

M'KINLEY'S BACKBONE.

In the Right Place and Firm as
Solid Steel.

AMPLE EXCUSE FOR HESITANCY.

Party Politics Have Dropped Out of Sight
In Washington—Public Men Have Had
a Trying Experience—Need of a Canal
Across the Panama Isthmus.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—[Special.]—During all this Spanish excitement there has been a great deal of curiosity in Washington as to the identity of the man upon whom President McKinley has placed greatest reliance as an advisor. I had heard so much speculation upon this subject that I asked a member of the cabinet who was thoroughly familiar with the inner workings of the president's official family to give me an idea of the proper answer to the conundrum.

"You want to know upon whom the president relies in such important matters as this Spanish affair?" said the cabinet man. "Well, I have no objections to telling you. It is himself."

The member of the cabinet then went on to say what I have already informed you in these dispatches—to wit, that the president is famous for asking every one's advice and then following his own logic and instincts. Even the men who do not like the president and who have often sneered at him in the past admit that during the long and arduous Spanish crisis he has shown himself to be possessed of a good deal of backbone. There were times, it is true, when the president appeared to be suffering indecision and faint heartedness, but when he had made up his mind and come out with a strong policy it was the almost universal opinion that he had confronted difficulties which outsiders did not understand and that there was ample excuse for his hesitancy.

All Parties United.

One phase of the Cuban agitation has pleased every one, and that is the manner in which for the most part politics have been dropped and men of all parties have stood together in support of the American policy. It is an old saying that in this country politics is a thing unknown when we pass beyond the water's edge and go out to the sea, and with some small exceptions this has proved to be the case during the long and trying episode which we have just passed through at this capital. Whether this man or that man has gained in the popular esteem is a small question beside the greater one of the increased respect which the people may have for their public men of all grades and ranks and parties as a result of the ordeal which led up to the present state of things.

The past two months have been most trying to the patience of public men in Washington. Just as the Cuban situation was beginning to assume a serious aspect Senator Dupuy de Lome, the former Spanish minister, was caught as the author of an insulting letter about the president of the United States. No sooner was this quieted down than the Maine was destroyed in Havana harbor, and following that catastrophe came a series of incidents, each, if possible, more irritating and exciting than its predecessor. Such were the intimations made by Spain that it would be pleased with the recall of Consul General Lee, the suggestion that we should remove our fleets further from Cuba, the dispatch of the torpedo flotilla toward this side the ocean, the rumor of intervention by various European powers followed by a friendly expression of neutrality, the efforts of Spain to buy warships and the long series of steps so rapidly taken by the United States government to place its naval and military establishments in readiness for war.

Strain at the Capital.

For two months or more Washington has been under a strain. The feeling has been most intense, and the worst of it all for a long time was the uncertainty as to the outcome. Yet there has been little evidence of excitement. Men have contained themselves remarkably well so far as surface indications were concerned, but the deep feeling underneath, the anxiety, the grim determination, have been all the more significant. From the day the Maine was destroyed in Havana the tide has run all one way. Instead of growing weaker as time passed, as many predicted it would, it has run deeper and stronger. It finally became a torrent which nothing could stop save giving the people either their heart's desire or the promise of it in the near future.

In the last 60 or 90 days we have done wonders in the way of making ready for war, but we have learned a few lessons too. It is safe to say this is the last time the United States will ever be caught without coast fortifications, with a navy short of powder, without torpedo boats, without men to man our modern guns. Nothing is more certain than that the United States has, perhaps against its will, entered upon an era in which the old time tradition of isolation and the uselessness of a military establishment is gone forever. Henceforth we shall have to be ready for war.

The Nicaragua Canal.

Another lesson learned during the last few months is the need which exists from the national and military standpoint for completing the Nicaragua canal. We have ships of war now on their way from the Pacific ocean to the shores of Cuba. It is a voyage of something like 15,000 miles. Two months are required to steam from San Francisco round Cape Horn and up to Key West, allowing for detentions. If the Nicaragua canal were open, this voyage would be only one-sixth as long. With that waterway constructed and in working order the efficiency of the American navy would be increased many per cent. Considering the fact that from this time forward the United States may reasonably be expected to play an important part in the politics of the world and that it is impossible for any one to know whether trouble is going to break out in the Pacific or upon the Atlantic or in both together, many public men say building the Nicaragua canal is a national duty.

