

gazed upon the fair scene I felt strangely exhilarated and forgot for the moment that I was in the Aroa Valley, too truly called the valley of death. That the heavily perfumed air was rank with miasma, and that every breath inhaled carried the germs of *calentura* (fever) into the system. With a loud coo-ee Mr. Downes made his appearance, dressed only in pyjamas and undershirt. He was a fine specimen of the English gentleman. Sturdily built, with large head and regular features, his handsome brown beard falling on his breast, he was pleasant to look upon. He had been educated at Eaton and Oxford, had passed years in India and Australia, and was one of the most interesting men in conversation that I have ever met. Mr. Palmer, a tall quiet man, crusted round with a reserve that it was hard to penetrate and reach the sterling qualities beneath, followed Mr. Downes out, and we together walked down the hill to a rushing mountain torrent, where a refreshing bath in the cold water nerved us up for the arduous duties of the day. Captain Prince, manager of the mines three miles above, rode up as we returned to the house and took coffee with us. He was a very clever young Cornishman, with rather rough manners, but as steadfast a friend as the world could produce. Mr. Downes was an old camper out, and we were more comfortably provided for in the wilds of Venezuela than if stopping at a swell English hotel. Dinner was the great meal of the day, and in its preparation Sammy Moussoon, the Hindoo cook, spared no pains. Regular courses of soups, fish, curried fowls and meats puddings and desserts, were always provided, and the cooking could not have been excelled. Our huntsmen supplied wild pigs, antelopes, turkeys, and other game; the water-teemed with fish; fowls and eggs were plentiful, and we had besides large stores of jams and jellies, and canned provisions to draw upon. Snowy table linen and every table requisite, made the meals doubly delightful, while Mr. Downes' watchful body servant waited on the table and provided for our wants almost before we could express them. Trained Coolie or Hindoo servants are certainly the best in the world. With their attendance, camping out becomes a real luxury. A bottle of hiss or claret added zest to the meals, and then stretching our selves in our hammocks we pulled away at fragrant cigars and spun yarns until bed time. But *calentura* (fever), that dread scourge of Venezuela, soon put an end to our comfort and brought us face to face with death. Both Mr. Downes and Palmer were stricken down with the pestilence in its most dangerous form, and in less than two days Mr. Palmer was dead, and Mr. Downes at death's door. Poor Palmer, when too ill to read, had handed me his sweetheart's last letter, and as I read it aloud great tears coursed down his cheeks, and in agony he cried, "This is too hard, too hard. My God, must I die and leave her!" But it was so fated, and, when a few weeks after the sad news was received in a quiet English home, one stricken heart the more was added to the world's vast number.

Affairs were now in a desperate condition, and on consultation Captain Prince and I determined that the only hope for Mr. Downes was removal across the mountains to Cocorote. The natives said that the journey was an impossibility, that a sick man stretched in his hammock could never be carried over mountain roads, which in places were almost perpendicular ascents, up which it was necessary to hoist horses with slings. But a life was at stake, and we decided to proceed at all hazards. I should like to describe that two days' journey over the mountains, the details of which after the lapse of years still remain imprinted on my memory, but space forbids. Suffice it to say that all difficulties were overcome, and that in spite of Mr. Downes' pitiful prayers to halt and let him die in peace, we reached Cocorote in safety, where we were comfortably lodged in one of Don Pedro's large houses. The Don proved the soul of hospitality, and every comfort that the country could produce was provided for our patient. He was soon out of danger, and while he was convalescent Captain Prince and I had very little to do but amuse ourselves, and we certainly had a jolly good time. In the mornings and evenings we took exhilarating gallops over the level plains. We were welcome guests in every house, and sweet Señoritas, of mixed Spanish and Indian blood, charmed us with their lovely eyes, or sang captivating Spanish ballads to the accompaniment of tinkling guitars. Fandangos were frequent, where we had our choice of partners, and in a round of pleasures poor Palmer's death was almost forgotten. The last day of our stay was the Queen's birthday, and as Don Pedro's waning loyalty had been fanned into life by rumors of an impending revolution and the arrival of English guests, he was in a humor to celebrate the event with duo honors. He gave his *peons* a holiday, and provided them with powder and fire-crackers. We were all present at daylight when the English flag was hoisted, and, as it floated to the breeze from the top of a tall staff, the natives commenced a deafening fusillade, which, with their love of noise, they kept up with the greatest gusto all day and far into the night. Don Pedro opened his house to all, and refreshments were furnished to the natives without stint. Sports whiled away the afternoon and in the evening we were the honored guests at a grand banquet. When the cloth had been removed, the Don brewed a wonderful punch, in which Her Majesty was loyally toasted, with a hip, hip, hurrah! given with a will that fairly astonished the natives. Speeches were then indulged in, and when the eloquence of the party had been exhausted we passed out into the clear night air to witness a display of fireworks. Don Pedro's last words as we bid him good night were, "I made a fatal mistake in renouncing my allegiance to Her Majesty. God bless her," and, Yankee though I may be, I cordially express the sentiments of my countrymen when I reiterate, "God bless her."

