

# 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.

Palma's present position in the struggle for Cuban independence is that of head of the diplomatic service and delegate or chief of the revolutionary clubs. "Why don't he go home and fight if he is so anxious for Cuba's liberty?" is a question that has been asked about him more than once. But it is easily answered. Palma has fought for his country and his flag. He has seen his mother practically murdered by Spanish marauders; his father's estates confiscated by Spanish officials. Twenty years and more ago he led Cuban troops against their Spanish oppressors; later he served as president of the republic. While in that position he was betrayed and captured and spent some years in a Spanish dungeon. Through one and another of these experiences he has reached the age where he can be of more service to his country in a diplomatic way than in the field. He has left the fighting to younger men, and as minister plenipotentiary to this country he has done his native land a service which probably no other could have done.

### 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 arduous 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 defect. 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 freely and with 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 these 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 seduce him.

It was on July 9, 1835, that Tomas Estrada Palma was born on the largest of his father's estates at Bayamo, in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba. His father, a man of the wealthiest and most respected landowners in Cuba, his holdings comprised hundreds of thousands of acres, most of them devoted to the breeding and rearing of cattle. Besides the income from the estates, the family derived a large revenue from the sale of mahogany and other woods found in its forests and had also a sugar mill. One indication of the estate's great extent may be found in the fact that the more ordinary gathering of the honey from it was sold for \$1,800 a year. There the boy was brought up in luxury until old enough to study at the best school afforded by Havana.

**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-drawn estates and aided the movement in the mountains of the field, and with him to the hardships of camp life went his devoted mother.

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

ma's absence by the Spanish. Estrada's mother was captured and compelled to walk in the rear of the troops. Her strength gave out and she was abandoned alone and helpless in the woods. There she was discovered by her son with a search party, having had no food for two weeks. In three days she died, and the son, to whom Spanish cruelty had been brought home so closely, became more determined than ever in devotion to the cause by which the yoke of the oppressor was to be broken.

"INDEPENDENCE OR DEATH."

After the capture of Bayamo, which quickly followed the outbreak of the war, Palma was elected to the Cuban assembly. Under Spaurino's presidency Palma became secretary of the republic.

**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:

Republic	Population.	Area Square Miles.
Mexican Republic	9,988,011	767,085
Republic of Honduras	239,098	45,690
Republic of Guatemala	1,483,240	29,993
Republic of Costa Rica	290,993	21,000
Republic of Salvador	887,253	7,222
Republic of Nicaragua	420,999	49,290
Republic of Ecuador	821,519	281,519
United States of Venezuela	2,232,527	509,943
Argentine Republic	3,952,900	1,778,195
Republic of Colombia	3,578,000	513,818
Republic of Chile	2,963,858	290,993
Republic of Paraguay	422,999	96,000
Republic of Peru	2,621,844	463,717
United States of Brazil	16,239,238	3,293,778
Republic of Ecuador	821,519	281,519

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, such as the great states of Texas and California, the vast territory north of the Mississippi river, which was governed by a Spanish captain general in New Orleans, the present state of Florida, and including the Florida territory, the population of former Spanish territory now within 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.

In that capacity he framed and was the real author of the famous decree issued by Spaurino. That decree was that any Cuban found negotiating for peace on terms which failed to recognize the absolute independence of the island republic was a traitor and should be shot. This is the decree recently revived by the present Cuban government, under which Ruiz met his end. "Independence or death" was Palma's motto then, has been ever since and is now.

Spaurino having resigned, the Cuban assembly elected Palma president, March 23, 1878. The scene was impressive in its extreme simplicity. Standing with his right hand on the Cuban constitution, Palma swore to obey and execute it and all other Cuban laws honestly and truly. He bore well the onerous duties of the presidency until he fell a victim to Spanish forces through Cuban treachery. While in Porto Principe two Cubans were brought before him charged with negotiating for peace on a basis which did not recognize the absolute independence of the island. At the trial of the accused Palma presided, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. The other was named Verona, who had once been a close friend. There ensued in the president's mind a conflict between duty and friendship. But duty prevailed, and Verona was executed. The only concession to his own feelings made by Palma being that he was not the judge who sentenced his friend. The man whom Palma condemned managed to escape. He had learned that Palma was to start eastward on a journey to Santiago. He knew the route by which the president would travel and he followed him. He was a Spanish authority. He served as guide for a force of several thousand Spanish soldiers, who waylaid and captured the president, whose imprisonment Spain so earnestly desired.

### IN TWO SPANISH CASTLES.

It is a remarkable tribute to Palma's influence and to Spain's mistaken estimate of his character that in the hope of reducing him to subservient his captors treated him with a courtesy and consideration in striking contrast to their wonted methods. He was taken first to Havana, and imprisoned five days in Morro Castle. In that time the captain general of the island sought by every means to transform the patriot into a renegade. The prisoner was told that if he would take the oath of allegiance to Spain his vast estates, all of which had been confiscated, would be restored, with free pardon and public office. Every offer was firmly refused. Then Palma became an exile as well as a prisoner. He was sent to Spain and imprisoned in the castle of Plouras. There, too, he was treated remarkably well for a Spanish prisoner, the idea apparently being that, though he could never be coerced, he might be coaxed into submission. One approach after another was made to him, but all were scorned. In a Spanish prison, in Spain, at the mercy of Spaniards, he defied the Spanish government.

With the subsequent surrender of the revolutionists came Palma's liberty. With liberty returned temptation to play the renegade. It came in new and more insidious forms than ever. Yet it was never a temptation to this man who spurned it as an insult. Sum of money, the restoration of his estates, a high position under the Spanish government—all these were offered if he would take the oath of allegiance to Spain, and all were rejected.

### BACK TO THE NEW WORLD.

Upon his liberation Palma traveled to New York by way of Paris. In the new world the ex-president of the Cuban Libre which had vanished cast about for an honest means of livelihood. He made his way to the Republic of Honduras. There he was among friends and sure of sympathy. He became postmaster general. He fell in love with the daughter of President Guardiola and married her. He brought his wife to the United States. In Orange county, New York, they bought a piece of property, at Central Valley, and established their home. They have six children, the oldest of whom is 15, and the youngest 1 1/2 years old. A

# 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
- 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 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
- CURTAIN SCRIM, 40 inches, good quality, worth 8c; for this great sale at 4c
- 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

MAIN AISLE—LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

# Jonas Long's Sons

away by his companions, and we could not find the body. "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 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 backward. Evertime he yelled he plunged his heels into the side 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 parlor 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 changed 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. Very bushes, whips, flails, paddies, and shovels are quite effective, as also are torches, and are 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, armadillos, 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."

This name is not yesterday. In jocular mood. When Sally kissed me, she kissed me on the cheek, and I— And called it good.

Yet, still, his chivalry, we doubt, Was rather slack. When Sally kissed me, she kissed me on the cheek—the lout— He "kissed her back."

Her mouth, by thin, her cheeks, her eyes. Were full 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. Reid, in Buffalo News.