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# PORTO RICO

Adopted in 1898

Give Our Fellow-Americans Your Thought



Girls in our school at San German, Porto Rico (65 per cent of Porto Ricans are white).

These fellow citizens of ours have wonderful possibilities. Help give them and their families, many of whom are not able to have a single book or paper, literature which will meet their needs, and at the same time you will help young men to earn their way through our Porto Rican "Park College."

See the remarkable commendations for this philanthropy on the last pages, from such religious statesmen as

JOHN DIXON, D. D.,  
Secretary Presbyterian Board of Home Missions.

J. ERNEST M'AFEE,  
Secretary B. of H. M.

REV. PHILO W. DRURY,  
Supt. of Missions of U. B. Church, in Porto Rico.

This pamphlet prepared and issued by Rev. Edwin Archibald McDonald, Des Moines, Iowa.

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## A SPANISH-WORLD PROBLEM.

A great opportunity, a great plan and a great effort. Here we have what people call the success combination; but if real good is to come of it, there must be added the fourth leg, the greatest of all, viz., the divine favor and blessing.

It is only because we most earnestly believe that the great object for which we are working is God's work, God appointed and God directed, that we have faith to pursue it. But we do so believe and acknowledge most gladly His guiding hand. Our hope therefore is in Him alone, and in those whom He shall encourage to do his work.

It is the common way to speak of South America as the Neglected Continent. If for South America we substitute the whole Spanish speaking world we shall be nearer to the truth. In the past these lands have almost all been closed to the gospel. Now, however, they are almost all wide open. God has opened them up, and where God works he does not do things by halves. If he has opened a door he will have some one to enter into it.

The Spanish world is just shaking itself free from the incubus of priest control. The policy of the Roman church to have only the few learn to read, and to control the masses through ignorance, is being everywhere thrust aside by the Spanish people. They are thinking for themselves, a practice which Rome strenuously condemns as sin, and as a consequence the authority of Rome over the conscience is being ignored and set aside.

This subjection of thought has served its purpose, even though with most degrading results, and if it should pass away without some powerful substitute, to take its place and do its work, serious conditions may easily follow.

Some of this is already seen in Mexico, where the people seem to be the prey of chaos and unchecked evil. With them we also must suffer. If they be as far away from us as Central or South America in a less degree, perhaps, but we are with these people, in a peculiar manner, our brother's keeper. And what proves to be bad for them will be bad for us. We cannot even with safety stand aloof while they suffer need. If their field is grown up to weeds it will corrupt our own; if it is ready for the sowing we must furnish them with good seed or it will be sown with what they have, spiritualism, agnosticism, infidelity and vice. Alas, due in part to our neglect, these evil seeds are fast taking those lands.

But as the change is not altogether come, but only begun, the emancipation may be by substitution of the good. They want it. Many outstretched hands and eager eyes are looking toward us for help.

## Porto Rico's Most Urgent Problem and How to Solve It.

Thus in Porto Rico, a very gem of Spanish pride and feeling, fifteen years ago only one in seven could read. Now that proportion are actually in school, and nearly, or perhaps quite, one-half can read.

### The Opportunity Unprecedented.

Grown men, working in the fields all day, crowd into the country school house at night to learn to read and cipher. It is a sight to see forty men in working clothes and bare feet, struggling with the intellectual problems of children. That they make such a struggle at all is the wonder. You couldn't see the like anywhere else, not in Europe nor even in the United States. History does not furnish a parallel to such progress in so brief a period as has been made in fifteen years in our charming little Spanish island possession. Let us think and speak of them as brothers and we shall get on beautifully with them. They want our progress, they want our ideals, and even our fellowship in the gospel.

### The Crux of the Matter.

And now comes the interesting fact, the master key. Many are learning, with nothing or almost nothing at all to read. Old ideals are being discarded; whence shall come the new to take their place? In the cities there are papers and magazines, but these scarcely reach the country, where the greatest transformation has taken place. There is there the most complete dearth of reading matter. And they are eager to read. Will read everything they can get. But they are too poor to buy, and no one has as yet given to them.

