

## Despotism in Porto Rico.

Luis Munoz Rivera, who was president of the autonomic government of Porto Rico under Spanish rule, has written a long letter to President McKinley on the subject of the tyranny of American rule in that island, from which the following is taken:

In the days of what many in America called Spanish despotism Porto Rico sent her deputies to the cortes at Madrid, passed her own laws, was a province of Spain, the equal politically of the peninsular provinces by the constitution, which protected them, making them equal before the law and even granting to the island in the Atlantic the autonomy which it refuses to the provinces of the peninsula. It had also a council, but what a difference between the council of that time, of popular origin and parliamentary character and the council of today, official in its origin and bureaucratic in its character!

The writer has the honor of presiding over that body, which governed without restriction and without reservations, and he can affirm that not once were the ministers opposed to their measures by the veto of Spain. We were ourselves responsible for our decrees and we framed them with the utmost prudence, but also with an independence which was neither questioned nor curtailed by the metropolis. In a word, self-government was unfolding itself without obstacle and Porto Rico was beginning to feel herself mistress of her present and of her future.

When the historic edifice of the colonies, crowned by the gift of autonomy, disappeared, destroyed by your squadrons, all the hopes of their people turned to that other edifice which was to be erected on the broad basis of a democracy which is the astonishment of the world. Even the most pessimistic believed that in no case, under no pretext, would it curtail the liberties conferred by the former rule.

Ah, sir, not only does it curtail, it annihilates and destroys them. In Porto Rico popular suffrage is a farce. The order of the governor—the only law in the case—for the conduct of the elections, creates a board of inscription in San Juan and various subordinate boards throughout the island. All are alike appointed by the governor himself. And they have the power of inscribing or not inscribing the electors, according to their caprice and without any further responsibility.

Thus it was that at the election of the chamber only one party cast their votes, the party which flattered the government, seconding its plans, bowing to its acts of injustice and accepting in shameful silence or with incomprehensible applause the death of their country. And, therefore, it is that the chamber in which only one shade of political opinion exists, represents not the idea or the interests of the country, but the ideas and the interests of the government which imposed and sustains it by force. Those who in Porto Rico represent the wealth and the intellectuality of the island remain proscribed by the administration, doubtless for the enormous crime of desiring for their coun-

## A CHANGE BREAKFAST

## Getting Ready for Warm Weather.

As the warm days approach, it is well to give some thought to an easy way to prepare breakfast. A food that is already cooked and simply needs to be treated with a little cold milk or cold cream, is ideal on that point, and such a food can be found in Grape-Nuts, at 15 cents per package.

It is sold by all grocers, and is so highly concentrated that not more than three or four teaspoonfuls are required for the cereal part of the meal. This makes the food very economical and does not overtax the stomach with a great volume.

try American liberties under the American flag.

Those liberties do not exist in Porto Rico. The municipalities cannot appoint the teachers in their schools, for in their appointment the commissioner of education intervenes, nor the physicians in their districts, for the health commissioner must be consulted; nor the watchman in their wards, for the governor appoints all the members of the insular police and the towns are not permitted to have their own police force, nor can they impose or collect their taxes, for the treasurer of the island has entire charge of this function, so that in Porto Rico there are no municipalities and even the vacancies in the offices of mayors and councilors are filled by the governor.

The judicial body, from the judges of the supreme court down to the justices of the police courts, are appointed in the same way.

And they are appointed exclusively in the interests of one party, so that the tribunals are not the highest guaranty of society in the island, but the docile instruments of political passions. Not long ago, in the month of April, all of the judges who were not appointed by the republican party were deprived of office. Among them were juriconsults of great distinction and of unblemished reputation. They were replaced by young men just graduated from the universities, the administration of justice being thus intrusted to ineptitude and inexperience.

Tyranny such as this is known only in the steppes of Russia, the dominions of the Ottoman porte or among the despotic mandarins of the celestial empire.—Chicago Chronicle.

## The Practice of Dueling.

This curious paragraph has been adopted by the Alabama constitutional convention: "The legislature shall pass such penal laws as they may deem expedient to suppress the evil practice of dueling." That such a provision in a state constitution is deemed necessary will surprise most Northerners. It is well known that the code survived in the south long after it had been abolished in the north, but a formal recognition of the existence of this anachronism today was not expected.

Missouri has not known an affair of honor of importance since September 4, 1875, when Major John N. Edwards fought Colonel E. S. Foster six miles north of Rockford, Ill. The difficulty arose over a criticism made by Major Edwards in the St. Louis Dispatch, on those who opposed inviting Jefferson Davis to make an address at the Winnebago county fair. Colonel Foster replied in an editorial in the St. Louis Journal, and Major Edwards asked satisfaction for personal references in the article. Colt's thirty-eight calibre pistols at twenty paces were agreed upon. The men fired simultaneously and neither was injured. Then they shook hands and expressed regrets over the quarrel.

