

# NATURE SMILES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Has All the Charms of Both Tropic and Temperate Zones.

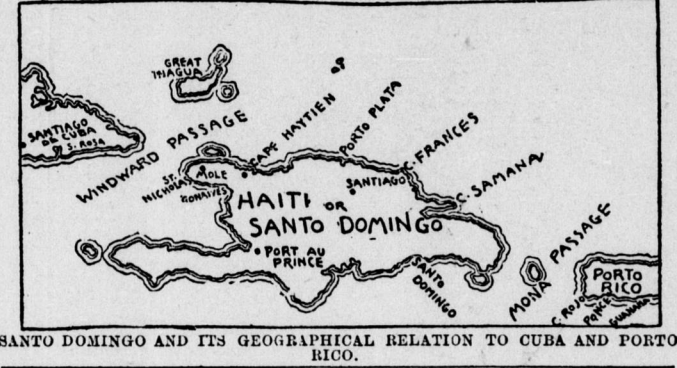
## GOLD AND OTHER MINERALS IN PROFUSION

Whatever the Island of Santo Domingo may lack, it is not from any remissness on the part of Mother Nature, for it was originally richly endowed. Everything that grows within the tropics may find a home somewhere between coast line and mountain tops, and in the elevated regions may be produced almost every variety of fruit and vegetable peculiar to the temperate zones. As for minerals, the most precious of all, gold, in flakes, particles, sands and nuggets, has been found in abundance. It was the gold of Hispaniola, as Columbus called the island, that first attracted him thither, and from the native caciques on the north coast he obtained the precious metal first taken to Spain, some of which may yet be seen in Burgos and Granada.

As his sailors were filling their water casks at the mouth of the river Yaqui they were delighted with the sight of golden sands, and from this circumstance Columbus called it Rio del Oro, or the river of gold.

The founding of the present capital, Santo Domingo, was owing to the discovery of gold on a tributary of the river on which it is situated, from which resulted the rich mines of San Cristobal, first brought to light in a romantic manner in 1496. Here was dug up in 1502 that nugget said to be the largest ever found in the new world, of such dimensions that the lucky miners, in the first excess of their joy, had a pig roasted and served upon it as a table. They let it go to the King of Spain, some time afterward, but sent a message to the effect that they had done what no royal personage had ever done; dined off a table of solid gold. This great nugget was lost when the fleet that sailed with Bobadilla went down, and still

And yet, any good sort of people might make a second Eden of this beautiful island. Notwithstanding its tropical situation, exposed to torrid heats and torrential rains, Santo Domingo is a very healthy island. A white man can live there, if he exercise due caution, with almost perfect immunity from diseases such as endemic and yellow fevers. Many ac-



SANTO DOMINGO AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL RELATION TO CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

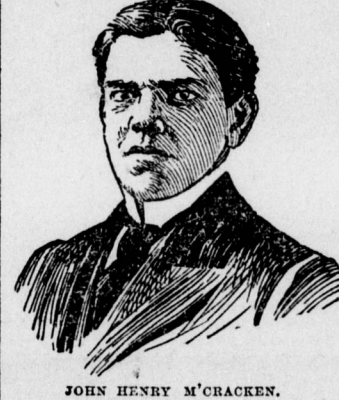
quaintances of mine resident there have informed me that they were never sick a day unless they exposed themselves unnecessarily.

Far more precious than gold are the historical memories of this island. Here, on its north coast, Columbus founded the first city in America, Isabella, erected the first church, built the first forts and initiated the movement by which the indigenous inhabitants were exterminated. In the capital city we may see the ruins of a chapel erected in his time, a fortress built by Don Diego, his son, and the remains of the first conventual structure, as well as of the first American university. In the cathedral lie his own remains (notwithstanding Havana's claim to the contrary) and those of his brother and grandson, while relics of such well-known adventurers as Fernando Cortez, Las Casas and Velasquez, the subjugator of Cuba, are on every hand.

There is yet another possession of the island which neither the rapacity of the Spaniards nor the misdoings of their degenerate successors can take away or spoil. This is its great natural basin and glorious harbor, Samana Bay. As a naval necessity Samana is no longer desirable, but as a factor in our commercial development it would be invaluable. However this may be, there it lies, one of the most magnificent bays and natural harbors in the world, almost unused, and at all events not sufficiently utilized. It is not quite so solitary as when Columbus discovered it, in 1493, and thence took his point of departure for Spain, on his return voyage; but it still exists in isolation, the deep channels

**America's Youngest College President.**  
John Henry MacCracken, who has just been elected President of Westminster College at Fulton, Mo., is the youngest college President in the United States, and probably in the world.

