

# BOMBARDED

## The Forts at Matanzas Harbor.

### The Engagement Lasted For Over an Hour.

#### The New York, Puritan and Cincinnati Were Engaged.

##### The Object Was to Prevent the Completion of Earthworks at Punta Gorda.

###### There Was No Loss of Life on Our Side But the Spaniards Suffered.

###### The Enemy's Shells Fell Short of the American Vessels.

###### The Puritan Sinks a Spanish Gunboat ---The Land Batteries Silenced.

###### About Three Hundred Shots Were Put on Land From the Three Ships at a Range of From Four to Seven Thousand Yards.

ON BOARD THE FLAG SHIP NEW YORK. OFF MATANZAS, April 28.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor Wednesday afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which pounded in the forts must have caused loss of life to the Spaniards, though nothing is known definitely.

The engagement commenced at 12:57 and ceased at 1:15. The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda. A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship and this was also shelled. About 12 8-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts but all fell short. About five or six light shells were fired from the half completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York and one fell short. The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries having been accomplished. In the neighborhood of three hundred shots were put on land from the three ships at a range of from four thousand to seven thousand yards. R. Adm. Sampson, when asked if he was satisfied with the result, said: "Yes, I am. I expected to be."

The half completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently all plowed up by the shells. All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship throughout the engagement, and when they were firing at the shortest range nearly every shell took effect. The forts which were bombarded were on a low-lying point and were considered merely earthworks.

They did not make a good target, yet when the big guns were fired at the shortest range portions of the fort could be seen flying in the air at every shot.

The flagship returned to Havana and the Puritan and Cincinnati were left on Matanzas station.

While the New York, Puritan and Cincinnati were reconnoitering in force for the purpose of locating and destroying the formidable defenses being constructed, the flagship was fired on by the batteries on Point Rubal Caya and Point Maya, guarding the entrance to the harbor. The New York instantly replied.

The Puritan steamed in behind the New York and engaged the fortification on Point Maya, while the New York went to starboard close up to the land and poured her shells into Rubal Caya. The Cincinnati, which had remained well astern, under orders, signaled for permission to engage and received it, and soon was firing her guns at the fort on the west side of the bay. It took the three ships just 18 minutes to silence the batteries.

Immediately the fort at Matanzas opened fire, the Puritan returned the fire from an eight-inch gun. The first shot missed. The second shot struck the fort on the eastern end and crumbled five tons of solid masonry. Fort Morillo answered with Krupp guns. The other forts about the harbor joined in the firing. By this time the New York was in range. She opened fire about three miles away, but came no closer. The shells from the small gunboat hit the Puritan, but the projectiles were not heavy enough to do damage. The Puritan fired from both turrets at once, and the gunboat sunk.

The American ships soon had the range of the forts and nearly every shot told. The war ships steamed slowly away, so as not to give the forts a stationary target. It is believed there was loss of life.

The bombardment was at about 1,200 yards. The ships could have thrown more metal, but the captains preferred to be leisurely about it. The Spanish marksmanship was wretched. The Puritan's enormous three-inch guns did awful damage. The projectiles were visible in their flight. When hit the masonry of the fort crumbled to powder. Sand batteries went up in clouds when struck. Only a few shells struck the town and those accidentally. The New York and Puritan avoided shooting at anything but government property.

About 1 o'clock a gun on the western side of the fort that had been best served was dismounted by a discharge from the New York. All of the gun's crew must have been killed. Many Spaniards must have been killed. Not one American was injured. By night the forts were silenced but did not surrender.

The Spaniards used explosive shells and some of the shrapnell fell on the New York.

The peace of the blockade has been broken. Blood has been spilled. It was Spanish blood and the red fluid attested that the Dons really mean to defend their title to Cuba. Matanzas, the scene of much of the ghastly suffering imposed by Weyler, saw the first engagement. Hundreds of starving reconcentrados, deprived now by Blanco of supplies contributed by Americans, heard the big guns of Uncle Sam's ships thunder forth a salute to liberty. At the sound they hastened to the heights near the city of Matanzas, and from that point of vantage watched the duel between the war ships and the shore batteries.

For some time the New York used only her smaller guns. But pretty soon the heavy boom of her big gun amidships reverberated among the hills. After the firing had continued for some 10 minutes the Puritan was signaled to get into the game. She took a position on the port side of the New York and about a mile and a half from the east shore batteries. There she promptly drew the attention of the first two batteries on the west shore. At the first the Puritan used only her secondary battery to get the range of the batteries, which were almost invisible, their locality being indicated, however, by the smoke. By this time the firing was quite rapid from both the New York and Puritan.

