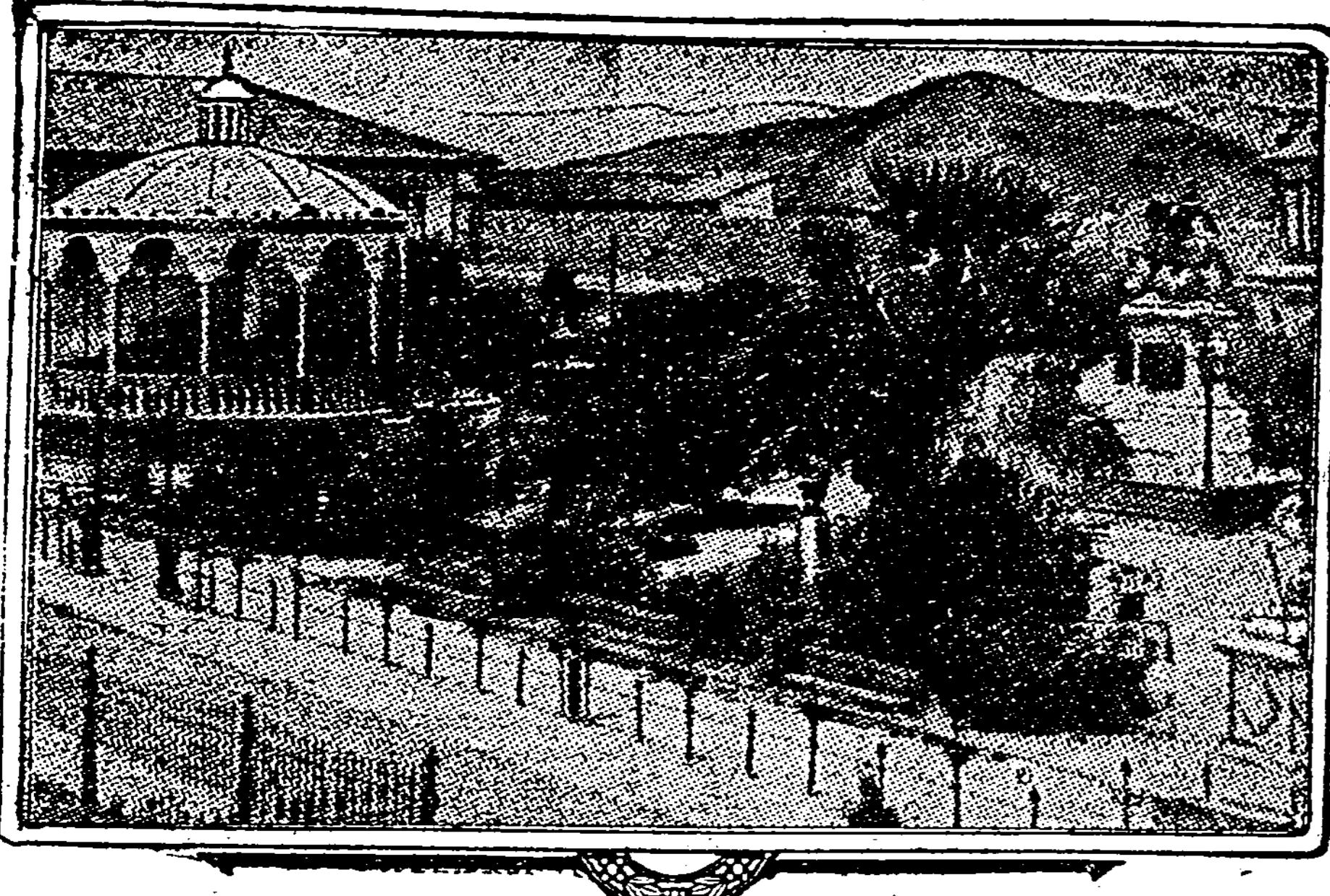


GEN. LEE CHRISTMAS, A DUMAS HERO IN REAL LIFE



The Capital of Honduras, Tegucigalpa.

