

SOME CUBAN... OBSERVATIONS

A. B. WILLIAMS
in
Richmond
News

Havana, May 17, 1902.

Everybody in Havana is trying to be enthusiastic, but nobody seems to be making a very brilliant success of it so far. It is a very curious situation and remarkable changes of attitude and position have developed.

The one thing the average Cuban is sure of is that he is glad the Americans are going. The fact is there is mighty little love between us and our Cuban brother. That is evident. We have worn out our welcome, the disagreeable and jarring part of us is obvious and ostentatious and the good we have done is an old story or not yet realized.

One thing is sure. When the Americans pull down their flag and march out to-morrow, they will leave this town infinitely better than they found it—as clean a city and as well kept, guarded, protected and policed as any in the world. How long it will remain so is another question, likely to be answered in the near future.

CUBA'S FIRST BIRTHDAY.

Havana, May 20, 1902.
This town seemed to wake all at once at midnight—the beginning of the new republic's first birthday. At 10 o'clock there had been a steady drift of people homeward, and the crowds on the plazas had thinned; at 12 everybody began anew and our old friend Pandemonium renewed his time-honored performance of breaking loose, as he had done at the hands of every reporter who has written of a public performance at any time these thirty years.

The decorations were very beautiful at night. Colored lights were used among the deep green foliage and brilliant reds of the trees in the parks; fireworks were freely used—not so generally as in a large American city at Christmas time, but freely enough to make a good showing and to keep trails of fire or bunches of sparkling stars in the sky in one direction or another pretty constantly. Crowds of handsomely-dressed people were everywhere and constantly on the move; fully half of them were women looking especially attractive under the brilliant lights. About every third or fourth woman one meets wears the mantilla, which makes the effect picturesque and Spanish without monotony. As a rule, the more conservative and the poorer women of the city cling to the ancient and historic garment, while the younger and wealthier and more progressive have discarded it entirely. The women in from the country never wear it; to the contrary they look as if they are ahead of Richmond in the matters of millinery and gowns, and I wonder how they do it.

Never a cheer for the United States, for grown people do not seem to be cheering at all; think it undignified, perhaps. The Cuban obviously has strongly defined notions of personal dignity and perhaps gets in his own way a little or misses some fun. Anyway, the boys have done all the cheering so far, and all of it for Cuba and Cuba Libre. It isn't the yell of the South nor the deeper note of the cheering of the North in America. Somehow it has a strained sound—a kind of mere proclamation of personal opinion, and not the ear-splitting, spontaneous, ringing shriek with which we of the Southern section are accustomed to voice our approval and our joy.

Not a picture of McKinley in sight nor any reference to him, so far as I have seen. Queer, isn't it? So soon we are forgotten. But one would think that ordinary politeness and deference to the memory of a dead man who died in such tragically dramatic circumstances would suggest some public and general recognition of his memory.

There are many arches, some of them very graceful and chaste, some rather shabby, others pretentious and effective. They bear many pictures and mottoes—Monte, Manoa, Palma and the rest—but no McKinley and no word of praise or thanks for the big republic across the creek.

There is no question of the predominance of all this. Probably the business men who do most of the more elaborate decoration obey public sentiment in their capricious omission of any recognition of the United States. They understand the jealous, resentful, sensitive feeling there is and defer to it carefully; so do the politicians. Maybe we will be needed again presently, or thought and understanding of facts will develop a kinder feeling and foster appreciation of

what we have done.

CUBAN CONCLUSIONS.

Tampa, Fla., May 23.
My distinguished fellow-laborer, Colonel William J. Bryan, came over on the boat with me, or I came with him, as may be preferred. The colonel is looking well and begins to be stout; but there was considerable rolling and pitching, and I observed that he did not seem to enjoy his dinner the first day out, and got rather white about the gills. The next heard of him he was flat on his back in his berth preparing manuscript for the magazine which sent him over. I'll bet the colonel will write less than I do and get more for it; also that his matter will be better than mine and will contain fewer facts and more poetry and imagination. I judge his sentiments from the fact that he has a record to write to, and also from a speech he made here to-night.