Mr. MacCracken has not quite completed his twenty-fourth year. He first entered school in New York City in 1886, having been previously taught at home.



JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN. (President of Westminster College in his twenty-fourth year.)

The years 1894 to 1896 he spent in graduate study, the first year in New York University and the second in the University of Halle, Germany. In this latter university he had exceptional advantages in being a member of the family of one of the professors of philosophy, with whom he spent part of the summer in the mountains on the border of Silesia. After completing two semesters in Germany he became instructor in philosophy in New York University College, and was advanced the present year to the position of assistant professor of philosophy.

**Wanted to Be Politic.**  
No one made any remark upon the temerity of the ladies who invited Ambrose Bierce to deliver a lecture before the members of their club. Bierce was so taken aback by the unexpectedness of the request that, to his own surprise, he found himself weakly accepting the bid, and then humbly consulting his callers concerning the topic upon which they might desire him to speak.

The president, a dignified and very conservative lady, in reply to a novel suggestion of the lecturer-elect, remarked somewhat loftily that they were not a club of new women.

"I am convinced of that," answered Mr. Bierce in a bland and deferential tone which almost, if not quite, concealed his cynicism. "Shall I say you are a club of old women?"  
News-Letter.

**Suited Him Exactly.**  
Bilkins looked up from his desk as he heard some one enter his office. Two ladies, members of his church, stood before him. "We are out on another begging expedition," they chorused.

Bilkins frowned.

"What is it this time?" he inquired, snappishly. "I just paid out \$2 yesterday on foreign missions and a dollar the day before on repairs for the church. I suppose you are collecting on a new carpet now."

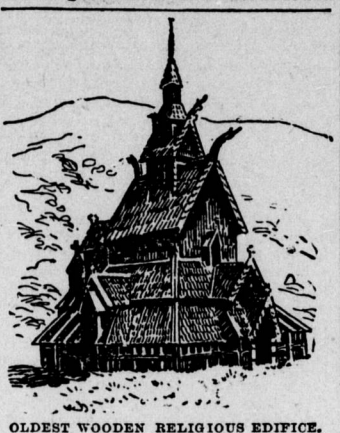
"No, no; we are trying to raise enough this time to send the minister away on a vacation."

The frown on Bilkins's countenance vanished, giving way to a broad smile of satisfaction. "Oh, well," he exclaimed in joyous tones, "put me down for \$10."—Ohio State Journal.

**The "Dolly Barber" Tree Blown Down.**  
In the recent storm the "Dolly Barber" tree, a famous landmark on the "New Cut" road, Washington, was carried away. It is said to have received its name from a famous belle. It appears as a boundary point in a title deed of 1780. When Jefferson was President he rambled to the street on which the "Dolly Barber" tree was located, and probably rested often beneath its shade. The owner at that time, an Englishman named Foxhall, was his friend.

### A Wooden Church 700 Years Old.

Here is the oldest wooden church in the world, erected at Borgund, Norway, more than 700 years ago, when Christianity was first introduced in that neighborhood. It is still as sound



OLDEST WOODEN RELIGIOUS EDIFICE.

as ever, but is used by the congregation only during the warm months of the year. As the ancient edifice is not supplied with heating apparatus or glass-protected windows, the people refuse to patronize it in winter.

Seen from the outside, the church seems to be all roofs. Over the low colonnades, partly open, partly closed, that surround the church on all sides, rise two rows of roofs covering the side naves. Above them are the roofs of the centre naves, crowned by towering rafters and timber work. The roofs are covered with moss-grown shingles and dragon heads and other emblems of Norsemen lore protrude on all sides.

The interior construction shows even more plainly than the outside that the builders of this edifice were advanced architects, for they discarded the primitive blockhouse principle for that of posts set upright and joined by woodwork. The church proper is divided into a "high church" and a choir, which is smaller than the first, and terminates in an oval altar niche. Both "high church" and choir have a centre and two side naves, separated by rows of pillars. The middle naves are elevated after the manner of the Roman Basilica. There are three entrances under fine arches, masterpieces of wood carved with axes.

The church is always steeped in mystic gloom, for there are no windows, only a series of small, round holes cut into the upper side walls where they join the roof. There are no window frames nor shutters, and the holes in the walls are never closed, summer or winter. The altar and the pulpit are of the simplest description, unadorned by paint or picture. There is a bench at the side of the altar for the burgomaster and the alderman of Borgund; the rest of the congregation has to stand or kneel on the bare floor.

