

making my heart beat quicker than usual, especially whenever I tried to be alone with my cousin. I became dull, penative, and absent, a change which my cousin Agnes was long in observing, and calling me back for; but, instead of giving a usual explanation of the causes of my sadness, I told her that if she would come in my ramble through the park the following day I would then and there make a very important confession. "Confession!" she echoed. "Nay, I do not want to be made acquainted with your wicked doings; but if it is anything that concerns you, and I can help you to get rid of it—"

"My confession is not of wickedness," said, eagerly interrupting her; "and again, if you will, help me: out of my trouble."

"Very well, then," said she, smiling, "you do not ask me to do anything repugnant to my conscience, I promise you my help. But cousin, I added, speaking very deliberately, "I delay your statement until to-morrow? There is no time like the present for penitent people: so if you will graciously reveal what it is that weighs upon your mind, I will listen to you with the most exemplary silence."

I looked at her for a moment in silence, and then replied, "No cousin, not now. It is not a trifling matter that I wish to speak of, but one that involves the happiness of two lives."

"Indeed!" she exclaimed, in a slightly altered tone.

"Courage," I whispered to myself. Now is the time for me to ascertain my fate. Then, seizing her hand with passionate tenderness, I said: "Cousin Agnes, dearest Agnes—you will not deny me the pleasure of calling you by that sweet name? Nay, turn not from me," I continued, as she made a desperate effort to withdraw her hand, "I have loved you, how deeply I have loved you; how, day after day, I have seen and felt your goodness and worth. Oh do not then plunge me into utter despair by rejecting the offer I now make of my love, my devotion—of the most precious gift man can give to woman, and which even you have already taken from me—my heart."

I paused, but my companion did not speak, I gazed intently into her innocent eyes, and there I read her verdict. I was made happy for the remainder of my existence.

"But," said my beloved Agnes speaking very solemnly, and looking quite distressed, I thought—"you had better consider your words, for I am afraid—"

"Afraid—of what, dearest? I asked, interrupting her.

"That you have—"

"Good heavens! tell me," I exclaimed "what have I done?"

"Made a fool of yourself," she replied, with a merry twinkle in her eye.

I saw through the mystery in a moment. Fred's wife had informed my cousin of the conversation which took place between Fred and myself on the evening previous to my coming to Marston Hall. So I laughed, and Agnes laughed, and we both laughed, together, until the joke had been heartily appreciated on both sides.

And now it only remains for me to add that I did not leave England; that shortly after I had put the question to my cousin Agnes, brother Fred and his family were summoned to Marston Hall, where a very happy wedding took place; and when my brother reminded me of what I had done in the way of making a fool of myself, I told him I did not care, so long as I felt convinced that I had shown nothing but sound sense in wooing, winning and wedding my odd, but good, loving cousin, Agnes.

O. S. Winans, of Dunkirk, has sued the *Fredonia Advertiser* for libel in saying he was challenged for offering to vote after betting.

Cuba.

A glance at the map of the Western Continent explains at once the interest which the United States takes in the large and beautiful island of Cuba. It lies at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, equally distant at its nearest point (about one hundred and thirty miles) from the Peninsular of Florida, and from that of Yucatan in Central America. It seems to be a manifest necessity and Providence that the island should ultimately hold intimate, if not federal relations with the republic covering it with its shadow, and washing its shores with its waters. But one can easily see why the present feudal ruler of Cuba should cling to it with pride, and with characteristic pertinacity. Cuba was the first important discovery made by Columbus with his Spanish expedition in 1492. Having just before touched the small island of San Salvador, he soon reached with his ships the northern shore of Cuba. Of all the immense possessions of Spain upon the American Continent and in the West Indies she only holds now Cuba, Porto Rico, and their dependencies. All the others have become independent, or have been bought or wrested from her grasp by other powers. When we consider that profit as well as pride, urges the retention of these rich islands, we are not surprised that even in the hour of her great civil revolution Spain resists to the last the endeavors of the oppressed races of Cuba to throw off her headdress and crushing government.

