

# CUBA'S METROPOLIS.

## GAY AND NOISY HAVANA'S PICTURESQUE SIGHTS.

The Handsome Harbor and its Defenses—The City's Architecture—Many Parks and Cafes—Soldiers Seen Every Where.

HAVANA has long been reckoned the eighth commercial city of the world. Morro Castle, with its Dahlgren guns peeping out through the yellow stones, and its tall sentinel lighthouse, stands guard over the narrow entrance of the harbor; the battery of La Punta on the opposite shore answering to the Morro. It is a proud and a strong fort, but its defense, declares the Chicago Times-Herald, is merely a matter of sentiment. With such armament as Havana has, an invading

army of the houses are generally covered with stucco, painted in all colors. Blues, yellows and greens are used indiscriminately, and the visitor is at once unpleasantly struck by the bizarre effect, but soon learns to appreciate the nice manner in which this apparently crazy and unsystematic laying on of color harmonizes with the glowing tropical atmosphere. This coloring of the house fronts is not without a reason, in fact. It has been found to absorb much of the sun's rays, which, without this disadvantage, would work serious injuries to the eyes.

There is no city in the world where noise—pure noise, made for its own sake and nothing else—reigns as supreme as in Havana. At daybreak all the bells in the city are rung furiously. Church bells, fire bells, public bells and private bells unite with one accord to produce a discord calculated to drive a civilized man mad. Added to this the crowing of game cocks, with

parcs, squares and public places. The squares are ornamented with royal palms, and here and there an orange and banana tree, and now and then an Indian laurel. The Plaza de Armas, fronting the Governor's palace, and the Parque de Isabella are two splendid specimens of Cuban appreciation of the richness and fertility of the soil and the rare climate. The Parque de Isabella is a picture of gay life in the evening, and is one of the beauty spots of Havana.

The cafes are innumerable and some of them the equal of the best and most exclusive restaurants in Europe or America. The principal playhouse is the Tacon Theatre. Other places of amusement are Payret Theatre, the Alhambra Theatre and the Circo, Teatro de Jene. The Casino is a place of amusement and instruction combined, a sort of gymnasium, in which such art as lives in Havana is fostered and in which state balls occur.

The glory of the new city lies in its splendid streets and the well ordered vegetation that has been cultivated along their lines. The churches are without number and are enthusiastically filled on Sundays and holidays. On these occasions unusual demonstrations are indulged in in the way of bell-ringing.

No city in the world, with the possible exception of San Francisco, is so lavishly supplied with food products as Havana. The earth and the sea render up all their best fruit, and living is cheap.

The great Havana market is where the visitor opens his eyes. An upper floor and a lower open on all sides and under a roof. It covers a good-sized block. All Havana is here buying its dinner and other supplies. There is a multitude of booths, containing fruits of the tropics, fish, meats, leather goods, jewelry and curios

not walk five steps without meeting one. All these distinctive garments are neat, but look cheap beside the dress of a United States soldier or marine. The cloth resembles cambrio and is porous and cool. However, it fits the wearer well; he is always clean, and his shoes are blacked. The men are not as well set up as the Americans. In fact, the men are not as robust as our countrymen. They are tall and thin. It may be the climate, and it may be the excessive smoking.

With all his politeness and kindness, the Havana citizen looks on the American as legitimate prey. If you have the misfortune to be of that nationality your fate is sealed. You cannot hide your identity. You walk too fast and you are too straight. Even the very children on the street recognize you. The boatman charges you 50 cents, when the ordinary price is only 20. Figures on fruit and all merchandise rise alarmingly when the American approaches.

### GAMECOCK SOLD FOR \$1000.

A Remarkable Transaction at an English Poultry Show. A man in England paid \$1000 for a chicken a short time ago, although the fact is not a basis for speculation as to English poultry market prices.



THE GAMECOCK THAT COST \$1000.

In point of fact the price was considered so outrageous, even for a gamecock, that the story of the sale when it first began to circulate found few believers. But it was a genuine sale. The money was paid and the chicken taken.

It was at the Birmingham poultry show a few weeks ago that this remarkable transaction took place. The gamecock in question, a fine black red, is said to be one of the most perfect of its kind in existence. It has a wonderful reach, is almost perfect in shape and size, while its fine tail is one of its best points. It has a fine ancestral record of prizes and triumphs, and is heavy winner itself. The owner of the bird was Mr. Hugh Ainscough, and the purchaser was Captain Henton, agent of the Earl of Ellesmere.