The supply will come, but what will it be? Will it be good and Christian? Not unless we make it so. Spanish literature, whatever else may be said of it, is not evangelical, hence is not truly Christian; whatever semblance of Christianity it may have will be rejected with the priests. There will be left only the agnostic and chaotic. But, as we have said, for the present, at least, in the country there is nothing to read. The people read anything that is given them until it is worn to shreds. If it is good they discuss it and get the good. Here then is a free field ready and broken for the sowing. Shall we not give it the good seed? If we will, we must do so quickly and well.

### Gospel Teaching Welcomed.

The people are quite willing; there is little aversion to the best evangelical gospel. Many indeed respond to it with such expressions as "I never heard anything so good in my life;" "I like it, have you any more?" "It is true, yes, it is true;" "Oh, how good," etc. This,

then, is the opportunity. The gospel teacher is free to go where he likes and rarely fails of a good congregation. Shall we not sow this field with good seed ere it is taken by thorns and weeds?

It is well understood by experienced missionary workers that a people can be evangelized with success only by means of a well-prepared force of native workers. Our Lord began his work in that way, and said that "Many are called, but few are choice ones."

### **Two Forces Pulling Together.**

We believe therefore that there are two things necessary to bring about success in our work in Spanish lands, neither of which has been sufficiently developed in the past. First, a far more comprehensive preparation of native workers, and second, a great propaganda through the printed page. We believe that these two, which seem so different, are in fact closely related, and can be made to work together and to help each other, reducing the cost of both to the minimum. The well-drilled soldier and an abundance of munitions and artillery for his support.

### **Industrial Training for Spiritual Work.**

For supplying the first, our great industrial school, the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico, at San German, though new as yet, and much hampered for lack of means, is fast showing itself to be by far the most practical yet devised for this end, combining the elements, as we believe, best suited for the construction of dependable Christian character. It is a great beehive of work, physical, mental, moral and spiritual, with an equally great basis for living, of industry, honor, independence and faith.

We believe that this school is not only the best of its kind yet organized, but that it is located where it will have the best material to work upon, and where it will be most available for the great work in hand. In the island of Porto Rico, which God has brought under our flag for this very purpose. They are a bright, capable people, well disposed toward us and our institutions, and centrally located for easy access to all the Spanish world.

### **Hard Work for a High Aim.**

It is already in successful operation on the most thorough and practical industrial plan. All of its one hundred or more students work enthusiastically at hard labor in order to pay for their own education and support. The fact that its thirty thousand dollars' worth of land and buildings belong to the Presbyterian Board of Home Mis-

sions assures future stability and character. It is intensely practical and intensely Christian. The greatest enthusiasm prevails in study, labor and faith. The girls do all kinds of house work, under skillful



Boys of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico at work on second section of their dormitory, which had to stop for lack of funds. They get their instruction at the most serious work, and the school gets fine buildings at a little more than half the ordinary cost of such construction. (See needs on page 8.)

supervision and training, with the constant aim in view of superior service at lowest cost. The boys do every manly task on the farm, in the shop or in building as faithfully as though they were receiving wages, and as enthusiastically as though they were achieving honors thereby.

### The Quality and Purpose of the Polytechnic Institute.

The grades are maintained in strict accord with the government requirements through with the high school work, while a comprehensive course of Bible training touches every student in every year.

The main object of the institute is Christian character building and its plan is four-square:

First. To make it practically certain that no student will remain long without being thoroughly converted and trained in Christian living and work.

Second. By the fact that all students work at many kinds of manual labor, and thereby contribute to the high aim of preparation for a great work, to break down and remove in a great measure the supersensitive pride and lack of good, practical common sense, which is so serious a hindrance to progress, and to stable, dependable service everywhere.

