

KEY OF THE WEST INDIES.

HAVANA CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH
IN THE YEAR 1762.Story of the Siege and Capture More Than
a Hundred Years Ago — An Interesting
Bit of History.

In 1762, soon after the declaration of war between England and Spain the British Government despatched an expedition against Havana. The land forces were commanded by Lord Albermarle, William Anne Keppel, the victor of Culloden and the fleet by Admiral Sir George Pocock, who had recently returned from a brilliant campaign in the East Indies. The expedition, as organized, was to consist of 16,000 men, of which Lord Albermarle carried with him 4,000 British regulars. Eight thousand were to be furnished from the British forces then in the West Indies under Gen. Monckton, and 4,000 from the continent of North America. Of these 2,000 were to be British regulars and 2,000 provincial troops, says the New York Sun.

The English fleet arrived off Havana on June 6. Here Pocock divided his fleet. With the larger division he sailed down the coast past Havana. On the next day he mounted his boats and made preparations apparently for landing at a point about four miles west of Havana. But this was a mere feint to distract the attention of the Spanish while the actual landing was made by the other division, about six miles east of Havana. Here the army was landed in three divisions.

ACCOUNT OF THE LANDING.

Commodore Keppel gives this account of the landing:—"At an appointed signal the flat-bottomed boats containing the troops repaired to their respective rendezvous under the sterns of the line of battleships, whose captains conducted them to the shore. While the embarkation was going on the enemy made a show of resistance from a breastwork which they had thrown up. Upon this Commodore Keppel directed the Mercury and Bonnata to pour their fire into them, and they were soon put to flight.

A more considerable body of men making their appearance, he ordered Capt. Hervey to run in and batter a fort situated at the mouth of the Boca Nao, which in the course of an hour he completely silenced, and the army landed without further molestation." He thus describes the defences of Havana at that time:—"The harbour of Havana, which is spacious enough to contain a hundred sail of the line, is defended by two strong forts. The principal of these, the Morro, built upon a narrow point of land, is inaccessible from the sea. To the east it is fortified by several works and by a deep ditch half of which is cut out of the solid rock. On the opposite entrance of the harbour stands Fort de la Punta; further in and on a level with the water is a strong battery mounting twelve guns, called 'The Twelve Apostles,' and higher up a work opposite the Point Gate called 'The Shepherds' Battery.' Above these are the Cavannos, a chain of hills which range from the Morro to the plains of Guanacaste. A chain of bastions and other works defend the town to the west."

BUILDING BATTERIES.

The landing having been successfully accomplished, one division of the army under Major-General Keppel, marched to the west to invest the Morro Castle and the fortifications on that side of the harbour. Gen. Howe's division was assigned to the investment of the Castle del Punta, while Gen. Elliott, with the centre division, cut off the city from all communications with the interior of the islands.

The British commanders at once commenced the erection of batteries at the most advantageous points on the line of investment. This was accomplished under great difficulties. The troops were unaccustomed to the heat of a Cuban summer, and water was scarce and very bad, there was great want of fresh provisions, and the army soon began to show signs of epidemic disease. At one time there were 5,000 soldiers and 3,000 seamen on the sick list.

Fortunately, Albermarle had brought with him from Martinique about 1,500 negroes and these performed the greater part of the work of throwing up breastworks and erecting batteries. In spite of all obstacles it was pushed on as rapidly as possible, and on June 30 the batteries bearing on the Morro were completed, and the next morning a tremendous cannonade was opened upon the Spanish fort.

ATTACKING THE FORT.

Admiral Pocock, anxious to co-operate with the land forces, directed Commodore Keppel to send a part of his fleet to bombard the Morro on the sea side, hoping thus to divide the attention of the enemy and prevent the concentration of his fire upon the batteries. It was a dangerous undertaking.

Keppel says:—"The ships proceeded to their stations. Capt. Campbell, in the Sterling Castle, was ordered to lead, but his courage failed him. The three other ships, the Dragon, Marlborough and Cambridge anchored close in with the shore and laid their broadsides against the fort. For six hours they kept up an unintermitting fire."

