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Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba.

DEDICATION

of the

Battle Monument at El Caney, Cuba.

DEDICATION

of the

First Landing Monument at Daiquiri, Cuba.

REPORT

of the

Santiago Battlefield Commission.

Baltimore, Maryland,
Press of John S. Bridges & Co.
1906







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Officers of the Society.

PRESIDENT :

Lieutenant-General ADNA R. CHAFFEE, U. S. A.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT :

Major-General J. FORD KENT, U. S. V.
(Brig.-Gen. U. S. A.)

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT :

Major-General H. S. HAWKINS, U. S. V.
(Brig.-Gen. U. S. A.)

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT :

Lieutenant-Colonel CHAS. DICK, 8th Ohio Vol. Infantry.
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Captain HOLLIS CHENERY CLARK, U. S. A.

HISTORIAN :

Major G. CREIGHTON WEBB, Insp'r-Gen. U. S. V.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL :

Colonel PHILIP READE, 23d U. S. Infantry.

FIRST DIVISION REGISTRAR :

Major L. W. V. KENNON, 10th U. S. Infantry.

SECOND DIVISION REGISTRAR :

Colonel JAMES T. KERR, M. S., U. S. A.

THIRD DIVISION REGISTRAR :

Colonel CHARLES MORTON, 7th U. S. Calvary.

FOURTH DIVISION REGISTRAR :

Lieutenant-Colonel JOHN JACOB ASTOR, Insp'r-Gen. U. S. V.

The above named officers are also members, ex-officio, of the Council.

Additional Members of the Council :

Major-General WM. R. SHAFTER, U. S. A., ex-officio, former President.
Lieutenant-General JOHN C. BATES, U. S. A., ex-officio, former President.
Lieutenant-General S. B. M. Young, U. S. A.
Brigadier-General ADELBERT AMES, U. S. V.
Major-General WALLACE F. RANDOLPH, U. S. A.
Brigadier-General CHAMBERS McKIBBIN, U. S. A.
Colonel THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 1st U. S. V. Calvary.
Brigadier-General E. D. DIMMICK, U. S. A.
Colonel GEO. H. HARRIES, 1st D. C. Vol. Infantry, Brig.-Gen. D. C. Militia.
Major-General JOHN F. WESTON, U. S. A.
Lieutenant-Colonel GEORGE V. LAUMAN, 1st Ill. Vol. Infantry.

Finance Committee :

Major-General J. C. BRECKINRIDGE, U. S. A.
Captain CHARLES D. RHODES, 6th U. S. Cavalry, General Staff.
Captain LEROY W. HERRON, 1st D. C. Volunteer Infantry.

Santiago Battlefield Commission :

Lieutenant-General S. B. M. Young, U. S. A., Chairman.
Brigadier-General ALBERT S. MILLS, U. S. A.
Lieutenant-Colonel WEBB C. HAYES, U. S. V., Secretary.

ITINERARY

OF THE

Trip of the Santiago Battlefield Commission and Party, 8 to 25 February, 1906.

- 8—Left New York.
- 9—Touched at Fortress Monroe.
- 13—Arrived Guantanamo; visited McCalla Hill.
- 14—Arrived Santiago; made official call upon the Governor of province and Alcalde of city in forenoon; held dedication ceremonies of battle monument at El Caney in afternoon; attended banquet by Cuban government at Hotel Venus at night, followed by ball by the San Carlos and Union Clubs.
- 15—Made informal excursions to Santiago battlefield; held reception on board transport.
- 16—Left Santiago; visited scene of naval battle; landed at Daiquiri and dedicated First Landing Monument.
- 18—Arrived Havana.
- 20—Attended reception by President Palma; left Havana.
- 24—Touched at Fortress Monroe.
- 25—Arrived New York.

Order of Exercises.

DEDICATION OF BATTLE MONUMENT

On Ruins of Fort El Viso, El Caney, Cuba,

14 February, 1906.

The meeting called to order by Lieutenant-General Adna R. Chaffee, U. S. A., President of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba.

Invocation by the Reverend J. B. Mancebo.

Music by the 5th Band, Artillery Corps, U. S. Army.

Remarks by Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young, U.S.A., representing the President of the United States.

Music, "Star Spangled Banner," Cuban Artillery Band.

Remarks by General Andrade, representing the President of the Republic of Cuba.

Music, "Himno de Bayamo," 5th Band, Artillery Corps, U. S. A.

Unveiling of the Commemorative Tablets, by Lieutenant Colonel Webb C. Hayes, U. S. V., Secretary, Santiago Battlefield Commission.

Salute by American and Cuban forces.

Remarks by Rear Admiral Francis J. Higginson, U.S.N., representing the Secretary of the Navy.

Remarks by Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark, U. S. N., Commanding U. S. Battleship "Oregon" in the Naval Battle of Santiago de Cuba.

Music by the Cuban Artillery Band.

Address: Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred C. Sharpe, U. S. A., Secretary of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba.

Music by the 5th Band, Artillery Corps, U. S. A.

Benediction by the Most Reverend Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba.

Speech of Lieutenant-General A. R. Chaffee, U. S. A.

It is well within the recollection of men and women present that for several years prior to 1898 the aspirations and efforts of the Cuban people for a government, independent and National in character, were strenuously opposed by a foreign nation which supported its policy with a large army in occupation of the country; that as a consequence of relentless determination upon the one hand and upon the other, there arose serious conflicts. War, devastation of homes, industrial ruin, spread the length and breadth of this fair island, and finally, *disorder*, of such magnitude as affected the honor of the United States and caused her bond of life-long friendship with Spain to be severed.

Hither came an army of United States soldiers and the ships of her splendid Navy: highly important events followed quickly. It is a matter of history that within the brief time of twenty days our Army and Navy, aided by a patriotic force of Cubans, gloriously battled in their respective spheres of action, on land and sea, gaining victories: the political authority of a great nation in control here for more than a hundred years—her military and naval power in this section of the world—was rendered ineffective, and in a short while thereafter diplomatically terminated forever.

It is never possible to accomplish large events by war without some sacrifice of life.

Soldiers were here and at nearby places killed in the battles; others bled and died of wounds received in action; still others fell sick and died of disease contracted here. But what of the compensation for this loss! When the contending parties had ceased their strife; when all the implements of war had been removed from sight; when real peace, good order, happiness and contentment of the people, blossomed fragrantly to our several senses—if I may so speak—a million

and a half of Cubans were made free and independent, and in place of a government of arbitrary power, political and military of a foreign nation, there has been substituted the will and force of the Cuban people, free and independently exercised by their own representatives.

Now, seven and a half years after hostilities here, representatives of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, of the Navy of the United States, have come to mark, with enduring bronze, this field of honorable sacrifice of soldier life for country — for a government by the people.

For this occasion and purpose, however, we are not alone. We have with us the representative of the President of the United States; with us, too, are representatives of the republic of Cuba, the last born of the sisterhood of nations; around about us are citizens of this free and prosperous New Nation; and here also, my Cuban friends, are wives and daughters—our good angels upon earth, who willingly sacrifice material comforts, partake of great mental distress, in order to dutifully cheer on soldiers and sailors of the great republic to do battle for country; always and only in a righteous cause.

We are indeed glad to understand that the presence here of these representatives, of these citizens, of these friends, is to show their appreciation of services rendered in this vicinity by soldiers and sailors of the United States and by patriotic Cubans. We hope that when, with the generous assistance of the Government and people of Cuba, marking of this battlefield shall have been completed as planned, and strangers shall come here to read from the tablet of bronze the names of our fallen comrades; shall observe the industrial progress certain to be made in this island, mark the intellectual and social advancement of the Cuban people under just and liberal laws, the motto of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba will encompass their thoughts: "As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free."



By courtesy of the "Army and Navy Life" Magazine.
THE BATTLE MONUMENT IN EL VISO, EL CANEY.

Speech of Lieutenant-General S. B. M. Young, U. S. A.

