(a) American people,
(1) public spirit of,
what sacrifice for the
(2) National safety, and
Secure our ~~safety~~ (3) National
peril.

Vol 10. No

Article
To N.Y World

ARTICLE.

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SUBJECT.

American people, Public Spirit of, what sacrifice for the National Safety, and secure our National peril.

# Plan of Article

Subject. Some considerations of the lack of public spirit necessary to the sacrifices needed to secure our national safety in time of peril and a plea for individual striving to increase it.

1 The suddenness with which war comes.

No practicable preparation after declaration when meeting a nation fairly ready. Japan-China.

Contrast between Americans of a century ago with rifle over the fire place, accustomed to alarms, from Indians or the various nationalities seeking this continent and people of today who rarely hear the report of a gun's discharge. Steam ships and Rail transportation means Sails and marching, storing supplies along rivers in battleary. Rapidity of movement has ~~[illegible]~~ cut off time for preparation in modern war.

Even if men could be collected into armed battalions, the prime requisite to make a civilized man, the ordinary individual, into a good soldier is to subdue and overcome fear and to cultivate courage.

Modern nerves. Dictate after reading Ly 355 Vol 86

2 This courage is to be developed in new organized masses up to a military spirit only by discipline by a learning process

This renders necessary in a nation a trained military force
Read before dictating first 8 pages of William Article Page 1 Vol 81.

3 Illustration of honor given to military force in time of danger. Give a personal incident.

Discouragement to the military force by apathy of the nation - encouragement of the shirks in time of peace. Citizen favor for an officer or man disciplined, deserter for instance. Seeking for offices for fancy duty.

4 Anglo-American Tradition of danger to liberties of people from Army.

Origin. —

Fallacy — Historical

Logical

A Kings Army ~~—~~ ~~#~~ at end of 17th Century

A peoples Army ~~—~~ ~~#~~ at end of 19th Century

The army as preserver of existing laws

Illustration - Quote from President Grants Telegram from Phila in 1876.

5- Jealousy of easy life of officers by those struggling to earn a livelihood. Tendency to the despising of enlisted men because they have to acknowledge superiors. Discipline of large civil organizations the same in that respect & men in them are not protected from wrong or persecution by their associates as in an army by law.

"The less an uneducated or unread man or one of narrow experience knows of another's trade the easier he thinks it is to exercise it.

Queer Naval officers frequently fancy & attempt on retirement to be farmers & usually make a failure men of no civic training often think they could tell a President or Secretary of State exactly what to do in a most trying international complication.

So men who know the least of military affairs think they could wear uniform and return salutes & therefore they could with perfect skill organize, feed, clothe, train and dispose to receive or make an

attack a military command. If they could once see under a hail of bullets the difference between political speech making leadership and the confidence giving enthusiasm of a Sheridan which annihilates fear and puts courage in the breast of every man, they then would acknowledge the difference.

A little study of a book of tactics often gives a fine soldier a false idea of his military genius. Story of the Russian General who recommended during manoeuvres that a percentage of rifles be loaded with ball cartridges to teach men real war. Page 356, No. 86.

6 Unfortunately erroneous position of Peace Advocates viz: active members of the International Peace Societies.

They by a seeming narrow prejudice dishonor military success and military glory thinking thereby to diminish danger of war.

Passions of masses of people, their civil

leaders, the newspapers and rulers), have working, make the conditions which make war inevitable.

Extracts from the Broad arrow. Page 669 No 81. an illustration

Military men as such and rarely when acting as civil officials have ever had any thing to do with bringing on a war. They all expose and often give their lives to make peace. General Hawley and the Maoris.

Neither the Greek nor Turkish Armies had anything to do with the political complications which brought about a state of affairs wherein before peace could be considered the popular feeling in each nation forced their armies to come to blows.

7 Our relations with Spain are strained.. I have seen ~~[illegible]~~ newspaper paragraphs almost daily for a years or more urging actions which mean war & I have yet to learn of the ~~action~~ expressions of a single army officer especially to Spain. I have seen newspaper squibs saying "The military men desiring promotion

are strongly urging recognition etc" but in an Army there where advice is asked and taken are there already at the top and as to the juniors as some of our company officers are already grandfathers they are old enough to be conservative and the advice and effort of all who have to take the responsibility of leading men to inevitable death will be for peace so long as it can be maintained by minding our own business and with honor when threatened.

Primarily mismanagement of finances and pilfering by Spanish civil officers caused revolt in Cuba. Then came danger to property of americans and destruction of trade. Then newspaper agitation. Vituperation in public speeches. Reprisals in Cuba by the maltreatment & death of American citizens. Then comes popular frenzy & public indignation of Spain. Our Executive calls on Spain to allow us to interfere in the internal affairs of Cuba, a part of the Spanish Kingdom as much as Castile. Inhumanity charged — denied. Better treatment demanded for our citizens & their property than Spain can

accord to her own who are not in revolt—
the pacifiers.
Spanish honor proper wounded and
an entire people demand a declaration
of war.
Spanish Government though without
resources cannot resist.
Then Armies & Navies need have at
each other.

War with Spain is precipitated because
we feel that we are so much bigger & stronger.
We are in the long run invincible.
Let us compare conditions for the first blows

We have all told some 40 vessels of war of all
classes. Spain is weaker if both navies
could be united for a battle.
But we have an extensive coast and coast
trade and settlers of Mongrel, mixed to wreck of all origins
innumerable privateers have upon our
exposed cities, towns, & villages & shipping. The navy
cannot be everywhere. Spain has
nothing for us to plunder of a like
character & this danger & loss would
be all on our side. The fright would
be worse than the actual loss.