### A Moral Tribe.

In the whole wide world there is not a class of people to be found who inflict severer punishment upon themselves than the Caribs of Central America. Their religion, which is one of the most peculiar kind, demands self-punishment for sins intentionally or unintentionally committed.

The punishment takes the form of starvation and close confinement.

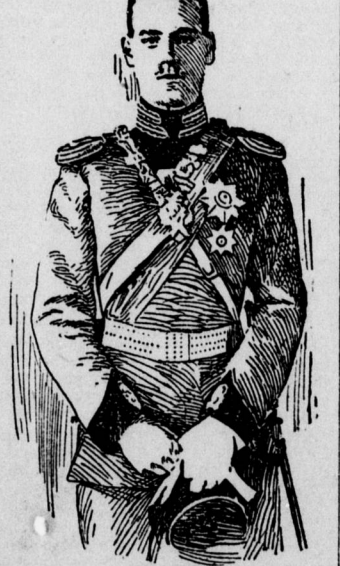
If the sin be in the form of a lie, no matter whether it is calculated to injure another or not, the sinner goes without either food or drink for three days, at the end of which it is believed that the offender has paid the penalty for his or her sin.

Blaspheming and using bad language is punishable by absolute starvation for two days. Assault, drunkenness and other serious sins call for four days' starvation for one week, three days' starvation for the second week, two days' starvation for the third week and one day's starvation in the fourth week.

All sins are punished with starvation. For that reason crime is very low among the Caribs, who are among the best behaved and truthful people in the world.—Pearson's Weekly.

### The New Czarowitz.

In case of the death of the present Czar of Russia he will be succeeded



GRAND DUKE MICHAEL. (Brother to the Czar, and heir-presumptive to the Throne.)

by his brother, the Grand Duke Michael. He was born in 1878 and is the youngest son of the Dowager Empress.

The Republic of Venezuela contains 506,150 square miles. It is larger than any country in Europe except Russia.

## FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

**Potatoes Require Careful Irrigation.**  
Run the water through between the rows of potatoes as quickly as possible and see that there is a free opening at the lower end so that the water will not back up and stand. After once irrigating, the land should never be allowed to become very dry. Watering is usually discontinued after the first of September. In some parts of Colorado the potato crop is not irrigated until after the young tubers are set.

**Feeding Clover to Fowls.**  
The very common advice to feed clover to hens as an aid to egg production needs a caution attached to it. If hens have grain with the clover they will not probably eat too much of the lighter food for their good. But exclusive reliance on cut clover as winter feed for a day or two may so clog the gizzard with light indigestible food, that when grain is given it only makes the matter worse by furnishing more heating material to ferment in the crop. Wherever much grain is given to fowls they become too fat to lay, and it is such hens that are most likely to be crop bound.

**Skim Milk Excellent Human Food.**  
Skim milk contains nearly all of the food value of the original milk, with the exception of the fat, and even this may be present to the extent of from one-tenth to 1 per cent. It contains from 3.5 to 4 per cent of protein, about 5 per cent of milk sugar and .8 per cent of ash or mineral matter. Its chief value is as a muscle making food and hence it is of great value to growing children or laboring people. Its economy as an article of diet can best be shown by comparing it with other foods. Twenty-five cents will purchase 6 1-2 times as much total nutrients and five times as much protein in skim milk at two cents per quart as in sirloin steak at twenty-two cents, or four times as much protein as mutton shoulder at fifteen cents per pound.

Or three quarts of skim milk, worth from six to eight cents at retail, will hold more total nutrients and more protein than a pound of round steak. At the present prices the only common food materials that will furnish more protein for a given sum of money than skim milk are beans, wheat flour, oat meal, corn meal and salt codfish.

### The Ever-Blooming Rose.

Ever-blooming roses may be raised from seed, and will flower the first season. The prettiest way to arrange ever-blooming roses is to plant them in a circular bed on the lawn or in the garden. One could hardly have a bed of any other flowers which would give half the delight and satisfaction through the summer and fall. The bed should be made mellow and rich. In the North the plants would have to be housed for the winter. Keep a good lookout for weeds.

Some people make the mistake of looking for all the excellent qualities in one rose. Lovers of roses who cannot afford to buy them will be able to have all the common kinds by exchanging with their friends. The blush rose, the moss rose, the June pink rose, the cabbage, the damask, the Persian yellow, the white and the sweet briar rose make a collection not to be despised. These are all hardy. Late in the fall give them a good mulch of manure, and in the spring add soot to more manure and spade it in. All the dead wood should be cut out and the tops of the plants pruned slightly.

