

SOME EFFECTS OF THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF CUBA.

The story of the reconstruction of Cuba, by Franklin Matthews, is to be published in September under the title "The New-Born Cuba." Judging from the papers as they appeared in Harper's Weekly, this will be one of the most interesting books of the war. No one, unless he has read the book, can really appreciate the magnitude of the task that faced the American army of occupation, or the admirable way in which order was brought out of chaos. There were also many amusing features connected with the reconstruction which are well described by Mr. Matthews.

"The most striking signs of American military occupation," according to Mr. Matthews, "outside of the actual presence of our soldiers, were the placards posted up in every cafe and drinking place in the city to the effect that by order of General Ludlow positively no alcoholic liquors were to be sold to our soldiers. Everywhere in Havana there were brilliant lithographs advertising various brands of American beer. It was a wonder that some enterprising agent had not plastered the sides of Morro Castle with these signs. One would think, from the number of them in town, that we were simply a nation of beer-guzzlers. One noticed with satisfaction, to offset this, that in many of the shops were signs, 'English Spoken Here,' and American bicycle stores, typewriting establishments, haberdashery stores were a pleasant relief to 'Greater New York Cafes,' 'St. Louis Cabinets,' and 'Chicago Retreats' that had sprung up on all sides. The American occupation of Havana came home to me with a jar one day when I was passing through busy Obispo street, as I read this sign:

**"STOP, AMERICANS!
CHEWING-GUM SOLD HERE!
TEN CENTS A PACKAGE!"**

"It was not wise to take too seriously the sign 'English Spoken Here.' The interpreter frequently lived, or did business, half a block away, and sometimes he could not be found. When he did arrive, his English was likely to correspond to an advertisement that I saw at the entrance to a barber shop. It read: 'Very good works made here.' Here is the advertisement of an 'American restaurant,' taken from its business card:

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"It will be observed that there is more trouble with spelling than with syntax in that sentence. Here is an extract from a circus handbill printed in 'English':

"Special collection of train dogs introducing Domestical Dogs and ETC presented by Mr. Antoni Pubillones."

"And so the American military occupation of Havana unfolded itself to the visitor."

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