He said he regarded it as a reflection on the Almighty to assume that He had ever made a people incapable of self government; and that his observations in Cuba had convinced him that the Cubans are capable of self-government.

As to the first part of this proposition I wanted to ask the colonel if he judged that the Almighty made the people of the "States lately in rebellion" who established the Confederate States of America for the purpose of self government; and if he answered "yes" to enquire of him whether he thought the United States government was right or wrong in denying them that privilege. It would have been interesting to see the colonel get away from these propositions; and I further wanted to be told about the negroes and the Feejee Islanders and the Indians, to say nothing of the Chinese and the Haytiens and the South and Central Americans generally; but I lacked both chance and cheek.

The truth is Colonel Bryan, like the other able journalists and commissioners, was entertained at formal banquets and heard set speeches and met the officials and the gentry, and generally saw the surface of a very handsome picture. I went around behind the back and peered under the paint and believe I know what I am talking about.

The people of Cuba are as cold as snow toward President Palma. They know he is not their choice and is the choice of the United States authorities. Bear in mind that the majority of the voters are negroes—and a very poor class of negroes at that. They have been trained to tyranny on one side and turbulence on the other.

We in the States know the old soldier and his feeling. That feeling is intensified here. The Cuban ex-soldier easily grows eloquent telling of his sufferings and privations and losses and of the horrors suffered by his family. Usually he lives in the country and he is demanding that his wealthier neighbors, and especially the citizens of Havana and Santiago, who stayed at home in comparative comfort, shall now reimburse him for his services. He is largely negro and he has the negro—passionate, excitable, ignorant and untrained—solidly with him.

Yet the moment more taxes are put on anywhere—higher duties or licenses and taxes on mortgaged properties—these will be not only a howl but energetic and influential protests with foreign complications, for most of the \$322,000,000 mortgages on the island is held by foreigners, whose governments will guard their interests. I do not see how money is to be borrowed by the government in the face of an obvious and apparently endless deficit; nor how more taxes are to be levied on property of which two-thirds is mortgaged already.

The Spanish immigration must improve matters gradually in the country, and some American money is being invested in sugar plantations and fruit land. Most of this, however, as I understand, is being done by Louisiana and Florida men looking to annexation, and whose plan is, if that comes, to simply move their plants and outfits across the straits into Cuba to get advantage of the more favorable soil and climate when the tariff protection is taken from them in this country. But the Americans who have been living there believe that the island will be uncomfortable for people from this country for the next few years at least. The Cuban population is accustomed in ordinary conversation to apply to any

American or to Americans generally an epithet too villainously filthy to be printed anywhere, and I am glad to say, incapable of exact reproduction in English words.

Of course, the color question remains. It is not serious so far as the Cubans themselves are concerned. The lower classes of Cubans intermarry and associate freely with the negroes. The upper classes have a line somewhere, although it is difficult for a stranger to catch. Negroes are served in the best cafes and hotels and, I am told, attend all the large functions, especially those of an official character, but they do not seem to visit or associate intimately with the Cubans of those classes, or to marry among them. In politics, however, a negro administration would be an anti-American administration to begin with; and the American, English and German, certainly and probably the French, would shun a country so governed.

Politicians are politicians, and if a candidate for governor of Havana catches the idea that he can capture the public heart and the office by advocating resumption of bull fights, permitting the populace to pollute the streets and disregard sanitary regulations and by discriminating against Americans, he will be sure to do it. The demagogue is in Cuba, as everywhere, and he has a rich and responsive soil to work in. In our country we have seen men gain followings by opposing the most obviously wise and proper measures and methods and by denouncing the best men. When the friends of the Cuban soldier, the opponents of more taxation and the enemies of American influence, get to work on the street corners and in the cafes and at the cock-pits in the country, there will be a singing about the ears of the new government. The right to say what he pleases and where he pleases is new to the Cuban. We may listen to hear him use it with remarkable energy. Here there is no bulwark of public common sense on which to rely when folly and crime have become too obviously dangerous and aggressive.

