

## MERRITT IN OPEN REBELLION

### Declines to Go to the Philippines With the Force Proposed.

### He Declares More Trained Regulars Are Required to Capture and Hold the Islands.

NEW YORK, May 16.—Major-General Wesley Merritt, who has been selected by the Government to command the expedition about to be sent to the Philippines with the purpose of completing the work begun by Rear-Admiral Dewey, and to administer the affairs of the islands as Governor-General, has refused point blank to go with the troops which have been selected for the task of driving the Spaniards out of the archipelago, and who are expected to maintain order afterward.

It is therefore a question whether the War Department will alter its plans or not. Should the present arrangement of sending 15,000 men, only 1000 of whom are regulars, be adhered to, I am in a position to state that General Merritt will not be their commander. He has given the matter serious study since the official announcement was made that he had been chosen for duty in the Far East, and what may be considered his ultimatum will be presented to Secretary Alger by Colonel Robert F. Hughes, Inspector-General on General Merritt's staff, who left this city on the midnight train for Washington.

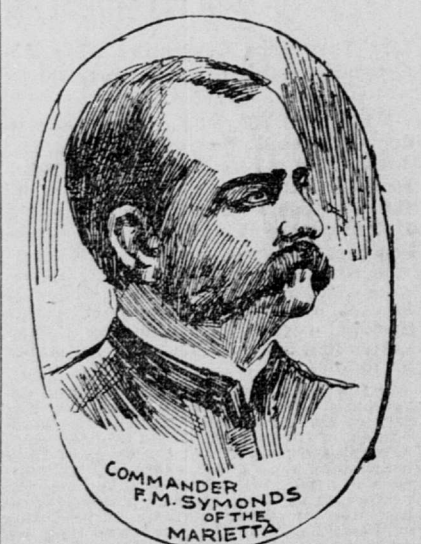
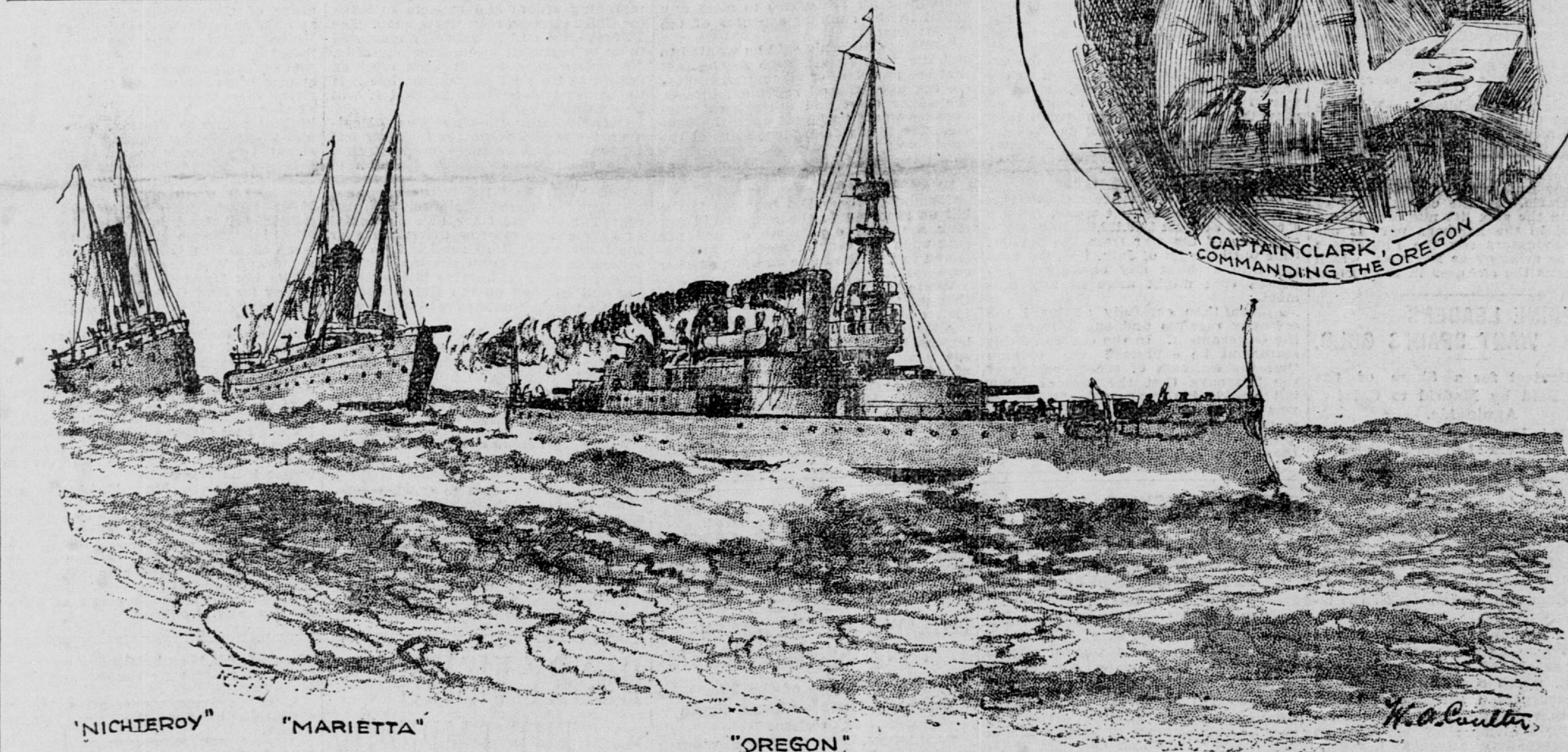
It has been an open secret on Governors Island for days that General Merritt does not relish the job of taking the Philippines. He was supposed to be desirous of commanding the army of invasion in Cuba, or even one that may be sent to Porto Rico. His rank, his experience and his knowledge of tactics were such that military men said at the beginning of the war that he would naturally receive the most important command in the field. Other considerations, however, have prevented the naming of General Merritt for the command of the troops massed at Tampa or about to be mobilized at Chickamauga. General Merritt remained in charge of the Department of the East, while Generals Wade, Shafter and Brook were sent to the front, and in the Department of the East General Merritt is likely to remain for some time to come unless the policy that has been pursued at Washington since the opening of hostilities is changed.

