The Fate of Cuba

Is of vital interest to all Americans. Yet the sensational vaporings of unknown correspondents throw little light on the subject. MURAT HALSTEAD, the famous editor and author, sends exclusive dispatches to the JOURNAL from Havana. His reports alone may be counted upon.

What Mr. Halstead Says Is So!

THE JOURNAL.

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In London

There are correspondents, but they are neither known nor famous. JULIAN RALPH is cable correspondent for the JOURNAL at the Court of St. James. He knows it all, he hears it all and he sends it all. There is only one Julian Ralph.

What He Says Is So!

MAGDALEN HOLLAND'S REVOLTING STORY.

It Brought the Mantling Tinge of Dawning Shame to the Cheek of Pierce.

Testimony to Brutalities That Eclipses Tales of Shackles and the "Cat."

SCARS THAT TEN YEARS HATE NOT HE

Physicians Find Upon the Boys' Bodies the Cicatrices Left by the Wire-Tipped Thongs—Prominent Witnesses Called.

James W. Pierce, Superintendent of the Temporary Home for Destitute Children at White Plains, is charged with barbaric cruelties to the little ones under his care. At the hearings before Referee Samuel Guernsey, at White Plains, many witnesses have testified that he applied the lash to the nude bodies of children, often until the blood flooded. Boys were compelled to wear shackles for months, and the Superintendent inflicted many other cruelties, the narration of which makes a shocking record. The third hearing was held yesterday.

Mrs. Magdalen Holland is a model serving woman. Superintendent Pierce has declared that in writing, and he is not easily satisfied. She knows how to keep a still tongue, especially about matters in which she has no personal concern. She can be deaf, dumb and blind, as occasion requires, and that is perhaps why the man who is accused of atrocities toward the little ones in his charge deemed her a person of no inconsiderable merit.

Mrs. Holland is a comely young colored woman. Her complexion is a light copper, which flushed prettily under excitement. Her eyes are dark and large and fearlessly meet those of the inquisitor. Her teeth are large, white and even. They close together sharply when she becames determined.

She bears no malice toward Superintendent Pierce, for he has been very considerate with her, and when brought to the stand two weeks ago, an unwilling witness, she broke down and sobbed. What she told was told with the utmost reluctance. Nor did she tell all then. She merely answered the questions put to her, no more, as any discreet servant would do. Yesterday she was recalled, and the story she told was so revolting in its details as to sicken her hearers.

Even those were shocked who had listened to the long series of barbarities alleged to have been committed in the Westchester Home, and had concluded that no further doings of the man could be more brutal. Witnesses have declared that girls have been lashed while nude; boys have been chained like animals and unmercifully beaten; that one lad was scored and lashed with a horsewhip, then knocked senseless with the butt end of it and afterward bathed in a tub of brine. But the story of Magdalen Holland in its fiendishness and its sickening atrocity excels all of these. As she told it a murmur of horror and disgust arose from the spectators who crowded the courthouse, two of the lady managers raised their handkerchiefs to their mouths and the man who was accused of the atrocity reddened and dropped his eyes to the floor.

Then, too, physicians who examined three of Pierce's victims, who declared they carried marks from the lash upon their bodies, found their statements true. On the side of one lad, who said that the scourge had been tipped with wire, the places where the ends of the lash cut deep were most plainly marked.

Evidence Strengthened by Cross-Examination.

It was a bad day for Pierce. The evidence given by the witnesses was unshaken. Pierce's counsel, ex-Judge Mills and Mr. Bennett, has as advisers Colonel Crane, of this city, who is a member of the Board of Managers of the home, and Lawyer Davies, also of this city. They tried to devise some method of upsetting the damaging story of Magdalen Holland, but failed. The cross-examination only strengthened it.

The first witness was William Rozert, of Yonkrs, a former inmate of the home. He said he had been chained for two weeks to a boy named "Willie" Mable. He was lashed with a cat-o'-nine tails, much heavier than the one in evidence, until the blood came. The marks were visible on his body until two or three weeks afterward.

When released from his shackles he ran away to his home in Yonkers. He was returned to Pierce and again beaten and placed in chains.

Thomas Owens declared that Pierce, during a whipping, broke one of his little fingers. He is now a brakeman on the Harlem division of the New York Central Road and is twenty-seven years old. He was committed to the Home for playing truant. He declared that he was beaten for the slightest offence. On the occasion that his finger was broken Pierce struck him across the hand with the butt end of a horse whip. He had seen Pierce beat other children. In 1885 he said he saw the Superintendent strike children with a prayer book. On cross-examination Mr. Mills tried to identify the witness's broken finger with a railway accident at Tuckahoe in 1888.

