

THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

LAND WHOSE PEOPLE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

The Immense Mineral and Agricultural Resources that Await Development—The Black Record of Spanish Cruelty and Oppression.

Rich in Resources. The civil war in Cuba will probably serve still further to devastate an island which the Spaniards during past years have done all they could to ruin.



THE GREAT CATHEDRAL IN HAVANA.

It is a pity, for tropical America does not contain a fairer land than that over which the flames of civil war are now spreading. No matter what may be the result of the war, it will leave the island in a condition to recover from which many years of prosperity will be required. There are thousands of men now living who vividly remember the status of the Southern and border States of this country after the civil war, and when such desolation is possible in a land where war is conducted with some regard to civilized methods, the question may well be asked, What will not be wrought when the conflict is waged with the savagery peculiar to the Spanish forces?

The general physical characteristics of Cuba are too well known to need description, but few, even of better informed readers, are aware of the resources of the island or of the extent to which it is blessed by nature in the matter of climatic and vegetable productions. We are accustomed to think of Cuba as a hot country, situated as it is under the tropics, and the common impression is correct to the extent that the mean average temperature of the year is higher than in countries further north, but the climate is more equable, there are not those sudden variations that in many parts of the United States are so severe on the human constitution. In Havana, for example, the average temperature of the hottest month is 84 degrees, of the coldest, 72. In Santiago de Cuba, a city often mentioned in the war dispatches, the average of the year is 80; of the hottest month, 84; of the coolest, 73. These are high figures, but not very high for an island lying in equatorial regions and surrounded by water that is warm to the hand all the year round. To a stranger from a dry country a feature more strange than the steady heat is the tremendous rainfall. The geographical and topographical situation of Cuba provides two seasons only, the wet and the dry. During the lat-



IN A CIGARETTE FACTORY.

ter, rains are not frequent, being atoned for, however, by the abundance of the dew, but in the rainy season Jupiter Pluvius seems to turn himself loose to vex all previous efforts, and from 125 to 140 inches of rain are not uncommon, there being about 102 days when the rain comes down, not in drops, but in sheets, in masses, in tubfuls, at a time, as though the windows of the

heavens were opened and the floods of the great aerial deep had broken loose. The abundant rainfall, in fact, that is a recent traveler remarks, the wonder is that any island remains; that the whole is not dissolved and carried off into the sea. But in Cuba no one minds the rain, save only to go in when it rains, the necessary knowledge to accomplish this feat being common alike to Spanish resident and native inhabitant.

Owing to the curse of Spanish misrule, the natural resources of the island are not even completely known, to say nothing of being developed. Though has been ascertained, however, to justify the statement that almost every metal and mineral used in the arts and sciences is to be found on the island. Gold has been discovered in several rivers; silver in four or five of the mountain ranges; copper exists in abundance in a hundred different localities; quicksilver, lead, antimony, zinc, iron ore, magnesia, ochre, alum and several different varieties of mar-

ble, some little inferior to the best Italian, have been found in different sections of the island. None of these natural resources, however, have been developed as they should be, for the policy of Spain has been rather to repress than to encourage the progress of the island and its people, and the consequence is that the native wealth of Cuba, while known to be immense and varied, is, as yet, largely a matter of speculation. Such is not the case, however, with regard to those products which, by the labor of man, the arable soil may be compelled to yield. The topography of Cuba is so varied, composed, as the island is, of plains almost at the level of the sea, of pla-

sonably fair opportunities for development, the mineral and agricultural resources of Cuba would render that island one of the richest regions of the globe, but the curse of Spanish rule is alike on the farmer and planter, on the merchant and miner and the same merciless taxation alike prevents all from attaining any measure of success or prosperity.

The history of Cuba has been one uniform record of Spanish depravity, spoliation and oppression. Spanish rule began with the destruction of the entire native population. At the discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus, it was peopled with a race of gentle, inoffensive Indians, whose worst fault was their laziness. The discovery was made in 1492, the island was completely overrun by the Spaniards in 1511, the natives were enslaved, and so great was the barbarity with which they were treated, that, in 1534, the colonists petitioned the Crown to be allowed to import African slaves at once, that they might be induced to toil in the fields before all the Indians perished. African slavery began shortly after, and formed the second black spot on the Spanish record. The third, and perhaps the most detestable of all, has been the treatment of the native Cubans. In their own country they have been subjected to every form of political and social oppression that the ingenuity of the Spaniards could devise. The latter, from the captain general down to the meanest custom house clerk, have generally regarded their positions as given them for the purpose of enabling them to enrich themselves, and have carried out this idea to the fullest possible extent. The people have been robbed, legally and illegally, plundered and taxed to death, so that the industrial growth of the island under the circumstances is something quite marvelous. As a class, the native Cubans are far superior to the Spanish tyrants who have dominated the island, and their restiveness under the control of the foreign element is easily understood and appreciated. Time and again have they risen in insurrection, but the lack of arms and the overwhelming forces that on the first appearance of trouble were poured into the island have up to the present prevented success. Stories of Spanish atrocities are of almost daily occurrence in the newspapers

