

fairly stationary today. She stood away out to the northwest. The Indiana, Detroit and Mayflower cruised around in that vicinity, while the Wilmington and Marblehead kept to the northeast. The tug Algonquin, which arrived today from Key West, and the torpedo boat Dupont kept close to the Iowa. The New York cruised around close in shore. For two hours this afternoon she was within easy range of the Cojima battery No. 2, to the eastward of El Morro, with its 12-inch guns, but the Spaniards apparently thought it hopeless to shoot at a distance of five miles. It was hard to realize while the flagship's band played operatic airs during dinner, that a straight shot from a Spanish fort might come bounding out and make music of another kind. Few believe, however, that the guns can carry with any accuracy the distance they are credited on paper.

The Mangrove arrived from Key West this evening. It was reported that the Mayflower had stopped a tramp steamer about ten miles north-west of El Morro and that the steamer was allowed to proceed, so it is presumed she belongs to a neutral nation. Several shots were, it is said, fired at her.

When darkness came to night, after a glorious sunset, the semi-circle of blockading ships closed in considerably in order to prevent anything slipping in or out of Havana harbor. Not a light was shown. The torpedo boats Porter and Dupont kept up a ceaseless patrol. They were quite invisible. The irrepressible spirit of daring of Lieutenants Fremont and Wood, their respective commanders, probably took the black flyers to within a remarkably short distance of El Morro.

The day has been a busy one for the officers and men and the slight relaxation this afternoon was very acceptable. Admiral Sampson and Captain Chadwick have been on the after bridge most of the time, both always as cool as cucumbers. The former, at his fifty-eight years, is as energetic as the youngest man on board. He seems to have an eye for everything and a grasp of detail that is astounding.

It is hardly thought that the steamer Panama, the much hoped-for prize, will arrive before tomorrow (Sunday).

Madrid, April 25, 10 a. m.—The newspapers of this city and the provinces are filled with rumors of captures made by the war vessels of Spain or the United States and with reports of the movements of American warships combined with patriotic utterances from all quarters of the kingdom.

A new point has been raised relative to the non-delivery of the ultimatum of the United States. The view now taken is that its non-delivery leaves the United States unpledged in regard to the reservations made with reference to Cuban independence. Thus, it is pointed out, while her pride is gratified Spain has lost a diplomatic point.

Key West, April 24.—Ensign Christy, with a crew of sixteen men from the cruiser Detroit and four from the flagship, brought into port this afternoon the captured Spanish steamer Catalina, Capt. Fano, 3,491 tons, which left Cadiz March 7th and was bound from New Orleans for Barcelona, via Havana, for which latter port she was making when taken.

The Catalina was captured about 4 o'clock this (Sunday) morning, about twelve miles from Havana. She was taken by the cruiser Detroit. When the first shot was fired her captain made a desperate effort to escape his pursuer, and the chase was prolonged for eight miles. Finally a solid shot brought her to. She is carrying a cargo of 60,000 bundles of staves.

Washington, April 26.—The state department has conveyed notice to all

the powers and nations with which the United States holds friendly relations of the declaration of war yesterday by the government of the United States. This is a necessary formality in order to set in motion the neutrality laws in many countries and to stop claims for damages on the part of the neutrals for vessels detained and turned back at blockades without due notice. The instructions which were sent to all the United States legations abroad directed attention to the fact that the war has existed since April 21, when the Spanish government broke off diplomatic relations in order to avoid accepting the ultimatum at the hands of Minister Woodford.

"Department of State, April 25, 1898. "A joint resolution of Congress, approved April 20, directed intervention for the pacification and independence of the island of Cuba. The Spanish government on April 21, informed our minister at Madrid that it considered this resolution equivalent to a declaration of war and that it had accordingly withdrawn its minister from Washington and terminated all diplomatic relations.

"Congress has therefore, by an act approved today, declared that a state of war exists between the two countries since and including April 21. You will inform the governments to which you are accredited that its neutrality may be assured in the existing war.

"SHERMAN."

Responses have already begun to flow in. First among all neutrals to take cognizance of the situation and of the existence of a state of war are the British colonies.