The Spanish troops now under arms are

In Cuba before this present war . . . 25,000 men ~~Regular~~

" National guard 60,000 "

Sent to Cuba since March 1st 1895 187,282 "

In Porto Rico 6,000 "

In the Philippines 36,760 "

In Spain

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Infantry | 44,190 | |
| Cavalry | 14,346 | |
| Artillery | 11,774 | |
| Engineers | 5,294 | |
| Genl. Service Corps | 2,400 | |
| Civil Guard | 14,786 | 112,790 " |
| | | 427,832 " |

Of our Regular Army of ~~[illegible]~~ 28,238 ~~28,000~~ officers and men,x more than half would be absolutely necessary (at the start of a war) in the fortifications or posts now occupied. They could gradually be replaced by volunteers but the process would be slow.

The total number of organized State troops is 112,879 . . . of which but a small portion would be available

x U. S. Army.

| | |
|---|---|
| Generals & Officers & Med. & Staff Corps Etc. | 3,301 |
| Cavalry | 4,617 |
| Artillery | 4,313 |
| Infantry | 14,007 |

beyond their own states.
Organizing, equipping and inuring to war a large force of Volunteers meanwhile.

The claim is that Spain is bankrupt.
The debt ~~they~~ as that of Turkey, itself begets assistance & even if it should be entirely repudiated a war can still be carried on by a people willing to make the necessary sacrifices.
Instance the Confederacy during 1864.

Quote italic paragraph at bottom of Page 669 no 41

8 Pride in Navy a recent development.
Admiration of beautiful machines.
Newspaper jeers at personel not uncommon.
The saving of life by Seaman off Hatteras described.
This receives no more attention than the touching of a ship on a rock in a channel mapped as safe.

9 Creation of public spirit How!
"a"
National Armies of Europe.
Officers permanent. Men serve 3 years or

with the colors from the age of twenty & are at call thereafter when needed.
A good school for the young men drawn by the conscription.

Our short enlistment of three years according to our limited size practically secures the same end except the calling out those who have graduated for occasional practice.

"b"

We must not look at organization or plan of securing the soldiers for the attaining excellence but elsewhere.

The European armies are not as popular among even the ruling classes as arms but appreciated as necessities by governments whose dangers are more apparent than ours.

Our former distance & isolation of interests has created a false popular idea of perfect security.

"C"

Question of Insurance

against many loss as well as fear of personal injury or barbarous treatment of men women and children by an invader.

Cost of Mr. Cleveland's Venezuela Message in contraction of Values of Investments like Railway Stocks & Bonds equal to the Cost of the War of the Rebellion. Temporary but real at the time. Would have been much less if our seaboard had been properly fortified. Extract from Broad Arrow Pg 669 Vol. 81.

Our weakness not in men, but in War material & preparation by organization and elementary training to obey men if afraid. War of 1812 described as an illustration

d.

Our Regular Army though only a part of our national defence

That however should be the best possible and adequate to the operations or work expected of it.

As referred to before there are a number of troops necessary at their present stations in peace or war & can only be withdrawn without danger when replaced by others.

Mexican Border to prevent raids both ways
Indian Country.
Sea Coast Fortifications
Arsenals and Depots
Schools

The supposable force of a fixed army of Regulars should contain not to exceed

| | |
|---|---|
| Cavalry | 6000 |
| Artillery | 2000 |
| Infantry | 10 000 |
| Total | 18 000. |

that is obviously too small

In Chicago in 1894 there were collected 2000 Regular Troops and that was all that could possibly be spared to go there & had to be brought great distances.

That they succeeded in preventing their own destruction in the face of

thousands of disaffected was due to the fearlessness shown by them.

When Captain Hare in command of one troop of Cavalry rode alone out in front of a mob of 5000 men & women, begged them to listen to him and told them that he would have to fire if they did not go back, that they might kill him but a great many of them would be hurt, his very nerve cowed the mob and opened the thoroughfare.

It is wrong to risk such men when a few more dollars a year would give an adequate force to secure the execution of the laws without resistance.

"E"

To avoid details I recommended about the time of my retirement that the Regular Army be fixed then at 60,000. One man to each thousand of population.

That ratio might be established by law.

there depot Posts might be established in each state, officers loaned from them to the National guard as inspectors or advisers as needed & military instruction furnished at colleges.

"7."

For that force also needed ~~very few~~ more officers than at present provided all are kept as busy as they should be; but reasonable promotion is vital to the ~~welfare~~ efficiency of an army.
The senior 1st lieutenant of artillery has been a lieutenant thirty years.
The senior Captain of Cavalry has been a Captain since 1874 and an officer of Volunteers and Regulars since 1864 having served as an enlisted man before that.
Many ~~Eleven~~ Second Lieutenants of cavalry had been longer in the service than Sheridan Schofield and I had been when we were Major Generals ~~of~~ in the field.

Read William No. 81. Page 8.

G.

Acquaintance between army & people better now than in 1861. Then the army was in the wilderness. Now distributed ~~among~~ in settled districts in new states & near cities in old. People interested have a better idea of organization & therefore there should be less ignorance than then in fitting out volunteers but the individuals are farther even than then from being soldiers & for reasons of state in seeking a proper national defence this must be considered.

Officers for military duty & instruction should be on duty with their troops & sent where needed.

"H"

Military activity and improvement must come from top down.

Gen. Miles commands the army.

Secy. of War for the President commands him.

The people through President and Congress commands the latter

Every man of public spirit should do a little by urging action by our law makers in accordance with the

recommendations of those in a position to recommend as the President and Secretary of War.

Secretary Lamont asked Congress for two more regiments of artillery and that our Infantry organization be changed from that of China alone of all nations.
When Mr. Proctor was Secretary of War he as a fact made the Infantry Regiments into two battalions of four companies each, skeletonizing two companies. This was a makeshift but gave in an indirect manner the small battalion necessary for contact of firing line in extended order but not as many as many of us think should be included in a Regiment.

