quick action and common sense treatment of a critical situation by an American naval officer in China recently saved the foreign residents in the province of Quongtung along the east bank of the Canton River from falling victims to a plot which, while directed primarily against the Manchu dynasty, inevitably would have culminated in an attack on the foreign population. This attack was averted by the precautionary measure taken by Commander F. J. Drake, commanding the United States steamer Monterey, with the assistance of the English gunboats Sandpiper and Britonmark, the French gunboat Avalanche and the German tug Shamen. The coalition known to have fomented the trouble extends to several provinces and official advices received at both the State and Navy departments show that reactionary measures on a scale far larger than is admitted either by foreign representatives or the Chinese Government have been planned by the rebels.

Hearing that a force of rebels led by Hung Chun Fook, a native of Wuchow, had planned an attack on the Viceroys and the Chinese officials of Canton during the celebration of the Chinese New Year during the nights of January 28 and 29, Commander Drake prepared to defend the foreign residents. An armed force of 3000 men had entered Canton surreptitiously several days before he learned the news and were hiding with sympathizers. As most of the foreigners and official representatives of the various nations resided in Shamen, Commander Drake first completed his plan of defense and then, to allay the excitement which prevailed, he officially informed the consulates and Chinese officials of his preparations and advised the commanders of the English, German and French gunboats of the line of action to be pursued in case Shamen Island was attacked. The foreign commanders offered their co-operation and plans were perfected to meet any trouble that developed, whether on the island or on the water.

Instead of visiting the holy temple in the inner city at midnight to offer incense the Viceroys and officials, contrary to long custom, remained in their yamens securely guarded. Around the Viceroys' yamen alone assembled 4000 armed troops. By 7 o'clock the gates to the inner city were closed and the streets cleared.

Many arrests were made that night in which some compradores were implicated and large amounts of stores were seized in houses and shops in Fong Chin and Fates, opposite Shamen. Many other indications of the intended attack were found and the officials

WEDDING GIFTS WORTH A QUARTER OF A MILLION

Friends of Miss Cathleen Neilson, Who Will Marry Reginald C. Vanderbilt To-Day, Present Magnificent Array of Rare Gems to the Bride-to-Be



PRINCIPALS IN THE FASHIONABLE WEDDING TO OCCUR AT NEWPORT TO-DAY.

experience the day before his wedding as did his bride-to-be. Both he and his brother, who is to be his best man, figured in a little difficulty in which the Sheriff played a conspicuous part and which resulted in both gentlemen being called upon to pay a fine. As an adjunct to the wedding festivities, it seems, Alfred G. and Reginald Vanderbilt were out in their automobiles on Saturday evening. It was a beautiful night, the moon shining brightly, and the temptation was too great for the brothers to resist a friendly race. It was all right as long as the young millionaires remained within the limits of their own town, Portsmouth, but as soon as they got into Middletown the people were up in arms. A special session of the police court was held by Judge Baker. Paul Sarpoll, the chauffeur, pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and costs, amounting to \$12.50. Vanderbilt was similarly treated and paid his and his chauffeur's fine.

JEWELS FOR THE BRIDE.

To-day Mrs. Neilson gave out a list of gifts to the bride, which will be shown to the guests at the wedding reception to-morrow. Among the most important are the following: Mrs. Vanderbilt, tiara and collar of diamonds; Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, chain composed of diamonds and rubies; Mrs. Neilson, emeralds and diamond tiara and brooches of diamonds and emeralds; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, stomacher of diamonds; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Payne Whitney, diamond and emerald pin; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, diamond and emerald pin. It is impossible to place an estimate on the value of the wedding gifts, but it is said that the jewels are valued at a quarter of a million dollars. Special officers are watching the gifts night and day.

The rehearsal of the wedding party was held to-night. No one was present but the immediate wedding party. This evening Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt gave a large dinner in honor of Miss Neilson.

agreed that the rebels abandoned their plot only because of Commander Drake's discovery and his prompt action and that of the foreign commanders in taking ample precautionary measures. The landing of an armed force from each of the foreign warships had been agreed upon by the American, English, German and French commanders at the first evidence of attack.

TROUBLE A LONG WAY OFF.

Captain Charles H. Stockton Discusses Conditions in China.

"The people in the south of China are the only Celestials who love fighting for their own sake and it will be among them that the next Chinese flare-up will occur." So says Captain Charles H. Stockton of the navy, late commander of the battleship Kentucky, and one of the passengers who arrived here yesterday from the Orient on the liner Hongkong Maru. Captain Stockton has just finished his two years' service on the Asiatic station and is home for a rest and assignment to

LAW BREAKS MARITAL TIE IN SOCIETY

Divorce Is Granted Mrs. Louise La Montagne.