I went to learn the real feeling and general condition of the Cuban people, and I believe I did it even in four days. A newspaper man is trained to comprehend situations from surface and general indications and in this case the indications are so entirely one way that I do not believe I can be mistaken. My conclusions are:

That the mass of the Cuban people hate the government and people of these United States with deep and bitter hatred; that they have not one spark of gratitude to either;

That they regard their new government with suspicion as merely the representative of American government and ideas, and will watch its every act with keenly suspicious eyes;

That this feeling of distrust is so strong that it dampens almost to death the natural elation of new-found liberty;

That the new government is confronted with many serious natural and unavoidable difficulties and that these will be complicated by the violence of factional and party opposition;

That business interests are distressed, disturbed and doubtful;

That the leading politicians and the new government are at sea together.

Not being an able journalist nor a leading statesman, I am not in the prophesying business, but if the Republic de Cuba gets along six months without a big internal row or foreign complications, or both, I shall be surprised.

If the new outfit pulls through four years intact it will have a chance to amount to something. There is a glorious soil to begin with, lots of it undeveloped, and millions and millions of dollars of timber and minerals not yet touched. With a decent government and an energetic population this would be a paradise and the source of wealth beyond human power of calculation or expression in figures. Almost any five acres of it would make an industrious family comfortable. If the Spaniards continue to pour in as they have done in the last two years, and become citizens they will help wonderfully to develop the land but they will not do much to regulate politics. In four years the influence of the public schools may begin to be felt. I noticed that the only one of the several processions parading about on the 20th that carried a United States flag was the Society of Santa Teresa, composed of children of school age. Attendance on the schools is required by law and they are taught by bright young men and women of advanced ideas, and a course in English is part of the method.

The women may begin to assert themselves, and my information is that the middle and upper middle class women are

strongly disposed toward American ideas. The fact that in America and among American men everywhere a woman is held as something higher than a mere apparatus for the production of new population has impressed them. These are the hopes; and they are not very strong.

I do not believe the Cubans ever will voluntarily vote to be annexed to this country. The business and thinking people would like to be annexed to-day, but the negro and low class majority would oppose it violently. If the country ever acquires sufficient intelligence and ambition to ask annexation by majority vote honestly counted it will have intelligence and ambition enough to be self governing.

I have seen one of the world's historic events and most interesting experiments, and the beginning of some new history, and have tried to study it from what appeared to me to be the common sense and significant side. On the face of the returns we have done a most wonderful and beautiful and glorious thing. Whether we have done it in absolute good faith—as I believe we have—very few know. Time will tell. Anyone who takes even a superficial glance at Cuba on its own soil knows that it is not fit for self government. The howling wisecracks at home—those who believe that God never made any people incapable of self government—have forced the administration to go as far and fast in that direction as it dared. We have done enough to earn the love and gratitude of a reasonable people, for we have heaped blessings and ideas on this people. Whether the blood and treasure and labor we have given will result in good or ill is another question to be determined by the coming years which many of us will not live to see. The one thing certain is that Cuba never could or would have had hope for growth or peace or usefulness while the Spaniards were in possession. They have carried blight and ruin wherever their feet have been planted. We have done this much: We have given a people and a country a chance and a hope. That is something. The rest is with the Almighty and the people themselves.

Tom Dixon.

In the Atlanta Journal recently, Sam Jones was writing of Tom Dixon's novel, "The Leopard's Spots." He concluded his remarks on the book by saying, "Get the book and read it, you can never forget it," and then writes as follows concerning its author.

