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***Stephen Crane Makes Observations in Cuba's Capital***

HAVANA, Sept. 20.—Well, it seems that the American regulars are not going to march up Obispo street for some time. War is long, and it makes no provision for impatient and exasperated patriots who refuse to attend strictly to their own affairs. Those of us who are waiting here to see the regulars march up Obispo street can wait and be damned. We thoroughly understand that part of it, and the present expression is intended more as a wail of anguish than as a plea to which anybody is likely to pay the slightest heed.

Still there are some things which might be said. In the first place, any intelligent person can see that the Spaniard is making a laudable effort to take every possible dollar out of Cuba before leaving it. His policy is necessarily a policy of delay. The longer he can stay the more Cuban millions will he take back to Spain. He is in no hurry; he doesn't want to talk to a commission; he wants to collect duties and taxes.

Of course, we are a very generous people, and we so want to be kind to our fallen enemy that we hesitate to interrupt him in his occupation of robbing the populace of Cuba. That is all very charming as a sentiment, but it is doubtful if Bismarck's stern, quick terms to a conquered France were not more truly merciful than this buttermilk policy of ours. The intellectual result so far has been to produce here, at least, a state of absolute stupefaction. It is impossible to halt the economy of a country while a number of duly accredited gentlemen exchange notes. Yet that is what we are performing with great success. The next three months are likely to be more disastrous for Cuba than were the months of the war. The war was a tangible condition, plain as your nose. The present situation is a blank mystery. Merchants grope blindly, afraid to advance a step in any direction. Business pauses, waits. Business is the name for a process of exchange by which people are enabled to procure those things which support and protect life.

If a man lacks a spine it is not of a surety his privilege to enter heaven without challenge as a just and charitable spirit. The lack of a spine is not mentioned by any available authority as the supreme virtue of mankind. What we mistake for generous feeling for our late enemy is more than half the time merely a certain governmental childishness, and it benefits the Spaniard no more than it benefits us, and as for the inhabitant of this island, he finds a grim and inexplicable fate fall from a sky which he thought was the sky of promise.

In our next war our first bit of strategy should be to have the army and the navy combine in an assault on Washington. If we could once take and sack Washington the rest of the conflict would be simple.