

THE CAPTURE OF HAVANA IN 1762

The Way the British Did the Job 136 Years Ago.

SPANISH MARKSMANSHIP ABOUT AS BAD THEN AS IT IS NOW—THE ATTACK BY LAND AND BY SEA AND THE REDUCTION OF THE PORTS. THE STORY AS IT IS TOLD IN AN ENGLISH OFFICER'S DIARY.

From the New York Sun.

There was a time when Havana was believed to be impregnable, but that belief was dissipated when the British flag was raised over the city on Aug. 13, 1762. The change in the methods and appliances of warfare in more than a century makes the taking of Havana by the United States in the present war a very different task from that which was accomplished by Admiral Sir George Pocock and Lieutenant General George Keppel, Earl of Albemarle, in 1762. The beginning of hostilities between England and Spain at that time came toward the end of the French and English colonial wars. Spain undertook to help France, England declared war, and determined to take away from Spain her West Indian possessions, beginning operations with the capture of Havana.

Havana was then a small walled city. There were battlements outside the city, one where the present battery is now, and another between that and the Plaza Cibeles at the eastern edge of the mouth of the harbor. Then there were Morro Castle and another castle called the Colina, off toward Guanabacoa. From Plaza Cibeles, just inside the Morro a great iron chain had been stretched, and back of that a number of vessels had been sunk in the channel. The Spanish fleet of formidable proportions lay within the harbor. Thomas Maitland, commander of the "Ten Year's War," and during part of it a soldier in the English army, gives this description of Morro Castle as it was in that day.

It was, he said, "a fort built upon a narrow rocky land, to the north of the town, which is large enough to hold a garrison of 1,000 men, with all the necessary provisions to resist a long and vigorous siege. It contains very good magazines and two systems which afford plenty of water. As it stands on steep rocks it is inaccessible from the sea, which hedges its foundations. It is fortified to the east by two bastions, a curtain, and a good covered way with a dry ditch, half of which is cut in solid rock. It commands the fort. It is built on the opposite side of the harbor's mouth and part of the town from its three bastions to the north. A little more within the harbor and on the Morro side is a battery built of stone called the Twelve Apostles, and a little higher up another called the Shepherd's Battery, and above these a chain of hills called the Cavaneros (Mr. Maitland was not a great Spanish scholar apparently, for he clearly refers to the hills where the Cavaneros fort is now situated) extend themselves from the Morro to the Plaza of Guanabacoa. These hills commanded the town and the docks and can always be protected by the ships lying in port."

THE AUTHENTIC JOURNAL.

A writer for the Washington Post has found a monograph printed at Charing Cross, London, in 1782, which purports to be the "authentic journal of the siege of Havana by an officer." The fleet was under the command of Admiral DuRoi. He had nineteen ships of the line, eighteen frigates, sloops of war, and mortar boats. The landing force, numbering about 10,000 men, was carried on about 150 transports. The expedition sailed from the Mole St. Nicholas on May 27, in seven divisions, all of them absolutely destitute of shells, out of the Windward Passage and through the old Bahama Channel to Havana.

The first division was made up of the smallest ships, and came from the bigger ones, which felt their way along the Cuban shore and from island to island on the other side of the channel, ready to give the signal should an opposing force of the enemy be sighted. On June 2 the frigates Alarm, which was in the second line, caught and captured the Spanish schooner Theta and a smaller Spanish vessel. On June 5 and 6 the fleet lay to about thirty miles west of Havana, while one of the frigates went forward to make a reconnaissance. After it had reported, the fleet advanced on June 7 to a point near Guanabacoa and the troops were landed in barges. As soon as they could be formed they were marched straight at Morro castle. They found some slight entrenchments that had been hastily thrown up to prevent the advance line of those who



death comes crashing about him. "When a man begins to feel 'out of sorts' when his appetite is failing and his energy is not up to the mark, when he has bilious attacks and a feeling of lassitude and incapacity, if he is wise, he will take Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery right away. It will bring his appetite back again and what is more it will bring back his digestive powers. It will give all the assimilative functions the edge and power to extract abundant nourishment from the food he eats. It will make good, pure, healthy blood and send it coursing rapidly through his veins and arteries into every organ and tissue of the body. It will put flesh on his bones and force in his muscles. It will give him strength and courage and cheerfulness, in a word it will give him complete health. It excites from the system every particle of dead, useless matter, and even reduces the weight of the corpulent man at the same time that it builds up his strength and working power. The weight it adds to people is the kind that comes of pure blood and every organ doing its work properly and thoroughly, what pugilists call 'fighting weight.'"