# H. H. FULLER & CO.

(Established 1855.)

## HARDWARE,

Wholesale and Retail.

### SPECIALTIES:

Gold Mining Supplies, Metal Workers' Material,  
Rubber Belting and other Mill Goods,  
Builders' Hardware, Lobster Packers Supplies,  
Together with an extensive variety of  
Paints, Oils, Cutlery, Agricultural Goods, Fishing Gear,  
Mechanics' Tools, etc., etc.

Our goods are all of the best obtainable qualities and prices are made to meet any competition.

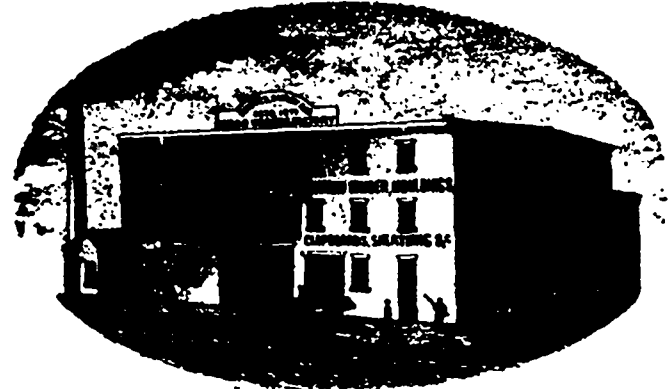
Communications by mail promptly answered.

45 to 49 Upper Water Street, Halifax, N. S.

## RHODES, CURRY & CO.

AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA.  
MANUFACTURERS AND BUILDERS.  
1,000,000 FEET LUMBER KEPT IN STOCK.

Doors, Sashes, Blinds, Wood Mantels, Mouldings, etc., etc.



Mahogany, Cherry, Ash, Birch, Beech, Pine and Whitewood House Finish.

"Cabinet Trim Finish" for Dwellings, Drug Stores, Offices, etc.

SCHOOL, OFFICE, CHURCH AND HOUSE FURNITURE, etc.  
BRICKS, LIME, CEMENT, CALCINED PLASTER, etc.,  
Manufacturers of and Dealers in all kinds of Builders' Materials.  
SEND FOR ESTIMATES.

## A LOAN EXHIBITION,

IN AID OF THE

Victoria School of Art and Design,

WILL BE HELD IN THE

Provincial Building, Halifax,

OPENING ON

Friday, June 17, at 2.30 p.m.

And Continuing for One Week.

By the courteous permission of the Government and Library Commissioners, the Exhibits will be displayed in the Legislative Chambers and Library. They will consist of

Pictures, Industrial Designs, Sculptures, Bronzes, Art Furniture, China and Pottery, Lace, Draperies, and Artistic Embroidery, Silver, Historical Bric-a-Brac, and Miscellaneous Curios.

The success which the efforts of the various committees have met with, and the liberality which the owners of desirable articles have shown, render it certain that this Exhibition will be one of the most interesting events of the Jubilee celebration. It will undoubtedly prove a perfect artistic treat to citizens and visitors. On the first day there will be a GRAND OPENING, at which a MILITARY BAND will assist.

Admission—On Day of Opening 50 cents; Subsequent Days 25 cents; Season Tickets One Dollar.

# MINARD'S

"KING OF PAIN."

# LINIMENT

CURES PAINS—External and Internal.

RELIEVES Swellings, Contractions of the Muscles, Stiffness of the Joints, Sprains, Strains.

HEALS Bruises, Scalds, Burns, Cuts, Cracks and Scratches.

Best Stable Remedy in the World!

CURES Rheumatism, NEURALGIA, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup, Diphtheria, and all kindred afflictions.

LARGE BOTTLE!

POWERFUL REMEDY!

MOST ECONOMICAL!

AS IT COSTS BUT 25 CENTS. Druggists and Dealers pronounce it the best selling Medicine they have.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS,

of which there are several on the market. The genuine only prepared by and bearing the name of

C. C. RICHARDS & CO.,  
YARMOUTH, N. S.

### TESTIMONIAL.

Messrs. C. C. RICHARDS & Co.: Gentlemen, We consider Minard's Liniment the best value of any in the market, and cheerfully recommend its use.

Dr. J. H. HARRIS,  
Bellevue Hospital.  
Dr. F. C. ANDERSON,  
F. R. C. S., Edinburgh.  
M. R. C. S., England.