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MASON AND WOLCOTT

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ILLINOIS MAN OPENS UP ON SPAIN.

And Makes a Remark Interpreted by Wolcott as an Imputation on the Honor of the Navy Department—Consequently the Far-Seeing Colorado Statesman Speaks Under Strong Pressure and Makes the Illinoisman, Who Replies with a Dismissal.

Washington, Feb. 12.—There was a genuine sensation in the senate yesterday over the Maine disaster, in which Mason and Wolcott got all tangled up with each other and the Colorado senator gave the Illinois statesman some very hard rubs, to which Mason warmly replied. The resolution offered Thursday by Allen of Nebraska directing the committee on naval affairs to make an immediate investigation of the disaster to the Maine was laid before senate, and Chandler thought that if the word "immediate" be stricken out and the matter be left within the discretion of the committee there would be no objection to the resolution. Mason proposed an amendment striking out all after the word "resolved" and inserting the following: "By the senate and house of representatives concurring, that a joint committee of five, consisting of three members of the house of representatives and two members of the senate, be appointed to investigate the disaster to the battleship Maine."

Hale asks for a Withdrawal.
Hale expressed the hope that Mason would not press his substitute. The disaster, he said, was even now being thoroughly investigated by the executive department of the government and that as soon as tangible results were reached the facts would be communicated to congress. Hale urged Mason to withdraw his substitute, as it would tend only to embarrass the executive department. "I had hoped," said Hale, "that this entire matter might be disposed of today without debate. It seems to me that in the circumstances and in the light of the utmost facilities, it is idle to indulge in debate." Hale said he was willing to withdraw his objections to the resolution of Allen, but the substitute suggested by Mason was even more objectionable in its form.

Didn't Want to Be Inflammatory.
Mason followed Hale in a speech replete with sensational utterances. He said in beginning that he had no disposition to inflame a situation already so exciting, but he felt that his substitute was fully justified by the feelings and desires of the people. "I understand," said he, "that the navy department is making an investigation of the disaster, but I also understand that congress has the authority to make an investigation. It is a congressional investigation that the people are demanding. They are fast coming to the conclusion that matters concerning this Cuban affair, including the De Lome letter incident and the loss of the Maine, of which they ought to know, are being concealed from them. The people want to know the facts and they will know them."

No Reflection on Anybody's Honor.
Mason said he did not desire to reflect upon the motives or honor of anybody, but he suggested that the officials of the navy department in making their investigation would be trying their own case and would naturally endeavor to cover up any blame that might attach to them. "The trouble with us," declared Mason, with great vehemence, "is that we have adopted the Spanish policy of putting everything off until tomorrow. Let the investigation of this disaster to our navy and to our country be thorough, investigated by congress and then we shall know that it will be done right."

MASON A MAN OF ACTION.

Tired of Waiting—Says He Would Not Sit at Table with a Spaniard.
After Hale had protested that the navy department was the proper department to make the investigation, and that nobody was delaying such investigation Mason went on to say that there was no clamor so great as a failure upon the part of those in power to appreciate the real situation when it was so serious as it now is, and no sorrow so profound as that over indifference to this situation. He had no desire to stir up trouble, but would only insist, as he had done before upon the stopping of human slavery and inhuman warfare in this adjacent island. He had a letter from Julian Hawthorne read to show, as he claimed, that murder was the policy of the Spanish government in Cuba. He also had De Lome's letter read and asserted that the minister had been defended in the senate until he had confessed out of his own mouth that autonomy was a fraud and that he was the author of the letter quoted.

This plea of autonomy had been used to secure delay on the part of the administration in interference in affairs in Cuba and it was for this reason that Mason said he wanted an immediate report upon his resolution for intervention. In view of De Lome's confession there was no longer excuse for delay. Autonomy he denounced as a sham, a fraud and a delusion, and the De Lome letter only served to emphasize the treacherous character of the Spaniard. As for himself he would not, if eligible, be willing to serve on the proposed committee, as he would not want to sit at the table with a Spaniard who might have a stiletto under his clothes, unless he himself was ironclad.

