

CUBAN CRUELTY SURPASSED BY SPAIN'S.

Insurgent Prisoners Left to Rot in a Hell on Earth.

Distinguished Captives Tortured Until They Pray for Death.

Devilish Ingenuity Skillfully Exercised by the Spanish Authorities.

Pleas for Mercy Certain to Bring About New Punishments.

THE OLD INQUISITION FAR SURPASSED

Atrocities Beyond Belief Are Daily Occurrences at Ceuta, Spain's Penal Colony in Africa.

CEUTA, Morocco, Dec. 2, via Gibraltar. Dec. 3.—While most of Cuba's sons are braving fearful dangers in the field, fighting like demons for her independence, many Cuban patriots are slowly rotting to death in the dungeons of the Spanish prison at this place.

Starved, beaten and chained like wild beasts, they lie day and night in the monstrous sepulchre, waiting with the patience of patriots for that which to most of them is the only way of escape from its horrors—death.

Ceuta is the Bastille of the nineteenth century. It is the prison in which all the Cuban insurgents who are captured by the soldiers of Martinez Campos are entombed. It is situated in the kingdom of Fez, on the north coast of Africa, opposite Gibraltar.

Her Majesty Maria Cristina, Queen Regent of Spain, is one of the loveliest and gentlest women in Europe. She is noted for her benevolence and for her sympathy with sufferers of every kind. Yet she is directly responsible for the existence in her dominions of the most frightful prison to be found anywhere in the world to-day.

All of Spain's most important political prisoners are sent hither. Milder conspirators against the Crown, mere dabblers in revolution, whom the Government regards amusedly as misguided children, go to Mahon, Fernando Po or Isla de Pinos, each of which is a paradise compared with Ceuta.

Ceuta derives its name from its seven hills, the most important of which, the Monte del Hacho—the ancient Abyia, one of the Pillars of Hercules—throws its huge shadow athwart the town.

Everything is done to-morrow at Ceuta. Life is one long to-morrow—manana—for everybody, save only the prisoners; for them it is yesterday. So the Mayor goes away on some pleasure trip, the prisoners are hurried off to their cells and the officer of the guard returns to his post to smoke cigars in the sunshine and dream of some black-eyed senorita in Madrid or Coruna.

The Moors by John I. King of Portugal, in 1415, and passed into the hands of the Spaniards on the subjugation of Portugal by Philip II, in 1580. It has been several times unsuccessfully besieged by the Moors. The English, under Frazer, held it in 1810. Half a century later the Spanish territory around the town was extended by force of arms.

El Presidio, as the prison is called by the 7,000 inhabitants of the town of Ceuta, is situated on a high bluff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. It is surrounded by a chain of almost impregnable forts, and the enormous mass of masonry can be seen, dark against the sky, a long distance away. It is several hundred feet above the sea level, and is approached from the water by long flights of steps cut into the solid rock.

Stripped to the Waist and Whipped with a Split Strap.

(From a copyrighted photograph taken for the Journal by Antonia Cavilla, Tangiers, Africa.)



Bayoneted if They Faint from Overwork. (From a copyrighted photograph taken for the Journal by Antonia Cavilla, Tangiers, Africa.)

As he enters the main door every life prisoner loses his identity forever. His name is utterly ignored—forgotten, in fact—and he is known henceforth by a number. El Presidio is jealous of its own notoriety and seeks to absorb all individualities into itself.

How long the prisoners remain in the common room, where at least they can see something of their fellow-men, depends upon the complaisance of the Mayor—who, by the way, despite his name, is merely the commanding official of the prison, and has nothing to do with the town.

With all its horrors and its hopelessness, in its grim solidity and time-defying hideousness, Ceuta is the certain destination of Maximimo Gomez, Jose Maceo, Quintin Bandera, Antonio Maceo, Felix Ruen, Nano Galano, Roloff the Pole, Pedro Sanchez, Carlos Maclas, Enrique Brooks, Calixto Garcia, Jose Serpa and tens of thousands of other gallant patriots, if ever they fall into the clutches of Martinez Campos.

At 11 o'clock he stops working long enough to eat his luncheon of rancho, a dish made of questionable meat; garbanzos, or Spanish beans; potatoes, rice and turnips, with which he gets two hard-tack crackers that, to be edible, must be soaked in water. Half an hour after noon he goes back to his work under the blazing African sun.

eight feet long and six in width—the ceiling a foot lower than his head, so that if he is a man of average height, he can never stand quite erect. His bed is a hammock of cotton duck, so rotten that every night it threatens to break and throw him upon the silny floor.

