EXPLORERS OF THE MIDDLE WEST

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

DISCOVERERS AND EXPLORERS OF NORTH AMERICA

X.

By the middle of the 18th century the French had made extensive explorations into the interior of the continent. For 200 years and more the pioneers of New France—adventurers, soldiers, restless fur traders, brave and patient priests—had been making their way through the Mississippi Valley. As early as 1634 Nicollet was in Wisconsin and Illinois. Soon after this Marquette taught his faith to the Indians at the Falls of St. Mary and passed on even to the farther end of Lake Superior. In 1673 Joliet and Marquette paddled their birchen canoes up the Fox river and by way of the Wisconsin came out on the broad bosom of the Mississippi. In 1682 La Salle, the greatest traveler and most adventurous spirit of them all, flocked down the Mississippi to its mouth and took formal possession of the great valley in the name of the grand monarch of France. Before 1750 daring explorers had traversed the northern plains and had entered the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Various settlements were made at convenient points—Detroit, St. Louis and New Orleans were founded. Basing his claims on exploration and settlement the King of France claimed the heart of the continent.

The Englishmen in building up strong and self-reliant colonies along the Atlantic coast had done nothing in the way of exploring the vast interior wilderness. Early in the 18th century Governor Spotswood, of Virginia, had caused no little stir in his province by leading expeditions into the Shenandoah Valley; that such a feat was heralded abroad and made much of brings sharply to our attention the essentially conservative and businesslike character of English colonization. By 1750, however, the English were preparing to move across the mountains. The "back country" along the eastern slope of the Alleghenies was peopled with a hardy folk who did not shrink from danger and were accustomed to privation. In the uplands of Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas lived the Western pioneers of that time. They were in some respects different from the settlers along the coast; many of them were Scotch-Irish, a self-reliant, sturdy stock, fit instruments "for undertaking this wilderness work," well suited to the task of taking possession of the interior region, the attractive valley then almost uninhabited save by the red men, but claimed in all its length and breadth by the sovereign of France. They were fearless men of action, who seemed to court danger and to love peril.

In considering the work of exploration and discovery in the Middle West it is well first to remember that almost nothing was done by the English settlers of the coast until there was the beginning of what we might call economic demand. The very first travelers who passed through the region of Kentucky and Tennessee, were, so to speak, blazing the way for actual settlement. It is also well to notice that the eastern half of the Mississippi Valley is divded into two not unequal parts by the Ohio. The northern portion contained French settlements at an early day, but it received no English settlers during the colonial period of our history, the first regular settlement being made at Marietta in 1788, the year of the adoption of the Federal Constitution. The old Northwest, as we now call it, was essentially public domain and the pioneer was more or less effectually protected in the early days by Federal troops. I do not mean to suggest that there were not occasional Indian forays against the settlements north of the Ohio, but the country was soon won by armies for the peaceful occupation of the emigrants from the old states. So rapidly was this region peopled when once the process had begun that Ohio was ready for admission into the Union in 1803, only 15 years after Marietta was founded. South of the Ohio explorations were made and little settlements were planted before the outbreak of the Revolution. There were only a few Indians in Kentucky and those lived along the banks of the Mississippi. Kentucky was "the dark and bloody ground," a belt of territory lying between the Algonquins of the north and the Cherokees and Creeks of the south. This was doubtless some advantage to the whites that first settled there, but as it was all exploration in the country south of the Ohio was undertaken in the face of great danger from the Indians. Indeed, it is this fact that adds the romance and charm to the lives of the brave men like Boone and Robertson and Sevier, at once pioneer settlers and explorers, leading on the van of English civilization and driving slowly backward the most cruel foe, the most dangerous savage enemy that has resisted the encroachment of the European anywhere in the world. One is often at a loss to account for the brave, untiring energy with which these men went on and on, winning new homes from the wilderness. Every settlement in Kentucky and Tennessee had its tale of horror, its story of unspeakable atrocities, but, spite of disaster, clearing was added to clearing, blockhouse and palisade were pushed farther into the west, little communities sprang into existence in the midst of the lonely primeval forest. For over a third of a century the vigorous, rugged men were engaged in almost continuous warfare.

