

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

On the flagship New-York, off Havana, April 23, 2 p. m.—The castle opened guns on fighting squadron at 11 o'clock last night. About ten shots were fired in direction of the ships. None took effect and none were returned.

The firing was reported by the officer of the deck, Ensign J. R. Edie, to Capt. Chadwick, who was asleep at the time. The young officer asked the captain in command whether the New York had better not discontinue signalling: "No," muttered Captain Chadwick, with the utmost coolness, "there is no necessity for stopping the signals. Go ahead."

A little later Captain Chadwick was on the forward bridge, whence he watched the tongues of flame shoot out from Morro castle. He glanced in the direction of the Spanish fortifications for a few seconds and then turned his back on them in silent contempt and went back to his bed, perfectly certain that the Spaniards could do no damage at five miles, which was then the approximate distance of the flagship from Morro castle.

Another officer said: "The Spaniards probably became nervous and decided they could not sleep without some fireworks. They can't hit anything anyway."

There was no excitement on board the flagship during Morro castle's futile attempt at gunnery. The discipline was really splendid. In fact, at this hour, many people on board the flagship do not know that Spain's first guns of war have been fired and that the New York was their target.

The United States cruiser Cincinnati, Captain C. M. Chester, reported to the flagship at midnight: "I have a prize." It is therefore evident that other ships besides the New York have been busy during the night. The extent and value of the capture made by the Cincinnati is not known at this writing.

Morro castle light, which was burning brightly all the evening, was put out at midnight. The Spaniards evidently realized, though rather late, that the sole use of the light at that time had been to serve as a guide for the fleet of the United States.

Speculation is rife as to what the Spaniards are doing and what they intend to do. It is not believed that Admiral Sampson will confine himself entirely to the blockade of the island, although he informed the correspondent that he did not expect any action to occur in the immediate future. It is certain, however, that some movement will be made on Matanzas, probably tomorrow. Whether this will be simply in the nature of a blockade or for the purpose of securing a base of supplies cannot yet be ascertained with any degree of assurance.

Key West, Fla., April 23.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The first shot from Spain was fired last night when Morro castle opened its batteries on the United States fleet.

The news brought here this afternoon by the torpedo boat Ericsson, which left the fleet at 10 o'clock this morning and reached here at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Captain Usher of the Ericsson said his boat was ordered out early last night on scouting duty. The fleet was lying eight miles off Havana. Lights were out and all hands were ready for action. The little craft rushed swiftly toward the enemy and brought up almost under Morro's guns, being enabled to reach such a close point because, for the first time in years, Morro light was then burning.

At 11 p. m. the Spanish artillery roared out its first welcome to the American fleet. The firing was done

more in a tentative way than an attack. Not a shot found a billet, and the fleet, disdaining Spain's wretched gunnery, maintained a dignified silence.

Before the firing began a newspaper dispatch boat which had lost its bearings in the cloudy night got within three miles of Morro castle, and before she knew her whereabouts the boat found Morro firing on her. She was saved by the unskilled marksmanship of the Havana gunners, getting away unharmed and eventually bringing up with the fleet.

Havana had not been bombarded up to the time the Ericsson left. The squadron lay spread out in a line about eight miles long, maintaining the blockade. According to the proclamation the ships of neutral powers are allowed to pass in and out.

A third capture was made this morning at dawn, however, when the Ericsson caught a little Spanish two-masted fishing schooner carrying a crew of five men. The torpedo boat had no prize crew to put aboard, so she chased her to the fleet and tied her up alongside the Cincinnati.

On board flagship New York, off Havana, April 24.—Noon.—During the early morning the Morro castle batteries again opened fire on the fleet, but without the slightest effect. There have been no casualties among our forces up to this hour and not a single shot has been fired against the batteries.

Key West, Fla., April 24.—According to dispatch boats which reached this port this afternoon from the United States fleet, the port of Havana is blockaded, but otherwise the situation is unchanged. Contrary to reports, previously received, these boats say that not a shot has yet been fired on either side.

