Dear Sir: It is required of all citizens to do all I can think of to help defense.

Of course, there is very little prejudice of war with Italy just now, yet the rumors of war and
the firm stand that our Government
ought to have our lines of defense well arranged — in
place. The fishing embroils
the Belching Sea controversy.

The strikes made by the Shakers
other foreign people who have
been good to fight against an organized and popularly
organized anarchist, they,
aggravate an anarchist. That
abominable good government,
could with recent
unreconsecutable attacks aimed
against our Army & Navy.
-ing that also be abolished. They must make all thoughtful men ask what are our means of defense. The village has its police; the State its Militia; the court districts their marshals, their sheriffs and their justice. But what has the Nation which is called upon to meet and stand with other nations on equal terms of dignity and sovereignty? What are the practical means of defense on which the President and his Cabinet can rely?

Certainly this is no time to reveal to a nation disposed to probe our weaknesses or our strengths, but it is a time for being
The prevalent statement that under all circumstances numbers of brave, true men are a sufficient defense to any country, is a palpable mistake. It is certainly inviting attack to present a rich and beautiful city to the greed of nations that assuredly are not yet wholly governed by benevolent considerations.

And we never see that other justice than those of other nations may tempt to attack, endanger and impel our commerce.

Seaports—towns are very little of the five our information were seeking.

The information we were seeking today:

Facts and figures were given immediately.

The fact that a harbor heavily planted with submarine mines would be safer from attack than if it had no elaborate fortifications is, however, that it has become important to the enemy; his ships would see blast a channel through the mine and take possession of it. The few forts there are in San Francisco harbor were built to withstand what is now obsolete. The Superb, the Foremost, and the old Fort Point around it were the heaviest pieces brought against each other. When we think that those guns were carried by vessels totally unarmed, or so nearly so that they could not remain long enough under the fire of land batteries to make their own fire destructive, we see why granite forts with eight foot walls were considered strong enough to protect our harbors. Now, when the iron armor of war ships has increased from four to thirty inches and their armament consists of guns ranging up to 175-inch caliber, weighing more than 100 tons, and throwing projectiles weighing 2,000 pounds, fired with 700 pounds of powder, having a muzzle energy of forty and fifty thousand feet tons, capable of penetrating twenty-five to thirty inches of wrought iron armor in a straight line away from the old forts cannot stand against the new engines of war. Since 1772 heavy ordnance has increased wonderfully in power and size, and equally great improvements have been made in powder and projectiles.

Foreign nations have spent millions in developing and perfecting heavy guns and vessels to carry them. Now, guns are aboard which send a ton of metal nine miles with enough to hit a city, and carrying some seventy-five pounds of nitro-galena. In August, 1851, a steel projectile, weighing 400 pounds, was fired from the 24-ton Whitworth steel gun through eighteen inches of wrought iron, thirty-seven inches well packed sand, one and a quarter inches of steel, some heavy blocks of timber, and then sixteen feet more of sand; the projectile was recovered practically uninjured. The 10-ton gun will penetrate twenty-five feet of granite and concrete masonry, or thirty-two feet of best Portland cement concrete. At Spina, in May, 1891, the Armstrong 10-ton breech-loading rifle, 17.7-inch caliber, fired a projectile through forty odd feet of sand into the rock, and the Italian 100-ton gun sent its projectile weighing 2,200 pounds, forty-six feet into the sand. In these cases vessels cost about two hundred thousand dollars apiece, now they cost seventeen times as much as the ships our forts were built to fight against, and with this increased cost comes, of course, proportionate increase in offensive and defensive capabilities. England has a navy of fifty-seven ships, all heavy or armored or seagoing vessels, carrying the most powerful armaments. In case of war with this nation the greater part of this navy could be sent against any one of our east coast cities. To defend our coast with a navy alone, as some people suggest, is impracticable, as it would require a navy equal in power to that of Great Britain in the harbor of each of our large cities; this would be necessary, as we could not foresee against what point the attack would be directed. Our only safety is by building forts capable of mounting heavier and better guns than these, and having from or steel armor for these forts sufficiently thick to protect the guns and gunners from naval fire.
Recent wars have shown us cities bombarded, and if the non-reconstructants are given a reasonable time to leave the city it is all that humanity can expect. We will suppose that the naval commanders across the waters are humane enough to give the women and children time to leave the city. The two ships are lying outside the harbor, south of Point Loma, within five miles of the City Hall. Suddenly a roar is heard, followed by another and another; soon the scream of the shells is followed by the crash of falling buildings. Shells fall in every part of the city, buildings are shattered, and fire is breaking out in a hundred different places. The fire department and citizens are helpless against this dual danger. The socialistic anarchists revel in the wholesale destruction, and lend their energies to strip and burn the buildings which have escaped the enemy; the Chinaman, long suffering and patient, sees a splendid way than is his wont to accumulate wealth and return rich to China, and he takes to burning and pillage. The whole city is on fire, men are now looking for means to save themselves, trusting to Providence to take care of the few things
wish to emphasize that last sentence. viz: build forts capable of mounting heavier and better guns than those afloat and having iron or steel armor for these forts sufficiently thick to protect the guns and gunners from naval fire!"