were to oppose them. The Spaniards took the advance line of these who were dealt with much more than without hitting anybody, after the good old Spanish fashion, and then ran for shelter as fast as their legs could carry them. The advance guard went on to the fort at Colima, which had ten guns and a garrison of 400 men. The fire from the fort was a good deal stronger than any answer the advancing column could make to it, and the British halted and sent word to the admiral. The good ship Dragon was sent forward and took up a position off the fort. Just half an hour after she opened fire Colima was silenced and its garrison was hastening to add to the number of the Morro reconcentrados. The army at once passed the fort and the river of the same name and camped for the night two miles west of Morro Castle itself. This shows how very different modern warfare is from that of the days of the gallant Admiral Pocock. Two miles from the fort was a perfectly safe distance for the camp. The guns that are in Morro now would make things uncomfortable for an army that encamped within five or six miles of them.

On June 8, General Elliot, of the army of invasion, possessed of the town of Guanabacoa, and established there his base of operations. Lord Albemarle, taking the greater part of the army with him, took a station in the woods directly east of the Morro, running his line as far to the north as the heights of Cabañas. These heights had not been fortified then. The Spaniards, doubtless, intended to fortify them, for Colonel Carleton, at the head of a body of troops sent out in that direction, found a large square fortification as it is called, but there were no guns there, and he only saw the backs of a few Spaniards who were scampering down to the batteries nearer the harbor, in much inferior position, and to the Morro. The British then immediately began to build fortifications on the ground that had been so obligingly cleared away by the Spaniards. Cannon from the transports were brought ashore and mounted. The work was carried on under cover of the fire of two howitzers which pounded away at the Spanish warships in the harbor, and kept them from coming near enough to interfere seriously with the work of the engineers. Indeed, the shells did so much damage to the muzzles of so much of the mounted artillery, that many of the muzzles were continually in the south, requiring the presence of a heavy skirmish line to keep them from upsetting things generally.

COLONEL HOWES'S MISSION.

On June 13 Colonel Howes sent to the western side of Havana a force of about 1,500 men, who were ordered to invest the Chorrera fort (where the queen's battery now is) and pester the enemy on that side of the city as much as possible. This force was also ordered to cut off the stream that was carrying water to the city. On the next day Colonel Carleton was sent into the city with a flag of truce to deliver the British commander's terms to the governor. The governor declined to let Colonel Carleton enter the city to him in person, and the English officer took it away. He took it back on the next day and delivered it, but without obtaining any answer. Meantime a lot of mortars were brought on from the mortar boats and planted along the Havana bridge with the English howitzers. The work of the Englishmen was greatly interfered with by the heavy rains until June 19. The women and soldiers worked so hard bringing ashore munitions and supplies that the deaths from fatigue averaged more than thirty a day. This being a surprising view of the fact that the Englishmen were unaccustomed to such heat as they encountered. For five days there was no rain at all, and the army began to suffer from thirst. Water had to be brought ashore from the fort, and the soldiers found the work very wearisome and difficult.

On June 22 the first of the mortar batteries opened fire on Morro Castle, "with great success." The Spanish ships in the harbor attempted to fire at the howitzers, but were driven back to their original anchorage by the howitzers. The work of preparation went on steadily until June 25. On June 27 the Admiral issued his orders for the water attack on the Morro. The Cambridge of thirty guns, the Devon of twenty-four guns, and the Marlborough of seventy-four guns were selected to do the heaviest part of the work. The Strling castle of seventy guns was ordered to accompany and cover the boarding of the larger ships. On June 29 the enemy sent a storming party of 600 men in small boats from the city to surprise and destroy the Cuban batteries. But the pickets and men stationed at workmen drove them off with great assistance. The Spaniards lost 220 killed, wounded, and prisoners. The English were surprised to find that most of them were mulattoes and negroes, with a sprinkling of Spanish sailors.

The actual bombardment of Morro Castle began on July 1. The English had the satisfaction of seeing many of the Spanish cannon knocked out of their ports and silenced. But they also learned, along toward the close of the ten hours' bombardment, what the English sailors were to learn at Cabañas—that Spanish marksmanship improves during an action. The English vessels were forced during the afternoon to leave their position and retire. They were ledly cut in by the Spanish fire, and 137 men were killed. The bombardment went on, however, until July 4, whereat the man who kept the journal made this comment.

"The Morro was now found to be unfit for work and the Spaniards more resolute than we had at first imagined. Our people grew fatigued by the heat and hard labor, and the want of water near the water was a sensible distress. Likewise the disappointment of the Morro's not being reduced so speedily as they were at first made to hope, helped to depress the spirits of the weak and those of low minds; but we found every want relieved and amply provided for by the activity and fortitude of the admiralty, between whom and the land forces there was a great and surprising harmony, such as I have seldom witnessed between those branches of the service. The 4,000 men expected from America were much wished for and much wanted."

