

our country will require some custom-house revenue and your own sugar and tobacco growers would never consent to it.

"But this is not altogether a question of business. The sentiments of the people must be considered also. The people must be trusted. If our government should fail of its duties then will be the time to talk of annexation.

"Fair and generous treatment now will be of ultimate advantage to the United States. The people of Cuba will stand by the convention when it rejects the Platt amendment, as it surely will. The whole island has spoken and the convention, even if it desired to do otherwise, must reject the humiliating conditions offered. There can be no mistake about the sentiment of the people.

"The Cubans do not have complete confidence in the governor-general. They fear that his reports are more or less colored to meet what are thought to be the views of President McKinley.

"Attendance upon the receptions of the governor-general has been cited as evidence of political sympathy. What sheer nonsense! Cubans attended the receptions of the Spanish governor-general also, but revolution came. General Brook was personally very popular. He did not pretend to diplomacy. He was bluff, honest and truthful.

"Americans who come here do not go about getting information in the right way. Mr. Root, General Miles and others high in authority except in a purely formal way and for a very brief time, met only officials. Subordinate officials, as you know, are usually complacent and apt to give their superiors pleasing information only."

Nearly all the Habana newspapers print an English section. In the English side of La Lucha for March 23 was printed a cablegram from Washington which gave an account of the report made by Representatives Dovenor, Mercer and Burton upon their return from Cuba. Dovenor and Mercer were quoted as saying that the Cubans were "playing a big bluff," and that they would accept the Platt amendment. Commenting on it, La Lucha said: "It is interesting to remember that these gentlemen were here for five days, during which they were dined by the military governor and guided by him, in special trains, over the island that they might learn the true situation."

This serves to show how the people of the United States have been deceived as to the Cuban situation.

Many Cubans feel or profess to feel great uneasiness over the commercial future of the island. They point to the case of Porto Rico, which, despite the two years of unquestioned American control, is in a pitiful condition. They say that the plantations are not so productive as formerly and that her sugar industry is doomed by duties to the country which should be her protector, that the workmen are so unsatisfactorily employed that they are emigrating to other countries and ask if there is any reason to believe that Cuba will be more considerately treated?

Yet in spite of the pessimistic view

of the Cubans I believe that conditions in Cuba must be gradually improving. New land is being brought under cultivation. Improved farm machinery is being imported and peace and quiet, albeit the peace and quiet of military control, does offer opportunity for regular employment, by which means only can the island be developed.

Cuba has no debt and the fear expressed in the United States that she will assume part of the obligations of the kingdom of Spain is silly. Starting without debt and having almost unparalleled riches of soil and climate I can see no reason why her future should not be prosperous and glorious. I mean glorious in the peaceful arts. The island has had its share of the horrors of war and will not lightly rush into turmoil. The people impressed me as yearning for peace and opportunity.

The future physical development of the island has undoubtedly been made easier by some of the street and road work executed under military supervision. The military road being built in Santiago by General Whitside will under any government be a blessing to the island. General Whitside by his devotion to duty and unflinching courtesy to the people has endeared himself to the people of the eastern end of the island.

Ultimately Cuba will become a part of the American union. It is decreed in the land hunger of the Anglo-Saxon, by geography and by the necessities of commerce and in the 20th century the demands of commerce will not be denied.

By the standard already set up Cuba is entirely fit to be a sovereign state of the American union. Yet there is the one serious drawback of the race problem. Because of that her coming would enlarge and further complicate our already bothersome social questions. In spite of the views of Messrs. Cisneros and Zaldo Cuba has a race question. It would not clarify our troubles to add hers. Therefore if my vote could bring about or defeat annexation I would give Cuba my blessing and send her about her business. This though she begged for admission to the American union. And yet I find myself dreaming of an orange grove and a sugar plantation with an avenue of stately palms leading to a broad cool veranda. I wonder if any annexationist has better or more honest reason?
JAMES L. SLAYDEN.

Books Received.

The Woman Who Trusted, a story of literary life in New York, by Will M. Harben; published by Henry Altemus Co., Philadelphia.

Montayne, or the Slavers of Old New York, a historical romance, by William O. Stoddard; published by Henry Altemus Co., Philadelphia.

Brown's Complete Letter Writer, for ladies and gentlemen, by Chas. W. Brown; published by The Henneberry Co., Chicago.

Morning Echoes, a collection of poems written by John Edward Morgan; published by the author, at Central City, Neb.

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