

Weyler's Book Justifies Our Intervention in Cuba

WITH an unpardonable lack of tact or a greivous attempt at a sinister piece of humor, Gen. Valeriano Weyler, the former Spanish captain general of Cuba, who gained for himself the unenviable title of "butcher," has allowed the publishers of the sensational book in which he attempts to defend his conduct while the representative of the Spanish crown on that island, MI MANDO EN CUBA (My Command in Cuba) in letters of gory scarlet on a paper of livid gray.

Whatever the motive may have been that prompted such a choice, that bloody "eye catcher" of a line fitly symbolizes the man and the work which caused so many years of discontent in Cuba. Weyler has been on trial before public opinion for butchering his enemies instead of fighting them; and he flaunts in our faces the ugly stains that show where he wiped off his knife.

Captain General of the most fertile province of Spain (and a province which more than once manifested her intention to throw off the Bourbon yoke), he makes such a case against the country that buys his services as no citizen of the United States could have ever made to justify America's attitude in the Cuban mix-up.

Weyler was the best hated man in Cuba when the government of his nation finally recalled him. This book will cause him to be cursed the length and breadth of the peninsula.

"I wrote it," he says, "to give all the facts about my conduct as general in chief, a conduct admired not only by army officers, high and low, who wrote me innumerable letters, but by private, who, on their return to the peninsula, spoke of me with an enthusiastic fervor for which I can never thank them enough. Various reasons prevented me from doing years ago (when I could not have freed my mind from a certain bias) a work which I can now do in perfect peace of mind, thanks to the time that has passed, and which has soothed the irritation due to the injustice I suffered at the hands of some men.

"Furthermore I did not wish to sadden Senor Sagasta by retelling the story of our colonial disasters; neither did I feel any pleasure in censuring the illustrious Gen. Martinec Campos, my predecessor in Cuba, however uncharitably he acted toward me after his return to the capital."

A perusal of the book fails to prove that Weyler kept his promise to treat the subject with perfect moderation; the general's blood is still boiling, and with some justification, for atrocious as his conduct was in many instances, it could not very well be criticized in Spain by the Spanish government.

Had Weyler been endowed with the literary genius of a Marbot or a Las Cazes, he could have made a much stronger case against Spain and presented his own actions in a much more favorable light. Unfortunately his knowledge of the writer's craft is as deficient as his fund of information touching political economy, general history, national and international politics is meager.

Weyler is not a diplomat; the slippery land of nuances and innuendoes is to him terra incognita; a primitive brute, with rudimentary ethics, though unflinchingly frank and straightforward, he never ventures an assertion which cannot be supported by documents; he never pays any attention to hearsay but quotes people's letters in extenso.