Tom Dixon's lectures sparkle and scintillate and thrill and move men. He is a live wire, mind how you tread upon it. If he had been a locomotive engine he would have been the 999 pulling the Empire State Express on the New York Central railroad; if he had been a cyclone he would have made things whirl and tumble from one end to the other; if he had been a horse he would have trotted it in two minutes two and a half seconds; if he had been a dog he would have been a gray hound. Hurrah for Tom and his book. If Tom had much religion as he has got fire and vigor and enthusiasm and brains he would set this country on fire. But God gives all things to no man. Tom has got religion enough to behave himself as a rule, and that seems to be about as much as the average fellow has these days.

To Develop Great Catwabs Falls, Yorkshire Equator.

J. B. Duke, president of the American Tobacco company, says a Charlotte dispatch, has placed orders in New England for machinery for a million dollar cotton mill. Mr. Duke's plant will be located at Great Falls on the Catawba river, in Chester county, S. C. It will be known as Erwin Cotton Mill, No. 2 and W. A. Erwin, of Durham, will be president. The Dukes now own in the south enough valuable water power to run a million cotton spindles. J. B. Duke is quoted as saying that the only way to effect a trust of southern mills is to put up enough money to buy them all out. In mill circles there is a rumor that the Dukes are seriously considering the question of effecting a merger on their own account.

The American Bible Society in its eighty-sixth annual report says: The most notable of the leaflet publications of the year has been the address of President Roosevelt on the Bible, of which 80,000 copies have been printed in English and 10,000 in Spanish. Under the oversight of twelve agents and of other correspondents of the society in foreign lands three hundred and ninety-nine persons are reported to have been employed during the year in distributing Scriptures, the average time of actual service being about seven months.

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Agricultural Topics.

The Editor of the Gazette:

Farmers as a class are unselfish, have no trade secrets, and are always glad to tell others how they succeed in their farm operations. The columns of the semi-weekly GAZETTE are always open for the description of up-to-date farm methods. Farmers who have not had educational advantages should not hesitate in sending in their ideas. The editor will fix up the English, if you will fix up the thought.

"For heat curl (of the peach), Bordeaux mixture of 5 lbs. of copper sulphate (blue stone), 5 lbs. of lime and 45 gallons of water applied before the buds open in the spring." "One application of gas tar put on with a brush in July early will keep out the peach-tree borer."

"When you employ a thresherman, get one who understands his business and has the machinery to do the work well. Get a man who furnishes the whole outfit complete with hands to do all the work, except hauling the threshed grain. Let him board his own help—he can do it cheaper than you can, and it relieves women folks of a great deal of hard work and worry. Threshing time is looked forward to with anxiety and dread—everybody is worn out before the job is done and everything from the house or orchard to the melon patch is taken by storm by the threshers. Another important item in expediting the work is to have everything in readiness. See that plenty of fuel is provided and water accessible. If there is any unnecessary delay, let the fault lie with the machine boss, and then you will not be fussed at."

Twenty Five Citizens Indicted.

About twenty-five citizens of King's Creek and Lower Creek townships were before J. G. Ballew, Esq., yesterday charged with refusing to work the public road.

Certain amendments have been ordered by the county commissioners to a road leading from Lenoir to Grubb's mills on King creek. The amendments amount to making a new road in some places and these defendants above mentioned claim the work was to be done by subscription and not by regular road hands, hence they refuse to work.

The case was continued until Saturday 31st on account of the absence of Mr. W. H. Bower, who is attorney for the parties. The case is creating a good deal of interest and will be watched closely.

Wood's "Trade Mark Brand" German Millet

Is the true large-headed sort, and produces from one-fourth to one-half more storage per acre than the ordinary Millet. The difference in yields from different grades of Millet is more marked than any crop we have ever grown and it is a great deal the cheapest-crop results considered—to purchase the best quality of seed that you can obtain; this you can always be assured of doing when you order Wood's "Trade Mark Brand" of Southern-grown German Millet.