tales many hundreds of feet higher, and of mountain ranges, some of which attain an altitude of 8,000 feet, that any product of the tropical, subtropical or temperate regions may be raised, and from the banana of Mexico to the barley of Norway, all at the command of the Cuban farmer. As might be expected, however, by far the greater portion of the Cuban field products are such as are appropriate to the geographical situation of the island, and tobacco, bananas, oranges, pineapples, other tropical fruits and vegetables, with cotton and sugar, are the leading staples. No pen, however gifted, can



THE PRADO, HAVANA.

give an idea, however, of the luxuriance of vegetation on a Cuban plantation. The sugar cane grows to a size equalled only by that of the most favored situations in Louisiana, while a field of pineapples, with their thorny leaves and spiny fruit, is a sight, once seen, never to be forgotten. But even the glory of the pineapple is excelled by that of the banana plantation, with its great leaved trees and enormous bunches of fruit so large as to occasion the suspicion in the mind of a Spanish ecclesiastic that the bunches of grapes mentioned as borne between two men, when the Hebrews returned from their inspection of the land of Canaan, were not really grapes, but bananas. The abundance with which this remarkable plant yields its fruit and the little care required for its cultivation after a plantation has once been made, have not proved an unmixed blessing to the dwellers in tropical regions. An acre of banana plants, with little or no attention, will produce more than a hundred times as much food as an acre planted in wheat, and so long as a man has food for himself and family to be had for the trouble of picking it, there is little incentive to labor. The excellence of the tobacco grown in Cuba has become a proverb the world over, for alike to smokers and to those who regard the weed as a rank poison, the fragrant Havana is typical of the habit. Not every quarter of the island, how-

ever, attempts to cultivate it, there is little incentive to labor. The excellence of the tobacco grown in Cuba has become a proverb the world over, for alike to smokers and to those who regard the weed as a rank poison, the fragrant Havana is typical of the habit.

Revenge Is Sweet.

It takes a bright woman to rebuke another woman's rudeness, a general statement well borne out by a story from the Atlanta Constitution.

A lady entered a railway train and took a seat in front of a newly married couple. She was hardly seated before they began making remarks about her.

Her last year's bonnet and cloak were fully criticised, with more or less giggling on the bride's part, and there is no telling what might have come next if the lady had not put a sudden stop to the conversation by a bit of strategy.

She turned her head, noticed that the bride was considerably older than the groom, and in the smoothest tones said:

"Madam, will you please have your son close the window behind you?"

The "son" closed his mouth, and the bride no longer giggled.

Mrs. Nurich—You can't think, Brother Caleb, what an expense it's been to us, learning Amelia to play the piano. Brother Caleb (dolefully)—It can't compare with what I had to pay out when George was learning to play the piano. And he didn't learn much, either.

In any other country, and with rea-

TO SEEK THE NORTH POLE.

B. A. Andree, Scientific Aeronaut, Will Attempt the Trip by Balloons.

The plan conceived by Professor S. A. Andree, a distinguished Swedish scientist and aeronaut, to overcome the difficulties of the polar ice by journey-

family and the minister sat down at the table, the parrot, who had the freedom of the room, came up and perched on the tall back of his chair, and eyed the top of his head with a close and highly interested scrutiny. And then the bird called out harshly:

"Ha! you rascal! You've been stealing pickles!"

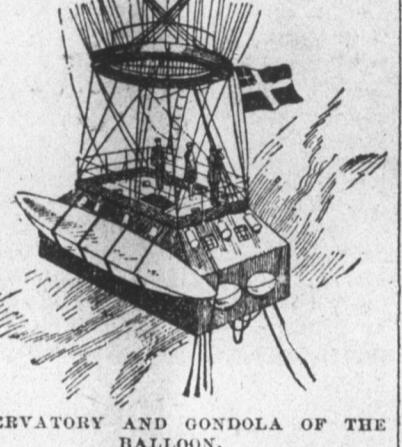
Whining Children.

