

# Prominent Presidential Candidates In Cuba

CONTRASTING the Havana of today with the Havana of my acquaintance before the war, I find it vastly improved. American occupation has done this, if nothing more. It has cleaned the city, and when the sewerage system about which so much talk is made shall have been perfected it will be one of the most healthful places in the tropics.

It was universally accepted in the old Spanish days that no power on earth could make Havana other than an unhealthy city. But the Americans have proved this idea fallacious. According to General Ludlow, who was himself instrumental in bringing about this transformation, we demonstrated in the course of a single year what had not been learned in 400 years of Spanish rule—namely, that Havana is not necessarily an unhealthy city. The Spaniards seemed to have been almost destitute of knowledge of sanitation. The city is favorably situated for health, its elevation and contour are favorable to good drainage and there is an excellent water supply. Yet there is no sewerage system, and the distribution of the water supply is defective. Large sums of money derived from revenue receipts have been applied to the renovation of the city, and the result has been shown in the remarkable decrease of the death rate, especially in relation to contagious and infectious diseases, particularly yellow fever.

But while Havana has been thoroughly cleansed, and one may walk

gets the impression, peradventure he be stopping at some leading hotel like the Inglaterra or the Pasaje, that the Cuban must be constituted pretty much of lungs and larynx, and that the incessant smoking of the everlasting cigarette, instead of being injurious, has imparted a sonorous timbre to both.

However, it may be gathered from the foregoing that the Cubans have at last awakened from their apathy and are now fully alive to the exigencies of the situation. They are gathered in knots at the corners of the plazas, in the portals of erstwhile palaces and particularly in the superabundant cafes, talking each other to death over the situation. And that situation? Well, it might puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to unravel its intricacies and make them clear to the mind of a layman. In order to obtain an understanding or an inkling of it, however, we must recall that Cuba has already held two general elections. The first, on the 15th of June last, was for the election of municipal officers and judges, and hardly attracted unusual attention; the second was held Sept. 15 to elect members to a constitutional convention and resulted in a stirring up of political passions which gave the gratifying assurance that the people were at last being aroused. The Cuban

which it is more in sympathy than with the National. The whole thing is yet "in the air," but as the political atmosphere is greatly disturbed there are floating straws which indicate pretty fairly who are to be the chief contestants. As to who will be elected—that is another story, which, as is usually the case, can be told more accurately after the election.

By all odds the most prominent and perhaps popular possibility is the great hero of the Cuban rebellion, Maximino Gomez, who is, many patriots aver, the only logical candidate. The "old man," as he is affectionately termed, cannot be separated in the minds of the people from the great cause which he so persistently advocated with his sword for nearly a third of a century. His biography is the history of Cuba in epitome during the last 32 years, or since 1868. He has sacrificed his property and given the life of a beloved son in the fight for Cuba's freedom; he has held Cubans to their duty through the vicissitudes of many weary years, and if not reckoned a great general, at least he has been compared as a strategist with Washington. His policy was similar to that of Washington in his determined opposition to the British invaders, and by means of it he protracted the war through three decades until at last ac-

ception of him in Havana last year, when the populace went wild in their demonstrations. But that he is feared and disliked by the politicians was made manifest by their treatment of him only a few months afterward. As to his position, many claims have been advanced, one asserting that he is hostile to the United States and fears that American influence may thwart his long cherished scheme for West Indian autonomy, and another that he has recognized the true spirit of friendliness which has animated the United States throughout its intervention and will co-operate with the wise plans for reform which have been inaugurated during this period.

The truth is, probably, that though the old general is eccentric and perhaps erratic he will stand by those who came to his rescue in 1898 and who alone made the freedom of Cuba possible. He has shown this in his speeches, notably in one of his "farewell" addresses last year, when he said among other excellent things: "We should aid by every pacific method in finishing the work of organizing which the Americans accepted in the protocol and which is as disagreeable for them as for ourselves. This aid will prove useless without concord among all the islanders. Therefore it is necessary to forget past disagreements, to completely unite all elements and to organize a political party, which is needed in every country."

And again, "Cuba owes a debt of eternal gratitude to the United States because the valiant sons of America shed their blood to free Cuba from the present government of Spain."