By the middle of the 18th century, as I have said, the people along the mountain confines of the English colonies were on the verge of passing over the barrier. The colonial authorities were anxious to gain a hold upon this territory before it was fully garrisoned and defended by the French. A few enterprising men had already begun to look to this western country as fit ground for colonization. Two companies were organized—the Ohio Company and the Loyal Land Company—having for their object the occupation of the country near the upper Ohio and in Southwestern Virginia and Kentucky. Dr. Thomas Walker, a Virginian, was engaged by the Loyal Land Company "to go to the westward in order to discover a proper place for settlement." He was the first to make an extensive expedition through the forest region south of the Ohio. In March, 1750, he, with five others, began a difficult and perilous journey, passing over the mountains into Kentucky and spending four months in the laborious task of threading the thick forests, pushing his way through laurel thickets or following Indian trails or the well-beaten roads made by the buffalo.

The most famous of all the early pioneers of the great West was Daniel Boone, "the first hunter of Kentucky." Standing out against the dreary background of the wilderness we see in this rugged pioneer a man of rare sweetness of character, an Indian slayer who was neither cruel nor revengeful; a bold, fearless, interpid soul who was yet gentle, kind and thoughtful. He was a tall man, sinewy and strong, a sure shot, learned in the lore of the forests and rejoicing in dangers and hardships that would have broken a less vigorous constitution. He had the typical temperament of the Western backwoodsman. He was self-reliant, patient, simple, resolute and gifted with unlimited powers of endurance. He moved out into the Kentucky forests in obedience to an inner impulse, a restless craving for adventure which seems almost out of keeping with his quiet, self-restrained nature. He was born in Pennsylvania, but spent his boyhood on the banks of the Yadkin in North Carolina. At an early date he passed over the mountains to hunt. There is still standing in Eastern Tennessee, near Boone's Creek, an old beech tree on which can be read the following inscription: "D. Boon cilled a bar on tree in the year 1760."

In 1769 with four companions he made a long expedition into the West. "I resigned my domestic happiness for a time," he said, "and left my family and peaceable habitation on the Yadkin River in North Carolina to wander through the wilderness of America in quest of the country of Kentucky." Such are the words attributed to him by Filson, the first historian of Kentucky; but we may be sure that the simple Boone used no such pedantic and stilted language. Through the whole of that Summer and the next Autumn the tireless adventurer wandered through the Kentucky forests, shooting the deer, the bear, the elk and the bison and other game with which the country abounded. In December their troubles began. Boone and one of his companions were taken prisoners by the Indians. Within a few days they escaped, but on their return to their old camp found it abandoned by their friends. They were then joined by two others, one of them Squire Boone, who had come on the long jornuey to find his brother and had succeeded in doing so in some mysterious way known only to those who have within them instinctive knowledge of nature and know the secrets of the forest. Again the party was attacked by the Indians. The brothers escaped, but one of their

DANIEL BOONE.

companions was shot and killed, "the first of the thousands of human beings with whose lifeblood Kentucky was bought." Their remaining companion now went back to North Carolina and the two brothers spent the Winter together in the wilderness. In May it was decided that Squire should return through the trackless woods to the Yadkin settlements, hundreds of miles away, for supplies. Daniel was left for four months all alone in the dreary forest, without bread, salt or sugar, and with only his trusty rifle as a companion. "I confess," he says, "I never before was under greater necessity of exercising philosophy and fortitude." During a large portion of the time he was in danger from the Indians. In the middle of the Summer his brother returned. Fearing that the savages would discover them, they went over into the Valley of the Cumberland, and in the Spring of 1771 returned home. Boone had spent two years in the wilderness, no small part of the time alone and over half of the time accompanied only by his brother.

