Life Among the Natives, Their Industries and Their Idiosyncrasies. THE CITY OF PONCE. Great Enthusiasm With Which Amer-

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cans Are Greeted in the Ancient City.

Spiendid Chances for American Capital and Brains-The Well Built Cuiverts Along the Bailroads-Best Opportunity for Extension and Improvement Second to be Tobacco and Coffee.

Albert Gardner Robinson, a newspaper correspondent, went with the army of Gen. Miles last Summer into Puerto Rico. He wrote at the time accounts of the varied series of almost bloodless conquests and peaceful victories that marked the line of advance. He also kept his eyes open and learned a great deal about the Puerto Ricans, their mode of life, their industries, and their idiosyncrasies.

Mr. Robinson says: "The departure of the expedition to Puerto Rico and its journey there have been told many times. I had quarters on the transport I). H. Miller, tem of the city is daily being shocked which carried regulars, including by the new sights and the new events Light Battery ( of the Seventh United States, Artillery, and some cavalry. with 180 horses. We had four boats and one life raft. Not one of the boats would have lived in a heavy seaway. and one or two of them would hardly most preciseness. The free and easyhave floated on a mill pond. Had any



of the possibilities of an ocean voyage occurred, had fire broken out, or had terial She promenaded with young we run into one of the hurricanes incident to that region, the soldiers of the boats and rafts

region. It would also open up many possibilities in agriculture that are now hardly profitable and connect the principal towns and cities. This would be a convenience, for, fourteen hours in a carriage is a hard and tiring jour ney, even over that best of roads from San Juan to Poace The natives are too conservative to appreciate at ones the American mode of business and American enterprise, still in some de partments of industry much may un doubtedly be done by American energy and ability. There may be something in sugar, but the best opportunity for extension and improvement seems to be in tobacco and coffe. But, unlike a newly settled country, Puerto Rico is no place for a poor man. Land'is dear and the island appears to be a place for capital to develop in ways that will

earich the investor and give to its employes a better opportunity for a better living.

But woe betide the cager American with meagre capital, while looking about for an opening; he soon drops into the prevalent indolence. It is in the air and in the life. For a time if is possible to fight it, but the conviction grows that ultimately one must yield to it and accept manana as the law of life."

AMERICAN GIRLS IN CUBA

The Natives Look Upon Our Women With Wonster Amasement.

The Americans are naturally the wonder and amazement of the Santi ago natives. The entire nervous sys sluce America took possession. The people here are accustomed to a very formal way of speech and action. They walk as if every step were studied, and the more enlightened talk with the ut going way of the visitors is astounding to them. The American comes out with his hearty laugh, not caring who is around, and the datuty senoritas look at one another in wonderment. An American girl is the most interesting of all sights to them. They watch her in silent amazement from the time she appears in view until she has turned the corner. They seem to think the American woman the most wonderful of all earthly objects. The Santlago ladies, no matter how hot the day, always dress in black when they appear on the Plaza de Arma at "la tarde" for the usual evening's promenade. The other evening an American girl was there in a blood-red costume, made of

some kind of thin, flowing gauze ma United States officers, and the rising of the sun at midnight would not have On the night of Aug. 2 the transport American cyclist was doubless out for



Manual Constants and service

Some of the Difficulties the Visitor Encounters in the Exchange of Money.

THE SHARPER'S TRAIL American Coins Which Have Been Punctured Circulate With.

Great Freedom.

Everyday Life in the Late of To-Morrow-A Pussing Currency-Disease-Breedens "himplasters-Hely Days Galore-Tise Curious Contrivance for Drinking, Was es -How the Courting Is Done.

