

ODD DOINGS IN ANTILLES

Quaint Features of Life in Cuba and Porto Rico.

COST AND CONDUCT OF FUNERALS

Where Beggars Ride on Horseback—New Word for Butter—Buying Ice as a Courtesy—Combs for Rent.

Coffins are rented by the day in Cuba and Porto Rico. When a member of a family dies one of the relatives or a friend goes to a "Casa de Funeraria," or public undertaker, and enters into negotiations for a coffin. He does not buy it, but stipulates for the temporary use. The age and height of the late lamented are given, particulars arranged for certain trimmings, and as many mutes as the family purse will permit are engaged. The price charged ranges from \$15 to \$20, according to the size of the coffin, the decorations and the number of mourning mutes. Burials must take place within twenty-four hours of death under penalty of a heavy fine. Horses are seldom used, save for the hearse. When the time set for the funeral arrives, a short service, which the immediate family does not attend, is held, then the coffin is lifted upon the shoulders of four mutes, who are generally clad in white trousers, long black coats, ancient silk hats and high collars. These bouquets of artificial flowers are worn in the buttonhole, but in many cases the coffin bearers are barefooted. At a word given by the master of ceremonies, also furnished by the undertaker,

alleged curios and pawned articles, and the shining of shoes. An American cannot walk three blocks in the ancient capital without being accosted by some native who has a wonderful curio for sale. They approach you with a mysterious air and after a few commonplace remarks about the weather and the mortality of the city hint that you may be able in return for a ridiculously small sum to obtain possession of the most remarkable article ever discovered in the province. If you are new and inexperienced you confess your interest. You are conducted down some narrow, unpaved street to an adobe "shack" and invited to enter. Your Yankee contempt of the native forbids fear and you are soon looking at the wonderful curio. It may be a bit of an American shell, a splinter of wood from the Merrimack's foretop mast, a stone from Morro castle or a bone from the Vizcaya's collection of human remains, but you can rest assured that in nine times out of ten it is a fake and a snare. Sampson's Ear for Sale. Shortly after my arrival in Santiago I was shown a dried, wrinkled object, which the curio sharp insisted was a human ear. It certainly resembled that appendage in a way and I hastened to ask whose particular ear it was. "It once was part of an illustrious American general," the man replied solemnly. "An American general?" I gasped. "Who?" "General Sampson, senior. It very cheap. I sell it for \$25." The evolution of the bootblack in Santiago de Cuba is rather interesting. The genus did not exist prior to the war, as the Spanish military officers and the citizens wore white canvas shoes, which were attended to by the house servants. It was not long after the occupation of the city by the Americans,

certain members of the lower middle class, the clerks and bookkeepers, it is considered the correct thing to cultivate a certain nail of the left hand. In fact, it is visible proof that the wearer does not perform manual labor. They argue ingeniously that a man cannot shovel or work with his hands if he has a finger nail two or three inches long. The "artist" has his regular customers, and he calls daily and polishes and rubs and labors until the pet nail is in proper condition. It is not unusual to find him at work in his customer's store while the latter attends to affairs of trade. It is safe to venture that the custom will not invade this country. It is useful, however, as an additional peculiarity for the edification of Yankee visitors. GOSSIP ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE. Matthew F. M. Sutton, a Baltimore youth who was in the Santiago campaign, who fell of typhoid fever at Montauk Point and was nursed back by Miss Helen Gould, has been presented by her with a large scholarship in the University of New York. Those who had no better luck than to be born into this weary world with cleft palates bore the affliction as best they might, for only in the last decade, since the younger generations show so marked an increase in speech impediments, has science done so much for them. She is doing it now, and so beautifully and thoroughly, that in a case a baby born with a cleft palate, a hair lip and a stammering tongue altogether, proper care in infancy corrects all these infirmities, and there need be no stammering or a more inveterate chatterbox in the blood. The surgeon who closes the opening in the roof of the mouth does it so deftly that no sign of the malformation ever remains, and performs the operation when the child is not more than six weeks old. 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FRESH ROLLS FOR BREAKFAST. PONCE, PORTO RICO.

