

PORTO OUR FUTURE RICO POSSESSION

Regardless of the differing views as to our ultimate disposition of island territory taken from Spain, it is thought by many that the United States will hold Porto Rico. By doing so we will acquire one of the garden spots of the tropics, for in many re-

Augustine; and they are similar to those of Havana before her walls were torn down. The peninsula upon which the morro and the lighthouse stand is thrust out into the sea, on one side breasting the thundering surges of the Caribbean, and on the other guarding



MAP SHOWING PORTO RICO AND NEIGHBORING WATERS.

spects Porto Rico is the real gem of the Antilles. Men who have lately traveled in this beautiful island agree in expressing surprise that so little is known concerning its many wonders and charms.

About 1,000 miles due southeast from Havana, 500 from Cape Maisi, the east-



FORTIFICATION AT SAN JUAN.

ern tip of Cuba, opens northward the magnificent harbor of San Juan de Puerto Rico—Saint John of the Rico, or Noble Port, distant from New York about 1,000 miles, and from the Danish island of St. Thomas but sixty miles, the last-named lying that much farther to the eastward.

Porto Rico was discovered by Columbus, in 1493, on his second voyage, when on his way from the southern West Indies to his original landing place on the coast of Hayti. Fifteen years after the passing of Columbus came another navigator, one Juan Ponce de Leon, the governor of a province of Santo Domingo, sixty miles distant. The Indians of this section told him wonderful stories of the rich island across the channel, and in the year 1508 he landed at Aguadilla with a force of men and a pack of bloodhounds, bent upon its conquest. Ponce de Leon lives in history as the noblest and the gentlest of those galliard adventurers. And he was—that is, speaking relatively—he was noble and gentle for a Spaniard of that day. But he saw nothing wrong in putting to death the Indian chieftain Agueyaba, who first showed him the rivers with sands running gold, nor in setting on the trail of innocent women and children his famous bloodhound, Kerecillo, who drew the pay of a bowman for his service, and who tore to pieces every Indian he ran down and overtook. He was the terror of all the Indians, whom he drove to the hills in troops, but was finally slain with a poisoned arrow sent after him by a Carib.

Ponce de Leon and his mail-clad soldiers finally settled on the present site of San Juan in 1511, and the most interesting relic to be found there to-day is the ancient building called the "Casa Blanca," which was built by the con-

struction that will soon connect all the chief coast towns and open up portions of the interior.

The island is about 95 miles in length by 35 or 40 in breadth, and as nearly rectangular as nature will allow in its coast line. The interior is one vast group of mountains. The soil everywhere is very fertile and cultivable, even to the mountain crests, the hill pastures of Porto Rico being celebrated for their succulent grasses, upon which feed cattle and horses, which are favorites throughout the islands south.

Among the hills also are thousands of cafetales, or coffee estates, for here the coffee finds congenial soil and climate for its perfect development, and is a source of profit to many planters who prefer a life of comparative leisure to the bustle of the town and city. In the

valleys grow the sugar cane, cacao, bananas, plantains, and, in fact, all sorts of tropical fruits.

With its beautiful scenery, its almost perfect climate, its boundless exuberance and range of vegetable products, and consequent facilities for subsistence with the minimum of labor, Porto Rico may well be termed an earthly paradise. If that were all; if its people were intelligent and companionable; if its government were as mild and equitable as its climate; and if there were united effort here tending toward the improvement of society and the amelioration of political burdens, then it might be so regarded. But, while nature has done everything for this island, while a great portion of its 3,000 square miles can be put under cultivation, and there ought to be enough to subsist many more than its 750,000 inhabitants in comfort, the men and the race whom accident of discovery placed in power has done worse than nothing for its development. Poverty exists everywhere, since the taxes are so oppressive, administered, as the government is, by alien office-holders, assisted by foreign soldiers.