### New Picture of Washington.

Collectors of Washingtoniana will be interested to learn that a hitherto unknown engraving of the Father of his Country has recently been discovered. It is not mentioned in W. S. Baker's "Engraved Portraits of Washington," which is the standard work on the subject. But Mr. Baker has recognized it as a valuable addendum to the contemporary portraits of our first President.

The engraving in question, according to the legend thereon, was "Pubd. 15th July, 1784, by Whitworth & Yates, Birmingham." These English engravers are well known as the publishers of other valuable prints of the same subject. It shows Washington in his early manhood and differs considerably from the more familiar portraits which limn him at a ma-



GENERAL WASHINGTON. (A new portrait which has just been discovered.)

turer age. The discoverer is a gentleman in this city, who purchased half a dozen impressions belonging to a farmer in the West. The Western gentleman explained that they had been in his family for generations, but could give no further information. He was not aware of the rarity of his property.—New York Herald.

# PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

January 25.—The snowstorms kept a number of legislators from the state capital to-day, and empty seats were noticeable to-night when both houses of the legislature were called to order at 9 o'clock. Among the bills introduced in the senate were:

By Mr. Beyer, of Philadelphia, to prevent fraud in the sales of transoceanic tickets.

By Mr. Moyer, Bucks, increasing the salary of the secretary of the state board of health to \$2,500.

By Mr. Kennedy, Allegheny, authorizing married women living apart from their husbands, under articles of separation, to convey real estate.

Although no committee of the house have yet been announced, Speaker Boyer permitted the presentation of bills on first reading in the house to-night. The following bills were read and laid on the table until the committee are named:

By Mr. Beyer, for the election of assistant assessors.

By Mr. Mansfield, Beaver, for the better protection of the miners in the bituminous coal fields; also for the establishment of a mine bureau.

By Mr. Smith, Jefferson, defining libel and providing a punishment therefor.

By Mr. Hammond, Westmoreland, to extend the minimum school term to seven months.

By Mr. Moore, Butler, appropriating \$18,000 to the Butler county general hospital.

By Mr. Smith, Jefferson, to appoint a commission and select a site for the epileptic sanatorium in a dozen counties in the northern and central portions of the state.

By Mr. Beyer, making it a misdemeanor to engage in, or play football. The fine is fixed at not less than \$10 nor more than \$100.

In the senate a measure was introduced by Senator Kennedy of Allegheny by request of the names of persons accused of committing a "crime, state or municipal." A fine of from \$20 to \$100 is provided, one-half to go to the informer or injured persons. Senator Kennedy declares he knows nothing of nor is he interested in the bill.

The following bills were presented before adjournment by Senator Kennedy, a supplement to the act of 1895, providing for the incorporation of institutions of learning. This act is one of those proposed by the college and university council of state, regulating the granting of degrees, providing how and when they shall be granted and a penalty for the violation of the law.

By Senator Loach, an act authorizing the appointment of a board of trustees for the better management of almshouses in counties containing a population of 150,000 and over and abolishing the office of director of the poor in said counties.

By Senator White, an act making an appropriation to assist in the furnishing and maintenance of the Beaver Valley General Hospital of Beaver county.

By Senator Loach, an act regulating the expenses of county commissioners in counties containing a population of 150,000 or over.

By Senator Loach, an act authorizing the appointment of a board of trustees for the better management of almshouses in counties containing a population of 150,000 or over.

By Senator W. S. Scott, Luzerne, an act establishing a dental council and a state board of dental examiners, defining the powers and duties of said board and to provide for the examination and licensing of practitioners of dentistry. This board is created on a plan similar to that of the medical examining boards. The secretary and treasurer is to be salaried at \$500 per annum and an appropriation of \$1,000 per year is ordered.

By Senator Mitchell, an act to regulate the employment and provide for the health and safety of men, women and children employed in manufacturing establishments, laundries, renovating works or printing offices; providing for the examination and licensing of clerks and others to enforce the same, also an act to regulate the employment and provide for the health and safety of persons employed where clothing, cigarettes, cigars and certain other articles are made.

At length the house was in session but 25 minutes, about 150 bills were presented, many of them from Allegheny county members.

Jan. 27.—The legislative committees were announced this morning in both senate and house. All the old senators were treated alike by President Pro Tem McCarroll. Each were given a chairmanship. The same policy was pursued by Speaker Boyer in the committee on the house committees.

