

VIEW OF MEXICO AND CUBA

David Anderson Writes of His Observations While Traveling.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN OLD HAVANA

First Impressions at Cuban Capital Are Unfavorable, but Many Beauties Are Revealed Later On—Morro Castle.

HAVANA, Cuba, 1902.—To the Editor of The Bee: Leaving Mexico February 20, I traveled over the Southern Mexican railroad to Vera Cruz, a distance of 250 miles; the men and some of the women passengers traveling in smoking in our first-class coaches all day long, much to the annoyance and displeasure of our American women. A gradual descent of 5,000 feet was made between the summit and the Gulf of Mexico.

In all my travels throughout America, I never beheld such a combination of natural picturesque grandeur; the eye was unable to scan and fully appreciate and the tongue is infinitely at a loss to describe it—one continuous panorama of mountain peaks, snowcapped, peering high into the clouds; lovely valleys hundreds of feet below our moving train containing beautiful villas and cities, snugly nestled therein; mountain streams of rushing water gurgling their natural course toward the broad valley leading to the sea; dark tunnels and numerous abrupt curves, all inspired one with feelings of awe and delight, when suddenly the train darts out speedily into an area of plain covered with banana, coconut, pineapple and orange groves, with here and there a large coffee plantation in view.

Vera Cruz is one of the oldest towns on the Mexican coast, with a population of 20,000; it has a beautiful harbor, with numerous piers, reaching far out toward break-water. The city is noted for its fifth and deplorable sanitary condition, much sickness prevailing here the year around. Butzards are utilized as scavengers to carry off the filth. The American consul, visited our party on board the steamship before sailing, furnishing us with an interesting and enjoyable literary entertainment, which was highly appreciated by all on board.

Vera Cruz to Havana.

Our boat, Yucatan of the Ward line, left Vera Cruz, laden with seventy-five passengers, 300 fat cattle, 1,000 crates of bananas, etc. A north wind prevailed along the coast for several days, creating a rough sea and causing much seasickness among the passengers. This fact made vacant many seats at mealtime, but your humble scribbler ate his three meals per day heartily, all day Sunday, Washington's birthday, we could see the territory of Yucatan, twenty to thirty miles off. We touched at Progreso, the only seaport town of Yucatan, where some thirty or forty Indians and Jamaica negroes boarded our vessel for Havana. The main industry of Yucatan is the cultivation of henequen, a plant or fiber that is baled and shipped to the states to be manufactured into binding twine and a variety of cheap rope.

Early Monday morning the captain spied the west end of the Isle of Cuba; a few hours later Morro Castle could be plainly seen from the forward deck, and very soon our vessel was entering the harbor of Havana. Opposite Morro Castle, at the water front, and at the foot of the Prado, were assembled about 15,000 school children, who were being addressed by Governor General Wood and some noted Cuban orators, this being the Cuban Fourth of July, or birthday of their emancipation from the tyrannical government of Spain. The sight of Old Glory floating over Morro Castle, the Fort of Principe, postoffice and other public buildings seemed to imbue everyone with renewed feelings of patriotism and love of country, but when we approached within a few feet of the ill-fated Maine, with its topmast and upper cabin only above water, we were struck with a feeling of regret and reverence for the remnants of that terrible calamity. I learned since arriving here that a contract has been made by the government with Chicago parties to remove the wreck and that it will be on exhibition at the St. Louis exposition.

Personal Impressions and Opinions.

One of the first impressions of Havana, after turning the gauntlet of Cuban and American customs officials, is anything but favorable. The streets are narrow, paved with blocks of stone and just wide enough for two vehicles to pass with difficulty. The sidewalks are of stone blocks and slabs, rough and uneven, about two feet wide, compelling pedestrians to walk Indian style or go into the street. Then you see everywhere a substitute for drays and express wagons, the noisy, unwieldy, high, broad-wheeled box cart, drawn by a small mule or a "bunny pony"; sometimes a yoke of cattle are used and some are drawn by only one ox; these poor beasts of burden are terribly tortured in their work, having to haul heavy loads with their horns and head, instead of the more humane way of drawing with the neck and shoulders. These are a substitute for our omnibuses, are propelled by mule power. Conveyance around



When the story of Chinese atrocities filled the papers and shocked the world, it was the women who drew the pity and sympathy of all. Doubtless many a wife who heard her husband's words of sympathy for these women thought with a pang of the blindness of men to the suffering under their very eyes. It is true. The suffering of women in China was severe but short. Many a wife suffers for years with a daily agony of pain, her nerves shattered, her strength almost gone, and never hears a word of sympathy.