"The record of the Spanish nation," continued Mason, "is one of continuous treachery, and we have experienced that treachery in our history for the past two years. It has been made evident that the Spaniard could not be trusted in any capacity and for this reason we should now have American divers investigating the hull of the Maine and not be depending upon those of an unfriendly power." We are told, he said, that the naval board may be able to reach Havana by next Monday. "Havana," he exclaimed, "Havana tomorrow; always tomorrow. That is

the Spanish motto and we are falling into it."

Mason had scarcely taken his seat when Wolcott addressed the chair, and the words shot forth like a bomb. It was evident from the Colorado senator's countenance and manner—to say nothing of the intensity of his voice—that he was laboring under considerable feeling. He had listened to Mason with ill concealed feelings of emotion, his face growing redder and his brow more and more like a thunder-cloud as the Illinois senator proceeded. He spoke with great rapidity, and occupied only a few minutes of the senate's time, refusing to be interrupted and speaking very sharply when Mason sought to divert him. Wolcott spoke as follows:

"Mr. President, the resolution of the senator from Illinois, however inopportune it may be at this time in the opinion of some of us, might well have been permitted to pass without comment had it not been for the remarkable utterance which he has given to the senate. The people of these United States have lost confidence in one of the great departments of the government." Mason had resumed his standing position and he interrupted to say that the senator from Colorado was entirely mistaken. "I made no such statement," he said.

Wolcott—"I decline to be interrupted. I ask to have the remark read from the reporters' notes."

Mason—"I said that some people were losing confidence in one department and"

Wolcott—"I decline to be interrupted. I ask to have the reporters' notes read."

REPORTERS' NOTES ARE READ.

Wolcott Resents the Idea of Want of Confidence Among the People.
The reporters' notes, quoting Mason, were then read as follows: "I also understand that the people of this country are fast coming to the conclusion that the real situation is not only being concealed from the people, but from the members of congress and senators."

"I say that the people do lack confidence in some of the departments of the government, and they sometimes, perhaps, do in this department." Wolcott then continued. The senate would, he said, bear him out that he did not misquote the senator from Illinois to the extent of a single word or a single syllable. Resuming, he said: "I desire to repeat as utterly unfounded the suggestion that there is a patriotic citizen in the broad confines of this land who has not the fullest confidence in every department of this government, and the department of the navy particularly. It has been true in every administration since the time of Washington. The people of the United States have never yet been called upon to distrust one of the co-ordinate branches of this government, and they never will while the flag floats."

"Least of all is it decent, in my opinion, that in this chamber there should be insinuations cast at this critical time that there is a lack in the minds of the people of the United States of confidence in the navy of our country. From the time of Paul Jones until now our ships have sailed in every war far ahead of the foe. The records of our naval battles are the most glorious history in the page of any country for the last 100 years, and from the earliest days until now there has never been a step backward. Today as always the officers of our navy are honorable, courageous, upright men, and above all they tell the truth. The captain of this ill-fated battleship was walking his deck at 10 o'clock on the night of the 15th when this awful explosion happened. It may be that his public career is ended forever."

"But the awful disaster that overtook his ship will count for nothing by comparison with the degrading insinuation made here that an officer of our country with the oath and with the flag above him would lie and cast responsibility where it did not belong. Ah, Mr. President, we can stand much of discussion and debate; we can endure much of public discussion when there should be silence; but there is one thing this country can never stand, and that is to listen without resentment to an insinuation that the officers of our navy are not men of honor and integrity and of truth. The officers appointed to investigate will do their duty."

COLORADOAN DRAWS THE LINE.

Idea of Distinct in the Navy Must Come from the Senate.

"I do not know what slurs the senator from Illinois may have dragged to find the expression of an opinion that there is lack of confidence in the personnel of our navy, but I know he cannot find an honorable or a decent or a patriotic citizen who will stand up before the country and endorse for an instant the utterances which the senator has made. I do not underrate the importance of this branch of the government. I believe in its dignity and its importance and in the openness of its discussions, but what we need now in my opinion is a decent and dignified reticence in the face of the appalling calamity that has fallen upon our people. There are times for speaking and there are times for silence, and this is a time when we should restrain any expression of our opinion or expressions of our belief as to the means by which this awful disaster was brought about."

