

The Guiding Spirit of the Cuban Revolution.

Dramatic and Eventful Career of the Cuban Delegate, Tomas Estrada Palma.

From the Times-Herald.

Tomas Estrada Palma is the grand old man, the Benjamin Franklin of Cuba. As Franklin pleaded in the courts of Europe for recognition of the freedom and independence of the United States, so Palma has pleaded in this country for the recognition of Cuba. Like all Cubans, he has seen dark days, and his pleading has seemed in vain. But hope is brighter now and better days are dawning.

LITTLE KNOWN.

Comparatively little is known by the American public of the personality of Tomas Estrada Palma. No complete sketch of him has ever been published. Yet there is no man whose life has been more intimately associated with the modern history of Cuba, none whose career is more characteristic of the heroic sacrifices willingly made by the patriots of the island in their ardent and arduous pursuit of liberty.

Slightly built and below the average height the frailness of Minister Palma's physique is what first impresses one in his appearance. He looks old in the sense of one who has gone through a great deal and suffered much, but the casual observer would allow for premature aging and hardly compute the years of his life at 63. His features are not regular, his complexion has the dingy look of old parchment marked with light brown spots like the specks often seen on ancient documents. His straight, dark hair, now grizzled and no longer thick is somewhat long. His dark brown eyes are not strong, the left being marked by a peculiar distortion. His straggling gray mustache, with a wide parting under the nose, fails to hide the thin-lipped mouth. The loss of two front teeth accentuates the strength of the mouth by compressing the lips, and adds to the appearance of old age.

Altogether there is something sinister about the ordinary appearance of this experienced revolutionist. But there is a change when his face lights, as he wears eloquent over the bitter wrongs of Cuba. Mr. Palma speaks with much confidence and some difficulty and with a marked accent. But his speech is most expressive and in his own tongue he is an orator of convincing force.

ELOQUENT ON CUBA'S WOUNDS. He talks freely to those he can trust, and seldom makes mistakes in that matter. At such moments his eyes almost blaze and his face glows with enthusiasm. He seems another man from him whose appearance a moment before was commonplace, if not actually repellent. The almost furtive look, due to years of intrigue and conspiracy, and the shadowing of Spanish spies, disappears at those times and the man shines forth. It is then that one realizes the amount of nervous energy confined in that insignificant, weak-looking man and understands the powerful magnetism which has made Palma one of the greatest Cuban instances. It is then that one sees why his is a name to conjure with among his countrymen, and one feared and hated by Spanish tyrants who have failed utterly in their many attempts to subdue him.

STUDIED AT SEVILLE. While Palma was still a boy his father died. Soon after he went to fit himself for the law by study at the University of Seville. Graduated there and admitted to practice, Estrada went back to his mother at Bayamo. He never practiced law. Little observation of conditions in Cuba was needed to convince him that where corruption held sway and pure justice was only a dream, the practice of law must be a mockery for an honest man. His life was devoted to the administration of his estates and the study of governmental conditions under which Cuba was treated only as a source of revenue for Spain or the aggrandizement of officials remarkable for cupidity, corruption and cruelty.

When the first suggestion of uprising was heard in 1868 Palma became interested, and in 1867, when the country was in the throes of intrigue, which gave birth to the revolution, he threw himself heart and soul into the conspiracies which had independence for their object. His ability and social eminence soon made him a leader, and he became the bosom friend of such men as Cespedes and Aguilera, the first president and vice president, respectively. When Cespedes raised the standard of revolt Oct. 10, 1868, Palma freed his slaves, raised all he could from his tax-drafted estates and aided the movement in 1867, when the country was in the throes of intrigue, which gave birth to the revolution, he threw himself heart and soul into the conspiracies which had independence for their object.

The detachment of which he was a member was surprised one day in Pal-

school for the children of Spanish-Americans from the republics of the western hemisphere was opened. It was at the high tide of prosperity when the call of patriotic duty was heard again, and the school was abandoned. It is commonly said that Palma is the head of the Cuban junta in the United States. That is a mistake, due to the inaccuracy which revived a familiar term to describe something to which it does not properly apply. There is no junta now. There was such a body, with headquarters in New York, during the ten years' war, which raised upward of \$2,000,000 for the Cuban cause, but there is none now. Its place being taken to some extent by a delegation, comprising a president, or delegate, a secretary and a treasurer, elected by the Cuban junta in the various cities of this country, Chicago, in Central and South America, the West Indies and Mexico. In times of activity it is essential that "there should be their power centralized for executive and advisory purposes. This purpose is served by the delegation in New York elected by the associated clubs, which simply represents Cuban revolutionists abroad and is the ally of the home government.