As it was evident that the fire of these ships had little effect on the Morro, while its fire was playing havoc with them, Commodore Keppel ordered their withdrawal. They were in bad condition and had to be retired for repairs.

On July 9 the English batteries again opened on the Morro, and the next week showed encouraging results. On the 16th the English fire had increased, while the Morro could only reply with two guns. The British commander now determined that it was

time to prepare for an assault upon the works. The Morro was defended by a ditch 80 feet deep and 40 feet wide, cut through the solid rock, except in one place, where a narrow ledge had been left across the ditch to shut out the water from the sea. Along this ledge only one man could pass at a time, but on July 18, the English sappers and miners made a dash across it and effected a lodgment in the wall of the fortress.

THE GALLANT VELASCO.

The defense of the Morro had been committed to Don Luis Velasco, a gallant naval captain who proved himself worthy of the trust. Appreciating the necessity of driving the British miners from their position, Velasco sallied out with 1,500 men in three divisions, but was promptly met and repulsed with heavy loss. In this affair the battalion of Royal Americans who had just arrived, distinguished itself greatly. Under the immediate command of Gen. Keppel, who led it in person, it defeated one of the Spanish columns, driving them into the river, where 150 Spaniards were drowned.

THE BRITISH TRIUMPH.

The Spanish land and sea forces available for the defence of the city amounted to about 30,000 men. They had a fleet in the harbour of Havana of twelve line-of-battle ships, but instead of sailing out and giving battle to the English ships, or making an attempt to escape like rats in a hole, three of the battleships were sunk to block the entrance to the harbour; the other nine were surrendered to the British, who also burned two more upon the stocks.

The triumph was one of the most complete ever achieved by British arms. The value of captured property amounted to \$14,000,000. Philip II. had given to Havana a coat of arms, in which was blazoned a gold key, to signify that it was "the key of the West Indies." England now held that key, and had she been wise she would have kept it. But, a few months after its surrender, peace was declared, and England gave up Havana for Florida. She might have held Havana, and with it she would have held the main gate to the Gulf of Mexico and the Isthmus.

JEALOUSY VS. HAPPINESS.

This is the question that bothers many a wife. And we think, is the question that causes more unhappy differences than any other. To be loved devotedly is the ambition of every woman, but to have that love take the form of exacting suspicion, or a sort of affectionate jailshirship, is not always desirable.

Opinions galore are given on this topic and we can only judge from the lives that come closest to us, in fact the lives that are lived under our observation.

To begin with, there is a couple, happy as two young lovers, the husband, however, so insanely jealous of his wife that he has broken off even her woman friendships. If she were to walk as far as the gate with another gentleman a tragedy would be the almost certain result. Yet, as we said before, they are both serenely happy. Would they be so, if circumstances brought about a new existence and set up new conditions? Will the wife always be satisfied with this state of affairs? Let us hope so, for it would be a pity to spoil their illusions.

From them our thoughts wander to another couple, who see no reason because they care more for each other than any one else in the world, why all the other pleasant people should be excluded from their friendships. The wife dances, talks and drives with other men. The husband dances, talks and drives with other women. There is no question of jealousy, because there is no question of confidence. When they are together they are not bored. The husband is pleased to have his wife admired and she is happy to find she has not married a freak whom no one else would want.

It is a question hard to decide and one upon which the parties themselves should sit in judgment. One might as well try to dip up the ocean with a teaspoon as to try and arrange a code to go by, for gossips will talk and jealousy will exist until the end of time. Perhaps if we were asked to give our opinion on the matter we would say it is as bad as the rest in the matter of talk, though differing in sentiment, for it is our belief that jealousy is but another name for selfishness, rather than an indication of any overpowering affection.

At any rate it is something to guard against and to try to control as much as possible.

TO CLEAN PICTURES.

To clean the glass over pictures, dip a piece of chamois in alcohol, wring nearly dry, and wipe thoroughly, yet lightly. Polish with a piece of dry chamois. The glazed frames must also be cleaned with the alcohol. If oil paintings need cleaning thoroughly, dampen a soft cloth in warm water in which some castile soap has been dissolved. Dry carefully, and then varnish lightly with some thin, clear, French "retouching" varnish. It is well to consult an artist in regard to the best varnish.

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