I

The British army consists of
106100 at home, 33,644 in the Colonies,
78,043 in India, 4,407 in Egypt.
222,194. in all

19,536 Cavalry, 37,124 Artillery, 7,664 Engineers,
5,905 Foot guards, 137,233 Infantry of the Line
5,08 of Colonial Corps. 3487 Army Service Corps.
1165 Ordnance Stores Corps. 2541 Medical Staff Corps.
555 Army Pay Corps.
Recruits in '96 29,583. In British Islands were

enlisted 29,194 of which only 2892 came from Scotland and 3145 from Ireland

If Great Britain had to secure more recruits each year than our whole Army it is because her government as free as any ~~spends~~ that it needs them.

This does not include Volunteers & Militia for home defence.

Peroration.

II.

(a) Is there a want of public spirit on the part of the American People?

Certainly there is no such ~~want~~ dearth. It crops out in every presidential message in one way or another. It is shown in the liberality of Congress toward the improvements of rivers & harbors, in the construction of post offices, & in the enlargements of postal advantages, in the liberality of pensions to veteran soldiers & sailors. It is evinced in superb monuments publicly & privately erected to successful & distinguished leaders. Patriotic fervor thrills every assembly, regardless of political affinities, at the mention of the names of our heroes, and "the star spangled banner" seen or sung brings tearful joy to the eyes of the aged, fresh confidence to strong manhood & womanhood, and enthusiasm to childhood & youth.

this: If a war of 5 years with a hundred thousand men on a side, a century ago cost $50,000,000 for each of the belligerents, a war of 3 months to-day between the same nations and with the same number of men using modern arms would be about $50,000. It is, however, foolish to attempt comparisons or estimates. Now, even before we made a fair commencement, we might have ten cities destroyed by a foreign navy and so suffer untold losses. The safest possible measure against fire is to have a good fire department. The safest thought against the greed or anger of any foreign foe is to be thoroughly prepared at all times. The German preparation now probably superior to that of any

With regard to many problems, in whose solution the people (2)
are deeply interested. Those touching the currency,
the finances, the relations of Capital & Labor
for example, there are differences, contentions
and sometimes, on the part of a comparatively
few, riots. Yet deem the assertion that
nine tenths of the people, so interested, so
differing from each other & so contending
are at heart thoroughly loyal to the
flag and all that it represents. Even
ignorant immigrants, who are not vicious,
love the sight of the flag. Criminal classes,
corrupt masses of men in some quarters of large cities,
the lynchers and the tramp-odor afford bad symptoms, I
acknowledge. But the effort to ameliorate their
condition, to reform them & stop by enlightenment at infancy the
supply is the gigantic effort of the age.
We had Copperheads in war, stories & now their offspring ashamed of
their record. We have some pessimists in
peace. They are not dangerous, and however they
flatter themselves, are in a woeful minority.
Healthful American patriotism was never brighter
than - never more wide spread north & south than today

other nation will prevent aggression and preserve the peace. Our preparation of armies need not be so extensive but it should be reasonable and intelligent.

(b) Are our people unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices to secure the national safety? (3)

We can confidently say that our people are always ready & willing to make sacrifices for the national safety. They can be relied on to lay their property & their lives on the altar of sacrifice, provided they are shown the necessity. They will sustain their Congress & their President who execute their will in any crisis which may arise, where the necessity for the sacrifice is demonstrably apparent.

But just here, touching the necessity, comes a divergence of opinions. A controlling public opinion, which springs from the teachings of children & youth, may, in time, by narrow & hurtful ~~teaching~~ precepts, robe the courts of the posse comitatus, the city of its wholesome police, the State of its conservative guard & the ~~nation~~ country of its proper national defense.

To my mind the teaching which discredits & dishonors the posse-comitatus, the police, the national guard, the

army & navy is clearly wrong. When law, order and national honor cannot be enforced, there will lawlessness, disorder & national disgrace whose end is national death.

(c)

What are the best counsels & methods to make us prepared for days of national peril?

It is not wise counsel to tell our children that all public defense by arms is intrinsically always & forever wrong. It is not right to tell them that the world has now so advanced in peace sentiment that cities & states are safe without guards and that they can rely absolutely upon peaceful diplomacy for the settlement of all our conflicts likely to arise. Washington who feared God & endeavored to be governed by the teachings of Holy writ, said: "If we desire peace, one of the most powerful instruments in our prosperity, it must be known [i.e. among nations] that we are at all times ready for war."

General Sherman with his large experience & sincere heart said: "I cannot help plead to my countrymen, at every opportunity, to cherish all that is manly and noble in the military profession, because peace is enervating and no man is wise enough to foretell when soldiers may be in demand again." The summary of methods is organization & discipline with modern arms, ordnance, ammunition, means of locomotion & communication. War comes with suddenness. First the single cloud of rumor, then the gathering multitudes, quicker than thought follow, and the lightning flashes & the roar of artillery. The war between Prussia & Austria in 1866 began & ended within two short months. and what an object lesson: "Prussia defeated Austria in a six months campaign — Prussia was prepared for war Austria was not."

