

Fifty Years Ago.

This is the stamp that the letter bore Which carried the story far and wide, Of certain cure for the loathsome sore That bubbled up from the tainted tide Of the blood below. And 'twas Ayer's name And his sarsaparilla, that all now, know, That was just beginning its fight of fame With its cures of go years ago. min

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

is the original sarsaparilla. It has behind it a record for cures unequalled by any blood purifying compound. It is the only sarsaparilla honored by a medal at the World's Fair of Others imitate the remedy; they can't imitate the record:

50 Years of Cures.

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I have received from the well known Myrtle Rest Apiary a nice lot of Honey, put up in pound original packages, cheap.

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Two miles from Potecasi a one horse farm in high state of cultivation, good buildings, under a good fence; one of the best driven wells of water in the county. Can be brica-bric. The real condition -bought cheap. For further information call on or address,

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resses of all grades. I want the patronage of the trade. I think I ca me a trial order and see if I can't please you. Address,

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Land for Sale.

I will sell my farm near Lew. iston, containing two hundred acres more or less, about a two horse crop cleared and suited to any crops raised in that section. Plenty of timber for all plantation purposes and in easy reach of the town. The farm lies along the Roanoke & Tar River R. R. Good stock range and be appreciated and deserved. good neighborhood. Will sell for \$650.00 cash or \$700.00 to pay \$200. 00 cash and balance on easy payment. Would be cheap for \$1000 Write to

7-28

T. J. LASSITER, Ahoskie, N. C.

If you Wish Unickens and Eggs.

Something About Our New Possessions in the West Indies-Fairest Land on Earth.

PORTO RICO

From the Atlanta Constitution.] For this is the fairest country that the eye hath ever seen or sun shone upon -ChristopherColumbus'report to Queen Isabella, after his discovery of Porto

In that strict diplomatic sense

which no layman comprehendsor tries to, if he be wise-our diff c .lty with Spain may not be class ed as a war of conquest, and we are all entitled to the proud and patriotic emotions which are born of such marked unselfishness But although our motives have al ways been of the best and the whole world knows that we be gan the struggle with nothing to be gained besides the credit of triumph, America has wrested from the Spanish crown the brightest jewel in the little clus ter that remains, and will give it such a setting as it deserves. For Porto Rico is ours; eternally, ev erlasting, indisputably ours. That it always should have been, because of common interests, geographical and otherwise, is now the frank declaration of the natives, but that plea cuts but small figure in the premises at this late date. Geographically, things are so much mixed in the grees, 30 minutes north latitude West Indies that other interests and 62 degrees, 37 minutes and have and always will be para. 67 degrees, 10 minutes westlong mount whenever there is proper. itude, thus giving it the shape of ty to be divided up among the an irregular parallelogram. nations of the earth.

That Columbus had a good eye for real estate has been pretty well established already, and it should be said that when he ex pressed his opinion of Porto Rico he had returned to Spain after his second voyage of discovery to these shores and when, from his store of personal observation and experience, he was prepared to pass judgment as an expert. The verdict of the centuries since has today the words of the great discoverer have recalled themselves ten thousand good Americans now here are finding something round. new every hour to admire and to marvel at in this wenderful coun try, which is, in all truth, the fairest that any of their eyes have ever seen before. Clean, bright beautiful, picturesque, in the sublimest sense of the word, it robs Cuba of her famous title without sensible dispute, and becomes the posished pearl of the Antllies be

fore the gaze of the world

ITS TERRITORIAL VALUE. In writing of Porto Rico under present circumstances, however, it is best to point out briefly in starting the tremendous value of the island to us in a commercial and strategic sense, lest the read er might understand from a bare description of the scenery that Uncle Sam was simply possess ing himself of a bit of territorial is quite the contrary. The peo ple who have made the place the garden suot it is were aided in the beginning by nature with a lavish hand and amid such sur roundings it is not strange that they have come to be progressive energetic and as vigorous in push please in quality and price. Give ing their business relations with the rest of the world as America itself. The climate is not conducive to the stagnation which exists in neighboring islands; the soil, well-watered and fertile supportion of the West Indies twenty times its size, and the inhabitants have that in them which make us glad to extend the warm and immense quantity of fire wood hand of good fellowship as well as the more formal right hand of good citizenship. And both will

land somewhere in the Caribbe in is, perhaps, more generally understood now than it ever was before, owing largely to the specta cle thay the Schley and Sampson fleets have presented in dodging neutrality laws and international And a pienty of them, give your complications for so many weeks New Hampshire, Connecticut, lined with trees which shade it from the streams today (as in the opportunity for thousands of fort hens Dixie Hog and Chicken Pow in order to pick up hereand there West Virginia, Florida, the two and keep out the sun and heat neighboring, island of San Domin unes to be made by those who are Itcures Cholera in Hogs and scraps of coal and provisions. Dakotas combined, Montana, Ida- even at midday. Sometimes the go, where the first American gold intelligent and quick enough to Colonel P. C. Hanna, of Iowa, the ho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, hills rise abruptly to great was discovered), the natives wash

