

Henry Demas wants a negro to lead his regiment. He says a white army officer will not be acceptable to the colored patriots.

The Democrats have carried the election in St. Mary and Hon. Jared Sanders will represent that parish in the State Legislature.

With Lee and Gordon to lead the Southern boys would fall in with a whoop.

If the convention continues the constitution of '98 will be as voluminous as the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Col. Jno. C. Wickliffe is still recruiting his regiment. If the colonel is given a chance he can be relied upon to do considerable damage.

Capt. Pool, of the Times-Democrat, has applied to have his company mustered into the State National Guards. There are several newspaper men in this company.

Capt. Sam Haas, of St. Landry, who was a gallant Confederate soldier, is, the Clarion informs us, anxious to lead the boys once more.

It is reported that Gov. Hogg of Texas wants to join the army as a private. If a man is really anxious to fight, he will not wait for a commission, but will join as a private.

The Queen regent says Uncle Sam's conduct has been detestable. While we all know that the old man has not been so ungallant as to ill-treat Mrs. Christina still we can not help sympathizing with the old girl in her present troubles.

The war has had no perceptible effect upon Major Burbank's "Our Picayunes." They continue to boom Bryan for the presidency.

There is no reason why the municipal election in New Orleans should be held on the day that State officers are elected. Why is Shreveport given a separate election and not New Orleans? Probably John Fitzpatrick can answer that question satisfactorily.

Old Kentucky does not intend to be behind her sister States. Some of the best young women of the State have volunteered their services as nurses. Among them are Miss Christine Bradley, daughter of the governor; and Miss Alice Castleman, daughter of Col. John B. Castleman, of the First Regiment.

Washington dispatches say that there is a disposition to send Southern volunteers to the front because they are better acclimated and more immune from yellow fever. Those who were in Louisiana during the last yellow fever scare will realize the wisdom of this proposition, as our people can hardly be accused of being afraid of Yellow Jack.

The New York Herald responds to the question: What are We Fighting For? It says: "Whatever may result as the irony or caprice of history we are upon the righteous ground that our war is for humanity. Standing upon that we may be sure of the respect, the neutrality, if not the sympathy, of the great powers. The president must lead the people, even as they were led by Washington and Lincoln."

Three governors have expressed their willingness to lead volunteers on the field of battle. All three are from the South: Culberson of Texas, Taylor of Tennessee, and Atkinson of West Virginia. Gov. Taylor says in his telegram to the president: "I tender my services to command the Tennessee volunteers. I have called on them to leave their homes and mothers, and feel it my duty to lead them on the field. Please give me your decision at the earliest convenience." It is said that Gov. Bradley wants to go at the head of the Blue Grass boys.

ALL SHOULD PAY TAXES.

The proposition to exempt new factories and new railroads from taxation is absolutely unreasonable. A certain class of manufactures was exempted from taxation by the constitutional convention of 1876 and an effort is being made to have the present convention extend the same privileges. It is also proposed to include all new railroads in the list of governmental beneficiaries. As a reason for this class legislation we are told that if the proper inducements are not offered to capital, capitalists will seek other fields for investment and we are threatened with all sorts of fearful calamities if we fail to extend to the builders of factories and railroads the privileges which they ask.

We believe that every property owner, from the largest to the smallest, should be made to bear his share of taxation. There is a tendency throughout the country to make the burden of taxation lighter for the rich man, while no sympathy is wasted upon the poor man. The latter must pay it all without grumbling or else his property will be unceremoniously disposed of by the State. There is no question to exempt the fellow who raises 4-cent cotton. He uncomplainingly pays his mite to help run the government. But the man who has thousands to invest in manufacturing enterprises is perpetually begging the State not to compel him to pay any taxes. And what is stranger still is the disposition on the part of the people's representatives to give him all he wants.