HEAD OF REVOLUTIONISTS. In July, 1895, Palma was elected dele-

ON THE RUINS OF SPAIN.

The following table shows the population and area of the republics that have arisen from the ruins of the Spanish-American empire, according to the last census in each:

Table with 4 columns: Republic Name, Population, Area Square Miles, and Area Square Miles. Includes Mexico, Republic of Honduras, Republic of Guatemala, etc.

It will be seen that having lost twice as much territory as there is in all Europe, the Spaniards have lost a population at least half again as large as that of all Spain. The table does not, however, include the vast territories which were once claimed by Spain and are now part of the United States, and the great states of Texas and California, the vast territory north of which is now Louisiana and west of the Mississippi river, which was governed by a Spanish captain general in New Orleans, the present state of Florida, including the present city of St. Petersburg, and the territory of the United States, is greater, more valuable, and far richer in the possibilities of future development than the whole of the Iberian Peninsula.

gate by the clubs to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Jose Marti. He thereupon gave up his school, made his headquarters at the Astor House and only occasionally had a glimpse of his family at Central Valley. But Tomas Estrada Palma is also minister or delegate plenipotentiary abroad of the republic of Cuba, authorized to appoint its delegates to other powers wherever and whenever he sees fit. This important office, conferred by the Cuban government in Sept., 1895, is altogether apart from his position as delegate of the associated clubs. As the representative of the Cuban government it has been his duty to appeal to the state department of this country for recognition from time to time, thus far with no official success. It has been his business to appeal to the public, maintain popular interest, and aid and comfort the revolutionists by collecting funds and in every way possible. That he has been highly successful all know who have watched the movement at all closely. Now there is a renewed vigor in the man, his step is lighter, his eye brighter and his whole aspect less anxious and more confident than of late. He sees the signs of dawn. Always convinced that Cuban independence must come, he feels now that it is coming quickly, and already he discovers the glimmer of its day star on the horizon.

ANCIENT TIMEPIECES.

Preachers Measuring Their Sermons by Hour-glasses in the Pulpit.

We need not do more than allude to the habits after the reformation, and especially in Scotland, of preachers measuring their discourses by the hour-glasses in the pulpit. These marked an hour exactly. Those first made by Charlemagne's day ran for twelve hours. Alfred the Great hit upon a method of measuring time which shows that there was no Saxon one, though very probably some of the monasteries used them the only method which were acquainted with water clocks and hour-glasses, if not by practical knowledge, at any rate by hearsay.

However, the kingdom in general followed Alfred's plan, which, though ingenious, necessarily "kicked anything like the accuracy of the other inventions. Yet the king's idea was hailed as a wonderful effort of genius, which, for such an era by comparison with the general ignorance, it was. As every schoolboy (in this case literally) knows, Alfred marked time by nightlights. Middle-aged people still remember its use in the nursery at night, and the reflection of the circular holes in the tall metal shades on the ceiling. Alfred, says an ancient authority, "that he might prosper know how the hours passed, made use of burning tapers which were marked with lines and fixed in lanterns, an expedient invented by himself" (so, by the way, were, in 892, the lanterns of scraped horn, which still some old-fashioned rustics prefer to glass). But tapers, however, were then very expensive. The King might himself use these, but probably the rushlight was used by people in general.

A CAUTION TO CYCLISTS.

How a Certain Form of Exhaustion May be Avoided.

Every sport, like every occupation or profession, has some maladies that are peculiar to it. This malady may result from over-indulgence in the sport, or from too assiduous application to the pursuit, or it may be caused by a very modest indulgence or application by one who is especially susceptible by reason of some constitutional peculiarity.

There are several troubles, more or less serious, which have been found to be due to abuse of the health-giving wheel, and doubtless as time goes on others will be discovered. The most serious ill-effect that has yet come to light, apart from the heart injury that may be so easily induced by "scorching," is a form of nervous exhaustion following overiding. This is practically the same affection as that which may result from any physical or mental labor prolonged beyond the limits of the body's endurance; but its onset is in a particularly insidious in the case of wheel-riders.

