

Will Uncle Sam Some Day Own All the West Indies?

At Present Dissatisfaction and Unrest Are Noticeable in Many of These Islands.

HERE have been wilder dreams. Porto Rico already belongs to us, and annexation sentiment is growing among the Cubans. Then, many of the West Indians feel kindly towards us because of generous aid given them in time of calamity—devastations by volcanic eruptions and by hurricanes. We probably could get the Danish West Indies if we wanted them very badly. And last, but not least, discontent with present conditions is rife in the British West Indies.

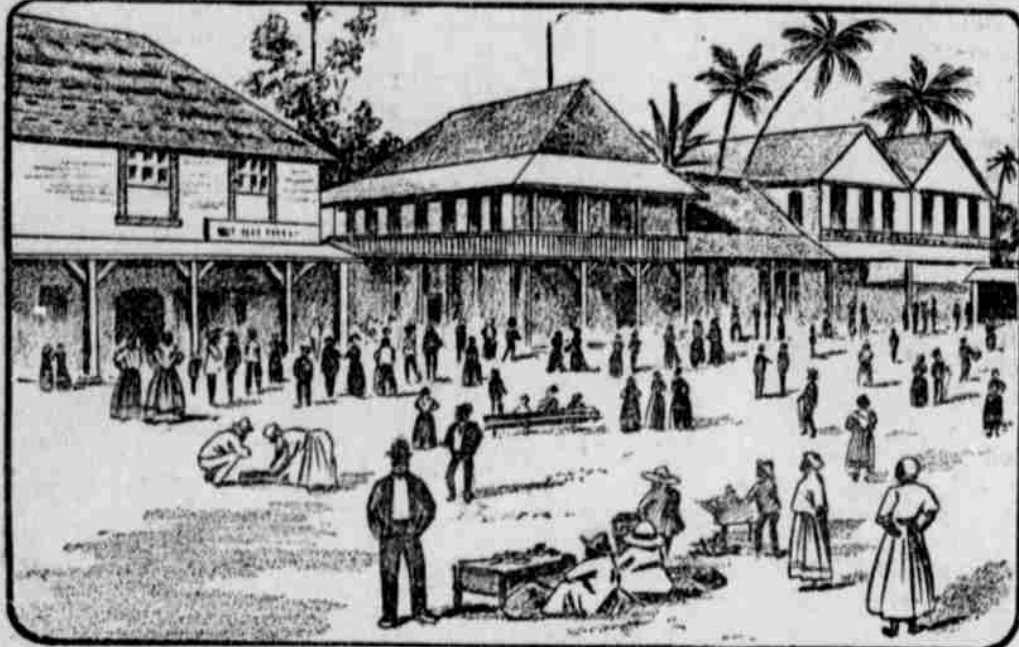
Geographically and commercially, there would be some reason for these outlying portions of land to come under the strong government that obtains on the mainland; but would we care very much for the added responsibility, would the islanders themselves adopt with much enthusiasm the flag that bears the stars and stripes? Let us inquire into it a little.

But first, perhaps, we better take a survey of the groups of islands dom-

St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and St. Lucia) have a limited population, and the volcanic eruption of 1902 decreased by 1,600 the small numbers residing on St. Vincent.

Trinidad, a "detached fragment of the South American land system," has an area of about half that of Porto Rico. With its forest-covered mountains and wide grassy plains the land is South American in character. American capital is employed in exploiting "Trinidad asphalt," and is needed to develop various of the neglected resources of the island. There is considerable trade between Trinidad and Venezuela. About one-eighth of the land is under cultivation. The sugar industry has, as in the other islands, fallen off of late years, and other industries are beginning to receive attention. It is a crown colony, with little recognition given representation of the people.

The British West Indies are reported very much dissatisfied with British rule, but as not ready to make over-



THE MARKET PLACE, ST. THOMAS, JAMAICA.

inated the West Indies, which islands geographers describe as "partly inclosing the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea."

The names Leeward and Windward are applied rather loosely to groups of islands in the West Indies, but the British use the terms to suit themselves, subdividing their possessions thus—the Bahamas, Barbadoes, Jamaica with Turks Islands, Leeward Islands, Trinidad with Tobago, Windward Islands. Geographically, the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, which belong to France, are included in the Leeward and Windward islands; officially, for the sake of government, Great Britain has somewhat changed the old meaning of the terms, the meaning as still interpreted by sailors. The Bahamas, northernmost of the British West Indies, consisting of 20 inhabited and many uninhabited islands, has an area of 5,440 square miles and a population of about 55,400. The trade is mostly with the United States. The Bahamas are noted for their beauty and have become famous as a health resort. Mr. A. K. Fiske, a student of political, social and commercial conditions in the West Indies, reports in these lines there is little evidence of growth or advancement in the Bahamas. Barbadoes, though isolated (95 miles from her nearest neighbor), has a population of 200,000. It has rich natural resources, but in the present state is overcrowded, the people discontented. It lies openly exposed to the fierce hurricanes of the Caribbean region.

