PART 2. THE DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 16

NEWS: SATURDAY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

FORTY-NINTH YEAR. SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1899, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. NUMBER 146.

FARCE BECAME A TRAGEDY.

A Salt Laker Writes to the "News" of the Trouble in Samoa.

A GRAVE DIPLOMATIC TANGLE.

Particulars of the Killing of American and English Officers and Men On the German Plantation by Mataafas Who Once Slew Germans at the Same Place.

Special Correspondence.

Apia, Upolu, Samoa, April 21st.—Since the last steamer went on four weeks ago, this little island country has been piling up history at the rate of several pages per day. What at that time appeared to be comparatively a trifling matter now takes on a more serious aspect. The farce has developed into tragedy with his Majesty Malietoa Tanu in the secondary and Samoa, England, the United States and Germany now find themselves involved in a political tangle so intricate and aggravating that only the very best diplomacy will be able to confine blood shedding encounters to this little land. The very air here seems filled with the emphatic oaths, grits and snarls; blows, horror and bloodshed are becoming now almost as common as the rising and flowing of the tide.

No sooner had Malietoa Tanu formally been installed as king than the natives commenced a hide-and-seek game of lasting everything they could lay their hands on. All the foreign residence in the suburbs of Apia, including the premises of Chief Justice Chambers and our consul headquarters, suffered at their hands. Articles of furniture, pianos, etc., of no use to the native were destroyed by them. The few roads leading inland toward their rendezvous in the bush were strewn with fallen trees and debris, bridges burned and torn up until the ways were almost impassable; then going some four or five miles inland the main body of the rebels commenced building their forts and entrenchments.

While this was going on the English gunboats continued bringing Malietoa warriors from all parts of the islands, arming and drilling a part of them in preparation for the coming struggle. Most fortifiles were commenced by these same gunboats cruising up and down the coast.

SHELLING MATAAFAN VILLAGES

and the bush behind; then under the leadership of an English lieutenant landing about 100 or more well armed Loyalists to burn the houses and destroy the boats. During the latter part of March a few unimportant encounters occurred between the rebels and Loyalists sent out to do this work.

Captain Stanton of H. M. S. Porpoise at the head of probably 125 each—English and American marines—and as many native made several tours in the bush at the west of Apia completely routing, without loss of life on either side. The rebels—they, rats and Mataafans and destroying their entrenchments.

Still desiring to settle the matter without arming one of his four Admiral Kautz on March 25th issued an ultimatum to the Mataafans promising that they would be considered for their depredations already committed if they would but return quietly to their homes and recognize Malietoa as king of Samoa, otherwise stringent measures would be taken against them. The answer carried back by the French priest who had delivered the admiral's message was to the effect that had the three treaty powers, consuls or any one of them asked a recognition of their or its authority as supreme in Samoa they gladly would have complied but they could see no use in the kingship to Malietoa, representing as he did only a small minority of their people.

On April 1st an encounter took place some fifteen miles west of Apia, resulting in the death of some twelve rebels, the Loyalists escaping with but a few slight wounds. On the afternoon of this same day a scouting party of about 150 Loyalists and bushwhackers—made up of a few miles in the east coast destroying two villages. The enemy was not sighted until the return trip was commenced when they were ambushed on the German plantation within a mile of the spot where some twelve years ago about forty German marines

LOST THEIR LIVES

at the hands of those same Mataafans. It came near being a disastrous for the whites in this instance. The native contingent of the company having been supplied with only about five rounds of ammunition each, were compelled to retire early from the fray for want of a will they let be time in getting themselves out of range of the enemy's guns. The marines made a gallant stand but finding themselves at the expiration of an hour, surrounded on three sides and fast being gouged they also retreated to discover carrying a few of their wounded with them.

The only field gun they carried, a Browning rapid firing gun, refused to operate. This they were compelled to leave on the field with their dead and some of the wounded. In retiring the Loyalists lost one man, both of the men of our mission headquarters at Fagalii, seven men were missing and they had also wounded to contend with in the American contingent. An English lieutenant, the officer in charge of the day, and two English bluejackets were among those killed.