One who is visiting Cuba in the days of her reconstruction can bring no better financial prop than Ameria can greenbacks; they are so much easier to carry than gold, and, the premium on them is the same. If he brings the usual letter of credit of draws on home through one of the island banks, he will find that the cashier's charges for the accommoda tion are quite in keeping with the Cuban idea that everything American is lawful prey, to be made the most of. The hotel-keepers still require their pay on the basis of Spanish gold. but will readily allow 6 per cont, on American bills. The local merchants are glad to get our greenhacks at the same rate in exchange for their goods or the coin of the country, because most of their business is done in New York, Philadelphia, Boscon and Balti more on the credit system, and the notes are convenient for transportathe cabmen, porters, servants and othcheated at every turn by their late rulers, with have nothing to do with any money that they do not understand and insist on the familiar 20cent pieces of the island, American dimes and nickels and copp. s for small change, or the dirty, beggarhandled, disease-infested shinplasters. If you offer them an American halfdollar, fresh and shining from the mint, they will eye it doubtfully, trying its edges with their teeth and ring it on the sidewalk, if they do not reuse it outright.

Some sharper of other days seems to have floated Cuba with American silver five and ten-cent pieces, after having punched a fraction out of each United States would have been ex attracted more attention. But the for his own profit. You may pick up death. posed to dangers and to risks which thing which threw the whole city into a hatful of these small coins in the might have been greatly modified by commotion was the appearance of a course of a day's transaction in any the issuance of proper orders, which young American girl on the plaza rid. Cuban city and never find a whole oes, chess, baccarat and a thousand would have kept the ships within hall ing a wheel and wearing a white cos one among them Not only do the other games of chaftee and skill, in ing distance of each other, or by the tume with a short skirt. Such a thing mutilated pieces pass at their face which women may also indulge in the provision of an adequate equipment of as a girl's riding a wheel was never be value without question, but the isl- privacy of home-and seldom without fore dreamed of in Santiago. This fair anders appear to place most confi- stakes. The Ouban female goes into dence in the coin that has the gr

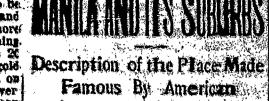
the price of drinks is high in Cubs; it would seem that there is money to be. the more liquor one buys the more succession way the sets! To study the thing. out it was this way: There was 20 per cent, premium on American gold Spanish gold as compared with sliver Thus, out of the original American five-dollar goldpiece I bought eight ex-pensive drinks and still had \$5.80 in allver-and discovered afterward that the bar-keeper had swindled me-out of 15 cents change. In the Cuban calendar there are no fewer than 250 "holy days," Sundays-

included, in which nobody can be leg. ally compelled to labor-neither the man servant, nor the maid servant, nor the ox, nor the ass, nor, perforce, the stranger within the gates. With such extraordinary deference to the



OHURCH OF MONSERRATE, MATANZAS saints and angels this ought to be the most religious country under the sun; but, unfortunately, after masty prayers in the early morning the matives em-ploy the remainder of their feast days in bull-batting, cock-fighting, the lot-tery, the ball, the theatre, instead of steendance on heavenly personages. Sunday is the greet gala day of the week, distinguished by the added brillancy of every street tion without the expense of getting tery, the ball, the theatre, instead of them changed into another form. But attendance on heavenly personages. ers of their class, accustomed to being the week, distinguished by the the week, distinguished by the added brillancy of every street scene in the best clothes of the populace, bolsterous masquerade pro-cessions, tenfold activity in shops, sa-loons and theatres, and noisy persist-ency of lottery venders. Buil fighting is as dear to the native heart as ever, though owing to hard times the ex-though owing to hard times the expensive amusement is now confined to a few of the larger cities and certain seasons of the year. But the Cuban village must be poor indeed which has not its several cock-pits in full blast at least one day in seven, wherein crowds of men bet their last real on favorite' birds and go wild with excitement over the edifying spectacle of two miserable roosters clawing each other to