Two years later Boone sold his farm in North Carolina and with his family and band of 40 men started once more for the West. His love of nature and his zeal for adventure were too strong to suffer him to remain in comparative ease in North Carolina. All went well for a time, but on entering the Cumberland Mountains they were attacked by Indians, who killed six of the white men, among them Boone's eldest son. This defeat discouraged the emigrants, and they returned to the Clinch River, some 40 miles from the place of disaster. But disaster had no effect upon the intrepid Boone, who in a short time led a company of surveyors over the mountains down to the falls of the Ohio. His next undertaking was, with the aid of 30 men, to mark out and clear a trail for pack horses from the eastern settlements to Kentucky River. The work was done at the suggestion of persons who had purchased land of the Indians in the new country. This bridle path was the beginning of the famous "wilderness road" over which in the coming years immigration flowed into the Western country. It remains today, a striking testimony of Boone's remarkable insinct for direction and skill in woodcraft. This also was a dangerous task, in the accomplishment of which several of Boone's companions were killed. A fort was built at a place afterward known as Boonesborough, and Boone, with incredible resolution, returned to the settlements to lead back his family into this lonely, exposed clearing in the great, dreary wilderness of the interior. A small company of men and three women besides his wife were in the party. Other settlers soon came, cabins were built, blockhouses and a palisade were erected, and the brave little band prepared to hold Kentucky against the red men. No words can exaggerate the difficulty and the dangers of the task. The savages, who were now in league with the British and bitterly hostile to the American intruder, attacked them in numbers or prowled about and shot men at their work, or fell upon them when hunting, or carried off captive any one who wanderd too far from the stockade. Boone's daughter and two other girls were captured by the Indians.

Soon after this Boone himself, with 27 of his men, was captured. He was taken to the old Indian town of Chillicothe, O., and held there in captivity. Brave, patient, tactful, uncomplaining, he won the attachment of the red men, who finally adopted him into their tribe. At length he escaped, started straight through he untracked forest for Boonesborough, 150 miles away, and reached his home in four days, during which he ate only one meal.

Note—This study by Professor A. C. McLaughlin, of the University of Michigan, will be concluded on Tuesday next.

Analytical Portraiture.

Francis Galton, the English psychologist, has recently been making some curious experiments in an attempt "to isolate the particulars in which one portrait differs from another"; that is, to secure, photographically, a single picture, representing the difference between two faces. He attempted to do this by a device which he calls a transformer, consisting of a combination of the negative and positive of the two pictures. He photographed two faces, each in two expressions, the one glum and the other smiling broadly, and was able, by means of the situable transformer, to turn the smiling picture into the glum one and vice versa; "but the transformer, themselves were ghastly to look at, and did not at all give the impression of a detached smile or a detached glumness." He further says: "I cannot yet make up my mind whether or no the process admits of substantial improvement. . . . The most suitable portraits for the attempt are such as are popularly termed 'artistic'—that is, with blurred outlines and medium tints."

MRS. MAYBRICK TALKS.

She Defends Lord Russell, and Tells Her Hopes.

New York Times.

LONDON, Aug. 21.—For the first time since life sentence was imposed on her, 11 years ago, Mrs. Florence Maybrick had a private interview with her counsel, Dr. Clark Bell, of New York, at Aylesbury prison, today. Mrs. Maybrick, like her many friends, is indignant at the attacks made by the Liverpool Post on the late Chief Justice of England, Lord Russell of Killowen, her former counsel.

"The only person up to the present who ever saw me alone," she said, "was the Chief Justice. When the Assizes were here last February, Lord Russell came to the prison and asked to see me, as was his official right, irrespective of the Home Office or any one. When he was starting to go, he said:

"'Mrs. Maybrick, I am doing all in my power for your release. Whatever happens, remember this—that if there is one man in England who believes in your innocence, I am that man.'

"It was only by accident that I heard of Lord Russell's death, for I have not seen a newspaper for a decade. But I could not help but feel that in his death I had lost my best friend. It is an outrage, in view of his constant and untiring efforts and friendship for me, that he should be attacked now that he is dead.

"I fully appreciate and am glad of the chance to express my gratitude to the officials in Washington, and to my friends throughout America, especially the ladies, for what they are doing. It is that alone which has upheld me all these years. I have many friends in England, too, and cannot but believe the time will soon come when these long years of captivity will cease and I shall be restored to my mother and my country.

"All the officials here or at the Home Office can do to mitigate my prison life is done. They are universally kind, but no one alive and free can know the weight of these dragging years."