GEN. LEE CHRISTMAS, the most spectacular figure in Central America to-day, became a soldier of fortune because he could not distinguish a red from a green switch light.

Born in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, Christmas grew up nursing a well-grounded ambition to become an engineer on one of the big eight-driver passenger engines of the Illinois Central Railroad, and almost succeeded. At that time the road was developing the fast express banana train business out of New Orleans. The engine piloted by Christmas drew many of these trains.

One day the engineers on the New Orleans Division were ordered to report to a New Orleans oculist for examination. The boys were in happy mood. It was merely a new bit of red tape which the "old man" had devised, so they thought, and they liked the "old man."

Christmas came in late and took up his position at the end of the line. Casey, Carroll, and the other boys got their O. K. slips and hurried away. Then came Christmas's turn.

The first test was enough. He had lost his sense of color and could not tell a danger light from a clear track light. In an instant both hope and the ambition of a lifetime faded away—he could never hold the throttle of an eight-driver passenger engine, or of any other engine, again, and Christmas turned to the nearby window to hide his emotion.

Down below were the tops of the lower buildings and below these the crowded streets. He saw many men whose occupations had not flown out of a window as his had just done. He leaned a bit. The drop was sheer fifty feet to the stone pavement, a hard landing, to be sure, but, oh! so certain. Why not? The oculist who had watched the man closely spoke to him. He turned. The vision of the pavement below gone, Christmas changed his mind and left the building.

He had much to think of. How could a color-blind engineer make a living? Where should he turn first? He walked away

from the congested streets. The voice of the harbor called him. It led away somewhere. The aroma of bananas caught his nostrils. A steamer preparing to sail attracted him. He walked aboard and leaned over the sea rail.

An hour later, when the ship was well on her way, the purser touched Christmas on the shoulder and asked for his ticket. Christmas in turn inquired as to what part of the world the ship was going and paid the amazed purser a fare to the first port of call. It happened to be Puerto Cortes, Honduras.

A fresh revolution had just broken out in Honduras. Both sides needed recruits, and soldiers of fortune from the States were in greater demand than supply. Manuel Bonilla found Christmas first. And this is why Christmas became Manuel's best friend and Policarpo Bonilla's worst enemy.

New Orleans draws the Central American exile as the Great White Way draws the actor out of a job. It is the home of the original junta. There are colonies of them here, and the newcomers find a warm and sympathetic welcome. They have their favorite cafes, where the sins of their enemies are rehearsed and where the Ways and Means Committee of each particular set of "outs" works ceaselessly to get them "in" again. Here the big plans are hatched. Newspaper Row long ago learned to watch the gaff tables, not the news cables, for signs of fresh trouble.

New Orleans being the goal and place of hibernation for the Central American exile, and also the nearest New American large port, is the logical point for the soldier of fortune, with an eye on the little republic to the southward, to drop in on, as at least one of the little countries is always available as a scene of activity for the incipient Napoleon. Many a Cuban campaign against the mother country was planned in a certain cafe not far below Canal Street.

In the early fifties William Walker journeyed down the Mississippi River from Tennessee, and as a reporter on one of the New Orleans newspapers got in

touch with some of the Central American exiles and became a soldier of fortune. The history of his remarkable career as a bold filibuster, both in Central America and in Lower California, where he attempted to found the "Pacific Republic," and ultimately his capture by the commander of the British warship Icarus and his death by court-martial at the hands of the Honduran Government in 1860, reads like a romance. There have been many William Walkers who have played leading roles in Central American affairs. Lee Christmas is a typical soldier of fortune, but thus far his best fortune has



Gen. Lee Christmas, Soldier of Fortune.

How a Visit to an Oculist Changed Him from a Humdrum New Orleans Engineer to an Adventurer and Soldier of Fortune in Honduras.

the firing squad got down to business. On being asked if he had anything to say before the order to fire was given, he replied: "Yes. I do not want my body buried. I want it to remain on top of the ground." This strange request excited the curiosity of his cronies, and they inquired why. This was the very question he had planned to induce his jailers to ask, and he hissed back: "Because I want the buzzards to eat me and then scatter my remains all over every one of you."

