

cannot be looked upon as having immediate interests or offering encouragement to it.

In 1896 the three great commercial powers of Europe purchased for their own consumption products of the Spanish West Indies to the value of \$5,525,941, and these products (outside of tobacco) were largely obtained from Puerto Rico. In the same year they exported to these islands commodities to the value of \$7,255,621, making a total transaction of \$12,781,562—a sum not equal to the annual commerce of the United States with Switzerland. As the year 1896 was an unfavorable year, it will be interesting to take the years of largest transactions with each country since 1886. The total imports from the Spanish West Indies on this calculation were \$7,506,703, and the exports were \$17,848,968, or a total movement of merchandise of \$25,355,671. Such a comparison is of interest as showing it is the export trade from Europe to these islands that has suffered by the insurrection, while the import interests, though seriously affected, have better withstood the stress of war. It is also of interest as proving that Spain, in 1896, when food and munitions of war had increased her exports of merchandise beyond the average, did not enjoy a larger market in Cuba than the three powers of Europe had held in the best years in the two islands. For in 1896 Spain sent to Cuba in merchandise \$28,892,000, and received from Cuba only \$4,379,643. To such a pass has the commercial policy of the mother-country brought her trade with the dependency.

In Europe Cuba finds a very limited market for her chief product, sugar, and this market is yearly becoming smaller through the strenuous and successful, though costly, effort of four countries to produce sufficient beet sugar to meet the possible requirements of all Europe. It is to the United States alone that Cuba can sell her cane product, and this one circumstance brings the island into closer commercial relations with us than with the mother-country and all Europe combined. The limit of the possibilities of growing sugar in the island has never been fully tested. The abolition of slavery in the French and British sugar colonies introduced such a disturbing influence in their labor arrangements as to give Cuba, where slavery and the equally vicious coolie system continued until absolutely abolished in 1886, a great opening in developing the sugar industry. In 1886 the crop was placed at 700,000 tons; in 1893 it had increased to 840,000 tons—not striking increase, considering the stimulus offered by free sugar in the United States. The next year the crop rose to 1,087,000 tons—high-water mark—nearly equalled in 1895 to 1,040,000 tons. The insurrection ruined the sugar interest, bringing the production down to 240,000 tons in 1896, and almost crushing it out in 1897.

Nearly all the tobacco is taken by the United States. The export of leaf in 1893 was placed at 227,865 boxes, of cigars 147,365,000, and a very large quantity—45,000,000 packages—of cigarettes. Woods (chiefly mahogany), honey, wax, and fruits make up the balance of Cuban exports. The total trade of Cuba for three years, as given in official documents, was—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1892.....	\$62,101,682	\$85,015,228
1894.....	\$1,370,000	104,638,000
1895.....	69,574,689	105,249,000

The returns of the largest trade year with England, France, and Germany show that these three countries took about 7 per cent. of the total exports from Cuba, and supplied 20 per cent. of the imports. Including Spain's share in the trade of the island, we find that the four nations took about one-tenth of Cuba's exports, and supplied nearly one-half of her imports.

To this point the commercial interests of Europe in Cuba have alone been considered. It now remains to show the position occupied by the United States.*

The trade of Cuba with the United States increased most rapidly between 1871 and 1880. While the average annual import into the United States from 1861-70 was \$38,219,500, the average from 1871-80 was \$65,970,300, an increase of 72.6 per cent. The high-water mark was reached in 1874 with \$85,438,097, a figure never approached before or since that year. Just twenty years later, in 1893, the value of the imports rose to \$78,706,506, a second record in this commerce; but in the interval the ten-year average had fallen from the \$65,970,300 of 1871-80 to \$55,436,360 of 1881-90, and \$69,380,400 for the five years 1891-5. These figures alone show that it is the United States, and not Europe, that has given Cuba its commercial standing and opportunity.