The same lesson is found in all other modern wars: "At the end of a seven months war France was abject at the feet of Germany,

despoiled of her provinces, & compelled to pay to her conqueror the cost of her own humiliation - Germany was prepared for war, France was not. x x x The hordes of China were as chaff before the wind in the face of Japan's ~~organization~~ organized & disciplined army" [See Major G. S. Wilson, Journal Mil. Service Institute]. The struggle between Turkey & Greece is no exception. Turkey was prepared for war, Greece was not. Plucky little kingdom, how American hearts yearned for her success! but poor organization; no proper discipline or drill, and naturally no practical generalship, obtained their inevitable results. Time, time was wanting. The whole world beheld the spectacle. God himself did not interpose in behalf of the Greeks & miraculously deliver them though the Great Powers stung them to action by their urgent measures. He suffered them to learn anew the old

lesson, namely that safety is found in abundant preparation, unceasing vigilance and the Lord's blessing. The average American, a century ago, was in many respects better prepared for active service than vast multitudes of our citizens today. The rifle was everywhere over the fireplace, the household accustomed to alarms, and the man the householder ready to meet indians, or to run to his company's rendezvous to make head against forays from across the border. Today he has no rifle & seldom hears the discharge of a firearm.

It is the steam ship & the railway transportation over against long marches, and the old way of conveying supplies by sail vessels & fighting men & river battering, which have practically cut off all time for proper preparation in modern warfare. As in Greece, after the fact of war was announced, even if they are collected into armed battalions, the best of men will not be immediately good soldiers.

"War trained troops [~~in the United States~~] men who ~~today~~ looked upon slaughter & death upon the gigantic scale of ~~modern~~ the modern struggle, ~~no longer exist~~ no longer exist, and the peace trained conscript has no knowledge to correct his fear. The machinery of battle has progressed till the possibilities of our modern weapons are appalling. Torpedoes, monster guns, high explosives, the swift obliteration of the crew at sea; on land, quick firing guns, using the deadly shrapnel, are columns matched in elements -- x x x the future battle will be a severer trial to the nerves than any past encounter."

Experience is essential to overcome the natural apprehensions which a recruit always has of the approach of danger. The veteran may not be braver, but his knowledge has prepared him for what is coming, and excludes all unnecessary alarms. A writer in the ~~U.S.~~ Service Gazette on what he means, uses these expressions: "The decay of religion, which is so widespread a feature of our times, has contributed to the downward progress of the individual, by making death more horrible because of the greater uncertainty of the future beyond the grave. x x x To the modern doubter it is a leap into the unknown." ~~The decay~~ The added terrors, he thinks, has made men's fears dominant & harder to control by a sense of the force of pride, habit and duty. ~~While I do not agree with the writer as to "the decay of religion" or as to the decay of natural courage~~ I find in this country no evidence of ~~among men~~ yet I do know that organization & discipline are essential to an effective army, & that time & experience are necessary ~~essential~~ to establish a reasonable degree

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and the more so as the seeming dangers are increased, and the actual perils evident enough.

# and reward was given to gallant conduct

"outside influences" is quite general and too often successful. If those who oftenest shirk duty obtain the rewards. The effect is doubly injurious to the military arm: it demoralizes & weakens the force, and ~~[illegible]~~ adds to its unpopularity among the people. From this source, coupled with the false notion of the idleness of the Army on a peace footing, arises a constant opposition to its increase. I will not elaborate the work of the Army in time of so called peace; but will make a few statements which I know to be true. Were there no other duty throughout our wide domain than to take care of the Army forts, posts & public property, that would not be an inconsiderable task. To drill & discipline the force of Artillery, infantry and cavalry, to carry on the various Army schools, to take charge of all the Ordnance & Arsenals & depots, to perform the light-house duty of our enormous coasts, to

carry through the river & harbor improvements too numerous to mention, to keep in touch with the State troops through staff duty with the Governors of States, and hundreds of officers detailed to inspect the National guard, & to teach at our military schools, colleges & universities. Such items as these afford but a meager outline of the work put upon our little army.

There is one important function for which the army will be held responsible, and that is, its part of the sea coast defense. Sites have been selected with care about New York & other cities, and along our Eastern & Western seaboard. A few heavy guns of modern make up, to be raised loaded, properly aimed, fired & lowered for renewal of the operation - carefully adjusted machinery to be rightly worked & managed, are in place - who shall intelligently meet the requirement - who be ready to instruct new men when all the guns shall be mounted & all the machines put in? The mortar batteries, a few finished, are

fire. With satisfaction you find squares of water front surveyed & platted for miles out; and imagine the shells projected into the air & coming perhaps four at a time upon the deck of a venturesome cruiser that may make a square, - but whom have we to learn all the complications of mortar preparation & rapid mortar firing; and who shall teach the fresh volunteer artillery men, after war has come & cities are immediately threatened by a foreign Navy?

We have torpedo arrangements, projected shore batteries, and floating ordnance of great power! Wife, when ready for use where are the skilled Artillery-men to handle them? To answer these questions is to confess a great national folly. I like an old proverb viz: "What is worth doing at all should be well done". If you make sea-coast defenses & ~~cover~~ furnish them with modern appliances, then man them with enough trained artillery men to take care

of the material & use them effectively.

# A bona fide American is apt to be boastful. The uneducated, unread man, or one of limited experience judges imperfectly another's trade; the less he knows of it the easier it appears to him to master its requirements.

So men who know the least of about military affairs think that they could easily wear a uniform, return salutes, go thro. the parades and drills, and stand guard, therefore they could with skill organize, feed, clothe, train and dispose a force to receive an attack, or make one upon an organized well equipped foe. Could such people once see under the hail of bullets the difference between a good speech making officer with little military experience, and one like Sumner, Hancock, or Sheridan, who could almost annihilate fear & fill every soldier under him with courage by his leadership & his example, he would acknowledge a difference. I mean simply this. That all other things being equal, an eloquent and able clergyman might be a failure at the bar. Professional knowledge &

and experience give both skill & character to the officer & the soldier.

Some years ago After a report ~~an address~~ of mine had been published advocating an increase of our Regular force, I saw that certain leaders of working men's organizations denounced my recommendation. They claimed that I naturally wanted to exploit militarism & have an old world establishment; that I was an enemy of organized labor & hostile to the best interests of the working man.

