

THE CITY OF SAN JUAN.

Porto Rico's Capital and Its Archaic Forts.

NEW WORLD'S QUAINTEST CITY.

Founded by Ponce de Leon and Older Than St. Augustine—Fort Walls That Are Utilized as a Cemetery—Yellow Fever Epidemic There From Sanitary Neglect.

In the forefront of Porto Rico's chronicles stand the names of two great men—Columbus, who discovered the island in 1493, and Ponce de Leon, who first settled it about 1510. The latter was governor of a province in Santo Domingo during the reign of Don Diego, son of the great Columbus, as viceroy of that island, and as reports were brought him of the fertility and mineral wealth of "Borinquen"—as the aborigines called Porto Rico—Ponce went over to investigate for himself. He landed on the west coast and there met the cacique, or chieftain, Agucyaba, who showed him such rich valleys and so many streams rippling over golden sands that the Spaniard lost no time in sending

in a decade of the city of Santo Domingo, antedates Havana by six or seven years, St. Augustine by more than 50 years, and is contemporary with Baracoa and Santiago de Cuba. It is regularly laid out in squares, with six streets running parallel with its longer axis and seven others crossing them at right angles, while two plazas and several smaller squares, called plazuelas, offer places for promenade and recreation. Outside the walls, notably in the Marina, is a fine avenue and pleasure ground, and here also is the "valla de gallos," or cockpit, the custom house and the arsenal.

Probably the largest structure within the walls is the Ballaja barracks, overlooking the parade grounds and covering with its "patio" a space of 77,700 square meters. The palace of the captain general is an imposing edifice, and the Casa Blanca, or ancient castle of the founder, Ponce de Leon, with its walled garden and surrounding palms, is the oldest as well as the most beautiful building in the capital. Other important buildings are the city hall, archiepiscopal palace, theater, Jesuit college, military hospital, church of Santo Domingo, the cathedral, with its spacious nave and altar of fine marbles, and the Church of La Providencia, where may be seen "Nuestra Señora de los Remedios," the special patroness of the is-

The Awkwardness of Being a Prince.

The Prince of Wales is placed by fate in the most difficult position of any English subject. Labeled incessantly, continuously and malignantly, silence is imposed on him by reasons of state. If he patronizes the drama, for the neglect of which the queen is persistently blamed, the prince is depicted as a trifler, who finds in the society of mummies relief from the tedium of a wasted life. If he encourages our national sports, he is a profligate and is compared with royal predecessors, whose conduct would certainly not commend itself today even to the staunchest supporters of monarchy. If he does not lavish money he does not possess, he is said to be stingy. If he makes an outlay on a church at Sandringham or a ball at Marlborough House, he is a spendthrift. Unworthy friendships are attributed to him with men upon whom he has never set eyes or with whom he may perhaps have exchanged a casual word. If he plays a game of cards, he is a gambler.

Fierce as is the light that beats upon a throne, the cruel and searching illumination of the prince's life inflicts on him the disabilities and responsibilities, while denying him either the power of the throne or the privileges of a private station.—Harper's Magazine.

The English Broom.

One of the botanical oddities of Massachusetts is the existence of the English broom, which grows in only two places—in Sterling, this county, and in Salem. It is not a native plant, and how it got across the water is a mystery. Perhaps some homesick colonist caused it to be sent to him, that the hills about his new home might have the familiar appearance of the old country. It is a beautiful golden yellow in color and grows in a compact, spirelike plant, with blossoms close together. So thick are the stalks that the pastures are like sheets of gold, and at first sight seem to be buttercups in masses. Arba Pierce brought some of it into the city and proposes to make a display of it at the exhibition of the horticultural society.

Every one has heard of the broom. English and Scotch literature is full of it. It was the flower of the royal house of Plantagenet. In fact, the name Plantagenet is the French for broom plant a genet. Their ancestor, the Count d'Anjou, wore a string of broom as a badge, therefore their name. The name broom is given it because of its usefulness for the purpose.—Worcester (Mass.) Gazette.

A Bismarck Duel.