The inveterate gambling propensity of the people also finds vent in domin-WILD LDG SAME MIDOCCAL Test which distinguishes her sister-women of Northern villages, who find their highest ambition realized in the "lonehand" prize of progressive euchre. In this part of the world every table in hotels, barrooms, clubbouses and car as is in requisition all day long and far into the night on Sundays for gaming purposes. The funniest thing in the line of drinking is to see the Cubans imbibe water from a "monkey jug," or perone. The vossel, by the way, which is found in every house and hotel bed room. is a delight to the foreigner, not only by reason of its artistic beauty, but because it keeps the water cool in a comparitively iceless country. There are ugs and jugs of varying shapes and signs. The commonest are round and lender, with two holes in each near the handle, which is on top. One hole which marks the place, is not larger than the hollow of a goose quill. It is the oldstory of the bung and the spigot. Filled with water, the jug is hung on a peg or any convenient projection, in spot that is draughty. The currents of air cause the thick, porous clay to perspire, like like a patient recovering from Santiago Tever," and the result is that the water is rendered cool and the "royal fort" of Samilars, with its wholesome. The Ouban fashion of drinking is not to touch the vessel with the lips, but open the mouth wide, and, holding the jug up, to tilt it until by institute, and from these in old a tiny stream trickles down the throat, times drawbridges presend the river describing a six-inch curve and striking square on the root of the tongue." Apparently the highest social institution of Clenfuegos is the Sunday evening promenade in the plaza, and without it I really do not know how the young people of the aristocracy would manage to mate and marry. During ered the Philippines for Spain and got all the week senoritas of the upper himself killed near the Island of Ceph. class are kept under rigid restriction. never permitted to walk abroad alone and constantly watched by parents and duennas, as if expected to rush to the bad if allowed the smallest opportunity. This system of eternal vigilance would doubtless become as irksome to the guardians as to the opening buds were it not so soon over. At the age of thirteen a Cuban girl is considered quite old enough to marry, and her parents hunt up a son-in-law without delay-unless, as is more commonly the case, some sub-rosa lover announces himself, or a match, satisfactory to paterfamilias, was arranged for her with the son of a friend while the pair were yet in their cradles. The beauty and charm of the fair Cubans are as evanescent as irresistible while they last. Like the lovely wild flower of their island, they mature very early but fade as rapidly. The prettiest glil will be plain before she is thirty, and a handsome middle- aged woman is not to be found in Cuba-if anywhere outside the temperate zone. Porto Rican Weather. February and March are the dry est months, heavy rains begin in May, a month earlier than in western Cuba, and continue with a slight weakening in June and Oct in til the end of the year. Official figures have been compiled from data side, opposite Fort Santiago Is a mon. on file at a station on the northeastern on life at a station on the hortheastern, side, opposite Fort Sanzago is a mon-shore of the island. These show that the average minfall for 2½ years was 123 inches, or about twice as much as falls at Han Juan at sea level. The highest point reached by thermometer was to degrees in May, 96, the lowest of degrees in January, 97, and Pepru-bring and the saith wast when the time the function of the prometer. See Male the Santa and the shore the Paneo Male of the Santa and the shore the Paneo Male of the Santa and the prometer of the Santa and the saith wast when the function of the saith as the Santa and the saith wast when the function of the saith as the saith as the saith wast when the function and the saith as the saith wast when the function and the saith wast when the function Spanish five-dollar goldpiece. This highest point reached by thermometer was easter for him to reckon, and my will be degrees in May, '96, the lowest change for the second deal was five of degrees in January, '97, and Pebru-silver dollars and four cents. Though ary, '96, 



Armed Forces

The Gloomy Ramparts, Dismal Dungeons and Antiquated Ordnance of Santiago Fort.

Madarm Commersial Manile Mines Propuls tion of Namely Three Mundred Themand. -Where the Rmay Childhimman Abamada The Only Rallford in the Thillippine Islanda. 

The conflict between our troops and the Philippine insurgents in the suburbs of Manila will give interest to a more detailed description of the city and its surroundings than has yet appeared. The Island of Lunch is in this latitude from seventy to sighty miles wide, but the Bay of Linnin Jours into its western side about thirty miles, and the Laguna de Lahla, in the interior, occupies more than twelly miles of its width. The Pasig Biver runs from the laguna, or lake, through the city into the bay, and its windings make it about fifteen miles long, but



Construction of the second sec the sliptial space about white drive can like a race (ourse). But the medical composition of with its marining population of three hundred thousand, is acres Armed Forces, Dridges, on the northerneshow of Pasts, and has grown from the seconds of neveral puchlos, so the and subursem districts, into the of a second of a second second second and subursem districts, into the second and subursem districts.