May I say: those leaders mistook me. It is only a reasonable nucleus of an army — an educated staff, low commissioned & non commissioned officers. Sufficient trained soldiers to handle our guns & be a rallying point in case of national peril or sudden foreign war. A large dominating military force, proud & overbearing I would abominate. But a sufficient police for city or country is common sense. My heart goes with ~~the~~ all working men in every lawful effort they make to better their condition. As I understand

they themselves do not advocate riots, lynchings mobs, rule or any other criminal proceedings: they condemn the ~~[illegible]~~ anarchists, who are enemies to all law & social order, and to all combinations whose object is to break up & destroy our government.

Without the slightest disposition to raise the ridiculous about the civil functionary, it does appear to me that an average of about 1000 trained men for each state would not be too many for the purpose I have indicated; provided we developed & cherished more & more the State National Guard, and kept on encouraging the military education of youth in our larger institutions of learning.

Let us illustrate. Our relations with Spain have been & still are strained. Newspaper paragraphs appear every day urging offensive action which means war. One prominent, popular correspondent avers that "Military men desiring promotion are strongly urging the recognition of cuban independence, or belligerent rights." This is a mistake - probably an imagination. Take the

opinion of an Army Officer, prominent in the Engineer Corps:

"What then are our real needs in the way of coast defense. +++ Upon the whole extent of the Atlantic, Gulf + Pacific coasts there are about thirty ports which demand local protection for their cities, now exposed to occupation or destruction, and of these about a dozen are so important as centers of commercial wealth that the entire country has much at steak in their security. Nine out of this number are also important as containing naval stations and depots of supply, without which our new ships of war would be unable to keep the sea or perform any service in war; for it must not be forgotten that naval bases are as indispensable in these days of steam as are bases of supplies for armies in the field. In fact this statement

hardly puts the matter strong enough for our new ships would be exposed to capture and used against us, if they should attempt to operate on their natural element - the ocean without ports of refuge in which to find security. Besides these thirty ports now urgently demanding protection there are about seventy others whose local importance would justify inexpensive earthworks."

Another officer speaking of these seacoast defenses says: "It is estimated that when completed these defenses would require from seventy to eighty thousand men to man them in time of war. He further adds; "such eminent soldiers as Sherman & Sheridan and a host of others have time and again called attention to the dangers that threaten

this country from a neglect of the army and asked for such reasonable addition of soldiers as in their judgment ~~would~~ would at least partially remedy the evil. Now the significance of all this is simply that when an intelligent man of affaire is led by his duties to fully investigate the subject the dangers of continued neglect of the military necessities of the country become apparent."

My association with military men has been quite extensive and I believe these sentiments are universal among them, namely, that our statesmen and political leaders should carefully look before they leap. Before they risk a national conflict let them glance at the present stage of preparation. Their military men want no promotion at the expense of

P1

national disaster.

The causes of irritation between ~~and~~ Spain & the United States I need not elaborate. They have come from press agitation; from American indignation at the mismanagement of Spain in Cuban affairs; from the presence of hosts of Cuban sympathizers in our commercial cities; from outrageous losses in Cuba, & from the treatment of our citizens there.

We are told that our Executive proposes a qualified interference in the internal affairs of Cuba, which the Spanish government claims as part of its kingdom as much as Castile. The better treatment which we demand for our citizens in the disturbed districts, Spain can hardly ~~afford~~ extend to her own, to those not in revolt. Spain's honour proper is wounded & now suppose an entire people demand a declaration of war.

Our most aggressive public speakers & writers have no fear of war with Spain. Because we are so much bigger & stronger, & because of Spain's apparent exhaustion.

In the end we would conquer: but I beg rash thinkers to consider the primary dangers. They are plain enough to all foreign navies: our extensive coast and our coast trade. the exposed shipping, cities & villages; the ability to issue the inevitable letters of marque to all sorts of vessels ploughing the ocean. Our navy, good as it is, cannot be everywhere at the same time. Spain has a small return to offer in the way of reprisal: so that the first great danger & loss would necessarily come to our side. Perhaps the fright would be worse than the actual losses. Let not the makers of our people of war be too confident.

The Spanish troops now under arms are

In Cuba, before present war. 2[illegible]000 men
" " National Guard 60,000 "
" " sent since March 1st 1895 187,282 "

In Porto Rico 6,000 men
In the Philippine Isls 36,760 "
In Spain
Infantry 64.190
Cavalry 14.346
Artillery 11.774
Engineers 5.294
General Service Corps 2.420
Civil guard 14.786 × × ×112.790
Aggregate 427.832

In the event of a sudden war, to meet the land side we have 28.238 officers & men. More than half would be demanded in the fortifications & posts now occupied. They would be replaced by volunteers in time, but the process would be slow. The total number of the National guard now organized is 112[illegible]879, of which

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only a fraction, according to past experience. 22.
would be available outside of their own states. Of course the immediate resort would be to a large force of Volunteers.
One claim is that Spain is bankrupt. Perhaps her debt like that of Turkey may itself beget assistance - and even if her debt be repudiated the entire people in earnest can make the necessary sacrifices, like the southern confederacy of 1864. It will hardly do to trust at all to Spains weakness or bankruptcy - "Neither Nations nor men ever surrender their vital interests to others unless compelled by force." Surely if, for any cause, we warred with Spain, Spain would quickly secure allies, because monarchical establishments have a common sympathy, and a natural jealousy of us. If we enter the lists for European wars, we must expect a very widespread opposition.
The British army has 106.100 at home

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Colonies | 33.644 | An aggregate of |
| " India | 78.048 | 223.194 men. |
| " Egypt | 4.407 | |

The strength of England's forces is exaggerated

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of Great Britain has to raise yearly, as she does, more recruits than our whole army, it is because she needs them. The British army does nothing to restrict individual freedom, except in the army itself. We might risk a small force, a reasonable nucleus without begetting a tendency to "Militarism" or danger to ~~our liberties~~ civil liberty.

