

## PORTORICO, OUR NEWEST JEWEL

The True "Pearl of the Antilles"—Striking Features of This Rich Possession.

Some of the interesting things about Porto Rico are not generally known. In size it ranks only as the fourth of the Greater Antilles, but in point of density of population and general prosperity it takes the first place. It is one of the few countries in tropical America where the whites outnumber the other races. The best harbor in the island is Guanica, the most western port on the south coast. Yellow fever never scourges Porto Rico as it does parts of Cuba, and although most of it is low-lying, and may be said to be very hilly rather than mountainous, it is one of the most healthful of tropical islands.

Though the harbor of Guanica, where our troops landed, is the best in the island, it is not visited by much shipping. The district immediately around it is low and swampy, and, unless improvements have been made within the past two or three years, the roads are not equal in quality to the main roads marked on the map. Guanica is the outlet for the produce of San German, Sabana Grande, and to some extent of Yauco, which is on the railroad. Porto Rican "rebels" have been particularly numerous in the western and southwestern districts, and many thousands of people there welcomed the day of General Miles's coming as the greatest in their lives.

The largest city and the commercial capital of the island is Ponce, which lies three miles north of the port of Ponce, on a rich plain surrounded by gardens and plantations. There are hot springs in the neighborhood, which are highly appreciated by invalids. Along the playa or beach in front of the port are extensive depots, in which the produce of the interior, forwarded through Ponce, the trading centre, is stored for shipment. At the last enumeration Ponce had a population of 37,545, while San Juan, the capital on the north coast, had only 23,414 inhabitants. Ponce has a number of fine buildings, among which

Over 800,000 people live in Porto Rico, and about two-thirds of them are white. Cuba is thirteen times larger than Porto Rico, and its population was not double that of the smaller island even before Weyler exterminated a third of the native Cubans. Besides Ponce and San Juan, the largest towns on the island are Arecibo (30,000 inhabitants), Utuado (31,000), Mayaguez (28,000), San German (20,000), Yauco (25,000),



CORNER OF THE PLAZA DE LAS DELIGIAS, IN PONCE, PORTO RICO, THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL MILES'S ARMY.

Juana Diaz (21,000), and there are about ten other towns with a population of 15,000 or over.

In the past fifty years about half the population has gravitated to and around the towns, particularly those of the seaboard. They live in comfortable houses and many of them have the means to purchase all the wares of the civilized world. Porto Rico abounds in sugar, coffee, tobacco, honey and wax, which have enriched the island, and many of the people are well-to-do. A very large part of the island's trade has been carried on with the United States, whose corn, flour, salt meat, fish and lumber are imported in return for sugar, molasses and coffee. The natives have little taste for sea faring and most of their foreign trade is carried in foreign bottoms.

Porto Rico is rich in natural blessings, and for a tropical region is very healthful. For some inscrutable reason Spain has given the inhabitants far better treatment than she has the natives of Cuba. She has dealt with the island as though it were a Spanish province instead of merely a colony to be bled by Spanish officials for the enrichment of themselves and the mother country. In fact, the island has been politically a province of Spain for over twenty years. Spain has had little to do directly with internal improvements in the island, but she has so far kept her heavy hand off the people that there was an opportunity for the spirit of enterprise to develop. The result is that Porto Rico has about 150 miles of railroad, and as much more under construction; and a system of wagon roads leading to all the important trading centres that surpass anything of the sort seen in most parts of Spain herself. The stretches of railroad parallel with the coast are long links in the line that is to make the entire circuit of the island, with short branches to all the seaports and the inland markets.

The mode of life is very similar to that of the European countries except for some slight differences due to the hot climate. Fashions for men and women alike are introduced from Spain, and especially from Paris and London. The well to do in the principal towns dress just like people in European countries, men wearing woolen clothes all the year round. The

young women dress very elaborately, and all wear hats, the Spanish mantilla being worn only by elderly women. In the small towns men dress after the fashion of the cities, but wear linen fabrics, as woolen clothes are very uncomfortable, are considered a luxury, and are worn on holy days and Sundays only. Laborers and farm hands do not wear coats or shoes. They do not care to do so, and, if they

did, they could not afford to, as their wages are very small.

Life at San Juan and the other principal towns is very monotonous, the only amusements being retretas or concert by the military bands twice a week and theatrical performances three or four evenings a week, matinees being given very seldom. The theatres are owned by the cities and rented to European companies travelling through the island at so much an evening.

San Juan, built on a small island connected with the mainland by the San Antonio bridge, is quite a beautiful city, with straight but narrow streets and many fine buildings. It has several public institutions and colleges, several churches and seven small parks, among them the Plaza de Santiago, with a very good statue of Columbus. The city is lighted by gas supplied by an English company and by electricity supplied by a local corporation. There are eleven newspapers of all kinds, the principal one being La Correspondencia, a daily political paper, with a circulation of about 7000

products almost entirely Porto Rico's own. Like Cuba, the island has extensive mines and quarries. The principal deposits are iron, gold, copper, zinc, coal and salt. Salt is the only one worked to any extent.

