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## The Battle of Santiago.

In a recent issue the Toronto Globe published an interesting and graphic account of the battle of Santiago from the pen of its special correspondent, Mr. John A. Ewan. The morning of the battle was as clear as crystal. The city, which was the object of attack for the American army, was the prominent feature of the landscape, "and when one saw the ominous preparations to tear it with shot and shell a feeling took possession of one such as would be experienced if he saw an attack about to be made on an inoffensive sleeping man. No eye ever gazed upon a more peaceful scene. The city lay like the pictured New Jerusalem, which one sees in religious charts hung on humble walls. Its eastern face was towards us, illumined by the white sunlight of a tropical morning. Not a movement was observable in or around the city. At the northeast angle a flag was flying which some at first mistook for a flag of truce, but a closer scanning of it with a powerful glass showed it to be a Red Cross flag, probably over the Spanish hospital." While these observations were being made the sudden boom of a cannon told that the battle had begun. Twenty-one shots had been fired before any reply came from the Spanish forts, "when suddenly a dull boom was heard between the intervals of our shots, and for fifteen seconds a strange thrilling noise filled the ears and then 'bang' in the air burst a thing which scattered dismay among the uninitiated and caused the professionals to shut their jaws with a grimmer determination." The illusion that the Spanish are not marksmen, so far at least as artillery is concerned, was speedily dispelled by the manner in which they handled their guns on that memorable Friday. The Spaniards had a great advantage over the Americans in having smokeless powder for their big guns as well as for their smaller arms, while the Americans had the old black powder for their field pieces and their Springfield rifles, which throughout the day at once revealed the position of their batteries and the infantry using the old guns to the enemy's gunners, while their batteries were as difficult to discover as a chameleon on a twig. The result was that the Americans could scarcely ever locate the Spanish batteries when they shifted them and had to content themselves with assailing their block-house and rifle pits. Both sides were weak in artillery. The Americans had not been able to bring forward their siege guns, and were therefore very poorly equipped for an attack upon a fortified place. But the Spaniards, Mr. Ewan judges, were still weaker in artillery, for there were occasions when if they could have turned more guns on the advancing foe, the story of the day might have been different. The artillery fight had not been long in progress before the rattle of small arms in the valley announced that the infantry of the two forces had met each other. Slowly the Americans pressed the Spaniards on the centre and left back on Santiago.

One of the incidents of the fight was the antics of a balloon, by which some genius was to let the Americans know all that the enemy were doing. It was connected with the army in the field by wire. It rose early in the morning, a majestic, transparent pear of oiled silk, and floated about the valley till about a quarter to eleven, when it came within range of the Spanish riflemen, and they gave the beautiful creature a rattling fusillade. The Spaniards kept up their fire until the balloon was brought to the ground. At 10.30 tremendous volleying in the direction of the harbor indicated that one or other of both the fleets were taking a hand in the melee. This thundering however did not last long and was soon eclipsed by a real thunderstorm, accompanied by a light shower. This cooled the super-heated air and proved a real God-send to the American soldiers who were treading their way through the thorny woods gridironed with barbed wire fences and full of a species of Cactus, called Spanish bayonet, "which tore and saved the advancing troops unmercifully." Describing the attack of the American infantry upon a stone block-house held by the Spaniards, Mr. Ewan writes:

"On the slope at San Juan the American troops were all together in line, and as we saw them they were lying down as if utterly spent by their exertions, and taking advantage of the comparative shelter the crest of the hill afforded them from the cruel fire of two batteries whose shrapnel burst above them almost momentarily. It was a sight to rend the heart. Some of them could be seen falling and other dark spots on the green indicated those already fallen. The scattered men on the glacis evidently paused at the withering fire directed at them from the rifle-pits. It was clearly a case where the artillery should come to their assistance, but not a sound was heard from

our batteries. A Captain of the English service, who was a spectator of the scene, was uncontrollably indignant that these gallant fellows should be butchered without the artillery coming to their aid. He took upon himself to run down the hill and point out the sore need that the men were in. The battery did at length get to work, but by this time the men had collected themselves for the final effort and were rushing like madmen up at the pits. The battery was able to send three shrapnel into the latter. They were beautiful shots, but so close were the combatants that it was difficult to say whether our men were struck with the flying shells or not. We subsequently learned that it was a close call, but that they materially distracted the riflemen in the pits. It was the last straw, and the Spanish riflemen scurried out of their places and could be seen retreating, although their very pale blue suits did not make nearly so prominent a mark on the landscape as the dark clothing of the American boys."