the procession starts for the cemetery, which may be three or four miles distant. The spectacle furnished by four grotesque negroes swaying and lurching through the uneven streets under the burden of a broad, shallow, black draped coffin, and the thin line of native friends and mourners following in the rear, all puffing away at cigarettes or chattering gaily over some mot of the day, is remarkable. Haste seems to be the main object. At times the procession moves at a trot, never at less speed than a rapid walk. Spectators uncover as the coffin passes, and some make the sign of the cross. The followers lessen as the cemetery is reached, and when the grave is reached there are seldom more than three or four beside the paid mourners. The grave is deep, and at the bottom is a thin layer of quicklime. The body, robed in tawdry finery, is taken from the coffin and literally dumped in. More time is used, then the mutes return to their employer with the coffin. Every Cuban and Porto Rican cemetery is surrounded by immensely thick walls containing rows of niches. These niches are sold to the wealthy for five years, the price ranging from \$40 to \$200, according to the situation. When a body is placed inside a niche the opening is bricked up and plastered. Then the services of a cemetery "artist" are secured and a suitable inscription painted upon the white plastered end. At the conclusion of five years the niche must be paid for again or the remains will be removed to the common burying corner. Beggars Ride on Horseback. Visitors to our new possessions will find a multitude of other queer trades. In fact, almost every trade or profession is conducted differently from the same pursued in the United States. Beggars ride on horseback and block your way upon a croaking to impudently you for a peca. One day recently, while riding in Santiago de Cuba, I noticed a wee native boy following me upon a sorry looking burro. As I passed the Plaza Armas another boy similarly mounted fell in behind. Near the cathedral still another joined the procession. As I spurred up I heard a clattering in the rear and noticed that my escort was plying whips in an effort to keep up. Reining in near the administration building I asked them what they wished. "To hold your horse, senior," they replied in chorus. They would have followed me ten miles for the sake of earning a 5-cent piece. One of the officers on General Guy V. Henry's staff in San Juan, Porto Rico, rented a house in the pretty little capital and sent for his family. A brother officer, ordered home, sold him his furniture, and the moving was placed in the hands of a native hanger-on about the palace. The following morning the staff officer went to his new abode to receive the furniture. It arrived as he reached the house. Coming down the narrow street he saw a strange procession consisting of twelve or more men. The first six were carrying a piano perched upon their heads, and each of the others "toted" a chair or a washstand. A moment later another procession came in sight. There were two heavy iron beds, each borne by three men, an immense dresser, under which tottered two natives, and finally several boys bearing sundry culinary articles and a few odds and ends. "Pan fresco-a-l!" "Heaven and earth, man," exclaimed the officer, "you have engaged a battalion. For goodness sake, what's the bill?" "Doce reales, senior," was the calm reply. "One dollar, 20 cents in American money." Bakers Bread. The Americans living in Cuba, at least that part embraced in the province of Santiago de Cuba, claim that the only one thing worth eating is cooked there. It is the bread. Cuban bakers excel in making rolls. There is little variety, but what they bake is first chop. Bakers work at night, and long before the sun appears the bread vender is crying his wares in the street. He does not travel in a four-wheeled wagon, emblazoned with the name of his employer, but carries the rolls, each neatly wrapped in a leaf or husk, in baskets suspended from the sides of a burro. The vender's melodious cry: "Pan fresco-a-l!" is the alarm clock that wakes the city. There are two new and rather peculiar trades in Santiago de Cuba at present, trades which are the direct outcome of the American occupation. They are the selling of

however, that several of the street Arabes—slegh in their way as their Yankee prototypes—learned to discover that the newcomers liked to have their shoes polished. A good-natured soldier constructed a box with the appropriate footrest and contents, and started one of the boys in business. He did not hold the monopoly more than one day. Within forty-eight hours the vicinity of

in replying to a toast at a recent dinner Joseph H. Chote said: "A reporter asked me last week for this speech. I told him I had no copy. How can I make an old timer speak for me? He said, 'Well, we have Mr. Dewey's in cold type.' Mr. Dewey spoke shortly after. 'The reporter,' he said, 'called on me and said as to Chote, 'I have them all,' but also added, 'Have you any poetry in yours?' Said I, 'No.' 'Well,' said he, 'Chote has. After reading it I came to the conclusion that he must have written it himself.' Prof. Henry C. Mercer of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia says that while traveling some time ago in the County Galway, Ireland, he came across an old cathedral on which was a tablet with an inscription in the original Celtic. Translated it meant: "On this spot James Lynch Mount-Stephen hung his own son." The history of the tablet, as told by Prof. Mercer, is that Mount-Stephen's son while on a voyage from Spain quarreled with a fellow passenger and killed him. Mount-Stephen was the county judge and in the trial, at which he presided, his son was found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. The young man was so popular in Galway that no one could be found to execute the sentence and the father was compelled to uphold the majesty of the law himself. Ex-Governor Fletcher of Missouri, who is visiting in Washington, says: "Of the men who took a prominent part in republican politics in Missouri in the stirring days that preceded the civil war but few are left. Frank Blair, Graetz Brown, Sam Glover and nearly all the rest of my old colleagues have passed beyond the river. I presided over the first republican meeting ever called in Missouri, which was also the first of that kind ever held in a slave state. In 1841 I was elected governor and was inaugurated January 5, 1845. President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation did not