With nations as with individuals, a glorious history produces tranquility, contentment and happiness.

It is said of man: "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved", and it may be said of a nation that it is better to have fought for liberty and failed than never to have fought. Far better it is for the good people of a nation to dare mighty things against tremendous odds and meet with failure and disaster many times if they triumph in the end than to remain supinely hugging the delusive phantom of hope without daring to do or die, living ever in a fading twilight that reflects neither victory nor defeat.

Eight years ago the patriots of this beautiful island nation, after years of trials, sufferings and defeats, were made happy by the echoes of our guns in their cause at Las Guasimas, El Caney, San Juan and Kettle Hill, and on the sea front of Santiago, which drove out a medieval tyranny that for centuries had overridden and crushed the spirit of liberty in this land. This friendship of the American people, whose forefathers had fought many years, suffered many defeats and finally won their liberty from the most powerful nation of Europe a century and a quarter previously, was won by the patriotic spirits of this island, daring again and again through many dark and bloody years to accomplish their liberty. And now, my friends, Americans and Cubans, we know while the American Army did a great work here in conjunction with the Cuban Army and received great credit for that work, greater credit belongs to the nation, to the people who sent that army to do the work. Not for the purpose of driving out the Spaniards and assuming sovereignty, but for a bettering of the conditions for the purpose of allowing the inhabitants of Cuba a fair, square deal and a chance to play their own hand at the game of self-government.

You, my Cuban friends, have shuffled and dealt the cards and you are happily playing the game well for beginners. Of the heroic work accomplished, of the noble deeds performed on this field, it is for us to make report of those who gave their lives that their comrades might gain the victory. It is for us to establish these monuments to the memory of our brave soldiers, our comrades who died on this field of battle that our Army might win the glorious success it did win, and that Cuba—this beautiful, tropical island—might enjoy, as it is now enjoying, the blessings of freedom and the liberty of self-government. And my comrades in arms, 'tis our reward that we can stand on this battlefield and not blush that we survive. In our memories we treasure the names of those heroes and we consecrate these monuments and tablets as our report to those Americans and Cubans who come after we have passed to the impenetrable beyond, so that when they read the name of each soldier who has fallen on this field they will find the final entry on their descriptive lists to be "Dead upon the field of honor."

Speech of Rear Admiral Francis J. Higginson, U. S. N.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By the courtesy of the Committee of the Santiago Society, Rear Admiral Clark and myself have been invited to represent the Navy in the ceremonies of today commemorating, as we do, those gallant dead who gave up their lives that Cuba might be free, and inscribing here their names in imperishable tablets so that all future generations may not forget the immutable example of their great deeds. And while it is true the Navy had no part in the immediate conflict around Santiago, it was owing to the cordial co-operation and protection of the Navy of the United States that the

Army was enabled to arrive and disembark at its destination in safety. The work of convoy and that of disembarkation was well and ably performed, and the Army once safely landed pursued its way to victory with its accustomed celerity and gallantry.

It is true that in connection with these battles that naval influence was more felt than seen, more implied than active. That the vicinity of Santiago should have become so unexpectedly the historic ground upon which was fought to a successful termination that long dream of Cuban independence, was due entirely to the presence of the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera; this fleet becoming for the time the objective point both of the Army and the Navy of the United States. With the existence of Spain's naval power in the West Indies unsubdued, all operations upon the ocean were subject to danger, and therefore the first point was to eliminate this factor from the problem—the freeing of Cuba. That work belonging legitimately to naval strategy, was frustrated by the protection afforded to the Spanish fleet by the physical condition of Santiago harbor which opposed a barrier to the entrance of our battleships, necessitating, therefore, the work of an army for the capture of Santiago. All that the Navy required was to get into close quarters with the Spanish fleet, and when it was finally driven out of Santiago by the capture of that city by the Army, the Navy accomplished in a few hours and with the loss of but one man, the object of their ambition and strewed the Cuban shore with the burning wrecks of their victims; so the Army and Navy having, as it were, marched hand in hand to victory, it is fitting for the Navy to be represented in these services commemorating the dead who fell in these combined operations. The history of the Cuban dream of independence is one of the most interesting on record, saddened as it was by martyrdom, torture and death, and emblazoned as it was with deeds of heroism, long and patient suffering. It encountered defeat and hope



THE CHURCH AT EL CANEY, 1898.

long deferred, and its pathway was strewn with the tragedies of war. In dedicating here, as we do now, our monument to those of our own countrymen who died that Cuba might be free, let us not forget those noble Cuban patriots who against seemingly insurmountable and overwhelming odds, never despaired of their cause nor wavered in their allegiance.

All honor, then, to those noble Cuban patriots who kept the torch of independence burning through the darkness of disaster and defeat, and all honor to the noble President of the Cuban Republic whose history is a romance of persecution, imprisonment, exile, through which he never despaired and who lived finally to see the success of all his hopes and to represent in his own person the embodiment of Cuban independence, and to be elected while still in exile to the honored position of the Cuban Republic which he loved so well.

Speech of Rear Admiral C. E. Clark, U. S. N.

My friends, I shall not try to pay a tribute to the bravery and devotion of the men who fought at Las Guasimas, at San Juan Hill and here at El Caney, for I am too conscious of my inability to do so in fitting words. But I wish to express my deep gratification at being present at this meeting, held in commemoration of services and sacrifices that gave to Cuba freedom and independence and to America greater and, let us hope, more enduring glory than came to Rome on the noblest day in her history, when the conqueror of the Macedonians proclaimed liberty to all the cities of Greece.

And I am the more grateful at being here because my presence is a recognition of the unfaltering efforts of my companions on board the Battleship "Oregon" that she might be brought around a continent in time for the decisive conflict. And, if in that conflict I was distressed at the thought of the brave men slain and

the wounded who were suffering on board those burning Spanish ships, I was comforted by the thought that for every life taken that day many would be saved, for we were breaking down the bridge to Spain. And I know that the roar of our guns was an inspiring and a more than welcome sound to the war worn soldiers in the trenches around Santiago.

Address by Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred C. Sharpe, U. S. A.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

We have come across the seas to dedicate on this historic field a monument to the memory of brave comrades who here gave up their lives in battle. Unlike most wars whose glowing camp fires and flashing guns have thrown their lurid glare across the page of history, the conflict in which these men fought and died was waged neither for the defense of cherished institutions at home nor for subjugation and conquest abroad. They were not actuated by sordid ambition and lust of power which have been the cause of so many cruel struggles among the children of men. They came not at the behest of loyal princes struggling for the succession to a throne, nor yet for the extension of commerce nor for the acquisition of new domains. Their mission here was of a far different nature and so unique in its motive and so brilliant in its achievement as to be perhaps without a real parallel in the history of war.