Powerful Money-Saving Opportunities in Draperies and Curtainings

THIS MORNING at 8 o'clock, we place on sale in the Main aisle, Lackawanna avenue entrance, a big consignment of Drapery Stuffs and Curtainings---the biggest invoice of these goods we have ever had. They came to us from two of the biggest and best known manufacturers in the country. They are high class goods---better than has ever been brought to Scranton---the equal of any you'll find in New York or Philadelphia.

You've moved into your new home---or you're brightening up the old one at the Spring-time season. Hence this great sale commencing today---for your benefit. You'll find a wonderful array of offerings. There were too many of them for our Upholstery Department on the third floor. So we propose to devote the ENTIRE MAIN AISLE, running from Lackawanna avenue through the store, to the selling of them. Come---expecting to find Bargains. You'll not be disappointed---we promise you that.

- SILKOLINES, in all the pretty new shades, 12 1/2c quality, for this sale at 6c. GOLDEN DRAPERIES, Simpson's finest grades, light effective draperies, worth 18c; for this sale at 10c. FRENCH FISH NETS, handsome double bordered goods, lacy centers and dainty borders, 18c quality; for this great sale at 12 1/2c. ART DENIMS, 36 inches, in the newest effects, 20-cent quality; for this sale at 14c. CURTAIN SCRIM, 40 inches, good quality, worth 8c; for this great sale at 4c. CURTAIN SWISS, 36 inches wide, very good quality and worth fully 14c yard; For this great sale at 9c. CRETONNES, light, airy colors, 36 in. and washable, 18c. quality; for this sale at 12 1/2c. FANCY ETAMINE, pretty stripes, for windows, wears well, washes well, worth 15c; this sale at 8c. FRENCH FISH NETS, fifty inches wide, superb quality, best weaves and designs, worth 30c; for this great sale at 17c. CURTAIN LOOPS, for lace and Swiss Curtains, will wash nicely, worth 10c. pair; for this sale at 5c.

EXTENSION RODS, 42 inches wide, worth 10c; for this great sale at 6c. CURTAIN SWISS, 36 inches wide, very good quality and worth fully 14c yard; For this great sale at 9c.

MAIN AISLE--LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

Jonas Long's Sons

away by his companions, and we could not find them. "Later we learned that the man went under the name of 'Yellow Tom' and was an all-around bad man. Two days before we reached Dawson he had shown up with a big lot of gold dust, which it is now plain was stolen for the men he murdered. Stronger proof than this has been furnished, and which was once by one of our Dead Mule Valley party. This was unearthed in a second-hand supply store, along with some guns and blankets, which I had no trouble in identifying, and the proprietor said positively he had bought the stuff from 'Yellow Tom'."

WAR "EXTRAS" OF 1861.

How the News of the Firing on Sumter Was Spread in a Western Town. From the Sun.

"I remember the news of the beginning of the civil war as it came to our town," said a man who is not yet a veteran. "I was about 16 years old. I was returning home in the afternoon. I saw coming toward me a horse ridden, as I recall it, maddly, by a man. As they came nearer I heard the man shouting. The horse was blowing like a locomotive. I noticed that the man rode bareback. Evertime he yelled he plunged his heels into the sides of the horse. I do not remember the exact words of the rider, but they were about 'war beginning.' As he rode people in the street who saw him stoned, hooted, and asked one another about it, many windows along the way were hoisted, and as I proceeded homeward the women who knew me called from the lookouts and asked me what 'that man' said about the war. "When I reached home I found my mother's parlors a scene of confusion. The neighbors had called in to tell her what they knew and to ask what she knew about the war. The negroes about our house were frightened. One of them took refuge in the cellar and came out only after she had been threatened. Her fear was the 'abolitionist.' The word 'Yankee' as an opprobrious epithet had not at that time come into use. "There was a Dutch hotel in the town on the roof of which was a triangle. For many years it was the town clock. It dated out the hour for the three meals, breakfast, dinner and supper, and when it sounded the housewives looked at their timepieces. This triangle clanged out that afternoon before supper time. An earthquake would have caused no more commotion. The proprietor of the tavern beat the triangle until the city marshal made him stop it. "There were two newspapers in the town and each one got out what was called an 'extra.' It was not such like the extra of this generation. The news of the firing on Sumter consisted of less than 200 words, was printed on a small slip of white newspaper and was set in the same width as the columns of the papers which issued them. There was no advertisement or other news on the slips. These extras sold for 25 cents a piece. From that time until the close of the war that was the sort of 'extra' that was issued by the papers in the town where I lived. "A long time afterward I heard talk about the man who rode the horse and who spread the news. He was the son of the town miller. I never heard where he got his information, but as soon as he heard it he mounted the horse that had been hitched to the rack in front of his mill and carried the news of his own accord. There were four boys in that miller's family. They enlisted early for the Confederate cause. Not one of them returned. The one who spread the news was killed somewhere in the Wilderness. At least, he was known to

