

Graphic Sketch of Havana.

Havana is a mystery to the European and the American. The question, "Why do you this and do you that?" is always answered with, "We have always done so; what else would you have us do?" Why the farmers use a crooked stick to plow with; why ladies sit in their carriages while the dry goods clerk brings out rolls of cloth for them to inspect; why dark women and even black women powder their faces until they look as if they had been daubed with flour; why houses are built to a line within two feet of the curbing, so that pedestrians cannot walk two abreast; why the houses are all painted in what-*ever* vivid color pleases the owner most; why an unearthly clangor of bells drives sleep from the city at daybreak; why no one ever keeps an appointment (and never apologizes for the offense), are questions that Havana and Cubans do not explain or attempt to explain.

The most equatorial sun beats down upon the streets with terrific heat during the day, and none but business people and "low people" are seen during the early and middle day. When the sun sinks, however, the lazy inhabitants turn out, and the life of the night is the lively life of Havana. Then the military band plays in the park, and the senoras and senoritas are seen, with the invariable mantilla, in all their glory. Havana girls are seldom seen abroad with their sweethearts, and even the crowds in the park, although not the best of society in the town, are very decorous. Courtship is not long drawn out, and flirtations are few. Havana has a population of about 200,000. The city has not been very businesslike under Spanish rule. Most of the men are worthless and dissipated. They lounge in cafes and look only to pleasure such as the Spaniard delights in—gambling, cock fighting and bull baiting. No thought of the morrow is taken, and the result is that a more improvident population can be found nowhere.

The war with the insurgents has made but small difference to Havana. An American traveller who recently visited the town says that the only difference the war has made is the presence of a larger number of soldiers than ever. But on Sunday Havana is as active and buoyant as it ever was.

Sunday is Havana's holiday. There are no bull fights going on now, as the people are too poor from the war to support them. But there are other amusements, so that Sunday maintains a violent contrast with the rest of the week. Every store, nearly, is open. The newspapers are published in editions throughout the day. The cafes are filled from morning till night. The one theater which has not succumbed to the depression puts on the best operas and sells every seat. It is a day to entertain and pay calls and to spend hours in the parks. So much license is given to every form of recreation on Sunday that it is actually possible to go out of the city for several miles into the country without disturbance from the soldiery, despite the war.

As for the churches, thousands of women religiously attend. In Cuba the church and her children are a woman's life. She soon loses her husband as her companion in the home. She does not read. She never heard of a new woman. She has her little circle of friends like herself, and some day dies. But she has been faithful to the church, and the most striking thing about a service in the

great cathedral is the presence of the women of Havana and the absence of the men. It is said here, that most men go to church but three times in their life—when baptized, when about to be married and when dead—and the church is as rigid in its requirements of the first two visits as the departed is to be received there at last. All the storekeepers are courteous and unobtrusive. They are so polite that one feels as if he were rudely trespassing on entering their stores to purchase. Money is generally plentiful in Havana, and as there is not a savings bank in the island, and Cubans are born spendthrifts, it is striking to note the general excellence of everything offered for sale. American goods are the favourite. French and German wares are popular, but everything is of the highest grade, and a native or Spaniard will never buy anything but the best.

A visitor experiences great difficulty in purchasing anything characteristically Cuban in the stores, but that is because Cuba produces only two things—sugar and tobacco—and buys everything she uses—even buys back her sugar refined.

The easiest thing to buy is cigars, and they cost astonishingly less than in the States. There is an experience in buying them, because the great cigar factories of Havana, producing brands that are known to smokers all over the world, are interesting institutions. They occupy buildings so nearly resembling the ordinary dwelling house that they would be mistaken for them by a stranger except for the odor. The Cuban house of the better class is of the ordinary typical construction. It is enormously heavy, built of adobe or soft stone, to withstand earthquakes and to resist heat. The rooms are enormous, with ceiling from fifteen to twenty or twenty-five feet high, all floors, even in the bedrooms being of stone, and the windows covered with great iron bars. The houses of the lower class look no different from without, but are awful within, and the cause of Havana's scourges of yellow fever is at once apparent. The city is badly drained. The bay, with no free course of water and comparatively little tide, is a reservoir, uncleansed, of the city's offal. It breeds disease, and in squalor where personal uncleanness is added to the perils incurred by municipal neglect, the houses of the poor have become the incubators of pestilence.

Havana has many beautiful parks, squares and public places. The squares are all ornamented with royal palms, and here and there an orange or banana tree, and here and there an Indian laurel. The Plaza de Armas, which fronts the palace of the captain-general, and the Parque de Isabelia are capital examples of what may be done with the richness and fertility of the soil and the gorgeous climate. Havana's restaurants are innumerable and the equal of the very best public eating places in any of the great cities of Europe or America. Everybody takes his meals in the cafe. The food supply is superabundant and very cheap. One can live like a Sybarite on the most modest of incomes. Wine is very cheap and is drunk liberally. The principal play houses in the city are Tacon Theater, the Albisu Theater, the Circo and the teatro de Jaine.

To go back to the food supply. No city in the world is furnished with such an abundance and variety of foods as is Havana, with the possible exception of San Francisco.

**A LIFE SAVER TO MANKIND
is what Mr. George Benner,
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Dr. Chase's Kidney-
Liver Pills.**

Not that I am at all fond of having my name put in public places, but as a *life saver to mankind*, I hereby state what Dr. A. W. Chase's K.-L. Pills did for me. For nearly four years I was greatly troubled with Constipation and general weakness in the kidneys, and in my perilous position was strongly advised to use Chase's Pills, and to-day I can safely and truthfully state that they have saved my life.