Jamaica, the largest of the British West Indies and third in size of the Greater Antilles, has a population of about 800,000. The scenery is diversified and beautiful with high mountains and tropical vegetation. Sugar and coffee have for many years been the main crops, but now increasing attention is being paid to the cultivation of tobacco, cacao and fruits. Part of the year the climate is delightful, but at times violent thunder storms and dreadful hurricanes work havoc. The island on the whole is healthful. In the past, serious negro insurrections disturbed the peace, but at present the negroes, who form the bulk of the population, are law-abiding. Most of the white residents are English. About one-half of the imports come from Great Britain and one-half from the United States. For a long time there has been some discontent in Jamaica. Mr. Fiske suggests the following as prime causes—depressed condition of trade, a lack of white colonization, mistaken treatment of the freed negroes, and a lack of enterprise in varying the industries of the island since the decrease of profit in the sugar and coffee trade. The British islands, known officially as the Leeward Islands (Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, Virgin Islands, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and Montserrat), have an area of 701 square miles and a population of 128,000. Those known officially as the Windward islands (Granada,

tures to the United States. Causes for discontent are freely given—the mother country has not been careful in selecting good officials for the West Indian dependencies; when a hurricane recently worked devastation in Jamaica she gave little either of aid or sympathy to the sufferers; in the riots of last March in Trinidad no justice was shown the people, and at that time, though an epidemic was raging in the town of Port of Spain (Trinidad), the government for "the sake of economy" shut off from the people the supply of pure water. When one is told that the governor of Trinidad, ruler over less than 300,000 people, receives a salary half as large as that of the president of the United States, one cannot wonder at complaints over governmental blunders, and that a change in administration is desired.

Owing to Canada's recent prosperity and to the shutting out of German sugar by the Dominion government, at least the sugar growers in the British West Indies have been decidedly friendly towards the question of annexation to Canada.

Guadeloupe came into possession of the French in 1634, and Martinique the following year. The former has an area of 688 square miles and a population of 182,000; the population of the latter in 1901 was 203,000—but in May, 1902, almost the whole island was overwhelmed by a volcanic eruption, and to-day little remains to suggest it was once "the most interesting island of the most attractive archipelago in the world." The Danish West Indies are a barren lot, scattered over a watery space 100 by 20 miles in extent, but with an inhabited area of but 575 square miles and a population of only 5,000.

The extent and conditions in general of Cuba and Porto Rico have filled the papers ever since the Spanish war; so we need make no reference to them, but can turn attention to the republics of Haiti and San Domingo. Over a million people dwell in Haiti, nine-tenths of whom are negroes and the rest mulattoes. There are mountains in Haiti with an altitude of almost 10,000 feet, and it is thought great mineral wealth is concealed in these mountains. The political disturbances of the last two centuries have admitted of little progress and development of the country. The old plantations are in decay, industrial enterprise is lacking, and political corruption is doing its work. There is some trade with Europe and the United States. The population of San Domingo (the eastern portion of the island of Haiti) is about 610,000. The people are a mixed race, and whites are comparatively numerous. Considerable American capital is invested in San Domingo. DANIEL CLEVERTON.

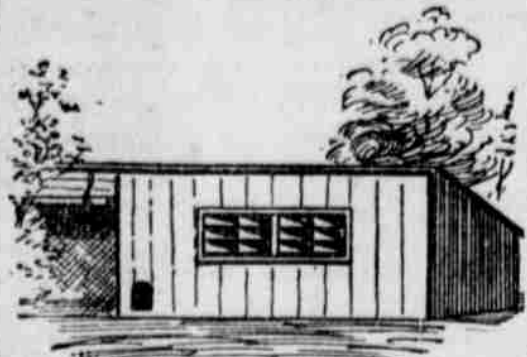
Next Thing to It.

He—Don't worry if I haven't much, dear. Money doesn't buy happiness. She—But it buys clothes.—Town Topics.

SUCCESSFUL HENHOUSE.

How to Secure All the Returns That Could Be Reasonably Expected from Good Hens.