What the result of Dr. Bell's interview with Mrs. Maybrick may be cannot yet be made known. The recent United States memorial is still in the hands of the Home Secretary, Sir Matthew White Ridley, and Mrs. Maybrick's friends are hopeful that when the answer comes it will be a pardon. But the matter now rests in the Home Secretary's hands, and nothing, certainly, will be done to mar the chances of his favorable action.

Mrs. Maybrick is now 36 years of age. She has the prison pallor, but her blue eyes and dark, wavy hair are still reminders of the attractions which made her a bride at 17.

She wears the light-blue check prison costume with a red star on the shoulder, indicative of it being her first offense and of her former good character. Below this is the letter "L," meaning that she is a life prisoner, and her prison number.

For the last few days she has been in a hospital ward, owing to a slight illness, but she says her health is generally good.

Mrs. Maybrick, the daughter of wealthy American parents and the wife of a prosperous cotton merchant at Liverpool, England, was tried in the Spring of 1889, in that city, upon an accusation that she had poisoned her husband. She was sentenced to death, but the sentence was afterward commuted to imprisonment for life. The fact that Mr. Maybrick's death was due to arsenical poisoning was shown, but much of the direct evidence was in the prisoner's favor.

It was proved that the husband was in the habit of using arsenic as a tonic, but he was much older than his wife, and she had quarreled with his family. They testified strongly against her, and later it became known that the whole of her private fortune, bringing in an income of nearly $20,000 a year, passed to these same persons, after her conviction, as trustees of her children.

Mine-Owners Dictate Terms.

For years the great railway companies succeeded in getting their coal often below the actual cost of production, says a correspondent of the London Daily Mail. Today, for the first time for over a quarter of a century, the mine-owner is able to dictate his own terms to great corporations like the London & Northwestern.

Will coal go much higher? I have consulted many authorities here on the spot, and though their views are most contradictory, the consensus of evidence certainly goes to show that we are not yet anything like at the end of the rise. The mines about Wigan have sold all they can raise. Some mine-owners in the St. Helens district are so convinced prices are going much higher that they are holding back and refusing to execute orders. One big mine has started stacking in spite of good offers for its coal, and during the past week or two has put down 20,000 tons ready for the famine prices which it believes are coming.

A mine-owner will not stack unless he sees a considerable rise ahead, for stacking costs money, and stacked coal deteriorates in value. Yet the stackers of the 20,000 tons could have sold it 20 times over had they wished.

A person who kills more than 15 grouse or pheasants in a day in Oregon is guilty of a misdemeanor.

ALASKA SALMON ABUSES

LAWS FOR PRESERVATION OF FISH ARE DISREGARDED.

Streams Absolutely Barricaded and All Salmon Prevented From Ascending to Grounds.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—If the destruction of the salmon in the Columbia River presents a serious problem, the destruction of the salmon in Alaska waters is even more serious, because even more extreme measures are resorted to in those waters than in the streams of Oregon and Washington. In the one case the fish have to contend with nets, fish-wheels and the like; in the other they have in addition to these foes, the deadly and effectual barricade, which absolutely prevents any fish ascending streams so shut off, and does not allow any to reach the spawning grounds. In the former instance there are state authorities who strive in a way to preserve the fish, but in the latter the packers assume full sway, disregard law and order, and go in with a free hand, looking not to the future, but only to the present. This matter has been taken up and quite fully discussed in a special report made by Commander Jefferson F. Moser, of the Fish Commission steamer Albatross. Referring to the matter of barricades, Commander Moser says:

"When a person interested in a cannery is questioned regarding the decrease of salmon in Alaska waters, he is likely to assure you at once that there are just as many salmon in the streams as there ever were, and begins his proofs by citing years like 1896, when there was a large run of redfish in Alaska; but any disinterested authority on the subject will say that the streams of Alaska are becoming depleted. While it can hardly be said that the streams will fail entirely within a few years, there is no doubt that the average runs show fewer fish year by year, and if the laws are not amended and enforced, the time will come in the not very distant future when the canneries must suffer through their own actions.

"The causes of the depletion are the barricading of streams and overfishing; in other words, illegal fishing."

