

the gayest. After sunset the band plays in the parks, and the whole population turn out to listen and pass the time. Those who are best qualified to speak, say that the moral standard is very low. Kingsley called Havana "The Western Abomination."

Paul told the Athenians that they were "too religious." If he were to visit Cuba to-day he would tell the Cubans the same thing. From one point of view the Cubans are exceedingly religious. The churches are never closed. Almost every place and object has a religious name. This is true of the streets, hotels, bridges, hospitals, theatres, plantations. Sometimes in one city two or more streets are called after the same saint. Such names as the Trinity, the Nativity, the Conception, the Sacrament, Charity, Hope, Peace, Grace, Glory, are very common. These are curious designations for tobacco and sugar plantations. A school for girls is named for a female saint, and a school for boys bears the name of a male saint. One who spent a number of years on the island says that every girl is called Maria. It is Maria Teresa, or some other combination. If there is no girl in the family, the boy is called Jose Maria, or something similar. Boys are frequently called Jesus, Manuel, and Salvador.

The church has to do with the most sacred events in the home; she has charge of the schools; she has a hand in all the affairs of state. From another point of view, however, the Cubans are not more religious than other people. Religion is, with them, a matter of form and ceremony; it consists in outward observances, and has little or no relation with the lives of the people. It does not teach them that God requires them to deny themselves of ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly and righteously and godly in this

present world. It does not teach them to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke.

There is a saying in Havana that the church is good enough for old maids of both sexes. Only the women go to church to worship. The men go sometimes to see the women go through their performances, or to flirt. They do not make any pretence to piety, but are careful not openly to break with the Church. They cannot afford to do that, for they and their children must have their names and dates of birth recorded in her books. There are no other records, and without these legitimacy cannot be established. The men must also go to confessional before marriage, or the priest will refuse to marry them, and there is no civil marriage ceremony. They must be attended by the priests at death, in order to be interred in consecrated ground. Thus, with the people of Cuba, religion is a matter of necessity and decency; it is not a thing of the heart and life, permeating all and dominating all. That is not their conception of its place and purpose.

THE NEGROES IN CUBA.

If this is the condition of the Spaniards and Cubans, what must be the condition of the negroes? They constitute one-third of the entire population. Columbus found 1,200,000 aborigines on the island. He spoke of them as affectionate, peaceable, and tractable. He said: "There is not a better race of men in the world. They love their neighbours as themselves; their conversation is the sweetest and mildest in the world, cheerful, and always with a smile." And, though it was true that they wore no clothing, he added that they had many commendable customs. These people believed in a Supreme