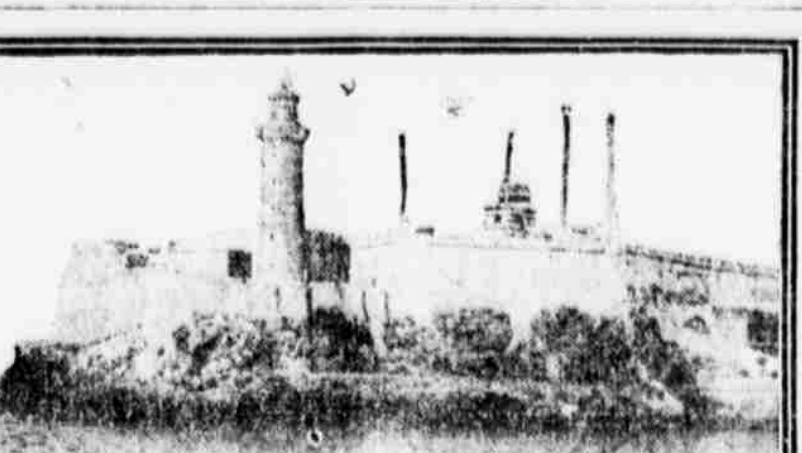
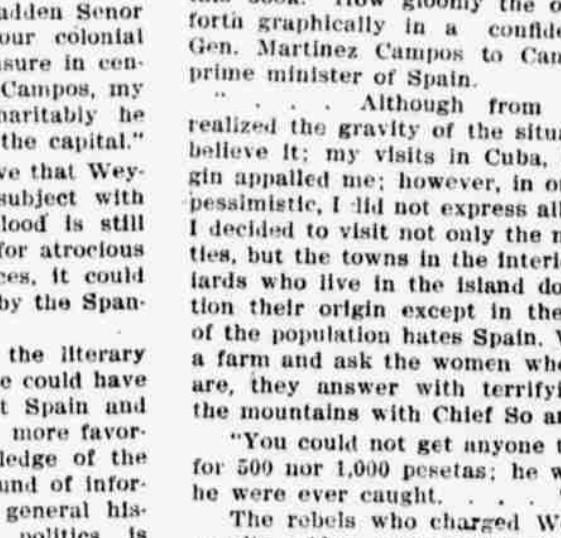
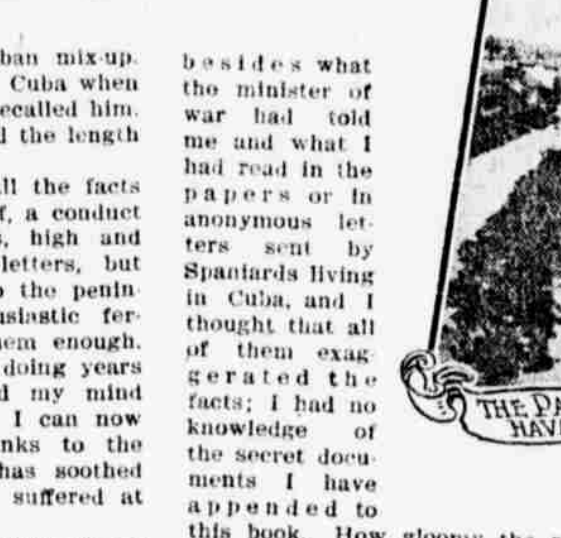
A fascinating type, after all, for the observer blessed with the sense of history; just imagine what a Weyler would have developed into if he had not been born some 500 years too late; clad in steel, he had been riding a caparisoned mount, or, if he had been allowed to range over Europe during the Thirty Years' war!

General Weyler's style is very trying; even his proclamations vainly modeled after Napoleon I's oratorical gems, rarely sound the note that makes a people or an army vibrate. His relations of the Cuban campaign with all the facts, figures, names recorded in haphazard fashion day by day, is well nigh unreadable.

But the documents he publishes in support of his thesis (some of them of a confidential character and which must have been secured through "diplomatic means") make it well worth wading through an otherwise dull, shapeless and indigestible piece of writing.

First of all we are made to realize how hopeless the plight of the Spanish commanders had become in the island when Weyler took the situation in hand; the many generals who preceded him had been losing ground from day to day; their cables to the Spanish government gave information of a pessimistic character of which the public and the press were seldom apprised; their confidential correspondence betrayed heart-rending facts; more than once poor Gen. Martinec Campos had humbly confessed himself beaten, while the cabinet led the Spanish nation to believe that the war was practically over.

Weyler himself, when placed in command of the Cuban army, was not even given what was entitled to, an honest account of the situation. "When I landed in Cuba," he writes, "I did not even suspect the terrible conditions that prevailed in the island. I did not know anything



gave them constant aid and kept them informed of every movement of the Spanish regiments. Says General Weyler:

"Of all the measures I took the most bitterly criticized was the 'concentration,' which saved my troops from being uselessly decimated and prevented the landing of arms and munitions consigned to the enemy. I need not defend that system. Whoever has a smattering of the history of modern wars knows that it was copied by the English in the Transvaal and the Americans in the Philippines, a fact most flattering to my pride as a general.

"If individuals were summarily shot under my generalship, as it happens in the course of every war, they were put to death in obedience to the laws and regulations, never for the mere reason that they were insurgents. I pardoned those who returned to the fold, and showed much clemency to all those who came to me, however black their past may have been."

It is a matter of regret that General Weyler should not have deemed it advisable to volunteer more information as to the organization of the concentration camps. He says that one pound of meat and a quarter of a pound of rice were allowed to every individual over fourteen, and one-half that ration to children, which seems quite sufficient under the circumstances.