Eternal vigilance is the price of roses. The rose chaffer, little green worms and aphids, may be speedily disposed of by using an emulsion of kerosene and sour milk. Apply it thoroughly to the bushes on the under as well as the upper side of the leaves. To make the emulsion, take one part of kerosene to two parts of slightly sour milk, and mix them together until they form a jelly-like substance. Add to one part of this jelly twelve parts of water, and apply with a sprayer or sprinkler.

As for the tiny spiders that infest roses, drown them. Water is the one remedy for them. Rose slugs can be destroyed with powerful hellebore, sprinkled on when the bushes are wet with dew.

### Dehorning the Calf.

Horns are an unmitigated nuisance in a herd of cattle. In every herd there is one "boss" if not more; and it requires feed to provide the energy to fight and the activity to elude the fighter. Hornless cattle can be kept in smaller enclosures, will destroy less fodder, will utilize what they eat to better advantage and can be shipped at less expense. Horns are expensive from whatever standpoint they are viewed. But there need not be a constant dehorning of grown animals. The growth of the horn can readily be prevented.

When the calf is born there are no indications of horns. But their development begins at once, and in a very short time the button can be felt. Cut away the hair about this nub or button; wipe the hairless part with a sponge dipped in water and ammonia, and then dip the end of a stick of caustic potash in water, and then rub it on the button until the skin begins to start. The application should be made when the calf is from one to three weeks old. In the majority of cases that will be the end of horn growth on that calf. The entire stick of potash, except the end that is applied to the button should be wrapped with paper to prevent burning the hands.

Mature animals should not be dehorned in any time. It has been done,

and the application of tar has prevented bad results, but it is inadvisable. We do not advise a novice to undertake the operation. Better employ a veterinary surgeon to at least dehorn a few of the herd, until the owner becomes somewhat familiar with the process. Clippers are the best dehorning apparatus. They remove the horn at a single stroke. In our experience and observation dehorning does not cause much suffering.—The Agricultural Epitomist.

### Keep on Hand.

The one all-important mixture that every tree-owner should have on hand is kerosene emulsion. This is made by dissolving half a pound of hard soap in hot water; then add two gallons of kerosene, and churn with a pump for ten minutes; then add about three gallons of hot water, and you will have the emulsion in good condition for storage. When you wish to apply this mixture, dilute it with five or ten parts of water, and for rose bushes the solution should be very much weaker; otherwise you will damage the foliage of your bushes and the flowers as well. It is far better to experiment with a weaker solution; and if insects and slugs are not destroyed, apply the second day a stronger solution. For scale insects you may make the solution very much stronger, and rub it stontly into your trees. Bear in mind always that pure kerosene is as deadly to vegetation as to animal life, and must be applied with common-sense and caution. It is unwise to be without a stock of this emulsion on hand the whole year through.

The experience of horticulturists during 1898 ought to have taught them the necessity of also having on hand Bordeaux mixture. During July and August of the year a fungus development took place, which ruined millions of barrels of apples, as well as seriously injured the pear crop. This could have been met and checked by a prompt application of the Bordeaux. I think it as well for us at all times to apply Bordeaux in the spring. It is made by a mixture of copper sulphate and quicklime. Dissolve six pounds of the sulphate in four gallons of water, slack the lime in an equal amount of water. Then mix the two and increase the water to forty gallons. Keep your barrel, as well as the kerosene emulsion, and all other materials, in a separate room in your barn, where they can be locked up tight. Bear in mind that all rot moulds and mildews are of the fungus order and demand the same application. The solution can do no harm where it does no good. Remember that a successful orchardist is one who is already furnished with spraying materials, pumps, etc., and is not compelled to hunt up a neighbor to borrow materials. All fungoid attacks are very sudden, and will not allow of any delay in the application of remedies.—E. P. Powell in New York Tribune.

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### Transferring Bees from Box Hives.