A duel in which Bismarck was once engaged had a very amusing origin. It occurred when he was chief secretary of the Prussian legation at Frankfurt. He went much into society, and one Christmas attended a big ball. During the height of the festivities Bismarck's attention was directed to an exceedingly pompous individual who strutted about the room. This was a M. de Clancy, a noted French duelist. Later on this important individual took part in a dance, but having omitted to leave his hat at the proper place had perforce to hold it out almost at arm's length while he danced. The spectacle tickled Bismarck immensely, and as the Frenchman came sailing majestically along Bismarck stepped forward and dropped a coin into the hat. A duel was one of the next day's events. Though it was with pistols Bismarck escaped unhurt, while his adversary was wounded.

Seeing the Sights.

Even in these days of liberal education young women sometimes show how confused are the ideas shut up in their heads. Illustrative of this is the naive blunder which Edmondo de Amicis recounts in his story of a voyage from Genoa to Buenos Ayres:

The captain of the steamer which numbered the charming young blunderer among its passengers met her one morning and said:

"Signorina, we cross the tropic of cancer today."

"Oh, indeed!" she cried, with enthusiasm. "Then we shall see something at last."

A Wedding Announcement.

This is how the editor of the Humboldt (Kan.) Herald recently announced his marriage: "Mr. F. A. McCarthy (that's us) and Miss Nannie Fisher (that's more of us) were united in marriage Wednesday, July 27, at 10 a. m. The ceremony was followed by a sumptuous repast, which we have only a faint recollection of. Some way events seemed to crowd on each other then, and God has given us the best earthly thing within his gift. The joy in a sweet wife is too great to be described—too sacred to be spoken of."

Too Much Eating.

Gluttony has its victims, hardly less numerous than other vices. To overeat is to overburden the digestive organs to such an extent that it will be impossible for them to perform their duties properly. Deleterious products are created, and health is finally destroyed. A prominent judge used to say such men dig their graves with their teeth—and it is so. On the other hand, there are those who eat too little. All extremes are evils that experience should govern.—Exchange.

An African Mother-in-law.

A native has been committed to the high court for trial for mutilating his mother-in-law by cutting off her ear. The native averred that his mother-in-law had attempted to entice her daughter away from him, her lawful husband, to some other native, and he took the extreme measure of cutting off her ear as a gentle hint to mind her own business.—Gwelo Times.

Not Wanted.

"I have here," he began, "a little poem, the child of"—
"Sorry," interrupted the editor, "but I couldn't think of taking a child away from its parent."—Harlem Life.

Come and see us before buying or trading. We can please you with a White—Randle.

FAVORITES OF NATURE.

The Fields and Forests of the Philippines.

A SOIL OF GREAT FERTILITY.

Six and Sometimes Seven Crops Are Raised in a Year—One Acre Will Support a Family—Primitive Methods Still in Vogue in Agriculture and In Business.

At Manila the climate is very much like that of Key West, but not so moist and unhealthful. On the high hills in northern Luzon the climate is like that of northern Georgia in summer—clear, warm, dry and bracing. The land has a fine natural drainage, so that there is almost no malarial fever. Epidemics are rarer than they are in this country. In the present century there has been one outbreak of cholera, which was confined chiefly to the Spanish cities, while there were no less than three in the United States in the same period. There is no yellow fever and no bubonic plague.

The fertility of the soil can scarcely be exaggerated. Vegetation grows if possible too rapidly. The Chinese and half caste farmers near Manila, Iloilo and Zebu produce six and seven crops a year. A single acre will sustain a family in health and comfort. Under Spanish rule, which, to describe it mildly, has been feudal and unintelligent, the agricultural output of the country was far up in the millions of dollars. Un-



THE PATIENT BUFFALO.

der American rule it would be increased tenfold within five years. Thus in the sugar industry the taxation is so heavy and so unwisely apportioned that it does not pay to cultivate the cane nor to use the latest machinery, as in Cuba. Yet the islands export upon an average 150,000 tons a year to the United States and Europe and nearly twice as much to China and Japan. So cheap is labor and so rich the harvest that with all the taxation and other obstacles a fair quality of sugar is produced and sold for about 18-10 cents a pound. Under American rule there would be no export tax, there would be modern "batteries" at every sugar plantation, and a good quality could be delivered on board ship for scarcely more than 1 cent a pound, a figure so low that it would give the Philippine planters the natural monopoly of the markets of the world. Of the land available for sugar cane raising but a small portion has thus far been put into cultivation. The present plantation area could be increased eightfold, and the output per acre threefold, so that the sugar industry of the Philippines could be easily made into one of the greatest trades.

