THE BONES OF COLUMBUS

The Spaniards Think They Have Them In Havana, but the Records Appear to Indicate That They Are Still In Santo Domingo.

Like the Flying Dutchman, the Great Discoverer Roams the World Even In Death.

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The report that the Spaniards, who are now preparing to evacuate Cuba and the other possessions that have recently come under the control of Uncle Sam, intend to take with them the remains of Christopher Columbus, which have been supposedly in the cathedral at Havana for more than 200 years, has started an inquiry as to the real but resting place of the great explorer and discoverer. The question, "Where are the remains of Columbus?" has brought many different answers. Scientists and explorers have spent considerable time in trying to settle the much mooted point, and while some of them have made themselves that would lead one to consider the matter disposed of for all time they have been unable to come to a positive conclusion, and it seems as unsettled now as it did when the vaults of the cathedral at Santa Domingo were opened and the remains, supposedly those of Columbus, were removed to Havana more than 100 years ago.

Like his birthplace, the final resting place of Columbus cannot be definitely fixed, and there are at least three cities each of which claims the honor of being the spot where the great discoverer first saw the light of day, while three others claim to have his remains in their cathedrals. The last are Havana, Santo Domingo, on the island of the same name, and Arzadilla, a small town on the coast of Porto Rico. There is nothing to show, so far as the latter is concerned, that Columbus was ever near the place which adjoins, and little attention has been given to the report.

With the other two places it is different. They do not only claim that the bones and dust of Columbus rest in the cathedrals of their cities, but have documents to prove their assertions. There are two things certain—Columbus lived and died, and he was neither twice nor trebly. What remains there are that he was born in Genoa, Italy, and that he died and was buried at Valladolid, Spain. There are no records to prove in what year he was born, and historians and authorities differ as to the time. So far as is known, the event occurred either in 1435 or 1436. Some authorities claim it was ten years later, and that point also has never been settled satisfactorily.

He died at Valladolid on May 20, 1506, and from that time to his burial his remains have been moved about from place to place until it is now a question as to where they really are. It is safe to say that the body has traveled around and been placed in many vaults and cathedrals from those of any other great man. During his lifetime Columbus moved about from one country to another, and it seems that even with death his remains were not at rest. In fact, death had still greater journeys in store for the famous discoverer.

Columbus when dying requested that he be buried in Santo Domingo, which was at that time the largest and most powerful of the settlements in the new world. His remains were first placed in the cathedral of St. Francis in Valladolid, where they remained for about seven years, when they were transferred to the Carthusian monastery of Las Cuevas at Seville in 1513. It was not until many years afterward that the widow of Columbus were compelled with and his remains were sent on their first journey to the land he discovered and died so well. In 1536, 29 years after he died, the body was removed from Seville and shipped to Santo Domingo, where it was placed in a vault near the altar of the famous cathedral which was erected by order of Don Diego Columbus in honor of his father, the discoverer and great admiral.

The construction of this cathedral was commenced in 1514, but it was not completed until 1541. The vault in which the body of Columbus was first placed began to decay, and the remains were removed from it and deposited in a leaden box, on which was placed a tablet suitably inscribed. It was in this manner they were sent from Seville to Santo Domingo. There were two vaults placed in the cathedral near the altar. They were separated from each other by a thick wall. In one of them the remains of the great explorer were placed, and the opening was sealed. In the other were put the remains of his son, Diego, and his brother, Bartholomew. Dry Goldine claims that he found that there were many records to show where the bones of Columbus rested. A little later, however, the records were lost. The officials of Santo Domingo claim that the remains subsequently received by the Spaniards were not those of Columbus, but those of one of his family, while the Spaniards claim that the cathedral at Havana holds the dust of the man who gave to Spain a new world, which place the discovery has been taken little by little away from her.

For more than 200 years the bones of Columbus, his brother and son remained in peace in the vaults spoken of near the altar of the cathedral of Santa Domingo. The old building, with its heavy walls, supported by 14 massive columns, still remained in the possession of Spain. Time has wrought havoc on its once proud walls and with the exception of some marble which were made a few years ago nothing is left to show the original beauty of the building has been done. Here alongside the high altar and in vaulted sepulchres above the pavement rested the remains of the great admiral and his son and brother. Spain lost Santo Domingo, as she has lost her all other possessions in America, but she has succeeded in keeping the bones and dust that she supposed to be those of her first great discoverer. When Santo Domingo was seized by France in 1795, the Spanish government had the vault which was supposed to hold the remains of Columbus opened and the casket removed to Havana, where they were interred in the cathedral with great pomp and ceremony. It was not known at the time that there were two vaults in the cathedral at Santo Domingo, or if the clergy were cognizant of the fact they refused to divulge the secret.

