

Padro Blanco.

A recent visitor to the Gallinas River, on the west coast of Africa, just north of Liberia, says a great many traces yet exist of the large establishments maintained by Pedro Blanco, when he was making his enormous fortune in the slave trade, fifty years ago. The story of Pedro Blanco is a remarkable one. Of the hundreds of men who for three centuries engaged in the African slave trade, the Spaniard, Pedro Blanco, towered above them all in the extent and success of his operations.

Pedro Blanco was a man of education. He was born at Malaga, Spain, of good family, and had excellent advantages in his youth. He chose, however, to embark in a disreputable business, because he saw in it the prospects of a great fortune. At first he commanded a slave ship running from West Africa to the West Indies, where he sold his slaves. After a few years he established himself in Africa, at the mouth of the Gallinas River, for the purpose of accumulating the cargoes there which his

FLEET OF SLAVE VESSELS

were to carry to all parts of the West Indies and the South American coast. In 1836 Captain Canot visited Pedro Blanco and wrote the best description of his establishment that we have. It was written, however, in the blunt style of a sailor, and undoubtedly he omitted a great many interesting details.

He said as he entered the river, and pushed upward among the many islands, he was astonished at the great pains the Spaniard had taken to avoid being surprised by cruisers, which were constantly on the alert to capture slaving vessels. He saw at least 20 watch towers made of high piles, protected against sun and rain and enabling the watchmen to observe the sea at a height of from 60 to 100 feet above the ground. A number of these watch towers were fixed in lofty trees. Each watchman had a powerful spyglass, with which he was continually sweeping the horizon. Then there were other towers extending into the interior, within signalling distance of one another. Upon the appearance in the offing of a hostile sail, the news was telegraphed by signals in a few minutes from the coast for miles into the interior, and thus Pedro Blanco and his agents were instantly informed that there was danger in the air. Then there was a great hustling of the hundreds of slaves who filled the great traders' barracks, or slave sheds, into the mangrove swamps, or

OFF INTO THE JUNGLE,

where there was not one chance in a hundred of their presence being detected. If the vessels sent a few boat loads of men ashore they found nothing in the sheds except bales of harmless merchandise, and Pedro Blanco was ready to receive them with the blandest of smiles and an apparently very hearty welcome, assuring them that he was glad to receive visits from people of his own color, that he had quit slaving for a living, and was now in legitimate commerce, and he hoped that they would come to see him often. At that very time he would probably have 2,000 or 3,000 slaves out in the swamps. The slave chasers could find no proof of his nefarious business, and off they would go to seek their prey in other directions.

In a similar way the news was communicated from post to post of Blanco's establishment whenever one of his little vessels returned from the Western world for a fresh cargo. It would lie at anchor off the coast, take on a little India-rubber, coconut oil, and other little articles of legitimate commerce, and wait for some dark night when nothing had been seen or heard of any cruiser, and then it would rapidly fill its hold with the poor wretches, who were tied together in the barracks, and off it would start for America. Pedro Blanco was extremely fortunate. Now and then he lost a slave vessel, but the most of his cargoes of black people reached the Western world in safety and were sold at great profit to the traders there. He could afford to lose an occasional vessel, for the profits on a single cargo that safely reached America amounted to a small fortune.

Each of his slave depots on the islands was in charge of an agent. Upon one of these islands near the mouth of the river, Blanco had his business headquarters, but he resided miles up the river upon another island, where, for a long time, his sister shared with him business cares. There he lived in

ALL THE LUXURY

of a semi-barbaric prince. Further up the river, upon another island, was his seraglio, in which were his wives, who, after the custom of the tribes in that neighborhood, had each a separate dwelling. He built on the islands twelve large slave barracks or

barracoons, each of which generally contained from 100 to 500 slaves. The walls of these barracks were made of a double row of thick piles driven five feet into the ground and fastened together with strap iron. The roofs were of poles, with palm leaf thatch, which kept the barracks comparatively dry and cool. Each of the barracks was guarded by three or four Spaniards or Portuguese.

