

The warfare is carried on in the eastern part of the island. There are almost no railroads there, and the Spanish are much hampered by difficulties in transporting troops. The Cubans are at home, with friends all about them, and as the insurgents move, their army grows like a snow-ball. This is a mountainous part of the country where the Cubans can stay hidden until the chance comes to surprise their foe, cut off their supplies, and fly back into hiding again. They might spend years in this fashion, wearing out the conquerors.

The greatest foe that the Spaniard has is the climate. In the ten years, war one hundred and fifty thousand Spanish troops landed on the island, and only fifty thousand went home again. Nearly all of them died of fever.

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The large dividends paid by some mining property seem to have completely overshadowed in the minds of many rich men the fortunes sunk in unprofitable ventures. He who discovers a lode which, after careful examination, promises to be really valuable, will have no difficulty in finding the capital necessary to work his claim, or even in disposing of it outright. Major Frank McLaughlin, a wealthy Westerner, tells the following story of the eagerness to invest displayed by some moneyed Englishmen:

"Some time ago," he said, "I went to London to negotiate the sale of some mining property. Of course the first thing I had to do was to let capital know what I was there for. When inquiries commenced, I simply said, 'Gentlemen, I have mining property to sell. If you mean business and want to buy send your expert out to examine the property, and make a

report on it. You will know then what you are buying.'

"A company was organized. An expert examined the property, and reported favorably, and a meeting was held to discuss terms.

"'Now, Major,' said the spokesman, 'we have found that the property may be worth something. What is your price?'

"'Two hundred and fifty thousand,' said I.

"'That is more than we expected to pay. If you will drop the fifty we will take it.'

"I had expected about \$100,000 for the property, so I agreed to accept their offer. When the papers were made out I was surprised to learn that they had been talking about pounds, and I about dollars, but I was very careful not to let my surprise leak out, and that is the way I got \$1,000,000 for the mine."

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Nearly every one has had the experience of going to call upon one of his most intimate friends, and suddenly, as he ascended the steps and was about to ring the bell, finding himself utterly unable to recall the name of the person he was about to ask for. This performance, however, has been completely distanced by the feat of a New York lady, who now holds the palm among her acquaintances for absent mindedness.

On the occasion of the death of a relative she was obliged to go to the surrogate's court to attend to some business regarding the will. In the course of the proceedings it became necessary to sign her maiden name to the document. The clerk handed her the pen, told her where the signature was to be affixed, and stood waiting for her to comply. She seemed stunned at the request, and stared blankly