Some authorities who have written on the subject have stated that the clergy knew where the remains had been interred, and that when the Spaniards left Santo Domingo, but in Spain, Cuba and the United States. Spain at once dispatched two commissioners to the scene to investigate the matter. According to rumor, they did not even look at the remains, and it is said that one of the men whom Spain sent to investigate wrote his report of the matter while he was on the steamer on route to the island. Italy sent a wreath to Santo Domingo to look into the case, as she claimed that Columbus was an Italian subject. Nothing was done, however, at that time.

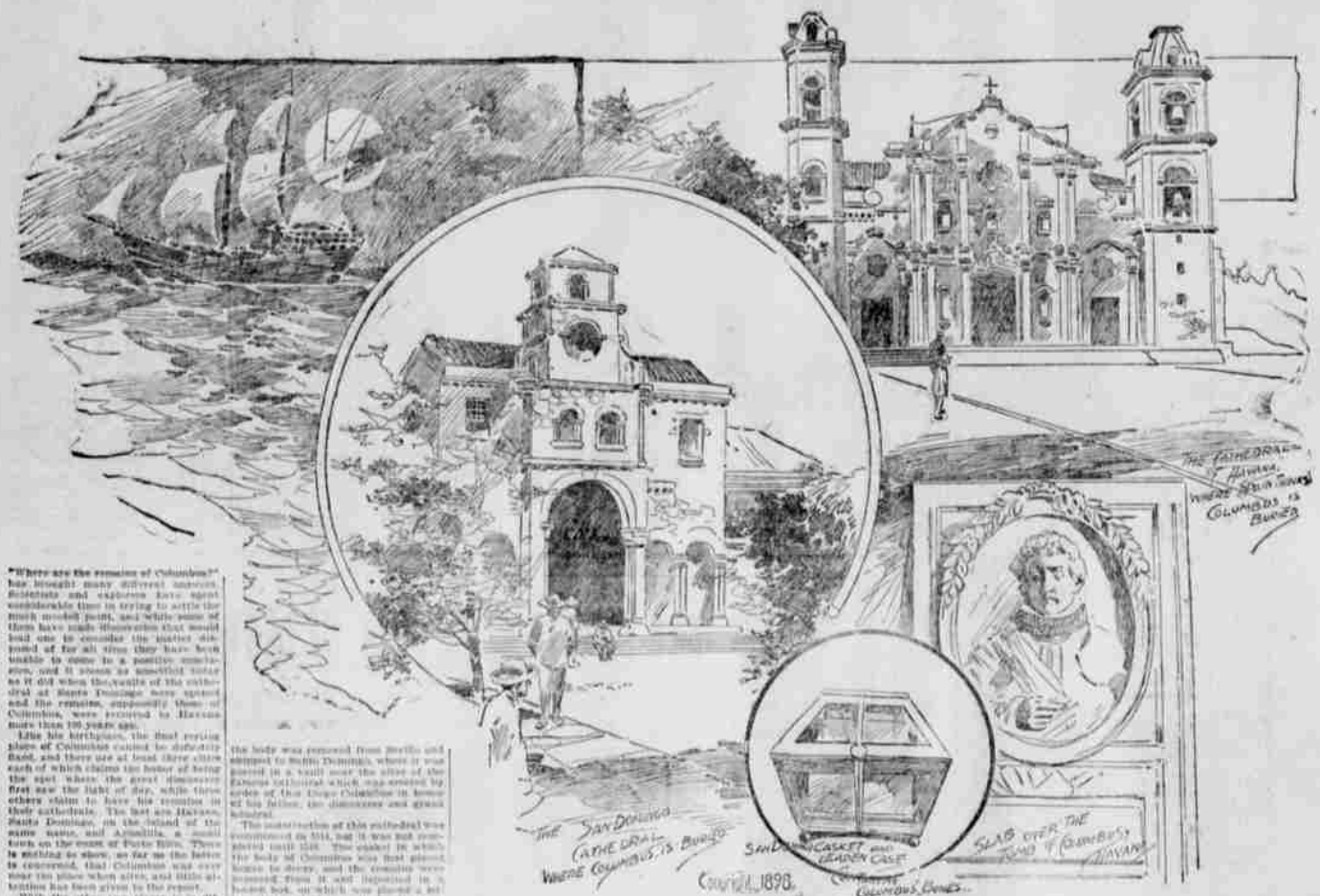
Later the coffin was removed from the vault and placed in a chapel adjoining the cathedral. A heavy guard was constantly kept near the place. The vault was first examined. On the walls were the letters "C. C. A.," which were supposed to stand for "Cristobal Colon, Almirante." When the coffin was opened, it was found to contain a leaden box, in which were a crude coffee plate, some bones and a leaden tablet. On the tablet was the following inscription: "Descubridor de Indias, Primero Almirante." Translated it means, "The Discoverer of America, the First Admiral." On the inside of the cover to an inscription, written in Gothic script, partly abbreviated, which has been translated as follows: "The Famous and Excellent Man, Don Cristobal Colon." Five silver plates were found in the bottom of the lead box. It had an inscription on both sides, which evidently meant to state the same thing. The inscription translated is, "The Last Part of the Remains of the First Admiral, Christoval Colom, the Discoverer."