Let the burden of taxation fall upon all. If the taxes are lifted off the shoulders of those who are able to pay them, the load will have to be borne by those who can ill-afford to bear it. To exempt wealthy corporations from taxation is not only the rankest kind of class legislation, but it is utterly indefensible upon any ground of intelligent governmental policy.

A Democratic convention exempting rich corporations from taxation would present an amusing spectacle. To exempt corporations from taxation is about as Democratic as a high protective tariff, and we are surprised to see leading Democrats advocating such a proposition.

Equal distribution of the burdens of government is one of the fundamental principles upon which this republic is founded. The Democratic party has always upheld that policy as one of its cardinal doctrines. It has ever opposed with all its might any legislation with had the least taint of favoritism. It has defeated, or endeavored to defeat, every proposition to force the masses to pay tributes to the favored few. Any departure from that principle is a palpable violation of the letter and spirit of every Democratic platform adopted since the organization of the party, and as the present constitutional convention is a Democratic body we do not believe that it can so far forget its duty as to put into the organic law of this State an ordinance so undemocratic, unreasonable and unjust.

It is claimed that Col. Hood's volunteers are immune from yellow fever and for that reason they will be accepted by the war department. Most of the Louisiana boys care very little for Yellow Jack, if he happens to be on Cuban soil, but it is safe to say that very few of those who enlist have been exposed to the fever. The history of yellow fever epidemics in the South does not show that the Southern people are immune. It is true that the last epidemic has been rather mild, but all former epidemics were of a much more virulent type. The percentage of mortality has always been pretty high, and the statement that Southern troops would be less subject to the fever than the Northern troops is questionable.

SOUTHERN ORATORY.

Henry Watterson spoke at Galena, Ill., last Wednesday, at the celebration of Gen. Grant's 77th birthday anniversary. Judge Emory Speer, of Georgia, was the orator of the day and delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of the great general. Messrs. Watterson and Speer voiced the sentiments of the Southern people and alluded to the patriotism that is being displayed with equal ardor North and South of Mason and Dixon's line.

In the course of his beautiful oration Judge Speer said: "We are brethren now, shoulder to shoulder, under the glory-bright ensign of our common country and I thank God that, with the clear vision of the dying, the noble patriot whom we commemorated lived to see this truth. He wrote: 'I feel that we are on the verge of a new era when there is to be greater harmony between the Federal and the Confederate. I cannot stay to be a living witness to the correctness of this prophecy; but I feel it within me that it is to be so. The universal kind feeling for me at the time when it was supposed that each day would prove my last seemed to me the beginning of an answer to 'Let us have peace.'"

"With such emotions in his heart this great American died and, my countrymen, his prophetic words were true. Now in our country's need we are a reunited people. His magnanimity to southern men, his soldierly fidelity to his great adversary, has found its reward in the devotion to his country of that other Lee, who amid the curses and the treachery of the stealthy Spaniards, the pestilence among their victims and the cruel massacre of our sleeping sailors, with consummate courage and manliness, has maintained the honor of the stripes.

Colonel Watterson, who was the next speaker, in response to the toast, "The Reunited Sections," said:

"If there was any doubt anywhere about the restoration of the Union, not merely in fact and in name, but in the spirit to which it owes its birth, the manifestations of the last few weeks can not have failed to dissipate it. That Spanish gentleman who proposed to supplement the forces of his country in Cuba by facing the South to another rebellion must surely have been the Knight of La Mancha come to life again, but quite as bereft of reason as he was in the days of Sancho Panza and the lady of Toboso; though in truth, most of those supporting Spain in her ill-starred contention, seem to be lineal descendants of the famous Don! Sir, the reunited sections of the Union stand a wall of iron between the Nation's honor and, if need be, all the world; stand a wall of fire between the stricken Cubans and any further hurt from Spain. We want no other warrant for our act of war than the cruel, the heartless story of the Spaniard in America. From the coming of Cortez and Pizarro, to the going of Weyler—three centuries of brutality, irradiated only by the pirate's lust for plunder and the tiger's thirst for blood—each succeeding Captain General has seemed to emulate Alva as a rival of Satan by seeking a second immortality of damnation. Before such an array, historical and contemporary, the true American neither consults his geography, nor counts the cost. His pulsebeats are the same in Massachusetts and in Mississippi, and whether the band plays 'Yankee Doodle' or 'Dixie' is all one to him! Assuming that in ordinary it takes but a few months and a change of raiment to convert a typical Vermonter into a typical Texan, it has taken but a few weeks to impress upon the reunited sections of the Union the truth that we are the most homogeneous people on the face of the globe; that such differences as exist among us are local and external, and not skin deep, and, along with this lesson, to reawaken in all hearts Decatur's ringing words: 'Our country—may she be ever in the right—but, right or wrong, our country!'"

