

SUNSHINE

Vol. VIII
No. 7

MONTREAL

JULY,
1903

One Year of Free Cuba.

(From the Literary Digest.)

With enthusiasm similar to that which marked the inauguration of the Cuban republic last year, the Cubans, on May 20th, celebrated the first anniversary of their independence. "It is doubtful whether any other republic of modern times ever entered upon its career as easily and successfully as Cuba has done," remarks the *New York World*; and the *Brooklyn Standard Union* declares that "Cuba has established a record among Latin-American republics, for none of them can compare with her in respect to the auspicious circumstances that mark her first anniversary." Secretary

Root, who recently returned from a visit to the island, says in his despatch of congratulation to President Palma that the year's work has "confounded the enemies of Cuba and strengthened the courage and hope of her friends." The \$500,000 net surplus left in the treasury when General Wood turned over the Government to the new officials last year, has been increased a little over four times,

the amount in the treasury on March 31st being nearly \$2,700,000. The public order has been admirably maintained, with the exception of strike riots in Havana, the kind that frequently occur

in the United States. The educational facilities have been increased, sanitation has been maintained, and other improvements of many kinds are being provided.



Church Bells at El Caney.

To show how thoroughly the Government is sustaining the sanitary measures, it is pointed out that the death-rate, per thousand, is the lowest in the history of the island, being 21.19, while

in Washington it is 21.21. Trade has increased considerably. We learn from an article in the *New York Tribune* that the tobacco crop has not been satisfactory because of unfavorable weather, but that the sugar crop has been second largest in the history of the island. The Cuban legislature, though having had no experience in legislation and therefore working slowly, has passed the reciprocity treaty, the \$35,000,000 loan bill, and a tariff bill.