

of a cartoon I saw somewhere some years ago, in which John L. Sullivan was caricatured. It seems some one had called Mr. Sullivan's attention to the fact that he was "not a gentleman." Sullivan replied: "I ain't, eh? Take that! Now am I?" The fellow was knocked down, and rather than get a good licking, he acknowledged Mr. Sullivan was a gentleman. If any nation should wink a cross eye at Uncle Sam from now on, and should intimate that he (Uncle Sam) is not a nice man, there will not be wanting those who will point to the army and say: "We ain't, eh? Be careful now; remember what we've got; we can lick you fellows in a holy minute. Remember the Maine."

M. J. FOYER.

SOME FACTS ABOUT PUERTO RICO.

The surface of the island is broken and hilly. A low mountain ridge traverses it from east to west, ranging nearer the southern than the northern coast, with spurs extending northward. Of this ridge the highest elevation is El Yunque (The Anvil), a mountain rising from the tableland of Luquillo to a height of 3,700 feet above the sea, and visible to vessels some 60 miles off the coast. The country has two marked features—the many wooded ravines descending from the mountains, through which course streams of bright water falling to the sea; and, interspersed with these ravines, extensive stretches of natural meadow land, which serve as pasture to herds of wild cattle.

The climate is a healthy one for a tropical situation. The constant running streams, with the absence of stagnant water, doubtless contribute to purify the atmosphere. The island, well aerated throughout, is appreciably cooler and more salubrious than are the larger Antilles, or than the majority of the lesser Windward islands, which have been termed the graves of foreigners. The mountain valleys, especially in the winter—from November to April—when the north winds blow steadily, enjoy a delightful climate which has been likened to a perpetual spring.

In the summer—the rainy season at the north of the island—a sea breeze blows from eight a. m. to four p. m., in the absence of which life would hardly be tolerable near the coast. The rains, which are frequent and plentiful in May and June, come down in August and September "with the fury of a deluge." The rainfall at San Juan has been estimated at about 70 cubic inches. On the southern coast,

however, there is much less rain; sometimes none at all even for ten or twelve months.

It is in August and September that the climate at the north is least healthful, especially for foreigners. Fever, dysentery and scorbutic diarrhoea are then to be guarded against, and a change to the mountains is desirable. These are also the months of the hurricanes which have in some years proved so destructive and ruinous in their effects.

Puerto Rico is eminently an agricultural island. It is favored with a soil of unusual fertility, consisting of a reddish (or whitish) earth, made up chiefly of a clay mixed with peroxide of iron or marl. The abundant supply of water keeps the soil productive; even in the southern districts, where the rain is less and the ground seems parched, water may be found by digging 1½ feet or two feet beneath the surface. The hills and valleys are luxuriant with verdure; the mountains are green to their tops and cultivable at any height. Good timber, suitable for houses or ships, is abundant—a result owing in a measure to a wise provision of the government early in the century, when it was formally ordered that "three trees should be planted for every one cut down." Among the native trees the royal palm has been perhaps the most useful, not only on account of its wood and its fruit, but also for its leaves, which furnish thatching for the cabins of the poorer classes. The mahogany tree has yielded valuable timber for export. The plantain and the banana trees have furnished food for thousands. Among the shrubs, the coffee plant, grateful to sight and smell, with its glossy leaves and jasmine-scented white blossoms, grows almost spontaneously. The tobacco plant yields a product not much inferior to that of Cuba. That useful grass, the sugar cane, is cultivated with profit, and best in the hot, arid regions of the south, where other crops requiring more moisture would not flourish. A considerable capital, English and Spanish, is invested in sugar plantations, Ponce being the center of this commerce. A cotton remarkable for its length of fiber, tenacity and whiteness is produced, and its culture might with advantage be largely extended.

The population of this densely peopled island is about 800,000. As to the character of this population, a series of fortunate circumstances, in combination with a sagacious government, has contributed to impart to it a quality superior to that of any other of

the West India islands. In the first place, this has always been a purely agricultural people. Then, at an early period, the crown lands of the island were divided up among the natives, who thus became a community of small proprietors, to which was given a new consistency and stability on their being formed into a body of disciplined militia. Further, the island has not suffered to the same extent as its neighbors from the curse of slavery. The slaves were permitted to purchase their freedom on easy terms, and they have borne but a small proportion to the mass of the inhabitants. Thus, in 1873, when slavery was finally abolished, there were but few unemancipated persons left in the province. As a result, Puerto Rico is one of the few countries of tropical America where the whites outnumber the blacks; and, it may be added, where the males outnumber the females.

Comparatively free from political disorders, the island has profited by the revolutions which have disturbed the adjacent regions, especially San Domingo and Venezuela, in the contingents of valuable settlers which she has gained as immigrants from these localities.

There has thus been insured for Puerto Rico a peasantry of free laborers—an industrious and self-sustaining population. Even the poor white Xivaro of the mountains or the interior is no burden upon the government, but, with his cow and horse, his acre of corn or sweet potatoes, his few coffee plants and plantain trees, he lives, with his family, an independent and happy existence. All the rural laboring classes, with entire simplicity of manners, unite a frank cordiality and genuine hospitality to travelers and strangers.

The only popular vice appears to be—here as in the Philippines—gambling, especially in the form of cock fighting.

In this connection it may be noted that there are no beasts of prey, no noxious birds or insects, no venomous snakes or reptiles to disturb the life of the inhabitants. There are, indeed, no indigenous reptiles, no monkeys and few birds. On the other hand, the rats are numerous and destructive, especially on the sugar plantations.—Col. W. Winthrop, in *The Outlook*.

Dr. Field, who was the examining surgeon for the naval reserves while the recruiting was being done in New Orleans, had many a good story to tell of recruits in the service. A good one he tells is of a German who was walk-