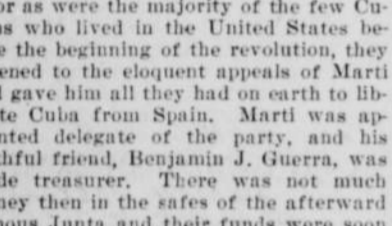


CUBA THE ISLE OF BLOOD

THE story of Cuba is a tragedy so black that the pages of history, not excepting those upon which is written the diabolical doings of the Spanish Inquisition, contain no counterpart. It is a narrative which had its beginning in the discovery of America; it was rooted in Spanish tyranny, transplanted into centuries of treachery and oppression, reared in intestine strife, and matured in this revolting war and its attendant horrors, which have wrested from Cuba the proud title, "Pearl of the Antilles," and earned for her the name of "Isle of Blood."

The revolution was organized by Jose Marti, a Cuban exile in this country and a man of genius and courage. He organized here what is called the Cuban Revolutionary Party, an association of clubs of Cuban political exiles, for the purpose of raising money to free their country.



Poor as were the majority of the few Cubans who lived in the United States before the beginning of the revolution, they listened to the eloquent appeals of Marti and gave him all they had on earth to liberate Cuba from Spain. Marti was appointed delegate of the party, and his faithful friend, Benjamin J. Guerra, was made treasurer. There was not much money then in the safes of the afterward famous Junta and their funds were soon exhausted by an unsuccessful attempt to start an expedition from the South. But Marti had obtained the co-operation of Gen. Maximo Gomez and Gen. Antonio Maceo, two veterans of the last war. He knew that the discontent against Spain was deep throughout the island. He had important connections with conspirators in all the provinces. He gave without hesitation the orders for the uprising and went to Santo Domingo to join Gen. Gomez and take, with him, the field.

At that grave and decisive moment the total funds of the patriots amounted to not more than \$70,000. It is wonderful that with a sum, comparatively speaking, so paltry for so great a purpose, a war should have been raised which cost Spain up to February, 1898, besides the sacrifice of so many of her soldiers, \$250,000,000 and caused to the United States a net loss in trade and business of \$300,000,000.

On May 19, 1895, Marti was killed in the engagement at Dos Rios, but his work had already been done. He had landed on April 11 with Gen. Gomez at Sabana la Mar, on the southern coast of Cuba, after issuing at Monte Cristi a revolutionary manifesto, and had had time before his death to convulse the representatives of all the Cuban provinces to a general assembly to elect a provisional government and frame a constitution. It was not done until later, in September of the same year, at the town of Jimaguayu, it was not the less true that from the first days of the revolution the desire of Marti, as of all the patriots, was to organize a republic with popular institutions.

Two months before Marti's death Gen. Antonio Maceo had landed at Duxya, near Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba province. With a handful of men and a few rifles and cartridges, a small open boat brought him to Cuba from Jamaica. But his name and his presence were enough to make Spain tremble. He and his heroic brother, Jose Maceo, were surrounded by superior Spanish forces on the day of their landing. They broke through the Spanish lines and made their way into the country. In a few days, as soon as the news spread of their arrival, the province of Santiago de Cuba rose in arms and Antonio Maceo had around him more than 10,000 Cuban soldiers.

The revolution was saved. The few patriots who took up arms on Feb. 24 at Balre and Manzanillo had courageously resisted under Gen. Bartolome Maso, now Cuba's president, the attacks of the columns of the Spanish Gen. Lachambre, as



well as the proposals of peace from the captain general of the island, Don Emilio Calleja. The envoys of the captain general told Maso that the revolution was a failure. The provinces of Pinar del Rio and Havana were entirely quiet. A few unimportant bands in Matanzas and Santa Clara had been dispersed or had surrendered. Puerto Principe was unanimously in favor of peace. But Maso, knowing well how to receive such reports, refused to yield. He had confidence in the landing of Maceo, Marti and Gomez. He knew the great moral effect that the presence of those leaders in the field was going to have on the Cuban people; and Spain knew it also. The news that Maceo was in Cuba reached Madrid shortly after the overthrow of the Sagasta cabinet.

Canovas, then in power, resolved to fight the revolution with the first of the Spanish generals and with all the resources of the nation. Gen. Calleja was recalled and Gen. Martinez Campos was sent to Cuba with 25,000 soldiers.

Martinez Campos landed in Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, on April 16, 1895. His first impression was pessimistic and the long chain of defeats inflicted upon his command until December of the same year proved how right he was in believing from the first day of his arrival that this war was to be more important than the previous one of 1895. He wasted a great deal of time in useless trips by sea to Havana and again to the East. Maceo was preparing in the meantime his men and Gomez was formulating the plan of the great invasion of the West in order to carry the revolution to all the provinces and establish in each one a regular body of the Cuban army.