Wife Makes Desertion the Basis of Her Complaint.

Court Proceedings a Great Surprise to the Elite of New York.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NAPA, April 13.—Mrs. Louise C. La Montagne was to-day granted a divorce from Ernest C. La Montagne by Superior Judge Gestord. The custody of their 9-year-old son, Edward Clinton La Montagne, was given to the mother, with directions that the father may have permission to see the child for three hours every Sunday and at such other times as the parties may agree upon.

It was further ordered that when the defendant or the plaintiff and child are absent from New York City or are sojourning in different places the plaintiff shall be required upon written notice to furnish to George Bird Grinnell or his successor a written statement of the whereabouts, health and condition of the child. The court reserved the right to modify the decree so far as it relates to maintenance and education of the minor.

The complaint states that the couple were married in San Francisco on February 4, 1892, and that the defendant deserted the plaintiff on September 1, 1901. Mrs. La Montagne was in court with her attorney, former Judge Charles W. Slack, of San Francisco, and two of her household servants, Mrs. Margaret Emerson and Charles Wolfe, who testified for her. The defendant is in New York. He was represented by his attorney, William M. Pierson, of San Francisco. Mr. Pierson took no part in the examination of witnesses. The defendant's answer admitted all the allegations of the complaint except that of abandonment. Technical desertion was proved.

Mrs. La Montagne is a daughter of Mrs. Major Darling, formerly Mrs. Clara Catherwood, and is a granddaughter of the late Judge S. Clinton Hastings. For the past year she has been living at her mother's country place near Rutherford, Napa County.

SURPRISE IN THE EAST.

Society People in New York Wonder at the News.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The San Francisco dispatch to-night, stating that Mrs. Louise Catherwood La Montagne had been granted a divorce from her husband, Ernest C. La Montagne, of New York, came as a surprise to many, who, while knowing that the La Montagnes had been living apart for more than a year, were not aware that a divorce action had been started.

When announcement was made in February, 1902, that Mrs. La Montagne had left her husband, it was stated that she intended some day to institute proceedings for divorce, but no declaration was ever publicly made that such a proceeding had been begun. Society in this city was astonished when it was learned that a serious disagreement had arisen between them and that all efforts of their friends to bring about a reconciliation had failed. For nearly ten years they had lived happily.

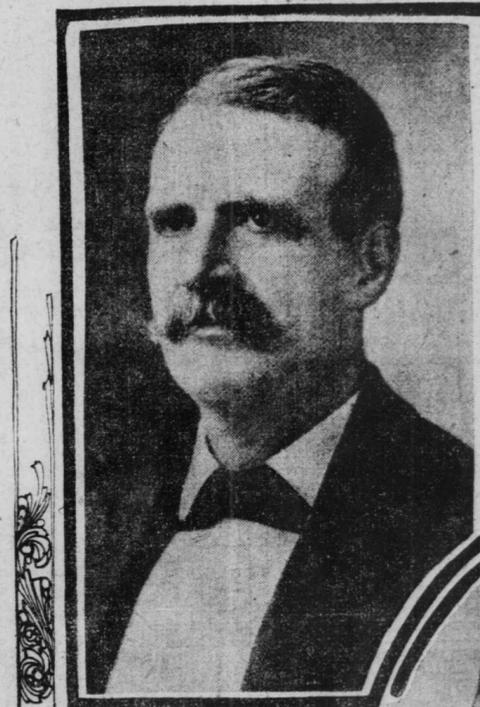
Mrs. La Montagne was Miss Louise Catherwood, eldest daughter of Mrs. Clara Catherwood of San Francisco and granddaughter of Judge Hastings, a social favorite in her native city and noted for her beauty, as well as her charming personality. Her marriage on February 4, 1892, to Mr. La Montagne, a widely acquainted club member in New York, was one of the most brilliant society events of years on the Pacific Coast and was attended by many representative folks, both from New York and San Francisco. The ceremony was performed in St. Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Riordan. Coming to New York, they made their home at 114 East Thirtieth street, which during the few succeeding years was the gathering place of the fashionable society set.

Mrs. La Montagne became the leader of her set and achieved popularity as a graceful hostess. She and her husband spent considerable time at Newport and in Europe and in the estimation of all who came in contact with them were perfectly mated and quite happy in their wedded life.