Experiments have been going on since and now our guns carrying projectiles that are able in penetrating iron and steel which I have endeavored to sight.

It is not wise to argue the proposition that the United States will for many years be always liable to war. Arbitration may come, the consensus among civilized Christian peoples. Such is the European lesson.

This time! Europe owes us present mild attitude to-day. As in the first Russo-Polish conflict and in the Spanish-Dutch war, comes to Latin America, since we
Thunderstorm. The cloud begins in a comparatively clear sky, swells to enormous proportions, soon expands to bring a quickly subsides. The death rate is terrible. The expenses frightful. The burden of debt is made to stagger under a heavy burden of debt to defray the war charges. And year by year it nearly swallows it away while in pays up its debt and recovers its energies.
Suppose the war cloud to burst upon your province of our prisoners - what could not do to hold our own - our own calamity, too?
Considering the importance of our good navy in performing its true and appropriate work, no one will begrudge the money expended in the construction of naval vessels and armament; and, of course, it is wise to have them equal or superior to anything they may encounter.

It is, perhaps, after all that has been said, well to plan wherever practicable, for substantially three lines of defense for a harbor like that of San Francisco: an outer one of war ships, a second of torpedo boats, and a third of fortifications, including, when necessary, floating batteries.

To resist an enemy approaching the Golden Gate or its vicinage from the sea, it would afford great satisfaction to the defenders, and probably more to the defended, to have, as we did in our great battles, a good observing force and abundant reserves; yet with our present naval strength, San Francisco should not depend on the outward line; but rather upon the proposed torpedo boats well equipped and manned, the essential floating batteries, and most of all upon the several permanent fortifications, to be well located and well constructed, and kept in good working order. Upon these San Francisco may rely, as she does upon her good police, her superb fire department, and upon her arrangements for water, sewerage and light.

Our Navy has been much increased and much improved since the above statement was made. The torpedo boats and the submarine torpedo system have been slowly and surely developing.
firing so as to land shells within
fork or upon the decks. Approaching vessels had been
constantly advancing and
many good guns of long range
are in existence. Our outer
forts can be put in order upon
both approaches to New York
Harbor; so that I do not admit
they with her best iron
clads, could get past our
Naval Squadron, our torpedo
arrangements and our shore
batteries, into any offing
that would enable her to
practice upon the Brooklyn
bridge or vice versa building.
A recent demonstration in favor of Cauca. This item of news from Chili is appropriate — and indeed a demonstration of the present value of defensive works properly located and manned.

A Lively Chilian Naval Fight.

Several vessels knocked to pieces — and a number of men killed — the rebel fleet short of coal.

San Francisco, April 1. Private advices from Valparaiso state that the ironclad Blanco, belonging to the insurgents, recently attempted to blow up the armed Government tug Florence with a fish torpedo. The torpedo missed the tug, but struck a big floating dry dock in the harbor, blowing it to pieces. The Blanco was thereupon treated to a hot fire of shot and shell from every gun in the forts and steamed out of the harbor.

The same night a torpedo boat and the tug Florence stole out to attack the Blanco. The ironclad was in company with the sloop-of-war O'Higgins. Both ships compelled the Government vessels to return to the harbor and followed in hot pursuit. A heavy shell from the Blanco struck the Florence, blowing her entirely out of the water, and every one of her crew of seventeen men was either killed or wounded. A broadside from the O'Higgins knocked the torpedo boat all to pieces. The two insurgent vessels then turned their attention to the forts and a lively battle ensued. A shell from the forts struck the O'Higgins and went clear through her. Another shell caused a gun on her quarter deck to explode. When the smoke cleared away the deck was found to have been literally torn out of the vessel, and nine men out of the gun crew of twelve were blown to atoms. The sloop was at once taken out of the range of the guns in the forts.

The forts first drove an iron-clad out of the harbor. Again the next day one of the vessels was disabled and the other badly damaged by shells and guns.
range by the defending forts. New steel rails
for three lines of defense that can
must employ against a foreign
enemy. The armored ships of war, the
torpedo boats, and floating batteries, and
the permanent works properly
located and equipped.

It requires my military heart that
one regiment of New York artillery
is forming as part of her
National Guard. The
more skilled artillery men
men have the better defense.

I may end my letter by saying
that to take the offensive or the defense is
the best; it was

in the offensive as often.
...
Dear Mary,

How are you? I hope you are well.

Our exams are coming up next week, and I must focus on my studies. I am not feeling well, but I must prepare for the exams. I wish I had more time to relax and enjoy life.

The house is quiet, and it is not easy to concentrate. I am trying to work on my assignments, but I keep getting distracted. I must continue to work hard and stay focused.

I hope you are doing well. Please write back soon.

Love always,
[Signature]