

CUBA.

After a most interesting and somewhat eventful trip south that trinity of Highland Park citizens, Messrs. Fritz Bahr, G. P. Greene, and Chas. Cape, returned home on Saturday, February 1st.

While a few of us were looking with pleasure upon the descriptive pictures of Dr. Mac Dowell's Lecture at Ravinia Park Theater, these three gentlemen were enjoying the sunny regions and looking upon life itself as it is in Cuba and the Isle of Pines.

The Editor has been entertained by a lengthy talk with Mr. Bahr who has quite a cabinet of pictures of the places visited, some of them taken by himself.

The party left Highland Park on January 9th and arrived at New Orleans on the 11th, sailing for Havana on the 13th. They encountered in this trip, the worst storm of that re-

One of Greene's newsboys, Narcisse Berube, was delivering his Sunday papers and discovered a dark object on the walk which he at first thought to be a dog. On moving to another point of view he discovered that it was the body of a man. Half scared out of his wits, the boy dropped his papers and fled to the store to report the fact to Mr. Greene who sent him out to see the police. Falling in with Bert and George Kirby, they went to the place and with the aid of the servant at the Brace home, recognized the body as that of Mr. Brace.

Last Friday Mr. Brace went to Madison, Wis. with Mr. H. D. Laughlin on business with the United States Court there. Mr. Laughlin went on to St. Paul and Mr. Brace returned to Highland Park, but it was not known by his relatives when he might be expected to arrive. Hence there was no anxiety about his non arrival on Saturday night and it appears that he

half of that period had lived at Highland Park. He was born in West-ernport, Md., Nov. 23, 1850, and was admitted to the bar in 1871, beginning practice in 1888 and was associated with the firm of Aldrich, Payne & Defrees, which later was changed to Defrees, Brace & Ritter.

He was a member of the Chicago and the Illinois State Bar Associations, the Law Institute, of which he was president in 1901, and of the Marquette, Republican, Highland Park, and Exmoor clubs. He left a widow, Mrs. Margaret Thomas Brace, and one son, William Brace Jr., 15 years old.

The funeral occurred on Tuesday. Episcopal service was held at the house by Rev. P. C. Wolcott, D. D., who also read the Commitment service at the vault at Rose Hill Cemetery.

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wreck of the Maine which still remains in the waters, projecting above them, an object of interest and reflection to all who pass that way.

Havana is voted by our friend "the cleanest city on the earth" while New Orleans, says Mr. Bahr, is "the filthiest city in existence." Cuba is full of deep interest and many a long talk of its features is open to friends of these gentlemen. "We met with Chaplain Rice and Quartermaster Schneider and some of the boys from Fort Sheridan." They were acquainted especially with Mr. Greene and were greatly surprised at seeing him.

But it is the Isle of Pines that attracted and interested these gentlemen. So much so indeed, that Mr. Greene made a contract for a ten acre piece of land to be planted with trees for grape-fruit. "It is all grape-fruit," says Mr. Bahr. "They know no other use of the land." They grow nothing but the wild luxuriant growths of palms and cocoa nuts and bananas—except grape fruit. "Everybody cultivates grape-fruit."

Everything else has to be imported. Eggs are 75 cents a dozen. Hay is \$42.00 a ton, and there are no provisions except canned goods—mostly from France and exceedingly dear. "It is the land of the can opener," says Bahr, "but it is also the land of opportunity. Any good Illinois or Wisconsin farmer could go out there and make a fortune and be a great gain to the place at the same time."

It is an opportunity for development along many lines. There is not an electric line, a steam car, a street car, or a telephone on the island and we saw no wild animals or birds except the parrot and the buzzard—not a sparrow or a rabbit or any other four legged creature except mules.

Mr. Bahr, and he becomes eloquent indeed over the palm trees and the wondrous growths of shrubs and trees and let us into some of the secrets of possible growths of the finest fruits and vegetables of all the world if the Isle of Pines were placed under cultivation.

SAD DEATH OF A PROMINENT HIGHLAND PARK CITIZEN.

Perhaps not in all the history of Highland Park has there been so sad an event as the sudden death of Mr. William Brace who at about 6:30 on Sunday morning last was found dead, his body frozen in the snow within one hundred yards of his own home at Linden Avenue and Sheridan Road.

on Saturday night and he nearly reached his home on that night of intense cold when he slipped and fell so violently as to render him unconscious and he then froze to death.

Mr. Brace was a well known and respected citizen of Highland Park for nearly six years and was prominent in legal circles as a member of the firm of Defrees, Brace and Ritter of Chicago.

We clip the following from the report in Monday's Tribune:

"The body lay with the head to the north, as if the homeward bound man's feet had slipped under him on the slope and he had fallen upon his back, a belief supported by the crushing in of the back of his derby hat found under his head.

There were no signs of a struggle in the snow or that Mr. Brace had moved after the fall. His small handbag was about six feet back, as if it had been thrown by the jerking of his arms when he felt himself slipping. The contents of his pockets—money, jewelry, and papers—were undisturbed.

"He was a heavy man," said Mr. Defrees, "not tall, but weighing about 180 pounds, and he always gave the impression of walking carefully as if in dread of a fall. He took little short steps and a sudden fall for a man of such extremely sedentary habits as his might easily have serious consequences.

"The only alternative from our belief that he was stunned by the fall and did not recover until he had been partly frozen by the terribly cold winds that swept through here last night, is that he was attacked by heart failure, apoplexy, or paralysis, but he was not known to be subject to such ailments."

Mr. Brace's partners said his personal habits were such that, marked as they were by close application to his work and lack of physical exercise, they might leave him incapable of the struggle with a bad storm from the railroad depot to his house, a distance of one-third of a mile over snow drifted sidewalks and in the face of a strong wind.

Coroner Taylor found no external appearance of violence and announced that an autopsy was unnecessary. The jury returned a verdict of "freezing, occurring during a period of unconsciousness caused by a fall upon a slippery sidewalk."

Mr. Brace had achieved an enviable reputation as an attorney in chancery cases. He practiced in Chicago for twenty years and during the latter

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