

MINISTER'S SERMON ON THE WAR WITH SPAIN

† Matt. x, 34: "I come not to send peace, but a sword."
 † Luke II, 14: "On earth peace, good will toward men."
 † James III, 17: "First pure, then peaceable."

Some ten or twelve years Gen. Sherman dropped in upon a gathering of clergymen in Washington and was recalled a little upon venturing among so many heralds of peace. He wittily replied: "You gentlemen in black coats are the men who make war. We of the army and navy simply end the war which you bring on."

Whatever may have been the attitude of the clergy on former occasions, it cannot be said that the ministry of today, as a body, are inciting the nation to war. The pulpit has been moderate, conservative and calming. We are compelled at this time to yield the palm to the newspapers, for they certainly carry off the laurels as the chief war-makers.

Government is of God and is necessary for the welfare of the human family. The government through love and peace is by far the best, but if men will not be ruled in this way, they must be governed by law and force. There are some poetical, sentimental men who believe that the rod should be taken from the family and authority from the school; that the police force should be removed from our cities, the militia from our state, and the army and navy from the nation. A pretty time we would have in our cities without the police force; the results of riots without the strong arm of the militia would be too serious to forecast, and we would not long be a free nation if we would disarm and decide to pursue simply peace measures. Of course, force is to be used only until you can do better. But it is doubtful whether force can altogether be laid aside, though it should be reduced to the minimum.

Men have risen, in numbers greater than ever before in the history of the world, into the state in which they are governed by motives addressed to their reason, to their moral sense. There are thousands of men in our city to whom law has no application. They are honest, but because the law says "thou shalt not steal," but because they see the moral beauty of honesty. Yet the law must exist, and must be enforced, because there are those who can be made honest only by force.

There are some nations who enjoy so high a state of civilization that they are ready, we might say, to cease war and decide all difficulties by arbitration. There is a limited class in all Christian nations prepared to be governed by the moral law, and not by the law of force. But since there are nations in the world who are combative, who govern solely by force, it would be suicidal not to be prepared for self-defense.

The history of the world has been the history of war. The English flag is all red, as if it had been baptized in war from the beginning, and has on it the cross, to show that there was a touch of religion in her war. War is symbolized on our flag as well. We have the blood stripes, and the eagle with his talon and beak; also the thought of religion suggested by the stars of heaven.

These two nations are studying the peace of the world. They are more advanced in peace measures than any other nation. But it would be a thing for a nation to wake up the old lion, on a supposition that he has turned into a lamb, or to impose on the eagle, believing that she has become a dove.

Man has two natures, spiritual and animal. As long as the animal nature predominates we are certain to have war. Give the whole people a Christian education and you greatly diminish the chances of war.

There are two classes of men in our day who promote war:
 First, the peace men; men who insist upon peace at all hazards, who cry "peace, peace" when there is no peace; men who have peace at any price, and therefore encourage men to disturb the peace. Let it

be known that the United States is opposed to war, that she would never lift a hand to defend herself, Spain would bombard our coast cities in less than twenty-four hours. The advocates of such doctrines are producers of war.

The second class are those men who are at the other extreme; who have considerable dynamite in their make-up; men whom we now call "jingoos"; men who at the least provocation demand war. It is the desire on the part of the American government and people that we shall have peace with honor.

OUR TROUBLE WITH SPAIN
 The cause of our trouble with Spain is a misunderstanding.
 The Spanish people are under the im-

pression that we wish to acquire the island of Cuba; that we wish to annex it to our country. It certainly belongs to Spain. It was here centuries before we became a nation. I do not believe it is the intention of our government to rob Spain of her possessions. This charge made against America that we are selfish in the matter is unfounded, yet is thoroughly believed by Spain, and has been the most powerful influence in causing us to stand aloof from Cuba. There is even an unwillingness on our part to be responsible for the future of the island, if wrested from Spain.

Prime Minister Sagasta states that Spain will not assent to arbitration. Neither would we consent to arbitrate whether we owned Long Island or whether it should be made an independent government. We

have great financial and commercial interests in Cuba. Americans own fifty million dollars worth of property and they hold mortgages on fifty million dollars worth more. Our trade with Cuba amounts to eight-five million dollars per annum. This property is being wasted and our commerce wrecked and, worst of all, claims for damages are worthless, which serves to widen the breach between our country and Spain. These misunderstandings, coupled with our financial losses are at the bottom of our present difficulties.

Let us take a chapter in early history. Instead of trying to divorce Cuba from Spain, as the latter country charges, we have in reality, through our Monroe doctrine, held Spain in possession of Cuba for

war with the United States. On October 31, 1873, one of our vessels—the *Virginian*—was captured on the high seas by the *Tornado*, a Spanish war vessel, and taken to Santiago de Cuba. Gen. Burrell, who was in command of that city, in the face of the protest of our consul, summoned a court martial and executed the entire crew and passengers to the number of fifty-three.

