Some Singular Cosas De Cuba.

Fiesta of the Negro Mother of Christ---A Visit to Her Shrine in the Outskirts of Matanzas---Scenes and Incidents of a Cuban Celebration.

Special Correspondence.

Matanzas, March 14, 1899.—Early yesterday morning we came over from Havana—a four hour's run by the Central railway, to witness the annual fiesta of "La Virgin negra, the negro Virgin, which is celebrated with greater eclat in Matanzas than anywhere else on the island. Nobody seems able to account for a colored Mother of Christ except the dusky race on earth, who contend that theirs is the complexion natural to man and the lighter shades but miserable adulterations. I have seen several representatives of her in the churches of Mexico, Peru and Brazil, and doubtless they exist in other Spanish-Catholic countries. One is prepared for saddle-hued Saint Augustine's, as that worthy was a Moor, but the raison d'etre of a Black Virgin remains a mystery. She does not appear in the Cuban capital, where living negroes abound, but in Matanzas, where the sons and daughters of Ham are comparatively few, there is a church in her honor. It stands just beyond the outskirts of the city, on top of the ridge that divides the valley. It was built nearly two centuries ago, by a pious Catalan grandee, to commemorate some important happening in the history of his family. Only twice a year are services held in the old sanctuary—on March 13th and September 23rd; but its doors are always open and true believers—mostly of the colored race—come daily to invoke the Virgin's blessing and leaving before her shrine their votive offerings, of shells, first fruits, turtle doves and fragrant flowers.

At Matanzas station we selected the least rickety volante in sight and drove out quickly to take a look at the famous Virgin in advance of the crowd. Rattling along the narrow city streets across the stone bridge of San Juan, [illegible]

[illegible]

pink and white oleanders, scarlet pomegranites and royal purple hibiscus. But the silence of death hangs over all, for the splendid place is quite deserted. Our intelligent cochero related its history. The residence is considered the finest in the entire province. It contains a well-filled art-gallery and imported furniture that was formerly the admiration of the people. The owner, a more wealthy Spaniard, possessed rich sugar plantations a little way back in the valley, besides three thousand acres of the best tobacco lands in the world. Five years ago it seemed beyond the range of possibility that he could ever find himself a poor man. Early in the war, insurgents burned his sugar estate, destroying his mills and machinery, and in a few hours sent skyward in flames and smoke property worth two or three million dollars. Fearing for his own life and the safety of his family, the Spaniard hastily gathered together what he could and fled to the mother country, leaving all he possessed in Cuba to be sold by agents. But nobody was buying much in those unfavorable days. Some of the richest plantations on the island brought only six dollars an acre, and others equally good could not be sold at any price. The [illegible] tobacco property, that erstwhile yielded a yearly income of several hundred thousand dollars, brought only $11,000 in the lump. During the war, the abandoned mansion in the outskirts of Matanzas, at the mercy of both armies and all the guerrillas, bushwhackers and "scallys" of the time, was absolutely valueless, for nobody would have accepted it as a gift if obliged to try living in it. Probably the house cost in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million; and in the opinion of our cochero might be purchased today for five thousand dollars "down." Here is a valuable hint to home-seeking Americans. There are other abandoned palaces like this, scattered all over the island, which might be bought for a tithe of their original value and converted into ideal residences. The beauty, salubrity, pure water, and easy railway and ocean facilities conspire to make Matanzas a far more eligible place for American resort than Nassau and other points to which our countrymen and women flock by thousands every season. Two or three million dollars [illegible]

[illegible]

FANNIE BRIGHAM WARD.

Wall Paper

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All This Week

Nothing in the City like our 15 and 20 cent Gilts.

Golds, former price 30 and 40 cents, go at 25c.

Fine Ingrains go at 25c.

A few colors of ready-made Calcimine left. Closing out these at 35c a package.