July 13, 1895, is the memorable date of the battle of Peralejo. The war had been until then confined almost to the province of Santiago de Cuba, with some small bands of patriots roaming through Puerto Principe and keeping up only an unimportant guerrilla warfare. But Maceo had already obtained some notable triumphs, and Martinez Campos decided to carry reinforcements to the Spanish towns in the interior which were in great danger of attack by the insurgents. While Martinez Campos was on the way to Bayamo, Maceo offered him battle near Peralejo.

The engagement was a pitched battle, and the Cubans, not numbering 6,000, carried the day. Gen. Stantocides fell dead near Gen. Martinez Campos. The Spaniards lost all their ammunition and their horses. Completely routed, a body of them, availing themselves of the darkness of the evening, fled to Bayamo, carrying Martinez Campos on a stretcher borne by four soldiers. He was exhausted by fatigue and filled with despair. More than 300 Spanish soldiers were left dead on the field. With the splendid booty secured by him, Maceo completed the arming of his patriots.

From April to October Gomez successfully carried the war through Puerto Principe province and laid his plans for the invasion of the west. On Oct. 22 Maceo, having received orders from Gomez, who was appointed commander-in-chief of the army, in September, by the assembly

of representatives, started for the east with 2,000 of his men. On Oct. 30 Gomez invaded Las Villas. Maceo joined him on Nov. 29 near a place called Los Guayos. From there they began their triumphant march. On Dec. 3 the Spanish Col. Segura was defeated by the insurgents at Iguala and had to leave his dead on the field, together with a great supply of arms and ammunition. On Dec. 15 the Spanish battalions of Canarias and Treviño were routed by Maceo at Mal Tiempo, after the most gallant charge with machetes of the Cuban cavalry, led by Maceo himself, that has ever been seen in the Cuban wars. On Dec. 21 the victory of El Desquite cleared the way for the invaders to the province of Matanzas. Martinez Campos then made a desperate effort to check the two Cuban leaders. Until that moment he had been recoiling before the invaders with his columns, hoping that they would stop. But he saw that each step of the patriots to the west was a decisive triumph for their cause. The enthusiasm of the revolution was growing day by day throughout the country. The Cuban ranks were filled by volunteers from all the cities and towns by which Gomez and Maceo passed. Martinez Campos rallied his almost dispersed men and presented battle at El Coliseo on Dec. 23.

The action was sharp and decisive. Martinez Campos behaved bravely, leading one of his wings in a charge against Gomez, but Maceo, falling on the Spanish, won the day for Cuba and compelled Martinez Campos to retire. The captain general hurriedly entered Havana, making preparations to defend the city, and he confessed his defeat to the astonished Spanish volunteers and residents of the capital.

Spain Sends Weyler.
On the night of Dec. 27 the captain general made that avowal. A few days later the rabid Spaniards of the city compelled him to tender his resignation to Madrid. They demanded from Canovas a captain general framed in the old iron cast of the Spanish conquerors, not to fight battles and risk his life on the field, but to exterminate the native population. In their belief, women, children, every one born in Cuba, should be held responsible for the situation. They did not like a soldier with a gallant career and personal courage. They wanted an executioner. Canovas satisfied them and appointed Don

Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau to succeed Martinez Campos. The question may be asked why the patriots, after so many victories, did not invest the city of Havana and end there with the Spanish dominion. The answer is very clear. After the battle of Coliseo Gen. Gomez reviewed his troops and found that each soldier had only three cartridges. The Cubans in the United States were making vain efforts to send a big expedition to the patriots. But if the Spanish army was defeated in the fields of Cuba, Spanish diplomacy was triumphant at Washington. At Guira de Melena on Jan. 4, 1896, the patriots had to fight with their machetes to enter the province of Havana. For such a state of affairs Gen. Gomez considered his best plan to be to organize armies in all the provinces invaded, so far as his resources permitted him to do, and try to raise the war in Pinar



del Rio province. At Garro Jan. 8 the patriots routed a Spanish column and entered Pinar del Rio. Gen. Gomez then withdrew to the east while Maceo proceeded to the west. On Jan. 17 he obtained another victory at the very gates of Pinar del Rio city and on Jan. 22 he took the town of Banes at the western extremity of the island, three months after his departure from Baragua in Santiago de Cuba. On Feb. 12 Maceo returned to Havana province. Gen. Weyler publicly declared Pinar del Rio pacified, and the gallant Cuban leader returned to that province on March 15.

Before this Weyler had already shown his sanguinary spirit and plans of murder. Prisoners of war and innocent persons unjustly charged with aiding the rebellion were shot every day in Havana.

