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TRIUMPH IN PORTO RICO.

The circumstances connected with the capture of Ponce, in Porto Rico, give that affair a political importance which even transcends its military consequences, says the Globe-Democrat. The port of Ponce surrendered to Commander Davis, of the auxiliary gunboat Dixie, without any resistance, and the city, three miles inland, capitulated to Gen. Ernest. This puts the largest city in Porto Rico—for Ponce has more inhabitants than San Juan, the capital of the island—in American hands, gives us a virtual mastery of the whole southern coast of the island, and puts us in possession of a good highway leading to San Juan, seventy miles distant in a northeasterly direction. Over that road the heaviest artillery can be drawn with ease. The country between these two most important points in the island is exceedingly favorable for military operations.

This is the purely military side of the capture of Ponce. Its political side lies in the temper of the people toward our soldiers. "The populace received the troops and saluted the flag with wild enthusiasm," says Gen. Miles in his report. "The Porto Ricans," remarks the Associated Press dispatch, "are glad that the American troops have landed, and say they are all Americans and will join our army." It is clear from these expressions that the change of sovereignty for Porto Rico will give satisfaction to its people. The visit of the American troops has long been expected and is welcome. The Spaniards have always said, and all the other Europeans have thought, that Spanish rule has been agreeable to Porto Rico, but long before this war began Americans learned that the Spanish yoke was as burdensome in that island as it was elsewhere. The reason the Porto Ricans have raised fewer rebellions than the Cubans is that their island is smaller than that of their kindred to the westward, it is intersected in all directions by good roads, along which troops can pass quickly, and hence risings could be easily suppressed.

Porto Rico's political problems will be as readily solved as its military difficulties are being surmounted. The American military forces "release you from your former political relations," says Gen. Miles in his proclamation to the inhabitants of Porto Rico, "and it is hoped this will be followed by your cheerful acceptance of the government of the United States." This aspiration will undoubtedly be gratified. The Porto Ricans, under American authority, will have such home rule as their needs demand, will be part of the greatest and most progressive nation on the earth, and will, for the first time in their lives, learn just what liberal government means. Thus the capitulation of Ponce is even more gratifying for what it foreshadows than for what it immediately brings. It indicates there will be very little resistance from the Spanish soldiers anywhere in the island and that, after Spanish authority is overthrown, the adjustment of the inhabitants to their new relations will be easy and pleasant. The enthusiastic welcome which the people of Porto Rico extend to the American troops will show the Spanish dynasty the necessity of immediately making peace on any terms which the United States offers.

With its eyes on America the London Spectator is inclined to think that "with good officers and an able staff, three months' instruction turns out men competent to fight great battles." The theory is sound if the men are United States volunteers.

It is estimated from the present rate of receipts that the new war taxes will produce a revenue of \$175,000,000 a year. If peace comes

soon the war debt will begin to melt away.

England has decided that its new battle-ships must be good for eighteen knots. The Americans are at their old business of revolutionizing the navies of the world.

E. C. Blanks, of Lewisville, Texas, writes that one box of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is worth \$50 to him. It cured his piles of ten years standing. He advises others to try it. It also cures eczema, skin diseases and obstinate sores. For sale by the Snipes-Kinersly, Drug Company.

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