This insult, terrible to the ears of the Nicaraguans, so angered and enraged them that they decided to retaliate with some strange and extraordinary punishment on Christmas before they killed him, but could not agree among themselves as to what form it should take. Some wanted to punch out his eyes. Others wanted to peel his skin off in small strips. They wrangled, then quarreled, and lost time, and while they wrangled a party of Hondurans arrived, fell upon them, drove them away, and rescued the hard-pressed soldier of fortune.

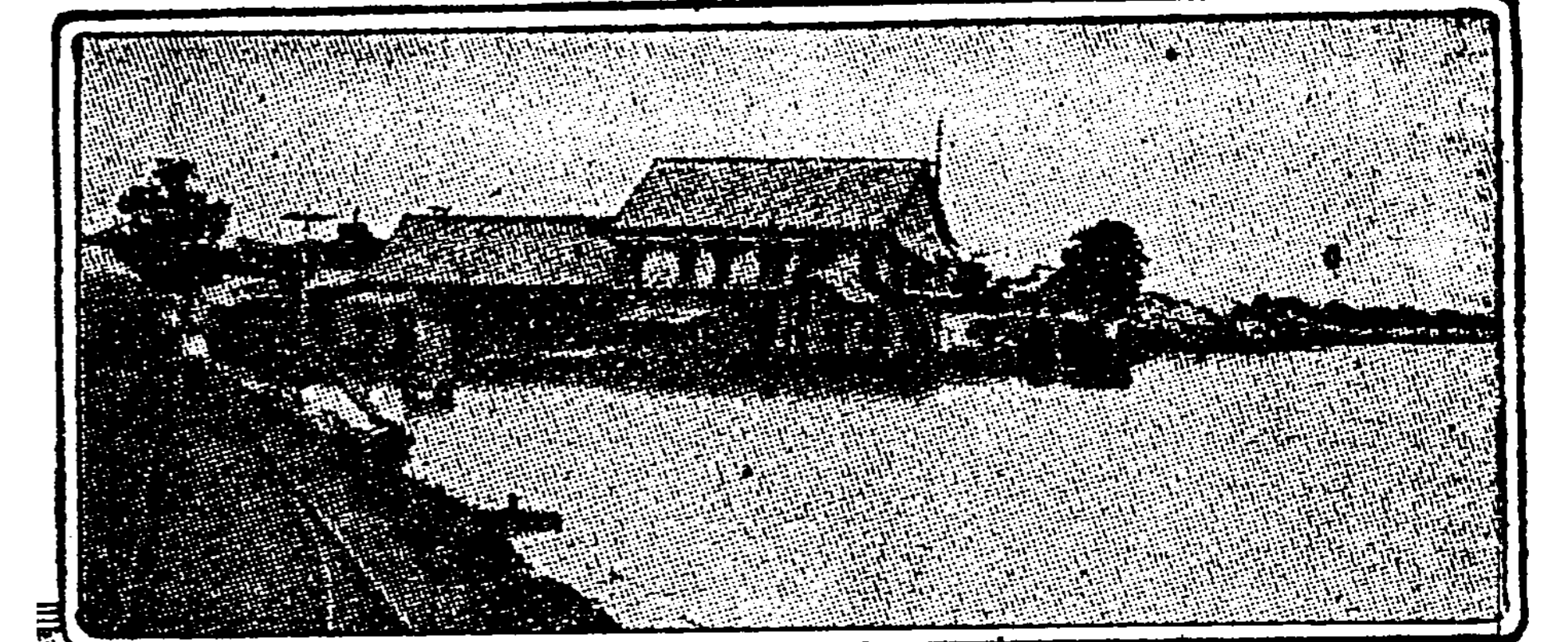
Christmas has been shot and badly wounded several times. Once he was stabbed by a party of his enemies who

and the wedding bells were about to ring when Policarpo decided that he did not desire mixed blood in his family, and placed the facts before the mother of the two young ladies. She agreed with Policarpo and broke up the match between her younger daughter and Manuel. Manuel swore vengeance.