The unanimity with which Congress sustained the President in his Venezuelan message, shows how patriotic our people were; ~~they~~ the Congress exemplified our readiness for sacrifices for a cause that the people believed in. It should be noted, however, that the cost of that one message, shown in the contraction of values of investments such as railway stocks and bonds, was about equal to the cost of the entire civil war. Temporary losses, indeed, they were, but ~~seemingly~~ real enough at that time. No such sudden depression

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would have been probable, had our sea board been properly fortified and manned, and had our regular army been already reasonably enlarged & our national guard been with well organized, armed & equipped for such an emergency.

An English military writer about that time remarked concerning the matter in this way: "However defective our army organization may be, it is difficult to conceive that we could not have 200,000 men on the Canadian frontier long before the United States could train & equip 50,000."

x x x "The general position of the United States & Great Britain at war would be strikingly ~~like~~ analogous to that of China & Japan. Japan was ready & China ~~was~~ had made no real preparations. England is ready, and the United States are in no way ready." We may yet be taught by those who are hostile to our vital interests, to be always thoroughly prepared for defence & independence.

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Touching the subject of organization there is not much that need be said. Secretary Sanford asked Congress for two more regiments of artillery, and that our organization be changed so that we may take the modern form, rather than remain alone with China alone.

Gen. Proctor, while Secretary of war, formed the infantry regiments into two battalions of four companies each. This gave, in spite of the original one company formation, small battalions, adequate to control of firing line in extended order, but the regiments ought to be larger & have the three battalion formation for effective work.

Our small regular army is a part of our national defence, and needs to be the best possible, and adequate to the work to which it is constantly put in peace or to be put in war.

In Chicago, in 1894 there were collected

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2000 regulars, all that were available, and these had to be brought great distances. That these troops succeeded in preventing their own destruction, when in the face of thousands of disaffected & violent men, was due to the coolness & courage of the officers & enlisted men.

When Captain Hall, in command of one troop of Cavalry rode alone, out in front of an angry mob of at least 5000 men & women and begged them to listen to reason the case seemed desperate. He told them that he would have to fire if they did not go back. His nerve & self-command awed them, caused them to retire without a shot, & opened the thoroughfare.

It is not right to risk so much — or to expose brave men to such destruction, when an adequate force can so easily be provided. The larger force is the best guarantee of the peace in all cases, & without bloodshed.

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A desire for some sort of promotion is not unreasonable — it is vital to the continued efficiency of ~~the~~ our army. The reasonable increase, say one soldier to each one thousand of our population, would be ample. Our Senior Lieutenant of Artillery has, I see, been a Lieutenant 30 years. The Senior Captain of Cavalry has been a Captain since 1874, and was an officer of volunteers before he became a regular all the way from 1864, and the record says he was an enlisted man prior to that service. Many Second Lieutenants of Cavalry have been longer in the Army than Sheridan, Schofield, or myself when we became Major Generals in the field.

Concluding Comment. Wholesome Conservatism.

Since I entered the Army in 1850, I have noted a constant improvement of that body. The average enlisted man is now not more loyal to the flag

Letter to Foster Coates Esq
N. Y. World

(1)

Dear Sir:

Your letter is at hand. It is now a common thought ~~that~~, regardless of the sphere of religion, probably as active to day as ever in history, and independent of the blessings attendant upon peace-makers & peace-seekers everywhere, that the modern improvements in arms, armament, and methods of war will have, nay, has rather already had a strong deterrent effect upon all the civilized peoples & governments of the world.

It is said by one of our scientific thinkers that all anger-thought and fear-thought come from mental germs of abnormal growth, that they can be & should be torn up by the roots & cast away.

I am of the mind that the day has not yet come for this, and that

of discipline. # Again, commanders ~~may~~ from the lower to the higher grades must become acquainted with their men, as well as with their duties. In comradeship, in mutual confidence, as well as in a common knowledge there is a cementing process ~~being~~ ever increasing with time & experience.

~~It is certain that the uniform of officers~~ ~~[illegible]~~ There are some patent evils to be corrected. During our great struggle ~~for~~ in the civil war the soldier's uniform was an honor. # But little by little, ~~[illegible]~~ the danger being passed our people began to fall back into the old ways of doing and thinking. Citizens in common life encourage desertions from the army. They decry the regular service itself as if it was an enslavement, forgetting that the enlisted men are bona fide volunteers. In peace ~~Among officers~~ it is not always the most patriotic & faithful officer who clings to his regiment or corps who obtains best recognition & most honor; so that the habit of seeking preferment through

Fear & Anger will remain for some time, to be quite generally predicable of human souls. Certainly while fear continues battle & war will excite it, as they always have done; and more & more will be the apprehension as the probability of perishing in the conflict increases.

