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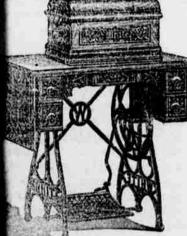
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field a Pathetic Feature.

Little Ones in the Insurgent Camp Whose Playthings Are Cartridge Shells and Their Lullaby the Trumpet Call.

[Copyright, 1888.] There is no more pathetic feature in the war between Cuba and Spain than the actual presence of children upon the battlefield. The awful massacre of the Cubans by starvation as well us by bullet and sword has numbered among its victims many child martyrs to the cause of liberty.

There are little ones in the insurgent camps to-day whose playthings are cartridge shells; whose lullaby is the trumpet call and the noise of battle. This revolution must always live in history as one which numbers in its list of martyrs, baby patriots whose blood has stained their country's soil with that of their fathers and mothers.

These children die, most of them. from fever and insufficient food. They are gaunt little specters of childhood. with wan eyes that have looked upon terrible scenes of carnage and death. Some of them die on the field, where they march beside their fathers with tiny hands clasping some implement of war. Others are stricken down with machetes, or trampled upon by horses' hoofs in the wild charges of the insur-

And these little martyr souls pass away without a mother's prayer or a mother's arms around them. Their requiem is the cry of "Cuba Libre!" echoing from dying lips. Their little bodies

CHILDREN IN CUBA'S WAR, nition in plenty, had been prevented from landing within the month, and the condition of affairs was desperate. And it is this fuct that makes the ma chete charges of the insurgents the wildest and most terribly picturesque forms of battle.

The men sometimes faced their forwith only one bullet apiece to figh with. When this had been sent into tie. face of the Spanish volunteers-un trained and weakened from marching through swamps-the insurgents would raise their machetes in the air, and with the cry of liberty upon their lips. tears streaming from their eyes in the desperate realization of their post tion-they would charge, a-horse a-foot, up to the very muzzles of the Spanish muskets, carrying all before them in the fury of the charge, hewing down the volunteers like sugar cane.

One night Jose told me that his father had sent a message saying that he had been so near Havana the night before that he had set his watch by the evening bells. "And I am going to see him to-morrow," he said, and showed me the letter, written in Spanish, that had come from the field appealing for aid from the city-especially asking for ammunition.

The next day Jose took a load of fruit out toward Mantanzas. The mule moved slower than ever under his panniers, for they were filled with cartridges. It was long afterwards that I heard the boy's story. Towards nightfall, when he had nearly reached the insurgents' camp, the tired little beast refused to proceed further under its heavy pack in spite of persuasion and even blows. Jose loosened the bags from the mule's back and slung them over his own shoulder. Where before he had been only a peasant peddler, he



A CUBAN BOY PATRIOT.

lie unburied beneath-the southern suns, until Heaven in benediction marks their resting places with Cuba's most fragrant bloom of lilies and roses. springing from the very life blood of these infant warriors.

The presence of women and children on the field of battle has been used as a reproach by the enemies of Cuba. their fury.

To those who know the real nature of the Cuban women these stories seem like fairy tales. The women of Cuba are intensely feminine in their natures domestic, womanly creatures, fond of their children, to whom they devote themselves from babyhood.

The Cuban baby is a veritable monarch in the home of its parents, and in times of peace the education and the guidance of the child almost constitutes its mother's whole existence. The presence of women and their children on the field of battle is only due to the fact that every Cuban insurgent knows the Spanish volunteer will wreak his vengeance on women and children left unprotected in the towns. It is for this reason that whole families have fought together-children side by side with their parents-baby hands sometimes loading and reloading rifles for the men and women.

A Cuban boy or a Cuban girl often can handle a machete with as much skill as a man-much more dexterously than the average American who takes up the weapon wondering at its weight and apparent clumsiness. But the machete is really a household implement in the homes of the Cubans. It is used much as a hatchet is used in an American household, but with far greater diversity of uses. The Cuban boy can peel a cocoanut with a mnchete as easily as an American boy peels an apple with a jackknife. The machete is used to cut sugar cane, to trim vines and to cut the great eacti and palms that abound upon the island -glants in their growth.

There have been many child martyrs to the Cuban war for liberty. There are only a few names written on the death rolls, for the children have not been counted in with the soldiers. Somewhere in Havana, maybe, the names of those little ones are written in gold.

One case came to my memory, that of Jose Priest, a 15-year-old boy living with his mother and two sisters in Havana. His father was upon the field, and the boy helped to support his mother by selling fruit and flowers along the Prado. I had bought many bunches of roses from him, and had heard many bits of news from the field which he would whisper to me as he stopped each evening at the window of the Hotel Ingleterra with his wares. This boy died like a hero during my stay in Cuba.

