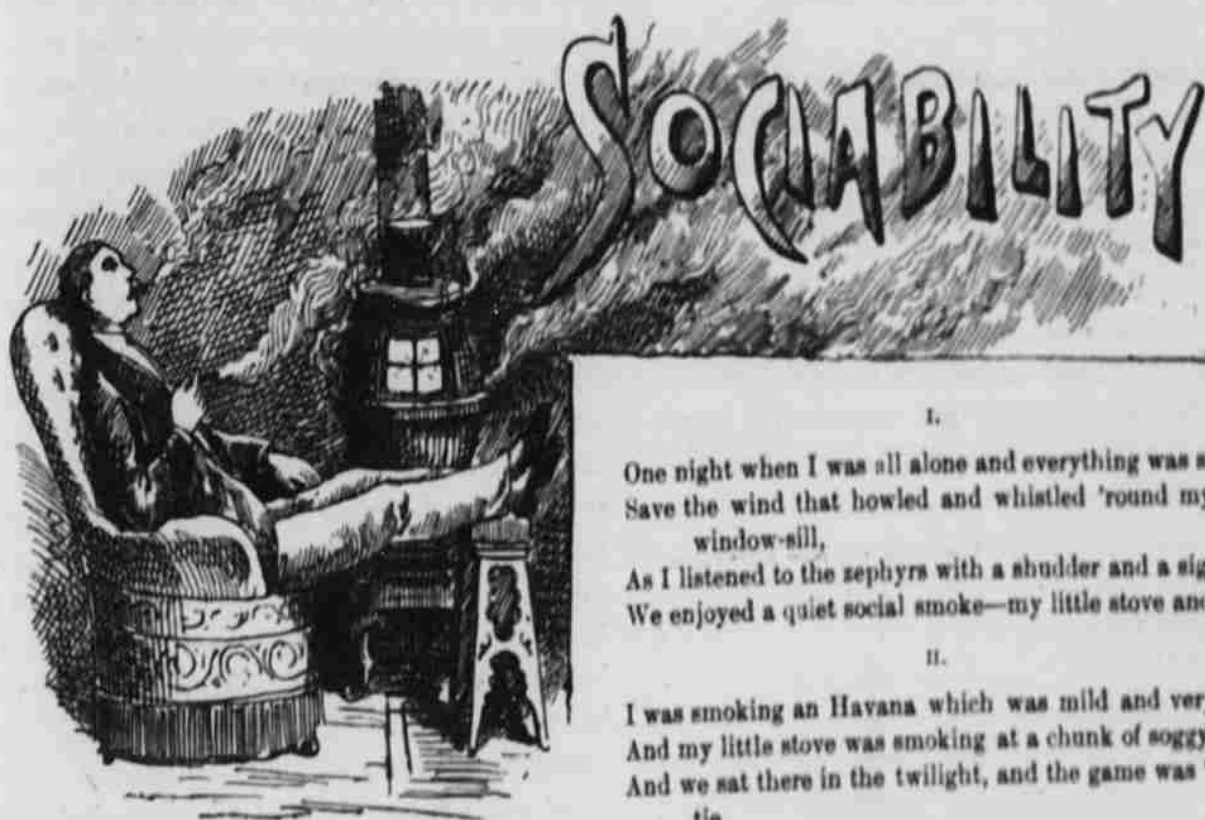




I.

One night when I was all alone and everything was still,
Save the wind that howled and whistled 'round my study
window-sill,
As I listened to the zephyrs with a shudder and a sigh,
We enjoyed a quiet social smoke—my little stove and I.

II.

I was smoking an Havana which was mild and very good,
And my little stove was smoking at a chunk of soggy wood,
And we sat there in the twilight, and the game was 'most a
tie,
As we had a pleasant smoking-match—my little stove and I.

V.

Though the stove appeared unmoved, and could its self-pos-
session keep,
Yet the scene was so effecting that my eyes were forced to
weep,
And I couldn't keep the tears back, howsoever hard I'd try,
As we smoked, in thoughtful silence, did my little stove and I.

VI.

I have now a model heater—it's the best I've ever seen,
There's no pipe connected with it, and it goes with kerosene.
But I oft recall that evening when the wind was blowing high
And we had a pleasant social smoke—my other stove and I.

VII.

I expect my noble wood stove is reposing 'neath the snow
Where I fired it out the window, and it tumbled down below,
But I oft recall that evening, with a retrospective sigh,
When we had a smoke together—did my little stove and I.

JOSEPH BERT SMILEY.

THE PRESIDIO AT SAN FRANCISCO.

ONE of the most pleasant and beautiful of the many army posts in the United States is the Presidio, at San Francisco, the headquarters of the commanding general on the Pacific coast. It lies upon the south shore of the famous Golden Gate and overlooks the beautiful San Francisco bay. Near it, and between it and the ocean is Fort Point, and opposite is the fortified island of Alcatraz, whose heavy guns point directly through the strait.

The Presidio is so named in honor of the old Mexican fort that was located at San Francisco. The Mexican settlements consisted chiefly of three branches, first a mission, then a presidio (fort) garrisoned with

soldiers chiefly for the protection of the mission, and then a pueblo (town) where resided the discharged soldiers and other civilians. San Francisco bay was regarded as an important post, though the capital was at Monterey. When the Americans conquered the province military headquarters were established at Monterey, but after the gold discovery led to the springing up of a large city at Yerba Buena it was removed to the more important port.

Nature and art have done much to render it a lovely military home. The beautiful prospect across the bay, the delightful climate, the comfortable, and even elegant, quarters, and the nearness to the largest city on the Pacific coast, render it a most attractive post, and officers of the army are eager to be stationed there.