Those of our citizens who cannot see their way clear to enlist will be pleased to learn that they can serve their country in another way. Some one has suggested that they contribute to the cause by drinking beer with a war tax on it.

FIRST FIGHT OF THE WAR.

American Vessels Pour Shot and Shell Into Matanzas Ports.

New York, April 27.—The Herald's Key West special says: Admiral Sampson this afternoon bombarded, silenced and pretty well destroyed the Spanish batteries in position and in course of construction at the entrance of the harbor of Matanzas. He did it with the flagship New York, the monitor Puritan and the cruiser Cincinnati. Not one of the American ships was struck, the Spanish gunnery being wild. I have no means of knowing the number of dead and wounded on the Spanish side. It must be considerable. While the New York, Puritan and Cincinnati were reconnoitering for the purpose of locating and destroying the formidable defenses being constructed the flagship was fired on by the batteries on Point Rubal Cava 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 Cava. The Cincinnati, which 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. The batteries fired explosive shells, and most of them fell wide of the mark. One burst just behind the stern of the New York, and a shrapnel shot exploded above her. It took the three ships just eighteen minutes to silence the batteries.

RAIN OF HAIL POURED INTO FORTS.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Matanzas, April 27, 2 p. m.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor this afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which poured into 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 objects of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda. A battery on eastward arm bay opened the fire on the flagship, and this was also shelled. About twelve eight-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 300 shots were put on land from the three ships at a range of from 4000 to 7000 yards.

Rear Admiral 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 forts 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.

INVASION OF CUBA.

Troops Being Sent to Tampa for That Purpose—Hood's Regiment.

The war department, it appears, is making arrangements to land troops in Cuba. Troops at New Orleans, Chickamauga and Mobile have been ordered to Tampa, Fla., and it is believed that before long an effort will be made to land them on Cuban soil. However, it is impossible to say when this will take place. There are several contradictory reports as to the size of the army that will be sent to Cuba. Communication has been had with the insurgents, and it is believed that preparations are being made to send them food and ammunition and to place them on a first-class war footing.

The States have all furnished their quotas. Louisiana has asked to be permitted to send one or two additional regiments, on the ground of immunity from yellow fever. Whether the boys are very much immune or not is another question; but they are anxious to fight and the indications are that they will be given a chance.

Col. Hood has made a splendid fight for recognition and deserves much credit for the energy that he has displayed.

If you wish to see a fine line of razors, call at Blossat's Jewelry Store.

It was at first believed that the wave of patriotism had invaded the luxurious precincts of Wall street. We were told that 1,000 members of the bloated fraternity would give up their life of ease and luxury to enlist in the army. We had believed the story and we were disposed to think that these sleek manipulators of bonds were much abused individuals and that their love of country was only surpassed by their innate fondness for the yellow metal. But investigation of the proposed enlistment has destroyed our fondest hopes, for it appears that it is not the brokers themselves who want to expose their precious bodies to Spanish bullets and Yellow Jack. They are anxious to show their patriotism by sending their employes to the front. This exhibition of gallantry reminds one of Artemus Ward who was determined to put down the rebellion if it took the lives of all his wife's relatives to do it.

Everybody Says So.