It is the same with regard to hemp. The fame of the manilla hemp is deserved. The plant thrives better than anywhere else so far as ropemaking is concerned. Under Spanish administration the cultivation is barbarous, and the use of improved methods and machinery is practically prohibited by both taxation and public policy. Nevertheless the hemp trade grows from year to year. The average export is 650,000 bales, of which roughly speaking 40 per cent goes to the United States, 38 per cent to Great Britain and the remainder to Europe, Australia, China and Japan. There is an export tax upon hemp just as large as the commerce will bear. Under American rule, with scientific cultivation and labor saving inventions, the output could be quickly doubled, the cost diminished and the hemp market as well as the rope market controlled from Manila.

Another giant industry is scarcely known to the American people, and that is the trade in tobacco, cigars and cigarettes. Very little comes to the United States. The annual production is about \$12,000,000. Enormous quantities are sent to Great Britain, the continent of Europe, China, Japan, India and Australia. The official output of cigars exported from the Philippines in 1897 was over 150,000,000, and of tobacco more than 300,000 quintals.

A fourth industry is the raising of coffee. The Manila berry has a very rich aroma, a good body and a medium strength. It is used largely in Spain, Italy and France, but to a very small extent in the United States. Were it cultivated as in Brazil, Venezuela or Mexico it would soon hold as high a position as either Java or Mocha and could be made a source of great profit. Other industries which have struggled along under the tremendous burden of Spanish taxation are those of indigo, textiles besides hemp, straw, dye goods, hides, mother of pearl, gum mastic, copra, preserved fish and fine fruits.

If agriculture in the Philippines offers a rich field to capital, the forests are even more inviting. Thanks to favoring climate and soil, the land tends to forests, and wherever the people move away the soil is soon covered with a sturdy growth of trees.

Of the various woods time and space forbid even a list. While all of the timbers are valuable many of the hard woods are of such high quality as to be

in demand by cabinet makers the world over. Over 40 kinds are found in the market possessing high utility, some having special virtues unknown to woods of temperate zones. The aranga, which provides trunks 70 feet long, is poisonous to sea worms, especially to the dreaded teredo. It is used in making wharfs and piers and also for the outside planking of native vessels.

More remarkable in this respect are the antipolo and the betts, which are employed by Europeans as well as Malays in shipbuilding. The wood which comes from the bullet tree is so strong that it can be driven into soft wood like a nail. It is used for tool handles, belaying pins, policemen's clubs, banisters and newel posts. The mabolo is a handsome black wood with yellow dashes running through and is used for wainscoting and fine furniture. The guajo resembles the American hickory, but is even stronger and tougher. In Manila it is the favorite wood for the spokes and shafts of carriages. The molave is the most valuable wood in the east and is perhaps, as is claimed by its friends, the king of all woods. It is very beautiful and possesses a tissue which is proof against insects on land and worms in water. It does not become waterlogged and grows straight and also crooked, so as to provide knees and angles. As it does not decay it makes fine railway sleepers. It is extremely strong, tough and durable.

So great are the exactions of the Spanish administration that the export of lumber is insignificant. It hardly pays one to go into the business even where the wood is intended for native consumption, much less where it is to be exported. A few Europeans of enterprise have tried this business, but because of the obstacles thrown in their way by officialdom they have all retired and generally with but little saved from the original capital. A description of the difficulties under Spanish rule will perhaps be the best illustration that can be given.

A merchant must first have a passport, which is to be vided with great regularity by the local officials. Every time it is vided there is a fee to be paid. He must next obtain a "sedula personal." This is a document that is a happy or unhappy combination of a poll tax, a tax on personal estate and a tax on business. It ranges from \$1 up to \$75 and must be renewed every year.

He must next take out a license for the lumber business. He must then make application to the department of mines and forests for leave to cut timber and must employ a lawyer if he wants to get that leave within a year. He then goes to the bureau of forests, which apparently does nothing at all for its salaries and fees. Here he also employs a lawyer and finally obtains the requisite authorization to go ahead. He must then go to the forest country and make an arrangement with the choppers direct or with a chief, which agreement must be submitted to the authorities, approved, sealed and stamped. Here there is another large batch of fees.