It is now safe to predict that before the expiration of his term President McKinley will carry out his original intention of asking congress in a special message to make provision for piercing the isthmus with a ship canal as a great national enterprise, prompted by our commercial needs as well as by our naval necessities.

WALTER WELLMAN.

Dismissed.

Doctor—A careful diagnosis of your case, colonel, convinces me that you have cancer on the brain.

Colonel Rumly—I shall no longer require you! services, sub.—Exchange.

EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Lesson For the Week Beginning April 17.
Comment by Rev. W. J. Yates, A. M.
Topic, The Keeping Power of God.

SCRIPTURE READING.—1 Pet. 1, 5; Dent. xxxiii, 27; Isa. lix, 19.

"Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

The salvation, though not seen by men in its fullness, is all ready to be unveiled before them. The time for its full manifestation has not come. Plans are complete, the figure of the perfect man has been cast and reared aloft on its pedestal so high that all men and angels and demons can see it, but the covering is still over it. The hour of its unveiling comes on, but is not yet. The people are to be prepared. By faith they are being made ready for the great day. While it delays the power of God keeps them in hope, purifies them in love, perfects in patience, leads in good works and protects in dangers and delivers amid temptations.

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath is the everlasting arms." Is the present pain so hard to bear? Is the future dark with dread? Are sin and sorrow everywhere? Are you weary and hard beset? Do the billows and tempest terrify? Have the waves gone over the head? There's refuge secure in God's sweet grace And comfort in His love. His everlasting arms embrace. He rules below, above; He gives His peace to troubled hearts Like the brooding of the dove.

Whatever may be the temptation, however great the sorrow or pressing the exigency, when all human sources of help fail and all human reason is baffled, God finds the way. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." With Him is no weariness. Our failures come from our lack of simple trust in God. It is not that the difficulties of life are so great that we fail; it is because we fail to grow strong in Christ and rest in His power. We rely upon our own prudence and sagacity and fail. What we ought to do is to think clearly and act resolutely so far as we know and submit all to God for His guidance never wavering in faith. When the hour comes for decision, some way—the right way—will have opened, oftentimes in unexpected directions.

Cast your care on Jesus.
Trust Him to the end.

Saints, Ancient and Modern.

It is not to be supposed, that because we call them St. Peter and St. Paul and St. James, etc., they called each other by this title. At close view Paul saw some things in Peter which he called dissimulation and rebuked sharply before the company of Christians met with them. Yet they were both godly men, and we do no wrong in calling them saints.

Perhaps at the present day our near view of some gives us less regard and appreciation for their piety than is really deserved. Perhaps we are looking for marks of sainthood not to be found on earth in any age. Even Jesus had no halo around His head until it was placed there by artists, and then it was only a canvas. Sainthood means the indwelling of the Divine presence in holy thought and choice and feeling. It means the faithful performance of daily duty in uncomplaining patience, however humble the task may be. It needs no winding sheet of flame to make one heroic, no striving after the unattainable. Sanctity and saintliness mean now, as they ever meant, loving obedience to the will of God. Earth may never enroll your name in this calendar and write your name with holy prefix, but if you live rightly God will crown you with His glory in due time and all eternity shall call you blessed.

What Are You Reading?

No young person can afford to read haphazard whatever comes to hand any more than they can afford to eat and drink anything chance may throw in their way. Some plan should be adopted and closely followed. To read nothing but stories is to ruin the power of the mind and spoil all appetite for more healthful and valuable reading. Quality should be more considered than quantity. If one wishes to improve in mind and character, close attention should be given to the selection of the books to be read. Life is too short and time too precious to waste in the worthless. A book which is not positively good and helpful is inevitably harmful and wasteful of time and energy. It would be well to have an evening in every chapter when the members shall in turn tell what they have read recently and recommend what they have found of value.

The Symbol of the Cross.