American consul at Jan Juan, was Oregon, Washington and Nevada. heights, rovered with forests of out nuggets by the crude process compelled to take refuge in St. She contains more people than the great ortegon trees, with Thomas, a foreign port, because balf a dozed of some of our small- dashes of color here and there. the nearest ground over which er states put together and for her where the taulaurna bursts into his false friend, Ponce de Leon the American flag flew was too size she will make a showing al flower. Mahogany and mange far away for him to be of service most beyond belief. San Juan, and iron wood and sabino are all to his countrymen who were look as is well known, is the most in evidence, too, and the royal ing to him for protection. A densely populated city in the poinciana shows its glorious and the armadillo, but birds are thousand reasons could be urged | world, more people living there | bloom at intervals. Horseman in favor of our acquiring one of on less space than even in the from the big sugar estates are the islands, but in face of the re crowded towns in the interior of passed every few minutes, and cent education of the p ople on China, and the country does al they bow courteously or stop to that point it is unnecessary to most as well in proportion, not an invite you in to have refreshmention more than these. Had acre of ground going to waste on ments. If you go-as you should not Porto Rico fallen to our lot it the island from end to end. would have been best to have re vived the old scheme to purchase draw the comparison finer, and rum and limes and ice water St. Thomas and St. Croix from take the state of Nevada for the (they even have ice factories i

THE PATRON AND

Denmark for, in spite of their purpose of illustrating it. Porto Porto Rico) and woodering how small size, they would at least Rico contains 3,550 square miles; it could be that you had never have given us some sort of rep in Nevada there are more than known there was such a country resentation in waters in which 110,000. In Porto Rico there are on the map before. the stars and stripes have too 800,708 souls; in Nevada there are long been strangers. SOMETHING ABOUT THE ISLAND. As it is, however, we are to take

possession of a piece of property which leaves nothing to be desired. Its size, it is fourth in the group, Cuba, Hayti and Jamaica, all heading it on that'score, but it loses little on such account when all other conditions are taken in to the comparison. It lies seven ty miles east of Hayti the famous Mona passage with its scores of beautiful little islands flowing bebetween, and its exact location is 17 degrees, 50 minutes and 18 deis 108 miles loug, 37 miles wide and contains 3,550 square miles of the finest soil that produces life and vegetation to adorn any section of the earth. From end to end it is traversed by a range of hills, in which hundreds of streams find birth, and flowing through fertile valleys to the tistics are to be believed, the peo north and south, gives the counhas called for butlittle in the way business or that one half the isof improvement or alteration land is forced to keep quiet while ship will be thrown around him. not reversed this judgment, and from man, There are more than the other half works. But there 1,300 streams altogether in the is no jostling at all, and instead of

> not solumn or suggestive of the of that which he has. primeval, but rather full of noble proves on better acquaintance SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS.

The exact population of the island is given as 806,708 by an offiports more people than any other cial census recently concluded and of these only about one-fourth are negroes. With all the figures above mentioned before him one should, and unquestionably will, can get a better idea of the marvelous resources of the place and the probable position Porto Rico will occupy if inducted into the galaxy of states than in any other way, for they are somewhat The necessity of our owning startling when brought home in direct comparisons. In size she is but another instance that re- has not been so exhaustively exwill rank third if admitted to statehood, only Rhode Island and Delaware containing fewer square paign. miles. But in population she will cank twenty-fourth, exceeding such states as Maine, Vermont,