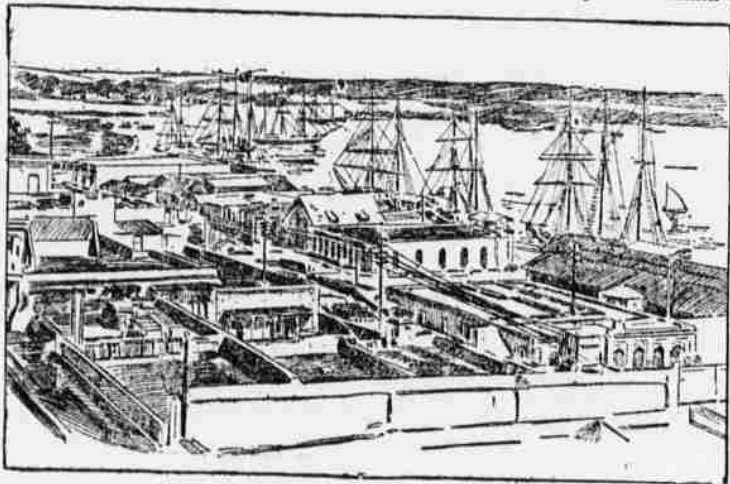
As in Cuba, the people have been for centuries trodden under foot. They have groaned beneath the weight of their burdens, have in vain protested against their numberless outrages. If Cuba has been long regarded as Spain's



STREET SCENE IN SAN JUAN.

milch cow, so also has Porto Rico, and that the later has not already risen in successful revolt, is owing, not to the temper of the people, but to the impossibility for a revolution to succeed.

Vacant Land in the United States.
The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows that only a little more than one-half of the public domain of



SCENE IN SAN JUAN HARBOR.

One other on the north coast is Arrecibo; on the east are Humacao and Fajardo, on the west Aguadilla and Mayaguez, as beautiful as the heart of man could desire, with their gushing springs and background of pointed mountains, and on the south coast are Arroyo Guayanilla and Ponce. This last is the largest, the city having a population of about 35,000, with a vast export trade, chiefly in sugar and molasses. A fine post road connects it with San Juan, running diagonally across the island, with a daily diligence between the two. A system of railroads is in course of

the United States is either reserved or appropriated. The area still remaining vacant amounts to 591,343,953 acres, without including Alaska, which is supposed to embrace nearly 400,000,000 acres more. The entire area of the United States is placed at 1,835,917,092 acres. Of this, 741,702,365 acres is now owned by individuals or by corporations or by states, or has passed out of the control of the general government. The amount reserved for schools, Indians, military and naval purposes, railroad grants, parks, forest reservations, etc., including all territory reserved from sale for any purpose whatsoever, amounts to 132,441,744 acres, so that, taking the reserve land and the vacant land together, only about one-half of the area of the United States has actually passed out of control of the government, and if Alaska is included, the unoccupied area is larger by 300,000,000 acres than that which is occupied.—San Francisco Argonaut.

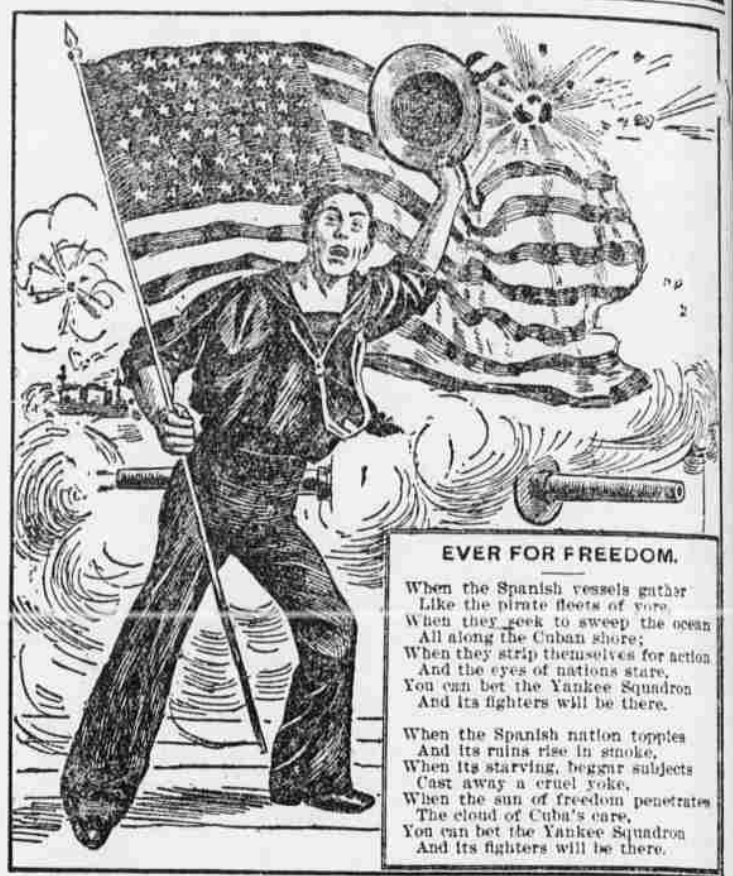
A Curious Hog Pen.