After the remains were inspected before the foreign consuls they were placed in the lead box and then in the glass case, which, after being locked, was bound in the inside of the casket. The consuls then attached their seals to it. A strong outer box, which is closed with seven locks, encloses them all, which were thereupon returned to the chapel, where they are constantly under guard. The seasons who witnessed the inspection represented the United States, Spain, Italy, Germany, England, France and Holland.

The Honorable Gray that the remains of Columbus are still in Santo Domingo, for they have no proofs to show that those taken from the cathedral over a century ago are the great admiral's, and from the facts at hand it would appear that Spain will have one more mistake to add to her already formidable list. THURMAN L. HILTON.

Schopenhauer's Disappointment.

The story is told that a friend, invited to dine with Schopenhauer at his favorite restaurant, where a number of others were in the habit of meeting, noticed that Schopenhauer took a gold coin from his pocket before eating and laid it on the table beside him. When the meal was over, the philosopher replaced the coin in his purse. Upon a question from his friend, Schopenhauer replied: "I have been dining with three others for some time, and about two months ago I explained a scheme to give this gold coin, of considerable value, to some worthy charity on the very first occasion upon which I could hear these gentlemen talk of anything but women, horses and the shortcomings of others. You see, I will have no money."



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SOME FAMOUS SURRENDERS.

The surrender of the Russian army under General Tsiel at Sedan was one of the largest events of the kind as regards numbers that have occurred on this continent. Many detachments of troops coming up in a battled fleet are often compelled to surrender during a war, but when whole armies give up the end is generally in sight.

There are many famous surrenders in our national history. Many were the soldiers taken during the Revolution, in the middle of the war and at the end. At Saratoga on Oct. 17, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered to Gates 5,791 soldiers and a large quantity of ammunition and cannon. He had been ordered from Canada in June, intending to go down the Hudson and separate New England from New York.

On Oct. 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered 7,247 men to Washington, which ended the war. The army and 132 guns were turned over to the French.

There was a surrender in the war which is fit to be ranked with the Saratoga and Fort Pillow. Fort Griswold, leading New London, Conn., was surrounded by Arnold, the traitor, Eyre and Ledyard. The commander and 85 men were put to the sword after they had given up their arms. This was in September, 1781. The last of the New England coast fell into unknown hands by the British with the loss of a vessel. Washington's alliance was Cornwallis.

Even the great Washington was forced to surrender once, though not in this war. It was in the French and Indian war, and Washington was commandant at Fort Necessity. He had had shot the first shot of the war, having defeated Jumonville at Great Meadows, 41 miles from Fort Duquesne. Two months later Washington himself was defeated by De Villiers at Fort Necessity, which he had built at Great Meadows. At the end of his hard fought fortunes Washington gained one condition that his troops should go to the honors of war.

Our war of 1812 was marked by no notable surrenders, one of which we can not at all to our credit. This was one was Hull's surrender of Detroit and with it all of Michigan territory. Hull's soldiers were left with their homes or they were anxious to fight and to get the chance. Hull was court martialed later for 30 British soldiers on his trial by court martial for treason and cowardice. He was acquitted of the charge of treason, but was convicted of cowardice and sentenced to be shot. He was pardoned by the president.

