HOME AGAIN!

Wheeling People Return from Trips to Mexico and Cuba,

MANY INTERESTING FEATURES

NOTED BY DR. J. C. HUPP, WHO WAS ONE OF A PARTY OF MARDI GRAS EXCURSIONISTS TO SPEND SEVERAL DAYS IN MEXICO—MR. WILLIAM ELLINGHAM VISITED HAVANA AND WATCHED THE MAINE DIVERS AT WORK—WHERE OLD ROOSTERS BRING $1.50 A PIECE.

The Wheeling contingent which left the city about the middle of February, on the New Orleans trip and side excursions, is back and feeling amply repaid for the excursion. Yesterday at noon there arrived Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Hupp, Mrs. J. D. Culbertson and Mrs. Joseph Gibbs, and Mr. and Mrs. William Ellingham reached here Monday night. The former party spent considerable time in Mexico, and Mr. and Mrs. Ellingham went as far south as Havana.

Dr. J. C. Hupp was train surgeon of the "Gates tourists," which included in its itinerary the Mardi Gras festivities at New Orleans, and a visit to the City of Mexico, and other points of interest in the Land of the Montezumas. The party left Wheeling February 18, arriving in the Crescent City February 21, and leaving it on the southern journey February 23. The Mexican line was crossed on the return trip March 15. Of the sights seen Dr. Hupp said that they were so bewildering it would be impossible for him to give an idea that would do them even faint justice, when interrogated at his home on Fourteenth street yesterday by an Intelligencer reporter.

Dr. Hupp was especially impressed with the topographical features of Mexico—the mountain peaks tipped with snow and the perilous ascents thereto, the broad sandy plains and long valleys, all so novel and picturesque to a West Virginian as to arouse inexpressible admiration. Another feature was the mode of habitation adopted by the poorer classes—a hole in the wall, so to speak. These huts were built behind a wall that formed an enclosure, the entrance to the low huts being through a wall and so low that one must stoop one's head to enter. Within the enclosure, however, flowers and trees lent a natural beauty to atone for the Mexican's residence. The better classes, of course, said Dr. Hupp, lived on a grander scale, and he felt sure that President Diaz's mansion, on the mountain side, in the City of Mexico, exceeded in elaborateness and richness of decorations and furnishings the White House.

Dr. Hupp was introduced to President Diaz by General Powell Clayton, the United States minister to Mexico, to whom he had a letter of introduction. The Mexican people love their president, and Dr. Hupp said President Diaz had done much for his countrymen. His countrymen need much more, however, added Dr. Hupp, judging by the spectacle they present to the American tourist. They are for the most part dirty and filthy in appearance, and beslege visitors in platoons of repulsive beggars. Many look like Indians, and are of heathenish aspect and habit. Of the ancient ruined cities, and other interesting experiences of thir trip, Dr. Hupp spoke very entertainingly, but to use his own words: "Everything was bewildering and I tired of taking notes, so just laid back and feasted my eyes."

MR. ELLINGHAM TALKS.

Mr. Ellingham's two days in Havana were at an interesting period, taking the Maine controversy into consideration, and, as stated previously, Mr. and Mrs. Ellingham, while in that city, called on General Lee, and were given a cordial reception. That was on March 2 and 3, and Mr. Ellingham improved the time by visiting the Maine, and taking in the sights of Havana. He relates a fact not generally known, which is that no person is allowed to enter Havana until subjected to a quarantine examination, and if vaccinated well, further hindrance is removed, but admission is denied unless vaccinated. If a persons happens to slip past, he is not allowed to leave the city until vaccinated.

Only the masts and some of the Maine's iron work were above water during Mr. Ellingham's stay, and he saw the divers remove one of the bodies of the Maine's unfortunate crew, which was placed alongside about twenty-five others on a flatboat, the latter afterwards being towed over to Key West. American newspaper correspondents send their dispatches from Key West when the Spanish authorities at Havana refuse to allow their transmission. Excitement in Havana was confined chiefly to the American colony, yet there was considerable activity in war circles, and an American visitor was subjected to official surveillance. Mr. Ellingham amusingly tells of being an object of suspicion, because he carried two boxes of cigars along the streets.

Mr. Ellingham is a close observer, and aside from the war cloud, noted the peculiar customs and features evident on Havana's streets. He was struck with the high two-wheeled carts, the spokes of which were thicker than stove pipes, and an insignificant mule hauled these carts over the streets, which were so narrow that hardly two teams could pass. The pavements in the old part of the city were about six inches wide, in the new part twelve inches, and pedestrians coming from opposite directions were forced through fear of a collision to adopt the Populist motto: "Keep in the middle of the road."

The dairy business in Havana is carried on in a manner that does away with the wagon feature. The cows are driven along the streets, and at each customer's house the milkman milks the cow for the necessary quantity of the lacteal fluid. Beggars are as thick as bees, and as irresistible almost as bees when stirred up. Hackmen are generally supposed to know how to bilk tourists, but the Havana Jehus are past masters in this art. As a wholesale grocer, Mr. Ellingham naturally evinced interest in Havana stores, all of which appeared to him to be doing a good business. He was appalled at the price charged for ancient roosters, tough chanticleers that retailed at $1.50 each.