Capt. Canot described Pedro Blanco as a sunburned little man, who for fifteen years, had not left the mouth of the Gallinas River, and received with the most bounteous hospitality every white man who came his way. In 1839 Pedro Blanco gave up the business, and retired to Havana with his fortune, said to have amounted to several millions of francs.

This famous slave dealer was known for a long time as the Rothschild of West Africa and his paper was current and accepted in the money marts of Europe. The king of the slave traders lived many years to enjoy his ill-gotten gains. At last the business that had enriched him was completely suppressed and there is little now to remind the world that Pedro Blanco ever lived except the ruins of his slave barracks and of the little palace he built for himself on the island in the Gallinas River.

Origin of Meteorites.

In former times it was thought that meteorites were of terrestrial origin, thrown out by volcanoes, or condensed vapors, or else that they hailed from the moon.

These suppositions do not hold good when we consider the enormous initial velocity, the great number, direction and periodical recurrences of these phenomena. For the same reasons, it is impossible that they should be fragments of a destroyed satellite—a second moon—supposed to have revolved around our planet in past ages, or yet that they are diminutive, independent planets of our solar system.

The hypothesis that they are identical with shooting stars and comets is the one accepted almost universally by scientific men.

Most important discoveries tending to prove this assumption were made by Schiaparelli, showing that shooting stars, as well as meteorites, are solid bodies, which enter the atmosphere of our earth with an immense velocity and become luminous because of the resistance offered by the air.

It has been calculated that they usually appear at a height of about seventy miles above the earth and disappear at a height of fifty miles. The cause of their disappearance or extinguishing is to be looked for either in their once more leaving our atmosphere, or that they are atomized by the fierce heat generated by their extremely rapid flight and the great resistance offered by the atmosphere. The latter assumption would account for the continuous fall of cosmic dust upon the surface of our globe.

The velocity with which they enter and pass through our atmosphere is enormous. It is many times faster than sound, the flight of a cannon ball, and even the planets revolving around the sun.

The earth travels through space at the rate of 19 miles per second. Mercury, the fastest planet, covers 29-87 miles per second, while a meteorite which fell at Paltusk, Russia, had a velocity of 33-78 miles per second, although it had to overcome the resistance of the air. In space, consequently, it must have traveled still faster.

To clearly understand the high degree of velocity implied by these figures, it is well to add that the fastest cyclone scarcely reaches 150 feet per second, at which rate it exerts a pressure of about fifty pounds per square foot.

It now remains to explain the assumption that meteorites and shooting stars are identical, and to quote the facts upon which this assumption is based.

We know that both are solid bodies which enter our atmosphere from without, and that they become luminous for the same reason. Furthermore, the cosmic iron dust observed in localities where its origin could not be doubted has been found to have the same chemical composition as larger pieces of meteoric iron seen to fall by unimpeachable witnesses.

It cannot be denied that there is a very great contrast between the little star that silently glides through space and noiselessly disappears and the terrifying appearance of a ball of fire, that, approaching with deafening detonations, sends on us a hail of stones.

Both spectacles, however, are but the extremes of a chain of closely connected phenomena. Considering with what extreme velocity these bodies pass through the atmosphere, it is not difficult to comprehend that particles, and those having the greatest momentum, are destroyed long before they reach the earth, and at such a height that



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TO MANY
WOMEN

WHAT IS ?

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WAY" of washing
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READ the Directions
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"SURPRISE SOAP" can be
used for any and every purpose
a Soap is used.

the noise of their passage and disintegration becomes inaudible to us here below.

We find a further confirmation for the belief that both of these phenomena have the same source in the well established fact, proved in many instances, that the direction of the meteorites corresponds to that of shooting stars observed at the same time, and points to a common point of radiation.

The detonations accompanying the fall of a meteorite have three distinct causes: The whizzing is caused by its rapid passage through the air; the crackling, by the combustion of the materials composing it; and the thundering, by columns of air rushing into the vacuum which it leaves behind.