Such is the daily life of the prisoner of Ceuta—one long, endless round of toil, starvation, filth and abuse. He is beaten like a dog for the slightest infraction of discipline, and for graver offenses is thrown into a dungeon as terrible as any in that other Spanish horror of long ago—the Inquisition.

Whipping is the commonest form of punishment. The prisoner is stripped to the waist and laid face downward on a low table. His feet are bound together and fastened to the table, as are his hands.

Cholera's Horrors Added to the List. (By Cable.) Gibraltar, Jan. 11.—Cholera has broken out in the Spanish prison at Ceuta, Africa. The epidemic is virulent and scenes of horror are reported.

It? The palace of the Queen Regent at Madrid is kept immaculately clean, and the little King is bathed from head to foot three times a day. Is not that enough to satisfy all loyal subjects?

A third punishment is to beat the bare feet of the prisoner with rattan rods with a degree of cruelty that exceeds that of the bastinado.

La Voladora, or "the flyer," is one more of the Spaniard's ingenious tortures. It is an exaggerated variation of the spread eagle, once in such common use in the navies of even the most civilized nations.

Four strong hooks are driven into the ceiling, forming a square of about five feet. The victim's wrists and ankles are fastened one to each of the hooks, and he is left to hang there, face downward, as long as he can stand the pain without actually dying before the eyes of his enemies.

Men have been punished with La Voladora four hours at a stretch, and it is worse than the others.

Chained Together by Necks and Feet, They Are Driven to the Office of the Mayor. (From a copyrighted photograph taken for the Journal by Antonia Cavilla, Tangiers, Africa.)

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Strung Up by His Thumbs, His Face Smeared with Molasses to Attract Pestering Flies, and Left Alone in Horrible Agony. (From a sketch from life made at Ceuta by the Journal correspondent.)

He is guarded by a squad of soldiers commanded by a commissioned officer. A keeper stands over him and lashes his back with an escoria, which is a strap of pliable leather a yard long and a quarter of an inch thick, split in two thongs, each a half inch in width, to within about four inches of the handle. It scurs the back pretty badly, and the marks remain for many days.

Even the brutal customs of the Orient are outdone by the authorities of Ceuta. There is in Cuba at this moment a man

who knows more of the horrors of Ceuta than any other person now outside its walls. He is Dr. Valdes Dominguez, the Surgeon-General of the patriot army. For many years after the last revolution he was a prisoner in El Presidio. He was one of many of the senior class of the medical department of the University of Havana.

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22,000 SHOTS IN FOUR MINUTES.

Terrific Power of the Fleet England Could Send Against Germany.

In an Incredibly Short Time These Ships Could Destroy Any Shore Fort.

Even Modern Torpedo Mines Would Fail When Attacked by Such Ships.

TERRIFIC NEW RAPID-FIRE GUNS. A Shower of Shot and Shell of Incredible Destructive Power Would Work Ruin and Destroy the Enemy.

"One British warship, which is among those which Great Britain could put in service in case of war with Germany, could throw more than 22,000 shells into the fortifications of her foes in four minutes.

"One result of the recent war scare was the discovery of the fleet which England would send over her. The same fleet would doubtless be used against Germany. It would include, besides cruisers of various types, the Colossus, Thunderer and Trafalgar. These great battleships were especially designed for heavy weather, so that they could make long voyages. They could readily be sent to South Africa if desired.

These startling statements were made Friday by one of the most important military officers in New York City. He went on:

"The public in general imagines that rapid fire guns are Gatlings or Maxim or other form of very small calibre anti-matic guns. These are really 'unsailing guns.' Rapid fire guns carry projectiles varying in weight from 3 pounds to the 280-pound shell, carried by the 6-inch breech-loading rifle. They are designated as 'rapid fire' on account of the facility with which they may be handled.