Write for prices and Descriptive Circular which also gives full information about all Southern Seeds, Cow Peas, Soy and Velvet Beans, Tobacco, Sorghums, Buckwheat, Late Seed Potatoes, etc.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,
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Leon Steam Laundry

Equipped with the newest and best machinery. We employ skilled white people only, and don't take negro laundry. Send us your bundle through Reid & Alexander at the Elite Grocery. They are our agents at Gastonia and will be glad to serve you. Send not later than Wednesday at noon.

LEON STEAM LAUNDRY CO.
26 W. Trade St. CHARLOTTE, N. C.
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FEBRUARY 12, 1902.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SCHEDULE.

Trains from Atlanta, Greenville, Spartanburg, etc., to Charlotte and the East, pass Gastonia, N. C.

GOING EAST.

No. 36, Fast Mail, daily, 8:30 a. m.

No. 38, Daily, 1:30 p. m.

No. 40, Express, daily, 3:45 p. m.

GOING WEST.

Trains from Charlotte and the East for Spartanburg, Greenville, Atlanta, etc., pass Gastonia, N. C.

No. 39, Express, daily, 8:30 a. m.

No. 37, Daily, 1:30 p. m.

No. 35, Limited, daily, 10:00 p. m.

No. 37, Limited, daily, 10:00 p. m.

No. 37, Limited, daily, 10:00 p. m.

Through trains with Pullman Sleepers for Washington, Richmond and the East. Close connections at Spartanburg and Greenville for South Carolina points and Asheville, etc. Connections at Atlanta for all points South, West and Northwest.

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Schedule Effective November 24, 1901.

Eastern Time Standard.			
GOING NORTH.	No. 10	No. 60	
Leave Chester	10:15 a. m.	10:30 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	10:30 a. m.	10:45 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	10:45 a. m.	11:00 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:00 a. m.	11:15 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:15 a. m.	11:30 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:30 a. m.	11:45 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:45 a. m.	12:00 p. m.	
Arrive Lenoir	12:30 p. m.	8:55 p. m.	

GOING SOUTH.	No. 9	No. 61	
Leave Lenoir	10:15 a. m.	10:30 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	10:30 a. m.	10:45 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	10:45 a. m.	11:00 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:00 a. m.	11:15 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:15 a. m.	11:30 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:30 a. m.	11:45 a. m.	
Leave Yorkville	11:45 a. m.	12:00 p. m.	
Arrive Chester	12:30 p. m.	8:55 p. m.	

Connections at all junctions with Southern, S. A. L. R. C. & O. R. L. & C.

M. F. BIRD, Auditor, Chester, S. C.
L. F. NICHOLS, General Manager.

LIST YOUR PROPERTY GIVE IN YOUR POLLS!

I will be at the following places on dates named for the purpose of listing the taxable property of the Town of Gastonia for the year 1902.

All male persons between the ages of 21 and 50 years are to list their polls during the same time.

Old Mill Tuesday morning, June 3rd.
Avenue Mill Tuesday afternoon June 3rd.
Modern Mill, Wednesday morning, June 4th.
Oak Mill, Wednesday afternoon June 4th.
Trenton Mill, Thursday morning, June 5th.
Town Hall on the 6th, 14th, and 16th days of June.

J. A. HUBB, List-taker.
May 3rd, 1902.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Having qualified as executor of the estate of J. C. FURMAN, deceased, I hereby give notice to all persons having claims against said estate to present them to me at my office in Gastonia, S. C., on or before the 16th day of May, 1902.

All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment.

W. L. DAVIS, Executor.
G. W. WILSON, Atty.

This the 6th day of May, 1902.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

The undersigned having qualified as executor of the estate of the late Anna M. FURMAN, of Gastonia county, all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased are hereby notified to present them to me for payment, duly authenticated, on or before the 16th day of May, 1902.

All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment.

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This the 6th day of May, 1902.

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