The following considerations for the comfort of fowls and the convenience of their caretaker should always be observed in the construction of a good henhouse. In their natural state fowls do not breed in large flocks, and they never lay well in large flocks. No matter how many hens one may keep, not over 20 should be kept in one room, and the henhouse should be divided into as many compartments as is necessary to accommodate the flocks on this basis. Moreover, the hens in these compartments should never be crowded. Six square feet of floor space should be allowed for each hen intended to be kept in the compartment. In caring for hens they should be disturbed as little as possible, if a large egg yield is desired. It is, therefore, very important to build



A USEFUL HENHOUSE.

the house so that this can be accomplished. The house should be built lengthwise east and west and facing the south. Along the north side a separate passage for the attendant should be built and all the arrangements made for caring for the fowls from this passage. The nest boxes should project partly into the passage with a lid on top on that side. Above the nests inside the compartment should be a platform with roosts above, separated from the passage by a swinging door hinged at the top. Below the nests there should be slatwork large enough for the hens to get their heads through easily. Just outside this the troughs for soft food and water are placed, so that the hens are not disturbed by changing this, nor by collecting the eggs or the droppings. The floor of the henhouse should be of wood covered by six or eight inches of straw litter, into which the grain food should be scattered. On the south side of the henhouse there should be large, square windows, with the dust boxes directly under them, where the sunlight can fall directly into the boxes. These boxes should contain dry earth or ashes or both with about a quarter of a pound of dry sulphur mixed in. Every compartment should contain a small box full of shell making material such as plaster, grit, oyster shells or pounded broken crockery. Such an environment supplemented by proper food and care should produce all the returns that could be reasonably expected or desired from good hens.—Prairie Farmer.

SALTPETER FOR STUMPS.

Massachusetts Experiment Station Declares Its Use to Be Costly and Not Effective.

A correspondent in one of our agricultural papers reports that he had found it possible to destroy stumps in the following manner:

A hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the size of the tree, and 18 inches deep is to be bored in the stump. Into this put from one and one-half to two ounces of saltpeter, fill with water and plug tightly. Six months later put into the same hole about one gill of kerosene oil and set fire to it. The stump will smoulder away without blazing, even down to every part of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes.

On November 4, 1895, 50 stumps of trees cut in 1894, including maple, hickory, hemlock, white pine, yellow birch and elm, were bored according to directions. On December 11 saltpeter and water were put in the holes, according to directions, and the holes plugged. During July, 1896, the plugs were removed, the holes were filled with kerosene and an attempt made to burn the stumps. It was found that not even the oil would burn. Portions of the stumps were left until June, 1897, when another attempt was made to burn them, using a low test oil, called paraffine gas oil. The stumps are still in the field. The method has been given a thorough trial, but must be regarded as a complete failure.—Report of Massachusetts Experiment Station.

In Praise of Alfalfa.

In an address delivered by R. S. Smith, of Sherman, Tex., at Texas Farmers' congress, he said: "Of all the grasses, that is paramount above all others. All kinds of religion have their times of revival—the time is now on with the farmer. We have an agricultural revival now on and the universal text is alfalfa. The more we hear of it, the more we want to talk about it. The horses and cattle love it; the picturesque goat leaps the fence for it; the pig squeals for it. It makes the hens cackle and lay eggs. It is even said that the Indians smoke it and the Mormons make tea of it. I don't believe that; but I do know that it is a calamity killer and a mortgage lifter."

At Home With the Bulgarians of Macedonia

How They Live in Fear of the Sultan and His Persecuting Officials.

FOR Bulgarians of Turkey, naturally demoralized by the oppressor's yoke, but still possessing the patience and stubbornness that give hope for their future. Their ignorance is equal to their picturesqueness, and their superstitions to their ignorance. The evil eye and the photographic machine they hold in almost equal horror, and if I sometimes succeed in persuading a biblical-looking group of men, women and children not to turn their backs when the awesome instrument is leveled at them, it is only, I am ashamed to say, by fervent assurances on the part of my canvass (a guard or sort of orderly) that I have the special permission of the powers to practice my evil arts; and that to "come out" in a photograph is not a "shame."