A few paragraphs, however, couched in his blunt, soldierly style, setting at naught the terrible charges preferred against him in connection with that stern system of warfare would have been interesting, but they were lacking. His silence amounts to a confession of guilt. He makes a weak attempt at explaining that the wives and children of insurgents were not "concentrated," but obliged to betake themselves where the head of the family was supposed to be found. This is worse yet, for one can conceive the appalling abuses which such an order emanating from the general in chief must have countenanced and justified. As the revolutionary bands were constantly moving from east to west and from west to east and could not be located with any certainty, what an existence must have been that of



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families whose men were not serving in the ranks of the regular army. Refused army rations, compelled to roam from one devastated village to a burnt down hamlet, they could not but succumb to hunger and exhaustion.

Had Weyler been less brutally honest, he would have omitted such a damaging admission. Up to this day we have had books of many kinds dealing with the Cuban war; pamphlets put forth by the insurgents and notoriously unfair to Spain; Spanish publications which misrepresented grossly the attitude of the United States; articles in European newspapers almost unanimously censuring the Americans for "robbing" Spain of her colony.

Now, however, we have the facts presented almost without any comments and certainly without embellishment by a Spaniard who loves his country and frankly detests the Americans. Once or twice he registers a protest against the senate's decision concerning the recognition of belligerency or the campaign of defamation directed against him in American papers.

He complains that in March, 1896, when he had the situation well under control, the senate of the United States interfered most unfairly, for it recognized the belligerency of the insurgents, thereby giving them new courage.

This is less convincing than the majority of his arguments, for if we compare dates we find letters in which he admits his failure to stop the progress of the insurrection.

His gravest charge against the United States is contained in the following paragraph, which is too vague to be taken as seriously as some other statements of his:

"The United States were against everything that would bring about a termination of the war—American citizens held several millions worth of Cuban bonds, issued with the provision that the island would pass under the domination of the United States ten years after Cuba would have separated herself from Spain. The Yankees saw that with the pace I set the much-longed-for independence of Cuba and its corollary, the annexation thereof, was becoming a more and more remote possibility. But there was no reason why the peninsula should have robbed all the gossip which originated in America."

But on the whole the picture his letters and reports, as well as the letters of Martinec Campos he publishes, present to our eyes of Cuba in the years preceding the Maine incident would have justified any nation, near or remote, in intervening for the sake of humanity; a population unanimous in its desire for independence; a bloody war which could only lead to an ephemeral peace and at best would have left the island a dreary waste for years to come; the rights of foreign land owners and investors trampled under foot; all this horror had to be stopped.

Spain did not lose Cuba as a consequence of the war with the United States; by the very admission of Spain's military representatives in that ill-fated colony, Cuba was irretrievably lost to Spain in 1897, and the few Spaniards residing in the coast towns, the only safe abode for them, felt themselves a despised, ostracized minority.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

Sunday School Lesson for Sept. 25, 1910
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT—Galatians 5:15-26.
MEMORY VERSES, 22, 23.
GOLDEN TEXT—"If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit."—Gal. 5:25.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.
The adventure with Apollyon the great dragon that fought against Bunyan's Pilgrim, in order to prevent him from reaching the Holy City symbolized a heavenly character, a heaven of eternal life, an earth transformed into heaven.

In the lesson appointed we have a characterization of Apollyon, "the foul fiend," "a mass of hideous to be hold, clothed with scales, with wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion," amid fire and smoke, throwing "flaming darts as thick as hail."

Some years ago, in an article in the New York Journal, John L. Sullivan said: "Remember, young man, that if you couldn't lick John L. Sullivan, you can't lick the thing that is stronger than he is. Leave whisky alone." Sullivan was not the kind of man from whom one expects moral teaching, but when the great fighter admits that whisky defeated him and took him into captivity, he becomes an object-lesson for every young man.

With the newspapers and reporters. The Golden Rule—that is the spirit which wants to do to others as we would have them do to us, the spirit that will make sacrifices in order to know how to help others—enlisted the newspapers and the reporters on its side.

There can be no inspiration without information. Hence the teacher and class should be constantly collecting temperance material. A month before the temperance lesson she should be directed to say to her class, "I want you all to clip from the papers every article of news concerning the effect of the saloon or drink. Paste these on a strip of cloth, and we will see who has the longest strip on Temperance Sunday."

Once in the New Century Teacher there was an article entitled, "Their Exhibits." It told how a teacher asked her scholars to look about during the week for proofs of the evils wrought by the liquor habit. There were some rather unique "exhibits;" one boy brought his bicycle tire that had been cut by a drunken man; others told stories of what they had seen.

