

Manila. The bombardment is expected to take place today. The British consul at Manila has had a conference with Commodore Dewey.

Martial law will be proclaimed in Madrid if there is any hostile demonstration in the streets. Great discontent prevails, and "lack of foresight" of the government is blamed for the disaster.

London, May 2.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Madrid dated this morning says: The cabinet ministers admit that the naval battle off Cavite ended in utter route, but they are resolved to spare no efforts in the defense of their country.

HOW THE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

New York, May 2.—A dispatch to the Herald from London says: The Asiatic squadron of the United States, Commodore Dewey commanding, on Sunday engaged and completely defeated the Asiatic squadron of Spain in the harbor of Manila, in the Philippine Islands.

All the news of the great naval battle thus far is coming from Spanish sources. This shows conclusively that Manila has not yet been taken by the American forces and that the cable lines are still under the control of Spain.

From the fact that even the advices received from Madrid show that the American warships fared the best, there is hardly any doubt that when complete details are obtained, it will be learned that it was a crushing defeat for Spain. Reports of the battle thus far are coming in piecemeal.

During the two engagements that took place, Commodore Montojo, commanding the Spanish fleet, lost three of his largest ships. His flag ship the steel cruiser Reina Christina, and the armored cruiser Castilla were burned and the cruiser Don Juan De Austria was blown up. Several other Spanish vessels were badly damaged. One report adds that several other Spanish ships were sunk by their commanders to prevent their falling into the hands of the Americans.

There was a heavy loss of life among the Spanish. Captain Darso, commanding the Reina Christina, was killed. Commodore Montojo, commanding the fleet, shifted his flag from the Reina Christina to the Isle de Cuba, a much smaller steel protected cruiser, just before Christina sank. The blowing up of the Don Juan De Austria was attended by a great loss of life among the crew, her commander also being killed.

Commodore Dewey's squadron, leaving Subig bay, a few miles from Manila, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, proceeded toward Manila. Under the cover of darkness he entered the harbor of Manila, the batteries located there announcing his arrival.

Both fleets lined up for battle about day break—about 5 o'clock this morning. The guns of the American warships began firing on the fortress of Cavite and the arsenal of Manila.

Under the protection of the guns of these fortifications the Spanish warships opened fire on the American fleet. For several hours the harbor resounded with the roar of guns, the crashing of steel and timbers, the shrieks and groans of the wounded. Thick clouds of smoke at times almost obscured the opposing fleets from each other.

A well directed shot reached the iron cruiser Don Juan de Austria, a vessel of 1,100 tons. A terrific explosion followed and the ship was blown up.

All the time during the first engagement the American ships were under way, their maneuvering being intended to render the marksmanship of the Spanish gunners less effective.

The American squadron about 9 o'clock drew off the west side of the

bay and took refuge behind some foreign shipping. The ships had evidently suffered considerable damage. After some hasty repairs, they returned to the conflict.

During this engagement the guns of Cavite maintained a steadier and stronger fire upon Commodore Dewey's ships than in the first encounter, but the American guns were being used with telling effect.

As the smoke lifted it was seen the flagship Reina Christina was on fire. The vessel was completely burned. In the interval between the two engagements Commodore Montojo moved his flag from the Reina Christina to the smaller cruiser Isle de Cuba. To the fact that he made this change he doubtless owes his life.

The cruiser Castilla, next to the flagship the largest and most powerful of the Spanish squadron, was also burned. The cruiser Don Antonio de Ulloa and the Mindanao were also badly damaged in this encounter.

That the American squadron received severe damage in the engagement cannot be doubted. Early reports had it that five of Commodore Dewey's ships had been sunk. Later advices from Madrid put the number at two.

There were undoubtedly heavy losses in men on both sides. One apparently trustworthy report states that the Spanish had 200 killed and 400 wounded.

Trustworthy details of the American loss of life will hardly be obtainable until Commodore Dewey has taken Manila or has sent a vessel with dispatches to Hongkong.

London, May 2.—A special from Madrid says the Spanish ministers are "determined to exhaust their resources in defense of the national honor."

