

SKETCH OF PORTO RICO.

An American's Observations of Picturesque Adjuntas and Its People.

A VERY PRETTY TOWN

The Plaza Filled With Roses of All Kinds, Palms and Various Flowering Bushes.

People Dark in Color, Bearing Facial Characteristics of Both Negro and Indian-Their Ignorance Is Surprising-Their Chief Article of Food is Plantains, a Species of Banana.

Situated as it is in a valley, with mountains on all sides, Adjuntas, aside from being delightfully healthful, is picturesque. The town is exceedingly pretty with its little square plaza in the center, filled with the carefully pretty with its little square all sorts of flowering bushes. In the center of the plaza is a lamppost with a lamp that is seldom lighted.

Every afternoon a cock fight is held to which all go, both young and old; even the children of seven or eight being. A priest there gambles and is said to win more than any else at monte. On nearly every corner are little stands with oranges, bananas and peanuts for sale at ridiculously low prices.

The hotel from the outside looks like a shanty, and as far as building goes it is one. Entering, you find yourself in a large square room; in the center is a table with a pot of flowers, and facing the table, a row of chairs, are rocking chairs; against the wall are straight-backed chairs. The only other furnishings are a large mirror and two other tables, one bare, the other with plants.

The people are dark in color; even the Porto Ricans of the better class look as though they had a tinge of negro blood and a little Indian. The latter is seen in the very lowest classes, in the high cheek bone, sunken eyes and very straight, black hair. The Spaniards seem purer blooded, more intelligent, in fact superior in every respect to the Porto Rican.

These people are not only lazy, but ignorant and dirty; they never bathe and always appear to have on the same clothes. As a general rule both men and women go without shoes or stockings, and the children often wear no clothes. Their chief food is plantains, a species of bananas, which they boil; oranges, bread and bananas. Meat is so expensive that many of

they have never tasted it, and they show it, for they are undersized and anemic looking. Their ignorance is sometimes surprising. One day I heard the town physician ask a man his name.

"I don't know," was the reply. "What is your mother's name?" "At that the man's face brightened and he said: 'Just wait until I go up the street, I see a man that knows her name, but I don't.' That is one instance, and many more of similar nature could be cited.

During the coffee picking season the peons or laborers work, receiving 50 centavos, or about 30 cents, a day. At the end of the season instead of looking for other work, they gamble and enjoy life until their money is gone; then they begin to steal. A ride in the way they bury their dead—a rude box, shaped like a coffin, is made by a carpenter, or, if the friends have not enough money for this, they rent the box for the occasion. It has no cover, but over the body is thrown a sheet. Many of these boxes are not even painted. This coffin is carried some times on the shoulders of four men, often two long sticks are fastened to the sides and in this way it is borne by only two. Other men relieve the bearers when they are tired, for usually these funerals come many miles. The body is first taken to the church, and then to the cemetery, where, if the coffin is not a rented one, it is buried, but if the coffin is hired, the body is taken out and thrown, not any too gently either, into the grave.

A REAL TREASURE ISLAND

Romantic Spot of Unusual Interest Which Is Located Near Porto Rico.

THE HAUNT OF PIRATES

An Ideal Spot for Freebooters to Hide Their Booty—Caves Galore, Intricate and Inaccessible.

At the center of the sea of the Antilles, at the middle of the passage which separates St. Domingo from Porto Rico, there rises itself above the waves a steep rock, to which the ancient Spanish navigators gave the name of "La Mona," or "Monita," the Little Monkey. Among the sailors of the Antilles, La Mona is always called the Island of Pirates, and it is thought to conceal mysterious treasures.

It is an immense chalky block, seven kilometers long and four or five wide, rearing its summit, flat as a table, to thirty or forty metres above the sea. The waves, always agitated in these coasts, have shaped this block into a pedestal of pointed cliffs, and, except in two or three points, where narrow stretches of shore advance, the island is almost inaccessible. Ships are kept at a distance, as much by the violence of the waves as by a chain of rocks which surround it, and where alone open a few passages for small vessels.