Senator Critchfield, of Somerset, is chairman of the committee on agriculture; Mitchell, of Jefferson, appropriations; Becker, of Philadelphia, banks and building loan associations; Miller, of Cumberland, canals and railroad navigation; Sawyer, of Monticounty, central affairs; Sprout, of Dolores, compare bills; Vaughn, of Lackawanna, congressional apportionment; Thomas, of Philadelphia, corporations; McQuinn, of Allegheny, education; Feltz, of Allegheny, elections; Hertzler, of Juniata, federal relations; Grady, of Philadelphia, finance; Kaufman, of Lancaster, game and fisheries; Short, of Warren, insurance; Coyle of Schuylkill, judicial appointment; Walton, of Greene, judicial general; Goble, of Lebanon, judiciary special; Brown, of New Castle, legislative apportionment; Moyer, of Bucks, library; Crosse, of Philadelphia, military affairs; Mitchell, of Bradford, mines and metallurgy; Goble, of Philadelphia, municipal affairs; Brown, of Westmoreland, new counties and county seats; Eby, of Lancaster, pensions and gratuities; Heller, of Northampton, public buildings; Kennedy, of Allegheny, public health and sanitation; Hertzler, of Wayne, public printing; Sawyer, of Chester, railroads and street passenger railways; Meredith, of Armstrong, forestry; Andrews, of Crawford, public supply of light, heat and water; White of Beaver, public roads and highways; Merrick, of Tioga, law and order.

After the legislative announcements a number of bills were presented, and the senate adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Just before the senate adjourned United States Senator-elect Boies Penrose resigned his seat in the senate.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock. The principal business was the announcing of the committees. After the reading of the committees, on the roll of counties, Mr. Muehlbronner presented a bill regulating the occupation of barbers and providing for sanitary regulation and inspection of their business. This is the bill that wipes out the barber colleges. The same gentleman presented a bill for the appropriation of \$50,000 for the maintenance of Allegheny General Hospital.

Mr. Muehlbronner also presented a bill fixing the salaries of election officers at \$5 respectively of the time that they served.

Representative McWhinney presented a bill making tax collectors in boroughs ineligible for re-election.

Representative Simon presented a bill amending the city assessors' bill. It provides that not less than three or more than five city assessors can be selected.

Mr. Pitman presented a bill making it a misdemeanor to wear hats or bonnets in theatres.

Jan. 28.—The senate was in session but a short time to-day. Some of the committees had met and organized last night were prepared to report bills. President McCarroll announced the appointment of Gen. Gobin and Senator Mitchell, of Jefferson, as members of the soldiers' orphans commission and Gen. Gobin as trustee of the Soldiers' home at Erie.

Mr. Vaughan's bill authorizing quarter session courts to declare vacant the seats of councils which fail to organize within 10 days was reported favorably.

ed debt, and providing for the method of assessing and levying tax for the payment of principal and interest when bonds become due.

The senate adjourned to meet Monday night when it will have a calendar of bills on the first reading.

The first worthy battle of the session took place in the house this morning over the revival of the resolution offered by Senator J. G. Mitchell, of Jefferson, providing for an investigation of the state treasurer. This resolution was, it will be remembered, defeated some days since, owing to a general misunderstanding of its import.

A number of important bills were reported in the house and the first committee reports were made. Among the bills reported were Representative Tibbcock's bill repealing the Greater Pittsburgh act.

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

### YOUNG GIRL DROWNED.

Fannie Parry Falls Through the Ice in Monongahela.

Fannie, the 16-year-old daughter of Thos. Parry, proprietor of the Parry hotel, at Shire Oaks, was drowned in the Monongahela. She, with a girl companion, was skating on the ice and broke through. Her companion was rescued, but Miss Parry had drowned before assistance arrived. The body was recovered a short time afterward.

The descendants of Burckhart Moser, who died about 47 years ago leaving an estate estimated to be worth \$14,000,000, met in Butler and decided to employ counsel and take steps to recover the property now in possession of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, consisting of 920 acres of valuable coal land in Schuylkill county, on a part of which the town of Tanqua is situated.

Stewart & McNail, lumber dealers of Victoria, have purchased 3,000 acres of timber land south of Dunbar in the Laurel Hill mountains. The tract contains over 5,000,000 feet of lumber and will take five years to clear it. Already several new mills have been erected. This is the largest sale of timber land ever made in this section at one time.

There were ten bidders for the state printing for the next four years. The lowest is W. S. Day, of Mercer, who proposed to do the work at \$3 1-10 below the maximum price prescribed by the state. The contract four years ago was given out for 76 1-100. In the aggregate the work amounts to about \$300,000 a year.