CONQUEST NOT AT AN END.

The conquest of Morro Castle, which had been thought impregnable, was not the end of Havana. On the following day the Spaniards in the city turned all their guns against the captured fort and succeeded in battering it into a shapeless pile of stones, mortar, and damaged brass cannon. There was scarce moving, says the English officer, for the guns and carriages that were scattered about. From Aug. 1 to Aug. 10 the English occupied the city in mounting forty heavy guns on Cabañas, with twelve mortars, six howitzers, and a lot of small cannon. Plans for use in mounting the guns

were secured by capturing a Spanish frigate and cutting her up in lumber of the required length. When the work of mounting the battery had been finished Lord Albemarle sent a note to the Spanish government urging him to surrender. The governor declined to do so. Fire was opened at daybreak on Aug. 11 from all the guns of the Cuban fort. Those to the north were manned by seamen from the fleet, who soon knocked the Caste de la Punta into such a demoralized condition that it was unable to do anything more for the day.

By noon there was scarcely a single battery of the Spanish that was able to make effective answer to the English fire, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon white flags were thrown out from all parts of the city. After a twenty-four hours' truce, the Spanish surrendered.

The Spanish loss during the whole siege was estimated at 6,000. Except from sickness, the English loss was very few indeed, and the seamen who were killed on the first day of the attack on the Morro, The English captured nine ships of the line, the largest of seventy-four guns and the smallest of sixty-four, and two more warships were nearly completed, and there were about twenty-five loaded merchantmen and nearly \$3,000,000 in gold and silver, property of the Spanish government and its subsidized company, 600 cannon, and no end of supplies.

LONG SIEGE.

The siege pounded away for nearly three weeks and batteries of both the English and the Spanish were knocked to pieces and built up again without any material change in the general situation. The English had forces frequently run out of ammunition and had to be supplied from the ships. On July 22 the Spanish sent 1,200 men in small boats from the city at night. At daybreak they attacked the English batteries. After about two of them had been killed they began to howl for quarter, which was in those days a distinct concession. It was granted by the English who went forward to surround their prisoners, and were received with characteristic Spanish iron-hoary. The Spaniards tossed upon them with knives and clubbed muskets and fought like mad. The privilege of quarter was suspended for the time being, and the Spanish were suppressed effectually. Very few of the English were killed or wounded, the only notable casualty occurring to Brigadier General Carleton, who had been promoted during the siege. He received a slight wound in the arm.

The Earl of Albemarle became convinced that Morro castle was not to be reduced by a bombardment, and ordered his engineer force to dig mines under the Spanish fortifications. This was slow and tedious work, and the inactivity of the rest of the army during the meantime was disheartening. The food supply beginning to run low, and the Cuban climate was beginning to fall seriously on the rank and file. On July 27 the officer who wrote the black letter journal made this entry.

"The great heat and the reduced supply of water told severely on the men, of whom 2,000 were reported unfit for duty, and more officers in comparison. The fleet, I am told, had over 1,000. Neither of us had any fresh provisions with which to nourish the recovering men, so that their weakness exceeded their numbers. On July 28 the mines were reported completed. They were fired at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and greatly to the glory of Colonel Maclellan the chief of engineers, the air was filled with fortifications and Spaniards, to prevent the destruction by a New York City pocket of the recent attack on Matanzas. The enemy seemed stunned by the surprise and quite incapable of retreating, that it was necessary at once to throw troops into the breach thus formed. The commander-in-chief of the English forces ordered a general charge. The English went forward steadily and coolly, and found practically no force opposing them. The English officers attributed this to the quiet steamships with which they were manured at the fortifications. In their opinion, nothing could have disconcerted the Spaniards so much as the English assumption that there was nothing inside the fort to be afraid of. The Spaniards fell back like sheep, all led by a few of the best officers.

The Marquis de Gonzalez, who was commander of one of the Spanish warships in the harbor and second in command of the fort, fell in the breach, where he was bravely, but helplessly, trying to get his soldiers to join him. But Louis Valabona, who was also captain of a man-of-war, threw up a temporary breastwork about the flag-staff, and drove a hundred of his countrymen into it. But as the English advanced upon them he had difficulty in getting his men from running away. As the last soldier left him he was shot through the breast. The fight lasted only half an hour, and when the English flag was hoisted over the fort only ten of eleven Englishmen had been killed, and a few had been wounded. The Spanish loss was 400. Most of these were killed during the panic which followed the entrance of the English soldiers into the fort. Immediately after the surrender of Morro Castle, just breathing his last, requested that he be sent across the mouth of the harbor so that he might die in Havana. His prayer was granted.