This same plan could be utilized for a general exercise on Temperance Sunday. For a first attempt, special arrangements would probably have to be made with individuals or with teachers in order to insure definite reports or "exhibits."

It is reported in the public press that President Taft had turned his back on moderate drinking. At a little dinner at Hot Springs, Va., he not only turned his wine-glass down, but said in response to a query, "Yes, and it is going to stay turned down; I am not going to drink anything again, ever."

In his early life Lincoln was abstemious but not a total abstainer, but he was a keen observer of the effects of intoxicating beverages among his early companions. Very shortly after his removal to Springfield in 1837, he joined a Total Abstinence society.

Seventeen of the presidents of the United States signed the following declaration:

"Being satisfied from observation and experience, as well as from medical testimony, that ardent spirit, as a drink, is not only needless, but hurtful, and that the entire disuse of it would tend to promote the health, the virtue, and happiness of the community, we hereby express our conviction that should the citizens of the United States, and especially the young men, discontinue entirely the use of it they would not only promote their own personal benefit, but the good of our country and the world."

A Pennsylvania lady tells that when General Harrison was running for the presidency he stopped at the old Washington house in Chester for dinner. After dinner was served, it was noticed that the general pledged his toast in water, and one of the gentlemen from New York, in offering another, said, "General, will you not favor me by drinking a glass of wine?" The general refused in a very gentlemanly manner. Again he was urged to join in a glass of wine. This was too much. He rose from the table, his tall form erect and in the most dignified manner replied: "Gentlemen, I have refused twice to partake of the wine-cup. That should have been sufficient. I made a resolve when I started in life that I would avoid strong drink, and I have never broken it."

The boys and girls can join the Golden Rule in a series of very interesting adventures with the doctors, medical societies and laboratories, where from these friends they may obtain ammunition for their warfare against intemperance.

Twenty-three hundred years ago, the question arose whether the Athenians should grant Demosthenes the honor of a crown. He "had fled from battle, and his counsels, though heroic, brought the city to ruin. Demosthenes' speech is the masterpiece of all eloquence. Of the accusation by Aeschines it is praise enough to say that it stands second only to that. In it Aeschines warns the Athenians that in granting crowns they judged themselves and were forming the characters of their children.

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I want any person who suffers with biliousness, constipation, indigestion or any liver or blood ailment, to try my Paw-Paw Liver Pills. I guarantee they will purify the blood and put the liver and stomach into a healthy condition and will positively cure biliousness and constipation. I will refund your money.—Munyon's Monophasic Home Remedy Co., 53rd and Jefferson Sts., Phila., Pa.

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And your shoes pinch, shake into your shoes Allen's Foot-Paste, the antiseptic powder for the feet. Cures tired, aching feet and takes the sting out of Corns and Blisters. Always use it for breaking in New shoes and for dancing parties. Sold everywhere. Sample mailed FREE! Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Distinction.
Milly—Is this picture like your father?
Tilly—Of course not, silly! It is like father when he has his picture taken.—Puck.

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We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.
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Uncle Allen.
"If you're getting old and don't know it," philosophized Uncle Allen Sparks, "you'll find it out when you go back to the town where you grew up and look around for the boys you used to play with when you were a kid."

Taken at His Word.
"Since you are so busy today," said the urbane journalist, "will you kindly tell me when and where I can meet you for an interview?"
"Go to blazes!" exclaimed the irate politician.

True Independence.
You will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps, with perfect sweetness, the independence of solitude.—Emerson.

Tribute to Hold-Up Artist.
"The train doesn't stop at Crimson Gulch any more."
"No," replied Three-Finger Sam. "I'm afraid the town doesn't get much respect from the railroad."
"Respect! Why that railroad is clean terrified. Ever since the news got around that Stage Coach Charley had settled here that train just gives one shrik and jumps out of sight."

Beware the Dog!
A family moved from the city to a suburban locality and were told that they should get a watchdog to guard the premises at night. So they bought the largest dog that was for sale in the kennels of a neighboring dog fancier, who was a German. Shortly afterward the house was entered by burglars, who made a good haul, while the big dog slept. The man went to the dog fancier and told him about it. "Well, vat you need now," said the dog merchant, "is a leedle dog to vake up the big dog."—Everybody's.

Let Us Cook Your Breakfast! Serve Post Toasties with cream or milk and notice the pleasure the family finds in the appetizing crispness and flavour of this delightful food.

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