

Havannah). His palace is a most magnificent one : lofty apartments, most tastefully furnished — black and gold were the predominant colours ; in them were immense mirrors and superb chandeliers ; the floors were in alternate tablets of black and white marble, and there was the *aureum lacunar* (the gilded ceiling) in every hall. No carpets were used, but on this account, and the darkened windows, the rooms were delightfully cool, though it was the hottest season of the year.

It is the etiquette in Havannah to arrive at the house of entertainment an hour or two before dinner, to show that the conversation of the company is preferred to the mere viands ; accordingly, we were welcomed by the Conde and Condesa two hours before the meal was announced, and received the Spanish compliment of — “ *La casa es a la disposicion de usted,* ” — the house is entirely at your disposal.

The Count spends a great deal of his time in his extensive library, and is a most intelligent and excellent nobleman, possessed of more influence in Cuba than any other individual. He is a spare-made, middle-aged man, with dark hair and aquiline nose. The Countess is very handsome, amiable, and accomplished.

The entertainment at which I had the honour of being present in the palace of this noble pair, was served in a saloon open at one side ; and looking from it into the court below, the horses and carriages were seen. I remarked game chickens running about under the table, and many old and