Thermometer Suggestions.

The thermometer is an invaluable aid in diagnosis and prognosis, giving exact information that cannot be obtained in any other way. The axilla is generally the best part for examination of temperature; when this is not practicable, the mouth will do. In the axilla, place the thermometer in its centre and hold the arm snugly against the side of the chest, drawing it somewhat across the front of chest. When the temperature is increased beyond 98.5° it merely shows that the individual is ill.

A temperature of from 101-105° shows a more or less severe fever, in accordance with the following points: a temperature above 105° indicates impending danger; 108-109°, a fatal issue may without doubt be expected in a comparatively short time. There are some recorded exceptions to this rule, but of a doubtful nature. With the above points appreciated, let us try to get the application in practice. Degrees marked in Fahrenheit scale.

A person yesterday felt well, who shows this morning a temperature above 104°, is almost certainly the subject of an attack of ephemeral fever or ague—it cannot be typhoid fever. A patient shows the general signs of pneumonia, and the temperature never reaches 101.7, we may conclude that no soft, infiltrating exudation is present in the lung. A high temperature in a case of measles or scarlet fever after the eruption has faded, indicates that some complicating disturbance is present in typhoid fever, when the evening temperature does not exceed 103.5°, we have probably a mild form of the trouble. A temperature in typhoid of 104° in the morning or 105° in the evening shows danger in the third week. In pneumonia a temperature of 104° and upward indicates a severe attack. In acute rheumatism a temperature of 104° is always an alarming symptom, foreshadowing some complication such as pericarditis. A jaundice mild in appearance becomes pernicious if a rise in temperature occurs. In a puerperal female an elevation of temperature shows approaching pelvic inflammation. In phthisis, an increasing temperature shows that the disease is advancing, or that complications are settling in. A fever temperature of 104° to 105° in any disease indicates that its progress is not checked, and complications may still occur. In continued fevers, the temperature is generally less high in the morning than in the evening. Stability of temperature from morning to evening is a good sign; conversely, stability of temperature from evening to morning is a sign that the patient is getting or will get worse. A falling temperature from evening to morning is a sure sign of improvement, but a rising temperature from evening to morning is a sign of his getting worse. Convalescence from disease does not begin until the normal temperature of the body returns and maintains itself unchanged through all periods of the day and night.

Have You Learned to Walk?

Americans are bad walkers, says a writer in the *New York World*. It is rare to find an exception, even in our army. Among Europeans, and the aborigines of our own continent, a noble mien is not uncommon. I understand the causes of this ugly defect among our people, and my present purpose is to call attention to it, and to point out the remedy.


In English and French books on the military drill and physical training whole chapters discuss the subject of walking. We are told that this or that part of the foot must touch the ground first—that the angles must be so and so, etc. I will not say this advice is not right, but I will say that very few have been helped by it.

Look at a good walker. Shoulders, head and hips drawn well back and the chest thrown forward. What a firm, vigorous tread! Such a walk may easily be secured by carrying a weight upon the head. An iron crown has been devised for this purpose. It consists of three crowns one within the other, each weighing about nine pounds. One or all three may be worn at a time.

The water-carriers of Southern Europe, although belonging to the lowest class, have a noble bearing. Certain negroes in the South, who "toe" burdens upon the head as a business, can readily be pointed out in a crowd. The effort required to keep the burden directly over the spine so develops the muscles of the back and neck that in the absence of the burden, the head is carried in a noble, erect attitude.

By carrying one of these crowns upon the head half an hour two or three times a day while walking in the garden or through the halls of the house, one may soon become a fine walker. One-tenth of the time occupied in learning a few tunes on the piano, given to this exercise, would insure any girl a noble carriage. The crown is not necessary. Any weight which does not press upon the very crown of the head, but about it, will answer the purpose equally well.

Fifty farm houses were swept away by a tornado in Southern Kentucky and crops were much damaged.

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