GEO. BENNER.

To all who find themselves with health gradually slipping away, Kidneys and Liver so disorganized that they are incapable of keeping the system free from poisonous waste material, Stomach Disordered, Bowels Constipated, Head Aching, Back Pain, take Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. The quick way they help you back to health will surprise you.

All Dealers sell them at
25 CENTS A BOX.

The earth and the sea give to its people all the best of their fruits.

The great market of Havana is without an equal, surpassing, as it does, the famed French market of New Orleans. This market covers an area equal to that of an American block, and it is all under a single roof. There are numberless booths in which are exposed for sale all the fruits of the tropics, sea fish, fresh water fish, meats, game, leather goods, jewelry, and such curios as only a seaport visited by the commerce of the world can pick up. There are seen men, women and children of every nationality upon the earth. The wonder is how so small a town can gather to itself such a wide range of humanity.

The cafes are chiefly used by the permanent residents, visitors preferring the hotels, but the best of the eating is to be had in the cafes. Havana is full of all sorts of devices for enjoyment, much of which is by no means calculated to move men to thrift and industry. There are lounging places, smoking and drinking cafes and resorts catering to every desire of ease and indolence. These facts are seen in the jaded faces of the men who seem to have money enough to satisfy their desire for lazy pleasures, if for no productive industries. The briefest possible time is given in the morning to business, and the rest of the day and night is devoted to gaiety. Even the fear of a bombardment or war with the United States does not seem to make much difference to the Havanaes, who could get along quite as well under one flag as another, providing the means for satisfying their desires for a lazy life be not taken from them.

The population of Havana is mixed and its morals are very low. The condition of its women remind a widely travelled man of the Orient. They are close-kept and live in tropical idleness. Miscegenation is common, and it is no rare matter to find a Cuba family of very good social position and of considerable wealth composed of persons that would be classed as quadroons in America. Havana is a city of grand surprises for the foreign visitor. A political mite as it is in comparison with London, there are slums in Havana that cannot be matched in the metropolis of the world. One of the most amazing sights of the Cuban capital is the manner in which children of both sexes, 10 years old and under, roam about the streets, enter the shops, bazaars, churches, and other public places in a state of complete nudity. In no city on earth except Havana—not even in Japan—are such matters permitted. But Havana is Havana, and is not in the least decomposed about it. Havana has infinite charms as a place of residence. Its climate, its vegetation, the cheap rate at which one can buy all the delicacies of the table, the romance in the very air, the ease with which a little labor will yield a large return, the proximity of the sea, the middle distance between the invigorating north and the tropical countries of the southern continent, the profusion of its fruits and flowers—all these things make it a most desirable place to live, and there is no doubt that thousands of Americans had been there long ago had it not been for the blighting and repressing rule of Spain—a rule that tends to ruin commerce and enterprise wherever it has swayed. Give Cuba her freedom, and it goes without saying that Havana will make great industrial leaps forward. That industrial conquest will give Havana, too, an improvement she needs more than anything else—a good sanitary system. Delightful as the city is, it is cursed with poor sanitation. This is responsible for the prevalence of disease in the town.—Ex.

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Soon fades when Diarrhoea seizes on the little form. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry has saved many infants as well as adults' lives. Mrs. W. Walters, Richmond Street Hamilton, Ont., Says—"I cured my baby of a bad attack of Cholera by using Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. Nothing else did any good, but the baby improved from the first dose of the Wild Strawberry."

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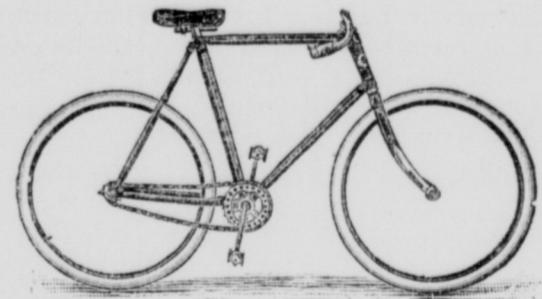
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and a long list of Senators, Commoners, and professional men of the highest standing in the Dominion? Their written testimony you can verify any time. Here are two of the most recent received. They come of the fulness of the heart and unsolicited.

"I am so well pleased with Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder and the good results derived from it that I hardly know how to express myself. For year I have been troubled with catarrh in the head and throat. I have tried different remedies, but found no relief until I began using Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. Words cannot express my gratitude for the good it has done me." Mrs. M. Greenwood, 204 Adelaide street west, Toronto.

"I have been a sufferer from throat and nasal catarrh for over twenty years. All efforts to get rid of the disgusting malady failed, until I used Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. I had tried many remedies, and spent lots of money with physicians. I was attracted to your remedy by seeing it in a drug store. I procured a bottle, and in 15 minutes after the first application I had relief, and after using three bottles I feel I am cured. It is truly a marvellous remedy." Charles C. Brown, Manager Ind. Press Bureau, Duluth, Minn.

Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart and Dr. Agnew's Ointment are as efficacious for the ailments for which they were compounded as is Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. The Heart Cure is a life-saver when it seems past hope; the Ointment never fails to heal all skin disorders and piles; Dr. Agnew's Pills cure sick headache, constipation, biliousness and liver troubles—little pills, little doses.

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