At its greatest length, from east to west, the island is between seven and eight hundred miles long, and in its broadest part is one hundred and twenty-seven miles wide. It has an area of about forty-five thousand square miles, a little less than that of the State of New York. Lying between the twentieth and twenty-third degrees of north latitude, it is blessed with the most delightful of climates. Its summer heats are cooled by the northeast trade-winds, and its mean temperature between its coldest and hottest days varies but about twenty degrees, ranging between sixty and eighty. Young children remain unincumbered, without discomfort to themselves, throughout the year. A range of mountains runs like a great spine through its whole length, and large bays and rivers open its interior to commerce. Rich copper mines have, from an early day, afforded ore for exportation, and quite valuable veins of gold have been discovered from time to time. But the the island is the great sugar garden of the world, its soil having proved to be especially adapted to the cultivation of the sugar cane. Immense sugar plantations have been brought under cultivation by a comparatively limited number of proprietors, and both the products and profits have been enormous. Valuable hard woods, such as mahogany and lignum vitae, abound in the dense forests, and add to the sum of her exports.

The present population of the island is about a million and a half. The original Indian population, a weak race, was soon destroyed by the early Spanish emigrants. The island has been chiefly settled by islanders from the Canaries, by hard-working Catalonians from Spain, and by proud, indolent Castilian *hidalgos*—the two boding very much the same relation to each other, and having very much the same opinion of each other, as the Yankee and the Carolinian in the United States.—The collision between the two classes, with the third element of slavery involved, has already occurred with us, and the battle has been fought out to its inevitable end. The struggle is now opening in Cuba, and it requires little prophetic power to foretell the result to the slave and his natural allies, the Creoles and the laborer, and also to the ruling classes, so called. In our days manhood is looking up and feudal power is going under.

The slave-trade opened in Cuba as early as 1524, with all its horrors; and

after Spain united with England and the United in treating that trade as piracy, it still went on in Cuba—to our shame be it written—in the use of Baltimore clippers and New York capital. Lying so near the Southern States, and offering such facilities for slave labor, our Southern politicians, long the ruling mind in our Republic, looked with hungry eyes upon this "Gem of the Antilles." Direct and indirect measures were taken to secure its purchase. The question became more and more urgent with them in the growing fear that Spain might abolish slavery, and thus render the Southern Cross as fatal a legacy for fugitives from Southern patriarchy as the North Star had already become. In 1848 President Polk authorized the American Minister in Madrid to offer one hundred millions of dollars for Cuba, an offer which was laughingly and promptly rejected.—In August of 1854 occurred that world wide sensation popularly known as the "Ostend Manifesto." Messrs. Buchanan, Mason, and Sule, respectively United States Ministers at London, Paris and Madrid, held a conference at Ostend and Aix-la-Chapelle and in an infamous declaration set forth as the result of their deliberations their opinion that Cuba ought to belong to the United States and that its sale would be an advantage to Spain, and that in certain contingencies, such as the emancipation of slaves by the Spanish government, the United States should possess themselves of the island by force. Men propose but God disposes. Cuba does not permit slavery in the United States by her freedom, but is now shaken to her very center by the influence of emancipation in these Southern States. Where now is the manifesto? and where Mason and Sule? As for Mr. Buchanan, let that venerable "public functionary" rest undisturbed in his unhonored grave.

Cuba has a dozen considerable cities, with Havana, the capital of the island, a fine city with a magnificent harbor, at their head. There are eight or ten large towns and a hundred villages.—The population is divided into something of the following proportions: 700,000 whites, 300,000 free blacks and coolies, and 500,000 slaves. Other estimates make the whole population about 1,200,000; but nearly the same proportions are preferred. Much progress has been made of late years in education; a number of collegiate institutions and seminaries of a superior class have been established in Havana and other large cities, and many young Cubans are educated in the United States. Carlos M. de Céspedes, probably the some person elected as leader of the present revolution, was in 1857 with four other young Cubans, a member of Dr. Chase's Preparatory School in Middletown Conn. Between forty and fifty newspapers are published upon the island. Spain governs this large province by a Captain General, who represents her sovereignty at the head of every department. Under him are six subordinate chiefs, presiding over the treasury, judiciary, army, navy, public instruction, and ecclesiastical organization, the Catholic faith being the religion of the State. A standing army of 20,000 or 25,000 men, now increased by the existing civil war, is kept in discipline for the support of the government. To sustain these rulers, who are all drawn from the mother country, one half of the revenue of the island is exhausted. By customs, taxes, and lottery about \$20,000,000 are raised out of this comparatively small population; not to be expended upon themselves for the development of their native land, but upon their oppressors.

