

PORTO RICO.

A COMPARATIVELY UNKNOWN ISLAND BELONGING TO SPAIN.

Besides Cuba it is the sole remaining Spanish Possession in the West Indies—Rich in Memories.

SPAIN'S vast possessions in the two Americas have at last dwindled to two islands of the West Indies, Cuba and Porto Rico. The former is well known through the scenes of bloodshed and war with which we have become familiar. The latter, Porto Rico, the "Rich Port," so called by the early Spaniards because of its fertile soil and great shipments of tropical products, is comparatively unknown.

Few tourists go there, as there is no direct line of steamers with passenger accommodation, although the island has many varied attractions. It lies in about the same latitude (18 degrees north) as the island of St. Thomas, and is situated between that island and Santo Domingo. Two great names are connected with the early history of Porto Rico, not to mention many others since its discovery and first settlement. Columbus discovered the island, on his second voyage, in 1493, and gave it the name of San Juan Bautista, or St. John the Baptist, but its native name was Borinquen. Fifteen years after, in 1508, another name now famous in the annals of America was linked with that of the recently discovered island. Ponce de Leon, then the Spanish Governor of the eastern provinces of Santo Domingo, had his attention called to Porto Rico by reports of rich gold finds in its rivers. Some of the golden sands were brought to him, and he at once organized an expedition for conquest and exploration.

He and his mail-clad soldiers were well received by the native chieftain, the Cacique Agueybaná, and allowed to take up as much of the rich territory as they needed. But that did not satisfy the barbarous Spaniards of that day; they wanted all or nothing, and proceeded at once to exterminate

It has been reported of late that the island of Porto Rico would not much longer delay following the example of Cuba, and soon be ablaze with the fires of insurrection. But that is not likely, as a glance at the insular topography will show. It is well known that the strength of the Cuban insurgents lies in the rugged and swampy nature of the island in certain provinces, which gives them almost impregnable fastnesses to which they can retreat when closely pursued. As the inexperienced Spanish soldiery cannot cope with the natives in bush-fighting,



BAY OF SAN JUAN FROM CASA BLANCA.

the latter here has a great advantage, of which he is not slow to avail himself.

In Porto Rico, however, the topography is radically different. The island is one vast aggregation of hills and mountains, to be sure, but they are of a different character from those of Cuba. The interior of the island is a sea of rounded hills, but at the same time, with such gentle slopes and possessing such fertile soil that they can be cultivated to their very summits. The highest mountain of the great central chain that traverses the island from east to west is Luquillo, about 4000 feet high. Between these hills and mountains there are a thousand fertile valleys devoted to the culture of coffee, sugarcane, cocoa and all tropical products. The hill pastures of Porto Rico are noted for their succulent grasses, and their breeds of horses, or native ponies, and cattle are the favorites throughout the West Indies.

The island is about 120 miles long

city. The pit is not so elaborate as that of Havana, being an arena thirty or forty feet in diameter, covered with wire, a corrugated iron roof, and with a floor of hardened earth, around which wooden seats are placed, within a fence three feet high. A cock fight takes place here every Sunday. One of the curious sights of the city is the "rooster district," where the sidewalk fowl are monopolized by the aristocratic fowl, tied to posts three or four feet apart. They are jealously guarded, their keepers handling them frequently, and continually giving them "refreshers" by filling their own mouths with water and squirting it in their eyes and under their wings. The fighting cocks may be seen here every morning, taking their maternal airings, strutting to the length of their strings and making the air resound with their crows of defiance.

Like Havana and every other Spanish city, San Juan has its "Morro," to visit which permission must be obtained from the commandante. Within the massive walls of this vast castle-fortress there is a small foreign town by itself, with houses, barracks and even a chapel, while deep beneath its walls are dismal dungeons, sometimes filled with political prisoners. A first-class light is shown above the tower, from which a view is opened of the entire north coast and the whole area of the island city. Then it is seen how securely entrenched this old city was in early times, and how carefully guarded are the remaining possessions of the King of Spain; for the walls bristle with ancient cannon, diminutive soldiers pace the parapets, and active cavalry parade the broad spaces of open ground within the walls.

The most picturesque structure, as well as the most ancient and interesting is that called the Casa Blanca (the great white house), which was built by the first Governor soon after his arrival here in 1508. This gentleman was none other than the great Ponce de Leon, who, after he had gained all that heart of man could presumably wish for, sat within the crenellated walls surrounding his gardens, with their ornate sentry turrets, quaint old cannon and massive battlements, and planned a new scheme of conquest. It should interest all who have studied the romantic history of this period to know that within the white walls of the Casa Blanca was projected that chimerical voyage of his in search of the fabled Fountain of Youth, of which he had heard from an old Indian woman of this island.