The most summary court martial preceded the executions as a mere formality. In other cases the victims were murdered in cold blood in their dungeons or thrown alive into the sea during the night at the entrance to the harbor to feed the sharks. The horrors of the Council of Blood under Alva look pale when compared to the crimes of Weyler. In the country his troops had orders to kill every non-combatant without regard to age. In the cities he appointed as inspectors of police the most infamous murderers and thieves from the Spanish penal colonies in Africa. In a short time more than 100,000 persons emigrated from Cuba panic-stricken.

But Weyler was not satisfied. He intended to destroy the country and to exterminate the natives. Seeing that the executions in the forts were too slow a method and that the destruction wrought by his columns was not enough to ruin the island, he conceived one of the most monstrous crimes ever committed against humanity. On Feb. 16, 1896, he issued his two famous decrees of concentration. By them every human being in the country districts was compelled to leave his home, after it had been destroyed by the Span-



ish columns, and go to one of the fortified towns under the vigilance of the Spanish soldiery. With the homes of the reconcentrados their cultivated lands were to be devastated and around the towns where they had to live not a piece of bread was to be given to them. In this manner, under pretext of a military operation, half a million people, most of them

women and children, were condemned to die from hunger.

Wholesale Slaughter.
From the date of those decrees until November, 1896, 300,000 people were murdered thus in Cuba. Since November, as a result of Weyler's sanguinary orders, the number has been increased to 400,000. What monster in history ever did so much against humanity and civilization? Nero, Caligula, Tamerlane, Torquemada, Alva, when compared with Weyler, appear mild and humane. A poltroon, besides being an assassin, he never offered battle to the Cubans or took the field to fight. In his time Spain sent 200,000 soldiers to Cuba. He kept them inactive guarding the trocha from Mariel to Majana in Pinar del Rio province or from Jucaro to Moron in Puerto Principe. At other times from his palace in Havana, following on a map the imaginary positions of his enemies, he ordered his columns to make combined movements that always resulted in defeats.

One instance of the stupidity and cowardice of Weyler occurred on May 1, 1896. He ordered one of his favorite combinations of columns against Maceo at a place called Cacarajicara in the province of Pinar del Rio. The result was that the forces of the Spanish Colonels Inclan and Gelibert were shattered by the Cuban leader, and the havoc made in the Spanish lines was so great that the Spanish soldiers, panic-stricken, threw themselves into the sea to escape the Cuban machete. Weyler, as in all other cases, accused his subordinates of not having obeyed his orders exactly.

On Dec. 7, 1896, Maceo, after having crossed Weyler's famous trocha and entered Havana province, was assassinated in an ambush near Punta Brava. The revolution lost in him a great patriot and a heroic soldier. But Weyler soon understood that the murder of Maceo was not the death of Cuba's cause. In March, 1896, Gen. Calixto Garcia landed in Santiago de Cuba. He soon replaced Maceo as a dashing fighter and a brilliant commander. At the same time Gomez in Santa Clara had won the important battle of Saratoga and controlled the whole province. The battle of Juan Criollo in February, 1897, was another of Gomez's important victories, and in Santiago de Cuba the latter part of the year was made conspicuous by the triumph of Gen. Garcia at Victoria de las Tunas.

Weyler was recalled in November, when, after the death of Canovas and the fall of the short-lived Azcarra cabinet, Senor Sagasta was selected as prime minister by the queen regent. It is a well-known fact that Weyler's recall was imposed upon Spain by this country.

Gen. Don Ramon Blanco, who was to change the sanguinary methods of warfare of his predecessor, entered Havana Nov. 29, 1897. Spain granted to Cuba an autonomist system, which has been declared a mockery by all impartial judges. The Cubans rejected it, and the new

regime inaugurated in Havana on the first day of this year by Gen. Blanco was a complete failure. The patriots declared the acceptance of autonomy an act of treachery to their flag. They hanged as



spies all the Spanish agents sent to them to propose such a scheme. They rejected with scorn the offers of money made to them by Blanco. The death of the Cuban Gen. Arankuren, near Havana, did not discourage the patriots in the least. They kept up the war as enthusiastically as ever, adopting as their motto "Independence or Death."

Effective Tip.
A hungry guest at a Chicago hotel, who had sat at one of the tables unnoticed for several minutes, called a waiter to him at last, and said: "Young fellow, I saw that man over there hand you a tip of half a dollar just now."
"Yes, sah."
"You've got his order, have you?"
"Yes, sah."
"Well, now, I'll give you a tip also, which is this: Bring me exactly the same order, served in exactly the same style as his, and with the same promptness, or I'll report you. Do you get the idea, young fellow?"
"Yes, sah."
The two dinners were served at the same time, and were precisely alike.