Under the law, if any formality is omitted even by the government clerk himself, the merchant is liable to arrest, fine and imprisonment. Then, to prevent the woodchoppers from becoming a burden upon the state—an event of which a Spanish official has a deep, theoretic horror—all of them must have payment in advance, often one-half of their wages for two or three months. If during that time there are symptoms of insurrection in the district and the soldiers drive out the woodchoppers, the merchant is helpless. He has also to pay an inspector to see that the wicked woodcutters fell the proper trees.

The merchant must then engage porters to move the logs to the nearest water course or coast port, and must here pay in advance as before. He is also called upon to pay several local taxes, where the work goes on, and a general tax on the timber and the business done. When the logs reach his mill, they are inspected by another official, and when they are exported they are again inspected, and he must in addition pay an export tax. If the normal price of a log is \$1, and that is about what an ordinary log costs in a land where a strong man gets 9 cents a day, the various taxes, fees, bribes, lost advances and accidents bring it up to \$15 or \$20 before it is put on board of a ship to be sent to another land.

It is difficult to understand how a government can be so cruel and so foolish. China is but 600 miles from the Philippines, and the demand for lumber there is perpetual. It is so great



A CHINESE JUNK IN MANILA BAY.

that logs are shipped from the interior of Fokien, nearly 500 miles to Hongkong. They are also shipped from Java and Borneo and sold at a handsome profit. Ship timbers are brought to Hongkong all the way from Oregon, Washington and Vancouver. The Philippines ought to have nearly all this trade, but have almost none. If the same system prevailed in the islands as prevails in New York state, they would have an export lumber business of several million dollars per year within a short time.

There are 20,000,000 logs in the Philippines which are in marketable shape, while the number used is scarcely over 50,000 a year.

WILLIAM E. S. FALES.
The "White" runs light. The "White" runs right.
Nannally's fine Candies received fresh, twice a week at China's Drug Store.

THE CARRIER PIGEON.

MYSTERY OF THE METHOD BY WHICH IT FINDS ITS WAY.

How a French Scientist Tries to Explain the Taking of Bearings and Homeward Flight by These Swift Winged Messengers of the Air.

The faculty possessed by many animals for finding their way home through an unknown region has always been more or less of a mystery. It rises to its height in the case of the carrier pigeon, and its would be explainers fall back on expedients that range all the way from a mysterious special sense of "orientation" down to everyday ordinary observation of landmarks, such as man uses when he finds his way. Most authorities are now inclined to take a middle course, and believe that the pigeon finds its way by methods more or less ordinary, but by a very extraordinarily skilled combination of them.

We translate below part of an article on the subject, contributed by M. A. Thauzies to the Revue Scientifique. The author's assumption that the animal organism is sensitive to magnetic conditions is contrary to scientific observation and experiment, but this is only a detail of his theory and does not materially affect it. M. Thauzies, after giving reasons for rejecting the theory of a special sense and other hypotheses put forth on the subject, proceeds to state the following facts which he believes to be firmly established:

"First.—Well trained pigeons, even if taken very far away—say several hundred miles from the pigeon cot—get their bearings, in a normal atmosphere, with wonderful promptness, without turning about in other directions and without rising to a great height. Before one can count 50 they have disappeared.

"Second.—These same pigeons, left in open air in their baskets several minutes before releasing them, while they are given food and drink, look around them, walk to and fro, evidently studying the sky, until, having found out, doubtless, what they sought, they remain quiet. Then, if the baskets are opened, they fly off low and almost horizontally, without zigzags and in a straight line in the proper direction.

"Third.—The same pigeons, transported to a strange region—that is, for instance, where they must make a southerly journey when they are accustomed to make a northerly one, betray a striking degree of disquietude in their baskets at the moment of departure. They seem to be surprised and somewhat taken aback. As soon as they are free they fly off eastward, making large ellipses toward the sun. Then they explore in all directions, but they always return to the east with a patient tenacity that seems to signify that there is the key of the problem, and that there alone will be found its solution. After several minutes of this, having reached an altitude of 150 to 200 yards, they disappear in the proper direction.

"Fourth.—The earlier in the morning they are released the more prompt is their success in getting their direction. After noon, even in calm weather, and even if the distance is small, their orientation is dull, slow, wavering and without vivacity.

