

The Late Butchery at Santiago de Cuba.

The Late Gen. Ryan—His Residence in Washington—How He Walked and Talked—His Cuban Services, &c.

From the Washington Star, 8th.

Among the unfortunate men shot to death by order of a Spanish military tribunal at Santiago de Cuba, on Tuesday morning last, the best known in Washington was General W. A. C. Ryan. For over a year past he had made Washington his headquarters, and could be seen almost any day after 11 o'clock in the morning at, or in the vicinity of, the Metropolitan Hotel. His peculiar attire never failed to attract the attention of passers by, and strangers invariably inquired "what man belonged to that big hat" and "stick referring to the tall slouch hat with a wide rim, rakishly turned down on one side, which he wore, and a small-sized sapling of Cuban growth, which he carried. Another peculiarity of the general's got up and surroundings was the presence of a monster spotted bloodhound which generally accompanied him in his promenades on the avenue. He was very fond of the huge brute, and a few weeks ago inserted an advertisement in the *Star*, stating that some one had stolen him, and offering \$50 reward for his return. We believe the big dog never turned up. Ryan dressed handsomely, though rather flashily, and in cold weather wore a large military cape. He had rather a handsome face and good figure and was youthful in appearance, being in fact but twenty-eight years of age when executed. He wore no beard or mustache. His nose was large, but to compensate he had a small mouth. He had an easy, gentlemanly address, talked rapidly and earnestly when interested, and in conversation used unexceptionable English, if occasional forcible expletives were not taken into account. He was born of Irish parents, in New York, and, according to his own account, served in the Union army, and was wounded several times during the war. After the rebellion he joined an expedition to Montana, and claims that he established and for some time conducted the *Montana Herald*, at Helena. Subsequently he made a fortune at mining, which he lost in speculation, and in 1868 came to Washington to accept a commission offered him by Senor Romero, then Mexican minister to the United States, in the Mexican army. The Cuban revolt had just begun and he changed his mind and went to Cuba. He served some time in the patriot army, in the capacity, as he claimed, of chief of cavalry. He then came to the United States by order of Oespedes to organize expeditions, and accompanied several to the island. He was with the *Rannie* expedition, and was charged by many with cowardice in returning to the United States, and in causing the vessel to be reefed. This latter charge he indignantly denied, placing the entire blame on Captain Brown, of the *Rannie*. He gave as a reason for not accompanying the troops to the interior of the island that he was dangerously sick with black vomit, and wholly unable to leave his berth during the voyage. He also alleged that an attempt was made on his life while on board the *Rannie*, and showed a dent in a Grand Army medal which he wore where the point of the assassin's dagger struck. He was in bad odor after this with many Cubans in New York, but was recognized as a friend of Cuba by Madame Ville Verde, the President of "The Daughters of Cuba," Ramon Oespedes, Minister from Cuba, and later by General Quesada. He was arrested a number of times by the New York authorities for violating the neutrality laws, but generally managed to secure his release after a brief imprisonment. Just before sailing from New York, a few weeks ago, he was again arrested, but was released in time to sail for Cuba with General Verona and others.

Ryan was a pleasant, social person to meet, but many of his statements were always taken by those who knew him *own grano salis*. He got into a number of personal difficulties while in Washington, one of his last occurring on a street car, in consequence, as Ryan alleged, of the conductor demanding fare twice. The case, which came before the Police Court, was reported in the *Star*, and it will be remembered that Ryan was fined \$10 for assault and battery. He always seemed to have plenty of money, which he spent freely. He drank, but seldom to excess, and was a man of considerable education and general intelligence. He spoke the Spanish language quite fluently, having acquired it while in Cuba.