This trade is, however, curiously restricted on the part of Cuba, for it rests upon three articles—sugar, tobacco, and fruits. In only one of these articles may Cuba be said to possess a monopoly—tobacco. All attempts to produce "Havana" tobacco elsewhere have failed, as the plant undergoes some change when transferred to other soils. While it is well known that much of the leaf coming as "Havana" is really a product of Puerto Rico, made up into cigars in Cuba, yet the tobacco of the Cuban valley holds a natural and deserved eminence over other qualities. The quantity imported in 1896—26,748,911 pounds—was the largest transaction in a single year, representing a value of \$10,549,030, and constituting 97 per cent. of the total import of leaf, other than wrappers. Nearly \$3,000,000 more as manufactured tobacco, chiefly cigars, is brought in from Cuba under ordinary conditions. A rough estimate would give the number of cigars thus imported from Cuba at 52,000,000, constituting a small number when compared with the domestic product, 4,000,000,000 in 1897, yet exercising a very important influence in the market.

In supplying the United States with fruits Cuba occupied a secondary position. In bananas the British West Indies and Central America surpassed her, and the oranges and coconuts of the island could not compete in quality with like products of the neighboring countries, like Mexico and Colombia, or of the British islands. In other lines, such as asphaltum, hides and skins, vegetables, and cabinet woods, Cuba held very important but by no means dominant position in our imports, and would hardly be appreciably missed were the trade in these articles to cease, as indeed it has done to a great extent since 1896. The iron ore from Cuba is the only quality of ore brought into the United States in large quantities, having

* The trade returns of European countries are for calendar years; those of the United States are for fiscal years, from July 1 to June 30.

a composition peculiarly fitting it for use in the furnaces of the coast.

So that, when sifted down, the commerce of the United States with Cuba rests upon two items, tobacco and sugar, and of these the more important is sugar. In 1894, when the proposal to restore a duty upon imported sugar was pending, and the world was searched for raw sugars to be landed in the United States before the duty became effective, Cuba supplied 2,274,135,000 pounds. When it is stated that the importations ranking next in importance were 305,855,000 pounds from the Hawaiian Islands and 258,958,000 pounds from Germany, it is easily seen what the sugar of Cuba meant to the United States. In the twelve months of 1894 the imports of raw sugars from all sources were 3,482,093,321 pounds, of which 313,116,052 pounds were the product of the beet root. Thus Cuba supplied 71 per cent. of the total cane imports, and 65 per cent. of the total sugars.

Nothing can bring into clearer light the terrible results of the insurrection to the commercial interests of the island than a comparison of the movement of sugar in 1897 with that of 1894. It is well known how both Spanish and Cubans sought to produce a moral as well as physical effect by preventing the planting and gathering of the cane. Only the trade returns can give some appreciation of the destructive effect of this policy. In 1897 Cuba sent to the United States 420,490,000 pounds of raw sugar, or less than one-fifth the quantity sent in 1894. Among cane-producing countries this import was exceeded by the Hawaiian Islands and the British East Indies. Cuba supplied only 14 per cent. of the total imports of cane sugar, and less than 10 per cent. of the imports of all raw sugars. In place of receiving \$63,000,000 for the sugar exported to the United States, as it did in 1894, Cuba received only \$10,000,000 for its sending in 1897. The ability of the island to pay its charges of debt and administration, and to feed the "carpet-buggers" and absentee planters, to support a host of useless but hungry and rapacious officials sent out from Spain, depended upon this remittance for sugar and tobacco to the United States. At least \$55,000,000 a year has been lost to Cuba in these two articles alone, and an island rich in tested possibilities is doomed to an economic destruction while Spain holds dominion.

For it is the market of the United States alone that can make Cuba bloom into profit. All Europe combined cannot do it, as the one great interest of the island competes with a special industry of Continental Europe—the beet-root industry—an economic nightmare that has more than once threatened the state treasuries with ruin, and produced more diplomatic negotiation than could a question of territory. The huge overfattened monstrosity which each nation hoped to use offensively against its neighbors has turned upon its creators, and would veto any proposition to give Cuba even a small part of the home market. All Europe, too, is combined against the free sale of the second large item in Cuban economy, for the state monopoly (*régie*) in the leading nations of the Continent control with an iron hand the import, manufacture, and sale of the weed. No statesmanship based upon sentiment or upon economic considerations on the part of Europe can give Cuba what she needs, and what she must have if she is to remain a factor in the world's commerce. No decree of Spain, no system of tariff duties or navigation regulations, or commercial prohibition, can have effect in affecting this overshadowing influence of the United States over the commercial destinies of Cuba.