"Fifth.—When the day coincides with a change of the moon, the orientation both at the point of departure and also on the route becomes difficult, the birds return slowly and at long intervals.

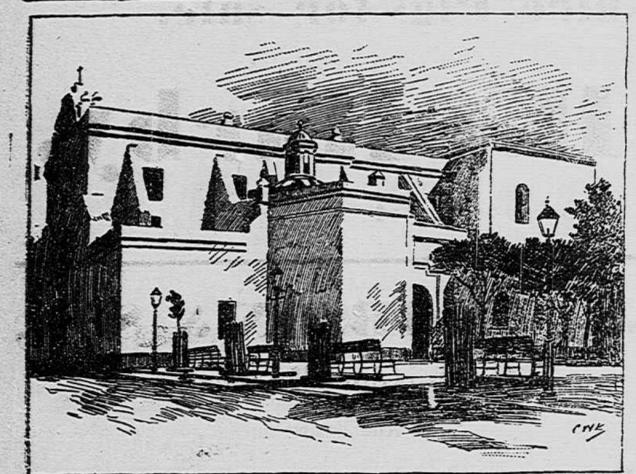
"Sixth.—Finally, even when the sky seems everywhere clear, if the atmosphere is undergoing any of those invisible disturbances that are revealed only by the most delicate instruments of our observatories, the pigeons, as in the preceding case, hesitate, lag behind and sometimes take double the time that would be necessary for their journey under other circumstances.

"What must be concluded from these facts?
"The carrier pigeon, a bird eminently electric, and of excessive nervous susceptibility, is also endowed with prodigiously sensitive vision and with special intelligence that cannot be doubted. The indefatigable excursions that it makes, especially in the morning, often to considerable distances around its cot, and to all points of the compass, accustom it to a great number of magnetic and visual sensations whose various characteristics it learns to distinguish according to the region where it is and to the hour of the day. By what may be called its sense of touch and by its sight it registers, as it were, like a delicate mechanism, impressions as varied as they are complex, which, resulting in the concerted action of the organism, enable it to determine in a given place, at a given moment, the direction in which the dovecot will be found.

"This power of discernment increases with the accumulation of heredity of what may be called 'local instinct.' This is why the carrier pigeon is not satisfactory unless it has behind it an ancestral line of carrier pigeons living in the same region. This is why when, for any cause, the air is disturbed, even to a degree imperceptible to man, the pigeon's element of investigation, its means of getting its bearings being different and insufficient, it looks about, hesitates, gets its direction with difficulty and sometimes even is lost."—Literary Digest.

Chalk as a Coal Saver.

To make half a ton of coal go as 15 hundredweight place a quantity of chalk in the grate. Once heated this is practically inexhaustible from combustion and gives out great heat. Place the chalk at the back of each of your fires in nearly equal proportions with the coal. Full satisfaction will be felt both as to the cheerfulness and as to the warmth of the fire, and the saving throughout the winter will be at the rate of 25 per cent.—Exchange



SAN JUAN CHURCH CONTAINING ASHES OF PONCE DE LEON.

over a strong force of soldiers and establishing himself as governor of this new and promising country.

The town he founded was called Caparra, now known as Pueblo Viejo, not far from the present city of San Juan, for the site of which it was soon after abandoned. San Juan, the capital, occupies the western end of a small island on the north coast about 2½ miles in length and half a mile in average breadth. It is connected with the main land by a causeway and two bridges, defended by small forts, and lying as it does between its fine harbor and a stretch of marshy lagoons on one side and the Atlantic on the other, its position is almost impregnable.

The natural advantages for defense were early seized upon, and the north-west end of the island, which is bluff and precipitous, is crowned by the famed Morro Castle, which was completed in the year 1554. The shape of this castle is that of an obtuse angle, with three tiers of batteries facing the sea, placed one above the other, so that their fires will cross. The Morro is the citadel and is a small military town in itself, with barracks, chapel, bakehouse, immense water tanks, warehouses, officers' quarters, bomb proofs and dungeons by the sea.