But in spite of this aggravation the American government did everything possible in the ten years' strife to close the war in a peaceful way. She offered her friendly offices, through Gen. Sickles, but they were in the end not accepted. At last the long, destructive conflict was brought to a close by many promises being made to the insurgents; but as soon as they laid

The United States certainly has a duty to perform to herself, to Cuba and to Spain. The wise man generally keeps himself free from tangle alliances which will get him into trouble, but sometimes his fastidiousness compels him to interfere in matters which do not directly concern himself. Sometimes circumstances make it criminal for him to shirk his duty in reference to others. The policy of our nation has always been to avoid international complications, but it frequently happens that the situation of a nation is such that certain duties and obligations cannot be avoided. I am convinced that such a case confronts America today.

It is our first duty to secure a peaceful settlement of the difficulties if possible, to concentrate themselves in their respective country seats. Here the people were huddled together by the thousands and the Spaniards fortified the town. No one was permitted to pass outside the fortifications under penalty of being shot. These people lived for a time on the charity of the residents of the town, but the drain was so great that for the past six months starvation has been general in every city. Starving by law in sight of the rich soil of their own farms, where they might be raising abundance of food. A half million people starving to death on an island about eighty miles from our country. The latest figures are over 600,000 deaths from starvation. And still the law is strictly enforced and the dread reaper continues his work.

Spain in both wars has deliberately chosen the policy of extermination, and has done everything possible to kill off the inhabitants. It is a noteworthy fact that not one of the 600,000 who have died from starvation ever shouldered a rifle against Spain.

Campos, who was first sent to quell the rebellion, was recalled because he was too gallant a man to carry out so cruel a policy. The American people are now asking the question, has the loss of life and property been sufficient? Are we to continue our delay for diplomacy's sake, while the death rate is increasing? This is the desire of Spain. The disaster in the Maine, the De Loame and Lee incidents rank into insignificance by the side of the systematic, wholesale murder of the women and children of an entire nation. Our demands in this matter should be decisive, immediate, and backed up by our army and navy.

There has been some talk about giving Cuba belligerent rights, and the senate has already passed a resolution to that effect. There are different opinions as to the effect of such action by our government. If belligerency was declared, Cuban vessels would have the same rights as those of Spain; her flag would be as much respected; her captured soldiers would be entitled to treatment as prisoners of war, instead of being executed or sent to penal servitude; and she would enjoy the same rights as Spain to purchase all munitions of war, also to borrow money.

According to international law there are three things necessary to secure belligerency—a permanent seat of government, occupation of a seaport, and general engagements of armies. Cuba has not complied with all these requirements. She has not deemed it wise to weaken her forces in the field in order to garrison a capital and sea port.

However, the principle of intervention is right, according to international law. Numerous instances could be given, as the control of Turkey by the European powers, their preventing Greece from taking Crete last summer, and their refusing to allow Japan to retain Port Arthur.

THE OUTLOOK
 Spain is determined to conquer Cuba, while the insurgents are just as determined to have their freedom. Impartial judges are general in the opinion that Spain cannot conquer the island. Her financial condition is in the way. She has been driven to loan after loan until she is in bankruptcy. Marshall Blanco's demands from Cuba are eight million dollars per month for war expenses, and half that much on account of \$30,000,000 arrears. Spain's annual budget is about \$25,000,000. The debt through Cuba is \$65,000,000. The debt through Cuba is about \$50,000,000. This is truly an alarming state of affairs, but instead of hindering a war with the United States, it might be a help. The more likely it is to fight. If she should lose Cuba by war with a foreign power she would no doubt repudiate the Cuban debt.

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WRETCHED HOVELS AND FEARFUL DESTITUTION OF THE STARVING RECONCENTRADOS

many years. In 1825 Mr. Clay declared to France "that we could not consent to the occupation of these islands (Cuba and Porto Rico) by any other European power than Spain under any contingency whatsoever;" and in 1850, when British aggression was feared, the assurance was given to Spain by Mr. Forsyth, and repeated in 1843 by Mr. Webster, that in the event of any European power attempting to wrest Cuba from her Spain might "securely rely upon the whole naval and military resources of the United States to aid her in preserving or recovering it."

In the ten years' war American treaty rights were constantly violated by Spain. During these trying times, one daring, lawless act of Spain almost brought us

down their arms and surrendered all promises were broken. The present conflict differs very little from the ten years' war. Its features are almost the same. The same liberal promises of autonomy to Cuba, Spain's liberality in concessions and promises is unbounded, but she is slow to fulfill. If the United States should ever feel it her duty to intervene in the affairs of Cuba for the sake of humanity and American interests, it will certainly be an armed intervention, and when once undertaken must be carried to completion without the least regard for Spanish promises of reform.

