

the war. The Spanish fleet, attempting to leave the harbor, was met by the American squadron under command of Commodore Sampson. In less than three hours all the Spanish ships were destroyed, the two torpedo boats sunk, and the *María Teresa*, *Almirante Oquendo*, *Vizcaya* and *Cristóbal Colon* driven ashore. The Spanish admiral and over 1,300 men were taken prisoners, while the enemy's loss of life was deplorably large, some six hundred perishing. On our side but one man was killed, and one man seriously wounded. Although our ships were repeatedly struck, not one was seriously injured. Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves, from the commanders to the gunners, and the unnamed heroes in the boiler rooms, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event, and the marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for special honor. Deserved promotion has rewarded the more conspicuous actors—the nation's profoundest gratitude is due to all of those brave men, who by their skill and devotion in a few short hours crushed the sea-power of Spain and wrought a triumph whose decisiveness and far-reaching effects can scarcely be measured. Nor can we be unmindful of the achievements of our builders, mechanics and artisans for their skill in the construction of our war ships.

With the catastrophe of Santiago, Spain's effort upon the ocean virtually ceased. A spasmodic effort toward the end of June to send her Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Camara to relieve Manila was abandoned, the expedition being recalled after it had passed through the Suez canal. The capitulation of Santiago followed. The city was closely besieged by land, while the entrance of our ships into the harbor cut off all relief on that side. After a truce to allow of the removal of the non-combatants, protracted negotiations continued from July 3 until July 15, when, under menace of immediate assault, the preliminaries of surrender were agreed upon.

SANTIAGO OCCUPIED.

On the 17th, General Shafter occupied the city. The capitulation embraced the entire eastern end of Cuba. The number of Spanish soldiers surrendered was 22,000, all of whom were subsequently conveyed to Spain at the charge of the United States. The story of this successful campaign is told in the report of the secretary of war, which will be laid before you. The individual valor of officers and soldiers was never more strikingly shown than in the several engagements leading to the surrender of Santiago, while the prompt movements and successive victories won instant and universal applause. To those who gained this complete triumph which established the ascendancy of the United States upon land as the fight off Santiago had fixed our supremacy on the seas, the earnest and lasting gratitude of the nation is unsparingly due. Nor should we alone remember the gallantry of the living; the dead claim our tears, and our losses by battle and disease must cloud any exultation at the result and teach us to weigh the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal of victory.

ADVANCE ON PORTO RICO.

With the fall of Santiago the occupation of Porto Rico became the next strategic necessity.

General Miles had previously been assigned to organize an expedition for that purpose; fortunately he was already at Santiago, where he had arrived on the 11th of July with rein-

forcements for General Shafter's army.

With these troops, consisting of 3,415 infantry and artillery, two companies of engineers and one company of the signal corps, Gen. Miles left Guantanamo on July 21, having nine transports conveyed by the fleet under Captain Higginson, with the Massachusetts (flagship), *Dixie*, *Gloucester*, *Columbia* and *Yale* the two latter carrying troops. The expedition landed at Guánica July 25, which port was entered with little opposition. Here the fleet was joined by the *Annapolis*, and *Wasp*, while the *Puritan* and *Amphitrite* went to San Juan and joined the New Orleans, which was engaged in blockading that port. The major general commanding was subsequently reinforced by General Schwann's brigade of the Third army corps, by Gen. Willson, with a part of his division, and also by General Brooke, with a part of his corps, numbering in all 16,973 officers and men.

CAPITULATION OF PONCE.

On July 27 he entered Ponce, one of the most important ports in the island, from which he thereafter directed operations of the capture of the island.

With the exception of encounters with the enemy at Guayama, *Hermigueres*, *Coamo* and *Yauco*, and an attack on a force landed at Cape San Juan, there was no serious resistance. The campaign was prosecuted with great vigor, and by the 12th of August much of the island was in our possession and the acquisition of the remainder was only a matter of a short time. At most of the points in the island our troops were enthusiastically welcomed. Proclamations of loyalty to the flag and gratitude for delivery from Spanish rule met our commanders at every stage. As a potent influence toward peace, the outcome of the Porto Rican expedition was of great consequence, and generous commendation is due to those who participated in it.