A century ago the practice of dueling was common in this country and in England. It had arisen in Europe as a judicial process about the sixth century. In France the legal duel lost its prestige 500 years ago as the result of an encounter in which a man who was afterward proved innocent was defeated and hanged. After this the duel then ceased to be an appeal to heaven and became merely a means for satisfying wounded honor.

England retained the obsolete law allowing an appeal to the judicial duel until 1818. The year previous a defendant had claimed the right to challenge the plaintiff. As his offer was declined he escaped punishment. This led to the repeal of the statute. The practice of dueling still continued in the army and among politicians. Fox, Pitt, Canning, O'Connell and the Duke of Wellington all had called out their

men. In 1843 Colonel Fawcett was killed by his brother-in-law in a duel and the Prince Consort seized the opportunity to crystallize public sentiment against the custom. As the result of his efforts the duel was banished from the British army and from civil society.

In the United States the practice received a severe blow from the death of Hamilton in his duel with Burr in 1804. This did not prevent Henry Clay from fighting John Randolph twenty-two years later, or Andrew Jackson from killing Charles Dickinson or Benton from causing the death of Lucas. During the last half century the duel has almost disappeared from America except in unenlightened communities. In Germany it is contrary to law, but only a few years ago an officer was expelled from the army for refusing to challenge another who had insulted him. France still clings tenaciously to the code, but fortunately most of its duels are bloodless.—Kansas City Star.

## Jackson and the Taylor's Bill.

A gentleman in Pennsylvania has a queer document which came into his family's possession many years ago, and shows an interesting phase of Andrew Jackson's character as well as a glimpse of the simple times of his presidential term.

It appears that a clerk in the state department contracted a tailor's bill for \$64.50, and the tailor, finding himself unable to collect the amount, laid the matter before the president in an appealing letter.

Jackson promptly decided that this was a matter to which he must attend personally; so he transmitted the tailor's letter to the secretary of state, with this strong recommendation: "Referred to the secretary of state. If on inquiry the fact stated be true, unless the clerk pays his debt let him be forthwith discharged."

"This government would become a party to such swindling provided it permitted its officers to become indebted for necessities and not see that they paid their debts out of their salaries."

"Honest men will pay their debts; dishonest men must not be employed by the government. A. J."

"This case is referred to Amos Kendall, Esqr., on \$10 per month being secured to C. E. Kloff, Mr. Gooch to be continued in his office. A. J."

—Youth's Companion.

## Salute to Mount Vernon.

The United States dispatch boat Dolphin was making her way up the Potomac from the sea to Washington. A winter's cruise in the tropics was just ended and the exchange of the brilliant scenery of the West Indies for the softer atmosphere of the home shores was a welcome one to her crew. The captain, navigator and officer of the deck were on the bridge piloting the vessel carefully through the many turns and bends of the river, keeping a sharp lookout for the landmarks and buoys and following the course of the ship on the chart spread out on its stand on the starboard end of the bridge.

The navigator, looking up from his

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observation of the chart, turned toward the captain, who was gazing fixedly through his binoculars, trying to make out or, to make use of the nautical term, to "pick up" a buoy which the ship was nearing.

"Mount Vernon is just ahead, sir," he said.

"Very well; call all hands to quarters," was the reply.

"Sound to quarters, sir." This to the officer of the deck from the navigator.

"Aye, aye, sir. Bugler, sound to quarters!" rang out the voice of the young officer who then had the deck. He was but lately graduated from the naval academy and the hardships of sea life had not yet roughened the youthful freshness of his voice.

A moment's pause and the assembly call rang over the silent current of the river and echoed back from the heights above its banks. The white pillars of Washington's beautiful home flashed out through the deep green of the trees high up above the ship as the officers and men, hurrying from all parts of the vessel, ranged themselves at their quarters.

"Form on the port side, facing out-board!" came the sharp order from the bridge, and later, "Sound attention!"

The bugle again broke the stillness. The Dolphin was now abreast of the historic home of the first chief magistrate of the country; all hands were lined up along the port side of the ship, standing at attention and facing the shore. As the order, "Salute!" came sharply cut and abrupt from the bridge the right hand of every officer and man was raised to his cap and remained there while the ship's bell rang out twenty-one slow, solemn strokes, one for each gun or a national salute. With the last stroke of the bell came the order, "Sound the retreat!"

The bugle answered and as the last note came back from the shore Mount Vernon disappeared behind the green of the trees.

Every vessel of war of the United States passing the home of Washington observes this impressive ceremony.—Youth's Companion.

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