In the supply of Cuba with her chief needs in food and machinery the United States should also stand first. A natural protection of distance, as well as a natural advantage in production, should establish this commerce on grounds which no other country could well contest unless favored by tariff laws that would work more injury to the producers than benefit to the monopolists. In 1894, a year of fair trade, the exports from the United States to Cuba were \$19,855,237. Of this total more than one-half was composed of machinery and iron and steel in various forms, breadstuffs and provisions, wood and coal. Of articles of minor importance the movement was large, but need not be specified; for the opportunities for increasing the export must first lie with food (especially flour) and machinery. With the pacification of the island the demand will develop in many directions; and with the burdensome and discriminating customs duties repealed, the United States should be in a position to avail itself of its natural ability to enjoy the offerings of the Cuban market.

Nor is the question of annexation closely connected with this commercial supremacy. As a dependency of another power, and under a system of misadministration, Cuba developed into its commercial eminence; and even those adverse influences could not seriously interfere with this development. As an independent power, working out its own political salvation, the economic ability would still remain, and probably be even more active when the trammels of the Spanish commercial policy have been laid aside. The immense sales of sugar and tobacco and the ever-increasing demand in the United States for tropical fruits would give Cuba a commercial standing and financial credit that would be a guarantee of power and safety. As a Territory or a State of the Union, Cuba could only bring with it a train of political and financial problems of serious import and high difficulty.

ROSE DATES.

Few persons who are more than a little fond of particular varieties of roses are aware of how recent is a really strong individuality in foreign varieties of their favorite flower.

The "Gloire de Dijon" dates from 1833. The "General Jacqueminot" was offered to the public in 1859. The "Marschal Niel" (which beautiful rose seems lately unjustly out of vogue) was perfected in 1864. "La France" came in 1868. The "Madame Isaac-Pereire" is of 1880.

"La Reine" is almost the oldest of the hybrids still beloved, having been successful in 1843.

The new and assumed varieties now put forth annually still reach the number of seventy or eighty. But the majority of them have no decisive characteristics to enable them to hold their own against others. The "American Beauty" and "Catherine Mermet" are the most significant additions within a few seasons to the general catalogue, and not yet in universal favor.

ART.

NOTES AT THE SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

It is impossible not to feel that this exhibition compares unfavorably with those of other societies that have been recently held. Whereas they have possessed the qualities of progressiveness, not in the direction of following new fads, but in the sounder one of higher aims and maturer fulfillment, the Academy, as represented by the present exhibition, is open to the charge of perfunctoriness, mediocrity, and, in certain cases, of trashiness. The younger and stronger elements, which are its chief hopes, have not on this occasion come forward in sufficient numbers or with sufficient force to vitalize the dead wood. There is a dreary dead level of apathy, from which one is too often startled into a feeling of painful surprise that the committee should have presumed so far upon the credulity or indifference of the public as to permit the hanging of certain pictures. On the other hand, there are a few exhibits which speak with such authority that the impression left by the whole exhibition is mainly a remembrance of them.