include Missouri, but a state constitutional convention determined on the abolition of slavery so, after that, the Missouri governor should issue a proclamation of freedom. This I issued on the very same day the convention acted. Before this, however, I had freed my own slaves." It is not generally known that a reward was once offered for Senator Morrill's life. He told the story himself at a meeting of the Vermont Historical society about four years ago. "In the early days of the late war," he said, "my picture was put forth by a rebel Virginia newspaper, with an advertisement offering a reward for me, dead or alive, of \$25. That was usually offered for the recovery of runaway slaves. They described me as 'a person who would be expected to have been the author of "Yankee Doodle" rather than of the infernal tariff of 1861.' The picture was, of course, pleasing to the old masters of the south, being after the manner of Hogarth, and I have not learned that it has been made immortal by preservation in any of their historical societies. It will be for posterity to say, if posterity should ever trouble itself to say anything, whether or not Vermonters made a mistake in not surrendering me for the \$25 Virginia reward."

A Double Crop of Apples. On a Long Island farm is an apple tree which bore two crops of fruit the past year, and the farmers are taking unusual interest in the peculiarity of nature. Just as much interest has been shown in Hostetter's Stomach Bitter, a cure for indigestion, constipation and blood disorders that other remedies fail to benefit. In chronic cases it rarely fails, and it cures whenever a cure is possible. Jennings One of the Old James Gang. KANSAS CITY, Jan. 10.—A specter to the Star from Springfield, Mo., says The Jennings, under arrest for complicity in the robbery of the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis Passenger train at Mauch Chunk Tuesday night, has been positively identified by a Kansas City detective as Ryan, who was a prominent member of the famed outlaw gang led by Frank and Jesse James when it operated years ago. When Jennings was searched \$2,500 was found sewed up in his clothes. Elmer Byrnum, son-in-law of Low Neigh, another of the robbers, today directed the authorities to an old barn, where the robbers had secreted \$500 in money. It was recovered.

the clubs and the Cafe Venus swarmed with half-dressed youngsters eager to earn an American dime. They picked up English in a remarkably short space of time, and they even went the Yankee bootblack one better by varying their request according to the color of the prospective customer's shoes. If the color was tan, they would invariably say, "Meester. Care for the brown?" A refusal was met with a choice collection of profane words learned from the army teamsters, but uttered in such whimsical English that it was impossible to show anger. Hokey-Pokey of a New Kind. The "hokey-pokey" of Cuba and Porto Rico is a liquid. It consists of a sweetened, unfermented liquid, made from a plant, and is as much a delight to the native youngster as the Italian microbe-bearing ice cream is to the American boy. The "freco," as it is called, is vended from gaily decorated carts, and the vended announces his presence in a street by sounding a siren upon a cow's horn. After the manner of such men in all climes, he usually frequents the vicinity of the schools. It is a sad commentary on human nature when the purity of the milk of commerce is only accepted when the cow delivers it in person. That is the peculiar condition of affairs in our new possessions. The housewife of Cuba and Porto Rico insists on seeing the cow milked at her door. Hence it is no unusual spectacle to find the narrow street obstructed by a collection of bovine animals, one of which is being industriously robbed of its milk by a native dairyman. This operation a calf plays no unimportant part, it having been found my experience that the mother cow will surrender her store more easily when the calf is given the first chance. There are not many dairy farms in the islands, and butter is almost unknown. In fact, the Spanish word for butter, "mantiquilla," is a recent addition to the vocabulary, it having been derived from "mantea," the word for lard. The selling of ice is another innovation. It is only within the last few years that ice has been known to the natives, and even now it is confounded with snow in the minds of most. In Santiago de Cuba it is indiscriminately called "nieve" and "hielo," the former being snow and the latter ice. It is hauled about in the streets from small covered carts, and is sold by the pound and half-pound at exorbitant prices. The natives from the interior never fail to buy a piece as a curiosity, and their childlike wonderment on seeing it melt in their hands is laughable. There are not many dairy farms in the islands, and butter is almost unknown. In fact, the Spanish word for butter, "mantiquilla," is a recent addition to the vocabulary, it having been derived from "mantea," the word for lard. The selling of ice is another innovation. It is only within the last few years that ice has been known to the natives, and even now it is confounded with snow in the minds of most. In Santiago de Cuba it is indiscriminately called "nieve" and "hielo," the former being snow and the latter ice. It is hauled about in the streets from small covered carts, and is sold by the pound and half-pound at exorbitant prices. The natives from the interior never fail to buy a piece as a curiosity, and their childlike wonderment on seeing it melt in their hands is laughable. There are not many dairy farms in the islands, and butter is almost unknown. In fact, the Spanish word for butter, "mantiquilla," is a recent addition to the vocabulary, it having been derived from "mantea," the word for lard.