and auburban districts into one weeks cipality. The Bat areas is divided by their way to the river and form into-tal boundary lines to soveral methods and are caused by stary bridges. Directly across the river form the old wallest over is the great bostness district of Simonds, which great bostness the Alcayeer's, to which the Linkson traters were confised in the series days, when the Spanish hiddings scorped traters were confised in the series days, when the Spanish hiddings scorped traters were confised in the series days, when the Spanish hiddings scorped trate from themselves, but Serend The street, now therefore the Soverges trade-or conducted by Europeans, is the Se-colts, near the river and parallel to the while the Resards district is through while the Rosario, district is through busy Chinaman. Beyond Binonde statishing slang the

bas thent on low ground, is Tondo wilfoll is made up at long marrow streets now mucht and now dusty, ac-cording to the newsea, lined with the humble min-thannet shantles of a swarm of native Malars. They mostly

infilient of the Messieros of San Aug-untin, with its senethary of San Se-bastian, and here a antipersion Wridge 300 feetheng erosen the Pasis. Cross-lag a wooden bridge even the Matters-de san Mignel or San Mignel Hetner, one passes from Uniapo to Hen Mignel, where there are an extensive, bar-racks and there are an extensive. racks and many constructed houses, including some fine villes along the fiver bank. Furthert out of these is lalmeaning, the annuminer palace of the Spanish Gerriemor General, which is increased by particus and has wharves of its own on the river-there is quite an island in the middles of the river apports than Minuel called Ban Andres, upon which there are a convelopent hospital, an endepe-

dropped anchor off the harbor of the purpose of having a little fun and the surrender of Ponce, without a shot tions. being fired.

As soon as possible, I made my way children appear to occupy the bulk of the living exemplar. their time in eating mangues, that fruit which Lady Brassey so aptly de scribes by pronouncing it to be one of the most delicious of fruits, but to be eaten only in one's bathtub. When not expedition has been returned to the busy eating mangoes, scores of these

people parade the streets and the Ponce roads in search of wealth. I was met everywhere with expressions of joy as an American who had helped to bring about the change of affairs. The better class of citizens It was disappointing to the ordnance showed me the most cordial hospitality experts of the Army, who have been whenever the occasion offered. But indefatigably perfecting these weapthe satisfaction of a gentleman whom I met was less vociferous than that displayed by our waiter in a cafe where another citizen was asked his feeling in the matter of the change of affairs. The waiter overheard the question, and quite brought down the house by his vigorous howl of 'Viva los Americanos. 'But the same sentiment appears to pervade all classes. A local paper changed its title to La Nueva Era, Ano 1. Numero 1. (The New Era. Year 1. Number 1.)

In due time I reached San Juan. What most struck me on the journey was the excellence of the great has been written. Concerning the railmilitary road about which so much ways of the island, the average speed of which is sixteen miles an hour, the roadbed is fairly good and the well-built culverts, where the line crosses the little streams, might well be imitated by many a railroad in the States. But the lines are short and run along the coast. Puerto Rico needs a a proper railway system, and it needs American capital and American brains



A STREET IN PONCE.

to build it . The first company in the field is likely to hold a monopoly. as a district which is hardly half the size of the State of New Jersey does not present unlimited chances for competition. It is therefore quite desirable that such an enterprise be essayed by bonafide operators. Some four or five hundred miles of track are all that would be necessary, and perhaps all that would be desirable, at present. The belt line should be completed. It large sugar plantations, and sugar would draw from and supply the low- raising is the principal occupation of land border of the coast line, and by of the inhabitants. In the Escalante doing so greatly economize in the ex- region splendid tobacco is grown. The

Ponce. Here the men heard for the she succeeded in astounding the nafirst time of the landing at Guanica of tives with an event they would talk the detachment from Santiago, and of about for a lifetime under usual condi-