Setting out from his castled residence, in the year 1512, Ponce de Leon sailed through the island-chain of the Bahamas, and eventually discovered the coast of Florida. He landed on the island of San Salvador just twenty years after its discovery (the first land seen by the great Columbus), and thence sailed northwardly till the coast of a new country opened to his view. But he returned without finding the fabled Bimini, Fountain of Perpetual Youth, though his Sovereign bestowed upon him the elevated title of Adelantado of Bimini and Florida. In 1515 he suffered defeat at the hands of the savage Caribs, and then stayed at home, attending to the affairs of his island, until the year 1521, when he again undertook to find that ignis fatuus, the Fountain of Youth, and this time the Indians of Florida wounded him with an arrow. He retreated to Havana, where he died, and his body was afterward brought to Porto Rico, where it was deposited beneath the altar of the Dominican Church of San Juan.

It is a strange coincidence that the ashes of Columbus and Ponce de Leon rest respectively in the islands they were instrumental in conveying to the Spanish crown—the remains of Columbus in Santo Domingo while those of the "Lion-Hearted" are to-day found in a leaden case in San Juan.

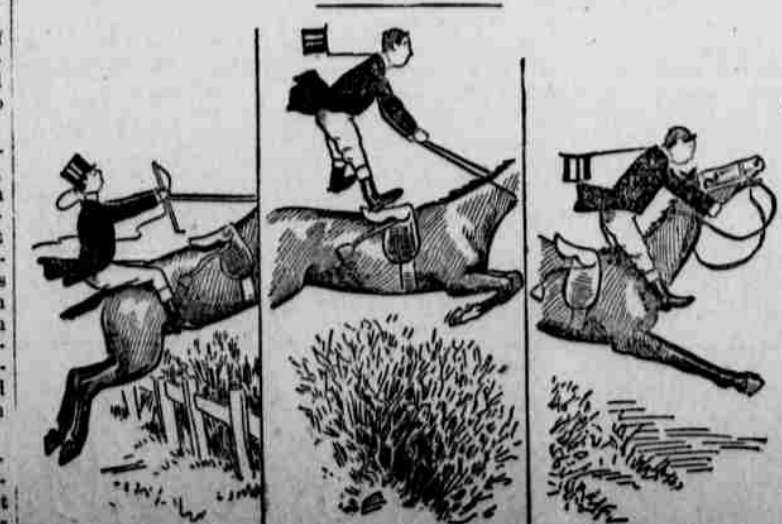
Sea Gulls are Cunning.

Sea gulls are cunning birds. Recently one of them separated from several companions and took his position on a log resting in the water. The under side of the log was covered with barnacles. The bird uttered peculiar cries, and was presently joined by several other gulls. A whispered conversation seemed to ensue, and then all the birds stood in a line on one side of the log, near the water. Their weight caused the log to revolve until the barnacle side was uppermost.

Knew the "Wizard of the North."

The men who have seen Sir Walter Scott must now be getting few. Mr. John Usher, of Stodrig, who died the other day, used to tell with no small pride that on one occasion, when Sir Walter was a visitor to Tottfield, his birthplace, he had sat on the great novelist's knee, and had sung several songs, for which he was rewarded by Sir Walter with the present of a white pony.

JENKINS'S JUMP—IN THREE CHAPTERS.



—Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

HALF BIRD. HALF BEAST.

The Curious Creature of British Guiana Which Has Four Legs.

Nothing in the realm of natural history in late years excels in interest the announcement of the discovery in British Guiana of a bird with four legs, says the Popular Science News. The crested hoatzin, *Opisthocomus cristatus*, the only survivor of a race of birds, several of which are known as fossils, inhabits the most secluded parts of the forests of South America, and it is probable that it is owing to its retiring habits that it has outlived its congeners, as well as to the fact that, feeding as it does upon wild arum leaves, its flesh acquires so offensive a smell and flavor as to render



THE FOUR-FOOTED BIRD.

it entirely fit for food. It is a large bird, almost as large as a peacock, in fact, but is very seldom seen. Often its loud, wailing cry is heard.

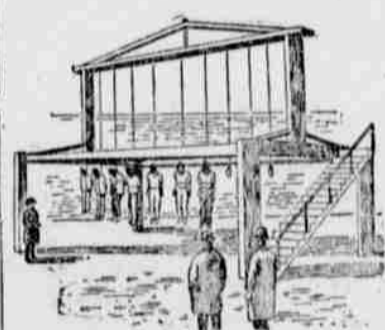
The chief peculiarity of the hoatzin consists in the fact that when it is hatched it possesses four well-developed legs, the front pair being of a reptilian character. The young birds leave the nest and climb about like monkeys over the adjoining limbs and twigs, and act and look more like tree toads than birds.