One of these is Mr. J. Carroll Beckwith's "Portrait of Mrs. Beckwith." The lady stands in front of a gilded chair upholstered in crimson damask. She is dressed in black skirt with a bodice of deep blue velvet, a hat and muff of brown fur. The pose is very dignified, and the general air gracious and womanly. The textures throughout are painted with magnificent assurance, and the picture, as a whole, is full of force and persuasive charm. The same qualities are apparent in Mr. Walter Shirraw's "In Church"—the figure of a lady in black sitting on a bench of time-stained oak, with a quaintly fashioned hat tied with ribbons under the chin of a sweet and serious face. The hands are crossed, one holding a handkerchief, and the other lying upon an open book. The picture is a beautiful example of Mr. Shirraw's matured and earnest method. There is a sober luxury in the blending of the rich dark tones, relieved by a delicate animation of reflected lights, and little accidents or studied surprises of effect. Out of the strenuous earnestness of this well-pondered harmony of deep tones the face and hands steal out with a tenderness, almost playfulness, that is quite bewitching. The Hildgarden Prize of \$300, for the best picture in oil-colors painted in the United States, by an American citizen under thirty-five years of age, is awarded this year to Mr. Robert Reid for his "Dawn." This is a ceiling panel, about eight by six feet, representing the rosy-fingered goddess stepping into her chariot, and lighting her torch from the flame-bowl held by another girlish figure. The latter symbolizes the source of light; at the same time, of life, for a little child is nestling at her feet; and of beauty also, as suggested by a peacock. The picture is finely composed, with large masses and fluent lines of movement, and the coloring is dainty, animated, and yet very dignified. The girlish figures are exquisitely pure and beautiful in type, and accord well with the symbolical subject and the sensitive grace with which it is treated.

"In the Studio," by Mr. William M. Chase, has all the spontaneity and freshness which characterize his pictures, and is carried further than many, with a brilliant arrangement of color that is thoroughly decorative. The Thomas B. Clarke Prize of \$300, for the best American figure composition painted in the United States by an American citizen, without limit of age, has been given to Mr. Abbott H. Thayer. It is rather a stretching of terms to call his portrait of a lady, shown as far as the waist, a "figure composition"; and the work, though very serious in intention, has been scarcely carried to the point of completion. There is much force shown in the conception and treatment, and a charming sentiment runs through the picture; but the face, notwithstanding its great beauty, is much marred by the almost brutal indication of shadows. One of the most agreeable canvases is a "Child Sewing," by Mr. Frank W. Benson. It is tender and sparkling in color, the face and pose are lovably childlike, and although little more than a sketch, it is painted with wonderful decision, and from the requisite distance counts as a very beautiful picture. Mr. Edgar M. Ward contributes one of his brilliant records of factually arranged facts, under the title of the "Coppersmith"; and Mr. J. G. Brown a strongly executed record of facts, as his fancy sees them—two gamins playing with a dog.

The most important landscape is the late Mr. William L. Picknell's "Banks of the Loing," a stretch of river, with towing-path on one side and hills on the other, bathed in warm sunshine, and full of the health and peacefulness of country. Mr. Howard Russell Butler, whose election as an Associate of the National Academy is announced, is represented by "The Sea at Evening," a very important and beautiful picture of rosy sky and curling waves, limpid as well as opalescent. "A Spring Idyl," by Mr. George H. Sullie, is a grateful piece of fresh and vigorous painting, and "A Moonlight Night," a good example of luminous gloom, such as Mr. Louis Paul Dessau depicts with so much feeling and truthfulness. The "Sunshine," by Mr. B. West Clinedinst, is almost more of a decorative panel than a landscape, for it is painted very nearly on one plane; but it is very charming, composed with a certain demure playfulness, and warm and vivacious in color. Mr. C. Harry Eaton's "By the old Bridge" is a pleasing landscape, full of cool lush vegetation; and Mr. S. M. Laurence's "Setting Sun, Coast of Cornwall," a glow of misty colors, very lovely, but covering possibly too much canvas for the subject. "Moonrise in August" is an example of Mr. W. A. Coffin's earnest study of nature, caught as it were in her secret moments when none but the poet or the artist is allowed to pry upon her. Mr. J. H. Trachtman shows a remarkable picture of "Niagara Falls," in which the plunge of the torrent, contrasting cloud of spray, and the slip and fall of the smaller streams of water are finely expressed. Color, movement, weight, are all depicted, though, as seen at night, the picture seems to be deficient in moisture. In "Spirit of the Night," a naked child standing with uplifted hands in front of a stretch of silvery sea, Mr. Alexander Harrison has conceived a beautiful thought, but scarcely expressed it fully. The reason may be the want of beauty in the child's figure, which disagreeably attracts the eye. Still, it is a picture for which one is grateful. One more landscape must be mentioned in this brief summary—"The Mill-Pond," by Mr. J. Appleton Brown, graciously tranquil and tender. CHARLES H. CAFFIN.