The character of the American artillery service, Mr. Ewan states, was disappointing all round. A Gatling gun which was causing much annoyance was taken from the Spaniards and made to do good execution against them, but where the American Gatlings were no one could tell. "The much belauded dynamite gun never threw a charge, and took its place with the balloon as one of the weapons which, to say the least of it, cannot be relied on." This correspondent's description of what he witnessed of "the dreadful fruits of strife" gives a vivid picture of some of the horrible features of war:

"I had come down to the valley and went along the road to Santiago. Heim and Underwood, the first victims of the battle, had already been buried in the courtyard of the Ducuro House. A few hundred yards up the road the dreadful and mournful fruits of the strife began to pass by in bloody file. I have no desire ever again to be a spectator of such a ghastly review. Men in all stages of gory mutilation came limping and moaning down the road. Some were literally bathed in blood. They had torn away the garments about their wounds, and shirtless and pantless men, with their limbs or bodies bathed in life's red stream, came painfully by in an interminable line. A few who felt that they were not seriously injured seemed relieved that they were at least out of that deadly onrush with its hail of steel. Others moaned as they dragged themselves along and asked in weak voices where the hospital was. These were the men whose injuries were not sufficient to prevent them dragging themselves off the field. There were, of course, scores who were, too hideously wounded to move from the spot in which they fell without assistance. Some of them came back in charge of comrades leading them along. Others were on stretchers, while still others were carried off by the wagon load in the Red Cross ambulances. This was a very dangerous occupation, a number of Red Cross men being shot while doing their duty."

The American troops evidently fought like brave men. Those who participated in the storming of the trenches were all mixed up as to regiments. Colored and white were jumbled together and showed equal courage in the frightful ordeal to which they were subjected. The American officers bore themselves with great bravery, and the number of the killed and wounded among them was excessive.

Mr. Ewan criticises the military management which ordered the attack on Santiago before heavy guns had been placed in position and the army had otherwise been made ready for a battle with an entrenched army. If the Spaniards had been equipped with heavier artillery the result of the battle must have been disastrous to the Americans. As it was what they gained cost very heavily. "Almost a twelfth of those who had gone into action were either dead or wounded, and the impression that prevailed everywhere was one of depression and not elation." When Mr. Ewan closed his letter on July 3rd he says: "The poor fellows are lying in their trenches practically without food or covering of any kind, exposed to the daily tropical down-pour from which they dare not move to shelter themselves for fear of the watchful Mausers a few hundred yards away. I will warrant that many a wistful thought has been turned to cosy homes in the North from these rain soaked trenches in the Cuban Chaparral." The opinion is expressed that although General Shafter is undoubtedly a brave man and may be a good general, it was a mistake to set at such a task a man who weighs 300 pounds and cannot undertake any severe exertion without danger of heart failure.

The Porto Rico Expedition.

The principal theatre of war between the United States and Spain is about being transferred from Cuba to Porto Rico. Transports conveying troops to the latter island are expected to arrive at their destination early in the present week. The

expedition is under the personal direction of General Miles, Commander-in-chief of the United States Army. It is said to be the intention of the United States government to take Porto Rico from Spain and hold it as a permanent possession. It will be a valuable one so far as material resources go. The island is about 100 miles long by 40 wide. It possesses low coast lands, mountainous tracts and river valleys, with a corresponding variety of soil and climatic conditions. It possesses much agricultural and some mineral wealth, and about 800,000 inhabitants. The climate is said to be more healthy than that of Cuba. Most of the Spanish troops in Porto Rico are at San Juan, which is the principal city and a well fortified place. It is stated to be General Miles' intention to land his troops at some distance from San Juan and occupy other important points, while the heavy double-turreted monitors and other armored vessels of the Navy bombard the forts of San Juan. The forces employed in the Porto Rico campaign are being sent directly from the United States. None of the troops which operated at Santiago will take part in the Porto Rico expedition for fear of contagion, since there is more or less of yellow fever and other diseases among the American troops now in Cuba.

—The relations between the United States forces in Cuba and their Cuban allies are evidently somewhat strained. General Garcia is of the opinion that he has not received sufficient consideration at the hands of the American commander in connection with the surrender of Santiago. He has protested to General Shafter against the regulation which excludes from that city the Cuban soldiers and continues in office the municipal authorities appointed by the Spanish government, and has signified his intention of resigning his command. It is evident that the Americans do not find that the Cuban improves upon acquaintance. He is not altogether a heroic character—brave, chivalrous, patriotic, eager to welcome the American soldiers as deliverers of his country from the yoke of Spain. In a word he appears to be somewhat less of a patriot and somewhat more of a brigand than he had been represented. According to the picture which is now presented of him, the Cuban insurgent has very few soldierly qualities. He not only lacks discipline but is unconscionably lazy, and much more ready to loot towns captured by the Americans and to shoot down surrendered and defenceless Spanish soldiers than he is to stand up against his enemies on the field of battle or to render any real assistance to his deliverers. In fact there seems to be some danger that the Americans will come to think about as meanly of the Cubans as the Spaniards do. Much allowance ought certainly to be made for a people whose present condition is a product of many generations of Spanish misrule and the demoralizing influence of a long continued guerilla warfare. It seems inevitable, however, that a more intimate knowledge of the insurgent population of Cuba shall complicate for the United States the problem, already sufficiently difficult, which that nation has taken in hand. The declared purpose of the United States is to drive out the Spaniards and give Cuba to the Cubans. But what if these people are found unfit for self-government? Shall the United States annex Cuba, and thereby seem to break faith with the people of that island and the world, or shall it, when the Spaniards are driven out, declare Cuba independent and leave the country under conditions that may render its last state worse than its first, or shall it do as Great Britain is doing in Egypt, retain its hold on the country until the conditions shall be such that in the interests of the people the protectorate may safely cease.