Third. By making popular, evangelical Christian education and Bible training greatly to enlarge the available, dependable force of workers for the speedy evangelization of Spanish America.

And fourth. By a great visual demonstration and by the irrepres- sible expansive force of such an institution, to contribute to the gen- eral uplift, first, of the Island of Porto Rico, and afterward of other parts of the Spanish people.

### Already a Success.

The Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico is especially suited for becoming a nucleus for this work. It is already a successful demon- stration of the practical value of industrial education among those people. It is also already a great success in Christian character build- ing. Shall we not see to it that it is so enlarged and equipped that



First section of Girls' Dormitory, Polytechnic Institute. Finished so far and occupied by the 32 girls shown on first page, but needing four more sec- tions to complete the building. (See needs on page 8.)

it shall be able to take in the five hundred eager young people, mostly from Christian homes, who already are seeking admission to its classes?

### Porto Ricans Not Lazy.

The notion is quite universal that the trouble with all Spanish America is that the people are not thrifty, will not work if they can avoid it. That an education is desired chiefly for the reason that it is thought that it will enable one to get a living without work. This is probably more than a half truth, but the cause of it is not laziness, but is due to the fact that labor under existing conditions affords no chance for one to better his conditions in life, however faithfully it may be pursued; and that it is therefore regarded as slavish and hence degrading.

A poor thirty cents a day, in a country where good living is as dear as it is in the United States, will never enable a man to do or be anything. The longer it is pursued the more hopeless the laborer becomes.

Education being confined to those who do not work, labor has never had the benefit of intelligent effort for its own betterment. It has therefore been utterly dependent and slavish. Who can wonder that all who can do so, avoid it? But take away this notion. Let it be seen that intelligent labor has in itself the power for its own emancipation, and it will be seen that the Latins are as industrious and as resourceful as any of us.

This has already been proven by many who have conducted industries successfully by their labor, by giving their employes a fair chance. It need, therefore, be no great surprise that such a school as the institute should succeed.

### To Increase Its Work Five-fold.

It needs only what schools always need, buildings and some backing by way of endowment and support, and it will become, by God's blessing, a great instrument that is sorely needed in carrying forward of our missionary desires for those lands.

Its pressing needs as we see them now are:

For regular running expenses this year.....	\$6,000.00
For better outfitting for industrial work and books.....	500.00
For improving farm, planting fruit trees, buying stock, bees, chickens and fencing .....	1,500.00

### For Buildings.

One more section to the boys' dormitory.....	2,500.00
Three more such sections, making five in all, to complete the building .....	7,500.00
One more section to the girls' dormitory.....	2,500.00
Three more sections to complete the building.....	7,500.00
To furnish two sections above.....	1,000.00
Teachers' home .....	2,000.00
Home for president, administration building.....	4,500.00
To buy 15 acres of land, now for sale, adjoining campus, and much needed .....	1,000.00
For building for class rooms and chapel.....	10,000.00
Dining hall and kitchen.....	3,500.00
	<hr/>
Total for school .....	\$50,000.00

### What Business Men Think of the Institute.

It should be noted here that a great steamer line and the American Railroad Company, impressed with the value of the work, give the institute free transportation on all material from New York to San German, Porto Rico. In building materials, especially, this is a great help. This, together with the fact that the labor, being all done by the students, is very cheap as well as efficient, and that stone and sand are to be had in abundance at only the expense of handling, and this also by student labor, make the erection of fine, substantial cement buildings cost but little more than half what they would otherwise cost. And money for building gives employment to the students and so helps to support the school.