Dr. Mary Wood-Alen, writing in *Woman's Magazine* of breaking children of the habit of whining says: "In this case, I should say, that the first thing to do is to secure the cordial co-operation of every other adult member of the family. Let there be united purpose never to give to the child that for which he whines, even if it would be given to him otherwise. Give him to understand this in a firm but gentle way, and if possible secure his approval of the idea. Tell him kindly of the evil of the habit, the unhappiness it causes him and every one else, show him that it is creating a habit for the future years and tell him you are all going to help him to overcome it. Let him feel that your refusal to grant his whining requests are to aid him, not to punish him. Then steadily, persistently and firmly, adhere to this policy. Never once yield to his insistence, but always recognize his attempt to meet your wishes in a pleasant manner.

If the thing he wants is something he should not have, tell him so, and assure him that no amount of whining will secure it, and then let him whine.

Wait, don't scold, don't tantalize, don't appear to be either disturbed or moved by his whining. If what he desires is something he can have, and he whines for it, assure him that as soon as he asks pleasantly he can have it, and then give him time to make up his mind to be pleasant. We are too apt to try to drive our children rapidly from one frame of mind to another. Wait patiently, and if possible help him by diverting his thoughts to something agreeable. In a few minutes he will probably get control of himself. It is often a very touching sight to witness the efforts of children to gain self-control, sometimes under the stings of the tantalizing reproaches of their elders.—*Woman's Magazine*.

He is now in Paris superintending the construction of the balloon. It will contain sleeping rooms for three persons, and a dark room for photographic purposes. It will be equipped with a set of sails which will serve to keep it under control and propel it, and a boat,



OBSERVATORY AND GONDOLA OF THE BALLOON.

or gondola, of considerable size, will be carried.

A great number of heavy cables will be provided so that in case the balloon should suddenly sink it will be relieved of weight by the contact of the lines with the earth. It is intended to make the trip, starting from Spitzbergen and crossing the pole to the shores of Bering Strait, next year, in June, when the atmospheric conditions are most favorable to aerial navigation.

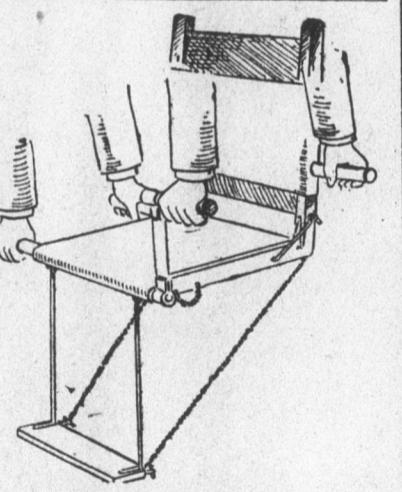
A heavy snowstorm would probably be disastrous to the balloon, but in the early summer they are infrequent. It is estimated that not more than a week will be consumed on voyage. The fact that the ice which surrounds the pole and has been an unsurmountable barrier to ships will not have to be taken into consideration constitutes one of the chief reasons for believing that a balloon expedition may succeed where those by vessel have been failures.

A NEW INVALID'S CHAIR.

For Comfortably Moving a Patient in an Upright Position.

The device here illustrated is one of the best chairs for invalids yet invented. One of its greatest merits is its simplicity, with no complicated parts to be adjusted, and no likelihood of its getting out of order.

As may be seen in the cut, there are



INVALID'S CHAIR.

handles at different heights on opposite sides of the chair, making it very easy for two persons to carry it up or down stairs, while the patient remains in an upright position. Another advantage is that the chair may be placed upon the edge of the bed and the patient moved up or down with it with perfect ease. When not in use, the chair may be folded into a small, compact bundle.

A PARROT'S INFERNO.

Among the neighborhood stories told and implicitly believed in the Massachusetts town of W. is one which we should be in asking any reader to credit, but which is interesting as an example of the local wit in story making. The wife of Deacon Saunders, an excellent citizen of the place, is said to have possessed a parrot of exceptional intelligence and remarkable conversational powers.

On one occasion Mrs. Saunders was making cucumber pickles. She had the cucumbers in a dish on the kitchen table, and was stirring a kettle of hot vinegar and spices over the fire with a wooden spoon. While thus engaged she chanced to turn about, and saw the parrot making off with one of the cucumbers.

"Ha, you rascal! You've been stealing pickles!" she exclaimed, and threw the wooden spoon, dripping with boiling vinegar, at the bird.

It struck him on the top of his head, and though it inflicted no serious injury, its effect was to take the feathers entirely off the top of the bird's head, leaving him bald for a season.

Some time afterward a minister from another town came to preach at the W. church, and took dinner at Deacon Saunders'. He was quite bald. As the

State of Illinois is one of the wealthiest of the Western States, its valuation reaching \$786,616,394.