This ancient citadel is the initial point of the wall which surrounds the city and which has a line of connected bastions, with moats, guarded gates, portcullis and battlements, "fortalezas," semibastions, projecting sentry turrets—in fact, all the defenses of a walled town or city of the middle ages. On the Atlantic shore, which is steep and against which the heavy surges roll continuously, a wall of modern construction connects the Morro with the castle of San Cristobal, which faces oceanward and also guards the approaches from the mainland. The castle is entered by a ramp, on the highest part of the hill, to the inequalities of which the fortification is accommodated. It can concentrate its fire in any direction and controls the city and inner harbor by the Caballero fort, with its 22 great guns. Stretching from harbor to sea front, San Cristobal dominates the inland situation and has practically three tiers of batteries behind fortifications in great part cut out of the solid rock.

Though the fortifications as we find them now were planned in 1630 and nearly completed by 1641, San Cristobal in its entirety was not finished until just before the outbreak of the American Revolution, or about 1771. Still, with its outworks, consisting of a redam resting on the highest part of the glacis and called Fort Abanico on account of its fan shape, its moat and modern batteries, San Cristobal would have been a fort difficult to storm and take had our soldiers been compelled to attack it.

In addition to the stone walls, some of them nearly 100 feet high, which inclose the city, there are the outlying forts of San Antonio and San Geronimo, which defend the bridges inland, and on a small islet off the harbor mouth is the small but strong fort of Canuelo, between which and the Morro, less than a thousand yards distant, all large ships must pass to make this port. A chain was formerly stretched between the Morro and Canuelo in wartime, but during the recent trouble and after the bombardment of San Juan by our fleet a vessel was sunk there and the harbor mined.

The harbor of San Juan is one of the best in the island, and the intramural city is one of the oldest and quaintest in the new world. It was founded with-

land, with her \$1,500 cloak and her \$20,000 collection of jewels.

There are private clubs and casinos, a spacious market place, and last, but by no means least, a cemetery just under the northern wall, with a sentry turret jutting over the gate, which gives entrance through the glacis of the Morro. In this cemetery may be observed peculiar methods of inhumation, by which the wealthy are placed in the stone cells of a vast "columbarium" against the wall of the fort, and the poorer classes merely buried in rented graves, from which they are ejected at the expiration of a short term of years.

The effluvia from this practically intramural cemetery, the emanations from the sinks and sewage, the filthy streets and crowded dwellings, make San Juan (what nature never intended it should be, with its elevated situation and soil impervious to water, pure or foul) a possible plague center for the breeding of tropical diseases. It is the only city in the island in which yellow fever is said to be endemic, and what with the trade winds blowing strong across it from the sea and the swift sea current flowing out of the harbor there is no excuse whatever for these local conditions so favorable to contagious diseases.

The urban population is estimated at about 30,000, probably one-half being negroes and people of mixed blood, domiciled in about 1,000 houses. Not more than half of these houses are over two stories in height. They are plainly but massively built, of "mamposteria," or stone and mortar, with flat roofs, jutting balconies, and generally surround a "patio," or inner court, where sometimes a fountain or plat of flowers makes an attractive spot for the gathering of the family. The architecture is essentially Spanish, the streets are narrow, and the sidewalks in places are scarcely wide enough for two persons walking abreast. The supply of water is meager and is derived mainly from the clouds and stored in cisterns. When the city shall have become an American winter resort, as doubtless it will in time, it is to be hoped that a system of sanitation and sewage will be established, and that water will be brought from the hills not far away, where the supply is unlimited and of the purest quality. During two-thirds of the year the climate is mild and agreeable, yet the most prevalent diseases among the natives, it is said, are consumption, bronchitis and catarrh.

A railroad has been projected to connect all the centers of population near the coast, and of the estimated 400 miles about 130 have been built, including the line from San Juan to a little beyond Arecibo, also on the north coast. There are about 150 miles of excellent roads in the island, the chief highway being that connecting San Juan with Ponce, on the south coast, and thence extending around the west coast to Aguadilla. A cart road runs inside the coast line, and there are perhaps 1,000 miles of trails and paths. Few of the streams are bridged, and some of them are impassable in the rainy season.

The scenery around San Juan as well as of the entire island is picturesque in the extreme, and a treat for tourists is a "diligencia" ride over the magnificent road connecting with Ponce, which winds through gorges and over mountains, across vast sugar estates and past purring streams, revealing at each turn bits of tropical scenery that are worth going far to see, and glimpses of people peculiar to this mountainous island in the tropic seas.

FREDERICK A. OBER.