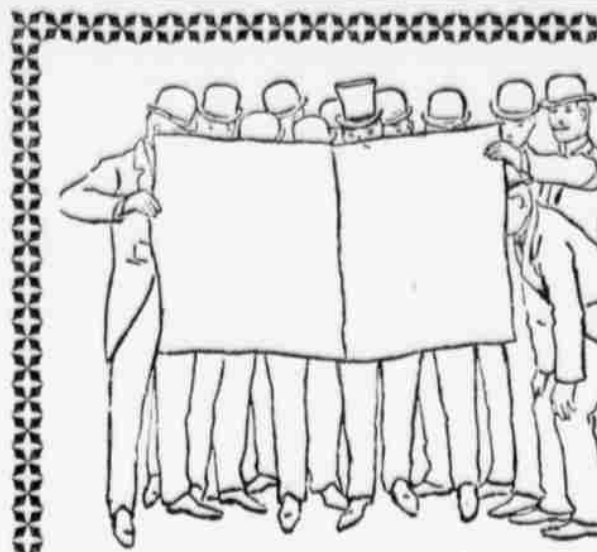
CANNON THAT IS NOISELESS.

Catorzo Man Sets a New Pace for Inventors.

The booming of the dogs of war has furnished a new field for the inventive genius, and Colorado, although far removed from the sea-board, and probably the field of action, is not going to be overlooked in the rush. There are no many yards, no dry docks, no battle-ships in Colorado to furnish inspiration in the invention of naval apparatus, but there are dark minds and feet, and good tools for wild ideas and in this matter, as in all others, "love will find a way." Robert Schneider, of Independence, Col., having seen the necessity for a noiseless navy, while hunting game, and being duly inspired with patriotism, as about a quarter of one living in a town with such a patriotic name, has taken out a caveat and is now perfecting his patent for a noiseless cannon, one that would layk more gently to the Spaniards the fact that the American navy was punning the life out of his navy.

The Schneider cannon is a double-barreled affair, the first barrel being for jamming out the shot and the second for jamming in the air so that the war-dogs of Uncle Sam will be quiet, having nothing to do but a whole lot of hitting without emitting a single bark.

To accomplish this end the Schneider noiseless cannon has a trap door somewhere on its inside, and by the mechanism of the Schneider noiseless cannon is but 21 years old. The idea of the invention, as has been intimated, came to him one day while



not gone hunting. He discerned that the report of his gun frightened away the game, and began to study the problem. Having decided that if he had a gun that did not "bark" every time he shot he could bag a lot more game, he set about to overcome the defect of the gun. As the occasion has over in the history of civilization brought forth the man to meet it, so the danger of a war between the United States and Spain has brought forth Robert Schneider.

Schneider has written Congressman Bell all about the cannon, and wants him to get a bill through congress making an appropriation for building a test gun after his model. He is confident that it will work, because he made a wooden cannon with a spring to throw out a muzzled, and it went off several times without a single rap after he attached to it his noiseless mechanism, while before that the "bang came out where the bullet went in." Just like it ought to be in any well-regulated popcorn.

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Spain. She is at present in Toledo, O. she has recently been promoted lieutenant in the blue and gray line, now being formed by Colonel Cooper, and she is ready to start for the field at a moment's notice. She will be no 1720 as a soldier, for she was a member of the famous Cuban armaments and was a bearer of dispatches for her husband until he was slain. Her history is a sad one.

COMMAND FOR A WOMAN.

Antonia Hernandez Maceo, a sister-in-law of the late General Maceo, and a woman who has suffered in every way possible through Spanish tyranny in Cuba, is coming to Chicago soon to take active part in the war with

the back with a machete, but seems as anxious to return to the battleground as if it were a festival. Her father was a Republican and a man of advanced ideas. He took part in the ten years' war. He taught his daughter the use of arms from childhood, saying that, as heaven had not given him a son, he must make a soldier of the girl. He himself was assassinated by political murderers when the ten years' war was over. Mrs. Maceo's mother was killed at the hour of her daughter's birth, and the knife which killed the mother, scarred at the same moment the baby girl. She herself has been dragged through a Havana street with a rose about her neck, and her life spared almost by a miracle. It is small wonder, therefore, that she hates the Spaniards and has devoted her life to vengeance. Mrs. Maceo came to this country a year ago and went over the United States on behalf of the insurgents and was very successful in sending arms, men and munitions of war to Cuba.