In addition, Mr. Ellingham spent a short while at Tampa, Key West and Jacksonville, Florida. At the latter city he saw the famous fillbuster, the Three Friends, which he said was manned by negroes, who manage occasionally to evade the government vessels and reap a snug profit thereby. The Three Friends easily shows its heels to Uncle Sam's schooners, as it can make thirty miles an hour.

FRIED Oysters and Hot Biscuits will be served at the Second Presbyterian church supper, Thursday evening.

HALLOCK MAY GET IT.

The Wheeling Man was the Lowest Bidder for the Wheeling & Elm Grove Construction Work—Contract Will be Let This Week.

Yesterday afternoon, at the office of Brown & Hazlett, the supervising engineers, the bids for the construction work on the Wheeling & Elm Grove Railway Company's electric line were opened. There were five bidders, as follows:

W. H. Wharton & Son, of Philadelphia.
I. C. McDonald & Co., of Pittsburgh.
J. S. McSpadden & Co., of Pittsburgh.
McConnell & Bevington, of Pittsburgh.
L. G. Hallock, of Wheeling.

When the bids were opened it was found that the lowest of the five was Mr. Hallock's. The bids were handed over to the board of directors of the company, and the contract will likely be let to Mr. Hallock this week.

The work on which the bids were based includes the building of a new line of electric railroad from Fulton bridge, via Center street, through Thompson's fields, crossing the National pike at Stackyard hollow, thence on the company's right of way parallel to the present line, to Seibert's Garden; thence up the center of the National pike to Wheeling Park, including a loop at the park; also the equipping of the present steam road as an electric line, from Sixteenth street to Stackyard hollow, including the overhead work and "bonding" the rails. Where the line crosses a public highway, through Center street, in Fulton, and on the pike from Seibert's to Wheeling Park the tracks will be paved with brick. The contract for the construction of the line on the pike beyond Wheeling Park and to Cecil's station, near Elm Grove, will be let later. On the contract to be let this week, work is to be started as soon as possible, and the road is to be completed, ready for operation on the first of July.

LECTURE ON "CUBA"

Illustrated by Views Given by Rev. S. J. Bogle at Martin's Ferry.

The lecture of Rev. S. J. Bogle, in the Martin's Ferry opera house last night, on "Cuba," was most interesting and instructive, and in it were many things that people generally have not read about Cuba. The house was not crowded, but the audience was very attentive and demonstrative.

Anything American in the views shown electrified the boys in the gallery, as also did pictures of the insurgents, while views of Spanish vessels and other Spanish pictures were hissed vigorously. The patriotism displayed by the audience was remarkable. "Hooray" was quite common among the boys who yelled themselves hoarse.

Rev. Bogle opened his lecture by referring to the patriotism at the beginning of the rebellion. He said that the Spanish have been in possession of the Island of Cuba 400 years. The population before the insurrections was 1,600,000. There was of pure Spanish birth only 20,000 on the Island before the war. Those who are not pure Spanish frequently sympathize with the insurgents, and large numbers of the women are found fighting in the cavalry. There are now only 20,000 negroes left on the island. Most of these are in the insurgent army and make the best of soldiers; they are looked upon favorably.

In the bottom of the Havana harbor there are no sea shells, the bottom being entirely of mud and the water is very filthy. Havana was very wealthy before the insurrection and Spain spent vast sums of money in improvements. The picture of the Maine, before wrecked, brought forth enthusiastic applause and cheering, which was followed by tears, not a few persons using their handkerchiefs, over her ill-fated end.

After a picture of the explosion was shown, Rev. Mr. Bogle said: "You have not paid me enough to-night to tell you what caused that explosion; possibly it was an inside explosion and possibly it was an outside explosion; it is possible that we may know the cause this week." The picture showing Uncle Sam ready for war caused deafening cheers. Rev. Bogle, in referring to Uncle Sam said, "he is sharpening his sword and the expression of his eye shows he is ready."

The Spanish vessels were hissed. The pictures of McKinley, Maceo, Gomez, Lee, and others were greeted with deafening cheers, applause, whistling, "hooray," etc. A high compliment was paid General Lee by the lecturer. A view of the Independent Hose Company was shown and Rev. Bogle predicted that this company would go if war must come.

The system of warfare is very cruel, in Cuba, said Rev. Mr. Bogle. This was particularly true under Weyler. There is not the same measure of cruelty under the present commander. Large numbers of the natives lived on little patches of ground until driven into the fortified towns and cities, and hundreds of the natives have become nothing but skin and bones. Food will not save the lives of large numbers of them. There has never been a real battle there of modern warfare. The insurgents are not systematic, are not organized like most armies and cling to their peculiar style of fighting. It is scarcely possible for the Spanish to ever suppress them. The people of Cuba are easy-going, listless, thoughtless and lazy, owing to the climate, but it is not so with the insurgent soldiers, who are very active.