To women such as these Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription brings the opportunity of a new life of health and happiness. It establishes regularly, dries the drains which weaken women, heals inflammation and ulceration, and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well. Accept no substitute for the medicine which works wonders for weak women.

"I had filling of internal organs and had to go to bed every month, had irregular periods, which would continue last but not best. I was cured by Mrs. Alice L. Holmes, of Coalington St., Columbus, Pa. Had also indication of bad throat. I could hardly eat anything. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and Golden Medical Discovery cured me. I took three boxes of the Favorite Prescription and one of the Golden Medical Discovery."

Sick people are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence is held as strictly private and is held confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cleanse the bowels and stimulate the sluggish liver.

the city is the cheapest thing one gets here; you ride anywhere over the city in these rickety affairs for 2 and 4 cents, or you can take a one-horse chair for 25 cents, Spanish money, by the hour. American money commands a premium of 40 per cent, that is to say, you receive \$7 Spanish for \$5 American currency.

A visit to the ancient cemetery of Havana should not be neglected by the tourist. In this old graveyard three hundred thousand souls have been laid away since 1588. All funerals take place in the morning or evening, no women are permitted to attend, and the men walk to the grave in a disorderly manner, smoking, chatting and arguing politics. An aristocrat or noted personage is laid away with great pomp and attention; usually the hearse is handsomely decorated with colors of yellow and red, with a statue in gold on top, and drawn by five or six gaily caparisoned horses, tandem style, covered with gorgeous, plated harness, led by valets in liveried uniform.

The poor class are buried five and six in a grave, laid on boards or planks; they pay for the privilege of interment, or space in the grave, by the year; if the rent becomes due and unpaid the remains are exhumed and carried to the bone yard and there cast into a deep cistern or reservoir.

Rates of Transportation. The price of traveling by rail in Cuba is five and six cents per mile, and poor accommodations at that; there are now several hundred miles of railway operated, with several new roads projected and under construction.

We were conducted through and around Morro Castle by an American soldier, who showed us many points of interest. In our perambulations one surprise followed another; one becomes confused and amazed at the knowledge of ancient engineering and mechanical masonry practiced hundreds of years ago by the Latins. Massive stone walls of stone twenty to fifty feet high and three to six feet wide, perforated with port holes at intervals of every four or five feet, with secret passageways and avenues, almost bewildering a person. Fifty years ago these battlements and their environment were considered impregnable, and at present could withstand a powerful siege or onslaught. Our attention was directed to a round iron grate laid in the stone floor covering a vault one hundred feet deep that was used during the Spanish regime for the burial of convicts and criminals who could not live and would not die. Along the side of a high wall we were shown a prominent mark, which was used as a dead line, where prisoners were stood up to be shot down. A light house is erected above Morro at the entrance of the harbor, where all visitors obtain a splendid view of Havana and the country around. Situated opposite Morro, on Havana side, is Fort Principe, the guns of which also cover the entrance to the harbor. Its general construction is similar to Morro; one submarine tunnel, two miles in length connects this fortification with the old cathedral and nursery on San Agnico.

Trip Across the Island.

A trip across the island by rail to Batabona was participated in by a jolly crowd of excursionists. Batabona is situated on the west side of the island, overlooking the Caribbean sea; it is celebrated for its production of sponge, which is taken from the ocean and shipped to all parts of the world. Last evening the American Military band gave an exhibition in Central park, principally for the edification of American tourists, of whom hundreds were present, giving vent to their admiration of the Yankee airs played in their usual manner. Havana is adorned with some of the handsomest parks and plazas to be seen anywhere, while a few of its prominent streets, notably the Prado, are paved with asphalt, and shaded on either side with beautiful trees, natural to this tropical region.

In this city, as in Mexico, all buildings are of stone, stucco and concrete, with large open spaces or courts in the center, massive columns in front and galleries all around; doors and windows are of double thickness and width, firmly secured with iron bars and bolts. One would naturally conclude that in the last century the whole place was overrun with brigands and outlaws.