Yes, there can be no doubt as to the attitude of Gomez toward this country provided he be elected to the presidential chair. But his very friendliness toward us will be urged against him in the campaign, for the Cubans, as has already been said of them, "have short memories" where gratitude is concerned. The great objection to Gomez will be that he is not a Cuban, but a native of Santo Domingo, and hence should be debarred from serving as the island's executive. He was good enough as a soldier—in fact, as a savior—but will not fit for a president. It would seem to a dispassionate observer that what was looked upon as a virtue by a son of Cuba—fighting for her freedom—ought to shine the more resplendently in one foreign to her soil who gave up home and country to battle in her interests.

But it is hinted that the opposing politicians will insist upon a clause in the



FRA ELBERTUS AND THE LITTLE DE LUXE



ALI BABA AND THE BOOK

THE FOUNDER OF THE ROYCROFTERS AND ONE OF THE WORKMEN.

## THE UNIQUE ROYCROFTERS AND THEIR FOUNDER

brothers, and if he finds his own nomination impossible or impracticable may bring forth the name of Salvador Cisneros Betancourt, better known as the Marquis of Santa Lucia. He also is a veteran of the war, having resigned his title and property to become an insurgent, and was elected the first president of the Cuban "republic" in 1895. Unlike General Gomez, who is acquainted only with the Spanish language, he can speak and write English, having resided in the United States.

He was at one time a popular idol in his native island, but it is charged by his enemies that in his old age he has turned out very erratic and inconsistent, having formerly advocated annexation to the United States, and this last year coming out with a manifesto against the Americans and calling upon the Cubans to declare for liberty or revolution.

Some impatience may have been natural among the old patriots at the necessarily slow process of reconstruction, for not all of them have exercised the restraint so finely displayed by Gomez.

The Federal Republicans are said to be in the majority in the constitutional convention, and the "soreheads" are pressing the marquis' claims indirectly by attempting to declare General Gomez ineligible. Still, if this were to eventuate, it would not necessarily follow that Betancourt would secure the coveted nomination. But the partisans of General Gomez declare that if they are compelled to withdraw his name by any such intrigue among his enemies, they will throw all their strength to another man, who is the personal preference of the old soldier.

This man is General Bartolome Maso, a native of historic Bayamo and the last president or civic chief of the revolution. He was the man selected by Marti to raise the cry of revolt and conduct the movement in 1895 until Gomez and the Maceos, Roloff and others could arrive with reinforcements and assume command. Maso was likewise Marti's choice for the presidency afterward bestowed upon the Marquis of Santa Lucia at Camaguey.

After the capture of Santiago, when American troops were ready to assume control of eastern Cuba, Maso modestly declined all civic appointments tendered him, retiring to his estates in the vicinity of Manzanilla, where he has since devoted his energies to the culture of sugar cane, coffee and cacao. A year ago, when General Wood succeeded General Brooke as governor general here, he invited Maso to assist him in forming a new cabinet; but while rendering the new executive of the government of intervention the aid required for himself, with Gomez out of the race, Maso would be decidedly the strongest candidate the patriotic Conservative element could put forward, and as against the marquis he might win easily by a two-thirds vote in the general assembly, should that be required to elect. Another combination on the anti-Gomez side would be the uniting of the Nacionales, or Nationals, and the Federales Republicanos, or Federal Republicans, under a standard borne by Dominguez Mendez Capote, instead of Cisneros Betancourt.

As vice presidential possibilities General Alexander Rodriguez, now mayor of Havana; Castillo Duany of Santiago and scores of others are mentioned. In fact, the man who is not mentioned either as presidential or vice presidential candidate about this time is considered almost of no account. The presidential bee is buzzing in the ears of not a few, and many Cubans have been stung almost if not quite to madness.

It may be noticed that all the prominent men mentioned as possible candidates are advanced as possible candidates by the Marquis of Santa Lucia 74. But age does not count in this country of perpetual youth, where, if a man keeps sober and lives abstemiously, he may attain to almost any age he desires to reach.

TRUMAN L. ELTON.  
Havana, Cuba.