Any man who knows anything about the horrors of war, who realizes that it means desolation, the destruction of thousands of men, the ruin of families, the piling up of a great war debt, a stimulation of the evils which naturally follow, will say, we do not wish for war; by all means settle the difficulties in a peaceful way. Yet it must be peace based on right. God's way is "First pure, then peaceable." We would rather have war with honor than peace with dishonor. There are certain things now transpiring in Cuba which no civilized nation should permit to exist.

Gen. Weyler passed a law compelling all the unarmed men, women and children of 70 knots an hour and carries 200 pounds of explosive compound directed against the most vulnerable part of a ship, that of her hull under water.

HOW WE CAN PROTECT OUR BATTLESHIPS

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4.—(Special Correspondence to The Herald.) The fact that Spain's flotilla of torpedo boats is making its way with what speed it can in the direction of Porto Rico and may soon be in a position to strike a blow at our splendid battleships and cruisers assembled at Key West brings out more prominently the value of a new torpedo shield for which much is claimed. The new mode of hull defense is the idea of Dr. Herbert Jones, a naval constructor of note, and is designed to act as a torpedo guard for the vessel below the surface of the sea.

The plan of Dr. Jones is simply to place a huge shield along the hull of the battleship on both sides. It will consist of a number of large plates in juxtaposition, extending from stem to stern, and from the keel to a point just above the water line. The plates must fit exactly to the model of the hull, so as not to retard the speed of the vessel when there is no occasion to use them.

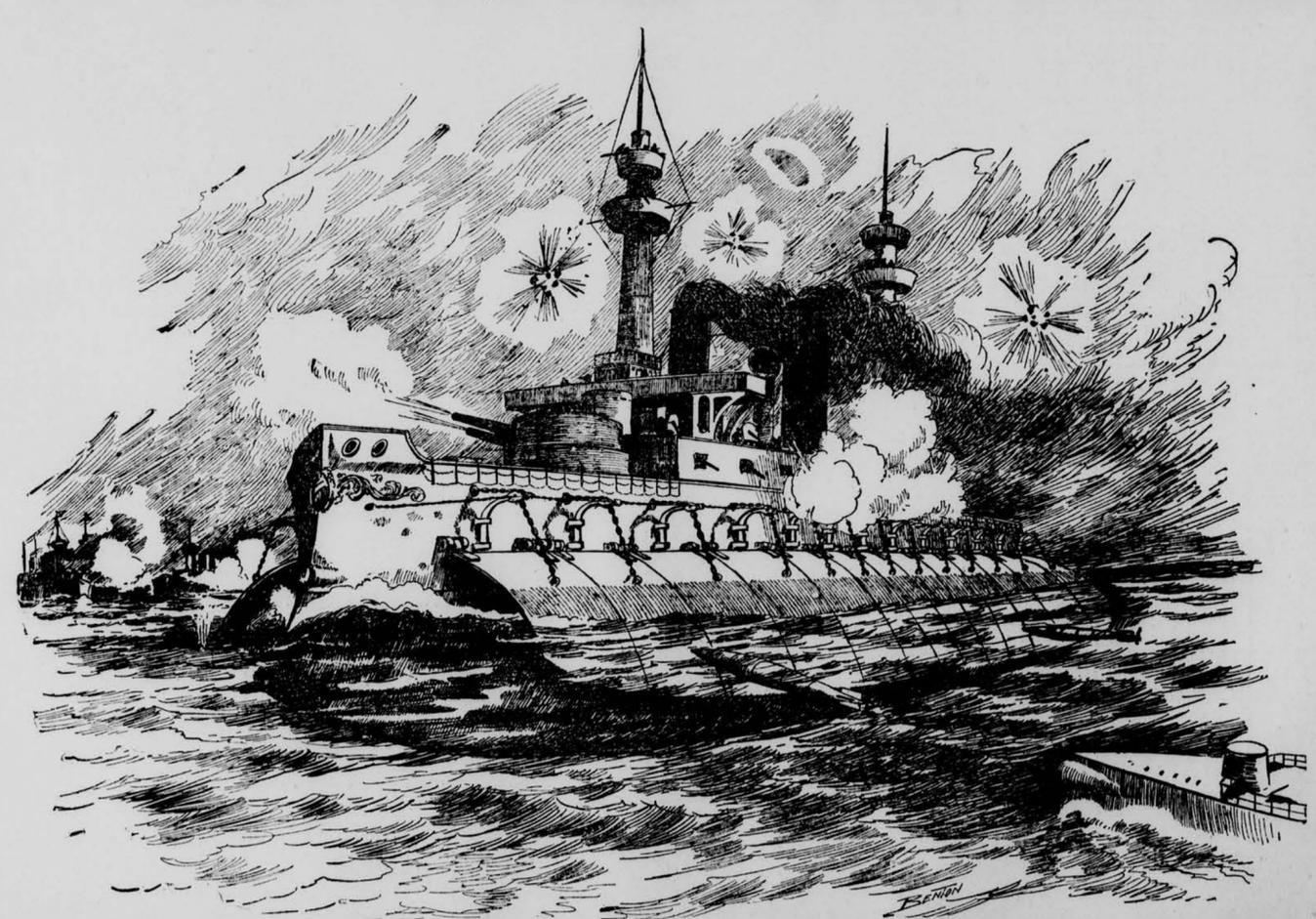
The only contrivance now in use to protect the lower portion of a ship's hull from torpedo attack is a huge netting of wire slung from booms on the side of the ship, and is supposed to penetrate far enough beneath the surface of the water to furnish protection for the entire bottom. This apparatus affords protection to some extent when the vessel has to go to, but when she has speed on the net is sure to dig astern and expose a large surface of the hull. Then, again, torpedoes have been invented for the very purpose of cutting through the netting when it is found as an obstacle.