Charles Roberts was a diminutive witness and a good one for the prosecution. He is only ten years old, and is a bright, blue-eyed little chap, who gave his answers without the least hesitation. The four lawyers working in behalf of Pierce often put their heads together, but the results of these conferences did not impair the story told by the lad in the sailor suit.

Q.—When were you an inmate of the home? A.—Three years ago.

Q.—Were you ever punished? A.—Yes; with the cat-o'-nine-tails.

Q.—Where? A.—On the back.

Q.—Were there any marks? A.—Yes; on the arms and back.

Q.—Were you otherwise hurt? A.—Yes; the middle fore finger of my left hand was hurt.

Q.—How? A.—It was struck with the end of the cat-o'-nine-tails stick.

Q.—Who saw your finger when it was injuired? A.—Miss Blair and the doctor, who dressed it.

Q.—Had you any clothes on? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Who saw your body after the whipping? A.—My mother.

Q.—Did you ever see any other boy beaten? A.—eYs; Josiah Shepperd.

Q.—Who was he? A.—A crippled boy.

Q.—With what was he beaten? A.—The cat-o'-nine-tails.

Q.—Was he whipped hard? A.—Yes, sir.

A Horsewhip Also.

"Mr. Pierce would whip the boys once each week," said Charles; "some times once every three weeks. I saw a boy whipped in a stable with a horsewhip. Mr. Pierce did it."

On cross-examination the witness said he had been punished for talking in bed. The doctor dressed his wounded hand.

Nettie Gilbert, a young colored woman, who had worked in the Home and who had testified at a previous hearing, said that she had seen Roberts's wounded hand. She had also seen Owens's. She had sen black and blue ridges on Irving Moore. She had seen also where the lash had brought blod to the surface.

Q.—Do you remember the Walter Marjory whipping? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who was in the kitchen at the time? A.—Myself and Martha Evans.

Q.—State what happened. A.—Albert Jackson came to the kitchen to get salt to put in the water to bathe the boy with.

Nettie said that Pierce hit her in the eye with a towel on Sunday afternoon. The eye became swollen and inflamed, causing her much pain. She had seen the Superintendent give Christine Sauer a backhanded slap that nearly felled the girl. Pierce one day overturned a pail of slop on the head of Minnie Shielle.

"Why didn't you tell this story when you were on the stand before?" asked Mr. Mills in beginning the cross-examination.

"I wasn't asked," she replied. "I answered all the questions put to me."

The lawyer then tried to show that Albert Jackson had approached her since the last hearing and influenced her to again take the stand. This she vigorously denied. Then she was questioned about the slop pail incident.

"Mr. Pierce gave us certain instructions about disposing of the slop," said she. "We were in the kitchen on Sunday when he came into it. He asked us whether we were ready for Sunday-school. Then he saw the pail on the floor. Without a word he picked it up and placed it over Minnie's head. He left it there and walked out.

"Do you mean," asked Mr. Mills, impressively, "that he dumped the slop all over her? There was slop in the pail, wasn't there?"

"Yes," said the witness, with a positive inclination of the head.

"And it was dumped over her clothing, her hair, and all?"

"What little hair she had," was Nettie's reply. "She didn't have much."

MRS. HOLLAND'S TERRIBLE TALE.

Then came Magdalene Holland. She testified in detail as to the location of the playroom. She saw six drops of blood on the floor after Walter Marjory was whipped. She had also seen black-and-blue welts on Irving Moore. Then, under questioning, she told a revolting story. She declared that one morning a child in the dining room could not eat the must that was placed before it. The woman in charge of the room tried to force the child to do so.

The little one became ill and the food was spoiled. Nevertheless when Superintendent Pierce came into the room he forced the child to eat some of the food.

The Court was very still then, so still that several drops of rain that blew against the window could be heard distinctly. It was a silence of horror and disgust. Even Pierce's own counsel seemed amazed. Some of the lady managers had smiled at previous testimony of brutality, but now they paled. Mrs. MacLean, who has attended all of the hearings, took up her smelling salts, two others appeared as though they were going to be ill, and the then tense face of Mrs. Hoe, became more drawn. Her lips contracted. Following this brief silence came a suppressed murmur from the spectators.

Then Mr. Mills began his cross-examination.

Q.—Can you give the name of the child? A.—I don't know it.

Q.—Was it a boy or a girl? A.—A girl.

Q.—When did this happen? A.—During my last year at the Home.

Q.—In what year was that? A.—In 1889.

Q.—At what time of the year? A.—About the second week in March.

Q.—Who was present at the time? A.—All of the children.