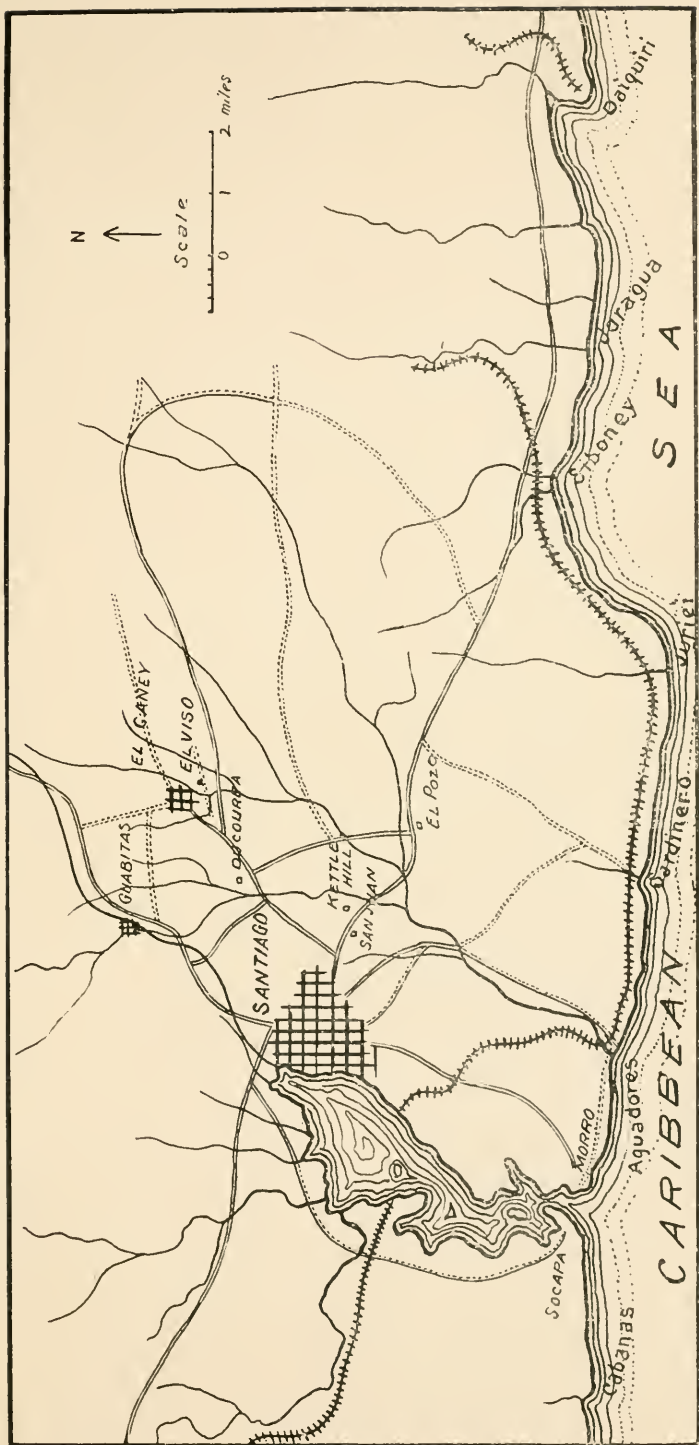
The people of Cuba had long been struggling to cast off the hated yoke of Spain ; without recognition as belligerents, without a treasury, without a navy ; hunted down and penned like animals in camps of re-concentration ; half naked and dying by thousands of starvation ; with poor arms and limited ammunition, they yet maintained the unequal struggle through years of suffering and horror such as has seldom blackened

the annals of the race. Deeply moved by these sad conditions, so shocking to every sentiment of humanity, the great heart of the American people went out to these unhappy neighbors in unfeigned compassion and sympathy and began to demand how long in all good conscience this reign of desolation could be permitted to endure. The right of one government to intervene in the internal affairs of another had long been debated by the publicists and discarded as a pernicious and dangerous doctrine. Our own Washington had even warned the fathers to beware of entangling alliances. But anyone the least acquainted with the genius of our institutions and the character of our people could not have failed to foresee that sooner or later the cry of these sorrowing Cubans would pierce the soul and rouse the conscience of the great republic of the north, and then woe to him who should stand in the way of their swift and righteous judgment! It was not difficult, perhaps, for the people of England to understand the feelings of their American kindred in this delicate situation. They had themselves been similarly circumstanced a hundred years before when in the famous declaration of Whitehall, after recounting some of the horrors of the French Revolution, they declared:

“This state of affairs cannot subsist in France without implicating neighboring powers; without giving them the right and imposing upon them the duty of arresting the progress of an evil which only exists by the successive violation of all laws and every sense of propriety, and the subversion of the fundamental principles which unite men by the ties of social life.”

But in that instance England was intervening to restore a throne—not to emancipate an enthralled people. And in the American Revolution several years prior to that date the aid which came to the colonies from France was recognized not so much as an intervention in behalf of the colonists as an effort to humble the power of England. To the nations of continental

Europe, however, the kindly impulses of the American people were not so readily intelligible. They hugged the delusion that sectional differences were still smouldering among us and that united action on any great question of policy, especially one so serious as to involve the possibility of war, would be next to impossible. Accustomed to suppress individuality and keep the faculties of the mind among the masses inert, they did not realize that ours is indeed and in fact a government by the people, and that in point of intelligence, generous sentiment and spontaneous individual initiative the American character, as some one has justly declared, is probably the most striking and positive which the human family has produced. Such a people, once convinced of the righteousness of a cause, do not stop to count the cost nor calculate the benefits. Strongly imbued with the militant missionary spirit, their leaders are not only encouraged to lead on, but even impelled farther possibly than they originally intended to go or deemed it expedient to go. So it was in the great war between the States in 1861; and so it was again in the war of 1898. President McKinley and his able advisers saw the approach of the coming storm; with noble forbearance and high statesmanship they exhausted every resource of diplomacy to find, if possible, some basis of pacification and adjustment without an appeal to arms. And it is only fair to Spain to remember that these overtures were received and treated with a consideration which gave promise of ultimate peaceful success. But suddenly, like the flash of an electric bolt, a horrible event in the harbor of Havana dissipated all possibility of settlement and passed the question from the deliberations of cabinets and diplomats to the forum of the people. The explosion of the Maine seemed to set the republic on fire. Its reverberations shook the remotest hamlet in the land. The story of Cuba's wrongs became the theme of daily conversation and the burden of the daily press;



SKETCH MAP OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND VICINITY.

it was told with touching pathos in the halls of Congress; from ocean to ocean pulpits rang with burning philippics and the congregations again began singing the grand old war song, the sublime "Battle Hymn of the Republic":

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the
Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of
wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightnings of his terrible
swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was borne across the
sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and
me;
As He died to make men holy let us die to make men
free;
While God is marching on."

And so the war began; obedient to the will of the people and without one dissenting vote, the Congress made an appropriation of fifty millions of dollars at the immediate disposal of the President. This remarkable unanimity of action, obliterating all party lines and discovering the undivided nation in solid phalanx behind the President as their Commander-in-Chief was perhaps one of the happiest surprises which surprising America has ever given to the nations of the world. And had they learned no other lesson save this, the opportunity to proclaim in such an unmistakable and splendid manner the absolute unification and solidarity of our great country would of itself have been worth all the money the war cost. It is gratifying also to recall at this juncture the resolute attitude and good will of our cousins in old England. We are told that when approached by some of the continental powers with a proposition for a coalition in behalf of Spain the British Government declined absolutely to consider it; and upon being pressed as to her attitude in case such coalition were formed without her, replied that in that event she would stand by the