The soldier cannot help seeing & knowing the facts, and even if he brave enough to take desperate chances or march to certain death, still his government, or the people back of it, will be unwilling to make the sure sacrifice of his life. The rifle now used in our regular army, named, I believe, the United States Magazine Rifle, was adopted in 1892 (?) The weight of the weapon is ~~nine~~ 9 pounds, having a calibre of 30 inches. Its sight is arranged and marked for a range of 1900 yards; but it can

be fired easily 3000 yards. Its bullet has a weight of 220 grams. Its flight is swift and almost noiseless. The smokeless powder renders the place from which it starts impossible of discovery. When it strikes the hardest wood its effect is several times greater than that of any rifle which we used in the late war. Think of those experiments at our proving grounds, where block after block of pine lumber, each an inch in thickness, was added till there was an obstruction of four feet. These little steel headed projectiles, sent from a gun a thousand yards away, easily passed through them all without injury to itself. Three feet of oak fared no better, while even iron plate 3/4 of inch in thick-

ness I suffered a like perforation. I remember the grim effect upon my young heart when I first saw a riddled target and was asked by a companion how I would like to stand that racket. This modern firing is considerably **worse**. Somehow by observation it is found that arteries are severed as if cut by the lancet and the bones are comminuted as if dried and pounded in a mortar, and yet the bullets themselves receive little or no injury. It is a magazine gun and supplies but five cartridges at a time. This is the rifle with which a soldier may easily hold his aim and send 20 bullets against the target or adversary each minute. Should he desire to fire without

aiming, the number of shots may be nearly doubled. His only limit in destructiveness will be found in the limit of the load which he can carry.

Should an enemy, in close formation come near a company, say of not to exceed twenty men, they could easily dispose of, by death and wounds, from eight to ten thousand in less than an hour's time. It is not likely that just this arrangement could be made for the twenty marksmen, but it is an object lesson to indicate the effect of this modern arm. With a regiment armed with the present U. S. Magazine Rifle, a regiment of a thousand men like the 3d Maine, the 2d Mass., the 2d Vermont or the 9th Indiana

where fire was in action. I have so often observed thoroughly entrenched a skilful colonel would be able to hold his ground against any successive rushes which ten thousand men could make. With plenty of ammunition, a star fort having its approaches properly earth-covered, could not be taken by assault. Had these troops been there armed at Fredericksburg, every man of ours who passed beyond the range of guns and approached the Marye Heights would have fallen. Burnside could not, with his army, have recrossed the Potomac. I notice that the Hotchkiss rifle, a field cannon has been much experimented with at our proving grounds, at different ranges, varying

from ~~one hundred~~ 100 to 4,000 yards. The weight of the powder in a charge is about two pounds and the length of the cartridge complete is 19 inches; the shell is steel. In firing for rapidity with accuracy at 1000 yds. ten shots were fired with but one miss. The ten rounds were fired in 2 minutes and 36½ seconds. At one mile range were ten shots again with but one miss all in one minute & 33½ seconds. This gun easily carries its projectile a distance of 5 miles.

What is called the 6-pdr. ~~Maxim~~ Maxim-Nordenfelt gun or some slight modification of it is ~~the~~ doubtless the one about which you enquire in your letter. We have had it since 1894 under trial

Firing this gun with rapidity and accuracy of aim our forces tried different ranges. They began with one sighting shot then delivered ten shots without a miss. The deviations were inconsiderable. This was accomplished in 2 minutes and 37½ seconds. For one mile range three trials were allowed for the sighting, then ten shots quickly followed at the target and all hit. The calibre of this cannon is 2.244 inches. The estimated time is 20 rounds per minute or 65 rounds in 3 minutes

The German called the field pieces to which I refer, after making their own improvements, the model of '73 and 88. The calibre being 88 millimetres [~~.0375 of an inch~~ 3.3 inches] ~~In~~ During 1890 the Germans succeeded in ~~the~~ progressing further with these field guns

and their carriages. The new gun is now denominated "the model of '91".. They have secured elasticity & increased tenacity of metal, thus eliminating as far as possible dangers from breakage & bursting, which of course always had immediate deadly effects upon their artillery men and could not help causing ~~terror~~ widespread apprehension & terror. And again in their carriages & ammunition wagons they have secured greater lightness - considerably ahead of the French.

The smokeless powder appears to aid much both the French & the Germans in gaining for themselves a prospective morale over a foe not so well furnished - that is having only other kinds.

It is interesting to observe the efforts made to have exploding shells give some plain signs of where they strike. The German artillerists, using the smokeless powder in their cannon, "threw 300 balls

into the shell and in the interstices of these balls they introduce a powder whose composition is secret" - that is to say Mum for. But. The French can analyze & so can our chemical experts.

It is said that the impact & explosion of these shells can easily be ~~seen~~ detected at a distance of three miles.

We will soon be abreast of other armies in such things as these, enabling the battery officers to ~~see~~ measure length of range & discover points of danger and obstacles to be overcome.

No one can exaggerate the effect of a battery, thus equipped, after the range is found, against infantry, cavalry or inferior artillery. Troops without cover so assailed must give way - or be practically annihilated.

The French are carefully watching the German improvements. But they seem in some things to be on the lead. Their Reffye - gun was a bronze breach - loader and served a temporary purpose about the

close of their war with Germany & for a time afterwards. Then followed the Bange gun, a suggestive name with Mark Twain's pronunciation; it was a steel breach loading piece, and had remarkable precision of fire especially for the range of 7500 yards and less.

The piece could easily reach six months with its projectiles by sufficient elevation. Of course the clumps of houses, large public buildings, groves of trees, or large bodies of troops could be brought under fire from six miles and under. These pieces have had the usual fuse arrangement so that this shell could be exploded in the air at any chosen distances within the effective range. Striking against any wall a hard substance was

before the time of the fuse would cause an explosion, Nothing then that a shell filled with a hundred & ~~a~~ hundred & fifty small balls we can conceive of the murderous effect of a single ~~shot~~ missile bursting in the air just in advance of a body of cavalry. Besides the ordinary shell this cannon fires another sort, filled with melinite, the accompanying powder charge ~~melinite~~ ~~the~~ gives to the shell an extraordinary velocity and favors what we call enfilading fire when the projectile instead of making a high flight pursues its course near the ground tearing here and there — so as to break up a line or a column in its course. The guns here under consideration, perhaps by this time adopted, a new cannon, called