AMERICA'S LOCUST KILLER.

Professor Bruner Makes a Report on This Subject.

A letter received Saturday from Prof. Lawrence Bruner, now in Argentina Republic, says that the Merchants' Committee there wishes him to put in six months in addition to the year he contracted for to study the locust plague and devise remedies. In the Buenos Aires Herald of December 24, appears an article taken from Professor Bruner's preliminary report to the Merchants' Committee. Some extracts are given to show why the American scientist has accomplished his important work. "The destruction of the 'winged' insects as carried on by the Government commissions during the past four or five months has been very satisfactory. In its results, at least 30,000 tons have been destroyed as near as I can judge from the reports placed at my disposal. Allowing 400,000 insects to the ton, this would give a grand total of 12,000,000,000, or sufficient to cover 400 square miles of surface so thickly that there would be ten locusts on each square yard. If in estimating we allow one-half to be female and each female to have deposited 100 eggs, then sufficient locusts have been destroyed to have covered a possible 20,000 square miles. To this destruction of winged insects we must add at least 10,000 eggs that have also been destroyed. "To say that all this reduction in the number of locusts in the country means nothing would be ridiculous in the extreme. Why, if this same class of warfare can be kept up during the next few months--and I cannot see why it cannot--the pest will be nearly or quite in the power of its natural enemies inside of another year. This, too, without disease. "But this is not enough. We should see that it is not only brought within the control of its enemies but that it is entirely exterminated from the country, so that its natural enemies can devote their attention to some of the other locusts or grasshoppers that are showing a tendency to increase in various parts of the republic, and of which six or seven kinds have already come to my notice. "From the study of the habits of the locusts Professor Bruner has recommended that the destruction be actively carried on when the young are just hatched, as they then pile up about roots of plants on the ground. Wire bushes, whips, flails, paddies, and shovels are quite effective, as also are torches, and gases saturated with oil or similar appliances. Driving flocks of sheep or horses over a field filled with the young insects or even older ones is also practiced. Barriers of zinc and smooth substances that the young locusts cannot climb and trenches and traps for catching them to great destruction are also recommended. "The professor also says that the natural enemies of the locusts, the birds, frogs, toads, snakes, lizards, armadsillos, moles, flies, wasps and beetles--must also be encouraged and not destroyed. The professor is also experimenting with three diseases which attack the locusts and which may by propagation help to thin out the pest--Nebraska State Journal.

"HE KISSED HER BACK."

"The sweetest girl I ever did spy Was Sally Black. She kissed me on the cheek, and I-- I kissed her back." Thus sang a poet yesterday. In jocular mood. When Sally kissed his cheek--heard by, And called it good.

Yet, still, his chivalry, we doubt, Was rather slack. When Sally kissed his cheek--the loudest he "kissed her back."

Her mouth, by thin, her cheeks, her eyes. Were fit to smirk; And yet, he says, to our surprise, "I kissed her back."

Great Scott! The greatest reason this I ever read; A maiden's lips refuse, and kiss Her back instead.

Perhaps his youthful fancy, shy, Deemed it unorthodox; But soon, the rogue, would learn to pry Her pretty mouth.

And after years of life's alloy, With Sally Black, It still remains his chiefest joy To "kiss her back."

Dear brother bard, forgive, I pray, The joke we crack; The debt of gratitude to pay-- I'll take it back.

--W. B. Hold, in Buffalo News.