The flag ship lay so that she presented a broadside to both shores, and she used her guns after a few range-finding shots with excellent results. The accuracy of her gunners was continually attested by clouds of sand and water which flew around the shore batteries. The Spaniards replied steadily, but with no effect. Meanwhile the Cincinnati was impatient to take a hand. Finally Capt. Chesler received permission to bring his ship into action. He adroitly chose a position less than 2,000 yards from the west shore batteries, and it soon developed that, while exposed fully to his fire, they could not train their guns on the cruiser.

Until the end of the engagement the Cincinnati maintained an effective fire on the Point Maya, or east shore batteries. This combined and destructive fire soon gave the men on shore enough.

In less than 20 minutes from the time they opened fire on the New York their fire had been silenced. The result of the engagement created the greatest enthusiasm among officers and men and increased, if that is possible, the desire to take a crack at Morro Castle. Within ten minutes after the engagement had ended a special dispatch boat was alongside the New York. Congratulations were extended to Adm. Sampson, who returned his compliments. He requested the vessel to carry the official dispatches reporting the battle to Key West.

All told the United States ships fired 86 shots at the forts. This is by actual count from our dispatch boat. The forts fired probably 25 shots. The bombardment developed that the largest pieces mounted by the Spanish at Matanzas are eight-inch guns, and the best opinion is that there are not more than five or six guns there. But far more important than the destruction of the Matanzas batteries is the conclusion about the future which may be drawn from the bombardment.

The conclusion is that Havana is absolutely at the mercy of the United States fleet whenever we choose to open fire. Adm. Sampson Wednesday, with guns which amount to less than one-tenth of his fighting force, silenced what was practically three batteries in 20 minutes. He steamed right in on them as close as he could get, and not one of our ships was touched. What is to be said of a gunner that can not hit a mark as big as the New York at 2,000 or 3,000 yards? The incident has greatly encouraged the naval officers and they believe that when they bombard Havana they will destroy all the defenses in about one hour.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—So far as could be learned the officials of the administration were not notified of the bombardment of Matanzas Wednesday morning. The navy department keeps a full fledged telegraph office open in the building all night and a confidential officer remains at the department all night to translate the messages as received. There was considerable business done over the wires till early morning hours, but none of the dispatches were sent either to the white house or to the secretary of the navy.

Nominated for Congress. PAXTON, Ill., April 28.—Vespasian Warner, of Clinton, was nominated Wednesday for congress by the republican convention of the Thirteenth district. Warner is the present member. The vote was 59 for Warner to 35 for John A. Sterling, of Bloomington.

Fell to the Sidewalk and Died. NEW YORK, April 28.—Philip Teplitz, aged 33 years, senior member of the dry goods firm of Teplitz, Rosenberg & Co., of Pittsburgh, was taken suddenly ill in this city Wednesday and fell to the sidewalk and expired.

# FULL EQUIPMENT

## Of the Insurgent Army One of the First Things to Be Done.

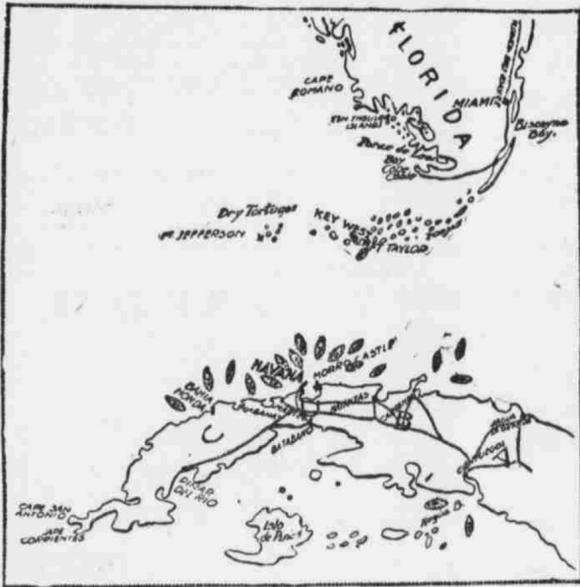
### CUBAN LEADERS CONFER WITH MILES

#### They Discuss Plans of Co-Operation Between the United States and Cuban Troops.

##### The Recognition of the Cuban Republic Only a Question of Days—Havana to Be Attacked by Land and Water.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Another conference has been held between Gen. Miles, commanding the United States forces, and representatives of the Cuban civil and military authorities. The latter included Senor Quesada, charge d'affaires of the Cuban legation, Brig. Gen. Nunez, and Lieut. Artiago of the Cuban army. Lieut. Artiago has seen 17 months' service in the field, and Gen. Nunez has an intimate knowledge of all the ports of Cuba, having directed the movements of all filibustering parties. The conference brought about a full discussion of the plans of co-operation between the United States and Cuban forces. The details of this co-operation are guarded with the strictest secrecy.