"the new campaign gun". This will be remarkable for rapidity of firing and the makers have somehow obviated the delay usually occasioned by the recoil of a gun
"In firing, instead of being obliged, after each shot to bring the gun back to its position, the gunners need not move, because the recoil is completely suppressed!" It is a wonderful discovery this mechanism applied to the carriage which holds it in place at every discharge

Our little country is not behind hand in anything touching the modern guns for seacoast or field defence
We have already noted the Hotchkiss 3 in. gun for field artillery. We have the 3.6 in model of 1891, which weighs 1181 lbs, the weight of the charge, a

little over 4 lbs of powder and the weight of the projectile 20 lbs. Its muzzle velocity is 1550 "foot seconds" i.e. 1550 feet under in one second of time on leaving the muzzle of the piece

There are two other models for field artillery, one 3.2 in. calibre of 1885 and the other, ~~3.2~~ 3.2 in calibre of 1890. The weight of the projectile for these two is 4½ lbs less than that for the model of 1891 and the weight of the pieces each considerably less

The siege artillery, seacoast artillery with heavy guns of calibres 8 in, 10 in, & 12 in, and one mortar for the field, for the siege and for the seacoast, ranging from 6.6 inches to 12 in. have kept pace with the

corresponding weapons of other nations — in range, in appliances such as wagons and carriages, in material, in rifling and in attaining ~~the~~ rapidity of fire. We have also all the improved sorts of powder and our experiments, both in the army and Navy are kept to the requirements of the times. For study, industry and ever in inventive genius our ordnance and artillery officers have made surprising advances and secured the respect of intelligent observers the world over.

Our great need is however the appreciation of Congress I see that our national guard are ~~rearming~~ slowly about to require the modern arms It is ~~great~~ what in my judgement should by congressional provision have been done long ago

~~Perhaps~~

Perhaps not so important that they should be always in the hands of the men, but they should ~~be~~ have been in store for prompt distribution when the time of need shall come.

Complicated breech-loading artillery require intelligent artillerymen and men of some training and experience in this profession. Thus far as the artillery is concerned, batteries can not be too soon organized, having in possession our latest models of field guns.

The Maxim automatic machine gun at times may be made available for resisting a charge or repelling an assault.

It will deliver 650 shots per minute with a range of and all this without requiring anything but own support. The Gatling gun, too, a wonderful machine, has gained in rapid firing. It can easily give 800 discharges each minute and certainly no officer would risk an attacking column in the direct face of such guns. The only way to meet them would be by those who have considered of longer range and power enough to break their cover and annihilate guns and gunners together. Such war appears to have no opportunity for gallant conduct or any other bravery than that which contemplates the almost

~~absolute~~ absolute certainty of the loss of life.

Powder.

Considering your second paragraphs.
Touching the powder.

I find that there are 48 U.S. Naval vessels in commission at this hour and they have of all kinds 429 pieces of Artillery on board varying from 4 to 20 gns. Without doubt these cannon are of the best model and, as always in our Navy, in prime order.. The weight of the charge of powder varies from 2 ~~lbs~~ pounds to 200. One usually large English gun in an English Ship of War takes 176 pounds for every discharge..

Suppose we make an average of 30 pounds to the piece. This, which is large enough in all conscience, will give in a single discharge, 12,870 lbs,

during 1892

Turning to the inspection of the Du Pont Powder Works, we notice that they contracted to deliver 148,000 lbs. brown prismatic powder for our 10 in & 12 in ⌀ steel breech-loading rifles. This is 11 times as much as was stated to you as not existing. Their contract was filled. In 1893 they furnished 40000 lbs for our breech-loading mortars and again in 1894 75,000 for rifle cannon. If a single firm could furnish so much think of what the several firms working in all the large cities of our land could do. The enterprise of our mfrs. is tremendous and we may have no fear of a lack of ample supply.

I notice that 7 or 8 different kinds of smokeless powder are

submitted to the proving officers for acceptance or rejection. It would be hard to estimate the cost of the serving of one our large seacoast guns. We notice that at the proving grounds the 8-inch breechloading steel rifle cannon takes 125 pounds of powder per discharge, throwing a projectile weighing 300 pounds. This gives an initial velocity of about 2000 ft. per second at the muzzle on discharge. If you ascertain the price of the powder and ~~the price of the~~ projectile you have the cost, approximately, of one discharge. I estimate it at about $

The 10 in. in proving has gone as high as 245 lbs. for projectile 575 lbs. weight, the 12 in. highest charge 450 lbs, projectile 1000 lbs.

" " " breech-loading mortar, steel 105 lbs, projectile 800 lbs. weight.

2/ These charges are, of course, extreme so that we may not consider an ordinary charge for the largest seacoast gun to exceed 450 lbs.

One more question you have asked me: How long ~~it~~ would it take the German field artillery, that is, with each battery of six guns, firing 60 shots a minute to mow down its belligerent opponents' five miles distant ~~not~~ Of course there are too many contingencies to render any satisfactory answer to so sweeping a question. There is no conceivable arrangement by which the opponents of Germany could be so met. Even the French do not know the number of German batteries available for active work. The unevenness of the ground, hills, valleys and mts. would be the best protection of a French army invading Germany. If we consider in a war

footing the two armies, French & German of the same size with about the same distribution in each of the different arms of the service, I would think that the French army would have some advantage over the German in an attack from the character of the French people under good leadership their élan cannot be excelled. Doubtless as in the last war the Germans would not remain long on the defensive, but if they did relying upon the destructive power of their artillery for defeating the French, they would make a mistake.

While war is more tremendously, it must be shorter and so the cost in life and in material may be reckoned according to the length of the war and the forces engaged, making comparison something like

II.

(a) Is there a want of public spirit on the part of the American people?

(b) Are ~~they~~ our people unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices to secure the National Safety?

(c) What are the best counsels & methods to make us prepared for days of national peril?