W. T. Harmon, living on the Days Mill turnpike near Tilton, has in use a very curious but convenient hog pen. The pen is nothing more than a huge sycamore tree, which is hollow, and furnishes sleeping quarters for at least twenty large-sized porkers. The tree has been used for its present purpose for over ten years, and during that time over 1,000 hogs have been raised in it.—Flemingsburg (Ky.) Gazette.

Misinformation in Australia.

The following account of the proper way of reaching the Klondike is taken from an Australian newspaper: "The real starting point for the Klondike is Spokane. There the traveler takes a canoe, by which he voyages to Vancouver, B. C. At the latter point he takes a sailing vessel direct to Dawson City."

It may be a good idea to belong to a lodge; you are sure then that someone will sit up with your remains when you are dead.



EVER FOR FREEDOM.

When the Spanish vessels gather
Like the pirate fleets of yore
When they seek to sweep the ocean
All along the Cuban shore;
When they strip themselves for action
And the eyes of nations stare,
You can bet the Yankee Squadron
And its fighters will be there.

When the Spanish nation topples
And its ruins rise in smoke,
When its starving, beggar subjects
Cast away a cruel yoke,
When the sun of freedom penetrates
The cloud of Cuba's care,
You can bet the Yankee Squadron
And its fighters will be there.

LIVING RENT FREE.

Philadelphia Man Who Went Broke Because He Did Not Pay.

A Philadelphia man has lived ten years in a house for which he paid no rent and no taxes. It belonged to the gas company, and he had paid rent regularly until the property of the company was transferred to the city. He says himself: "I don't remember how long it is since I stopped paying rent. It was when the gas office was on 7th street. I went there one day with my rent and offered it to Mr. White, who had charge of the gas company's real estate, but he refused to take it, and told me that it was to be paid at the city treasurer's office in the future. I took it up there and a young man there said he could not take it, as he couldn't find record of any such a house. He told me that they would notify me when they were ready to take my money. I went back to Mr. White and he advised me to go home and wait until I heard from them. Well, I waited." Nobody came to collect money until recently, when the city discovered its title and sent a man to collect. The tenant got a day to consider and promptly skipped. But his experience with a free rent does not seem to be satisfactory, if we may trust to his wife. "Yes," says she, resentfully, "he thought it was a snap, and look where he is now—no money, no business, looking for a job, and a family to support. He wouldn't take my advice and move to where business was good, but he hugged his snap and stuck here in that stagnant neighborhood and spent money on repairs for the house and didn't make any money."—Philadelphia Record.

Ananias Outdone.

Two ghastly shapes came stealing from
A deep and ancient grave;
They heard the never-silent hum
That marks the human wave.

They heard the newsboys' strident shout,
And one did stop and buy;
And through the sheet thus hawked about
He scanned with eager eye.

And as he read the headlines o'er,
His face grew peaked and pale,
And when he'd read a little more,
He grasped the nearest rail.

"Sapphira, dear," he faintly cried,
"This war news, bold and brash,
Convinces me we never lied—
Our record's gone to smash!"
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

No Hearse or Grave in Siam.

When a poor man dies in Siam he is not taken to the grave in a plumed hearse, with friends following behind



CARRIED TO WHERE BUZZARDS WAIT.

In ninety-seven carriages at \$6 to \$8 apiece. He is bundled into a box and carried by a couple of men to the place where the buzzards wait for him, and that is the last of him.

United States Legation in Berlin.