The three sections of Tennessee—East, West and Middle—are valued by the assessor at \$228,154,432.

Almost every one believes he has a monopoly of faithfulness.

THE LATEST IN FADS.

Indian Relics and Indian Furniture Are All the Rage.

The very latest thing in the fads of the fashionable world, or at least the American part of it, is at the same time one of the most unique which has taken "society" by storm in many years. It is nothing less than the collection of Indian relics of every sort and of everything Indian which will go towards the furnishing of "wigwams" or summer cottages. In the living room the proper thing is to have chairs, paddle backed and easy, which are largely constructed of weapons of the chase and Indian blankets. Those who do not possess curios sufficient to form the foundation of their "wigwam" furniture have recourse to the cabinet-makers' art for their chairs, sideboards and dressers, with painted pipes, tomahawks and paddles. The real thing, of course, is much more chic and expensive.

Indian blankets are used with good effect as rugs and portieres, where "wigwam" furnishings are used. A pair of such blankets large and fine enough to draped a doorway costs \$200. A Navajo saddle blanket for a chair covering or rug may be bought for \$25 to \$35. Paddles and carved trinkets range in price according to the work upon them. "Totem poles" imitations, of course, cost anywhere from \$10 to \$100.

When it comes to dining-room and sleeping apartments the idea is much less pleasing. It gives one a creepy feeling to be eating game with a barbarically ornamented sideboard in front of one. And then to wake in the middle

of the night and see in the moonlight a dressing table ornamented with beaded and feathered war clubs, or with wicked-looking spears is enough to make one's dreams full of ghostly spirits and most unhappy hunting grounds.

TOEING THE LINE.

The reign of graded schools and scientific methods of education has deprived the rising generation of many of the experiences, laughable, instructive, pathetic, which live in the memories of gray-headed men who once figured as the prototypes of Whittier's "Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan."

It was the hour for the spelling lesson in one of those fondly remembered red district school houses, and the boys and girls had taken their places on the floor.

"Toe the mark," commanded the teacher, and a rustling and shuffling indicated obedience.

The line stretched clear across the school room; now a pair of bare and dusty feet, next a couple of nicely blacked shoes, side by side with a pair of rawhide boots guiltless of the suggestion of blacking. The teacher inspected the line approvingly until his eye rested on one small urchin standing so far behind the others as to be almost out of sight.

"Nate," he asked, "why don't you toe the mark?"

"P-p-lease, sir, I am," faltered the boy, "but I've got on dad's boots."

Sure enough, the toes of the boots were all right, on the mark, two or three inches beyond the toes of the youthful wearer.

ACCOMMODATING LANDLORD.

A correspondent assures us that he never knew that it was possible for an innkeeper to be too accommodating to his guests until he went down to Nova Scotia recently, and put up at a pleasant little hotel in the country. The landlord of this hotel laid it down as one of his principles of action to give people a little more than they asked for—to be "extra accommodating," as he termed it.

The landlord brilliantly illustrated his adherence to this principle the very morning after our correspondent's arrival at the hotel. The guests had to go away on the seven o'clock train that morning, and asked the proprietor to call him at six. The guest went to sleep in the calm assurance that he should be aroused at the proper hour.

He seemed hardly to have fallen into a sound sleep when he heard a terrific pounding at his door. He sprang up, wide awake.

"What's the matter?" he called out.

"Four o'clock! Four o'clock!" came the landlord's voice the other side of the door; "two hours more to sleep!"

It is needless to say that the guest slept no more that morning. The landlord's anxiety to be "extra accommodating" failed of its mark that time.

BEAUTIFYING THE ARM.

For the girl whose arm will not stand complete exposure in evening dress there is made a sleeve that fits close on the inside of the arm from the wrist to the hollow under the shoulder and on the outer side of the arm is loose and puffed to the elbow. This sleeve is made of transparent material, and is laced up the inside of the arm, the flesh showing between the cords, while the draping on the puffs softens the elbow, though the transparency of the material allows the general contour of the arm to show. The bodice is made with a pointed yoke, the yoke lacing along its edges to the rest of the dress and exposing slightly just that part of the neck which cannot help being soft, no matter how thin the girl may be.

ONE-HAND WATCHES.

The first English watches had weights and were used as pocket clocks. They had only one hand, and required to be wound up twice a day. The dials were of silver and brass, while the cases were ungilded, but opened at the back and front, and were four or five inches in diameter—about the size of a common desert plate.

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DEEP SEA THERMOMETERS.

Thermometers made for taking the temperature in moderately deep waters have the tube incised in a