In the most ancient house of worship in Cuba, the old cathedral on San Agnico street, is where the remains of Christopher Columbus lay buried since the fifteenth century, until recently, when his remains were sent to Spain in accordance with a stipulation in our treaty of peace with that country.

Inauguration of New President.

General Wood informs me that Estrada Palma, first president of this new republic, will be inaugurated and take executive control about April 15. I find that many citizens of Havana sadly deplore the departure of American troops, especially the Spanish population, who seem to be the most prominent in commercial and agricultural pursuits. The question of self-government or annexation is a mooted one and many minglings are freely expressed concerning the final outcome of the new experiment.

Governor Savage and Editor Brown

LINCOLN, Neb., March 6, 1902.—Mr. M. A. Brown, Editor, Omaha, Neb. Sir: In a letter addressed to you under recent date I expressed the desire that the next time you were in Lincoln you would accord me a personal interview relative to the wisdom and justice of my act in commuting the sentence of Joseph E. Bartley. My object in desiring to converse with you was not so much to convince you of the righteousness of my act as it was to ascertain if you had any intention or were so financially situated as to pay the state all or a portion of the money due it indirectly from you.

It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact that thousands of dollars of the state funds deposited by State Treasurer Bartley were lost through the failure of banking houses of Kearney during the panic. In each instance the receiver of the insolvent bank found the failure primarily due to the making of unsafe and poorly indemnified loans.

One of the banks that closed its doors, the Kearney National, in which the state had \$6,000 deposited and which it lost, at the time it failed carried among its assets a note and obligations amounting almost to \$14,000. The receiver found that on very limited and what most bankers would regard poor security you had procured loans from that institution until you were among the largest, if not the largest, debtor of the bank. When the receiver undertook to realize on some of the assets he was unable to find a purchaser who would give anywhere near the face value and finally was compelled to sell notes representing thousands of dollars for a few paltry dollars. Your notes, which you gave to an amount approximately \$14,000, were part of the assets thus sold.

Now, in all due fairness, I submit this question: Which is the real culprit, the man who deposited the money in the bank lawfully and presumably in good faith or the man who borrowed it from the bank and never paid it back? It was the making of just such loans that closed the doors of many banking establishments where Treasurer Bartley had funds on deposit and that made it impossible for the banks to settle with him and for him with his successor when the time came for him

Advertisement for Shiverick Furniture Co. featuring 'Easter Opening' and 'Easter Sale'. Includes an illustration of a dining room and the text: 'Shiverick Furniture Co. GRAND Easter Opening Tuesday, March 20th. WE WILL PRESENT EVERY LADY VISITOR WITH A ROSE. Easter Opening Sale. OUR EASTER SALE—We will display some of the highest class novelties ever displayed by any furniture department in Omaha.'

Advertisement for Shiverick Furniture Co. featuring 'Artistic Furniture' and 'The Dining Room'. Includes illustrations of furniture and the text: 'Artistic Furniture. You can pay a great deal of money at some stores and yet your home will be filled with gaudy, unharmonious pieces of furniture. The Dining Room. A good, solid, substantial dining table and showy chairs speak of good dinners and pleasant company.'

government. A great many predict, with evident satisfaction, that the American government will be in supreme control here before twelve months and that the newly elected president hesitates in taking his seat for fear of an uprising and probable assassination. The progressive and magnificent improvements made here by Uncle Sam during a period of two years seem like a miracle, as evidenced in the great reduction of the death rate, from 175 to 15 and 20 per day. There is not a healthier city today in the United States than Havana. Our government, and also the various Christian denominations, not only in Havana, but throughout Cuba, are putting forth a determined and wholesome effort toward christianizing and educating the Cubans, especially the children. The question of a proper tariff to fit the wants and conditions of these people, which is now so perplexing the administration and republican statesmen, is one of

Advertisement for Diamond 'C' Premium Store. Includes text: 'New Location, Diamond "C" Premium Store. April 1st, or thereabouts, we will move our Diamond "C" Premium Store from 1611 Farnam St., to 304 S. 16th St.—just 'round the corner from the present location. The move is in line with the tendency of the times—to centralize on the busiest street in Omaha. We will celebrate the occasion by redeeming wrappers at double the regular rate—that is, during April, one wrapper will count for two in exchange for premiums. 10 will count for 20, and 50 for 100. Call and examine the premiums. You will be surprised to find what an attractive line we have and how easily they may be obtained. The Cudahy Packing Co.'