The last portrait shown of that of the Goddess of Liberty was most heartily received, and the lecture closed with the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," the words appearing on the canvass.

AMUSEMENTS.

The coming of Francis Wilson is the great event of the theatrical season here. It is only within the past three years that this best of all comic opera stars has been seen even in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, and Wheeling is indeed fortunate in securing him for one night. He will bring his entire great production of "Half a King," including the original cast and the same chorus heard in all the large cities. All through the three acts of "Half a King" he is irresistably funny in his role of Tirschappe, the strolling showman. Dainty Lula Glaser is almost as prominent in "Half a King" as the famous comedian himself. As Pierrette she is charming. Her "Wandering Breeze" song which is wafted through the opera so prettily is a beautiful thing. Peter Lang, J. D. Miron, Clinton Elder, Celeste Wyon, Elwood P. Temple and the other principals of this splendid company furnish the best of support.

The story of the opera tells of the finding by Tirschappe, a traveling montebank, of a baby on his door-step, that baby was Pierrette, and all the clue to her identity was a torn half of a playing card—a king—pinned to her clothes. The scene of the opera opens eighteen years after this incident, Pierrette had grown up in Tirschappe's care as his child and traveled with his show. She falls in love and is loved by a nobleman, and in the end discovers that she is highly connected and quite worthy of her lover. The three acts abound in fun and good music and the production is magnificently staged, all the scenery being carried. Tirschappe is king among the mountebanks and the participation of his followers in the plot of the opera is no small part of the story. Their revels in the last act are among the best features of "Half a King." The original New York cast and production, perfect in every detail will be brought for the engagement in this city. Nothing more metropolitan nor magnificent has ever been seen on our local stage. This great performance will be given at the Opera House next Friday.

"SWEET INNISCARRA."

The press has not been slow to appreciate and acknowledge Mr. Chauncey Olcott's ability as an actor and singer, for now he is one of the most successful stars in the dramatic firmament. His personality is pleasing, and from his first appearance on the stage he not only wins his audience but captivates them.

Mr. Olcott is the possessor of a remarkably sweet and highly cultivated tenor voice, and his singing of his own compositions introduced in "Sweet Inniscarra," never fail to charm his hearers. Mr. Olcott's engagement is for one night only, next Monday, at the Opera House.

COL. INGERSOLL COMING.

Colonel "Bob" Ingersoll, as he is familiarly called by young and old, will make his first appearance in this city in many months, next Tuesday evening at the Opera House, on which occasion he will deliver his famous new lecture, "Why I Am An Agnostic," which is the history of his belief in agnosticism from boyhood to the present time. During the colonel's long and successful sojourn on the lecture platform he has had many funny experiences, but one he had the other day in New York with a newsboy is really worth telling. It runs something like this:

The colonel and a friend were just coming out of the Astor House, after eating luncheon, when a most forlorn looking specimen of the genus newsboy approached the great agnostic. He was about three feet tall, cross-eyed and bore the high sounding title of "Rooster." "Take a paper, sir?" he asked, "take a paper, all erbout Ingersawl." "Ingersoll," said the genial colonel, smiling and becoming interested, "what's he been doing?" "I dunno, sir," said "Rooster" helplessly, "but someting orful I expect." The colonel and his friend burst out laughing and the colonel handed the boy a quarter, telling him to keep the change. It's needless to say that the urchin was overwhelmed with delight.

THE GLADIATOR."

It is remarkable that during Lent, which is usually bad for theatrical companies, Mr. Robert Downing is playing to the capacity each night. The fact that he is playing "Damon and Pythias" in many of the cities may account for part of the business, for it is this grand play on which the order of Knights of Pythias is founded, and the beauties of the order are exemplified in the play. He gives "Ingomar" at the Opera House next Saturday afternoon, and "The Gladiator" in the evening.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Strangers in the City and Wheeling People Abroad.

Mrs. John P. Glass has returned home from a two weeks' visit at Washington, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Metz, of 1104 Main street, have left for New York and Philadelphia on a two weeks' business trip.

Mr. H. H. McLeod, of Boston, has taken charge of the carpet and drapery department of House & Herrmann's establishment. Mr. McLeod comes to the firm admirably equipped for his department, having had fifteen years' experience with one of the largest business concerns of Boston.

Frank Booth, who is sojourning at Asheville, N. C., writes to his brother Captain Asa Booth about the great southern resort, and mentions having met Frank Stanton, who, he says, is recuperating in a remarkable manner from his illness, a fact that is attested by the five mile ramble he takes every morning.

DON'T fail to go to the supper and bazaar at the Second Presbyterian church, Thursday evening.

DIED.

KLETT—On Monday, March 21, 1898, at 9:20 p. m., JOHN F. KLETT, aged 53 years. Funeral from his late residence, 109 South Front street, on Thursday at 2 p. m. Friends of the family respectfully invited. Interment private at Greenwood cemetery.

JOHNSON—On Tuesday, March 22, 1898, at 3 o'clock p. m., ROBERT W. JOHNSON, aged 46 years, 1 month and 24 days.

Funeral notice hereafter.