There are at least three ways of transferring bees from box hives into movable frame hives. The old method is to pry open the old hive with cold chisel and hammer and cut out the combs and fit them into the frames of the movable frame hive and fasten them in with sticks and strings. After trying this method on several colonies I must pronounce it messy, sticky and unsatisfactory. A much better way is to drive them out by the following plan: Take the hive which is to be transferred under a tree in the shade or alongside of a building and turn it bottom up, place on top of it an empty box of the same size, blow in a little smoke at the bottom occasionally and drum on the old hive with a couple of sticks for ten or fifteen minutes. Nearly all the bees and the queen will go into the empty box above. In the meantime place the hive in which you wish to put the bees on the stand where the old hive stood, so as the field bees which will be coming in all the time have a place to go. Of course they will be rushing in and out, not knowing what to make of it. Take the box of bees and dump them in front of the new hive and they will soon run in and make themselves at home. Stand the old hive in a new location and drum out again in twenty-one days. Put these bees in a new hive or add them to the old colony as you prefer. If one desires two hives from the one, it is best to let the old box hive cast a swarm first, then drum in twenty-one days, and the one drumming will be all that is necessary.

Still another way, which is better and less work than either of the above methods if one wishes to keep the whole force together and get the most honey, is to take a movable frame hive full of combs a week or two before swarming time and place under the box hive, closing the entrance of the upper hive and compelling the bees to go through the new one. When honey begins to come in rapidly the bees will crowd the queen into the lower story, always putting the honey above the brood. When the queen is laying nicely in the lower story, put a queen excluder between the two hives and soon all the brood will be hatched out above and the combs will be filled with honey. It can be taken off, the combs cut out, the honey extracted, the old combs melted into beeswax and the old hive cut up into kindling wood. I am trying some this way now and find it the most satisfactory method of all, getting more honey and wax and keeping down the increase.—F. G. Herman in Orange Judd Farmer.

### An Indian Storekeeper.

Sleeping Bear, a full-blooded Gros Ventre Indian, successfully conducts a general store at Great Falls, Mont. He will not give his own people credit, but extends it to a limited number of whites.



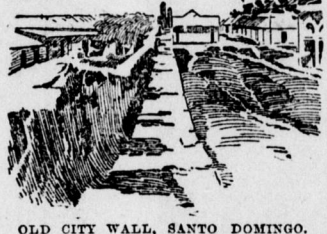
STREET SCENE IN SANTO DOMINGO.

lies at the bottom of the sea off the east end of the island.

It is not known that much has been done in recent times to exploit the mineral riches of the island; in fact, the interior mountains have never been satisfactorily examined. In their shelter yet exist nooks and caves, secluded valleys and dells, which have never been visited except by the Indians of early times and the "Cimaroons" or runaway negroes of slavery days. Humboldt declared that what the Spaniards obtained was merely the surface washings of the placers and the hilltops, and what they got from the beds of rivers. The golden secret has not been revealed, as yet, and will not be divulged until some more progressive Government than that at present ruling in Santo Domingo shall undertake the exploration of the great central range of mountains.

But it is not in mineral wealth alone that Santo Domingo offers temptations to the explorer. This island, which of late has been known to political adventurers as "Leelees" Island ("Leelees" being a contraction of Ulysses, former President Henreux's Christian name) is rich in every possibility. Within its area of some eighteen thousand square miles, Santo Domingo has every range of climate and soil, capable of producing everything necessary to the support of man. Nature, as has been observed, did everything needful for this beautiful island, but during the four centuries of man's domination its rich gifts and generous provisions have been perverted and even prostituted to the basest ends.

When Sir Francis Drake went to Santo Domingo intent upon sacking the city, he found it hardly worth the plucking. So it happens that while rich in historical associations, both



OLD CITY WALL, SANTO DOMINGO.

that would suffice for the largest steamships only giving passage to few craft beside small sailing vessels.

From the grand promontory of Balandra Head, which guards the entrance to Samana Bay, there sweeps a terraced shore line, with a constant succession of palm-bordered beaches, forest-crowned bluffs and crescent-shaped coves of white and glistening sand, back of which run fertile valleys, cultivated to the tops of the hills. The channel takes us close to the beautiful beaches and almost within hail of the fishers' cabins on the shore, giving glorious contrasts between the deep blue water, the silver sands and the varied vegetation of the hills.

A few natives cultivate the lands ad-



GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND CATHEDRAL IN THE CAPITAL OF SANTO DOMINGO.

island and city are poor even to the verge of poverty. In the interior of the island, where the banana and sugar cane grow wild, and the ground is covered with rank growths of valuable plants and trees, I have been followed for miles by begging children supplicating a morsel of food.

adjacent to the beach, and their huts of palm leaves occupy a bluff above the water. The beach of pure white sand is overhung by cocoa palms in ranks and groups, and an islet off shore breaks the force of the incoming waves.

The real harbor of the great bay of