BECAUSE a man is eccentric it does not necessarily follow that he is a genius; nor because a man wears his hair long need we imply that he is a poet, a "literary fellow" or a fool.

Elbert Hubbard, the founder of the famous "Roycrofters" of East Aurora, N. Y., is eccentric, as the world defines eccentricity, and wears his hair down to his coat collar. He has been lauded by men greater than himself, he has been denounced by those who are incapable of understanding him, but through it all he has maintained his serenity and has not lost his head. He regards critics as men who cannot write good books themselves, yet think they can tell others how to write them. He came into greatest prominence, perhaps, through his publication of the Philistine, a magazine that grew out of a casual pamphlet in which the author published his views and gave some other authors and publishers "particular fits." It was not intended as a permanent contribution to literature, and Mr. Hubbard was more surprised, he says, than any one else when its circulation ran up into the hundred thousands. The first numbers of the Philistine were issued from the office of the East Aurora Blizard, a weekly newspaper, which was unable to handle the increasing subscription list of the new publication, so Hubbard undertook to print and publish it himself. He bought a hand press, engaged a few assistants and met with such success, incidentally having fun and profit meanwhile, that he concluded to continue in the business and turned his attention to books. His first editions, being strictly limited and printed on handmade paper, with original arrangement of type and illustrations, were quickly exhausted. Then others were brought out, and as the binding of the first books had not suited him he undertook to have it done on the premises. East Aurora is not a large place, having perhaps 1,700 inhabitants, but with a few accessories obtained from other cities and countries the originator of the establishment has turned out books that have been eagerly snatched up as soon as issued.

As to the art values of these works the writer has nothing to say; the people who bought the books seemed satisfied, and as the "proof of the pudding is shown by eating it" the opinion seems to have been well founded that the Roycroft work was good. Most of the workmen, like Mr. Hubbard himself, drifted into their various departments almost by chance. He was, he tells us, born on a farm in Illinois, intended for a doctor, but ran away and became what he is—a composite character, styled by some poet, by others philosopher, by others a socialist, and by others still a follower of strange gods. He was already an author when he began the work at East Aurora, his "Little Journeys" particularly having made him well known. Among those "little journeys" to the haunts of men who have attracted the world's attention, perhaps none made such an impression upon him as that to the home of the late William Morris, the poet socialist of England. In fact, he has been accused of following along the philosopher's lines so closely as to be an imitator.

Morris called his printing establishment the "Kelmscott Press," after his country seat in Oxfordshire, and there he not only set, but designed, his own types, some of his books being written or translated, set up, printed and ornamented by himself.

Roycroft, instead of having at first unlimited capital and trained skill behind it, "fret grooved" to be what it is today. The "shop," as a visitor has described it, is a cross between a schoolhouse and a church, and, like the library and other structures in which the increasing work is carried out, is well adapted to the needs of the laborers. So far as exteriors and interiors go, Morris' precept seems to have been

carried out: "If you can't have the right thing in your walls, have them whitewashed. At any rate, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are not in bad taste."

By conducting his work in the country Mr. Hubbard secured pure air for his workmen and freedom from unhealthy environment, while the difficulties attendant upon the isolation of such an enterprise were more than counterbalanced by the prominence this isolation bestowed. It would seem strange that the requisite skill for such work as is carried on—artistic, mechanical and literary—could be found in a small community; but, except for temporary inconveniences, the originator has not been so troubled by a dearth as he has been bothered by a surplusage of talent. Asked where he secured such splendid workmen in every branch, Mr. Hubbard replied that they "just blew in" somehow, he hardly knew how or from what locality. One of his trusted men has served a term in Sing Sing, his skilled bookbinder came from Germany and another artist from England, but most of the work is done by "home talent," the possession of which by the village lads and lassies was never suspected until it was brought out under the genial warmth of encouragement. Some of the workmen are "characters" in their way, as, for example, "Ali Baba," so called, who was originally Hubbard's hired man on the farm, but who now imagines he carries the whole establishment on his brassy shoulders.