The Creoles and the laboring masses of Cuba have for a long period been exceedingly restive, waiting for their hour and their man. The shout of freedom in Spain over the fugitive Bourbon Queen echoing across the Atlantic awakened the long-stifled hopes of Cuba. The possible proclamation emanat-

ion, and of freedom of religion and the press, by the Directory at Madrid, was not all for which they had panted. Why should they be ruled by a power three thousand miles distant, without personal interest in their welfare, and only holding upon them in hereditary pride, or for what could be wrung from their resources? Why might not a continental island govern itself, or at least choose its own governors? A struggling civil war is now answering these questions; its character and results remain to be developed. It is impossible to know the exact condition of things, as the government controls the press, the mail, and the telegraph. Utterly contradictory reports are constantly coming from the island. Whatever may be the present status of the war, the independence of Cuba from the government of Spain can only be a question of time. There is no necessity for our government to interrupt its traditional habit in reference to the internal broils of other nations. When the hour of freedom comes to a people in the ordination of Providence the weapons are at hand. Whether or not the elements out of which a successful revolution can be made will be found in Cuba is, as yet, an unsolved question. We lack confidence in the Spanish race as a whole, and in the Cubans in particular. The debauchery of the popular character, produced by a system of slavery, such as has prevailed in that island—described in another part of this paper—is not especially promising for national regeneration.—*Advocate, N. Y.*

Legal Notices.

MORTGAGE SALE.

By virtue of a mortgage bearing date March 30th, 1868, Orestes A. Keegan and Helen M. Keegan, the wife of the said Orestes A. Keegan, of the County of Allegany and State of New York, conveyed to Ezra Crandall, of the town of Westport, county and State aforesaid, certain premises described in said indenture, as follows: To-wit: One lot of land situated in the town of Westport, county of Allegany and State of New York, containing one acre and one-half, more or less, bounded as follows: North by a line of lot number fifty-one, thirty-five chains and one link; east by lot number fifty-two, twenty-eight chains and eighty links; south by lot number fifty-three, thirty-five chains and one link; west by lot number fifty-four, thirty-five chains and one link. Also, one-half acre of land situated in the above described town, county and State aforesaid, being the south-west corner of the southeast corner of said lot number fifty-one, thirty-five chains and one link, and one-half acre of land situated in the above described town, county and State aforesaid, being the south-west corner of the southeast corner of said lot number fifty-two, twenty-eight chains and eighty links, and one-half acre of land situated in the above described town, county and State aforesaid, being the south-west corner of the southeast corner of said lot number fifty-three, thirty-five chains and one link, and one-half acre of land situated in the above described town, county and State aforesaid, being the south-west corner of the southeast corner of said lot number fifty-four, thirty-five chains and one link. The amount due and unpaid on said mortgage at the time of the filing of this notice was in the payment of which default has been made to two hundred and twenty-three dollars.

Now therefore, Notice is hereby given that said mortgage premises will be sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 26th day of June, 1869, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at the front door of the Court House in the village of Belmont, Allegany County, N. Y.

Dated March 18th, 1869.

IRVING JORDAN, Assignee.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of one writ of execution, issued out of the Supreme Court against the land and tenements of Lemar, B. Lewis, I have seized and taken the following property to-wit: All that tract or parcel of land situated in the town of Amity, county of Allegany and State of New York. It being all that part of lot No. 88, lying between South street and the line of the village of Belmont, and recorded according to a map and survey of said village made by the clerk's office of Allegany county, to which map and survey reference is made to ascertain the location of said lot 88; which I shall sell at Public Vendue to the highest bidder, at the front door of the American Hotel, in the village of Belmont, Allegany county, New York, on the 16th day of June, 1869, at two o'clock P. M. of that day.

Dated May 20th, 1869.

U. L. DAVIS, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of one writ of execution, issued out of the Supreme Court against the land and tenements of Lemar, B. Lewis, I have seized and taken the following property to-wit: The interest of said lot 88, lying between South street and the line of the village of Belmont, and recorded according to a map and survey of said village made by the clerk's office of Allegany county, to which map and survey reference is made to ascertain the location of said lot 88; which I shall sell at Public Vendue to the highest bidder, at the front door of the American Hotel, in the village of Belmont, Allegany county, New York, on the 16th day of July, 1869, at two o'clock P. M. of that day.

Dated May 20th, 1869.

U. L. DAVIS, Sheriff.



Center Street, Andover.

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