The exploit of Lieut. Rowan in landing near Santiago has been known for several days to both the United States and Cuban authorities, as they co-operated in executing this move. The Cuban authorities here furnished the guides and necessary papers to see



HOW THE WESTERN END OF CUBA IS BLOCKADED.

Lieut. Rowan through the Cuban lines. It is in execution of plans for a landing at Santiago and Sagua, points on the Cuban coast, one north and one south, respectively, with a view to effecting junctures with both Gen. Gomez and Gen. Garcia. Now that Lieut. Rowan is on his way to effect a juncture near Santiago, it is not improbable that another juncture will be made by way of Sagua. The first purpose of these movements, it is understood, is to bring about a full equipment of the insurgent forces, rather than to secure a joint movement between them and the United States troops. It is said that Garcia and Gomez together can muster 35,000 men, and that they will be able to make a strong forward movement on Havana as soon as they have arms, ammunition and medical supplies. The latter, and particularly quinine, is said to be greatly needed. The understanding among those best acquainted with the plans of co-operation is that the Cuban forces will advance on Havana and make a land siege in co-operation with the blockade now in progress by the United States warships.

In this connection there is renewed talk of a recognition of the Cubans, at least their belligerency and possibly their independence, and confident hopes were expressed Wednesday in high Cuban circles that recognition would be granted in the next two weeks. One of the first effects of this, it is said, would be to give the Cubans an official status at Washington, instead of their present unofficial status. The conferences now held with Gen. Miles and other officials are being productive of important results, and yet they are necessarily unofficial in character, owing to the unrecognized status of the Cubans. Now, however, that Gomez and Garcia are being recognized as material factors in the contest, and are being treated with by the war department, the desirability of their recognition, at least as belligerents, is being urged as warranting formal recognition. It is said the co-operation already established is in itself a recognition of the de facto existence of the Cuban army and of belligerency, and that the de jure recognition should follow. While these hopes are renewed in Cuban circles, it can not be learned that the administration has modified its attitude against recognition of any character.

In the event of Cuban recognition it is probable that President Palma, of the Cuban Junta, would be the first minister accredited to Cuba, with Senor Quesada as charge d'affaires at Washington, and Senor Albertini as first secretary.

# BOYS IN BLUE

## To the Number of Fifteen Thousand to Be Landed in Cuba—Supplies for Insurgents.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—President McKinley, Secretary Alger, Maj. Gen. Miles, Adj. Gen. Corbin and Brig. Gen. Shafer, who has been selected for the command of the 15,000 troops to be landed in Cuba, were in conference Wednesday. Final arrangements will then be perfected for conduct of the proposed plan. As at present determined upon, it is understood that the military will be transported to the Cuban base in vessels conveyed by men-of-war, and will aid the marines in fortifying it. Once this has been accomplished, it will be an easy matter to ship into the interior an ample quantity of supplies of all kinds for the use of the Cuban insurgents.

# MANY VESSELS

## Endangered by a Terrible Storm on the North Carolina and Virginia Coasts.

NORFOLK, Va., April 28.—A terrific storm is raging on the Virginia and North Carolina coasts Wednesday morning. The wind is blowing 60 miles an hour from the northeast and many vessels are in danger of being wrecked. Capt. Ferry of the British steamship Castledale, from Tampa, reports passing a derelict bark named Cadie completely stripped and her long boat lying on the deck. The fate of the crew is unknown. A big, three-masted schooner, with part of her masts gone and rails smashed in, is signaling for help at Chickamecomico life saving station and she will surely be driven ashore.

The cruiser Montgomery and transport Panther, which left Tuesday for Key West, were also in danger, but it is known that they rounded Cape Hatteras before they encountered the storm. Nothing has been heard of

# INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS

## Gathered From All Parts of the Country by Telegraph.

The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Audax has arrived at Ferrol, steaming 300 miles in 31 hours.

Secretary Alger has directed that the rendezvous for Texas troops be changed from Houston to Austin.

A dispatch from Manila says the Spaniards have captured the American bark Saranac loaded with coal.

Wednesday's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$218,276,706; gold reserve, \$180,761,424.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt has detailed the New Jersey reserve battalion to the Resolute and Badger; members of the coast patrol fleet.

The Hong Kong correspondent of the London Times says the American squadron sailed direct for Manila at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

The Saginaw division of the Michigan naval militia left Wednesday afternoon to join the remainder of the brigade on board the Yantic at Detroit.

Senate foreign relations committee Wednesday considered but took no action on proposition that the United States should annex the Hawaiian islands.

A special dispatch from Gibraltar Wednesday says the Spanish war ship Pelayo, accompanied by a torpedo boat, passed there Wednesday, bound for Cadiz.