Manuel lost no time in going into voluntary exile in Salvador. Salvador harbored many Honduran malcontents, and the revolution that put President Sierra in power and Policarpo in jail was quickly organized.

Sierra lasted only a little while. He was succeeded by Señor Arias, who managed to hold the reins for just three months, Manuel Bonilla at the head of a strong force putting him out of business in short order. Manuel then became President, and it is said it had more to do with his country than had been done by all his predecessors.

He is credited with being a good soldier and possessing some of the qualities of statesmanship, all of which he turned to account in behalf of Honduras. The tariffs were reduced and the people were relieved of some of the burden of heavy taxation they had long suffered under.



Puerto Cortes, the Principal Gulf Port of Honduras.



Soldiers Guarding a Bullion Train During a Revolution.



Miguel R. Davila, President of Honduras.

row. Policarpo was soon found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment, where he remained until early in 1906, when it was thought, his power had been forever broken. Policarpo then became an exile and moved across the border into Salvador.

Things became awfully dull in Honduras for a white man when there is no revolution under way, and Christmas soon began to look around. He still held his commission in the army. At that time President Castro needed some recruits in the shape of able-bodied American soldiers of fortune, and negotiations were opened between Christmas and the little dictator of Venezuela.

In the meantime Christmas moved to Puerto Cortes and began earning a living as a train dispatcher for the Honduras Railroad. But before the negotiations that were intended to attach him to Castro were completed, the revolution in Honduras promoted by Zelaya broke out, and Christmas gave up his job and went to the front.

Things became lively and the soldier of fortune was again in his glory. But his friend Manuel Bonilla's armies were defeated, and Christmas fell into the hands of his enemies. He became a prisoner of the Nicaraguans in Tegucigalpa, and realized that he would be sentenced to death.

A few mornings later he was not surprised when he was marched out and told he would be "stood up against the wall," where were old scores to be settled, and he expected no mercy, and so he had planned to lurk in his enemies in the true Latin way just before

to assassinate him. But being a strong man and temperate in his habits, his wounds healed quickly, leaving him none the worse.

When Davila became dictator in Honduras Christmas could no longer live there, and moved into Guatemala, earning a living as a promoter, and when the promoting business became dull, working as a railroad engineer. But all of the time his eye was on Honduras, and the desire to get back there with the winning party was constantly uppermost in his mind.

The Honduran treasury is bankrupt, but its natural resources are the wonder of all Central America. Its Presidents could not dissipate the natural resources because they are undeveloped. During the past twenty years the little republic has been torn by revolutions and it has always been a case of the victor belongs the spoils.

Throughout the troublous times the two Bonillas, Policarpo and Manuel, have played stellar roles in peace, which was brief, and in war, which was frequent. They do not belong to the same family, nor are they related, even distantly. Once they were close friends, but nearly a generation ago a love affair broke up the friendship.

It appears that Policarpo Bonilla is of pure Castilian descent, while Manuel Bonilla, is of swarthy complexion, and is said to be part Indian. This difference in the family trees did not interfere with the friendship of the two men until they began to pay court to two sisters.

The suits of the two lovers prospered

Peace continued several years. At the end of seven years Manuel was driven out, despite his many friends in Honduras. Policarpo Bonilla stirred up trouble for himself by permitting his friend, President Zelaya of Nicaragua, to claim sovereignty over a large strip of Honduran territory on the Nicaraguan border. On becoming President, Manuel Bonilla reasserted Honduran sovereignty over this strip. This act, because Zelaya had given the disputed territory to a Pittsburg syndicate in the shape of a concession, King Alfonso of Spain was named as arbitrator and decided in favor of Honduras. This turned the concession holders against Zelaya, and the matter was laid before the United States Government.

Manuel Bonilla did not want the Washington authorities to begin strutting up and down, and attempted to adjust matters with the Pittsburg people. Zelaya, Policarpo's friend, stood in the way, and Manuel decided to eliminate him from the situation.