General Merritt, at his headquarters on Governors Island, was seen to-day and asked when he expected to start for Manila. He replied: "It is not settled yet whether I am to go. I have asked the department to furnish a sufficient force of trained and disciplined troops. I would not care to go with a force of 15,000 men, only 1000 of whom are regulars and the others volunteers from the militia of the Northwest. General Otis may be willing to go with less force, but I am not. The command they propose to give me is not adequate to my rank. It is all very well for them to say that additional troops will be sent later if they are needed, but the history of all such expeditions is that after you get away these promises are not kept. The only way is to fur-

nish troops that are needed at the start, and from what I can learn of the situation in the Philippines we should have at least 5000 trained men, as there may be no time to discipline and train recruits after we get there. I shall remain right here until I learn just what the department is willing to do. My successor here has not been appointed, and I do not propose he shall be until this matter is settled."

### DICKINSON NOT TO BE HONORED.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The brigadiership is still an interesting topic of



discussion here, and hundreds of telegrams are pouring in daily. If any Californian is appointed to command a brigade it will be Colonel H. G. Otis of Los Angeles. This is well understood in the California delegation to-night. General Dickinson has now been endorsed by the Democrats and Populists, Maguire, De Vries, Barlow and Castle. Perkins, Barham and Loud have called on the President to present numerous petitions in Dickinson's favor, although Senator Perkins is on record as having endorsed Colonel Otis. So is White. The President sent for General Graham of the regular army to-day, questioned him about General Dickinson's fitness to command a brigade, and inquired especially about his military conduct during the Debbs strikes and riots. General Graham was stationed at the Presidio at that time, and knowing this the President availed himself of General Graham's presence in Washington to ascertain whether there was any truth in the reports derogatory to General Dickinson's conduct at that time. General Graham's reply, if published, would not be relished by Mr. Dickinson. It is even gossiped among Californians in Washington to-night

## TROOPS CANNOT INVADE CUBA UNTIL AFTER SEA CONQUEST

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TAMPA, Fla., May 16.—General Shafter, who during the absence of General Wade is in command, in an interview this afternoon said: "We are in duty bound to go to Cuba, but we should not leave Tampa until the Spanish fleet has been destroyed or so crippled as to render it harmless. Our movement must necessarily be governed by their conduct."

This is the first official statement as to the intended departure of the troops, and it quite disposes of the cloud of mystery and uncertainty which has lasted for weeks. There is probably no man who knows those of Cuba better than Dr. Diaz, who is attached to the staff of the commander-in-chief. He is a man of many parts—medical, doctor of divinity, Baptist missionary and Cuban leader. He was ordered to be executed, but through the intervention of the United States escaped. There was no more popular man in Cuba at the time. In conversation with me to-day he drew some harrowing details of the horrible sufferings of his countrymen. He estimates that since the blockade they have been dying from starvation at the rate of 500 a day. Indeed, their condition at this moment is worse than ever. Those who are not hemmed in towns appease the pangs of hunger by the consumption of pine saplings or any substance that may be masticated.

that Graham destroyed any prospects that Dickinson may have had. The positive statement is made by one of the California delegation who saw the President to-day that Colonel Otis is certain to be made a brigadier. This, notwithstanding the President's announcement some time ago that no Californian would be appointed unless he was endorsed by the entire California delegation. President McKinley is anxious to appoint Otis for personal reasons, he having served in the same brigade with him during the war of the rebellion.