A party of Loyalists recovered the bodies of the officer and the English seaman but as in the cases of those the bodies of the officers and the right eye of the seaman were mutilated with funeral took place on the afternoon of the 2nd inst., and as soon as filled the graves been covered than a guard arrived from the Mataafan camp, bringing the three heads with him. Three of scores were buried with the bodies.

A few days before this in a skirmish between the natives near here one Malietoa warrior fell at the hands of the Loyalists. His head was promptly taken and with it as a

LARGE WOODEN DISH

the natives danced triumphantly through the town on their way to Malietoa's village, the head being placed before king, Malietoa, where, according to their customs, they feasted with much vigorous. Only recent with such trophies, the naval officers stop it, for the ceremonies. This so incensed the warriors that by their orders the king issued a proclamation making it a crime punishable by death to decapitate an enemy killed in battle in the future.

The battle of Fasefa April 1st, quite changed the aspect of the situation. The naval officers for the first time were made to realize that Mataafa and his followers, nearly at least supported by the German Consul, had no intention of surrender without a struggle, or at some of their rallyings yet to. We will not visit on Mataafa. The foreigners may kill us but they cannot make us surrender.

During the first days of April matters were pushed a little more vigorously by the naval forces. The marines were not with satisfaction to the probability of being embodied but were ordered to remain on the beach guarding Apia.

With the assistance of the native the gunboats continued their work of destruction until some five miles east and west of Apia hardly a house remains. Several villages on Savaii have also been destroyed.

Resistance was offered by the native and some instances but the Loyalists have generally succeeded in driving the enemy. The shelling from the men-of-war with the exceptions of a very few instances have done the enemy but little harm. The reason for this is the difficulty of locating the hiding places of the rebels in the bush.

The most important encounter since the 1st inst. took place on the 7th. The rebels had fortified in large numbers entrenched and fortified about the province of the late United States consulate about four miles inland from here, and so

THE SCOUTS REPORTED.

were using the dwelling of this renowned author for a blockhouse. An attack was planned, but by night the marines, the marines to be sent in the rear to reinforce them if necessary. The Samoans started from the mountains in a small open space surrounded by a dense forest with only enough cover to hide the men, the marines came approaching. Cautiously the Loyalists advanced their way through the bush and when the rebels were within a short distance of the fortified rebels when volleys the said men they poured on the rebels driving them from their fort, scores and that third entrenchments, of the seven of seven surrounding the house. This third was not made, however, without serious loss to the Mataafans while very few of the Malietoa were killed. At entrenchment No. 4 the rebels made a long stand and although the fight was on until dark they could not be dislodged. The Loyalists returned to the coast leaving their dead, six in number and other wounded, two of whom have died since that time. A German flag flying over the new consulate was also captured. The navy did what they could by throwing several shots up there during the engagement the Loyalists reported that they did not. No serious damage, however, was done by them with the final withdrawal of the troops and men, who it is a Tuesday desperately to the rebels for two days after they were all gone; the destruction of the village is seen and evidence of a fearful slaughter caused by the Little shells. Scores of human heads have been taken in all everything within 25 feet of where it bursts.

Two hundred and five hundred Loyalists is a fair estimate of the number of armed Malietoans on the islands, they are by the Germans known to be the majority of Apia, while the French priests report 1,000 with arms, ammunition and provisions, the Mataafans on the bush. If this is the true condition a surrender can hardly be expected unless the Loyalists are

SUBSTANTIALLY RE-INFORCED

and as nearly all the natives have been pressed into the service some other country will have to furnish the reinforcements.

The English gun boat Torch has just dropped anchor in the harbor. She is just from New Zealand and is loaded with arms and ammunition. This makes a total of four English men-of-war here.

The Philadelphia is still the pride of the harbor and lays close up to the German gunboat Falke where a vigilant watch can be kept on the natives ashore.