Again, as in Cuba, there are scarcely any railways, and the few are short and disconnected. The wagon ways are good, outside the cities as well as in them. Water works are needed everywhere, and the drainage in all the cities except Ponce is bad. In Ponce only are there underground sewers. These flow into the harbor, whose outlet should be widened, not only to allow the escape of the drainage, but to afford easier and less perilous access.

GERMANY'S "WOMAN BISMARCK."  
Countess Waldersee, an American Girl, Has a Remarkable Influence With Emperor William.

As a little girl Mary Esther Lea played among the flour barrels and currant boxes of her father's grocery store on Front street in New York City. But that was many years ago. Now the little girl is a white-haired and regal lady, with the title of princess. More than that, she it is who is the power behind the German throne, who is known as the "female Bismarck" and who, it is believed, brought about the Kaiser's marriage. Her title is Princess von Noer, and she is a powerful influence in the great palace at Berlin.

Her history is most interesting and unusual. Her father left Connecticut in 1810 and began a small grocery business in New York City. Though he was financially successful, when he died, in 1853, he left but a very small fortune to his family. Mrs. Lea, unable to afford the expensive living in New York, bundled up her little family and went to Stuttgart. Here the eldest daughter married Baron von Waechter. He soon became Ambassador from Wurtemberg to Paris, and in the course of time Mrs. Lea and her other daughters found themselves in the social set of the great French capital. Other important marriages came about. Mary Esther, the youngest girl, found a fast and affectionate friend in Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein. Through her she formed the acquaintance of the father of the princess, an old widower, who immediately fell desperately in love with the beautiful and bright little American girl. To compensate for marrying the daughter of a grocer the Prince gave up his title and accepted the simpler designation of Count von Noer, which was given to him by the Austrian Emperor. The groom was sixty-four years old, the bride twenty-four. Six months later the venerable husband died and his rich and youthful widow settled down in Vienna. There she won the esteem of the Austrian Emperor, and he created her Princess of Noer in her own right.

A few years after being made a princess the one-time daughter of a grocer met Count von Waldersee. A marriage between them took place in 1866. These two brilliant and tactful people went to Berlin, and in a few months the countess was a social power.

Her particular ambition was to marry her grand niece by her first marriage, Princess Augusta Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, to Prince William of Prussia, the present Emperor of Germany. The mother of the prince raised great objections, but the Princess von Noer was persistent and tactful and planning, and the wedding was celebrated. Prince William and his bride were both devoted to the one who helped along the rough way of their courtship, and their gratitude has been unceasing. When Princess Augusta Victoria became Empress she was more than ever under the



A PORTO RICAN DAMSEL.

population, which some historians place as large as 500,000, in less than a century. Every branch of the administration of the island has been conducted under a system of corruption, the law was constantly violated by the Spaniards and the natives were deprived of their rights. At elections the Spanish or Conservative party always won, notwithstanding the fact that it was in a large minority.

The liberty of the press was unknown. Articles printed in the Madrid or other Spanish papers attacking the Government could not be reproduced by any Porto Rican paper without the editors being punished, even if the article in question had not been considered ground for prosecution by the authorities in Spain.

No more than nineteen persons were allowed to meet in any place on the island without special permission of the Government, and a representative of the Mayor of the town had to attend meetings to see that nothing was done or said against "the integrity of the nation."

Licenses were required for everything, even for a dancing party.

These are some of the things which caused the people at Ponce to cheer the Americans who took possession of the town.

Chief among the staple products is coffee. The average yearly export from 1892 to 1896 was 49,229,000 pounds, valued at \$10,872,000. The area of production can be doubled. It grows almost without care.

Next to coffee comes sugar. Molasses, too, has been exported in large quantities and the product could be increased.

Cotton has been almost at a stand still for the same reasons as in Cuba because of the heavy taxes imposed by Spain. Besides, coffee is more profitable and demands less care. The tobacco yield is large. Between 1892 and 1896 the average yearly exports were 3,534,000 pounds, with a value of \$642,000. Anisette, mace, coco, ginger, rice and oranges are also cultivated.

Under the Spanish rule the vast forests were never turned to profit. Hardwood is abundant. Fancy cabinet woods and beautiful grained woods resembling mahogany are among the

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## THE REALM OF FASHION.

**Garb Between Dresses and Trousers.**  
While it is unquestionably true that trousers are worn by extremely small boys, the kilted skirt still has a place and fills the inevitable gap between



BOY'S DRESS.

dresses and genuine manly garb. The suit shown in the illustration is made of dark blue galatas with collar and shield of white duck and trimming of blue braid, but pique, gingham and linen crash, as well as flannel and serge, are equally suitable.