After citing statistics to prove very effectually that the streams are being depleted, and that it is only a question of time when the canneries will be rendered useless by their own hands, he continues:

"It was a matter of great surprise to discover the large number of streams which were either actually barricaded, or which showed indications of having been barricaded, notwithstanding the strict law forbidding such obstructions, the maximum penalty being $1000 fine, three months' imprisonment, and a fine of $250 per day for every day the obstruction remains.

Barricades Even Defended.

"When the attention of those known to have an interest in keeping the salmon streams in a normal condition has been called to the existence of barricades, with the expectation of having them join in protests against their construction, it has been surprising to hear some defend barricading as right, and the belief has been inevitable that if such persons were not directly concerned, they at least encouraged these practices. The statement was made in certain localities that it is impossible to obtain sufficient fish to compete with other canneries without barricading. This is very true, but the argument is absurd, and needs no comment. Equally absurd defense of barricades was made in other parts of Alaska.

"The effect of barricades can be readily appreciated. Salmon come to the streams to ascend for spawning at certain dates, from which there is little variation. At first a few stragglers appear, then small schools, and the schools grow larger and larger as the season advances. At the mouths of the streams the fish accustom themselves to the new conditions in brackish water, and if the river is open to their passage they soon ascend to the lakes and thence to the spawning beds. A whole school has been known to ascend in one night. If the stream is barricaded, preventing their ascent, they school around in the bay or inlet at the approaches of the streams, may apparently leave the vicinity for a short time, and then return and repeat this process many times. While thus schooling in the salt water they do not reach a spawning condition so rapidly, and continue suitable for canning a longer time. Some of the fish that are more advanced toward the ripening period, in their frenzy to get to the spawning-grounds, fairly attack the obstruction, and have been known to dash themselves against the timbers with such force as to be killed or die of exhaustion caused by the repeated attacks. Briefly, the barricades corral the fish, and thus permit the fishermen to catch all at little expense; they are also said to keep them from ripening rapidly, and thus permit the cannerymen to pack good-quality fish much later in the season. This seems to be shown in the 1896 catch at Hetta, where—not from the action of barricades, but because the fish, on account of the extreme low water, could not ascend until the late September rains raised the water—over 40,000 redfish were taken between September 1 to 20. It is claimed that after the fishing season is over some of the rails of the barricade are knocked out to allow the remaining stragglers to pass through, but this is doubtful.

"The defenders of barricades state that when the water in the rivers is high it flows over the ends of the rails, and some redfish leap the barrier, while the other species and the trout are kept out, and thus the eggs of the redfish are preserved. But the barricades are generally so constructed that if a few fish find a passage the same proportion of one species passes in as another.

"The origin of barricading Alaska salmon streams dates back to a period prior to the acquisition of Alaska by the United States. The Russians built "zapors" or dams with stone piers across the streams, near the settlements, from which they drew their salmon supply. The ruins of some are still standing, at Redoubt, Afognak, and other places. The injury these zapors caused to the fisheries is acknowledged by everyone who has any knowledge of the subject. The Russians doubtless received the idea of barricading the streams from the Indians. When the first fisheries for the canneries were organized, "these little Indian devices," as they were called by a person interested in Indian education, were in use, and in some instances were so ingeniously arranged that the fish were carried out high and dry into a basket. At one place (Klawak) an Indian owner of a stream used to boast that his trap was so cleverly arranged that not a fish could get up the stream; that he caught them all. It is said that the Indians appreciated the necessity of allowing the fish to ascend the streams to spawn, and therefore after obtaining their Winter supply they opened the barricades. That barricading has been done in recent years by the Indians there is no doubt, for in a number of instances evidences of recent barricading were found on streams presumably fished by Indians only. If the law were translated into Chinook, printed on muslin and posted in every Indian village and explained to the natives, it would have an excellent effect.

Form of the Barricades.