The queen regent is said to have declared that her spirit can never be downed so long as she can rely on the patriotism and courage of the Spaniards.

London, May 2.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail dated this morning, says:

The Americans are now moving on Manila but there has as yet been no capitulation.

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Madrid says that the Reina Maria Christina and the Castilla were totally burned and one vessel was purposely sunk and the rest of the fleet badly damaged. The American fleet is believed to be much damaged.

Madrid, May 2.—A member of the cabinet this morning stated that the account of yesterday's naval battle sent by the governor general of the Philippine Islands had been completely borne out by later dispatches. The last shot was fired at 11:30, when the American warships steamed off.

Washington, May 2.—Commodore Dewey's instructions permit him to bombard Manila, if it is necessary to taking possession of the islands, but he was not to do so unless the city's harbor troops operated offensively against him.

London, May 2.—The British consul at Manila has advised the foreign office that the Spanish fleet was practically annihilated.

Washington, May 2.—Joy beamed on every countenance at the navy department this morning and the officials exchanged enthusiastic congratulations on Commodore Dewey's victory as they entered the department to take up their daily tasks.

Many of the officers were worn to the verge of nervous prostration by the exhausting labors of the last few weeks, but all fatigue was forgotten for the moment as they stopped to talk of the battle off Manila. There was anxious inquiry from all sources for details of the fight. It was realized by the officials that nothing can be expected directly from Commodore Dewey in the

usual course for at least two days more. There is, however, a possibility, which is magnified by expectant minds here into a probability that some information at least more reliable and freer from color than that which comes from Madrid may be forthcoming through the British foreign office.

While the Spanish government in the case of an emergency might take absolute possession of the cable at Manila it is not customary to deny access to it to the diplomatic and consular officials of neutral governments.

The cabled reports that the British consul general at Manila had a conference after the conflict with Commodore Dewey indicates clearly that he is at least in possession of the American story of the naval battle and probably has been made acquainted with the extent of the loss suffered by the American ships. It is not doubted that if the opportunity offers the consular officer will communicate promptly the facts to his home government and it is just possible that he has been requested by Commodore Dewey to see to it that a brief and fair statement of the facts are transmitted to the United States government. The conviction is growing in the state and navy department that the accounts which have been received so far of the engagements greatly minimize the achievements of the American fleet. A careful reading of the dispatches, even those from Spanish sources, seem to warrant an assumption that Commodore Dewey has succeeded completely in his undertaking, and has accomplished everything that was expected of him and included in his orders.

It is noticed that in one sense the report speaks of the Commodore's landing his wounded. This is regarded as a significant statement. It is not supposed for an instant that the admiral abandoned his wounded to the enemy, and the only sane inference that can be drawn is that he placed them in proper shelter on shore under a guard from the United States fleet which is prepared to protect the landing with the guns of the fleet.

Thus it appears that Commodore Dewey has crushed the Spanish fleet, the prime object of his expedition, and has relieved American commerce in the Pacific from the dread of capture, while in addition he has placed his feet on Spanish soil and holds a position ashore which may be developed into a base of supplies for his fleet which thus will have found a legitimate home.

At the foreign embassies and legations, intense interest is shown in the news of the decisive victory of the American fleet at Manila. It was stated by high diplomatic officials today that another such victory would end the cause of Spain and would force her to seek an armistice and peace.

The universal belief in diplomatic quarters is that this stroke in the Philippines will be followed immediately by aggressive action in Cuba.

Aside from the immediate effects of the Manila engagement, foreign representatives here say it is likely to precipitate an internal convulsion in Spain. This has been apprehended by the European powers and has been the chief cause of their activity, as it threatens to bring the war to the continent of Europe. Official advices of the Manila fight had not been received at any of the establishments of the great powers of Europe up to noon today.

From the fact reported from Madrid that Commodore Dewey had opened communication with the British consul at Manila, it is expected that the first reports, other than those of a Spanish character, will come from British sources. It is understood the British consul at Manila, Mr. Rawson-Walker, has assumed charge of American interests in the Philippines, and under such circumstances is charged with the