"Fra Elbertus" is Hubbard himself, his "front name" being Elbert; "St. Gerome" is Jerome Conner, a sculptor of ability, who is the curator and bursar of the shop. He was brought up a blacksmith, but his artistic temperament shows forth in sculpturing, modeling in clay and ornamental ironwork. His products are commanding prices. It is accepted as a truism here that nobody knows what is in him until he tries what he can do, and acting upon that all these diverse arts and industries have been evolved from apparently unpromising material. When ornamental andirons were wanted for the shop fireplaces, "St. Gerome" went over to the village smithy and hammered them out and was considerably astonished to find that the first visitor who came along insisted on having them at a fancy price. So it was with a "William Morris" table to be made of polished oak, massive and handsome. The village carpenter balked at the proffered contract, but when urged to do his best just went ahead and did it, with the result that it was snatched up by a visitor at \$75. After that he did no more small jobs of carpentry, but allowed his impulse toward higher creations to expand and find expression.

It is not known to the writer what proportion of the Roycroft pecuniary profits goes into the pockets of the associate workers, about 100 in all, but they seem satisfied with their "jobs" and are probably well provided for. The greatest profit to them, however, lies in their being shown their hitherto latent possibilities, or, in other words, being taught what they can do.

Speaking impersonally, it would seem that Mr. Hubbard has had in mind that remark attributed to the late Professor Henry, so long connected with the Smithsonian Institution at Washington: "My ambition is to add to the sum of human knowledge by the discovery of new truths which may be of some use to the world. The practical application of these I leave to others." Of the two classes of men beneficial to their kind, the inventors and adapters—those who originate and those who utilize what they find at hand—Henry may be taken as a type of the former and Hubbard of the latter, both having made their fellow men their debtors.

FREDERICK A. OBER.

Potatoes brought into Russia first in 1783 caused fearful riots, being called devil's apples.



PHOTOS BY MACEO, HAVANA

down O'Reilly street, which was formerly one of the filthiest and narrowest in the new world, without soiling his shoes, there is no diminution of the noise. Despite the ravages of war, the population of this city seems as dense and as noisy as ever. The last and only accurate census of the island ever taken shows the total insular population to be about 1,579,000, of which nearly one-fifth, or a total of 235,981, comprising 60,000 voters, are crowded into the capital. It matters little that (as we are told) the island can support ten times its present population, with its vast areas of yet uncultivated lands and virgin forests, so long as the people will persist in crowding into the cities. There are 96 centers of population, each containing more than 1,000 inhabitants; 16 with more than 8,000 each and five with over 25,000 each, besides Havana, with nearly a quarter million.

This may account for the fact that this city is probably the noisiest aggregation of humanity in America under normal conditions, and when added to the ordinary causes of disturbance we have, as at present, a political campaign going on, it can only be compared to a veritable pandemonium.

When the Cuban indulges in the luxury of a political discussion—and he is now treating himself to this luxury in its fullest and most satisfactory sense, having been deprived of it hitherto all his life—he does not tie himself to the nearest hall or barroom, but seeks the contiguous cafe. The ordinary Cuban never takes "his" standing or leaning over a bar, but first assures himself of a seat, then lights a cigarette, then requests a waiter to bring him a glass of "limonada" or "agua dulce" or some equally innocuous beverage and proceeds to sip it so leisurely that it may perhaps last him for hours. Meanwhile the political discussion is going on, waxing more and more fervid as it proceeds until for voicefulness an ordinary caucus in the United States becomes as nothing in comparison. One

constitutional convention, which was the outcome of the last election, ultimately got to work and, after prolonged discussion, has at last apparently come to some sort of an understanding on the basis of a "unitary government with restricted suffrage" and hopes soon to be able to submit its results in concrete form to the United States congress.

The smoke of conflict still obscures the field and frequent outbursts emphasize the fact that the battle is still on, but it is not too early, in the opinion of those competent to judge, for a forecast as to the first occupant of the presidential chair under Cuba's constitution now being framed and to be submitted for the approval of the United States. Political opinion in Cuba has crystallized and separated mainly into three parties, not so radically different in their aims, for all seem united in the desire to establish a constitutional government.