With Dr. Jones' new device, the torpedo could not reach the hull proper, but would explode itself against the preventive hull, as the guard might be termed. That, of course, would be demolished, but the hull itself would be saved from destruction.

As previously stated, the shield must fit snugly to the hull. The shield consists of a number of wide plates placed side by side and hung by hinges on a long rod running the length of the ship, just above the water line and extending to the keel. Above each plate is a davit, securely attached to the ship's side. A tackle is suspended from each davit, and the lower block hooks into a ring-bolt into the lower end of the plate. The falls run into the hull and connect with a windlass, so that the guard can be hoisted out by steam. When placed in position for defense it must be hauled outboard, about 20 feet from the hull. Thus, besides the resistance of the shield, a huge cushion of water which has been formed aside in the protection of the ship.

Captain S. Eardley Wilmot, R. N., late chief torpedo expert of the admiralty, in his report, has the following to say on the subject:

"The development of the 'Whitehead' torpedo, with which now nearly all nations are supplied, renders the question of protecting ships against this attack one of the gravest consideration.



The New Torpedo Shield. It is a false steel wall and could protect the United States Warships Massachusetts, Indiana, Iowa, Texas, New York, Brooklyn, Kentucky and Others as Valuable From the Dangerous and Numerous Spanish Torpedo boats, Perhaps the Greatest Menace to Our Navy.

of 70 knots an hour and carries 200 pounds of explosive compound directed against the most vulnerable part of a ship, that of her hull under water.

"We have been enabled, by the addition of large masses of armor, to fairly protect the water line, and above it, against the effects of artillery fire, but cannot extend this to the submerged portion of her hull as a defense against torpedo attacks. We have, therefore, been obliged to restrict our endeavors, so far as structural arrangements are concerned, to give ships of war a double bottom and subdivided them internally into a number of water-tight compartments, thus seeking to diminish the effects of an explosion and restrict the inflow of water at this point.

"As, however, these arrangements could only give very partial protection at a time when torpedoes carried a comparatively small charge, it was considered desirable to stop them before they could reach the ship, and for this purpose the present system of net defense was devised.

"This consists of wire netting suspended vertically from steel or wooden beams attached to the hull of the ship, from which they project 25 to 35 feet. The nets hang down to a depth of 20 feet and are connected together in sections so as to then form a continuous crinoline of netting.

"But, should the ship move through the water, the nets are more or less impelled toward the surface, according to the speed of the ship. For these reasons naval officers do not consider that nets can be used at sea.

"Thus it is evident that, if external protection is to be relied upon, it must be in a different form, and Dr. Jones has devised a torpedo guard which is not only novel but free from most of the objections inherent to the net defense. His plan is to have steel shields made to the form of the ship and ordinarily resting against the hull. They are, however, capable of being projected outward, when required, to a distance of 20 feet from this hull, and this cushion of water, together with the resistance offered by the steel plating, should secure a ship from material injury in the event of a torpedo's exploding against the guard. It is obvious that the plate could not be cut through, like a net, nor would it be forced out of position by a current or the ship's moving through the water.

"An advantage of this system is that all the appliances for working this protection are above the water line and always in position, thus enabling the protection to be put in position at the shortest notice, while it overcomes the difficulty attached to supporting steel booms or rams, if projected to a distance of 20 or 30 feet.

"This plan now proposed by Dr. Jones is, in my opinion, the best which has yet been put forward for guarding against the terrible effects of locomotive torpedo attack, and, looking to the grave issues involved, I consider that expenditure would be wisely incurred by giving it a trial."