

The climate of La Guayra is exceedingly hot. It is so situated that it is sheltered from all but west winds, which are the warmest winds that blow. Still the climate is healthful, and the yellow fever is not more prevalent here than elsewhere. The one great scourge of La Guayra is fleas. Those troublesome little insects are everywhere; and every person, whether a native or a foreigner, is their victim.

There are three roads leading over the mountains to Caracas. First, there is the old footpath; second, the mule and wagon road; and third, the railroad, which has only been established of late years. An interesting little story is connected with the first two ways.

Over three hundred years ago when the English and Spaniards were bitter enemies in the Old World, their ships used to carry on war in the New. Whenever an English cruiser fell in with a Spanish galleon carrying treasures of gold and silver to Spain, she attacked and plundered it. The English have always been a nation of strong, fine sailors; and at this period there was among them a wonderful company of sea captains, so bold that they were often called sea kings.

Sir Francis Drake was the most adventurous of them all. He was really what we should call a pirate nowadays; but then people thought so differently that he seemed to the English nation one of their best and greatest men, and all his wicked deeds seemed heroic.

It is apt to make a difference in your opinion of a person whether he is acting for your side or against it. One very slight excuse for the lawless acts of the English was that the Spaniards were acting in the same way, whenever they got the chance.