The United States government has been inquiring through the proper channel as to the cost of purchasing or erecting its own buildings for the embassies and legations and several of the large consulates-general in Europe. It may astonish many to learn that Berlin was found the most expensive capital in the world, so far as the cost of real estate and of buildings was concerned. The only really suitable building found there for the purpose would

cost \$800,000. The Russian embassy building in Berlin, which is located Unter den Linden, and which is, indeed, a veritable palace, so spacious and stately is it, would cost about \$4,000,000 to build to-day, ground and all. But it is, too, roomy and elegant enough to have served repeatedly for traveling quarters for Russian Czars passing through Berlin. What a miserable contrast forms the excuse for an office which the United States embassy occupies in Berlin, in Kronenstrasse, a street of small shops. In the basement of the building is a barber shop, on the ground floor a wine and schnapps shop, and above the embassy offices reside a score of private persons.

Useful on Battlefield.

This pannier is for use on battlefields. When closed it is carried on a mule,



THE MEDICAL PANNIER.

as shown. Open, it affords an operating table, with the medicine chest and surgeon's case handy.

Mammoth Docks.

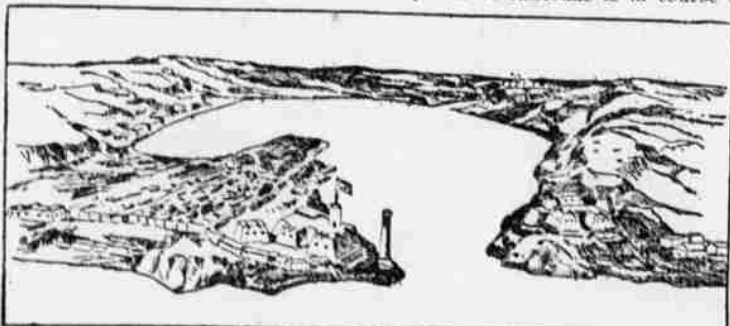
The marine docks at Portsmouth, England, are the vastest in the world, covering more than 300 acres, and employing some 10,000 men. Two of the largest docks are 600 feet long and 85 feet broad. All are what is known as stone graving docks. They are dug out of a sufficient depth, length and width, to enable vessels of a certain size to be admitted. They are constructed of granite and fitted with heavy gates; the vessel is floated into the dock and properly shored up on the keel blocks—the gates are closed—the water then pumped out. Such docks are all below the level of the dock yard. The walls are built with stacks like the seats in an amphitheater, so that workmen may go up and down; and great cranes lifting forty tons are used in handling materials. When a vessel is completed, all that is necessary to launch her is to open the gates, fill the dock, and she floats out without risk or trouble. The advantage of a number of docks at a station is the readiness with which a small vessel may be put into a large one at once, this being done with so much economy of time and labor.—Providence Journal.

The Hand.

Montaigne gives a curious and interesting account of the intellectual uses to which the hand is put. He says: "With the hand we demand, we promise, we call, dismiss, threaten, entreat, supplicate, deny, refuse, interrogate, admire, reckon, confess, repent; express fear, express shame, express doubt; we instruct, command, write, encourage, swear, testify, accuse, condemn, acquit, insult, despise, defy, disdain, flatter, applaud, bless, abuse, ridicule, reconcile, recommend, exalt, regale, gladden, complain, afflict, discomfort, discourage, astonish, exclaim, indicate silence, and what not, with a variety and multiplication that keep pace with the tongue."

The Left Side of the Face.

Photographers, in their constant study of the face, find that the left side makes the more pleasant picture, and that the profile as seen from the left gives a more correct likeness than when viewed from the right.



HARBOR AND FORTIFICATIONS OF SAN JUAN.

quistador and occupied by him while governor of the island. Equally ancient with the Casa Blanca are the fortifications surrounding the city of San Juan, for their foundations were laid during the reign of Ponce de Leon. The capital city, with a population of some 25,000, occupies an island, connected with the main by a bridge and a causeway, and is completely inclosed within massive walls of stone and hardened mortar, with a height in places of from 50 to 100 feet. Like Havana, it has its morro, or citadel (literally a round or Moorish tower), and the fortifications are on a comprehensive scale, with bastions and drawbridges, ornate sentry boxes hanging over the sea, and grim, gray walls towering threateningly. One may find their counterpart, on a smaller scale, in the old fort at St.

construction that will soon connect all the chief coast towns and open up portions of the interior.

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