

say it. The marvel was that she was not destroyed by the rain of shells.

"In the meantime the Vizcaya was slowly drawing abeam of the Iowa and for the space of fifteen minutes it was give and take between the two ships. The Vizcaya fired rapidly, but wildly, not one shot taking effect on the Iowa, while the shells from the Iowa were tearing great rents in the side of the Vizcaya. As the latter passed ahead of the Iowa she caught the murderous fire of the Oregon.

"At this time the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo, leading the enemy's column, were seen to be heading for the beach in flames, The Texas, Oregon and Iowa pounded them unmercifully. They ceased to reply to the fire and in a few moments the Spanish cruisers were a mass of flames and on the rocks with their flags down, the Teresa flying a white flag. The enemy's crews stripped themselves and began jumping overboard, and the smaller magazines began to explode.

"Meantime the Brooklyn and the Cristobal Colon were exchanging compliments in lively fashion at apparently long range and the Oregon, with her locomotive speed, was hanging on to the Colon, also paying attention to the Vizcaya.

"The Teresa and the Oquendo were empty and in flames on the beach just twenty minutes after the first shot was fired.

"Fifty minutes after the first shot was fired the Vizcaya put her helm to port with a great burst of flames from the after part of the ship, and headed slowly for the rocks at Acceraderos, where she found her last resting place.

"As it was apparent that I could not possibly catch the Cristobal Colon and that the Oregon and Brooklyn undoubtedly would, and as the fast New York was also on her trail, I decided the calls of humanity should be heard and assistance given to the 1,200 or 1,500 Spanish officers and men who had struck their colors to the American squadron, commanded by Admiral Sampson. I therefore headed for the wreck of the Vizcaya, now burning furiously fore and aft.

"When I was in as far as the depth of water would admit I lowered all my boats and sent them at once to the assistance of the men who were being drowned by dozens or roasted on the decks. I soon discovered that the insurgent Cubans from the shore were shooting on men who were struggling in the water, after having surrendered to us. I immediately put a stop to this, I could not put a stop to the mutilation of many bodies by the sharks inside the reefs. These creatures had become excited by the blood from the wounded mixing in the water.

"My boats' crews worked manfully and succeeded in saving many of the wounded from the burning ship. One man, who will be recommended for promotion, clambered up the side of the Vizcaya and saved three men from burning to death. The smaller magazines of the Vizcaya were exploding with magnificent cloud effects. The boats were coming alongside in a steady string, and willing hands were helping the lacerated Spanish officers and sailors onto the Iowa's quarterdeck. All the Spaniards were absolutely without clothes. Some had their legs torn off by fragments of shells. Others were mutilated in every conceivable way.

"As I knew the crews of the first two ships wrecked had not been visited by any of our vessels, I ran down to them. I found the Gloucester with Admiral Cervera and a number of his officers aboard, and also a large number of wounded, some in a frightfully man-

gled condition. Many prisoners had been killed on shore by the fire of the Cubans. The Harvard came up and I requested Capt. Cotton to go in and take off the crews of the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo, and by midnight the Harvard had 974 prisoners aboard, a great number of them wounded.

"For courage and dash there is no parallel in history to this action of the Spanish admiral. He came, as he knew, to absolute destruction. There was one single hope—that was that the Cristobal Colon would steam faster than the Brooklyn.

"The spectacle of two torpedo-boat destroyers, paper shells at best, deliberately steaming out in broad daylight in the face of the fire of a battleship can be described in one way: It was Spanish and it was ordered by Blanco. The same must be said of the entire movement.

"I took Admiral Cervera aboard from the Gloucester, which had rescued him, and received him with a full admiral's guard. The crew of the Iowa crowded close to the turrets, half naked and black with powder, as Cervera stepped over the side, bareheaded. Over his undershirt he wore a thin suit of flannel borrowed from Lieut. Commander Wainwright of the Gloucester. The crew cheered vociferously. Cervera is every inch an admiral, even if he had not any hat. He submitted to the fortunes of war with a grace that proclaimed him a thoroughbred."

Capt. Evans is intensely proud of his ship and her men. The Iowa fired thirty-one 12-inch, forty-eight 8-inch, 270 4-inch, 1,060 6-pound and 120 1-pound shots.