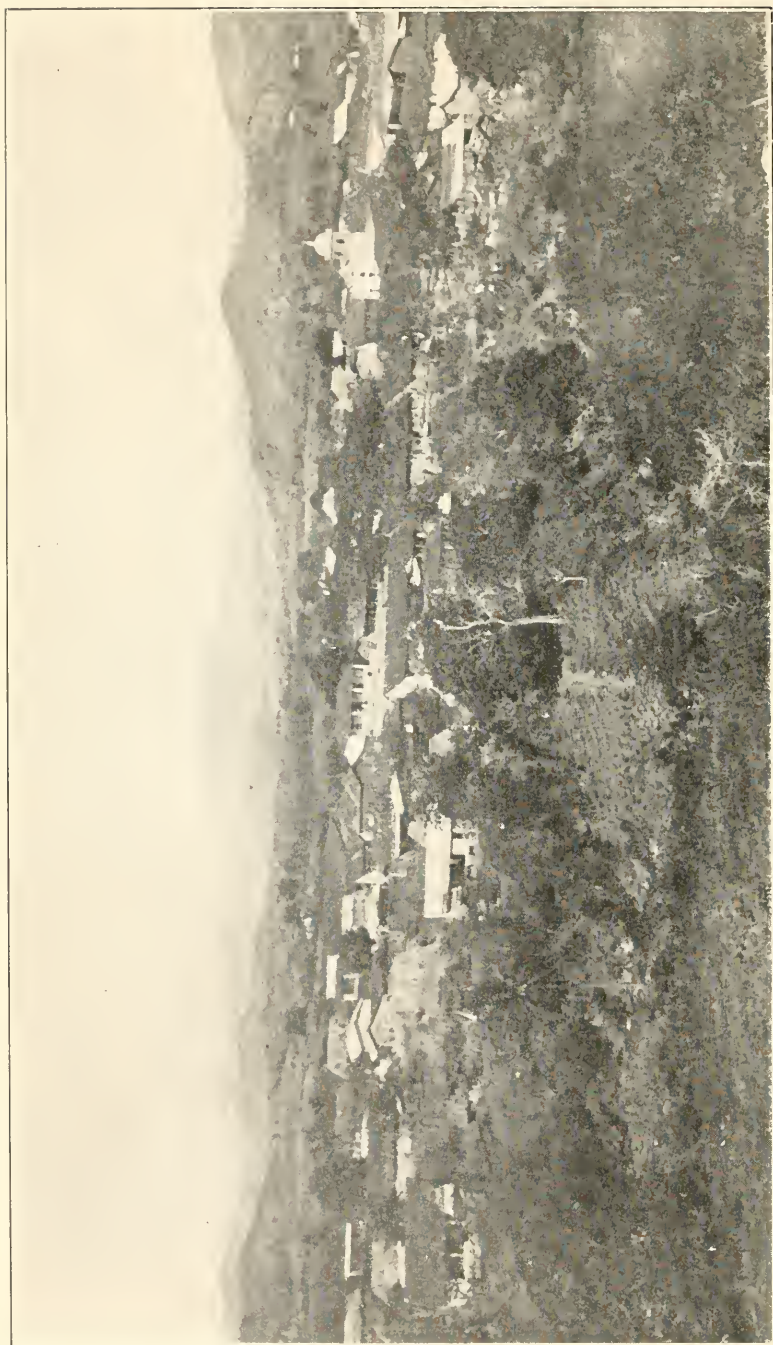
United States. I am aware that the truth of this statement has been seriously questioned, and it must be confessed that the tone of the British press at that time was by no means friendly; but whether the report be true or false we certainly know this: that ever since the memorable victory which here crowned our arms seven and one-half years ago, British respect for America has been steadily growing and has been seeking expression on every proper occasion in words and tokens of esteem. Contemplating these happy conditions and hoping that England and America may continue to draw still closer and closer together "hands clasped across the sea" and girdling the world with the benign influences of Anglo-Saxon institutions, who shall measure the results of the war of 1898?

We will not stop to review the dramatic scenes which followed the declaration of war: the hasty mobilization and embarkation of Shafter's splendid corps; the disquieting rumors of phantom warships; the long, tedious voyage; the skillful landing under protection of our gallant fleet; then the affair at Guasimas, followed by the prompt advance and the final glorious culmination here on that memorable July 1st when Capron's guns opened the day at El Caney. Those stirring events are vividly remembered by all and need not here be recounted. But it is gratifying to recall the fact that American prowess on this field was fully maintained at the high standard of its best and loftiest traditions. We had been taught by former wars to believe that when troops in action had sustained certain losses approximating 14 or 15 per cent. it would be necessary to bring up the supports, and when such losses reached the alarming proportion of 25 per cent. the morale would be seriously shattered and further advance without re-enforcements would be effectually checked. But it remained for the American Army on this field to establish a new world record. Without supports, without a man in reserve, and after a most exhausting march through the torrid

jungle, the single thin line which rushed to the assault of these entrenched positions lost more than 15 per cent. before it had traversed half the bullet swept zone: yet they gallantly pressed on, many of the regiments, exposed to direct and converging fire, such as the Seventh of Lawton's, and the Sixth, Thirteenth and Sixteenth of Kent's, leaving upwards of 30 per cent. lying along the bloody path across the deadly plain.

It may not be inappropriate to pause just here for a moment to repeat, as it should be repeated on every proper occasion and in every proper place, the lesson here impressively emphasized that if we would reach across the sea and strike a blow as quick and crushing and decisive as was struck here in 1898, we must have the most perfect instrumentalities with which to do it; we must have not only an adequate modern Navy but a highly specialized and adequate military establishment as well. Relying with confidence upon our splendid battleships to do their part, we must, nevertheless, remember, that their action stops with the shore. A ship, however magnificently equipped and handled, cannot fight on land, neither can a navy spare its vessels for transportation. Nor should we be satisfied with a contemplation of our vast resources and fall into the fatal belief that a land force can be suddenly improvised. Military resources and military strength are two widely different things and must not be confounded. We may possess untold wealth in the one and be sadly destitute in the other. The speedy organization, equipment and embarkation of some of the dashing volunteers who participated so honorably in the Santiago campaign, was indeed a fine exhibition of American initiative and organizing power. But our admiration for their bold and gallant action should never be permitted to obscure the fact that an immediately available and well trained force cannot be suddenly created. In addition to the preliminary work of organizing and equipping, the training of the modern soldier demands an irreducible

amount of time, and *time* in the operations of war is an element which neither gold nor genius can command. I know these are familiar and oft repeated truisms, but, we regret to say there is still great need of their repetition. And they should be repeated and repeated again until our people come to a realization of their full meaning. We should never grow weary of reciting the old Roman proverb, as true to-day as when it was first uttered, that if we would have commerce, if we would have national stability, if we would have honorable and lasting peace, we must be ready for war. This is the first and second and third duty of the State. Had we been compelled in 1898 to postpone the invasion of Cuba until we could have organized and prepared a sufficient volunteer force, training them in all the scientific appliances of the present day, the strategic advantages would have been entirely lost, the enemy would have gained time to prepare a more formidable defense, the threatened coalitions would probably have been consummated, perhaps our command of the sea interrupted, and the story of Cuba would have been far different. After the roar of battle has ceased to resound in our ears, after the armies are called home and affairs have resumed their normal course, we are prone to look back upon the conditions which led to the conflict as something out of the ordinary and as not liable to happen again. But human wisdom cannot foresee the varied form in which opposition to our wide-expanding, world-engirdling republic may next appear; having become a great world power we certainly shall be expected to meet the obligations of a world power; without an effective and immediately available land force backed up by a properly organized and trained reserve, no suddenly improvised transports however numerous, and no hastily assembled levies, however brave and patriotic, will suffice. It is encouraging to see that the President of the United States, himself a veteran of the Santiago campaign, is leading the thought of the



Photograph by Burr McIntosh Studio.

THE VILLAGE OF EL CANEY, 1904.

country in this important matter. In his last annual message to Congress he declares: "We cannot consider the question of our foreign policy without at the same time treating of the Army and Navy." He points out the importance of thorough preparation and training, and adds: "Only by such training in advance can we be sure that in actual war field operations and those at sea will be carried on successfully." If the campaign of Santiago shall have brought our people to a serious contemplation of these vital truths, leading them to develop and resolutely maintain an adequate transport service against all the arguments and influences of the intense commercialism of the day and a rational system of National Reserves capable of immediate and effective action, we shall recognize another debt of gratitude to the prompt and ready men who came over the seas to give battle here in 1898.

Time will not permit us to call the roll of our heroic dead—lustrous with the names of the invincible Lawton, the knightly Ludlow, the brave Wikoff; yea, bearing also the names of Liscum, and Hamilton and Egbert and Haskell, and Forse and Fornance and the two Caprons, and scores of others less conspicuous, perhaps, in military rank but of no less conspicuous virtue. Many of them fell here gallantly charging these gallantly defended trenches; others succumbed to wounds or sank under wasting disease here contracted; and others still escaping the storm of shot and shell which swept down from these embattled heights, survived only to fall on other fields of glory in far away Luzon or under the walls of ancient Peking. Soldiers every one of them! "men who put their creed into their deed" and who, though conscious they were participating in a great drama on the stage of life, never stopped to act a part, never looked to the crowd for applause. And yet, what pæans of applause their splendid achievements did evoke! The President of the United States cabled to General Shafter:

“The President of the United States sends to you and your brave army the profound thanks of the American people for the brilliant achievements at Santiago, resulting in the surrender of the city and all of the Spanish troops and territory under General Toral. Your splendid command has endured not only the hardships and sacrifices incident to campaign and battle, but in stress of heat and weather has triumphed over obstacles which would have overcome men less brave and determined. One and all have displayed the most conspicuous gallantry and earned the gratitude of the Nation.”