Here is where Policarpo Bonilla again broke into the game. He had been released from the Tegucigalpa prison in 1908 on the understanding he would leave the country and keep out of a future war. Naturally, he turned to his friend Zelaya, and the two hatched a revolution to overthrow Manuel and replace Policarpo in power.

Manuel promptly prepared for trouble and sent a near friend up to the States on the first fruit steamer to buy munitions of war. For the purpose he gave his friend a New York draft for a substantial amount, but the money never went for the purpose intended.

The Nicaraguan Army, under command of Gen. Estrada, now President of Nicaragua, but then commander at Bluefields, captured the coast towns and began a march to the interior. In the meantime, Bonilla was making a desperate resistance to an army which had crossed the border from Nicaragua, and at the critical moment, while relying upon the assistance of a large force of allies from Salvador, the allies refused to face the Nicaraguans and revolutionists, with the result that Bonilla's army deserted and he fled to Amapala, whence he finally made his way to Mexico, and thence to Belize, British Honduras, where for three years he played the role of a peaceful planter.

Zelaya's plan was to put a temporary President in power and then have a "popular" election, which was to choose Policarpo Bonilla. This provisional President was Davila, and he spelt Zelaya's plans, for, once in office, Zelaya could not get him out without starting a new revolution.

Since then both of the Bonillas have been awaiting the psychological moment to strike a blow and displace Davila. This developed for Manuel Bonilla after Zelaya had been ousted from Nicaragua by Secretary Knox's famous diplomatic note. A source of contention arose in Honduras over what is known as the Morgan "loan." This is a proposition to put the finances of the country on a stable basis, the New York banking firm to advance \$30,000,000 for the purpose.

Honduras is staggering under a debt of near \$100,000,000, due almost entirely to the Honduras Railroad, sixty miles long, planned originally as a transoceanic line, but in operation only from Puerto Cortes to El Pimentito. The bonds and accumulated interest are owing largely to British people, but it is understood that a compromise can easily be arranged, which will eliminate the foreign creditors.

Last June Manuel Bonilla had his plans all made for a revolution, and two filibustering expeditions met him at Glover's Reef, sixty miles from Belize, and they sailed with high hopes to Puerto Cortes.

The expedition proved a failure for two reasons. Gen. Marin, Bonilla's leader in Puerto Cortes, got drunk the night before the expedition was to arrive, started a revolt on his own hook, was killed, and the Government found on his body all the names of the revolutionists, including the plans of some 200 leaders who were to cooperate with the revolutionists at Puerto Cortes, San Pedro, Celba, and other points. The Government immediately arrested most of the revolutionists, many of them being still in jail.

FAMOUS AQUARIUM TO BE ENLARGED

Plans Ready for a Much Larger Structure Needed to Accommodate the Ever-Increasing Throng of Visitors.

NEW YORK is to have a new Aquarium, to be the largest and best equipped institution of the kind in the world. This was announced by Madison Grant, Chairman of the Executive Committee, at the annual meeting of the New York Zoological Society last week when it was stated that the city had asked this Spring for a bond issue for the erection of a new building, absolutely necessary to accommodate the hordes of people who pour into the present building to see the exhibits.

While it has not been officially stated, it is understood that the city will be asked for a total of about \$1,000,000, to be appropriated in installments as needed in addition to the cramped quarters for visitors. The tank space has been found to be inadequate to meet the ambitions of the Zoological Society. To invest the proposed enlarged institution with the best ideas which have been worked out in similar institutions in the large cities of the world, the Director, Dr. Charles H. Townsend, will be sent abroad in a few weeks to inspect the aquariums in Europe. Every worthy institution here to be introduced in the institution here.

The last twelve months have been devoted to a very careful revision of the preliminary plans for the proposed enlargement, and many preliminary questions as to the general contour of the building have been practically settled. They have been submitted to the authorities in preliminary manner, and have met so far only with favorable comment. Advantage will also be taken of the unique opportunity to establish one of the greatest existing biological laboratories in connection therewith. Mr. J. Stewart Barney has been engaged as the architect by the society, and the accompanying plans and elevations were prepared by him, and have been approved by the society.