It may not be of particular significance, yet it goes in a measure to support the contention of this government that war actually existed before the declaration by Congress yesterday that the British colonies in cases have acted and made their proclamations of neutrality in advance of action by Congress. Thus it happens that the British government of the Straits settlement of Singapore issued the proclamation yesterday forenoon. The news was contained in the following cablegram to the state department from United States Consul Pratt at Singapore:

"Secretary of State, Washington: Neutrality proclaimed here today."

This dispatch was received here at 2:40 p. m. yesterday, indicating that the Straits government had passed its declaration.

The state department has taken notice of the semi-official statement from Germany to the effect that that nation will not at present issue a neutrality proclamation.

New York, April 26.—Cuban advices to the Herald are to the effect that the insurgents are forcing the fighting. The Spanish, fearing assault by land and sea, are hurrying their troops into the cities.

Insurgents have appeared in force within 30 miles of Havana. There was a raid by them just beyond Boca de Jaruco this morning and the combatants must have had a full view of the blockading squadron.

Havana, April 26, via London.—Captain General Blanco has cabled the government at Madrid to the effect that the Spanish squadron of warships may be utilized elsewhere, as he can account for the defense of Havana without the assistance of the fleet.

New York, April 26.—A dispatch to the World from Hong Kong says:

The guns of America's Asiatic squadron will soon be thundering in the harbor of Manila, the capital of the Philippine islands.

Commodore Dewey has orders from Washington to capture or destroy the Spanish fleet.

Unless Spain's warships are in hiding, the fighting will begin at or near

the Philippines and the time is only a matter of hours—perhaps before Sunday.

Gen. Aguinaldo, the president of the Philippine insurgents, has sailed from Singapore, where he has been in exile with the members of his cabinet. They chartered their own steamship.

They will land at a convenient point on the islands and the general will put himself at the head of an army of 30,000 well equipped insurgents now gathered and waiting for him.

Gen. Aguinaldo will lead this large force to attack Manila by land while the American warships bombard the city from the sea.

The movements of that army interest Commodore Dewey and command his sympathy, but he has given the insurgents no official aid or encouragement. Nevertheless, the two forces will cooperate in fact, and should prove more than a match for the Spaniards.

Consul Williams arrived on Monday from Manila on the steamship Esmeralda. A fast dispatch boat took him immediately to the flagship Olympia. The consul will accompany the fleet back to Manila. He has full information, it is believed, regarding the Spanish fortifications at Manila and elsewhere on the Philippines and also regarding the location of mines and torpedos planted in the harbors. The Spanish ships are awaiting attack in Manila harbor, it is supposed, under the protection of the land fortifications.

Chicago, April 26.—A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says:

Navy department officials confidently expect that within three days a decisive battle will have been fought between the American and Spanish naval forces operating in the waters of the Philippines.

It is learned from a most reliable source that Commodore Dewey's squadron, which left Hongkong Sunday for Mrs. Bay, has now left that place for the Philippine islands, under instructions sent several days ago by Secretary Long. Steaming at the rate of ten knots an hour, the fleet ought to reach its destination by this afternoon, and it is expected by Secretary Long and other department officials that the vessels will be in action immediately after their arrival, unless the Spanish men-of-war should prefer to remain inside the mined harbors.

Of primary importance, the officials declare, is the immediate capture or destruction of Spanish vessels. After this has been accomplished it will not be a difficult matter to secure the fall of Manila or Luzon, and of other ports, by simply conducting a blockade such as the North Atlantic squadron is doing with reference to Cuban ports. It is understood that Commodore Dewey's plan of campaign contemplates the capture or destruction of the Spanish fleet. There are six of these craft, none of which are to be compared to the protected cruisers of the American squadron. As Commodore Dewey has not a large squadron, it is appreciated that he will not have sufficient vessels to carry on a blockade which will last any length of time. He will, however, be able to blockade the principal ports in which the Spanish troops are stationed, and the insurgents in the island will probably give him assistance by contributing their land operations.

Altogether, naval experts say that Commodore Dewey's task is the easiest of those which have been assigned to any flag officer.

It is supposed at the department that he has made all necessary preparations to cut the cable and to keep possession of the end connecting him with Hongkong, and with an operator on board his ship he will be able to communicate with the department as often as shall be necessary.