And the Major-General at the head of the Army telegraphed from Washington :

“Accept my hearty congratulations on the record made of magnificent fortitude, gallantry and sacrifice displayed in the desperate fighting of the troops before Santiago. I realize the hardships, difficulties and sufferings and am proud that amid those terrible scenes the troops illustrated such fearless and patriot devotion to the welfare of our common country and flag. Whatever the results to follow their unsurpassed deeds of valor, the past is already a gratifying chapter of history.”

And General Shafter, describing in his official report the charge of Kent’s Division, declared : “In this fierce contest words fail to do justice to the gallant regimental commanders and their men.”

But why dwell on these splendid tributes of praise !

“True fame demands not panegyric aid.”

The memory of these modest soldiers is not only dear to their comrades; not only revered by their countrymen; it is embalmed also in the gratitude of all patriotic sons of Cuba; yea, it is enshrined everywhere in the heart of humanity.

In erecting this monument to these valorous men we would also proclaim, not only to the people of Cuba on whose soil it stands, but to every stranger who may chance in coming years to visit this hallowed spot, the magnitude of the event and the sacredness of the principles which it commemorates. We wish it to stand here so long as stone and bronze may endure a fit emblem of stalwart heroism and unbending devotion to duty. We desire here to mark the spot where the last vestige of absolutism in the Western Hemisphere was

forever struck down and a struggling people lifted to honored place among the nations of the world. Above all we cherish the hope that it shall remain an enduring reminder to the inhabitants of this beautiful island, not only of the men and events in memory of which it is raised, but of the priceless boon of civil and religious liberty here won for Cuba with such costly blood, and that this precious heritage can be preserved only by the same unwavering fidelity to duty which led these soldiers from the northland across the tropic seas. And while we consecrate this monument as a memorial to the unmeasured benefits conferred, not only upon Cuba, but upon the cause of human freedom in all lands under the sun, we would also leave it here as a shrine to which every child of this young republic can turn and receive fresh inspiration for the duties of a pure and noble citizenship. Let not the people of Cuba look upon this monument merely as a tribute to the soldiers of a foreign land. Let it remind them, also, of their own heroic compatriots, who under the brave and unconquerable Garcia, struggled so many long and bloody years in the cause of Cuba libre. Well do we recall those final days of June, when in the midst of drenching rain and mud almost impassable, we saw them moving steadily to their appointed positions under the leadership of Castillo, and Sanchez and Benitez, and Marti and Rabi and Lora and their other dauntless commanders; their scanty clothing torn and tattered, many of them in bare feet and bare heads, and carrying their meagre supply of food in bits of rags twisted and tied in the form of sacks. Gladly our generous men shared their rations with them and bade them Godspeed in their splendid struggle. And so I repeat that while we establish this monument especially to commemorate the achievements of our own country, it would certainly fall short of our purpose did it not also bear testimony to the dauntless patriotism and devotion of those heroic sons of Cuba. And to those who survived that long,

sad period of darkness and are permitted to see the joy of this auspicious day, we extend our sincere felicitations, wishing them and their happy country a bright and glorious future. *Ciudadanos de Cuba! Nosotros os saludamos, como a la aurora de risueno dia; y os decimos: Adelante, a conquistar el porvenir con honor y gloria!*

Comrades of the Army of Santiago de Cuba! we do not forget that we are here to speak of the dead, not to praise the living. But in turning from this hallowed ground and casting our eyes over this once distracted but now happy and prosperous land, the soldiers who fought at Guasimas, El Caney and San Juan and Kettle Hills can find a fitting reward for their valor. And the consciousness of having been permitted to contribute in some small way to such a splendid result is a satisfaction which all will carry with them to the end of life. This monument which we here affectionately dedicate may indeed moulder away; the very ground on which it stands may be submerged by the on-rolling waves of yonder restless sea; but the eternal principles of humanity and justice which summoned the soldiers of the great Republic of the North to this field and for which our fallen comrades here laid down their lives shall never fail nor grow dim. Standing on this historic height which marks another step in the mighty march of human progress, we can look with unwavering confidence to the coming years, realizing that these imperishable principles which constitute the very form and fabric and substance of our own national and social existence, are surely, irresistibly, spreading throughout the world, and have at last, through the shedding of much heroic blood, found a firm and impregnable lodgment in the heart and conscience of mankind. We are justly proud of the splendid part which our own beloved country has had in exemplifying these high and holy principles and in enlightening the world with the effulgence of their glory; and now on this consecrated ground and as we depart

from this sacred shrine, we would renew to her, our native land, our heartfelt vows of fealty and pledge to her again, as did our fathers of old, "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

**Extract from the Report of the Santiago
Battlefield Commission.**

THE MILITARY SERVICE INSTITUTION,

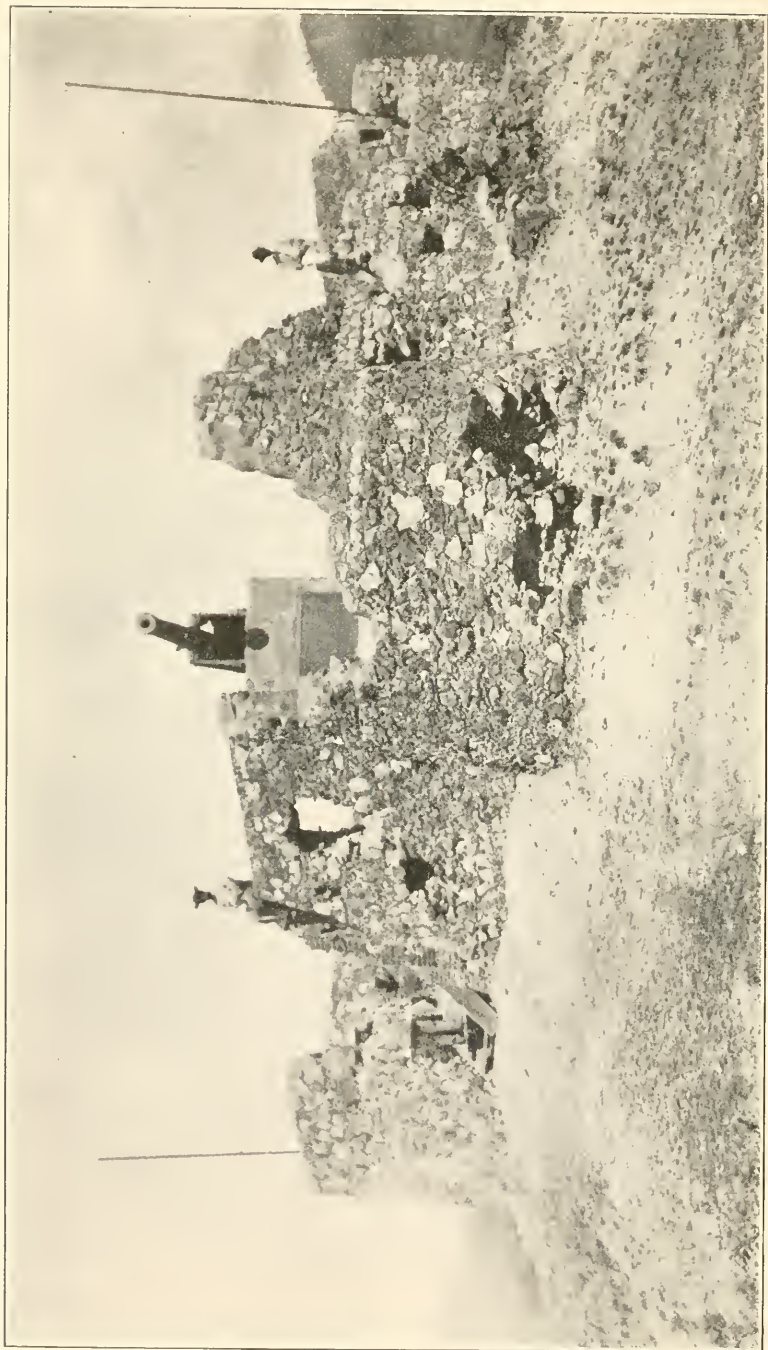
Governor's Island, New York City,
February 26th, 1906.