45,761. In other words, every ery door and window open, looks man, woman and child in Nevada | cool and comfortable, in true anto has nearly two and a half-2.41 to be exact - square miles in which rear are the sugar houses, with to "slosh around," as Mark Twain smoke pouring out of the tal expresses it, while his future fel. stack and the whirl of the machin low citizen in Porto Rico has to ery sounding ever so faint and do the best he can on a scant two- far off. You ask your host if all hundred-and-fiftieth, part of a Porto Rico is similar to that square mile. It does not seem which you have seen with its like a just division of property clean farm-houses, beautiful rights, and the situation will fur roads, extensive plantations, facnish a text for socialistic sermons tories and hospitable residents. in future, even if it does not lead and he smilingly informs you to a stampede from the island to that it is. The roads are not so or Ponce, on the south coast, the prairies. Other states could good, in places, but they will all where the American troops now have been selected with equal ad- be put in shape this fall, and he are. The latter city has recently vantage, but Nevada came first goes on to speak of the gratitude outstripped the former in sharpe to mind, and I have gone over the he feels that the Americans have competition, and in the harbor figures with the aid of the news- come to save the island from the nere at present merchant vessels paper almanac here without the devastation and sufferings of an of four countries are lying, waitslightest desire to say or do any internal war. For, he says, the ing to discharge their cargoes as thing to the disparagement of the people had been so over-taxed soon as the war tariff can be adgreat commonwealth lately the and overburdened by Spain's justed by General Miles. San scene of Mr. Fitzsimmon's nota- corrupt or incompetent methods Juan is on Morro island and reach ble triumph.

For a moment it would seem that, if these unusually lively staple in Porto Rico fall over each him you hope the day is not far todate gmunicipal methods that island, forty seven of which are the place seeming overgrowded, to many who are looking upon the of sufficient size to be put down there appe rs to be room for em island for the first time, and the on the map as rivers, and most of igration and opportunity for all she might, otherwise, have saved which are running the year sorts of original enterprise. Its it. With so large a population, wonderful how much a man doon the exports, of course, amounted The mountain range is not of one two, hundred and fiftieth part to but little, for the people were sufficient height to seriously im- of a square mile, if, like a native able to consume about all they pede interior transportation, and Porto Rican minds his own busi produced, but the internal reveit is through them that the mag ness and lives as close to the gol nue returns have always been nificent roads have been built den rule as frail humanity allows. tremendous. Their products are about which I have already had There is even a possibility that sugar, tobacco, cotton, coffee, cat so much to say. The highest the presence of so many people on the, rice, maize, yams, plantains, peak is El Yunque, which lifts a the island has contributed to oranges, cocoanuts and all variesingle spur 3.600ft into the air in make it such a paradise, for it ties of tropical fruits. Nearly made to a distinct class, and not the Sierra de Loquillo, close to has rendered necessary the build every pound of the tobacco grown to the homogeneous population the northeast corner of the island ing of many handsome, cleanly in Porto Rico goes to lavana which makes of all the rest of the Glorious forests still cover all the little cities; the keeping in excel- where, under the government West Indies islands perpetually highest portions of the hills, and lent sanitary condition of the per | monopoly, it is made into cigars | uncertain factors in international give to the island from the sea a fect bijou habors that indent the and cigarettes. The exports last matters. The fact that the necharacter which first intimates coast on all four sides, and the es year amounted to \$15,592.550, of groes are in so small a minority to the traveler what he may with tablishment of thousands of ideal which \$10,616.650 was in coffee, has done much to bring about reason, expect on shore. There farms and plantations in the inte \$2,855,750 in sugar and \$669,350 this condition of affairs, and the is a rugged beauty in these hills rior, where each agriculturist, in tobacco. The total imports aristocracy of the original inhabi that will tempt the brush of many not having much ground to look were \$16.867, 600, and consisted tants, which has been transmit an American painter; a grandeur after, takes the very best of care mainly of cotton, woolen, linen ted from generation to genera

majesty which almost makes one ed we have gone in comfortable etc. The United States has al- ward the same end. That they believe that some giant sculpture carriages off into the interior and walvs enjoyed a fair share of Por were Spaniards in the beginning worked them out of the solid rock by this time we are well acquaint to Rico's outside trade, and it has counts for but little, because not ages ago. Rising from the water ed with the Porto Rican small far been increasing steadily during one scintilla of patriotic feeling clear and shap, with not a swamp mer. who, on five acres of ground. the last few years. or marsh to make uncertain its lives better and makes more than

LIFE IN THE INTERIOR.

in and out through the mountains.

always do-you will find yoursel To appreciate this fully we will reclining in a hammock sipping