Q.—How old was the child? A.—Between four and five years old.

Mrs. Holland said she saw Pierce's action toward the child while she was in the nursery. She was standing in the middle of that room, and from there she had a full view of the dining-room. Lizzie Pierce, who had charge of the dining-romo, tried to make the little girl eat, and when she failed the superintendent was called. The most adroit cross-questioning could not impair Mrs. Holland's story.

WHY SHE DIDN'T TELL.

"You said at the last hearing you saw a boy whipped," said Mr. Mills, referring to the record. "Why didn't you say then that you saw some blood?"

"I was about to say so," she replied, "but you objected."

The lawyer did not contradict her. She was recalled after recess and Mr. Dykman put in a letter from Pierce in which he gave the witness a cordial recommendation, praising her honesty, truthfulness and discretion.

Albert Weatherway, of Portchester, who had been an inmate in the latter part of 1890, testified that he had been punished with the "cat" and put in chains for one month. The shackles were not removed at night. He hadse on several boys punished with the cat. Thomas Hill, who was in the home seven years ago, said he had been whipped until the blood came. The cat was soaked before using so as to harden it. "Eddie" Graves, who was unmercifully beaten, bled from his wounds. There were marks on his back up as high a shis elbows.

Robert Wetz was in the Home for eleven months in 1887. He testified that he was lashed until the blood came to the surface. He was chained at the ankles for three months. His ankles were sore for two months after leaving the institution. His mother doctored him.

Q.—How many times were you whipped? A.—I don't know.

Q.—More than once? A.—Oh, yes.

Q.—White corn meal was fed to the children? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you eat it? A.—Not all the time. It went against me and I couldn't eat it; so I was punished.

Q.—Who punished you? A.—Mr. Pierce.

Q.—Were you whipped severely? A.—Yes.

Wetz said he was away from the home for a short time and helped his father canvass for a book. The very night he returned to the home Pierce whipped him for not coming down to prayers. The superintendent told him he had "got above himself." Once when he refused to eat mush he was reported by Lizzie Pierce, and received a whipping.

It was later developed that Wetz had written a letter to Pierce after the boy had left the home, thanking the superintendent for the good care he had taken of the lad. The witness's mother, Mrs. Charlotte Nou, a refined looking, whitehaired woman, a nurse by profession, acknowledged writing the letter, and said she did so because she was under obligations to Pierce. When she first came to White Plains he aided her in getting desirable acquaintances and in making a livelihood. She said that the boy's ankles had running sores where the shackles had bruised the flesh.

She also told how Pierce had punished a little girl by compelling the child to stay in a cramped position under a table for an hour and a half. It was developed, too, that the witness paid $5 a month for her son's board at the Home. When she wanted to take him away Pierce told her she owed for one or two months. She produced the receipts for these months, but he could find no record of payments on his books. He afterward asked her to lend him the receipts; he would return them in a short while. After three weeks had elapsed she demanded them of him, saying that she had witnesses to prove that he had held them. He then returned the receipts.

George Burgess, fifteen years old, is a determined-looking youngster, who declared that he still carried marks of the lash upon his body.

"Were you whipped with the cat-o'-nine-tails" he was asked.

"Yes," he promptly replied, "and there was wire in the ends of the tails."

There was a stir among the spectators.

"How hard were you whipped?"

"So hard that marks were cut into my body," replied the boy.

"Was blood drawn?"

"Yes," replied George, involuntarily wincing.

"Did anyone see your body?"

"Yes, all the boys."

He said his wounds were on the right side and for six nights he could not sleep upon it. He said he had on only his shirt when whipped and that the "cat" was applied for about ten minutes.

Under cross evamination, he said he was seven years old when he went to the home.

"When was it you were first whipped?" he was asked.

"The first year I went there," was the reply.

"What for?"

"I ate mush and milk. It made me sick. I had to get up at night. Then again I was whipped for sleeping in Sunday school."

"When whipped you say the things were fired with wire?"

"Yes, sir," he almost shouted.

"And you are sure of it?" persisted Mr. Mills.

"Yes, sir," he repeated.

"Were any marks made on your body?"

"I bear the scars to-day of those whippings," said the boy.

"Are you willing a doctor should examine you?"

"Yes, sir, I am."

TO LOOK FOR SCARS.

Mr. Mills wanted Dr. Haight, of the Home, to examine and report upon the boy's condition, but to this Dr. Dykman raised a vigorous objection. He said he would be satisfied if the referee appointed a local physicinn of undisputed standing to make the examination, at which the Home's doctor could be present. It was so agreed, and Dr. De Hart was summoned.