On Saturday afternoon John Stewart, of Homer City, met a most tragic death. He engaged on a possible new iron mine from his home, and when passing the carrier he slipped and fell against the swift-revolving saw and the top of his head was cut off. He was 25 years old and unmarried.

Dr. J. H. Davidson and Isaac Piersol, of Ferrysburg, have purchased the Lynn works near that place, and will assume the work on Feb. 1. The sale includes 75 acres of coal and the Bessemer plant, with the tipple and 10 blocks of company residences. The consideration is about \$80,000.

Owen W. Underwood, appointed by the court of Washington county, to investigate the Bensenville school imbricatio, has reported that the board has failed to provide proper school facilities, at the same time scoring the citizens of both factions. The court will rule on the matter.

The large tannery of the Elk Tannery Company, of Hildway, located in Curwensville, caught fire and all the main buildings, including an immense stock of hides and undressed hides. The loss is between \$125,000 and \$150,000. The amount of insurance is not known.

The dead body of Hosen Myers, a well-known citizen of Franklin, was discovered in the lock above the Youngs mills, where it is supposed he threw himself while temporarily insane. No other cause can be assigned, as he was a man of considerable means.

The striking pressers and gatherers of the Hazel Glass Factory at Washington went to work Tuesday morning, after being out a week. The dispute over the rate of wages was adjusted by a compromise rate.

The school building at West Middletown, Washington county, was destroyed by fire, including a fine library, organ and many school books. Other quarters will be secured immediately. The building was insured.

Samuel Carey and Alice Copenhagen, two well-known young people of Shrewsbury, eloped to Jamestown, N. Y. and were married. They are not of age, and consequently the marriage had to take place in New York.

Howard Dytch, for whom it is claimed that he secured the passage of the bill to pay letter carriers for overtime, is now an inmate of the Erie Soldiers' home, having spent all his money in his efforts.

Several prominent people near Ligonier will be arrested for planting strychnine in the mountains above Laughlinton to poison foxes. Five valuable fox hounds have died from eating the bait.

Miss Mayme Compton of New Castle, rose and went to prepare her father's breakfast, but when she was nearly done her mother found she had no fire in the stove. A look revealed that the young lady was asleep.

John W. Johnson, of Center township Indiana county, was stricken with paralysis and fell into an open fireplace. He was probably fatally burned before he could be rescued.

Mr. A. H. Robbins, editor of the Greenville Independent, plead guilty before Judge Wallace, at New Castle, to the charge of libel. Sentence was suspended indefinitely.

The handsome residence of the late Judge McKennan, at Washington, where General Grant was several times a guest, has been sold to Dr. J. W. Kelly, for \$10,000.

W. A. Lewis, an attorney of Pittsburg, has completed the purchase of what is known as the Schoenberger coal, near Monaca, Schela City, for \$35,000.

Mrs. Marzaret Kunkle, aged 87, fell into an open grate at the home of her daughter, near Indiana, and was burned to death before discovered.

A clever swindler victimized Jeannette people by pretending he was about to open a large store. It is being elegantly fitted up, but he has left.

William Maroney, of Carrollton, poured some tea into a cup in which Paris green had been mixed and drank it. He died the next morning.

Mrs. Maria Howe, a wealthy woman living near Taylorstown, tried to commit suicide by taking Paris green, but her life was saved.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CITY OF HAVANA.

fleet could be held out of the bay. The castle is re-enforced by the long range of cannon and barracks on the city side, and the massive fortress of the Cubanos crowning the hill behind the Morro. All these are decorated with the red and yellow flag of Spain. So many strong fortifications show how important the home government regards the place.

The harbor of Havana compares favorably with the most famous in the world. Infinitely more picturesque than New York Bay, it is much livelier in maritime interest than that of the Golden Gate. The bay is shaped like a human hand outstretched, with the wrist as the entrance. It is populous with ships from almost every Nation on earth. The one idea it impresses is that of activity. European and American mail steamers come and go daily. Coasting steamers and the boats of the regular lines from Mexico and the islands of the Caribbean seek the bay, and great ferries ply between the docks of the city and the Regla shores. There is also a fleet of sailing boats, yachts gathered from all over the world, row boats, and what not in the seaway.