No brigadiers will be appointed from civil life for some time, however, as the President is having difficulty in choosing them in other States than California, and it is believed that he will dispose of them all in one batch of nominations. It is learned to-night that General Dickinson was offered and declined the tender of a staff appointment. The California delegation without assurance from the President that the goods could be delivered, wired General Dickinson asking him if he would accept a position on the staff of a major-general, and he replied that he would not.

### FIRST EXPEDITION TO DEPART THURSDAY.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—It is said

at the quartermaster-general's office that the City of Peking with over 1000 men aboard will leave San Francisco on Thursday for the Philippines. Brigadier-General Otis is expected to go with the first detachment of troops for the Philippines to be followed later by General Merritt, who is to be the commander-in-chief of the expedition and the Military Governor of the islands. General Miles has recommended to the President that additional brigadiers will also be sent, but their names have not been announced.

### CRUISERS NEEDED FURTHER SOUTH.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Senator Gray and other influential men have made strong protests against the cruiser Columbia and other fine warships being kept on the New England coast, when the enemy's ships are in southern waters. Senator Gray had business with the President to-day and called his attention to the matter.

"It is stated that these ships are kept on the New England coast to allay apprehension," said Senator Gray. "Well, that is all foolishness. Here those ships are kept on this coast when there is not a particle of danger, while the

Spanish squadron is not far from southern waters. I do not believe anybody has any idea that the Spanish fleet would attempt to sail 3000 or 4000 miles from its present position to attack New England, and be without a base of supplies when it got there. While our ships remain on the New England coast, the southern coast, much nearer to the Spaniards, is unprotected. So is the coast of the middle Atlantic States. Our ships should be with one or the other squadrons."

It is said that several other New England Senators take the same ground as Senator Gray.

## WHERE WILL CERVERA BE OVERTAKEN?

### Elusive Game of the Spanish Fleet Puzzling the War Board.

### Blanco Needs Ammunition and the Enemy's Ships May Be Encountered Trying to Run the Blockade.

Call Office, Riggs House, Washington, May 16.

While a hundred minor details in the campaign against Spain occupy the time of army and navy officials one question continues to overshadow

pearance of a second Spanish squadron off Martinique was announced.

Whether Sampson has actually cabled the department that he is steaming for Cienfuegos, or whether the report originates with Secretary Long and his aids, it is suspected that the strategy board has taken a leaf out of Spain's book, and hereafter may be expected to publish misleading statements regarding the whereabouts of American vessels. It seems hardly reasonable to suppose that the Secretary of the Navy in one breath would declare that no more information would be given out regarding the movements of the American fleets, and in the next would proceed to locate Sampson's destination for the benefit of the Spanish admiral.

While it is quite possible that the Spanish fleet has left Willemstad, it is more than likely that it is still in the immediate vicinity of Curacao. The Navy Department has reliable advices, received through commercial resources, to the effect that the Spanish fleet has met several colliers near Willemstad and has filled the bunkers of every ship, after having taken in port all the coal the strict observance of neutrality would permit the harbor authorities to supply.

In this connection Secretary Day had a long conference to-day with Mr. DeWeekerlin, the Netherlands Minister, in the course of which the latter gave the most satisfactory assurances that at no time would the Spanish vessels be permitted to obtain contraband of war at Dutch ports in the West Indies or elsewhere.

The report that a second Spanish fleet has been sighted off Martinique is set down at the Navy Department as a canard. Its evident purpose is to distract attention from the squadron in the Caribbean Sea and to cause the Navy Department to divide its forces in order to meet two fleets instead of one. If this is the real purpose the device has already failed.

Another grave problem confronting the administration is the starting of the expedition to the Philippines. The departure of the first vessel has been postponed from day to day, and although it is now officially given out that the City of Peking and the City of Sydney will start from San Francisco on Thursday with about 3000 men, it would not be surprising should there be further delay. The War Department is solely responsible for this procrastination, which has demonstrated graphically how poorly prepared this Government has been to cope with even a fourth-class European power. It is hoped by army and navy officials to have the Australia and Centennial follow soon afterward, the latter vessel to sail direct from Seattle.