Frederick Robbins, of No. 40 Morton street, this city, who had been in the Home seven or eight years, said he had been punished with the lash until the blood came. He lay in blood all night. Pierce whipped him while in bed.

"Did you ever see Pierce punish animals?" asked Mr. Dykman.

To this Mr. Mills raised objection. "I have a right to show," said Mr. Dykman, addressing the referee, "the character of the man who has charge of this Home and the children in it; that he is cruel alike to brutes and human beings."

The question was allowed, and Robbins said the Superintendent had once broken a whalebone whip over a heifer. He beat the beast until the blood ran, and when the whip was broken he sent for another.

"Who saw this besides yourself?"

"I think Mary Lockwood saw it."

The last witness was William Schutz, of Yonkers, who swore that Pierce once gave him one hundred and fifty-five strokes with the lash. He was also beaten with a whalebone whip and chained.

Commodore Gerry to Be Called.

Before adjournment Lawyer Dykman asked an order from the referee requiring the Home to furnish the names of its witnesses three days before their examination. This rule has been enforced against the prosecution. Lawyer Mills, for the defensce, made a stubborn fight against it, but the referee established the rule.

Adjournment was taken to Thursday next at White Plains. The prosecution will on that day close its case. Among the witnesses called will be Commodore Eldridge T. Gerry, Commissioner Litchfield, of the State Board of Charities; Inspector of Charities Fanning, of the Second New York State District, and several wardens and officials of the Sing Sing Penitentiary.

Dr. Haight, one of the physicians for the Home, and Dr. De Hart, one of the old practising practitioners, of White Plains, examined witnesses Albert Jackson, George Burgess and Frederick Robbins by order of the referee after adjournment of court. They found twenty-seven distinct marks on Jackson's body, which the witness testified were made by Pierce with his cat-o'nine-tails more than ten years ago when he was a boy of thirteen.

On young Burgess they found twenty similar marks, one of which was a deep double wound, and seven marks on young Robbins. Most of the wounds seemed to have been made by Pierce's cat-o'nine-tails with wire tips.

In places on each of these witnesses the scars were so grouped as to indicate that they were the result of one blow administered with force enough to drive every tail of the weapon into the flesh.

Lawyer Emmett, of the defense, said after adjournment, in reply to a question: "You may say definitely that the Board of Managers will not suspend Mr. Pierce."

Witnesses Who Accuse James W. Pierce.

George Burgess, who was scourged with the cat o'nine tails nearly eight years ago, declares that the lashes were tipped with wire and cut into his flesh. He showed the scars to two doctors yesterday at White Plains, after giving his testimony. Pierce's lawyers tried to shake the boy's story, but without success. The best evidence that he produced, however, was not shown in the court room. The picture was drawn from a photograph taken specially for the Journal.

NETTIA GILBERT

MAGDALEN HOLLAND

WM BOLERT

BRAKEMAN THOS OWENS WHO TESTIFIED THAT PIERCE STRUCK CHILDREN WITH A HYMN BOOK

CHAS ROBERTS 10 YEARS OLD WHOSE FINGER PIERCE BROKE

POLICE BOARD MAY APPEAL.

Roosevelt's Opinion of the Supreme Court's Reinstatement Decision.

Complications which may occasion the Police Commissioner considerable trouble may arise from the action of the Justices of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in ordering the reinstatement of Policeman Thomas J. Hogsett and Jacob J. Kiebrick, who were dismissed from the force in September last for having been in a saloon in uniform. Both men were tried before the Commissioners and they offerer a good defence in explanation for their presence in the saloon, but the Commissioners were inclined to look with suspicion upon their testimony and that of their witnesses, and practically only considered their past records, which were not good.

Speaking of the cases yesterday Commissioner Roosevelt said: "This is an important matter. I have been consulting Commissioner Andrews about it. If the law does not allow the Commissioners to consider the records of their accussed of violating the rules of the department, then the law must be changed. It is an outrage not to be able to consider a man's good record if he has done well and is deserving of recognition, or his bad record if he has not done well, and is on trial for his actions. From the standpoint of the good of the service it is often far more important to consider the man's general record during his term of service than it is to consider any specific case, unless it comes to the question of his dismissal from, or retention on the force."

Commissioner Roosevelt was asked if the Board would appeal from the decision of the Appellate Court. He answered that he was not in a position to state what action the Board might take. He added that the Board would certainly not allow the action of the Appellate Court to go by default. It means too much to the future conduct of the department.

FIRE IN A YALE DORMITORY.