*Lieutenant-General A. R. Chaffee, U. S. Army,
President, Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba.*

Sir:

The Santiago Battlefield Commission presents herewith the summary of events preceding the formal dedication of the Battle Monument at El Caney, together with a record of that dedication, and the incidents connected therewith.

On February 1, 1904, the U. S. Army Transport "Sumner" arrived in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba for the purpose of withdrawing the last garrison of American troops in the Province of Santiago de Cuba. While these troops were embarking several officers of the American Army, including the present Secretary of the Commission, visited the scene of the assaults on July 1st at El Caney and San Juan, and the subsequent siege of Santiago de Cuba, terminating in the surrender of July 17th, 1898. The impression made by the practically unmarked battlefield was so painful to the American officers that on the arrival of the "Sumner" at Havana, to take on board the last garrison of American troops on the Island of Cuba, the question of marking the battlefield of Santiago was taken up with the American Minister.



Photograph by Burr McIntosh Studio.

EL VISO, 1886.

Subsequently, on the arrival of the "Summer" at Pensacola, Florida, a letter was addressed to the American Minister, requesting that he obtain permission from the Government of Cuba for the erection of four simple monuments to mark the four principal engagements of the Santiago Campaign, but no action resulted therefrom. However on November 25, 1904, the present Secretary of the Commission addressed a letter to the Chief of the Insular Bureau, requesting permission for Mr. Frank Steinhart to act as a representative of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba in his capacity as Agent of the War Department in Cuba, or, with the permission of the Secretary of State of the United States, in his official capacity as the American Consul General at Havana. The Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, promptly granted the request that Consul General Steinhart should act as a representative of the Society in the matter, and on December 16th, Mr. Steinhart presented the following petition to President Palma of the Republic of Cuba:

(Here follows a copy of the petition.)

The petition was promptly granted, and Mr. Steinhart advised in the following communication:

[Translation.]

REPUBLIC OF CUBA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND JUSTICE.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Havana, December 22, 1904.

MR. F. STEINHART,

DEAR SIR: In reply to your polite communication of the 16th of this month, requesting in the name of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba the necessary authorization to erect several commemorative monuments at various places in the neighborhood of Santiago de Cuba to recall the principal combats that took place during the Hispano-American war, I have

the honor to inform you that the President of the Republic, in accord with the Council of Secretaries, has been pleased to grant the aforementioned request, and to that end has transmitted the request to the Secretary of Government to draw up the regulations he may deem necessary, provided there be no legal impediment, in order that no obstacles may be placed to the wishes of the said association.

Very truly yours,

C. E. ORTIZ, *Secretary.*

A true copy :

(Signed) AURELIO HEVIA.

Major-General John C. Bates, U. S. Army, as President of the Society, was kept advised of the progress of events, and under date of February 2d, 1905, appointed a committee to take charge. (Here follows a copy of General Bates' letter naming a commission to consist of General Young, Colonel Wagner, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes. General A. L. Mills was subsequently appointed, vice Wagner, deceased.)

General Young and Colonel Hayes at once proceeded to Havana and had several interviews with President Palma and the leading Government officials, who received them most courteously and presented to the Commission bronze Spanish cannon and iron gun carriages and bronze mortars on mortar beds, which the Cuban Government delivered on the battlefield, together with Spanish Mauser rifles and bayonets to be used in constructing a rifle barrel bayonet fence around the surrender tree and around the granite shafts already erected on the battlefield of Las Guasimas.

Prior to the departure from Washington of the members of the Commission, they had received assurances from the appropriation committees of Congress, which warranted them in believing that an appropriation would be inserted, as recommended by the Quartermaster-General in the pending Sundry Civil Appropria-

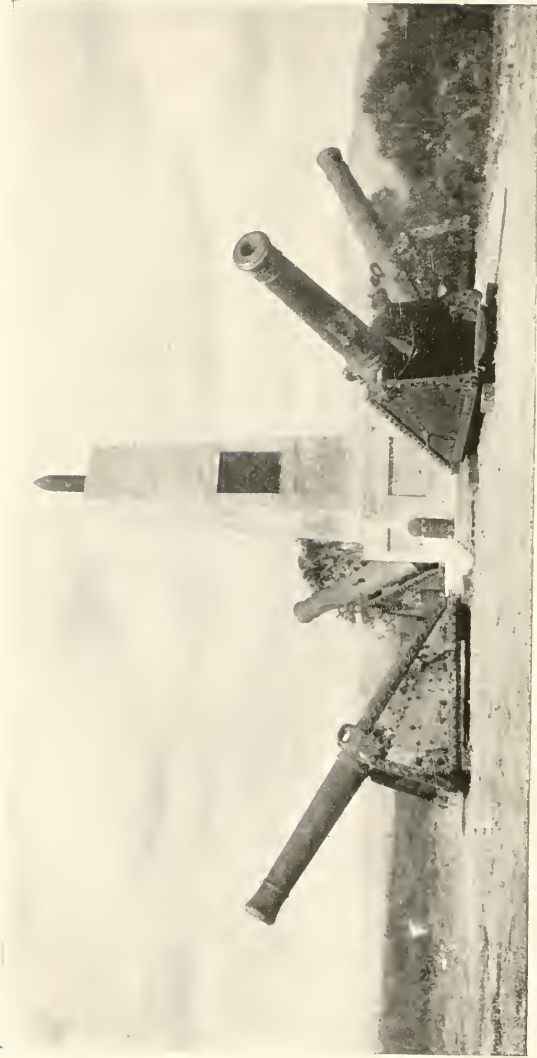
tion Bill "For marking the places where the American Soldiers fell, and were temporarily interred in Cuba and China, \$9,500; said sum to be immediately available," so that the Commission felt justified in making definite plans for the marking of the battlefield which the Secretary visited with Cuban engineers. No advices having been received of favorable Congressional action, it was found necessary that he should return to Washington where, through the active personal interest of the President, the Congress saw its way clear to insert the item in the appropriation bill in the Senate, and it was incorporated in the act of March 3, 1905.

On the recommendation of the Commission, Captain D. E. Aultman, Artillery Corps, on duty at Havana, was appointed Constructing Quartermaster in charge of the work at Santiago, with instructions to proceed with the carrying out of the plans of the Commission. The bids received by Captain Aultman were considered so excessive, and so much time had elapsed that the following was addressed to Chief of Staff on behalf of the Commission and favorably acted upon, as shown by the following correspondence: (Here follows correspondence as a result of which the necessary labor and material were obtained in open market.)

It had been the original intention of the Commission to dedicate the Battle Monument on El Caney on July 1st, 1905, the seventh anniversary of the battle, but this was found to be impracticable, and at the suggestion of the Alcalde of Santiago a postponement was made.

On December 16th, 1905, President Palma sent for Consul General Steinhart who, after a conference with him, advised the Battlefield Commission that the Secretary of Finance would give immediate orders as follows:

1. For the free entry of tablets, &c., from America to mark the battlefield.
2. For the repair of the block house at El Caney and purchase of land.
3. For the purchase of Kettle Hill.



By courtesy of the "Army and Navy Life" Magazine.