It was at the time when the lack of ammunition was driving the insurgents to desperation. Several fillbustering expeditions, carrying arms and ammu-

was now a suspicious looking person, and was sure to be detected if he was seen by anyone. He stumbled on in the darkness, realizing his danger, but determined to reach his father. He fell many times in that journey; his clothing was torn from his tired legs, but he plodded on until a sentry's challenge There have been stories of armies of rang out somewhere in the night. Then got clear he let his boat rise to the "Amazons"—described as rough mascu- he started to run, still carrying that heavy load; but two shots whizzed after him, one striking his shoulder. He hid behind rocks by the roadside until the lazy, half-drunken Spanish sentries had ridden away; then he started on again.

He reached the campfire of the insurgent detachment, where his father waited his coming, and fell forward & the feet of the surprised men, whispering that he had brought the bulletsand the loaves of white bread that his mother had sent, and a flask of red wine. The boy died two days later, his wound inflaming and fever setting in as a result of that terrible journey through the marshes.

Huedo Hernandez was one of the girl victims of the war. She was only 11 years old, and living at Cardenas. She was playing one day with some other children, when a stranger approached and asked her to carry a package to some one in the town. The little one innocently consented, and was on her way to the house indicated when she was arrested and the package seized. It happened to contain letters from an insurrecto to a woman relative. Hueda was charged with conspiracy against the government, and was cast into a foul prison. I do not know her ultimate fate.

The children of Cuba have suffered by this awful war as never children have before. War devastates homes and leaves hearthstones desolate in all cases, but this has been a war of extermination. In the children of Cuba Spain sees another generation of Cubans, even stronger in their patriot ism than their fathers who have gladly given their lives in the cause o liberty.

Every Cuban boy and girl - ever haby-has been looked upon as a men ace to the Spaniard. These children must never be allowed to grow to man hood and to womanhood-strong to their love of country, with the menories of the ten years' war and all the wrongs and massacres that their par ents have suffered in this war

avenge-so reasons the Spanlard. And so it is that the children of Culhave gone upon the battlefield to figh with their fathers. In the wonderfu war that the Cubans have waged, hold ing their island in the face of an arm: three times their size, the child war riors have played an important part Their innocent fives have been added to that vast altar upon which so many lives have been offered as a sacrifice. KATE MASTERSON

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Speaking of the Plunger, the new vessel now being built for the navy that will sail under the water as well as on top of it, Capt. Royal B. Bradford, of the navy, said the other day: "It is a mistake to suppose that Jules Verne was the inventor of submarine navigation. A man of the name of Bushnell, a graduate of Yale college, and a resident of Connecticut, built a submarine boat that rendered practical service during the revolutionary war. He was also the inventor of the torpedo, and his achievements are described in a poem written 100 wears ago, entitled 'The Battle of the Kegs.'

"One day while the British were oceupying New York and their fleets were anchored in the New York harbor, an army sergeant of the name of Lee got inside of Bushnell's submarine boat, which was built the shape of a turtle, and navigated all round under the water among the British ships. He propelled himself with paddle-wheels that were worked by cranks with his feet, so that his arms were free. When he got in sight of the fleet he sunk his craft and worked along under water with the intention of attaching a clockwork torpedo to the hull of the flagship. a tremendous big frigate, but when he got alongside the bottom he found she was copper sheathed. He did not have the proper tools to cut the copper away, so he had to work with a wooden screw. He penetrated the sheathing, but struck a rivet or some other piece of iron, and had to give it up. When he surface of the water and paddled back to the patriot lines in safety.

"Bad luck always seemed to follow Bushnell. While the British fleet was in Delaware river, off Philadelphia, he rigged a lot of torpedoes and set them affoat in the water downstream. But without his knowing it, the ships had been hauled up to the docks and he missed them. Some small merchant vessels that were anchored in the river were destroyed, but the fleet escaped The event was important, however, because it demonstrated the practical value of a torpedo.

"There is a man out in Oshkosh, Wis.," rontinued Capt. Bradford, "who has been working for years on the problem of submarine navigation, and has built several successful boats. He had a predecessor some 30 years ago who was equally successful, and built a curious craft in which he sailed all round under the water and often took his friends with him. Another man at Detroit some years ago built a submarine boat that seemed to be perfectly successful. He was so much encouraged that he made a larger one, but forgot the principle that the pressure of the water increases rapidly as the size of boat and the depth to which it is submerged increases, and his big boat, not being stanch enough when he sunk her to the bottom, collapsed and he was drowned."-Chicago Record.

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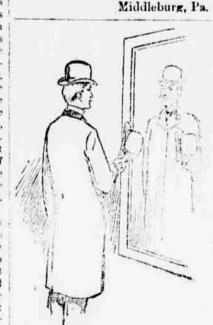
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