

RISK WITH PUERTO RICO.

General Stone Fears an Estrangement of the People.

"When the major-general commanding the army of the United States landed in Puerto Rico with 3,000 men," said Gen. Roy S. Stone yesterday, "the island was defended by 9,000 Spanish regulars and nearly as many well-armed volunteers. Its 1,000,000 people had then no great grievance against Spain, having just been given a large measure of self-government, with universal suffrage and a voting representation of nineteen members in the two houses of the Cortez at Madrid. They had free trade with Spain and a fair degree of prosperity.

"To our little army of invasion, the question whether these people were to be friendly or hostile was a question of life or death. If hostile, in their mountain fastnesses they could make bloody work for 100,000 men. General Miles very wisely sought their friendship. He assumed to speak for the government and the people of the United States, and his authority has never been repudiated nor questioned. He issued his proclamation, saying, among other things, 'We have come to bestow upon you the blessings and immunities of the liberal institutions of our government.'"

"Did you not have some personal observation of the conduct of these Puerto Rican soldiers?"

"How the people responded with help and welcome every one knows; but few know how ready they were to fight for us," he replied. "They had no arms, and we had none to spare, but every man who could get a gun came to our camps, and thousands offered themselves to meet the Spanish rifles with their bare machetes. And these were fighting men. General Schwan found reason to praise the 'skill and daring' of his Lugovina Scouts, and my own experience was the same.

Rushed Straight on the Enemy.

"In an excursion on which I was sent into the interior of the island, I was joined by four hundred Puerto Rican gentlemen, riding their own horses and carrying rifles which they had captured individually from the Spanish volunteers, and the only criticism the American commander of this battalion could make regarding them was when they 'disobeyed orders and rushed straight upon the enemy.'

"Representative Wadsworth, who shared some of the perils and hardships of that little campaign and was ready for more, can testify to the eagerness with which the citizens of Utuade took arms to attack the Spanish regulars at Arecibo.

"Can we afford to break our solemn promise to these people at the outset of our rule? Shall we give them three-quarters or some other fraction of what

is due them, and that, not as a right, but as a concession, which the next congress may revoke?

"If the conscience of the nation could consent to such an iniquity, it might still be wise to consider that we may have, any day, to defend that splendid possession against a foreign foe, that it is now the grand outpost and guard over our coast and commerce and canal that is to be, and that when such an occasion comes, if our dealings with these people have shown kindness and liberality, or even fairness and common honesty, we might raise fifty thousand fighting Puerto Ricans to defend the island against our enemy."

"Is there not fear of competition with our products?"

Makes a Failure Possible.

"What is the plea on which we are ready to sacrifice the honor of the nation, embitter a million of warm-hearted friends, and risk a failure in expansion, a general overturn in politics, and a loss of present prosperity in the country?" replied General Stone. "It is not the fear of Puerto Rican competition in sugar or tobacco, for our producers themselves say there are no such fears; it is the 'need of revenue in the island' and the 'danger of establishing a precedent.' But the Puerto Ricans say they would rather pay direct taxes for revenue than be outsiders and inferiors in the nation; and if there is any danger of a precedent, congress has only to base action giving the fullest citizenship to the Puerto Ricans, upon the contract under which we took them, their acceptance of our formal proposal, in order to segregate them entirely from the Filipinos, Cubans, or any other people who may come to us in a different manner."—Washington Post, Feb. 12, 1900.

MIGHT IS RIGHT—MIGHT MAKES RIGHT.

John W. Keller, commissioner of charities, today took issue with Andrew Carnegie, touching his address before the Lotus Club, in which he declared in favor of the segregation of that portion of humanity sometimes classified as the "submerged tenth," and forbidding the marriage of the destitute.

Mr. Carnegie said that he believed that the truly helpless, those who live by begging and alms, the idiotic, the confirmed drunkards, etc., should be the care of the state and not of the individual. Being human, he said, they deserve to be clothed, sheltered, fed and instructed when capable of learning, but they should be isolated and not permitted to marry.

Commissioner Keller said: "You cannot draw a hard and fast line on the intellectual, moral or financial basis, separating the class to which Mr. Carnegie refers from the rest of mankind and forbidding them to marry without

working harm. You cannot regulate this matter by law. It is a question that must be left to common sense to settle. Centuries have brought about the present conditions and they are not to be arbitrarily altered."

Carnegie is right on principle and Keller wrong. Carnegie stands on the law of might, or individual fitness to survive in the struggle for existence. Might is right; might is never wrong; might makes right; might never makes wrong; all sentimental ignorance to the contrary. Keller represents the everlasting sentimental error of humanity. That error is applying the nursing bottle of charity to inability, thereby causing that to multiply and replenish which should perish. The great mistake of man has been in blindly endeavoring to effect one of the strangest of natural forces, the non-survival of the unfit, instead of learning the lesson in the survival of the fit as the one method to social success. The people who intelligently apply natural selection to their own multiplication will become the greatest nation. It is far more creditable to be a great people intrinsically than a great nation extrinsically. No nation has yet appreciated this fact, the United States least of all. We count noses instead of brains and physique. Nations, like Germany, pay some attention to the physique as food for cannon, but too little to brains as food for national development. Even at that they set us a worthy example. The American Eagle screams when the census gives him a hundred million fledglings. He looks on the nations, and like the boy in the story, screams, "What a great bird am I!" Truly, a great bird stuffed to a surfeit with the pudding of self-conceit instead of plums of active intelligence. We are a nation of "Puddin'-Head Wilsons."

The Submerged Tenth.

It is the accepted method to speak of the poverty-struck classes only as "the submerged tenth." Mr. Carnegie is wiser and includes the "idiotic and confirmed drunkards." The man is indeed an idiot who asserts these should not be barred from marriage. Mr. Carnegie did not go far enough. His lines of demarcation are drawn too narrow. They encroach too closely on the so-called poorer classes. "The submerged tenth" includes every person, who from any cause, physical or mental, is unable to maintain himself in the struggle for existence. It includes all the unfits. While, in this instance, like does not invariably produce like, who will have the effrontery to assert that the inter-marriage of such unfits, is not liable to increase the already and ever augmenting army of unfits? There is no competent physician, or student of social science, who does not know that the inter-marriage of persons with consumptive tendencies, and in many cases