At the southern point of the island an enormous rock seems miraculously suspended from the crest of a cliff. The sailors have named it "Caigo, o no caigo," which means, "Shall I fall, or shall I not fall." In spite of its perilous position, the rock in equilibrium has resisted for many ages the attacks of storms and waves.

But one of the most curious particulars of this island, so strange from many points of view, is that its chalky mass is throughout pierced by immense caves, innumerable grottoes, which ramify in all ways, and, having their entrance under the face of the cliff, conduct by sinuous passages to the very summit of the plateau. The grottoes, inhabited by bands of seabirds, were but lately in part obstructed by guano, which has been nearly all taken away.

The adventurous intrepid enough to engage himself in this formidable struggle soon finds himself arrested by two very unexpected obstacles; in effect, among the tangles of plants are hidden swarms of immense wasps, which, at the least rustling, precipitate themselves on the intruder, and can by their dangerous stings put his life in danger; again, if he escapes from these guardians of the jungle, he has to their dangerous stings put his life in dwarf cactus, which in many places which, without being as dangerous as those of the wasp, are very painful, and cause a high fever.

One can understand that this rocky isle, so well defended by the forces of nature, may have offered a refuge to the daring pirates, who have been during many centuries the terror of the Antilles. After having passed by secret passages in the belt of rocks, they sheltered their vessels in some intricacy of the cliff and established themselves in these grottoes which formed impregnable natural fortresses.

There no one could reach them, and supposing that a daring assailant had succeeded in forcing an entrance to their haunt, the bandits would fly through the detours of the inextricable labyrinth and would gain the impenetrable thicket of the upper plateau, where it would be impossible to track them.

Some of these caverns in the vicinity of Cape Caigo present still the undoubted traces of pirates. One of them called Cueva Negra—Black Cave—formed a thick coat of soot which covers its vault, is a vast chamber, around which spreads a network of other chambers and passages. The walls of this chamber are still craven with sinister designs, representing galleons supporting rows of bodies and above which are inscribed the names of the victims, names which are found represented all the nations among which these rascals recruited their band, and which are doubtless those of traitors or rebels executed by their companions, unless they were the unfortunate captives sacrificed by these wretches. Some cannon balls, still encrusted in the walls of the cliff, near the entrance, also prove that the place was besieged without doubt, by some war vessel sent in pursuit of the pirates.

These grottoes did not serve as places of refuge merely; the pirates used them as storehouses and kept in them the products of their captures. So, when at the close of the last century, France and England had succeeded in destroying this breed, it was thought that the island must contain some of the immense treasures which the pirates had hidden there during many years. Searches were made, but the extent of the caverns was not known, and it was not until about forty years ago, an American, guided, it appears, by a mysterious document, landed on the island with a troop of negroes from San Domingo and succeeded in unearthing in one of the grottoes an iron box containing \$120,000 in ancient golden coins and jewels. Allured by this result, an American company was formed in 1880 and undertook to search methodically while taking up the thick bed of guano deposited by the seabirds on the floor of the grottoes; but outside the precious guano no treasure was gained.

The Samoans at Hawaii. When native Samoans are not at war they seem to foreigners to have a very calm and agreeable life. There is never very much to do, and what there is is not arduous or tiring. The old women, for instance, braid mats or sit upon the rocks and beat and strip the bark for making tapa, the native cloth. The brewing and perfuming of coconuts oil is another industry in which women play a prominent part. The men spend much of their time in making fishing nets and tackle.

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CUBAN RAILWAY LUNCH

Natives Usually Carry Eatables But Visitors Would Not Do Well by Imitating.