No less amazed was Santiago society when a Chicago lady appeared at a to Ponce, which is a sort of compound fashionable reception in full evening place. It consists of the city proper, dress It was square-neck decollete some two miles inland, and of the port gown. Santiago women had seen such city La Playa. Here I first had a things in pictures, but they did not begood chance to observe the natives of lieve the illustrations true to life until the lower classes. Men, women, and the Chicago belle stood before them as

## The Army's Sloge Guns

The heavy field artillery which was taken to Cuba with General Shafter's Washington arsenal. The guns represent the highest type of movable ordnance possessed by the United States Army, and it is doubtful if it is surpassed in efectiveness and power by the siege pieces of European Powers. ons for the last five years. To them the campaign of Santiago was not a slege technically, but an assault, and it was therefore not possible to use siege artillery. The operations were so rapid, and the progress of the firing line toward the objective city was achieved in such a short time, that no opportunity was permitted to bring up the heavy howitzers which were to be relied upon to make the Spanish trenches speedily untenable, as well as demolish the fortifications. For a siege the light artillery proved wholly ineffective, just as experienced ordnance officers knew it would. El Caney was fired at half a day by a light bat-

tery, which did no real barm, and the town was finally taken by an aggressive infantry charge. Similar conditions prevailed in the capture of San Juan Hill, and Santiago finally capitulated without being damaged by army fire.

It was said that the Army slege guns were not utilized because the roads were too poor to permit transportation of such heavy weights to the front, but

the expert artillerists declare the 4inch tires of the heavy guns will go anywhere that Army wagons can go. These guns are of two kinds-the 7inch howitzers and the 5-inch guns. The howitzers weigh 3,700 pounds each, and when on the road their trunnions fit in the sockets at the rear of the carriages, being placed in the forward sockets only when firing. They throw a 125-pound shell over an effective range exceeding five miles, using a charge of eight pounds of smokeless powder.

## Great Wealth of Negros.

Negros is ranked among the eleven largest islands in the Philippine archipelago, its approximate area being 2, 300 square miles. The total population, according to the latest Spanish

statistics, is 204. 669. Negros lies parallel to Cebu, and is separated from that island by a strait about fifteen miles wide. The largest towns in Negros are Jimamaylan, Dumaguete, Bais and Bacolod. The last named is the administrative centre. Considering its size, Negros is regarded by some authorities as the richest in the archipelago. There are many pense of markeding the sugar crop. low lands along the coast are in a fine, which is the principal industry of that, state of cultivation.

number of holes in it, as a proof that It is genuine-else why did somebody



## GARDEN IN PLAZA, MATANZAS.

(ake the trouble to punch it? A great deal of paper scrip, similar to that used in the United States before the resumption of specie payment, circulates in Cuba, but with this important difference: when ours became solled or torn we could exchange it for new. while in Cuba there are no such facilities, and the filthy bits of paper, handled by lepers and carried about in the rags of the lowest classes, become so loathsome that one would rather forego his "change" than touch it.

One dollar of our silver will purchase at least \$2.45 of this scrip, often more, according to the rate of exchange at the moment. Though based upon nothing, having been issued indiscriminately by a bankrupt govern-ment, it answers all the local necessities of the trade, and is always used

for carfare and small transactions. One thing is well known, that every authorized issue of a given sum was enormously exceeded. Seven years ago an issue of bank bills of this small currency was intrusted to an establishment in the United States, and \$14,000,000 was printed in addition to the authorized amount! All was duly receipted for and signed by the corrupt Spanish officials, who-so the quidnucs say-divided the extra millions among themselves. It is asserted that the Captain-General under whose administration this financial stroke was accomplished came ' to Cuba a poor man, and two years later returned to Spain with 3,000,000 pesos

hody change.