"All the ships of the English navy are well supplied with rapid fire guns of various sizes. One British cruiser, for instance, would be capable of hurling upon a city that terrible hail of steel and fire which I mentioned. On the average ship, we will say, there are 10 six-inch breech-loading rapid-fire guns, 16 six-pounders, 8 three-pounders, 2 machine guns—the latter for use at moderately close ranges, of course. The six-inch rifles could fire seven shots per minute each, or 280 shots in four minutes. The six-pounders fire twelve shots per minute, or 768 shots for the sixteen guns in four minutes; the three-pounders, firing each twelve shots per minute, would, in four minutes, send out 384 shells. Each of the eight machine guns fires 600 shots per minute, or 2,120 shots in the comparatively short time of four minutes! The total weight of these projectiles in exact figures would be 24,810 pounds. As to their destructive power, it need only be stated that the six-inch gun will penetrate fourteen inches of iron, the six-pounders five inches of iron and the three-pounders four inches. These shells will all throw explosive shells, and such a rain of destructive missiles as one of these ships could hurl upon a fortress or a city would render it impossible for garrison to work their guns, unless they were thoroughly well protected, which ours are not.

"With 12-inch guns on board the Colossus, four shots were fired within three minutes during recent trials, and three bits out of their shells were secured. The Thunderer a 10-inch rifle was used, loaded and fired by hand, without the use of the hydraulic machinery which usually facilitates this work. It was found that one projectile could be fired every 2 minutes and 10 seconds.

"The Trafalgar's great 12-inch, 67-ton rifle discharged four perfectly directed shells in 9 minutes and 7 seconds, and the monster 10 1/2-inch, 110-ton gun on board the same ship presented in a comparatively short time of a ton of steel, once in every two minutes. These are things worth thinking about."

"The German as well as American probably places great reliance upon the torpedo and mine, said to be ready in case of emergency, in effectually blocking the entrance to harbors," suggested the Journal man. "Would these prove effective, in your opinion?"

"As such mines go to-day, they would not last twenty-four hours. Once mines are laid, the mine field must be protected against the efforts of the enemy to remove them. Rapid fire guns are an absolutely necessary factor in this sort of work, and nothing else will do it. It is believed now by authorities on both sides of the water that a strongly fortified harbor will not be attacked by warships. Two of the most effective of these are the torpedo and the mine-are, of course, ineffectual against a fortress. It is, however, necessary to reduce a fortification, in order that a greater victory may be achieved beyond it, then the enemy will bring a great many times the number of guns against it than they expect to find there. The first point aimed at will be the silencing of the heavy batteries. If it is necessary to reduce a fortress, using such projectiles as are now, nowadays, would make it decidedly difficult in a fortress, no matter how strongly it was protected. If the end in view is to be gained at all, it must be done quickly. The ships, then, would come into a comparatively short range and open up a hail of projectiles, such as nothing built by human hands could withstand, would be hurled upon that fort."

"By a proper arrangement for resisting such an attack, the success of the attacking fleet would be by no means predicted. The shower of steel and shot, as they would receive from the fort's rapid fire guns would make all the exposed parts of warships untenable, and with the 15-centimeter, 12-centimeter, 6-inch and other rapid fire guns of the larger calibres, the decks and less heavily armored parts of the ships might be penetrated and eventually disabled."

"Suppose, for the sake of argument, that the big guns on the shore batteries have been silenced. Not all of the rapid fire guns have been in action. There are still others, placed in concealed batteries, of the location of which the enemy has no knowledge. As soon as night closes in, creepers and countermining boats are sent out to locate and destroy the mines in the channel, and to open up a passage for the war ships. Then the concealed batteries of rapid fire guns, directed by search-light, get in their fire work. No bomb on earth, or sea, could live a minute under their concentrated fire. In this work the rapid fire guns would be of incalculable value. The search-lights from the shore would show them where the countermine boats of the enemy were, but the lights and the batteries might be at great distance from each other.

Kept in Cells So Low That They Cannot Stand Upright. (From a copyrighted photograph taken for the Journal by Antonia Cavilla, Tangiers, Africa.)

Women in Iceland. From the earliest period the Icelandic woman has enjoyed distinct individuality. The wife has always held the place of an equal with her husband in matters pertaining to the home. In the old days she wore a bracelet, from which hung the insignia of office, her keys and purse. Now that she has laid aside the gold ornaments, these significant household accoutrements are carried in the dress pocket, but they are hers, nevertheless.

In matters of divorce, any couple finding it impossible to live together must first apply for a separation, and remain apart for three years before they can apply for a divorce, which will be granted or not, according to its grounds. In case there is one child, the mother has the undisputed right to retain it. Where there is more than one, the father may take the elder, but the mother is always left with the mother. This, they claim, is "according to God's law, written in the human heart and revealed through nature."

