

splashing fountains and pretty girls innumerable.

Sauntering about the lovely place, we climbed the mountain to inspect the old churches, which, in this peculiar atmosphere, seemed to us from the valley below a tremendous structure looming against the steel-blue sky, but which on approaching dwindled to a little old pile of century-eaten stone, with no windows, with but one door, and with a chime of bells no bigger than the bells our American cows rattle, half-muffled in clover, at the flies in the meadows. But the climbing showed us where there were more entrancing studies than the quaintest of old churches.

Every home in this village nest was like a bit of old Doric Salem set in a frame of honeysuckle, jasmine and rose; and every pillared portico, wide and big at the house itself was a scene for an artist and student of simple toil and glowing beauty. Here, too, was a delightful surprise in the pleasing discovery that the delicate beauty, the Cuban woman, could do something in the nature of work. These were the sweetest of Cubans and every one was as lazily busy as pretty. And what bright engaging groupings they were as we passed, making our admiration as plain in our eyes and loiterings as they all showed us in their own eyes and blushes they were glad that they pleased.

You must know that we were chivalrous caballeros, my companion, the don, and myself, and that no good women are indifferent to true interest and admiration in any country. So it was with no rudeness on our part nor alarm on theirs, that we soon found a group of some twenty señoritas and ninas, presided over by two or three pleasantly grave señoritas picturesquely bestowed upon a great flower-embowered portico, singing dainty snatches of Spanish ballads, bandying back and forth harmless jests, and full as the vines of blossoms of the alert aggressions and repulses of budding womanhood.

San Francisco de Paula's homes are all diminutive factories of the cool, light hat known in our country as the "palm leaf," the same being a leading article of export from Yucatan to the States, though it is said the Americans are only sent the inferior grades; and here these fair maids, in a setting of architecture, of quaint environment and blossoms prettier than ever given us on the operatic stage, were making their dainty and deft fingers fly marvelously. The ninas, or little girls, split the leaf of the already bleached palma guana, of fan palm, with thin-bladed knives, each little one true and dextrous in her work and rarely making a wrong stroke or destroying a slender strand.

We set the entire coterie in a flutter by contracting for the making of a hat for each one of us, the dicker being gravely conducted by the don with one of the discreet señoritas; and no two men were ever put in pleasanter waiting than we during those two sunny Cuban hours. With the delicious hospitality of these Cubans everywhere we must needs be made as comfortable as royal guests; and, while the stately don was placed in a great rocking chair near the fair girl whose nimble hands were already weaving the snow-white strands of his sombrero, without any ado I must accept a plaited-grass hammock swung by the side of the entrancing senora who dextrous fingers fluttered among the rust-

ing palm-strands with the rapidity of the swift coming and going of the blushes upon the perfect face.

The old señoritas beamed; the young señoritas kept up an undertone of gay sallies, interspersed with gurgles of laughter; the little ninas giggled hysterically; a crowd of fat negroes looked on grinningly; the don rocked benignly to and fro in his capacious chair; I swung leisurely in my plaited hammock; and I pledge you that, looking lazily through our curling cigarette smoke, as the old señoritas smoked with us, I saw such romance and situations in the real scene and surroundings of this one Cuban portico as the comedy-opera makers might utilize with exquisite pleasure and delight.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council met in regular session March 7th, President Loo-bourrow occupying the chair. The members present were: Rich, Hardy, Kartick, Horn, Evans, Bearseley, Wantland, Helse, Follan, Bell, Simondt, Moran, Lawson.

Recorder Stanton was absent and his assistant, Mr. Fred Dennis, performed his duties.

The Proceedings.

A. S. and J. M. Harmon asked to be allowed to pile building material on Second South street between East Temple and State streets. Committee on streets.

Marcellus M. Gray asked for a franchise to erect and maintain a gas and electric light manufacturing plant for a period of twenty-five years. Committee on streets.

Philip Adams asked to be allowed to maintain a boot black stand at the Globe-Pitts corner. Committee on streets.

L. Pettit asked for the release of certain land sold for taxes. City attorney.

Al Ecklund sent in a communication asking for \$80 for detective services in the Showel investigation. Committee on claims.

Sarah B. Gibson and others asked that a certain street in the recently annexed district be named Blaine street. Committee on streets.

A proposition from W. S. McCornick to furnish five incandescent lights free of charge for the proper illumination of the Eagle Gate was accepted.

The Industrial Architectural Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio, sent in a communication in which they stated that some time ago they received copies of plans and specifications for the proposed city jail, but after examining them carefully concluded not to bid owing to the incompleteness of the plans and the indefinite character of the specifications. They asked to be furnished with new plans that they might bid intelligently. Committee on prisons.

C. A. Graeber and others asked for an asphalt sidewalk on Second South street from Fifth West to the Jordan river. City engineer.

C. F. Dantell and others asked for an extension of water mains on Cannon street. Committee on waterworks.

D. S. Davidson asked for permission to pile building material at No. 46 east

Second South street. Committee on streets with power to act.

J. J. Smith and others asked for an electric light on Franklin avenue. Committee on improvements.

L. L. Woodruff and others asked that Third South street be graded from Tenth to Twelfth East streets. Committee on streets.

D. B. Carson asked to be appointed to a position on the police force. Referred to the Mayor.

Wendell Benson submitted a substitute for a former petition which has been before the Council, and now petitions for a franchise for a gas and electric light plant, with the usual privileges. Laid over to come up under the head of miscellaneous business.

H. G. McMillan and others asked that a franchise be not granted to the Salt Lake City Street Railway company on East South Temple Streets. Filed.

The Woolley Laundry company asked to be allowed to connect its establishment with the sewer mains. Committee on sewerage.

Henrietta Yeardon asked for relief from the payment of sidewalk tax. Board of public works.

A. H. Cannon and others asked for an electric light at the corner of Eighth South and Fifth West streets. Committee on improvements.

C. W. Hardy and others asked for an extension of time in which to make payments of sewer taxes. City attorney.

Miss E. V. Davis and others asked that B street be graded from First to Fourth streets. Committee on streets.

FROM FOUR TO SIX MILLS.

The superintendent of waterworks reported that the estimated cost of extension of water mains on Roper, Eleventh East streets and Emerson avenue, is \$5,700 and the amount of the assessment is only \$3,978.83 making a difference of \$1,722; that the property in that part of the city is cut up into small lots and he thought the assessment should be raised to six mills.

Bearing on that subject Rich offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Whereas, The amount of assessment of the proposed watermain extension on Eleventh East in the new annex to the city, on 994,702 square feet frontage amounts to \$3,978.83 at a four mill assessment and the actual cost of same is \$5,968.21; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the assessment be raised to six mills per square foot to cover the deficiency of \$1,989.38 on said extension.

RAILWAY FRANCHISE.

In the matter of the petition of the Salt Lake & Los Angeles Railway Company asking for a franchise for an extension of its tracks on Sixth West Street, the city engineer recommended that the request be granted upon condition that the company remove certain other tracks and buildings. Laid over to come up under the head of miscellaneous business.

WANTED—A SAFE.

City Auditor Raybould represented that he was without a safe in his office in which to keep valuable papers in his possession, and asked that one be provided.