After hatching the modification of the fore limbs begins, the claws of the digits falling off, and the whole of the claw-like hands, becoming flattened, change into wings. After this modification has taken place, and in a short time not a vestige remains of the original character. As Professor F. A. Lucas, in an admirable monograph on "Spurs and Claws" in a bulletin of the Smithsonian Institute, says:

"The adult birds not only have no claws upon their wings, but their thumbs, even, are so poorly developed that one would hardly suspect that in the nestlings we have the nearest approach to a quadruped found among existing birds."

Has Hanged Eighty-Eight Prisoners.

George Maledon, champion hangman of the world, with a record of eighty-eight executions to his credit, will retire from his public career and live the rest of his life on a farm which he has purchased with his savings.



GALLOW TO HANG TEN MEN AT ONCE.

Maledon has been the official hangman of the United States Court at Fort Smith, Ark., for twenty years, and he took intense pride in the neatness with which he performed the duties connected with his office.

When an execution was to take place Maledon always found out the exact weight of the man. After that there was no guesswork. By a rule known only to himself he adapted the weights to a nicety.

On the morning of the day of the hanging he would always rise early, and, after testing the gallows, which is built to hang ten men simultaneously if necessary, proceeds to put it in perfect order. The ropes were greased, the pulleys and trap adjusted and oiled and the noose carefully adjusted and tried. It made no difference whether one, two or ten men were to be executed the same careful preparation was made in each case.

There was nothing hard hearted in the way the work was done. A favorite remark of his to a doomed man was: "Oh, come on now; it's nothing at all. You won't feel it, and I'll have it all over in a jiffy."

GIRLS' GARMENTS.

DETAILS OF DRESS FOR YOUTHFUL FEMININITY.

Natty Walking Suit for a Young Miss—Stylish Skirt Waist of Striped Linen Batiste—Dress for Young Girl.

FANCY checked snitting in mixed tan and brown shades made the natty walking suit for a young miss depicted in the two-column cut and designed by May Manton. The only decoration is the large pearl buttons that close the fronts of the double-breasted jacket. All the edges are finished with machine stitching in tailor style, the skirt facing being stitched on with a double row to correspond. The mode is suitable for either school or best wear, is very simple in its construction and stylish

edge of right front, through which button holes are worked to use in closing with studs or buttons. The full back is gathered at the top and joined to a seamless yoke lining having a straight lower edge, the double pointed yoke being laid over and stitched down firmly on its lower edges. The fullness at the waist line is regulated by draw tapes, inserted in casing at the back and tied around in front, the lower edges of basque length being worn under the skirt. The high standing collar or turn-over collar that is mounted on a deep band can be permanently attached if so preferred. Full gathered Paquin shirt sleeves are finished with straight cuffs at the wrists, slashed openings being finished with under and over laps in back. Madras, chevot and Oxford shirting, lawn, dimity, percale, cambric and gingham in stripes, checks, figured (and plain varieties will develop stylishly by the mode. The quantity of material 36 inches



WALKING SUIT FOR YOUNG MISS.

in effect. The loose fitting fronts lap in double breasted style, the back and sides fitting smoothly to the waist, below which each section is widely sprung to give the fashionable rippled effect. The mandolin sleeves are in three sections, each seam being joined, pressed open and stitched on each side. The box plaits are laid at the top, with the rest of the fullness in side plaits turning forward and back. The high turn over collar in military style is stiffly lined with canvas. Pocket laps cover the openings to pockets inserted on each front that are stitched and firmly pressed in position. The skirt is gored in latest mode, and is of ample, but not extravagant, width, the pocket opening being finished at the top of the centre back seam. The jacket can be interlined if necessary, and a bright lining of silk or taffeta adds much to the style and finish of the

wide required to make this shirt waist for a miss fourteen years of age is 3 1/2 yards.

A YOUNG GIRL'S DRESS.

Striped mohair in fawn and apple green is here combined with green velvet of the same shade, decorated with gilt gimp. The stylish combination is very effective, though simple, the full waist being gathered and arranged over fitted body linings, with a single box plait that droops slightly in front over the belt in blouse fashion. The seamless yoke collar with bretelles closes with the waist invisibly in centre back, the bretelles extending to the waist line on each side of front and back. A standing collar of velvet covered with gimp finishes the neck, a belt to match



MISSIE'S SHIRT WAIST.

garment. Chevot, tweed, serge, mohair, homespun, covert and ladies' cloth all develop stylishly by the mode.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this jacket for a miss fourteen years of age, is 3 1/2 yards.