When a boy gets hurt, it can never be told how badly he is bruised until after he has been given his Saturday bath.

OPENING OF THE BICYCLE SEASON.



SPANISH SOLDIER A SLOUCH.

He Lacks in Martial Ardor and is Listless and Untidy.
The average Spanish officer or soldier would not impress an American favorably. As a rule they are not well set up, and they are generally undersized. They all lack the West Point cut which is so much admired by Americans. They may understand the theory and practice of war, but the true martial ardor does not reach down into their backbone and legs. None of the officers would ever be accused of wearing corsets, as some of our fledglings in the military service are. The uniform of officers and men seems to be of the same material—a fine green and white stripe gingham, or some similar fabric, for both coat and trousers. The officers wear a few gilt stars on their coat sleeves and a white canvas cap; the enlisted men a Panama straw hat, with one side folded up and fastened with a rosette.

The volunteers, corresponding to our National Guard, who have been doing duty in Havana as an adjunct to the police, have an inspection and guard mount every morning on the Prado. I twice saw this ceremony, says a correspondent, and never saw anything so slovenly done before. There was no sizing up of the men; a boy 5 feet 2 inches would be between men six or eight inches taller. Talking in the ranks seemed to be allowed at all times. At the inspection the man became immovable only when the officer approached him, and relaxed into sociability immediately after the officer had passed. Some had leggings, many



had not. They were a job lot of misfits, assorted sizes and colors, from 15 to 40.

The regulars have had a hard time of it. In summer about 50 per cent. sicken and die. Some of them have had to beg on the streets, not having received their pay for more than six months. This refers to the enlisted men. The officers are paid, and, apparently, enjoy themselves. Although their bullets might have as much penetration, they are no match for the American soldiers in intelligence.

A PLUCKY GIRL.

Courageous Miss Ellen Lee, Daughter of Our Consul to Cuba.
The most popular man in Virginia and perhaps one of the most popular men in the country is Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, our consul general to Cuba. During his official life in Havana he has conducted himself as a soldier and an American gentleman, and has crept into the confidence and esteem of the people of the United States.

The home of Gen. Lee is in Richmond, and the people generally call him "Fitz." Everyone in the city seems to know him, and everyone is proud of him. Almost every day the Lee family receives letters from all over the country recording words of praise for the ex-Confederate cavalry leader. His own family idolizes him, and his eldest

daughter, Miss Ellen Lee, is enthusiastic in admiration of her distinguished father.

Miss Lee is a dainty young woman, slight of form, with a wealth of auburn tresses, flashing eyes and the unmistakable Lee chin, bespeaking courage



and determination. She is every inch the daughter of a soldier, and for her own worth as well as on account of her father and the family name she is popular in Richmond.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

An American, Two Japanese, and a Dish of Potatoes.

Even those who desire to be strictly accurate sometimes erect their story from a single instance, as a geologist conceives the framework of a long-extinct animal from one bone. The fallacy of so doing is well illustrated by the following story told to the writer by one of the participants: A few years ago two Japanese gentlemen of high standing were traveling in the United States, and, among other places, visited a large and widely known manufactory. They were afterward invited by the senior member of the firm to lunch with him. Colonel M. was also of the party. It happened that the first food placed on the table was a dish of fried potatoes, and as the manufacturer enthusiastically explained his business to his guests he unthinkingly took a piece of potato from the dish with his fingers and ate it. A second and third piece followed. The Japanese listened politely, but Colonel M. observed that they were closely watching their host's method of eating. The colonel has a keen sense of humor, and he at once decided that he would follow his friend's example and see what the others would do. He did so, and instantly both Japanese made a dive for the dish, and thus they sat eating potatoes with their fingers, presenting, it is to be feared, the appearance of four men who had had nothing to eat for a long while, and expected never to get anything again. Will it be surprising if in a future Japanese book on America this breach of good manners shall find a place as an American custom?

St. Louis Negroes Wear Wigs.

The colored swell of St. Louis is now wearing a wig. The fad started among the lighter-skinned negroes of both sexes, but soon spread to the darker colored, until now many negroes as black as the proverbial ace of spades have hair as straight as that worn by any white man. The negro has his kinky hair shorn as short as possible and then gets a wig of hair the color he desires. In many instances the effect produced is decidedly grotesque; but the wearers of the borrowed locks are happy, so what matters a little thing like that?

More Ornamental than Useful.

Helen—Young Dudeleigh reminds me of a chrysanthemum.
Mattie—In what respect?
Helen—Oh, he's nice to look at, but he hasn't a cent.

One Man's Idea.

She—What is your idea of happiness?
He—Being "next" in a crowded barber shop.

By the term, "A day of reckoning will come," is meant that if you accept invitations to dinner, you will have to invite back.