The blouse is fitted with shoulder and underarm seams only and pouches well over the belt at both back and front. The neck is cut low and finished with a genuine sailor collar which is seamed to the edge. The sleeves are one-seamed and have the

their children. With women's progress in political and social freedom and in education, the young Empress has great sympathy, and she is said to have had a good deal to do with the concessions just granted to women doctors.

### Frills For the Dresses.

Many of the pretty silk, crepe de chine and veiling dresses are finished with three tiny frills of ribbon, lapping each other, and gathered moderately full. These frills, though not novelties, are newer than those made of the dress goods, and they are given a novel effect by the deft manner in which they are adjusted, and by the beauty of the various two-toned or double-faced ribbons used. If the frills are made a bit too wide the effect is spoiled. They must not measure, all told, more than three inches; therefore, ribbons a trifle over an inch wide are the proper selection.

### Passing of a Famous Millinery.

Owing to the growth of Paris, France, the once famous milliner's shop, "A la Belle Anglaise," in the Place du Roule, will shortly disappear. It was founded in 1765. Elizabeth Foster, the Duchess of Devonshire, Mme. Recamier, Pauline Bonaparte and Maria Antoinette patronized the place, and Chateaubriand bought his cravats there. It is a picturesque little house, one story high.

### The Fashionable Lorgnon.

The newest lorgnon or fan chain is made of small pieces of red coral unevenly cut. It reminds the average woman of her childhood days when she wore a white frock with a red sash



FANCY BLOUSE WAIST.

fulness at the wrists laid in narrow pleats which are stitched into place. The skirt is straight and hemmed at the lower edge. The fulness is laid in box pleats and the upper edge is seamed to a fitted waist which holds it securely into place, a placket being placed at the centre back. The shield portion which completes the neck is faced into the fitted waist, so avoiding all unnecessary complication.

To make this dress for a boy of four years of age four yards of material twenty-seven inches wide will be required.

### Ladies' Blouse Waist.

Lilac and white striped taffeta with shield of tucked and sailor collar of plain white edged with frill of Liberty silk combined to make the May Mantion model shown in the large engraving one of the most effective of the fancy blouse waists.

The waist is arranged over fitted linings that close in centre front, which may be omitted if not desired.

The fronts are gathered at the shoulders and waist line and pouch fashionably in centre over the belt.

The V opening ends just below the bust between the edges of which the shield is disclosed, the standing collar and shield being tucked before being shaped as shown by the cut. The shield is sewed to the right lining front and closes with the standing collar over the left shoulder and under edge of sailor collar. The full back is gathered and arranged to a square yoke, which presents a flat adjustment under the sailor collar, gathers at the waist line collecting the fulness in centre.

The large sailor collar with pointed ends is a stylish feature of this waist. Under its edges ends of lilac satin ribbon are tucked and tied in a smart sailor knot at the front.

The two-seamed sleeves are mounted on fitted linings, the fulness at the top being gathered to puff out stylishly and the wrists are completed with frills of Liberty silk. Belt of lilac satin with gold buckle.

To make this waist for a lady of medium size will require two and one-quarter yards of material forty-four inches wide.

### Concessions to Women Doctors.

Concessions have been made to women doctors in Russia. It has been officially announced that they shall be equally entitled with men to all State privileges connected with their profession. This includes both political and social rights; it will open to them all official posts and will entitle them to pensions, which will not be taken away by marriage, and may descend to

front. The full waist may close at the left shoulder and underarm seam, or the more practical centre-front closing is quite possible and can be readily made invisible, if so preferred.

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WOMAN'S BLOUSE WAIST.

### A MARKET SCENE OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF SAN JUAN.

are the Town Hall, the theatre, two churches, the Charity and the Women's Asylums, the barracks, the Cuban House, and the market. The road between the city and the seaside is a beautiful promenade.

The main highway of central Porto Rico runs from Ponce to San Juan in a northeasterly course through Juana Diaz, Coamo and Aibonito, where it goes almost eastward to Cayey, there to take a winding course to the north as far as Caguas, where it turns west to Aguas Buenas, and then goes decidedly north to San Juan through Guayanabo and Rio Piedras, making in all a distance of eighty-five miles. The distance from Ponce to San Juan in a straight line is only forty-five miles.

The eastern part of the island is less densely populated than the western, and as the east coast is on the windward side and offers less protection for shipping it is not so conveniently situated for trade. Here all the larger towns of the east lie inland, or at least some distance from the coast. These towns are in the hilly region amid rich coffee and extensive grazing lands.

The harbor of San Juan, the capital, is deep enough to admit large vessels, but its channel communicat-



CHARACTERISTIC SCENE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY OF CENTRAL PORTO RICO WHICH RUNS FROM PONCE TO SAN JUAN.

ing with the sea is winding and difficult and can be navigated safely only with the aid of a pilot.

One of the leading seaports of the island is Aguadilla on the west coast, which has the advantage of a spacious bay sheltered from the trade winds. Here are shipped the sugar and coffee of the northwest part of the island. There are seven or eight ports of lesser importance.

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