It is estimated that 5200 men can be conveyed to Manila on these four transports. Orders have been sent to Mare Island to hurry the Philadelphia, but it is not believed that she will be ready in time to act as convoy for any of the troop ships. She will, however, be sent to join Dewey's squadron as soon as she is put in commission. The Philadelphia will be commanded by Captain Frederick Rodgers.

The Philadelphia Press, owned and edited by Charles Emory Smith, the new Postmaster General, prints the following inspired editorial on the subject of holding the Philippine Islands, and it is regarded as significant, coming as it does from a member of the Cabinet:

"The United States will keep the islands until it sees something better to do with them. This is the national policy on which President McKinley is acting, and it is the only one on which either he or the nation can act. As an act of war our fleet has captured the harbor of Manila, and in a few weeks more our troops will have completed the occupation of Manila and the conquest of the islands. The national duty is clear as to these points. General Merritt is as competent to act as military governor of Manila as any one of the scores of English generals put in like position. An American force is just as competent as an English force of the same size to occupy and pacify the islands and their nine million inhabitants. Be American! Have confidence in Americans! The Philip-



## THE WARSHIPS THAT MAY FORM THE NUCLEUS FOR A SQUADRON NEAR MARTINIQUE. CHASE OF SPAIN'S VESSELS IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

NEW YORK, May 16.—The Herald's Washington correspondents telegraph: Spain's fleet in the Caribbean Sea is to be met by a squadron consisting of the armor-clads of the United States in the North Atlantic waters. This seems to be the intention to-night of the Naval War Board, and preparations are being made to effect a junction of Rear Admiral Sampson's fleet and the flying squadron, under command of Commodore Schley, with all possible dispatch.

If necessary Commodore Schley, according to one official with whom I talked to-day, will join Rear Admiral Sampson on the south coast of Cuba, in order that the southwestern section of the American blockading squadron may be protected and to place the American force in a strategic position to attack the Spanish fleet at whatever point it may appear. It is

not necessary, nor would it be good policy, to attach the monitors to the combined fleet, and the probabilities are that these vessels will be stationed in front of Havana or at Southern ports for their protection in case the Spanish squadron should attempt to bombard any coast city.

With such a squadron as the officials contemplate forming the enemy's fleet, if met in battle, will, it is confidently believed, be totally crushed.

Rear Admiral Sampson will have under his command, it is expected, the battle-ships Iowa, Indiana and Massachusetts, the second-class battle-ship Texas and the armored cruisers Brooklyn and New York. Handicapped as Rear Admiral Sampson now is by monitors, his speed is not more than eight or nine knots. For the reason that the fleet's speed is the speed of the slowest vessels the Terror and Amphitrite are being towed, be-

sides endeavoring to hasten their voyage by proceeding under their own steam.

With no monitors on his fleet Rear Admiral Sampson will be able to steam at a rate of twelve knots an hour and keep his squadron well together, and under forced draught may be able to reach fifteen knots. The New York and Brooklyn, with the auxiliary steamers and torpedo boats which will be attached to his force, will be able to speed at such a rate as to be able to over-haul the Spanish armored cruisers and hold them engaged until the Texas, followed by heavier ships of the line, come to their support.

If the Spanish fleet is coaling, as is believed, then the operations of the board can be completed without undue haste, and the combined armor-clad squadron can be stationed at a strategic position to be selected, from which it will strike in any direction that the enemy may make his appearance.

all others. Where will Sampson find the Spanish fleet, assuming that the Spanish admiral does not avoid an encounter by running away? Opinion is crystallizing that the greatest naval battle of the war will be fought in the neighborhood of Havana, and in support of this theory a number of considerations are advanced. Chief among these is the entirely reliable information received by the Navy Department several days ago that the Spanish ministry promised Blanco, at the time the blockade of Havana was proclaimed, that a fleet would be sent to raise it and to relieve the beleaguered city.

While a dozen conflicting reports have since been current regarding the movements of the Spanish vessels, the Navy Department now realizes that they were dispatched to Cuban waters at the time the promise was made to Blanco, and it is also apparent that the Governor General of Cuba confidently looks forward to their arrival. Press advices from Havana received to-day emphasize this expectation, saying that the stock of shot and shell for coast defense has been greatly depleted in the effort to prevent the landing of parties from the American ships and in replying to the bombardment by the United States warships of the shore batteries. Admiral Cervera is said to have a large supply of ammunition for these batteries.

Three important announcements were made to-day under circumstances which introduce an element of suspicion in each case. Admiral Sampson's destination was officially given as Cienfuegos, the Spanish fleet was said to have left Willemstad, Curacao, for Western Cuba, and the ap-