The railway lines which do not have regular eating houses along the route have a buffet lunch on the train. It is commonly located in the car given over to the third-class passengers. A hungry passenger who finds his way there can have his choice of poor wines, good bread and cold baked fish. There is also a case of "gracioso" or pop, with sometimes a little fruit. Beer is sold. Cubans who have occasion to travel generally carry their lunches with them. The practice is not a good one for American visitors to imitate. Three Americans who were going on a day's journey had the hotel prepare a lunch for them. It consisted of a skinny chicken, two loaves of bread and two bottles of cheap wine. When they came to settle their hotel bill they found a charge of \$13 for railroad lunch. Others have had similar experiences. It is better and cheaper to go hungry than to have a Havana hotel prepare a railroad lunch.

Most of the railroads now run what are called "trens de cargo," or mixed local freights. Sometimes the passenger coaches are the chief part of the train, and sometimes they are merely the cabooses. These local freights give the traveler an excellent chance to see the country. A good walker can keep up with them when they are going at ordinary speed. With the stops for switching, it is possible to take an occasional excursion into the fields and back again. The engines are always very thirsty, for every other stop appears to be at a water tank. At the stations the start is announced by the primitive method of a hand bell. A porter walks up and down the platform and rings the bell two minutes in advance. Five or six minutes later the train pulls out. It is the literal truth that no train in Cuba is supposed to start on schedule time. The line out of Havana which has most of the suburban travel has a time schedule on the exact hours. No Cuban or Spaniard thinks of getting to the station on the hour. He allows himself five minutes, with the certainty that he will have two or three minutes to spare. The manager of this road was once asked what would happen if he were to start the trains for three or four days in succession on the advertised time. "No passengers," was his laconic response.

One morning at Matanzas I had left word with the hotel keeper to have a cab take me to the train which was due from Havana at 9:30. The cab was ready at 9:15. Just then a party of friends arrived direct from the train, with reproaches for the failure to meet them. It was all the landlord's fault. He smilingly explained that, while the schedule time of the train was 9 o'clock, it never arrived until 9:30. How it happened to get in on time that morning he did not know, but he was sure the mistake was not intentional.

All of the letters from Manila, when the American soldiers were fighting around that city, refer to the panics which seized the inhabitants of the city at frequent intervals. One of these stampedes is thus described by Captain Elliott, of the Coffeeville company in the 20th Kansas: About 2:30 o'clock the natives and Chinese were observed to be running in every direction. Presently the soldiers began to come from every avenue in the city quickly, but with remarkable coolness and steady demeanor. Corporal Baber, whom I had sent on an errand near the barracks of the First Battalion, came to my room, saluted like the good soldier that he is, and said: "Captain, there is something wrong going on in the city; the natives are fairly flying in all directions, the Chinese are running like rats to their holes and the stores are being closed."

Like reports came in from every direction from men who had been in all parts of the city. The call to quarters was sounded, the rolls were called, and every man of my company not on duty answered "Here." The same was true of the other companies of my battalion. Two or three officers were caught away from home and did not get in on good time.

On the Escalita, at the Bridge of Spain, and in the walled city of the scene that followed was beyond my power of description. No one seemed to be aware of the cause of the stampede. I never witnessed anything like it in my life. The wave of excitement swept over the entire city after the manner of a cyclone. The street cars were jammed together in groups; carabos piled up against one another and barricaded the narrow streets, quizzed and interlocked, overturned and their occupants thrown out; doors and shutters are closed and barred; men women and children ran hither and yon, another in their frantic effort to escape some dreadful, dreadful impending calamity.

The soldiers alone behaved with admirable coolness. Guards were doubled and tripled. In an incredibly short space of time platoons of infantry were thrown across each approach to the great bridge, and no one but soldiers afoot were allowed to pass. Armed men took possession of the Escalita and the avenues leading thereto, and used their "persuasive powers" to calm the storm and bring order out of chaos. American courage and a display of American sense and judgment prevailed. In less than an hour the "whirlwind" had passed and trade and traffic were resumed. The question with the soldiers was, "What in the hell was it all about, anyway?"—Kansas City Journal.

In spite of the simplicity of the national attire, the Samoans are rather vain and spend a good deal of time in beautifying themselves. The hair is often plastered with white lime, giving it, when dry, the effect of a white wig. The lime is washed off by night. The result is a gradual change in the color of the hair from a red to a bright yellow. Apart from this strange fancy ideas in regard to beauty. They particularly admire tall persons.