After it became known that troubles had arisen it was stated that the first serious misunderstanding occurred in Paris in 1901 while they were visiting there. What this difficulty was was not made public, but support was given to the rumor by the fact that Mr. La Montagne came home six weeks before his wife returned. The rupture seemingly was patched up, because after the return of Mrs. La Montagne the home was reopened and receptions were held there as usual.

On February 11, 1902, however, it was

Continued on Page 3, Column 2.



POSTMASTER GENERAL HENRY C. PAYNE.



GEORGE W. DEAVERS.



AUGUST W. MACHEN.

HISSES FOR BRYAN AT A GATHERING OF TAMMANYITES

Cleveland's Name Is Cheered and Hill's Received Coldly.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Eight hundred Tammany Hall Democrats were surfeited with sensations to-night at the Jefferson banquet given by the Tammany Hall general committee of Bronx in Morrisania Hall. Among other letters of regret was one from Grover Cleveland, which was cheered by all the diners, the name of the former President being hailed as that of the next President.

For a letter from former Senator David B. Hill there were scant cheers and no enthusiasm.

For a letter written by William J. Bryan there was silence, but when Frank Campbell, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, announced that Mr. Bryan had received a special envoy last fall who had attempted to persuade him to stop the defection from the regular Democratic ticket in this State and had failed, and when the account of Mr. Bryan, hisses were heard in various parts of the banquet hall.

In his letter, written from Wolferts Roost, former Senator Hill announced that "a united Democracy can win the great contest in 1904 and rout the forces of plutocracy." A few moments later in his speech, which was enthusiastically received, Attorney General Cullen held great stress and emphasis upon the remark, "Men who rave about plutocracy are not good citizens."

Edward M. Shepard in a speech of considerable length reviewed the political situation, comparing it with that of two years ago. He made the announcement that had been elected Mayor of Greater New York he should have dealt drastically with the police situation, "without waiting a year to begin." Directing his attention to the national administration, Shepard referred to President Roosevelt practically as a firebrand, who was teaching the nation to desire war.

ascertain the truth or falsity of the charges or insinuations made, and he was instructed to proceed promptly and with vigor during my absence.

NONE WILL BE SHIELDED.

"Since my return this morning I have not seen General Bristow, so that I am not advised of the progress. The investigation will continue and if any wrongdoing is disclosed the parties guilty of such wrongdoing will be summarily dealt with. If the system or method of doing business in the department is faulty the proper remedies will be applied without fear or favor. I inaugurated the investigation with the determination that it should be exhaustive. It is proper for me to add that I laid before the President the information which I had in my possession and that he fully approved of the action proposed by me."

At the same time Payne's purpose is to give fair and just treatment to all concerned and not to act arbitrarily and with undue haste. For that reason it can be said that no immediate changes of importance in the personnel of the service are now contemplated and developments will depend largely on the report to be made by Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow on the investigation, although developments meantime may necessitate some deviation from this policy.

PROGRESS WILL BE SLOW.

Postmaster General Payne did not reach the department until 4 o'clock this afternoon. A score of newspaper men were awaiting him with inquiries concerning the Postoffice Department investigation, but he parried all questions with remarks on his trip to the West Indies. Payne later summoned a number of officers of the department and held short consultations with them respecting postal affairs. About an hour later he gave out his statement. Subsequently he held an extended interview with Bristow.

It is learned that several weeks will elapse before the postoffice inspectors will be able to complete their work. When they have finished Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow will prepare a comprehensive report on the entire subject. It is probable that some parts of his report will be withheld from publication.

Postoffice Inspector Fosner of the Northwestern division, who was director general of posts of Cuba from the time of Rathbone's dismissal to the close of the American regime in the island, is the principal assistant of Bristow and Chief Inspector Cochran in the actual handling of the work. Postoffice Inspector Thorpe of New York and others have been brought in from the field.

NAMES PREMIER'S SON AS PRINCIPAL IN BRIBERY PLOT

PARIS, April 13.—The correspondent of the Figaro at Grenoble telegraphs that an article is published in this morning's Petit Dauphinois, in which the editor, M. Besson, repeats his recent charges that he was approached with an offer to procure authorization for the monks of the Grande Chartreuse monastery to remain in France on payment of \$200,000.

M. Besson declares that the person on whose behalf the offer was made by the intermediary approaching him was Edgar Combes, the son of the Premier, and that the intermediary was a prominent politician named Vervoort. Vervoort explained that \$20,000 of the \$200,000 would go to M. Besson as his commission on the transaction.

M. Besson challenges MM. Combes, father and son, to take the case before the courts.