"The general form of these barricades is the same, and a description of one in Nichols Bay stream, Prince of Wales Island, may answer in a general way for all. The barricades extend solidly across the stream, and the best idea that can be gained of this construction is by reference to the illustrations accompanying this report. They are located near the high-water mark and, if possible, at a point where a pool is formed immediately below the obstruction. A tree two or three feet in diameter, is felled across the stream, and then cut to a proper length so as to make a log that reaches from bank to bank and from four to six feet above the surface of the stream. This log is then jammed and wedged into the rocky ledges on each side of the banks, supported underneath to prevent it from sagging, and braced from the downstream side by heavy beams to resist the great pressure brought by the floods. Straight saplings, 15 to 20 feet in length and three to four inches in diameter are cut, sometimes split lengthwise, and laid in the direction of the stream over the log, the butts embedded in the river bed upstream and covered with the river deposit and the lower ends projecting over the log several feet. These split rails are laid solidly side by side from bank to bank The water at ordinary stages flows through the interstices, and in heavy floods over the ends.

"The barricades are usually so solidly built that they resist the ordinary drift and at most have but a few rails, which are easily replaced if knocked out. Frequently a second tree is partly cut, so as to have it ready in case of accident to the barricade. Such was the construction of the one at Nichols Bay stream, and in addition, at one side where there was a branch, a wire netting was stretched across.

"It is readily seen that the fish in passing upstream go under the log and are prevented from further ascent by the rails, and as their spawning instinct keeps them heading the current, they remain in the vicinity and are easily captured. This barricade was so solid that not a fish could pass through; it is probable, however, with a full stream and the water pouring over the end, that a few salmon following the stream may leap the end rails. To prevent this there is sometimes an effective addition in the shape of a galvanized iron wire netting stretched across the top in the direction of the log, from bank to bank, to catch the strays that might succeed in leaping the barrier. It some instances, instead of the split rails, there are heavy rails laid upstream, about four feet apart, and over these are secured light frames

End view of barricade, showing method of construction.

of open work like the lathing of a lobster pot, but heavier, through which the water can flow while excluding the passage of fish."

Law Is Not Enforced.

The Alaska salmon law, passed June 9, 1896, is very explicit, regarding barricades and other obstructions, and declares the erection of all such obstructions which prevent the ascent of the salmon to the spawning grounds to be unlawful. It also makes it unlawful to catch any salmon above the tide waters, or to set a net across tide waters for more than a third the width of the stream, and these nets to be at least 100 yards apart. This law, however, is regarded as inadequate in some vital respects, but there is no agreement among the cannery people as to what the law should be. There is, however, a general inclination toward a tax on the output of each cannery and saltery, for the support of hatcheries, and the suggestion that streams be leased for a term of years has everywhere met with favor.

In further comment, Commander Moser says:

"It must be admitted that the laws and regulations pertaining to Alaska salmon fisheries are very generally disregarded, and that they do not prevent the illegal capture of fish. There is one case in which the law is likely to be respected, and that it when rival canneries, fishing in the same locality, are not mutually benefited by its non-observance.

"While in a minor degree the law may be defective, and, owing to the varying conditions found in the vast extent of territory involved, may need amending, still it is good as it stands, and for the present it only needs enforcement, and this is not a difficult matter if the proper steps are taken. Without considering the large amount of money invested in the salmon fisheries of Alaska, the output is worth in round numbers $3,000,000 a year. Should not such an industry be fostered and properly protected?"

In 1898 the Secretary of the Treasury sent a letter to the House of Representatives, recommending a change of the Alaska salmon law, to make it meet requirements. The recommendations he made for material changes in the law of 1896 are, briefly stated, as follows:

"First. The erection of traps only under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Second. The withdrawal of the protection afforded by the present law to salmon trout, it being generally understood that the latter species are destructive to salmon spawn and fry.

"Third. The extension of the operations of the law to the territorial waters of Alaska, thereby preventing the erection of stationary obstructions in the approaches to rivers and streams.

"Fourth. The prohibition of the erection of salmon canneries in Alaska without a permit from the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Fifth. The requirement of a detailed annual statement of the operations of all canneries and manufactories of fish-oil production to the special agents for the salmon fisheries.

"Sixth. The detailing of an employe of the Treasury Department to act as an additional special agent without extra compensation.

"Seventh. The imposition of a tax upon the output of all canneries, salteries, fish-oil or fish-fertilizer works.

"Eighth. Changing the penalty for violation of this act from a maximum fine of $1000 to $5000."

SUCH FUNNY FURNITURE.