Gen. Stewart L. Woodford will probably sail for New York at the end of the week. He will only spend a few days there and in Washington and will then return to Europe.

Advices received at Havana say that the Montserrat has arrived at Cienfuegos with money and ammunition, but make no mention of a blockade having begun before her arrival.

On a rush order the Carpenter steel works, Reading, Pa., Wednesday night sent 200 thirteen-inch projectiles, weighing 1,100 pounds each, to the Brooklyn and Norfolk navy yards.

It is reported from Madrid that the Spanish fleet has been at sea for some days, and the news of the bombardment of American coast towns is expected at the Spanish capital before long.

Gen. Miles and Cuban representatives at an important conference Wednesday went over plans of operations. The Cubans have arranged for Lieut. Rowan's safe conduct to the insurgent camps.

The Russian press thinks that if the United States fails to gain a naval victory soon Spain's honor will be saved and Europe will insist upon the latter's capitulation in order to prevent loss to commerce.

The navy department has declined to accept the Fuerst Bismarck and Columbia, tendered to the government as auxiliary cruisers, for the reason that the vessels are said to be unsuitable for such service.

A dispatch received in Paris from Rio Janeiro announces that the dynamite cruiser Natchevy purchased by the United States, will sail northward on Saturday next, escorted by a Brazilian warship.

Mail advices from Madrid, dated Tuesday, say a Spanish squadron sailed Tuesday, and it was rumored it was going to bombard northern ports of the United States. The port of departure was not given.

The newspapers in Paris are publishing a series of wild stories. According to one of them, Germany has protested against the blockade of the Philippine Islands, and contemplates sending war ships from Kiao Chou to uphold her protest.

Col. Errol, an aide on the staff of Gomez, who managed to slip out of Cuba since the blockade began, arrived in New Orleans Wednesday and will offer his services to the United States government. He is understood to be in possession of valuable information. The Fourth regiment, Maryland national guard, has broken camp at Pimlico and returned to the armory in Baltimore. It is reported they have rebelled because of dissatisfaction at not having been assigned to active service by Gen. Wilmer, the Fifth being assigned to that honor.

# OUTRAGE ON THE GUNBOAT

NEW YORK, April 28.—A special to the Evening World from Colon says: "The steamship Allianca, from New York, arrived here safely. She reports that on Sunday last, when six miles off Cape May, a Spanish gunboat headed toward her and gave chase. The Allianca changed her course, and after a run the gunboat gave up pursuit."

# THE MARKETS.

CINCINNATI, April 27. FLOUR—Spring fancy, \$5.10; spring family, \$4.75; spring patent, \$5.75; winter patent, \$5.25; fancy, \$4.90; family, \$4.20; extra, \$3.60; low grade, \$2.20; 2.50; ry. northwestern, \$3.10; do city, \$3.10; do, \$3.00. WHEAT—Sample red, landing, \$1.00; No. 2 red, to arrive, \$1.00. OATS—Sales: No. 2 white, track, 32c; No. 2 white, track, 30c; No. 2 mixed, track, 30c. CORN—Sales: No. 3 mixed, track, 34c; No. 2 yellow, track, 35c; No. 2 mixed, track, 35c. HOGS—Select shippers, \$3.80; select butchers, \$3.90; fair to good packers, \$3.80; fair to good light, \$3.60; common and roughs, \$3.50. CATTLE—Fair to good shippers, \$4.25; fair to good butchers, \$4.25; fair to medium butchers, \$3.90; common, \$2.75. SHEEP—Extras, \$4.10; good to choice, \$3.90; common to fair, \$2.75. LAMBS—Extras, \$5.00; good to choice, \$4.50; common to fair, \$4.00. VEAL CALVES—Fair to good light, \$3.75; 6.50; common and large, \$3.75. CHICAGO, April 27. WHEAT—May, \$1.21; July, 94c; September, 81c. CORN—April, 53c; May, 53c; July, 53c; September, 51c; October, 51c. OATS—April, 28c; May, 28c; July, 25c; September, 25c. HAY—Cash No. 1, 40c; No. 2, 35c. RYE—Cash, 65c. PITTSBURGH, April 27. CATTLE—Extra, \$5.15; prime, \$5.00; 4.15. HOGS—Prime mediums, \$4.20; best heavy Yorkers, \$4.15; light Yorkers, \$4.00; heavy hogs, \$4.10; pigs, \$3.75. SHEEP—Choice shippers, \$4.25; common, \$3.15; good to choice, \$4.00; spring lambs, \$3.00. VEAL CALVES—\$3.75.



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# Bids Wanted.

Turnpike Commissioners will receive sealed bids for the repairs of the turnpikes of the county on the FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY, 1898. Parties bidding on three miles or over must bid with bid.