### Dearth of Reading Matter.

Again the Lord has laid on our hearts to pray for the other great need. This is to do something to supply good Christian reading matter for the Spanish peoples. We have spent nearly sixteen years in mission work in Mexico and Porto Rico, and all the time the need of the printed gospel to give to the people seemed to us to be most urgent. We made great efforts to get it, and succeeded to some extent, but never had enough for the need. We wish to acknowledge here our indebtedness to Mr. Robert Grant and to Mr. R. D. Smith, both of Los Angeles, California, who with God's help sent us large boxes of splendid gospels and tracts. But what were these among so many? They are doing what they can, but there is need of much more.

We also got gospels and tracts from London and from Mexico, but these are now cut off.

## Starving Minds of Well-fed Boys.

The demand is urgent, people everywhere beg for good reading material, of which gospels printed in Spanish, good Spanish tracts and illustrated Bible stories for children are most in demand. Such printed booklets, costing two or three cents each, are eagerly taken and read. Children who can read are called into requisition by fathers who cannot, and they read to the whole family, while the father comments and explains the meaning to the group.

Many a time have we seen a boy in a country store reading to a dozen men and boys seated on kegs and boxes. It is the cheapest way to spread the gospel news. Perhaps it may even prove to be the most effective way. It has never been fully tried.

But there is no antagonism between it and the usual method of the living preacher and Bible reader. On the contrary, missionaries are always anxious for a good supply of such matter to carry with them. It gives them admission to many homes where they could not otherwise gain entrance. Children always beg for them and soon the mother sees you coming and calls you in. For us, with papers and books in such abundance, it is hard to conceive of the absolute dearth of such things that exists in the homes of almost the entire population in Spanish lands. With whole populations learning to read, we have set before us the God-given opportunity.

## Kill Two Birds with One Stone.

This propaganda we believe can be done most effectively and economically in conjunction with this industrial school.

The work of printing can be done in this school at a cost undreamed of in the United States, and the money and work thus supplied will furnish a magnificent enterprise for the school and contribute directly to its support. The summer vacation energy of the students will, we believe, work most admirably for the wide distribution of the printed matter, working in harmony, as they always do, with missionaries and workers on the field, and so give a new life and movement to the whole work.

Will somebody say the plan is new and untried? Yes, but only in its application. Christian literature is an immense factor of our work in the states and the value of the Christian industrial school is also well known. It is only the combination of the two that is new, and because it is among the Latins. Let us give it a good boost and see how it will go. Fifty thousand dollars would not be too much to start with, though some start can be made with much less. Every-

thing is safe in Porto Rico. Millions of dollars are being invested in other things there. What about the Lord's work? Will not some generous, "cheerful givers" come quickly to the help of the Lord, not only for the enlargement of the school, but also to start the printing?

### How to Give.

A dollar, by the genius of Rev. J. Will Harris, the president, and his devoted helpers, appears by God's blessing to do the work of two.

A group of the institute boys, with their live director, undertook this summer to build, in a neighboring town for our boards, a church and manse of concrete to cost some three thousand dollars. They did it in excellent style, in unheard-of quick time, and are said to have saved some five hundred dollars under the expected price. A wonderful lesson was given to the amazed citizens by seeing those boys do such a work. Let's boost them and help the boys to help themselves and their people.

Gifts may be sent either to the writer at 1174 Tenth St., Des Moines, Iowa, or to Mr. H. C. Olin, Treas., 156 Fifth Ave., New York. Do not fail to state clearly the object for which it is desired that money should be used.

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY  
THE WRITER IN CONNECTION WITH THIS WORK:

From Rev. John Dixon D. D. Secretary of the Board of Home Missions, New York:

**THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.**

June 21, 1915.

To the Friends of Home Missions:

This will introduce to you, and heartily commend, the Rev. E. A. McDonald, a former missionary of the Board of Home Missions in Porto Rico. Mr. McDonald was obliged to return to this country because of the ill health of his wife.

At the request of the Polytechnic Institute of San German, Porto Rico, and with the consent of the Board of Home Missions, Mr. McDonald has undertaken to raise special funds for this Institute. These subscriptions are to be separate from, and over and above the amount contributed by our friends for the regular work within the bounds of their own Synods.