GEO. W. EBERT,

326 State Street.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The New Rubber—Unsolved Problem—Machines that Almost Think—Action of Turkish Baths—The Highest Mountain Yet Unknown—Is There a Subterranean Tidal Sea?—A Hard-Earned Product—The War on Tropic Microbes—Transplanted Hair.

Through an improved method of oxidizing linseed and other vegetable oils, Mr. Charles Grist claims to have produced a very satisfactory substitute for rubber, which is now being employed in a variety of articles in a large English factory. Tow soaked with the oil is placed in a centrifugal machine, which throws out all oil except that clinging in minute globules to the fiber. The bunches of tow are then put on metallic grids in a current of warm air for twenty-four hours, when the oil becomes completely oxidized, and the material is then ground, mixed with coloring matter, and rolled into sheets. The product has many of the properties of rubber and gutta-percha. It is resilient but less elastic than rubber, resists chemical action and a heat of 240 degrees F., and can be used for electric insulation and for wheel tires of high quality. Dissolved in ethereal spirits, it serves for giving any fabric a waterproof coating.

Almost every suggestion ever made as to the origin of atmospheric electricity, and the part it plays in meteorology, has been repeatedly tested with only negative results, states Professor Cleveland Abbe, and we must conclude that this problem is too difficult for immediate solution. It is one of many that a following generation will, we hope, cope with successfully. Turning to the simpler associated phenomena, we find the best physicists not yet quite clear as to the method of formation of lightning and auroral discharges, the phosphorescent glow of the clouds, ball-lightning and other every-day phenomena, and full explanation of these must await the invention of appropriate methods of investigation.

A singular fly, resembling a large horse-fly, is reported to exist near Redding, Cal. It is called the sulphur fly, was unknown until copper-smelting began in the locality three years ago, and seems to live and breed in sulphur heaps, in the midst of dense sulphurous acid fumes from the roasting ore.

[illegible]

WAS WASHINGTON THE FATHER OF HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS.

[Forum.]

[illegible]

Annual Statements of Insurance Companies

REPRESENTED BY

The Anderson Insurance Agency.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION

[illegible]

STATE OF UTAH, Office of the Secretary of State. } ss.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Lloyds Plate Glass Insurance Co.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

R. B. Whittemore & Co.

AGENTS.

315 South Main St. Telephone 186.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

TRADERS INSURANCE COMPANY.

[illegible]

JAMES T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS OF Insurance Companies

REPRESENTED BY

W. E. SMEDLEY & CO.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

American Fire Insurance Co.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Manchester Fire Assurance Co.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

PHOENIX INSURANCE COMPANY

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

T. R. JONES, Agent.

SALT LAKE CITY.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Helvetia Swiss Fire Insurance Co.

[illegible]

JAMES T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

P. J. CONWAY,

AGENT.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Represented by F. E. McGurrin & Co., Agents.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Caledonian Insurance Company.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

American Insurance Company.

Name and Location of the Company, American Insurance Company, 70 Broad St., Newark N. J.

[illegible]

STATE OF UTAH, Office of the Secretary of State. } ss.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statements of Companies

REPRESENTED BY

The Union Insurance Agency

LEWIS B. ROGERS, Secretary and Manager. Office, Walker Bros. Bank.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

National Fire Insurance Company

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

Represented by C. R. Curtis, General Agent.

Annual Statement for the year ending December 31, 1898, of the condition of the

Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co.

The Name and Location of the Company, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, 49 Pearl St., Hartford, Conn.

[illegible]

STATE OF UTAH, Office of the Secretary of State. } ss.

[illegible]

J. T. HAMMOND, Secretary of State.

GUNPOWDER.

Let him now shoot who never shot before,
And him who always shot now shoot the more.

HAZARD'S "Kentucky Rifle."
HAZARD'S "Trap Shooting."
HAZARD'S "Duck Shooting."
HAZARD'S "Mining and Blasting."
HAZARD'S brands the most reliable in the market.

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Salt Lake Hardware Company.

We Halt the World.

DRUNKENNESS, [illegible] Lake City, Utah.