The suspicion that the Germans here are lending substantial aid to the Mataafan cause was somewhat confirmed shortly after the arrival of the Falke by a German born schooner having on board enough stock of cartridges to supply a battalion, to the Bridge Trader on the south side of the island. Rumor says that a letter was also found with the crew that, if the rebels encouraging them to hold out another two weeks when Mataafa would probably be placed on the throne. The armed Captain of the schooner is to press at the military headquarters, but action was at no time taken against the German firm.

Apia continues under martial law. The German consul and subjects here remain closed prisoners at their own houses the militia still refusing to let one from passing.

This condition of affairs with the antagonistic position the German officials continue to occupy makes a very bitter feeling against them by those belonging to our, the great treaty, continued hostility may prove but the means of some kind—good, bad—between the two nations.

N. O. STILLINGHAM.

GHASTLY SAMOAN TROPHIES.

D. J. Wood of this city received the following poem from a friend, by the name of Thomas Hall, which appeared here this week. It was written on March 26th when the Samoan contest brought in a fresh crop of the rebels, which they always cut off when wounded or killed in battle:

Hail you men the ghastly creation
Brought within our lines today
By our own Malietoa warriors
As a sentence to the Dey.
You would pray the Dey had eaten
On the white winged dove of peace,
And from war with all its horrors
Ask a long and sure relief.

In the fresh make matched the warrior
With a slow and stately tread,
While doth he how to triumph
Some poor rebel's gory head:
And the natives demed their war dance
To their souls so bad and deep
It would make the bravest shudder
And the cold chills o'er you creep.

But our officers have ordered
That such ceremony now must cease
And we have to see Samoans
Dwell together soon in peace.
Thus we all will hoard our war ships
And for home will gladly sail,
And will tell our friends and kinsmen
Many a strange and thrilling tale.

Written by N. O. Stanley, Corporal, U. S. F. M. Philadelphia, On shore duty at the Consulate, Malietoa Point.

SAMOAN AFTER A BATTLE FEAST.

A Samoan battle feast is a marvelous spread. The last one took place April 1, in honor of the skirmish which the Samoans had the week before. It took a week to get the feast ready, although the natives worked hard for it. The Tonga or favorite of each family had

[illegible]

girls working and the women, as well as the men, got ready for the battle feast. Which the feast was served it was a Samoan spread. It lay upon the ground, for they do not use tables in Samoa, and it looked like one of the feasts of the tropical fairy tales which we read of in those strange Arabian books.

The table, which was three hundred feet long, was made of banana leaves laid on long poles. The leaves were laid side by side on top of each other upon the ground, until they formed a thick covering. Then hundred feet long and two feet wide. This board was two hundred and fifty guests, a guest being crowded only a little more than a foot of space. Each place was marked by a fresh coconut, which was broken so that its contents could be drunk. There was no water upon the table, and, as the guests sat around, each seated himself at a coconut which corresponded to a "plate." They sat at the table cross-legged and a very picturesque sight they made with their little short skirts, and although they had joined with unusual of with their shoes.

At every six paces there was a white tusted pig with the head on, and a long orange in his mouth. The hot was evidently another night, and he had carved in roasted fashion over the backs. Their crispy brownish skins looked very tempting as they laid upon the banana leaves, about half in all between the roasted pigs were frame which were loaded with bakes and fish, which is something like potatoes, and a baked-in-foot. The fish are large fish and resemble herring fish, so that the table was as tempting as any ever spread in the Arabian Nights. Instead of bread, the guests ate pineapple, bananas, and baked in banana leaves, and chief among the dishes was a kind of pudding made of baked taro root, cocoanut and all the eating was done with the hands, which here the food apart and conveyed it to the mouth. The drinks were water in the day and cocoanut milk at night. The orange was eaten in the day and cocoanut milk at night. The orange was eaten in the day and cocoanut milk at night. The orange was eaten