THE MONUMENT ON SAN JUAN HILL, ERECTED DURING THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION.

4. For the construction of a driveway along the line of trenches.

The Commission being authorized to do the work required in open market, secured from the Rock Island Arsenal, through the courtesy of the Chief of Ordnance, a proposal to furnish the bronze tablets for the Battle Monuments with the necessary inscriptions and lettering at a price of \$8.99 per square foot of tablet, and also entered into negotiations with engineers and contractors for the construction of the Battle Monument at El Caney and the repair of the fort. The work of casting the tablets was expedited as much as possible, and the thanks not only of the Commission but of the members of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, are due to Lieutenant Colonel S. E. Blunt, U. S. Army, Commanding the Rock Island Arsenal, for his most efficient and active interest in the completion of the tablets. On January 1st, a meeting was held in the office of the Chief of Staff which was attended by Lieutenant General Chaffee, Chief of Staff, as President of the Society; Captain Hollis C. Clark, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Society; Major General Bates, Acting Chief of Staff; and Colonel Hayes, Secretary of the Santiago Battlefield Commission, at which time the date of the dedication and the plans therefor were made, including the designation of Major W. D. Beach, General Staff, as Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements for the Dedication on behalf of the Society, and the selection of Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Sharpe, U. S. Army, Secretary of the Society, to deliver the formal address. Formal invitations were issued on behalf of the President of the Society to attend the dedication, the members of the Society to be transported on the U. S. Army Transport "Sumner", to sail from New York on February 8th, 1906. On January 9th, the Secretary of the Commission left Washington for Havana and Santiago and made a contract for the completion of the monument at El Caney by February 1st proximo, at a total cost of \$500, includ-

ing the insertion in the pedestal of the monument of the bronze roster and honor tablets, which were to be delivered at Santiago by the Society. It was later thought best by the Secretary of War to make formal application to Congress for authority to employ the Transport "Sumner" to convey the members of the Society to Santiago, which he did in an official communication which, with accompanying papers, was printed as Senate Document No. 157, and a joint resolution unanimously adopted. (Here follows a copy of Senate Document No. 157.)

The Chief of Ordnance, under date of May 22d, 1905, had advised the Battlefield Commission that the Secretary of War had ruled that the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba could be considered a soldiers' monument association within the meaning of the act of Congress, and could receive condemned ordnance from the Government, as requested by the Commission. The Ordnance Department delivered to the Commission at New York four condemned 3.2 inch rifles mounted on carriages similar to the guns used in the campaign to represent the four light batteries in action during the campaign, and a dynamite gun and four iron mortars to represent the dynamite battery and the two mortar batteries which were engaged on the 10th of July, 1898. This ordnance, together with the bronze "Honor" tablet for the El Caney monument from Rock Island and iron tablets to be placed on the four field pieces and two field mortars were loaded on the "Sumner" at pier 12, East River, and the dedicatory expedition started at 10 A. M., February 8th, 1906, stopping to take on passengers from Washington at Fortress Monroe on the morning of February 9th.

Just prior to sailing, in correspondence with the Hon. T. H. Newberry, Acting Secretary of the Navy, formerly a naval officer on the U. S. S. Yosemite at Guantanamo Bay, the Commission agreed to furnish one of the bronze Spanish cannons presented by the Cuban gov-



By courtesy of the "Army and Navy Life" Magazine.

THE SURRENDER TREE.

ernment for a battle monument on McCalla Hill, if a naval tug would convey it from Santiago and deliver it to Captain Edward H. Schultz, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., in charge of the construction of the defences at Guantanamo Bay. Arrangements had previously been made with Captain Schultz to have this gun placed on the site of the fortification thrown up by the American Marines on the crest of the McCalla Hill during the engagement of June 11-13, 1896, between the American Marines and the Spanish forces for the possession of the bay.

The "Sumner" steamed into Guantanamo Bay on the evening of February 13th and cast anchor. Commander C. E. Rogers, U. S. Navy, in command of the station, and Lieutenant L. S. Thompson, U. S. Navy in command of the U. S. S. "Yankee", which was to convoy the transport to Santiago harbor and land sailors and marines to participate in the dedicatory exercises at El Caney, called at once on the members of the Commission on the transport. The members of the Battlefield Commission, Lieutenant-General Chaffee and members of the Society and their guests, preceded by the 5th Band Artillery Corps, marched to the Battle Monument on the summit of McCalla Hill, where patriotic airs were played and brief remarks made by Lieutenant-General Chaffee, President of the Society, Rear Admiral Francis J. Higginson, U. S. N., representing the Navy, and Captain William N. McKelvy, U. S. Marine Corps, who participated in the engagement on McCalla Hill.

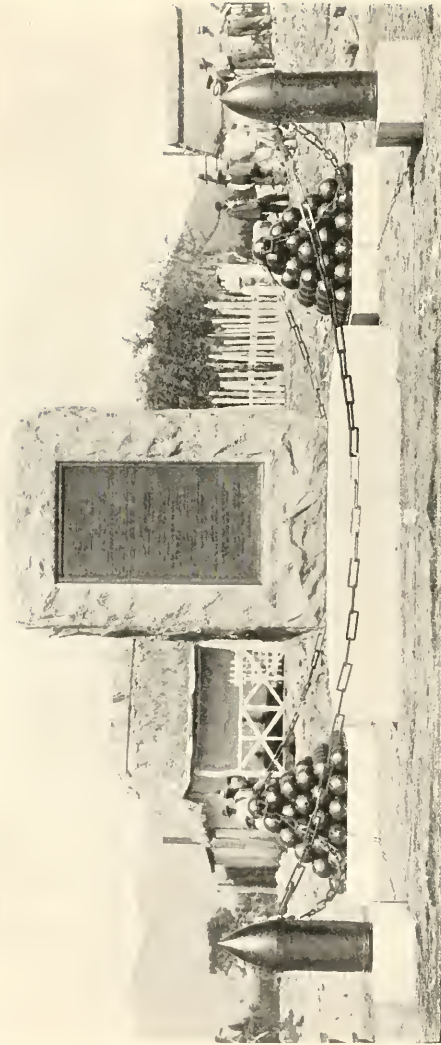
At daylight on February 14th, the "Sumner" and the "Yankee" entered Santiago harbor, cast anchor, and at 8 A. M. trimmed ship. The "Yankee" fired a national salute of 21 guns, and the 5th Band Artillery Corps played the National Air of Cuba, just as the American Consul, with the local American Committee and the Alcalde of Santiago, boarded the "Sumner" to present the keys of the City of Santiago. An official

call was at once made on the Governor of Oriente Province and the Alcalde of Santiago, who immediately returned the call on board the "Summer". At 12 M. the entire party proceeded in carriages and floats to the residence of the American Consul who with his wife, Mrs. Holliday, held informal reception for the American visitors. In the meantime the 5th Band Artillery Corps followed by four companies of marines and one company of sailors from the U. S. S. "Yankee", all under command of Captain W. N. McKelvy, U. S. M. C., marched up to the palace where, after rendering appropriate airs, they were furnished with transportation and proceeded to El Caney, Cuba, where they disembarked and awaited the arrival of the members of the Society and their guests, and then formed in procession and marched up to Fort El Viso, passing the fine body of Cuban Artillery and Rural Guards headed by the Cuban Artillery Band, which had already taken station in the vicinity of the fort. Lieutenant General Chaffee, as President of the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba, called the meeting to order in accordance with the program.

The Battle Monument consists of a Bronze Spanish Cannon, on an iron gun carriage placed on the top of a Cement Pedestal ten feet in height in the center of the ruins of Fort El Viso, the gun pointing towards the position occupied by Capron's Battery. In opposite faces of the Pedestal are placed the Bronze "Honor" and "Roster" Tablets, while a tablet to Capron's Battery E 1st Artillery is set on one of the bastions. The walls of the Fort have been preserved by a coating of Portland Cement and the Cuban Government has constructed a driveway up the ramp surrounding the Fort and extending to El Caney.