Casarets Candy Cathartic, the most wonderful medical discovery of the age, pleasant and refreshing to the taste, act gently and positively on kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the entire system, dispel colds, cure headache, fever, habitual constipation and biliousness. Please buy and try a box of C. C. C. to day; 10, 25, 50 cents. Sold and guaranteed to cure by all druggists.

Hon. John Sherman, who has just resigned as secretary of State, seems to think that the present war should have been avoided, and that the dispute between Uncle Sam and Spain could have been settled by diplomacy.

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The Waterworks.

Superintendent D. L. Caffery, of the waterworks and electric light plant, has been busy during the past week supervising the tapping of the street mains. The demand for plugs is quite large. After the advantages to be derived from the use of the waterworks have become known, we have no doubt that all who are able to pay for plugs will patronize the waterworks.

Lafayette and Acadia.

The judiciary committee of the convention recommends that Lafayette and Acadia comprise one judicial district. Vermilion will remain alone and will be a district in itself. Acadia is acceptable to our people and we don't think anyone will object to the change.

Hon. Alex. Delhomme, of Scott, was in Lafayette Thursday. Mr. Delhomme stated to us that the crops in his section have been considerably retarded in their growth by the unreasonable weather.

BASE BALL.

Lafayette Will Have a Crack Team This Season.

The organization of the Lafayette base ball team was perfected during the past week and practice is being indulged in regularly under the close eye of the captain. Gonzales will in all probability do the catching for the team during the season, with Matthews on the slab. Coffee of the Texas league; Nickerson, F. Mouton, and Short Stop Adrian; now with the Austin team in the Texas league, will compose the infield. This department will be particularly strong, as Coffee and Adrian are fielders of unquestioned ability; while the outfield will be looked after by Mudd, Hamilton and Frank Broussard. This is young Broussard's first year on a fast team, and the manager is very sanguine of his ability to more than hold his own. Games are being arranged for as rapidly as possible, and the amusement lovers will not lack for something to divert themselves with during the long summer months. The team is to be an exceptionally strong one and it only rests with the people of Lafayette, particularly the business element, to properly encourage and patronize this clean and healthy sport.

NOTES.

Mayor Chas. D. Caffery has accepted the management and will assume the reins at once.

The team is gradually getting into form. Short Stop Adrian is expected this week.

Any of the resident young players who show the necessary ability and willingness will be given places on the team.

The management has in consideration the arrangement of a score-card to be sold on the grounds at all the big games during the coming season. The business men, who subscribe to the team, will have the benefit of space on the card. The front page is to contain a picture of the Lafayette team in full uniform; the others, advertisements; and the last, the names and positions of both the visiting and home team, so that the most simple can keep an official score.

The officials chosen for the team, are: E. D. Pellerin, president; Mayor Chas. Caffery, manager; Wilson Matthews, director.

A sweetly solemn event was the christening on last Sunday afternoon of Charles Lee Parkerson, the first fair flower that has blossomed in the fond parents' "Garden of Life". The beautiful, impressive ceremony of the Presbyterian church was ably conducted by Rev. W. D. Morton. After the baptismal service the guests were served to dainty refreshments. Those present were the grand parents, Judge and Mrs. J. G. Parkerson, Dr. and Mrs. N. P. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Caffery, Mrs. E. Mills, Miss Parkerson, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Blossat, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morgan, Mrs. A. Doucet, Dr. F. S. Mudd, Misses C. and L. Mudd, Mr. D. Caffery.

MARRIED.

Monday evening at St. John's Catholic church, Mr. Leopold Mouton, of Beaumont, Tex., and Miss Agnes Trahan of Lafayette.

Thursday evening at St. John's Catholic church, Mr. Amos Butcher and Miss Louise Mouton.

Thursday evening at St. John's Catholic church, Mr. Alcin T. Co-meau and Miss Louise Doucet.

Beauty Is Blood Deep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Casarets Candy Cathartic clean your blood and keep it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin today to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Casarets—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10, 25, 50 cents.

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