First, there is the Cuban National, sometimes, though perhaps erroneously, called the Conservative, which embraces chiefly the former revolutionists who fought for Cuba's freedom and their adherents. There are numerous ramp followers, of course, who shirked the contest in the field, but are now anxious to come in for a share of the spoils; but the dominant element is patriotic. The second party is the so-called Republican, with its stronghold in the eastern section of Cuba, where the blacks are most numerous, constituting 42 per cent of the population.

The next party is the Union Democratic, composed mainly of the merchant and trading class, professionals, etc., who, being chiefly Spanish in origin or connections, are mostly anti-American. The contest will probably narrow down to a fight between the National and the radical Republican, which latter may ultimately receive the assistance of the Union Democratic, with the avowed aims and principles of

distance came from the United States. He was not a fighter like Macao, not celebrated for dash and vim; but he held the Cuban forces together, kept them from disintegrating, and by avoiding conflicts where possible, falling upon the flank and rear of his opponents at unexpected times and places, kept the Spaniards in a state of unrest and uncertainty.

He has admitted executive as well as strategic ability, and it is also claimed that he excels as a diplomat, being wary, astute, secretive and farsighted. That he lives in the hearts of the people was amply demonstrated by their re-

constitution especially prohibiting an alien as a candidate, which is intended as a blow at Gomez.

This is attributed to his chief rival, Mendez Capote, of the Federal Republican or Radical party of Cuba, chairman of the constitutional convention, a lawyer of ability and the youngest member of the quartet of presidential possibilities. He was vice president of the insurgent government, and when the war broke out abandoned his practice in Havana to take the field against the Spaniards. He will be supported, it is claimed, by such Radicals as Juan Gualberto, Messioner and the Sangui-

### A QUARTET OF CUBAN PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

Henry H. Rogers, the New York millionaire and copper king, was 50 years ago selling newspapers on the streets of New Bedford, Mass. He then went into a grocery store, getting \$3 a week and board.

Emergency rations are not popular in the army. A large pill for a meal may quiet the stomach, but it fails to satisfy the ego. A prominent physician ex-

plains the matter: "We have teeth, a palate, jaw muscles and other pieces of machinery that are ignored, if not insulted, when you pop a tablet into a man's mouth and say, 'Here, you've had your dinner.'"

The present Orthodox church of Russia is divided into 67 eparchies, including one in Alaska, and 43 vicarial seats of bishops. Russia has now 117 arch-

bishops, including 3 metropolitans, 67 eparchial vicarial archbishops and 39 bishops.

It is rumored that further Belle Isle experiments are to be carried out, and for that purpose a vessel is now being fitted with 4 inch Krupp armor plates. The results of the experiments will be surrounded with greater secrecy than former ones were.

There is in Paris a hotel which has 4,000 employees. The smallest kettle in

its kitchen contains 100 quarts and the largest 500. Each of 50 roasting pans is big enough for 300 cutlets. Every dish for baking potatoes holds 235 pounds. When omelets are on the bill of fare, 7,800 eggs are used at once. For cooking alone 60 cooks and 100 assistants are always at the ranges.

The United States weather bureau station at Eagle, Alaska, has now been in operation for somewhat over a year. The lowest temperature observed dur-

ing that period was 68 degrees below zero, in January of last year.

Professor George Adams Smith of Glasgow denies that the churches of that city are losing their grip on the workmen. He says that a study of social conditions among the Glasgow workmen indicates that there is much religious activity among the wage earners.

A Parisian has conceived the idea of publishing a journal for the seask,

which is to have for its main purpose the discovery of a specific for seasickness. All the travelers of the universe are to be invited to write all they know about every symptom, remedy and alleviation of aggravation of seasickness. A prize of \$20,000 is to be offered for the discovery of an infallible specific.

D. H. Lounsbury, of Chicago, who has resigned the directorship of Charles T. Yerkes' London street railway affairs, has been offered the chairman-

ship of the District Underground railway of London at a salary of \$20,000 a year, but has refused, as he says the condition of his wife's health makes it impossible for him to remain in England.

The gawkwar of Baroda, an Indian prince, has a battery consisting of gold and silver guns. There are four guns, two of gold and two of silver. They were finished in 1874 by an artisan who worked on them five years.

### THINGS OF THE MOMENT.