This Institute is under the care and supervision of the Board of Home Missions, is meeting a great need, doing a splendid work, and is of great importance, not only to all Christian work in Porto Rico, but it is not too much to say, to the whole of Latin America.

Any contribution given to Mr. McDonald will aid a most needy and worthy enterprise.

JOHN DIXON,  
Secretary.

From Mr. J. Ernest McAfee, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, New York:

**THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.**

June 17, 1915.

To the Friends of Missions:

It gives me pleasure to record my deep interest in the work of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico. I have followed its development from the first, and within the year I have visited the campus. Mr. Harris is a man of large faith and vision. He went to Porto Rico with ideals of education and missionary service which his years of experience have enabled him to embody in constructive work. The Institute aims to solve one of the most vital problems of the Island. Thoughtful students of Porto Rican needs, in all walks of life, unite in emphasizing the importance of teaching the new generation how to work and to enjoy work. This is recognized to be a particularly difficult task. The

traditions of Porto Rico and of other Latin-American communities, are against rather than for the effort. The degree of success the Institute has already attained in this particular is remarkable. Though still young, and with very inadequate equipment, the Institute has already rallied more than one hundred of the most promising young people who, day by day, work with their hands, learn by intimate experience the finer lessons of community loyalty, gain a thorough scholastic training, and, in most practical ways, prepare for the new citizenship which is the only hope of this rapidly developing Island.

It is rare that givers have an opportunity to contribute with the same assurance as here, that their benefactions will help and not cripple, will inspire to higher and more self-dependent living, and not pauperize the recipients. These young people ask only such help as their own efforts cannot provide. They are willing and eager to work. Their education costs them all they have to give, and they value the training for life work so highly that they gladly pay the cost. Those who help such young people find a joy which only such giving can contribute.

You cannot help but be interested in the story which Mr. McDonald has to tell. He has been in San German, has lived with the students and with their teachers and other leaders, and knows the spirit which controls students and teachers alike. The Institute is making the gospel of Christ a reality in the lives of these young people, the leaders of the new Porto Rico which is to be. From this center of influence the whole educational and missionary policy of the Church in Latin America may properly receive large inspirations, if only the proper equipment and encouragement is given the Institute.

J. E. M'AFEE.

From Rev. Philo W. Drury, superintendent of the Missions of the United Brethren Church in Porto Rico:

### **MISSION OF THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.**

Ponce, Porto Rico, August 23, 1915.

Rev. E. A. McDonald,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I have learned with pleasure that you are to devote some of your time in the interest of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico, for this will mean additional help for this Institution in its noble work of preparing young men and women for the duties of life.

Personally, I am highly gratified with the work of the school. It has a strong religious influence that is evidenced in the life of the

students. The teaching corps is strong, and in addition, the self-help feature serves to develop the best there is in a young person.

The Institute is broad and sympathetic in its aim. The United Brethren Mission has a number of students in the Institute, some of whom are preparing themselves for the ministry. It seems to me that the school will re-inforce greatly the Theological Seminary in giving preparatory equipment to those who are desirous of entering the ministry. And furthermore, as I believe that Porto Rico is to play an important part in the evangelization of Latin America, this institution will have no little part in the carrying out of this great program.

I trust that you will have the largest success as you represent this most worthy institution.

Most cordially yours,

PHILO W. DRURY.

From Mr. C. S. Inman, executive secretary of the Committee of Co-operation in Latin America :

### **COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA.**

New York, April 16, 1915.

Rev. J. W. Harris,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear friend:

I am glad to know that you are here to present the question of enlarging your work of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico.

Allow me to express my greatest appreciation of the pioneer work **that you are doing along some lines that are most needed to be done in Latin America.** In my trip last year through the West Indies and South America, I did not see any work in all the different countries that I visited that appealed to me more favorably than did that of your school in San German. It seems to me like you are pioneering along lines that many others will be following out in the years to come.