The city itself is pleasing or irritating to the newcomer according to the spirit that may possess him at the time of his arrival. But all travelers agree on one point—they universally declare it to be one of the noisiest, liveliest, pell-mell, happy-go-lucky, wide awake, clamorous, clangerous towns in existence. The great Humboldt said of it as he entered it from the bay that it was the gayest and most picturesque sight in all America.

It is certainly not American, and yet there is nothing like it in Europe. It is intensely Cuban, and a type of itself. In a general view the town presents churches, cathedrals and other structures that force themselves into prominence against the background of less imposing houses. There is nothing in this great extent of public buildings that strikes one as being specially valuable from an architectural point of view, and even if there were its beauty would be entirely subordinated by a colossal prison near the shore, which was built for the purpose of having a capacity to lodge with ease a matter of 5000 prisoners at a time.

The city is divided into two parts, called the intramural, or old town, which lies between the bay and the site of the ancient walls which have fallen into decay and have been used for an upbuilding of the new city, and the extramural town, consisting of the new city, which lies beyond the site of the old walls and is more or less modern in its architecture. The streets of the old town are laid out in fairly regular order, and are pretty well paved. But these thoroughfares are narrow in the extreme, with sidewalks barely wide enough for one pedestrian. The streets of the new city, although laid only in macadam, are wider, airier and fringed on either side with pretty palm trees, giving the town a garden-like aspect.

The architecture of the dwelling-

which the town is overstocked for gambling purposes; the rattle of innumerable cabs and public conveyances, the clangor of gongs on street car lines, electric and otherwise, and the general roar to which every waking Havanae adds his mite, and the city, even in the time of most elumbrous peace, can well be supposed to surpass any other town of 300,000 population in the world.

The populace of Havana, at least in times of peace—and this accounts for its disquietude in times of war—is essentially gay. This accounts for the number and variety of the cafes, caecher, eating and drinking places, lounging places and resorts of every color and complexion calculated to offer opportunity to idle and lazy men.



OBISPO, THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS STREET IN HAVANA.

A recent visitor to the island, describing the habits of the men and their unspeakable indolence, says this of the town's resorts and their habitues:

"The men luxuriate in the cafes or spend their evenings in worse places. A brief period of the morning only is given to business, the rest of the day and night to meeting and lassitude, smoking and luxurious ease. Evidences of satiety, languor and dullness, the weakened capacity for enjoyment, are gaily conspicuous. The inevitable consequence of indolence and vice. The arts and sciences seldom disturb the thoughts of such people.

"The pretentious town house is side by side with the humble quarters of the artisan. High life and low life are ever present in strong contrast, and in the best of humor with each other, affording elements of the picturesque, if not of the beautiful. Neatness must be ignored where such human conglomeration exists, and, as we all know, at certain seasons of the year, like dear, delightful, dirty Naples, Havana is the hotbed of pestilence. The dryness of the atmosphere trans-

such as only a scaport mart can pick up. The human beings who preside here are representatives of every nation on the globe.

The hotels are built around a court,



STREET IN THE OLD FORT OF HAVANA

so that every room has direct communication with the open air. A terrace often encircles the upper story (the second), and on it are shrubberies and plants, and maybe a few parrots. There is a most comfortable place to sit; indeed, the majority of the citizens of Havana spend their time on their house-tops. They dry clothes there, and use the space for a back yard.

At the hotels, as at many private houses, two meals a day are served—breakfast in the late morning, and dinner in the evening. Coffee can be had shortly after rising. Wine is freely drunk. Candles serve as illumination when you retire.

Even in times of peace civilians are scarce in Havana. Soldiers stand at every corner—they are the police. The uniform is the same blue as the marine's, but the blouse, trousers and blue cap are trimmed with crimson. A sword and heavy revolver, and sometimes a rifle, constitute the equipment. The Spanish Government officials around the docks are dressed in outworn suits of the prevailing blue. A wide-brimmed straw hat, looped up at one side with a cockade, is a familiar headgear.

There are many other uniforms—cavalry, artillery, officers'. You can-



MORRO CASTLE, ENTRANCE TO HAVANA.

houses is heavy, and this gives them an appearance of old age which they really do not deserve. The material used in their building is the porous stone which abounds in the island, and which, when first quarried, is as easily worked into blocks as wood, but which becomes as hard as granite when exposed to the atmosphere. The

forms most of the street off to powder, which salutes nose, eyes, ears and mouth under the influence of the slightest breeze. Though there are ample bathing facilities in and about the city, the people of either sex seem to have a prejudice against their free use.

Havana is abundantly supplied with