The plantation house, with ev bellum fashion, and off in the that they would not be able to en |ed its limit of population at .24. THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CUSTOM. dure in silence much longer. 500. Ponce has already touched He drops into the story of these 38,000 and is still growing briskthings naturally, and you can see ly. It is one of the finest little that he is sincere and you tell cities if the world, with some up protection of American citizen. the states. The auxiliary fire de-

> stand why Spain laid so heavy a hand upon the flittle island, for

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

It is a little difficult to under-

silk goods, metal, hardware, pro- tion and is still given rigid recog-Every day since the army land visions, ales, wines, canned goods, nition, has contributed much to - Bananas and plantains are won centuries of misgovernment, and

strong lines, Porto Rico is phys an industrious Georgian does on derfully prolific, bearing fruit in they are today as thoroughly di ically the finest appearing island five hundred. His one-story ten months from planting. The vorced from Spain as though not that the sea holds in her restless house, white and clean, stretches plants virtually last sixty years, a drop of Castilian or of Moorish embrace, and for the rest of it, its ample length in front of the being equally long lived with the blood had flowed in the veins of one may safely say that it im stable buildings and barn and in cocoa palm, which produces nuts their remote accestors. the fields his cattle-the finest in six or seven years, and there gle and gave it to General Shaf- 000. The entire range of tropi- on it in the way of taxation. All Here the fattest and sleekest such as the guava, lime, orange, the adoption of modern business plentiful as cocoanuts and hand- pear, while all the sub-tropic yeg in endless procession going into those of the south temperate zone, which it is to be received by the town with produce or returning such, for instance, as are grown United States. But, of course, empty at all hours of the day. It in Florida. The mineral kingdom copper, coal and iron, as well as tions, telegraph and telep vast deposite of salt. The riv. lines, insurance compar The broad, hard road, circles ers at one time ran to the sea over beds of golden sand, and

as of that distant day when Ag usynaba went prospecting with

PANIED Library

SOME PHYSICAL FEATURES. There are no native quadru peds here larger than the agout relatively numerous, with a few of fine song and some of brillian! plumage. All domestic fowls de well here, and the great pastures of the northeast and southeas support vast bereds of cattle and harses, which suffice not only for the needs of the island, but are exported to all parts of the West Indies, being held in high esteem There are no poisonous reptiles to be feared, but insects of ques tionable character are too numer aus for comfort. Phis island, in deed, were a paradise without them. Even with them the inhab itants seem to experience little trouble. The worst of these are the scorpions, centipeds, tarantulas, wasps, mosquitoes, some species of ants, ticks, chigoes and fleas. The heat of a tropical cli mate like that of Porto Rico. which though rarely exceeding 90 degrees, is continuous, is conductive to the breeding of insect pests of all sorts.

Nearly all the commerce pass es at either San Jnan, the capital partment is made up of the young lies in town, and they have a record for fearless and effective work that would do credit to a vet eran association. They seem to age. be a sort of red-shirted rough riders, and when they turned out in the parade in General Miles honor the other day the public manifested their affection in con tinuous cheering.

CHANCE FOR AMERICAN ENTER

PRISE. When one speaks of the people here as Porto Ricans reference is has survived the more than three

They are used, too, to looking that grow-browse lazily. One after during the space of an ordi- after themselves, for Spain has time in Cuba a razor back cow hary life, its yield being reckon been contented to let the island was sighted by some of Castilo's ed at 106 nuts a year. The annu manage its own affairs so long as nsurgents, who captured her af- al product of bananas is given at it was propt in the payment of ter a long chase and fierce strug- 200,00,000, and of cocoanuts 3,000, the exorbitant demands made up ter as the great prize of the war. cal fruits is represented here, of the internal improvements and cows that ever gave milk are as agaucate, sapodilla and avocado methods are due to the enterprise some ox teams pass our carriages etables may be raised, including ting the island in the shape in much remains to be done before minds us of the difference be ploited as the vegetable, but more of hotels, the establishment of tween this and the Santingo cam than traces have been found of banks, building and loan associa-



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> These are the very best new crop (1898) seed, bought of the leading Southern seedsmen. Prompt attention given to mail orders.

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limited number of Cattle. If you have any for sale write me a postal and I will call and see them. I pay the highest market prices and you might save money by giving meaclance to buy. I am also prepared to furnish good fresh beef on short notice. If you want me to supply you regularly I will be pleased to make arrangements to that effect. As to the quality of beef I furnish I can furnish the very best reference. JOHN H. LANE,

Lasker, N. C.