Icelandic women vote in all church and parish matters, and as the church and State are combined, this is in reality a civic privilege. They also have full municipal suffrage, but as yet cannot vote upon matters pertaining to commerce nor for Members of Parliament, though there is a strong sentiment abroad in favor of giving them these additional advantages.

Women take part in many political meetings and talk upon all political subjects. During the Athing session great numbers of the most intelligent women of the capital city are in constant attendance. For some years there has existed a political society of women, and when momentous questions affecting their interests are before the legislative body large meetings are called and addressed by women, setting forth their claims.

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"The Trafalgar's great 12-inch, 67-ton rifle discharged four perfectly directed shells in 9 minutes and 7 seconds, and the monster 10 1/2-inch, 110-ton gun on board the same ship presented in a comparatively short time of a ton of steel, once in every two minutes. These are things worth thinking about."

"The German as well as American probably places great reliance upon the torpedo and mine, said to be ready in case of emergency, in effectually blocking the entrance to harbors," suggested the Journal man. "Would these prove effective, in your opinion?"

"As such mines go to-day, they would not last twenty-four hours. Once mines are laid, the mine field must be protected against the efforts of the enemy to remove them. Rapid fire guns are an absolutely necessary factor in this sort of work, and nothing else will do it. It is believed now by authorities on both sides of the water that a strongly fortified harbor will not be attacked by warships. Two of the most effective of these are the torpedo and the mine-are, of course, ineffectual against a fortress. It is, however, necessary to reduce a fortification, in order that a greater victory may be achieved beyond it, then the enemy will bring a great many times the number of guns against it than they expect to find there. The first point aimed at will be the silencing of the heavy batteries. If it is necessary to reduce a fortress, using such projectiles as are now, nowadays, would make it decidedly difficult in a fortress, no matter how strongly it was protected. If the end in view is to be gained at all, it must be done quickly. The ships, then, would come into a comparatively short range and open up a hail of projectiles, such as nothing built by human hands could withstand, would be hurled upon that fort."

"By a proper arrangement for resisting such an attack, the success of the attacking fleet would be by no means predicted. The shower of steel and shot, as they would receive from the fort's rapid fire guns would make all the exposed parts of warships untenable, and with the 15-centimeter, 12-centimeter, 6-inch and other rapid fire guns of the larger calibres, the decks and less heavily armored parts of the ships might be penetrated and eventually disabled."

"Suppose, for the sake of argument, that the big guns on the shore batteries have been silenced. Not all of the rapid fire guns have been in action. There are still others, placed in concealed batteries, of the location of which the enemy has no knowledge. As soon as night closes in, creepers and countermining boats are sent out to locate and destroy the mines in the channel, and to open up a passage for the war ships. Then the concealed batteries of rapid fire guns, directed by search-light, get in their fire work. No bomb on earth, or sea, could live a minute under their concentrated fire. In this work the rapid fire guns would be of incalculable value. The search-lights from the shore would show them where the countermine boats of the enemy were, but the lights and the batteries might be at great distance from each other.

Kept in Cells So Low That They Cannot Stand Upright. (From a copyrighted photograph taken for the Journal by Antonia Cavilla, Tangiers, Africa.)

Women in Iceland. From the earliest period the Icelandic woman has enjoyed distinct individuality. The wife has always held the place of an equal with her husband in matters pertaining to the home. In the old days she wore a bracelet, from which hung the insignia of office, her keys and purse. Now that she has laid aside the gold ornaments, these significant household accoutrements are carried in the dress pocket, but they are hers, nevertheless.

In matters of divorce, any couple finding it impossible to live together must first apply for a separation, and remain apart for three years before they can apply for a divorce, which will be granted or not, according to its grounds. In case there is one child, the mother has the undisputed right to retain it. Where there is more than one, the father may take the elder, but the mother is always left with the mother. This, they claim, is "according to God's law, written in the human heart and revealed through nature."

Icelandic women vote in all church and parish matters, and as the church and State are combined, this is in reality a civic privilege. They also have full municipal suffrage, but as yet cannot vote upon matters pertaining to commerce nor for Members of Parliament, though there is a strong sentiment abroad in favor of giving them these additional advantages.

Women take part in many political meetings and talk upon all political subjects. During the Athing session great numbers of the most intelligent women of the capital city are in constant attendance. For some years there has existed a political society of women, and when momentous questions affecting their interests are before the legislative body large meetings are called and addressed by women, setting forth their claims.