Not only in Porto Rico, but all over Latin-America, one of the greatest problems that the people are facing is that of how to get the most out of the soil. We understand that this is intimately connected with character, and people will not be able to get the best out of our Christianity unless they realize its true relationship with the problem of bread-winning.

I know of no other educational work in all Latin-America that is going directly at the solution of this problem in the broad way that you are undertaking it in San German, connecting the Bible with the

training of the hand, so that pupils may go out well trained, both for the spiritual and physical emergencies of life.

I hope that you will meet with large success in enlisting help for the advancement of your work, as it is **certainly most deserving in every way.**

Yours cordially,  
(Signed) S. G. INMAN.

From Rev. J. W. Harris, president of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico:

### **POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF PORTO RICO.**

Dear Friend:

My friends ask us why should there be an institution like this one for Porto Rico. You may also wish to know. It is because,

1. It meets the demands and needs of an industrial, vocational and literary training under Christian influences.

2. It is the only successful industrial school in Porto Rico of 300,000 youth.

3. It is the only co-educational and industrial institution on definite Christian grounds of faith among 70,000,000 of people. There has never been a single case of discipline because of its co-educational feature.

4. Porto Rican youth are as diligent as the youth of any land and they are eager to secure such a training.

5. The youth with such a broad literary, industrial and moral training has a wide field of service to his fellowman.

6. Porto Ricans approve of this institution because of its industrial and religious features.

7. The young people of our churches have no other hope for a thorough preparation.

8. With its staff of expert instructors and one hundred and five students, it is turning out finished and able men and women for the world's work.

9. In so doing, it has demonstrated to the 1,250,000 people of Porto Rico and to all Latin-America, the need, the favor and the success of such an institution.

10. The secret of successful, effective Christian work awaits the coming of well-equipped workers such as we find in training here.

Standing ready to give further information, I am

Yours very truly,  
J. W. HARRIS.

## *POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF PORTO RICO.*

To Whom It May Concern :

The Reverend E. A. McDonald is the duly appointed representative of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico. Mr. McDonald was one of the organizers of this institution during his service as missionary in Porto Rico. His long and signally successful service in the Latin-American field qualifies him most adequately for presenting the need of a Christian training of the youth of these lands. We commend him, and bespeak for him a cordial hearing to all those interested in advancing the Kingdom of Righteousness.

J. W. HARRIS,  
President.

Oh, that God's people were wise enough to trust him fully in the matter of giving to carry forward his work!

Paul tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver," and that "He that soweth abundantly shall reap also abundantly;" that we are, or may be, "Co-laborers together with Christ." Can we imagine that to please, in this especial way, Him Who made the silver and the gold, and Who controls the seasons, and to enter into partnership with him by investing freely in His enterprises, will make us poorer?

We are anxious to pay off our own debts and so be free, and will God remain in debt to us, even seemingly, and not pay us back in kind?

Paul says that "Whatsoever a man soweth, THAT shall he also reap." A man does not sow wheat to reap oats, neither do we sow material things to reap only spiritual blessings.

Life is so complicated that we seldom can tell where nor how our blessings come to us. We are not rich, but since we are God's children, the objects of his special care, it is a wonder that He permits us to have as much as he does, considering how very dangerous riches are to us. May it not well be that in proportion as we set our hearts less upon them, and give them away more freely, and especially in His work, that He can safely entrust us with more. Read Job 42:10-12, Mal. 3:8-12, and Prov. 3:9-10, and in the New Testament, 2 Cor. 9:5-11 and Phil. 4:10-19.

If this matter looks good to you, if you wish that it might succeed, pray for it, and then do what God would have you to do. Have something invested in the Spanish work also.

If you are not able to contribute,  
please give this to a neighbor who is  
able.

THE HOMESTEAD PRINTING CO.  
DES MOINES