To make the skirt it will require of the same width material 3 yards for a fourteen-year-old size.

MISSIE'S SHIRT WAIST.

Striped linen batiste made the stylish shirt waist depicted in the other large illustration, the neck being finished by a fitted band to which separate collars can be buttoned. The full fronts are gathered at the neck, a wide box plait being formed on the

completing the waist. Full puffs are slightly disposed over fitted linings that are faced to the elbow with the material, cut bias. The full round skirt is gathered to fall in natural folds, sewed to the belt, and closes with the waist in centre back. Combinations of wool and silk fabrics are stylishly decorated with insertion, lace or galloon, grass linen or batiste being made up in this style, with collar of all over batiste embroidery or trimmed with insertion edging. Other washable fabrics, such as gingham, lawn, dimity or chambray, will make up daintily by the mode.

The quantity of material 44 inches wide required to make this costume for a girl fourteen years of age is 3 1/2 yards.



CITY WALL OF SAN JUAN, LOOKING SOUTH.

the peaceful Indians in possession. The Indians somehow got the impression that the Spaniards were immortal, an idea that the Spaniards themselves were very careful to foster. So two of the more intelligent of them one day, finding a Spaniard alone in the forest, resolved to put the question to the test. They captured him alive and then took him to a river and held his head under water several hours. They then took turns sitting by the corpse during two or three days, until the signs of dissolution were incontestable, and then were satisfied. They reported to their cacique that that particular Spaniard was not immortal at all events; and so the chief ordered a massacre of all the white strangers on the island. But, as reinforcements were constantly coming to the aid of the Spanish commander, the simple Indians finally submitted, firmly convinced at last that the foreigners they had slain revived in some mysterious manner and rose up out of the sea.



STREET BEHIND CASA BLANCA, SAN JUAN.

These aboriginal inhabitants of Borinquen were among the most intelligent of any discovered by the first voyagers to these seas. They had huts of palm leaves, fields of corn, tobacco and yucca, while their rude arts were beyond the attainment of other Indians of America then existing. Relics of these Indians are being found every year scattered in the fields of the interior and in the caves in which they were driven by the Spaniards. These remains are peculiar to this island, and it may be a matter of interest to Americans that the best collection of them is now contained in the Government Museum at Washington.

Civilized or uncivilized, the Spaniards soon brought them to the verge of extermination, and it is more than 300 years since the last one of them was seen alive. The old Spaniards always went on the principle that there is "no Indian so good as a dead Indian," and this principle they lived nobly up to whenever they went.

by sixty broad, and is almost rectangular in outline, with its sea girt shores containing a population of three-quarters of a million. Cuba and Porto Rico combined possess an area of about 50,000 square miles and a total population of 2,300,000 souls.

The chief city of the island, although not the largest, is San Juan on the north coast, with 25,000 inhabitants. It is built on an island connected with the main by a bridge and causeway, and a magnificent highway connects with the city of Ponce on the southern coast. San Juan is one of the most compact of cities, built on a peninsula terminated by a great fortress and enclosed within high walls. Entrance is only to be obtained through well guarded gateways, from the lower batteries and the mole, while sentinels stand vigilant on every parapet. It is only by stealth that photographs can be taken of these grim gray walls, the Spanish officials seeming to think that they are as effective for defense as in the days they were first built, two or three hundred years ago. But from that fine harbor, if entrance could be gained, a modern iron clad could knock those old stone towers and sentry boxes into smithereens; or even from the sea outside the bar.

San Juan is a sickly city in the summer season, as it expects, and invariably receives, a visit from Yellow Jack, who takes his victims mainly from the unacclimated classes. The houses of the city, too, are crowded together, after the manner of those in the older portion of Havana, while the narrow and filthy streets are reeking reservoirs of corruption and disease. Notwithstanding this, however, there is a fine residential class here, composed of native and Spanish stock, and if the stranger brings good letters of introduction he will be hospitably received. That is, according to Spanish ideas of hospitality, which consist of an invitation to a cafe (one invitation), and perhaps, as a great favor, another to the cock pit.

The island is governed by a Governor-General, with numerous officials, all Spanish, and, although a Spanish island, one of the very few yet remaining to the mother country here, yet there is the same discontent with regard to the home government as is manifest in Cuba. Excessive taxation and an alien soldiery, together with high-salaried positions, filled with foreigners, are among the causes contributing to weaning this loyal island from its allegiance to the Spanish crown.

Aside from the forts and the cemetery (where the dead are mainly deposited in "columbaries") the market place and cockpits are the only objects of interest within the confines of the