* * * * *

At 8 P. M., the Government of the Republic of Cuba formally entertained the members of the Battlefield Commission and the officers and members of the Society



By courtesy of the "Army and Navy Life" Magazine.

THE FIRST LANDING MONUMENT AT DAIQUIRI.

of the Army of Santiago de Cuba at an elegant banquet given in the Hotel Venus on the palace square, Santiago, and at 10 P. M., the entire party of officers and ladies attended a beautiful reception at the San Carlos Club, as guests of the Union and San Carlos Clubs.

February 15th was spent in visiting the battlefields of San Juan, El Caney, and Las Guasimas, and Morro Castle, while the members of the battlefield commission and Lieutenant General Chaffee, as guests of Mr. A. E. Borie, Vice-President of the Bethlehem Steel Company, visited Siboney, Cuba, and selected the site for the proposed monument, to be erected by the Juragua Iron Company, commemorating the landing place of General Shafter and staff and Kent's 1st Infantry Division, and the subsequent re-enforcements of the 5th Army Corps in Cuba, as well as the location of the Base Hospital of the Santiago Campaign from which all the wounded and sick were sent back to the United States. In the evening, from 8 to 12 o'clock, the members of the Society entertained at a reception, on board the Transport "Sumner", the representatives of the Cuban Government, officers of the Cuban Artillery and Rural Guard, the Governor of the Oriente Province, the Alcalde of Santiago with their wives and friends, and the American residents of Santiago.

At 8 A. M., February 16th, the "Sumner" left the harbor of Santiago and as a special compliment to the representatives of the Navy, Admirals Higginson and Clark, followed the course of the U. S. S. Oregon in the Naval Battle of July 3rd, 1898, steaming to the westward, passing the Spanish wrecks and being entertained by a most graphic description of the destruction of the Spanish fleet, by Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark, U. S. N., the commander of the U. S. Battleship "Oregon".

On resuming her course around Cape Maysi the "Sumner" stopped off the harbor of Daiquiri, the first landing place of the 5th Army Corps in the Santiago Campaign. On the beach where the troops were landed

the Spanish American Iron Company, under the inspiration of its patriotic President, Mr. Charles F. Rand, had erected a beautiful monument of Quincy granite in which had been set a bronze tablet 3 x 5 containing the following inscription: [Here follows a copy of the inscription.]

The members of the Society and their guests were taken ashore in the Company's tug "Colon", and proceeded to the monument, where Lieutenant-General S. B. M. Young, as Chairman of the Santiago Battlefield Commission, called the meeting to order, and the following program was carried out :

Music : "The Star Spangled Banner," 5th Band, Artillery Corps, U. S. A.

Presentation of Monument by Mr. De Berniere Whitaker, Acting Superintendent Spanish-American Iron Company.

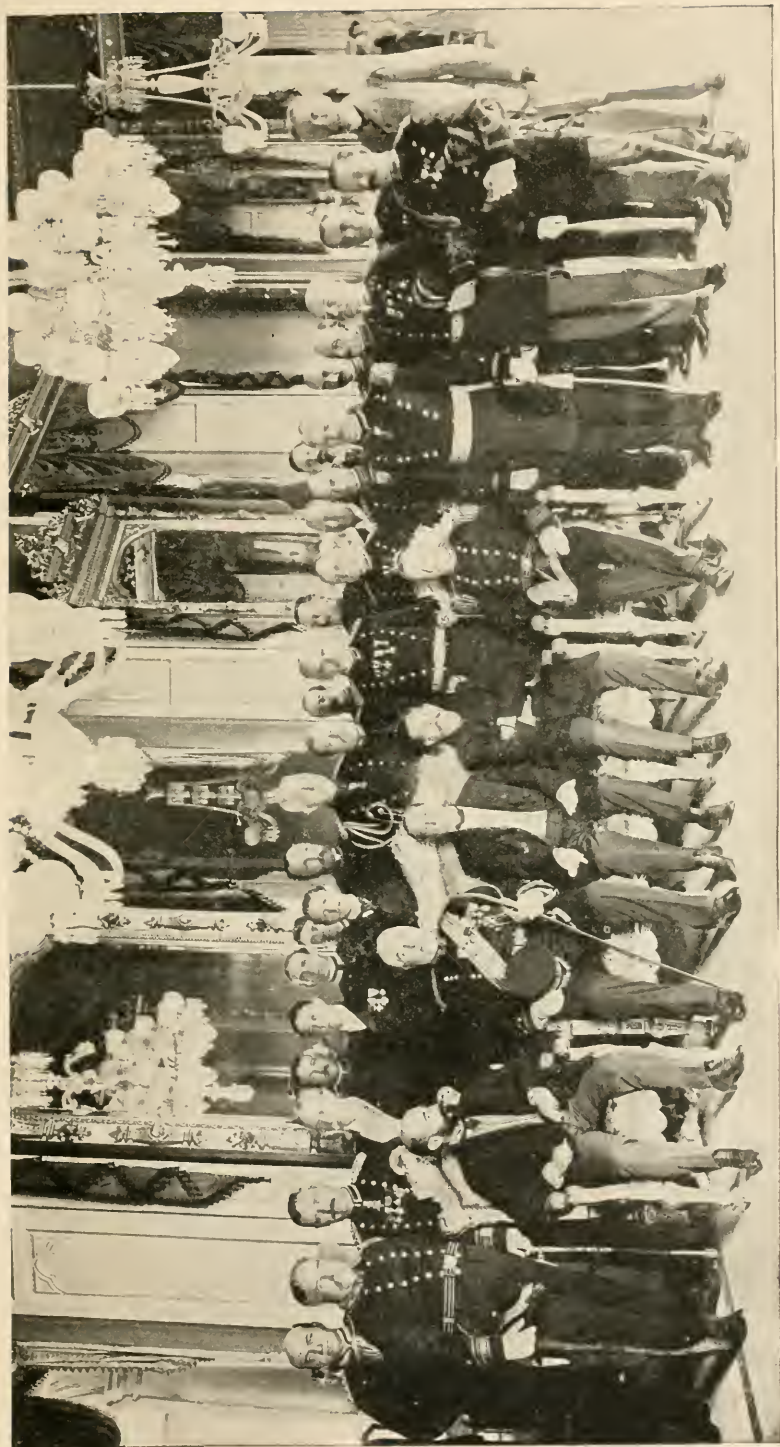
Unveiling of Tablet by Mrs. Charles F. Rand.

Acceptance by Lieutenant-General A. R. Chaffee, U.S.A., President Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba.

Music : "Himno de Bayamo." 5th Band, Artillery Corps, U. S. A.

* * * * *

At 3 P. M., February 18th, the Transport "Sumner" cast anchor in Havana harbor, and the members of the party at once visited the places of interest in the city. At noon on the 19th, Lieutenant-General Chaffee, President of the Society, with Mrs. Chaffee, paid a formal visit to the President of the Republic of Cuba, and then embarked on the steamer "Vigilancia" en route to the City of Mexico, greeted with music by the 5th Band Artillery Corps and the cheers of their friends on the "Sumner". At 12 M. February 20th, the members of the Commission and of the Society, with their ladies, were formally received by President Palma, Secretary O'Farrell and Secretary Andrade, at the President's



By courtesy of the "Army and Navy Life" Magazine.

RECEPTION OF SANTIAGO BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION AND PARTY BY PRESIDENT PALMIA.

palace, where they were presented also to the members of the President's family, and at 6 P. M., after another season of farewell music and cheers in honor of Lieutenant-General Young, Chairman of the Santiago Battlefield Commission, who remained in Cuba, the Transport started on her return trip, stopping at Fortress Monroe to allow the Washington contingent to disembark, and arriving off New York at daylight, February 25th.

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THE SANTIAGO BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION,

WEBB C. HAYES,

Lieutenant-Colonel, U. S. V.,

Secretary.



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