The surrender of Barclay's fleet on Lake Erie to Perry partly avenged Hull's deed and gave the Americans chance to get back what they had lost through Hull. Perry's message to the president, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," is a classic among military dispatches.

The Mexican war was marked by no surrender of no large events. Santa Anna gave up Monterey in September, 1846. Tampico surrendered to Commodore Conner of the navy in November, 1846. The castle of San Juan de Ulua, which surrendered Santa Anna, surrendered to Scott and Conner March 27, 1847. At this time 5,000 prisoners and 500 more were taken by our army. The City of Mexico, having been evacuated by Santa Anna, was occupied by the American forces Sept. 14, 1847.

The Mexican war was preceded by the Texan war for independence, a war of which the Alamo is best remembered by Texans, was surrounded by Santa Anna. No quarter had the Americans laid down their arms but they were murdered by the treacherous Mexicans of Spanish descent.

The civil war was ushered in by the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Twenty thousand were held there that day. This was soon followed by the surrender of Johnston, with 25,021 men; Taylor, with 10,000; Jeff Thompson, with 7,000, and Kirby Smith, with 23,000.

An Engine 120 Years Old.

After 120 years of daily service the oldest working engine in the world is recently released from all sides of it will now simply do duty as a relic. In 1775 James Watt, in partnership with Boulton, in Birmingham, England, began the manufacture of steam engines. Two years later they built an engine for the Birmingham Canal Navigation company. The engine has a 31 inch cylinder and an 8 foot stroke. It is now considered when compared with modern engines. But a few years of steam was used, for which reason the good power produced by modern high pressure engines could not be realized. The James Watt certainly did good service when coupled with its 120 years of pumping daily 12,312,000 gallons of water, while the old engine did not.

"It Is Yours, Sonny!"

Many amusing situations arise in Mexico on account of the general custom of remarking whatever any kiddies are praised or admired, "It is yours, sonny!" Of course this is mere politeness, which is not supposed to be taken advantage of, but a visitor who chanced to admire a pack of the ware carried it away upon the remark of the child that it was his, and the unfortunate clerk had to report for employers. A lady recently admired a pair of vases in the hall occupied as a parlor by the words "It is yours" from the Mexican owner, and it took the interpretation of interpreter to decide the restoration of the ware and soothe the lady's wounded feelings.

Big Iron Pillar.

The largest wrought iron pillar is at Delhi, in India. It is 46 feet high and weighs 17 tons.

SOME CURIOUS FACTS.

Archduchess Elisabeth Marie of Austria, granddaughter of the emperor and late empress of Austria, was married to her Hungarian fiancee. Elisabeth is the only daughter of the imperial crown prince of Austria and the late Princess Stephanie, who died such a tragic death a few years ago. If the aforementioned have did not succeed in, she would be heiress to the crown thereon. The archduchess Elisabeth was born at Laxenburg. She is much beloved by her mother and stands much than in her own right.

Private Cornet of the First Alabama regiment was recently tried by court martial for entertaining letters of the enemy and transmitting them to the enemy. He was found guilty on the ground that the young man within the period of 24 hours had received $17.50, not counted and passed the church. Consult was suspended.

Lieutenant John W. Hurst of the Third United States cavalry is the aboriginal place that of the United States army.

Albert L. Mills, who has been superintendent of the military academy at West Point, N. Y., is the first instructor to be so honored. It is a remarkable position, and he predecessor was Colonel Robert Ernest.

Dainty Dorothy's only surviving son-in-law, Frank J. Quinn, died the other day. He was 40 years of age.

A social fellow should have great appreciation of blood relations if death has not made great inroads on their number. He is one of 12 children, and was brother of his father have had each 8 children.

The late Admiral Rickland's estate of newspaper men was amused on when he was in San Francisco in this way: "If you are ready taking you can anywhere in the navy yard you'll be arrested, but I suppose you'll take those orders."

General Joe Wheeler owes his military education to John Wheeler of New York, who was a representative in congress from that city in the fifties. The two are fond to relationship to each other, but it was through Representative Wheeler that Joe Wheeler went to West Point.

Boston Thursday says that from the time he was 12 years old his desire was to become a United States senator.

In England it is fashionable to be educated. The Duchess of Devonshire recently opened the Chiltern education club, a competition having been held for the footing of Duke Jones school for poor children. The Duchess of Rutland, Lady Dickson and Lady Rosebery and daily are deeply interested and are held for the country Sunday fund for the poor children of London.

Boston is to have free ice water facilities in all parts of the city next summer.