Two Thousand Students Assemble and Cheer On the Firemen.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—An alarm of fire from private box No. 244 this morning created a sensation in the city and sent a vast crowd of people hurrying across the green. Box No. 244 is located at the Yale Treasury building, and the report was at once current that Yale University was on fire

The blaze proved to be in the White dormitory of one of Yale's new palace buildings on the new quadrangle, on the east side of Elm street, near the new gymnasium. The building is a four-story brick structure, nearly 400 feet long, and, besides being used as a dormitory by students, it contains the editorial rooms of the several college papers. Two thousand students heard of the fire and gathered upon the lawn in front of the dormitory. Firemen of No. 3 engine company ran a line of hose into where the blaze was, and drowned out the fire before it could spread to adjoining rooms.

When the chemical engine drove into the area the students sent up a great shout, and each officer of the fire department was similarly greeted when they appeared. The room located off the first floor is occupied by R. L. Evans, '98, and G. P. Stimpson, '98, of Cincinnati. Both students were at recitation when the fire started. When they returned they smelled smoke, and upon opening their room door found one end of the apartment ablaze. They could give no idea as to what started the blaze. There were no chemicals in the room. A box of matches was in a table drawer, and the fact that the table was reduced to ashes leads to the conjecture that the fire started from these. The damage to the room furnishings will aggregate $250, besides which there was a quantity of personal effects destroyed.

CYCLE PATH FOR NEW HAVEN

Nutmeg State Wheelmen Hope for a Road Connecting with New York.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—The movement to establish a special path for cyclists from this city to surrounding places has assumed definite form, and a special meeting of the Rovers Wheel Club has been called for to-morrow night to take action on the matter. The business men of the city have become interested in the movement, and have agreed to give it material support.

The first move of the local wheel club will be to construct a cinder path to North Haven, there meeting the track constructed from Meriden and Wallingford by wheelmen of those places. Talk of constructing the path to Bridgeport and even to New York is freely discussed, and it is almost assured that the track will be built at least as far as Milford. The present plan is to begin the work at once and have the path in good condition by May 1.

The Need and Its Creator.

[Indianapolis News.]

Well, at any rate, there is probably no man that knows the need of "pure politics" better than Quay, and there is probably no man that has done more than he to create the need.

John Sabine Smith, Leading Reform Republican.

TWEEDISM MAY BE REVIVED.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I have never heard any good reason assigned against the Greater New York. The present separation of the cities is only an accident and not a natural result. Consolidation is inevitable. But what shall follow? There is the question.

The appointment of a Commission to devise a general plan for legislation is proper. We cannot doubt that, according to the plan proposed, Governor Morton would appoint suitable men on this Commission. I think, however, it would be more satisfactory to allow the Mayors of New York and Brooklyn, in connection, perhaps, with other local officials, to name some members of that Commission. Some such plan is necessary to satisfy the people that a thoroughly earnest and representative lot of men are to be chosen. That contention aside, there is a danger confronting us greater than from any legislation ever enacted, or threatened, for the metropolis.

A government of the people and by the people, which is direct government in itself, is to be suspended, and, so we are told, conditions issuing from Albany are to be substituted.

This is not a day of rule and ruin government such as we have had in the past. I believe we have been getting nearer honest and efficient government than ever before. It has, at least, ceased to be bought and sold as a commodity, but now there seems to be a prospect of a change, not directed by the people, but by means of political chicanery.

If the threatened legislation aiming to put the department of Greater New York into the hands of Commissions should be successful, who should be held responsible? Upon whom will the people vent their wrath at the coming election? Who ought to be punished for it? As a Republican I blush to say, and it is the first time in many years that I have been compelled to make such a confession, that the Republican majority is in danger of becoming a power for evil. If they ally themselves with Tammany Hall, which seems not unlikely, to accomplish their objects, they will not escape their responsibility.

If one man, or any set of men, undertakes to carry out that Commission scheme, and their names are prominently connected with the Republican party, the whole party must suffer, unless those opposed to the scheme at this juncture rise up and demand that the people shall not be deprived of their government to make places for henchmen or political bosses.

We have a new lot of political tricksters in our party in this city. It is hard to distinguish them from Tammany heelers. The Republican leaders are weak enough to yield to their demands. So it is proposed to make a combination to seize the patronage of Greater New York, and run the government until Greater New York becomes a fact, and perhaps for a generation.

It was through the same forces and in much the same way that Tweed took possession of New York and held it. If we are to have Republican Tweedism we may as well know it first as last and barricade against it

Greater New York should be above politics, and should not be used as an entering wedge for a Republican ring. All political rings are the same, and the danger from them is equal, whether it be a Tweed ring, a Tammany ring or a Republican ring.

JOHN SABINE SMITH.