The women in their scanty white serge garments, embroidered widely

personage the larger the person, and, as I say, his floppy, puffing person is always reverently supported under the arm-pits to the rusty vehicle without. His followers are also called upon to inflict corporal punishment on any foes either in or out of the establishment, and when the Bey's temper is a short one, or he has happened to take an extra strong dose of raki (a strong spirit) the night before, that last duty is in considerable request. The correcting rod is the simple and effective method of reform for Turk or European alike in Macedonia. One's cook spoils one's dinner once, twice, three times, according to the length or otherwise of the Bey's patience, or as the perquisites have too long exceeded even those allowed by the easy-going European master. Then the canvass is called, mysterious words are muttered, followed by the accompany-



MARKET PLACE IN A MACEDONIAN TOWN.

on skirt, and flowing sleeves, work in the fields from early morning till twilight, or trudge from distant villages to market behind their lords and masters astride the small be-pannered donkeys. Chivalry, it is needless to say, is not observed out here. We in the west venture to doubt that woman was made for man; but here, beasts of burden and women are in the same unfortunate condition of inferiority and neglect.

At first one overlooks these and similar details, and in the huge slums which constitute an eastern town, one sees but the picturesque; it is only later that one is sometimes tempted to forget it in the pity and contempt of the European for the misery and decay that lie beneath. The old turbaned Turk sleeping peacefully in his shady shop or sitting cross-legged in the gorgeous sunlight, placidly smoking his cigarette, though he does sometimes remove it to spit devoutly as the ghivor passes, is a pleasant object to look upon. So, too, is his co-religionist, the Mussulman Albanian, with his gun over his shoulder, his white fez and broad red cummerbund studded with cartridges, and his slim, light figure. He is a terror to all population, Christian and Turkish alike, when he is roused, or when "reforms" are submitted for his consideration, though it is whispered that he is really rather like a naughty, bullying schoolboy with something smaller than himself, and the is quite ready to fly before anything "regular" in the way of European forces. From his native mountain haunts come grim stories of long blood feuds, carried on from father to son, of Christian villages pillaged, and cattle carried off. But with it all there is ever about him the indescribable attraction of the free man man who has hardly felt the oppressor's yoke. He has one redeeming point, too, even in his most lawless state, for though he shuts up his woman-kind with the deepest religious fervor, feminine presence will usually prevent attacks on parties of travelers who have ventured too far into the wild regions of the mountainous Albania.

In the towns a great Bey's establishment is usually supported by Albanians, who, in return for the meal or bread which form their simple sustenance, stand about in the yard (a garden is not often seen out here) ready at any moment to render service. They "eat his bread" and live in their Bey's "shadow," and the accompanying obligations are varying. The harem has to be watched carefully at all times, and when the great man goes out his white-capped attendants are in waiting to support him to his carriage. That is literal. A great Bey is or should be stout—the greater the

ing deferential shake of the head which out here denotes assent, and the cavass disappears below. Immediately afterwards loud thuds are heard from that region, few or many as the digestion of the master has suffered little or long, or as the accounts have for a longer or shorter time been forgiven. The next day the cook, probably a capable, but unreliable Greek or Bulgarian, sends up an excellent dinner, and for some weeks his menu is altogether irreproachable and his accounts only permissibly fanciful. In any case, however, it is unadvisable to spare the rod for an unlimited period. A great Bey's cook is already so great in his own opinion and that of his friends that the correcting rod is absolutely necessary to make him remember the superiority of his master. In the east kindness and expostulation are looked upon with contempt as evidences of fear. No "high person" wastes time in remonstrating, and though we in the west might be tempted to call them bullying, his methods of reform are the only respected and effectual ones.

Perhaps among the varied races of the Macedonian east the Roman Catholic Albanian is on the whole the best. He usually, thanks to the elementary church schools scattered about, can read and write, and he possesses also a certain self-respect which one hardly ever sees in the other Christian races, either Greek or Slav. He marries, or rather is married, at an early age. Every Albanian or Bulgarian mother thinks it her duty to get her daughter off as soon as possible after she is "hidden." That means that after 12 or 13 she is considered marriageable, and owing to Turkish influence and example it is then considered immodest for a girl to be seen with uncovered face. Even then she is not allowed to go out except to church, when she must be accompanied by her mother. As for the Bulgarian girl, she never goes to church, except once a year at the Easter festivities. It is completely incorrect! It is a little difficult en passant for the uninitiated European to know when a thing is correct, except that in general what is proper and conventional in Europe is the reverse in the shadow of the sultan.

BENJAMIN FRANCIS.

Nothin' Doin'.

"No," snapped the angular-faced female, "I don't want no insurance. Your old company is no good." "Why do you say that, madam?" asked the meek and lowly solicitor. "'Cause it ain't," replied the a. f. f. "My husband's been payin' premiums on a policy for goin' on seven years, and he ain't dead yet."—Chicago Daily News.