How strange a thing it is that the instrument of most painful and shameful death should become the cherished emblem of purest faith and most devout worship! Early in the Christian centuries this sign of the cross was chiseled on the tombstones of the martyrs and made prominent in the decorations of church buildings and articles used in religious service. The lamb, the dove, the fish, the shepherd's crook and many other devices illustrative of Scriptural truth and having reference to Jesus were early introduced. All have yielded to the sign of the cross, and it remains as the one significant emblem of the Christian faith.

Just as God Leads.

Just as God leads me I would go.
I would not ask to choose my way.
Content with what He will bestow.
Assured He will not let me stray.
So as He leads my path I make,
And step by step I gladly take,
A child, in Him confiding.

Just as God leads me I abide,
In faith, in hope, in suffering true.
His strength is ever by my side.
Can aught my hold on Him undo?
I hold me firm in patience, knowing
That God my life is still bestowing.
The best in kindness sending.

Just as God leads I onward go
Out amid thorns and briars keen.
God does not yet His guidance show,
But in the end it shall be seen
How by a loving Father's will,
Faithful and true, He leads me still.
—From the German.



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HAD A PRESENTIMENT.

Mrs. Thurston Did Not Believe She Would
Return Home Alive.

The ladies of the congressional circle at the Cairo apartment house, in Washington, where the Thurstons lived, say that the late Mrs. Thurston had a presentiment that she would not return alive from Cuba, but nevertheless was determined to go and would not allow her husband to leave without her.

A day or two before they left a number of ladies were sitting in Mrs. Thurston's room discussing plans and probabilities, when she informed them with the greatest seriousness that she did not expect to return and desired to leave with them messages and commissions for friends whom she would not be able to see before her departure. She even made a memorandum to assist the memory of one of the party, and that same afternoon collected all of her jewelry and asked one of the ladies to go with her as a witness while she placed it in the safe in the office of the hotel. The package was addressed to her daughter with a loving message. While the yacht was tumbling and creaking in the midst of the terrible storm that it met off Cape Hatteras Mrs. Thurston reminded Mrs. Gallinger of this presentiment and ventured the doleful prediction that they would not reach land alive. When the yacht finally found shelter at Charleston and the demoralized guests disembarked, they laughed over her despondency, but she was not shaken in her opinion that she was taking her last journey and would never see Washington again. — St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ITS EFFECT ON BUSINESS.

War Talk Results In a General Contraction
of Commercial Operations.

The war talk is having a serious effect upon general business conditions. It is causing an indisposition to enter into new contracts and branch out into fresh enterprises, and a tendency to curtail enterprises already entered into. Business men are disposed, pending definite knowledge as to future political conditions, to have their resources close at hand.

An example of the situation was afforded by the following trade report of the textile markets published recently.

"A steady contraction of operations has been in progress, due to the strained political relations with Spain. So far as practicable orders are being confined to provision for immediate requirements. The uncertainty is, however, preventing any pressure of material that might otherwise occur on account of the limited inquiry. Staple cottons are quiet and there is still an absence of demand for print cloths. The spot inquiry for printed fabrics is dull, but mail orders are good, due to the recent reduction in shirtings. In dress goods the feature is a big cut in spring wool fancies."

Forest Protection In Idaho.

The miners as well as the mine owners operating in northern Idaho are peculiarly interested in rational and effective methods of forest protection to what remains of the public timber lands, and as producers of national wealth have a right to demand it. They have the result of years of wanton forest destruction before their eyes and can see themselves confronted with a timber shortage before many years that threaten their commercial and industrial life. That such a condition is fast approaching needs no prophetic vision to foresee.

The extent of burned forest land the past 16 years as developed in these regions is an evidence that requires no supporting argument to make effective. That many thousands of acres of forest still exist in the Coeur d'Alene basins does not weaken the fact of an impending timber shortage. Under the present conditions two or three dry seasons would suffice to wipe out the larger portion by far of what remains of the forests in this part of the state. There is not yet adequate protection or supervision, and public sentiment upon these points is not yet sufficiently aroused. — Forester.

Smoke Klondike cigars.

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