The officers of the Vizcaya say they simply could not hold their crews at the guns on account of the rapid fire poured upon them. One of the 12-inch shells from the Iowa exploded a torpedo in the Vizcaya's bow, blowing twenty-one men against the deck above and dropping them dead and mangled into the fire which at once started below.

The torpedo boat Ericsson was sent by the flagship to the help of the Iowa in the rescue of the Vizcaya's crew. Her men saw a terrible sight.

"The flames leaping out from the huge shot-holes in the Vizcaya's side licked up the decks, sizzling the flesh of the wounded, who were lying there shrieking for help. Between the frequent explosions there came awful cries and groans from the men pinned in below.

"This carnage was chiefly due to the rapidity of the Americans' fire. Corp. Smith of the Iowa fired 135 aimed shots in fifty minutes from a four-inch gun. From two 6-pounders, 440 shots were fired in fifty minutes. Up in the tops the marines banged away with one-pounders.

"One gunner of a secondary battery, under a twelve-inch gun, was blinded by smoke and saltpeter from the turret and his crew were driven off but sticking a wet handkerchief over his face, with holes cut for his eyes, he stuck to his gun. Finally, as the six-pounders were so close to the eight-inch turret as to make it impossible to stay there with safety, the men were ordered away before the big gun was fired, but they refused to leave.

"The bottoms of the boats held two or three inches of blood. In many cases dead men were lying in the blood. Five poor chaps died on the way to the ship. They were afterward buried with military honors from the Iowa.

"Some examples of heroism, or more properly, devotion to discipline and duty, could never be surpassed. One man on the lost Vizcaya had his left arm almost shot off just below the shoulder. The fragments were

hanging by a small piece of skin. But he climbed unassisted over the side and saluted as if on a visit of ceremony. Immediately after him came a strong-hearted sailor, whose left leg had been shot off above the knee. He was hoisted on board the Iowa with a tackle, but never a whimper came from him. Gradually the mangled bodies and naked well men accumulated until it would have been almost difficult to recognize the Iowa as a United States battleship. Blood was all over her usually white quarterdeck; and 272 naked men were being supplied with water and food.

"Finally came the boat with Capt. Eulate, commander of the Vizcaya, for whom a chair was lowered over the side, as he was evidently wounded. The captain's guard of marines were swung up on the quarterdeck to salute him and I stood waiting to welcome him. As the chair was placed on the deck the marines presented arms. Capt. Eulate slowly raised himself from the chair, saluted me with grave dignity, unbuckled his sword belt and holding the hilt of the sword before him, kissed it reverently, with tears in his eyes, and then surrendered to me.

"Of course, I declined to receive his sword; and, as the crew of the Iowa saw this, they cheered like wild men.

"In the meantime thirty officers of the Vizcaya had been picked up beside 272 of her crew. Our ward room and steerage officers gave up their staterooms and furnished food, clothing and tobacco to those naked officers from the Vizcaya. The paymaster issued uniforms to the naked sailors, and each was given all the corned beef, coffee and hard tack he could eat. The war had assumed another aspect."

"When the eight-inch gun was fired, the concussion blew two men from the smaller gun's crew ten feet from their guns and threw them to the deck as deaf as posts. Kack they went again, however, and were again blown away, and finally had to be dragged away from their stations.

"The Indiana was hit only twice. The Oregon was hit three times, twice by fragments of shells. The Iowa was struck nine times."

IDAHO WEATHER REPORT.

The weather of the week ending Monday, July 3, 1898, was somewhat cooler than the normal; the days were comparatively warm and the nights very cool. Light frosts occurred in scattered localities all over the state on several dates, but no appreciable damage to crops resulted. The week was very dry, the rainfall being confined to a few widely scattered thunderstorms. High winds have been an important factor in drying out the soil, which is greatly in need of moisture.

All irrigated crops are doing well, though the growth has not been as rapid as during the previous week, owing to cooler weather. Dry land crops are showing effects of drought, but are still in fairly good condition. Grain is heading out and generally promises a heavy yield; potatoes are coming along nicely, with some of the early planted crop blossoming; garden truck is very satisfactory. Cutting of the first crop of lucern was begun early in the week and is becoming general; the yield is good. All fruits are doing well; strawberries and gooseberries are ripe and plentiful, and currants ripening. The ranges are fresh and green, and stock doing well.

D. P. McCALLUM,
Section Director.

Spanish fleets find greatest safety just now in neutral ports. Hence Camara is anchored at Suez.