New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the Herald from Hongkong says: Major General Black, acting governor of Hongkong, has issued a proclamation stating that, having received official notice from the British colonial secretary that a state of war exists between Spain and the United States, he calls on all British subjects to observe the neutrality laws.

Commodore Dewey has informed the governor that he will depart from British waters immediately.

The Boston Concord and Petrol have sailed for Mrs Bay, about thirty miles from Hongkong. The Olympia, Baltimore, and Raleigh will join the others tomorrow. All six have been painted the color of gray for and are fully laden with coal, ammunition and supplies.

Mr. O. F. Williams, U. S. consul to Manila, is expected to arrive on Tuesday with important news as to the condition of affairs in the Philippines.

The anchorage in Mrs Bay is in Chinese jurisdiction and the fleet can there complete its preparations for active service.

The Washington correspondent of the Herald says:

"Spain's possessions in the Far East will be under the guns of the American squadron commanded by Commodore G. H. Dewey within the next few days."

"Official information, it is understood, has reached Washington of the departure today of the squadron from Hongkong, where it has been making preparations for the work which the navy department has laid out for it to perform. Accompanying the men-of-war are the revenue cutter Hugh McCulloch and a number of colliers, conveying coal and other stores needed for the fleet in its operations against the Spanish naval service in the waters

of the Philippines and against the fortifications of Manila and other sea-ports of those islands.

New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Arrangements have been completed by this government to supply the Cuban insurgents with arms and ammunition.

The government is preparing now to land in Cuba from 25,000 to 30,000 stand of improved Springfield rifles, a number of artillery batteries, rapid fire maxim guns and an abundance of ammunition for the effective use of them.

It cannot now be said when these munitions of war will be placed in the hands of the insurgents, but when the proper time arrives for the 35,000 armed Cubans to co-operate with the American forces, they will be thoroughly armed and equipped for battle.

On board the Associated Press dispatch boat Dauntless, Matanzas, Island of Cuba, via Key West, Fla., April 25, 7:42 a.m.—(Copyright 1898 by the Associated Press.)—The U. S. torpedo boat Foote, Lieut. W. L. Rogers commanding, has the honor of being the target for the first shots fired by the Spaniards at the American flag just begun.

The firing occurred between 5 and 6 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, while the torpedo boat was taking soundings in the harbor of Matanzas. She was within 200 or 300 yards of shore. Suddenly a Spanish masked battery on the east side of the harbor and not very far distant from the Foote, fired three shots at the torpedo boat. They all went wide of the mark and the Foote returned to the Cincinnati, where she reported the result of her soundings and then announced she had been fired upon. The Cincinnati was anxious to steam in instantly and reduce the Spanish battery but she was not permitted to do so.

No captures are reported by the fleet off Matanzas.

It is alleged that two Spanish gunboats were seen in shore, but the report could not be verified.

Bankok, Siam, April 25.—Minister Barrett suggests that if American captures the Philippine Islands, she should negotiate with Great Britain to exchange them for the latter's West Indian colony.

Washington, April 25.—The war department has issued a call on the states for their quotas of troops under the call for 125,000 men. The following are the quotas:

Alabama—Two regiments of infantry and one battalion.

Arkansas—Two regiments of infantry.

California—Two regiments of infantry; two battalions and four heavy batteries.

Colorado—One regiment of infantry and one light battery.

Connecticut—One regiment of infantry, one light battery and two heavy batteries.

Delaware—One regiment of infantry.

Florida—One regiment of infantry.

Georgia—Two regiments of infantry and two light batteries.

Illinois—Seven regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry.

Indiana—Four regiments of infantry and two light batteries.

Iowa—Three regiments of infantry and two light batteries.

Kansas—Three regiments of infantry.

Kentucky—Three regiments of infantry and two troops of cavalry.

Louisiana—Two regiments of infantry.

Maine—One regiment infantry and two heavy batteries.

Maryland—One regiment infantry, four heavy batteries.

Massachusetts—Four regiments of infantry and three heavy batteries.