

UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

At one moment it seems as if war was unavoidable between Spain and the United States; at another the clouds seem to have cleared somewhat and a peaceful solution of the problem seems possible.

In his message to Congress, regarding the report of the Court of Enquiry, the President was exceedingly moderate and conciliatory.

"The near future will demonstrate whether the indispensable condition of a righteous peace, just alike to the Cubans and to Spain, as well as equitable to all our interests so intimately involved in the welfare of Cuba, is likely to be attained.

No one doubts that in the long run the United States would thoroughly defeat Spain. There might be what is called "glory" and a large war indemnity attached, but would that balance the orphaned homes, the battered cities, not to speak of the tremendous financial and commercial losses?"

President McKinley does not want war, and he is holding out for peace. This can easily be seen by contrasting the extract from his December message with the one read on Monday last.

Government thereon be communicated to the Government of Her Majesty, the Queen Regent, and I do not permit myself to doubt that the sense of justice of the Spanish nation will dictate a course of action suggested by honor and friendly relations of the two governments.

Nothing could be calmer, more dignified or peace-making than the above, it only remains now to see whether Congress will force the President's hands.

The report of the Court of Enquiry was another specimen example of calm deliberation, in which every precaution was taken not to give offence to Spain.

After full and mature consideration of the testimony before it, the Court finds as follows:

(1) That the United States battle ship Maine arrived in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on Jan. 25, 1898, and was taken to buoy No. 4, in from five and a half to six fathoms of water, by the regular government pilot.

(2) The state of discipline on board the Maine was excellent; and all orders and regulations in regard to the care and safety of the ship were strictly carried out.

(3) The destruction of the Maine occurred at 9.40 p.m. on February 15, 1898, in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, she at the same time being moored to the same buoy to which she had been taken upon her arrival.

(4) The condition bearing upon this, being principally obtained from divers, did not enable the court to form a definite conclusion as to the condition of the wreck, although it was established that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the destruction of the forward part.

(5) At frame seventeen the outer shell of the ship from a point eleven and a half feet from the middle line of the ship and six feet above the keel when in its normal position, has been forced up so as to be now about four feet above the surface of the water, therefore about thirty four feet above where it would be had the ship sunk uninjured.

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Maine on the occasion named was not in any respect due to the fault or negligence on the part of any of the officers and members of the crew of said vessel.

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THE LONDON BUDGET.

hathand of a street gamin. At St. James Palace, at the guard count, the band played Irish airs, and a brilliant crowd attended the Irish industrial sale at Lansdowne House.

Negotiations in the Far East. What the outcome of the negotiations in the Far East will be nobody dare prophesy just yet.

To prove that the whip-hand in the diplomatic dealings is held by Russia, and that gradually such advantages will be offered to Japan as will make her take side with Russia, and thus leave England completely isolated.

another disturbing question; but again, in this the Muscovite seems to have the better of the argument. Should China hand over Port Arthur to the Russians, the Gibraltar of the East will be gone, notwithstanding that the harbor is supposed to be open to the warships of all nations, and Russia will also have the collection of customs under her control.

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ALPHONSE VALIQUETTE & CO'S GRAND EASTER MILLINERY OPENING. Messrs. A. V. & Co. respectfully announce to their many friends and the public in general that their Grand Easter Millinery Opening is complete.

The message concludes as follows:—I have directed that the findings of the Court of Enquiry, and the views of this

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