The other day I went into the Cafe La Luz to treat some of my newly-arrived countrymen. There were four of us, and each ordered a different beverage. I threw down a five-dollar American goldpiece in payment. The "smile-dispenser" studied long with knitted brow over the knotty problem of change, and then handed me back a Spanish five-dollar goldpiece and forty cents in sliver. This pleased the group so well that I treated again giving back to the saloon-keeper the

ONE OF THE OLD GATES OF MANILA. River Pasig, at its very mouth, At Malate the Spaniards had barracks for both infantry and cavalry, and it was

from there they attacked our troops when they made their advance from Cavite at the end of July and beginaing of August. The fortified enclosure in the angle between the south bank of the Pasigand the bay is the Manila of history,

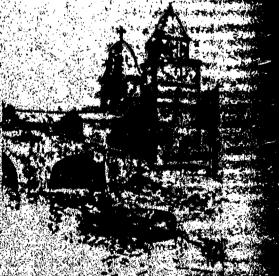
founded by Legaspi in 1071. The man sive walls, somewhest shaken and tracked by earthquikes, fun for a mile along the bay and an equal distance through which to pour the water into along the river, and comfact around on the jug, and the other, in a knot the landside by an inegular curve. ing the enclosed space a nearly triangnlar form, Outside of this landward barrier there was originally a deep most, into which water could be let from both river and bay. It is still there as a broad ditch, closed with unwholesome deposite.

At the northwest angle of the wall near the junction of river and pay, is gloomy ramparts and dismal daugeons and its autiquated ordnance. There are three sates, along the diver, fanked and were raised at night, when the gates were also securely closed. In front of the eastern end of this wall, facing the river, is the Passo de Magai hanes, or promenate of Magellan, graced by a monument of the famou Portuguese navigator, who first discov Within this fortified enclosure of the old city, which contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants, was the seat of the secular and exclemination author ity of Spain's Philippine colony for three centuries and a quarter. On the plaza near the fort, is the cathedral is Loma and Gasslangth which replaced the one scattered by tards established a line on the earthquake of 1863, and fronting actions from Calegoria of the on the same space, which is adorned around to the heighth of Same by a statue of Carlos IV, was the Sovernor General's palace, and near by the official residence of the Arch bishop. bishop. In the old city, with its many stone buildings and its paved streets, are al-so the Royal Court of Chancery, the churches and convents of San Augustin and of the Recoletos of San Francisco. bishop. covering a broad area; the specious grounds and substantial structures of the Royal-and Pontilical University of St. Thomas, which has a fine physical aboratory; the Municipal Athenaeum, which is an educational institution, in charge of the Jesuits, and has not only a physical laboratory, but a natural history museum and a will equipped the aqueduct makes inty astronomical and meteorological observatory. There is also the large and well managed Hospital of San Juan de Dios and a military hospital with beds for 1.000 patients. Old Manila is a

Ind Staffang. bortheast, but still near the give region called the arrocaros. where the great tories and the sloughter he and, where there are also a beninter rar-len; a Spanish theatry and a dam ing pavilion called the Riosko?

The only railroad in the Links ulunds, rams from Mandle mo the coast for a few miles and a rich valley of super case and rice deids, through the flourishing prov-ince of Pangasinar to Degum an the Gulf of Lingayen, which cases inter-west east of Lonion, one hundred hirty miles away. Maiolos is on-"allroad, about stweaty-sight from Manile, and is a place of inhabitanta.

About the first a oitr is Malabon, nea onsiderable anburban and This is a



A CONTRACTOR AND A STREET BOOK tity, and in the intervening mut Ban Juan de sevond the Ban Mignet dis and Malaze on the south a semi-circle of about seve Manila has an excellent at water supply which was prev the forelight and muniposes private bemefactor, and no wisdom or liberality of colonial government off h from the river Marianina, or teo, which Joins the Pasig a di ow the lake. There is a n Lion at the fiver and a residence of Santa a San Juan del Monte permissione

the city. While the deep water Harbor is down at Cavit merchant vessels of m rannot get near the w monument of the Spanish power of to discharge the to discharge their own les. Outside of the walls on the Day Iraught gunboats inough to Program Caloocsus Pradle blas a Ja

to his credit. So thrifty were the proud hidalgos who threw down a dollar when half of it was due (someelse's dollar), and stalked haughtily away, sneering at the "Yankee pigs" who waited for their