Owing to an enormous amount of space lost in the present old building on account of the thick walls and bomb-proof compartments, the amount of space actually available for the work of the Aquarium as it now stands is a very small percentage of the amount of area covered by the building. The much needed additional space will be acquired by the removal of the great thick walls and bomb-proof compartments, and by adding two stories to the height of the present structure. This will provide 1,322 running feet of glass, which is practically three times the present capacity, giving approximately 282 tanks. These tanks will be on the main floor and the two galleries running around the entire interior. They will be lighted from above, which will produce conditions nearer those existing in nature, and therefore much better for the welfare of the exhibits. The light, coming down through the water and the glass fronts, throws the exhibition in bold relief, and will give the opportunity of producing beautiful and startling effects for the spectator standing in comparative darkness.

The two galleries will be connected with the main floor and with each other by means of gradients as well as four flights of broad and easy stairs. By this arrangement the problem of handling the enormous crowds on three levels, without the use of elevators, has been solved.

On the main floor provision has been made for three large floor tanks and eight smaller tanks, all of which are large enough for the largest exhibits.

On entering the building through the three large arched openings, and passing through a commodious lobby with all of the necessary coat rooms, retiring rooms, lavatories, emergency rooms, and offices adjacent, the visitor arrives in one vast room, lighted through the roof, which will be built almost entirely of glass. This prominent feature of the new Aquarium is proposed to erect over this room a building on three sides of a court, the two ends of the wings connected on the front by a colonnade. This interior court, which throws light down into the centre of the main Aquarium below, and which, taken in connection with the colonnade across the front, will be treated with open air aquatic exhibits, will be in a sense a garden or patio. It is proposed to use the top of the great fortification walls facing the sea, which have a thickness of fourteen feet, as an open air promenade, giving to the people additional breathing space and a magnificent view of the bay. This promenade is reached by staircases built on the outside of the building. The roof of this building lends itself to a beautiful treatment as a roof garden, and might easily be made an attractive feature for the people of that section of the city.

Castle Garden, the building which the Aquarium now occupies and will continue to occupy, is one of the most picturesque structures in the city. The general government erected it in 1807, when the site was about 300 yards from the main land, a part of Battery Park having since been made by filling up the space between the shore at that time and the island. The structure was first known as Castle Clinton and was a fortress, which accounts for its walls of fourteen feet in thickness, supposed at the time to be bomb-proof.

Fifteen years after its completion its necessity as a means of defense passed away, and the Federal authorities ceded it to the city in 1822. Two years later it was leased to private individuals as a place of amusement, and its floor was laid out elaborately as an indoor garden. A stage was erected at the north side, concerts were given and refreshments were sold to the audience as in case of the less formal musical hall entertainments of the present time. The capacity at that time was 6,000 people accommodated in comfort, but as many as 10,000 have been known to crowd into it at a pinch.

In the thirties it became a playhouse, and in 1847 the Havana Opera Company began an engagement there, singing such operas as "Ernani," "Norma," and "La Sonnambula. Signor Arditi, Patti's conductor, was the musical director, and Signorina Detusco the prima donna.

A later event, however, made Castle Garden famous as a place of amusement. This was the appearance there of Jenny Lind in a concert on Sept. 11, 1850, under the management of P. T. Barnum. To this, and to the fact that the city has welcomed there such distinguished persons as the Marquis de Lafayette, when he returned to America in 1824, Gen. Andrew Jackson, in 1832, and President John Tyler in 1844, the building owes its claim to historical importance and interest.

Castle Garden's career as a theatre ended in May, 1855, when the building was turned into a depot for the reception of immigrants. In 1870 its interior was destroyed by fire, but the thick walls remained intact, and the interior was soon reconstructed. It was turned over to the Park Department and converted into an aquarium about twenty years ago.

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE NEW AQUARIUM AT THE BATTERY.