both of which languages were familiar to him, could be formed a word. He had relapsed into the condition of a mute when he was put under wise and tender training. With the utmost patience he was carried far back of that point where the average normal child begins to acquire speech. It was necessary to teach him how to breathe, how to exercise his tongue and maintain its proper position, and then, by the most careful drilling in articulation, piece by piece, sound by sound and letter by letter, language was given back to him. In the space of a year his power of easy speech was absolutely restored, so perfectly indeed that he did not hesitate to pronounce the most difficult words and resume his schooling. Exactly the same system is followed in the treatment of adults, and so profoundly has this science of articulation been studied that those who are not within reach of a capable teacher can help their case by adopting a few of the principles on which the course of training is founded. The stammerer can himself learn to expand and develop a feeble pair of lungs by boldly exercising, and increase his vocal power by trying to shout against the roar of the surf, machinery or any noise. Add to this regular exercises in respiration, such as singers adopt, and control of the breath, so important to stammerers, is gained. Following this up by exercises in articulation and very important steps have been taken toward a cure. The practice can be made helpful and valuable by using such simple devices for keeping the teeth apart as placing a pencil or paperknife between them, and then forming the letters that require a free passage between the upper and lower jaw. Learning to keep the head steady and in a natural position when speaking, teaching the lower jaw its flexible duty, taking time and making earnest efforts at self-control, are all means toward advancement that a stammerer can make alone, and thus lay a good groundwork for a teacher of the beneficent modern science to work a cure upon.

A LEARNED TREE. New Jersey Oak that Can Spell Nine Letters of the Alphabet. There is a curious oak tree over on the New Jersey bank of the Hudson river whose gnarled, mishapen branches clearly form nine letters of the alphabet. It is known throughout its neighborhood as the alphabet tree. It stands a few feet back from the water's edge nearly opposite One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street. In the summer its rugged, irregular branches are covered with thick foliage which completely hides the letters traced by the branches, but when the leaves disappear its curious orthography is outlined clearly against the sky. The alphabet tree stands upon historic ground. At the time of the revolution this spot was several times visited by Washington and was once the camp of the colonial army. Washington lived in an old mansion just

back of the river below Fort Lee. The house disappeared years ago, but the shaded driveway leading from the private wharf up to the house still remains with its double row of trees arching above it. One of the most remarkable of the limb formations near the top of the tree forms the letter "R," clearly marked out by half a dozen oddly crooked branches and below it a perfect "H" has been formed in the same way. This combination of letters smacks of royalty and seems strangely out of place in a tree which has sheltered Washington and his men. A little lower down there is a perfect "X" and near it a well defined capital "N."

The lower branches are decorated with an "E," a trifle misshapen, an "L" and a "Z." A curious curved fork at the end of a short, straight limb makes a monster "U," and there are in all three "Y"s on the tree and a creditable capital "P." In addition to these are a couple of other letters not so clearly formed which many persons have discovered. The letters fall, however, to spell or even suggest a single word. Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup always cures cold. A neglected cold may terminate in consumption. Cure your cold in time. Carbon Manufacturers Combine. CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 10.—W. H. Lawrence, president of the National Carbon company, this city, confirms the report that his concern has been absorbed by the carbon combine now being organized. He also confirms the report from Chicago regarding the other companies which will become members of the new organization. He asserted that it is not the intention of the new company to raise prices, but to lower them through cheaper methods of doing business which would be instituted as the result of the consolidation. He refused to accept the presidency of the new company or to become