

cocoanut palms rearing their tall and majestic heads, greet the eyes. The town, now but the ruins of what it was in former days, has a population of about 2500. Its narrow sidewalks are paved but have fallen into decay. In the business portions there are some very fine buildings. The Captain, the British Consul and myself were the only Britishers in the town at the time. Only those who have experience that indefinable feeling or yearning after a sight of their national flag in foreign parts, can imagine what a treat it was to me to see the *grand old Union Jack* fluttering in the breeze in this Porto Rican town.

On July 25th the feast day of Spain's Patron Saint, a grand procession was held in which all the Spanish troops in the town took part. We had a good opportunity of seeing the Spaniards, the majority of whom were able bodied men but lacked discipline. On this day the soldiers renew their oath of allegiance to the throne, which is done by kissing the flag.

Whilst discharging cargo the 600 Spanish troops who had retreated from the Ponce before the overwhelming force of Americans, entered the town. They were a band of men to be pitied; some were without boots, others without blankets, and others still without either. Their captain, feeling oppressed by disgrace, committed suicide the night of their arrival, by shooting himself. The Americans came across the island in our direction. They were 9000 strong. As we were ready to sail 1000 Americans, who were advancing on the town, were now about 3 miles distant. The feeling among the people of the island was intensely in favor of the Americans. They were anxious for them to come, and they went as far as to arm 500 men with machetes—a long, heavy, one-edged sword.

With our cargo of sugar, cocoanuts and pineapples aboard, we set sail for Halifax, where we arrived after an uneventful voyage of twelve days. When we left Porto Rico, flour was selling at \$18 a barrel, and tea at \$1 a pound, while beef could not be got at any price. It is hoped that as the Americans have succeeded in capturing the island, they will set to work *at once* and remove the grievances of the people as far as it is possible. If they do this the people will gain heart and make Porto Rico one of the finest markets in the world. The island is rich in ores of all kinds and needs only some enterprising speculators to open it up and develop it.

J. R. P., '01.