"Mr. President, I speak as once sympathizing deeply with the citizens of that unfortunate island now engaged in this terrible, deplorable conflict. I yield to nobody in my desire to see the conclusion of that war, but I do say if ever there was a moment when we should

betain from outrageous and gratuitous insult to a friendly nation that time is today. If ever there was a time when we should lend our help to every department of the government, it should be today. If there was ever a time when we should refrain from unjust and ignorant criticism it is today. Mr. President, war may not be far distant, and when it comes we will fight it alone. When that day comes our course must be eternally grounded in the right, and until it comes there is nothing so belittles this people in my opinion as these unjust and outrageous attacks upon a friendly government."

Lodge followed Wolcott, resenting any imputation on the honor either of the navy or the officials of the navy department from the secretary down, and then Mason rose to reply and began: "Misquotation and general spasm will not drive me from the discussion of this question in the senate." He then, he said, in the general admiration of the various departments of the executive branch of the government and Wolcott would not excel him in that respect. "I am sorry," he said, "that while the Colorado senator is giving us such a lecture about the navy department, he does not stop over and give the treasury department some of his praise," and the galleries applauded.

He (Mason) fully endorsed all that Lodge had said about the head of the navy, with whom he had served in the house and whom he knew to be a man of ability, of great head and a warm heart. He denied that his remarks contained any reflection upon Long's integrity or honor or the integrity or honor of the officers of the navy. But while this was true he also had regard for the honor and the lives of the common seamen. He also resented the insinuation that he had gone into the navy to find words with which to characterize the navy department and repeated his loyalty to the navy and other departments.

Allen of Nebraska said he desired to secure a vote upon the resolution, but he desired to reiterate the suspicions expressed by Mason that the investigation by the navy department would not be satisfactory to the country. "I want to say that I have not in my five years of experience in the senate known one of these investigations to result in anything."

Hale rose and said: "I decline absolutely to follow the senator from Illinois into a general discussion of the Cuban question. I had hoped that this subject might be disposed of today without debate and I now decline to take advantage of the melancholy situation to exploit myself. I have here a dispatch received by the navy department from Captain Sigbee. It shows that there is not in the city of Havana a single discordant note. All are in mourning for the dead. The city is filled with an atmosphere of pity, commiseration and sympathy." Hale then remarked that under the rules the resolution would go to the calendar, and the debate closed.

House Does Little Work.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The house debated the bankruptcy bill until noon and then immediately after the reading of the journal, adopted a resolution appropriating money needed in investigating and removing the wreck of the Maine. The same resolution was adopted by the senate.

DEATH OF FRANCES E. WILLARD

Conclusion Up to a Few Minutes Before She Was Summoned Hence.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—The death of Frances E. Willard, which took place at New York a few minutes after midnight yesterday morning, was not entirely unexpected. She had been ill for three weeks, and a few days ago it was announced that her condition was critical. Prayers for her recovery had gone up from the gilded arches of the Woman's Temple, from the church, and from every Christian home in the world, but the end could not be stayed. The cause of death was a gripe, but Miss Willard had suffered for years with profound anemia. Miss Willard met death calmly and peacefully. She was conscious up to midnight, and just before the end she opened her eyes, smiled sweetly, pressed Miss Gordon's hand and passed away.

Throughout the evening she seemed to realize death was very close at hand. She asked the doctor for the exact truth and he told her. "This well," said the sufferer, and she closed her eyes contentedly. She was happy. Then she whispered some last wishes for the W. C. T. U. The fact which was so loved in life will be perpetuated for all time as Lorado Taft is now putting the finishing touches to a bust of Miss Willard. It will be presented to the Northwestern university. Frances E. Willard was perhaps better known than any other woman in modern American history. Her life brought her before the people and as a leader she had stood for long years in the bright light of publicity.

She was born at Churchville, N. Y., Sept. 25, 1839.

Funeral arrangements are not yet completed, but the body will be in state for one day in Willard hall. Next Thursday funeral services will be held at Evans-ton, which was Miss Willard's home, and burial will be at Rose Hill. The same day members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in every city and town in Illinois who cannot come to Chicago to attend the obsequies will hold memorial services. All of the local unions, 500 or 600 in number, were called upon yesterday by the officers of the Illinois W. C. T. U. to honor their deceased leader while her body is being lowered into the grave.

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March 8, 1897. *Samuel Pitcher*

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