

With the Naval Reserves to Key West



THE first page of my diary is headed May 25th. (I used to call it diary, but I call it a log now—it sounds so much better.) I infer that on that date,—there or thereabouts, the first batch of Armour's contingent left for the seat of war. I am not sure because no mention of that fact appears on the page referred to. There is some mention of the jolting of the train expressed in language which may be quite proper in the mouth or fountain pen of a blue-jacket, but which now causes the blushes to spread over my civilian cheeks. The date is, however immaterial.

We left Chicago, then, with considerable *eclat*. (That is French and means one of those little chocolate—oh! no; that is *eclaire*. It is proper to leave with *eclat* and I am sure we were very proper, so the foregoing assertion is probably correct.) It was surprising to see how many of the boys had sisters at the train. I had only six, but Green and Collins had nine each, while poor Naglestock, who lives out of town, had only five.

I believe it was at Logansport, where we took our lunch, Green recognized a cousin and almost missed the train in consequence. After dark we got to Louisville and had our first taste of Southern hospitality and all that this term implies, including cigars and two of the three things Kentucky is proudest of. Green recognized two more cousins and tried to induce one of them to get on the train. Permission refused by S. W. Stratton, Lieut., U. S. N.

I bunked with Naglestock that night and he misappropriated my diary. At midnight we passed through Nashville and arrived at Birmingham, Alabama, in time for breakfast. I don't think much of Birmingham—Green hasn't a single cousin there. At Montgomery, where we stopped for dinner we were quite the thing. They 'uns gave we 'uns a right beauty welcome, and even apologized for the lack of attendance at the depot. Green introduced me to some of his cousins and all of us went to see some genuine buck dancing, not the "ten twent" variety either.