Some of the Surprises an American Girl Encountered in Porto Rico.

New York Times.

A young teacher who has just reached home from Porto Rico tells some interesting stories of the things which impressed her there. The furnishing of the rooms was one of these. Her interest in furnishings began as soon as she landed in San Juan, and read the sign on the staircase to the parlor. It read: "Please do not disturb the parlor furniture." The parlor furniture, when she came to see it, was as funny as the notice. There was a rug in the center of the room, and on this one of those peculiar round upholstered seats usually associated with large steamboats around here, a circular affair with a circular back, tapering up to what in the steamboat is usually a pole supporting an upper deck.

This was right enough in itself, only suggesting some public place, but around the rug on which stood the circular seat were arranged a hollow square of easy chairs, the furniture which the proprietor requested the public to respect and refrain from moving. The desire for not moving the furniture the girl found in private houses in other places which she visited. Everything was arranged just so. For instance, in a private house there would be a table in the center of the room, and on either side a row of rocking chairs many stand, while in geometrical positions around the room against the wall stood the ordinary chairs. If one of these chairs was moved, the first servant to enter the room would replace it with mathematical precision. In her own room at the hotel the girl still found that it was impossible for her to have her chairs at anything but just such angles. She left them when she left her room, standing "any which way," but she never returned without finding them staring stiffly at her, one at the foot and one at the head of the bed.

The undress appearance of the women in the streets was one thing that interested the girl. Every woman when not "dressed up," when shopping or on any ordinary errand which called her into the streets, wore a loose dressing sack and skirt which to the American girl looked frightfully out of place. She had expected the women, however, to wear anything but fashionable gowns in Guayama, on the south side, where she was, though that is one of the largest places on the island, but here again she was surprised, for she found that the women when they were dressed for occasions dressed well and in fashions quite up-to-date. There were no collars, however, for to have anything around her throat would be most unpleasant to a Porto Rican woman, and they all without exception wore their gowns cut low. They even had a fashionable dressmaker, who had her fashion plates to work from, and also excellent original ideas of her own.

And—surprising thing for a fashionable dressmaker—her prices were ridiculously low! The girl herself had a shirt waist made and a muslin gown, a pretty gown, too, with a tucked yoke to the waist and ruffles on the skirt, and for this work she paid three pesos, or $1 80 of American money.

The shirt waist was one article of dress which was not understood. It was possible to get one made, but not a Porto Rican would wear anything that required so much starch to keep in condition, and the laundresses, even after a wide experience with the vagaries of women from the States, could not learn that cuffs needed to be made as stiff as a board to be acceptable.

Social amenities were arranged on somewhat different lines from those to which the Americans are accustomed, and when a Porto Rican woman wished to make the acquaintance of the young woman from America she sent her a beautiful bouquet of flowers and asked her to call upon her. This she did in several instances, and pleasant friendships were the result. One Porto Rican woman returned the call of her American friend for a time, and then something happened which shows unusual conditions. There was a strong interest taken in politics. There were Federals and Republicans, and the members of the two parties did not speak as they passed by. The first hotel at which the young woman stopped was Federal as to politics. So was this one of her women friends, and the calls were exchanged pleasantly. But for several reasons the young woman found it best to change her place of residence to the other hotel, which was Republican. After that the calling must necessarily be done on one side, she found, for could a Federal woman call at a Republican hotel? Never. "My husband and I would be insulted if we did," said the Porto Rican woman, and probably she knew.

It was this same woman who at the girl's first call treated her to a peculiar beverage. It sounded very well in Spanish—melojo con agua. In English it was plain molasses and water. "Was the American girl fond of molasses?" the Porto Rican woman asked. Yes, the American girl was, and her hostess, whose father was the proprietor of a sugar plantation, promised to send her some, and kept her supplied with molasses during her stay in the place. It was not that molasses was such a particular luxury, perhaps, but it was never sold in the shops. Then the American girl originated a way to utilize her gift. Corn meal fritters were served at the hotel, and on these she ate the molasses, setting a fashion there, and even the proprietor of the hotel soon learned that molasses was an agreeable addition to fritters, and borrowed from the girl's molasses bottle.

Were Early Historians.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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