A fad of the young men of Samoa is to wear the name of his sweetheart tattooed upon the forearm. As the Samoan wears no sleeves this ornament is always visible, and he is very proud of it, which is easily understood, as the young lady herself does the tattooing, it being impossible to intrust to a professional workman a task so full of sentiment.

Distilled Spirits an Important Element in Its Production and This Powder Is a Necessity in Civilized Warfare.

Farmers in the corn belt may not be aware of the fact, but it is, nevertheless, true that the manufacture of the new smokeless powder promises to benefit them extensively. The British Government closed a contract last fall with the Standard Distilling Company of Chicago for the immediate delivery of 124,000 gallons of distilled spirits at Montreal, with an intimation that it would want 450,000 gallons more in a short time. The spirits ordered were for use in the manufacture of smokeless powder. The Japanese Government has recently ordered 6,000 barrels of spirits for the same purpose, and has given notice of large future requirements. Our own Government has recently ordered 10,000 barrels, and further orders will follow. Henceforth smokeless powder will be exclusively used in civilized warfare, and in the manufacture of this powder distilled spirits play a prominent part, thus opening up a new and quite extensive market for American corn.

In the light of these facts, the preparations of Great Britain and the constant rumors of a great European war to take on a local and personal interest to every Western corn grower. An extensive war among the great European nations would have a marked effect upon the market for spirits and for corn, as the whole world is to a large extent dependent upon America for this ingredient of smokeless powder, and this powder is a necessity in warfare. This use for corn, coupled with the foreign demand for a cheap food article, which is increasing rapidly, practically assures the farmer a fair price for his staple; but other new demands of equal importance should not be overlooked. The number of articles of commerce that are now being made from corn has reached twenty-nine, and every particle of the grain is at present turned into some useful product. The glucose sugar refining companies alone manufacture this number of products and the number of bushels of corn consumed by their factories in the United States reaches well into the millions.

The following is a list of the products now being manufactured from corn without the use of any other component material: Mixing glucose, of three kinds, used by refiners of table syrups, brewers, leather manufacturers, jelly makers, fruit preservers and apothecaries. Crystal glucose, of four kinds, used by manufacturing confectioners. Grape sugar, of two kinds, used by brewers principally, and also by tanners. Anhydrous sugar, used by ale and beer brewers and apothecaries. Pearl starch, used by cotton and paper mills. Powdered starch, used principally by baking powder manufacturers, and also by cotton and paper mills.

Refined grits, used in the place of brewers' grits; they are giving better results. Flourine, used by mixers of flour without detriment except as to the feeling that acorn product is taking the place of a wheat product. Four kinds of dextrose, used by fine fabric makers, paper box makers, mucilage and glue makers, apothecaries and many industries requiring a strong adhesive agent. Corn oil, used by table oil mixers, lubricating oil mixers, manufacturers of fibre, shade cloth manufacturers, paint manufacturers, and in many similar industries where vegetable oils are employed. Corn oil, cake, gluten food, chop feed, and gluten meal, all cattle-feed stuffs of a very high grade and capable of being scientifically fed with superior advantage. Rubber substitute, a substitute for crude rubber and very extensively used. Corn germ, the material from which the oil and cake are obtained. British gum, a starch which makes a very adhesive medium, and is used by textile mills for running their colors as well as by manufacturers who require a very strong adhesive medium that contains no trace of acid. Granulated gum, which competes with gum arabic, is used successfully in its place, and finds a ready preference by reason of the absence of any offensive odor.

Probably the most important in the above list of products is rubber substitute, the substance which Chicago chemists have recently brought to perfection. This new rubber, made from a waste of ordinary yellow corn, will cheapen the price of rubber goods 25 per cent. Corn rubber must be combined with an equal quantity of Para rubber to give it general utility. Twenty chemists have been employed at the Chicago refinery for a year in bringing this new rubber to perfection.

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