CLOSING CHAPTER OF WAR.

The last scene of the war was enacted at Manila, its starting place. On August 15, after a brief assault upon the works by the land forces, in which the squadron assisted, the capital surrendered unconditionally. The casualties were comparatively few. By this, conquest of the Philippine Islands, virtually accomplished when the Spanish capacity for resistance was destroyed by Admiral Dewey's victory of the first of May, was formally sealed. To General Merritt, his officers and men, for the uncomplaining and devoted services, for their gallantry in action, the nation is sincerely grateful. Their long voyage was made with singular success and the soldierly conduct of the men, of whom many were without previous experience in the military service, deserves unmeasured praise.

The total casualties in killed and wounded in the army during the war was as follows: Officers killed 23; enlisted men killed 257; total 280; officers wounded 113; enlisted men wounded 1,464; total 1,577; of the navy, killed 17; wounded 67; died as result of wounds 1; invalided from service 6; total 91.

It will be observed that while our navy was engaged in two great battles and in numerous perilous undertakings in the blockades and bombardments, and more than 50,000 of our troops were transported to distant lands, and engaged in assault and siege and battle, and many skirmishes in unfamiliar territory, we lost in both arms of the service a total of 1,668 killed and wounded; and in the entire campaign by land and sea we did not lose a gun or a flag or a transport or a ship, and with the exception of the crew of the *Merrimac*, not a soldier or sailor was taken prisoner.

On August 7th, forty-six days from

the date of landing of General Shafter's army in Cuba, and twenty-one days from the surrender of Santiago, the U. S. troops commenced embarkation for home, and our entire force was returned to the United States as early as August 24th. They were absent from the United States only two months.

It is fitting that I should bear testimony to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greater exposure, fortunately was not required outside of the United States.

They did their whole duty, and, like their comrades at the front, have earned the gratitude of the nation. In like manner, the officers and men of the army and of the navy who remained in their departments and stations of the navy, performing most important duties connected with the war, and whose requests for assignment in the field and at sea it was compelled to refuse because their services were indispensable here, are entitled to the highest commendation. It is my regret that there seems to be no provision for their suitable recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RED CROSS.

In this connection it is a pleasure to me to mention in terms of cordial approbation, the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage, and later, under the able and experienced leadership of the president of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba. Working in conjunction with the government authorities, and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic co-operation of many patriotic women and societies in the various states, the Red Cross has fully maintained its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise the noble purpose of its organization, thus justifying the confidence and support which it has received at the hands of the American people. To the members and officers of this society and all who aided them in their philanthropic work, the sincere and lasting gratitude of the soldiers and the public is due and is freely accorded.

In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for His watchful care over us and His safe guidance, for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgment and offers humble prayer for the continuance of His favor.

OVERTURES OF PEACE.

The annihilation of Admiral Cervera's fleet, followed by the capitulation of Santiago, having brought to the Spanish government a realizing sense of the hopelessness of continuing a struggle now becoming wholly unequal, it made overtures for peace through the French ambassador, who, with the assent of his government, had acted as the friendly representative of Spain's interests during the war. On the 26th day of July, M. Cambon presented a communication, signed by the Duke of Almodovar, the Spanish minister of state, inviting the United States to state the terms upon which it would be willing to make peace. On July 30th, by a communication addressed to the Duke of Almodovar, and handed by M. Cambon, the terms of this government were announced substantially in the protocol, afterwards signed. On August 10th the Spanish reply, dated August 7th, was handed by M. Cambon to the secretary of state. It accepted unconditionally the terms imposed as to Cuba, Porto Rico and an island of the Ladrone group, but appeared to seek to introduce in admissible reservations in re-