GREAT NAVAL BATTLE IN WHICH CERVERA'S SHIPS WERE DESTROYED

Every Spanish Vessel Lost
The Admiral With 1600 Seamen Captured.

WASHINGTON, July 4.—The following bulletin from Commodore Watson was received to-night:

PLAYA DEL ESTE, July 3.—To the Secretary of the Navy:

At 9:30 A.M. to-day the Spanish squadron, seven in all, including one gunboat, came out of Santiago harbor in column and was totally destroyed within an hour, excepting the Cristobal Colon, which was chased forty-five miles to the westward by the commander-in-chief, the Brooklyn, the Oregon, and the Texas, surrendering to the Brooklyn, but was beached to keep from sinking.

None of our officers or men were injured except on board the Brooklyn Chief Yooman Ellis was killed and one man wounded.

Admiral Cervera, all the commanding officers, excepting the Oquendo, about 70 other officers and 1600 men are prisoners. About 350 were killed or drowned and 100 wounded.

The latter are cared for on the Solace and the Olivette.

Have just arrived off Santiago on the Marielhead to take charge, while the commander-in-chief is looking out for the Cristobal Colon.

WATSON.

Cervera, on the Colón, made the long run toward liberty. He yielded to fate only in the face of death, and as a prisoner on the Gloucester, which, before the shore, was the Dames Michigan's yacht Commodore.

As the Golden Rod steamed past the flagship, the order to get under way was given, and the thought of the thousands of his men, without aid, was on the Commodore's mind. Of the presenters more than 40 of the crew of the Vizcaya were taken by the long arm of the sea. Every vessel in Commodore Sampson's fleet went through the scene without injury, but one man in the American fleet was killed and two were injured.

From the very first of the fighting the little Gloucester was in the thickest of it. At one time she was passing her schooners against the entire Spanish fleet, while the guns of Morro Castle were raking her target. She added the Spanish flotilla and fought the Vizcaya and Oquendo as easily as if she were a flagship. Magnificent beyond description was the bold dash by which Cervera attempted to get his fleet out of Santiago harbor. Cervera himself led the way with his flagship, the Cristobal Colon. It was a dash for liberty or death, and the Spanish admiral made the plunge with his eyes open. Sunday noon steamed over the entrance to Santiago. No signs were visible of any Morro beyond and toward the city of Santiago all was still. After two days of fighting the arms of both nations were resting in their trenches. Off this day, for a distance of about 10 miles from shore, the vessels of Sampson's fleet were barely in anchor.

Admiral Sampson, desiring to ascertain the exact position of the Spanish coast-defense about Aguadores, ordered the flagship to go that way. Weaving and wading the New York leisurely steamed off to the eastward. His thoughts occupied the minds of the men in the fleet. They were speculating as they had been for weeks when would come the opportunity to get at the Spanish fleet in the open harbor. Suddenly, as a flash, at half past 3 o'clock, a vessel appeared near the entrance of the harbor. She was shining in the great black clouds of smoke and was pointing straight toward the American fleet. The rear of the American officers and sailors was considerably disturbed. They grabbed their glasses, saw the harbor entrance and were assured to discover that an armed cruiser was coming out in the absence of Commodore Sampson, Commodore Schley, from the Brooklyn, ordered the American warships to rake in a moment. It was seen the warship emitting such a great cloud of smoke was the Cristobal Colon, Admiral Cervera's flagship. She had passed the wreck of the Marne and was making for it at full speed. Before Commodore Schley and his men could recover from their surprise the Cristobal Colon steamed out of sight beyond the Cristobal Colon.

With a rush fully equal to the Cristobal Colon the Almirante Oquendo came thundering toward the open sea. Behind her came the Vizcaya also at full speed, while the rear was brought by the Infanta Maria Teresa and the two torpedo-boat destroyers Favor and Pizano. This time a cry of surprise was heard and it was not expected and quickly put out in every man of his vessel on his own. Commodore Schley, the cry to escape,