

disturbed by the vibration of the train, and the danger of heavy landslides is very great during the rainy season. The road, however, is carefully watched by men stationed at intervals in the same way as the C. P. R. is guarded in the Rockies. Before the railway was built it took from twelve to twenty hours to do the same distance as is now done in two and a half hours. The carriage road is now impassable.

There is a great difference between the climates of La Guayra and Caracas, the former not only being very hot but also very humid, while

habitants. It is the seat of government, and possesses all the adjuncts and advantages of a first-class capital, even if on a rather small scale. The Government Building and the Opera House are magnificent edifices. The Cathedral, the Church of Alta Gracia, the Pantheon, and the University surprise and delight the visitor. No building is very high, there not being a single two-story private dwelling in the whole city, in fact, the only structures that rise above the ground floor, are the



ON THE ROAD TO CARACAS.

the air of the latter is dry and the heat tempered by its elevation. In fact, it would be difficult to find a climate more delightful than that of Caracas, with its perpetual summer. Glass windows are rarely met with, even in the finest residences, the heat and rain being kept out by the closing of heavy wooden shutters, and protection is obtained by the use of solid iron bars.

Caracas has a population of between fifty and sixty thousand in-



NEW GUN IN OLD FORT.

Government Building, the Archbishopal Palace, and the two principal hotels, but, on the other hand, even the most insignificant private dwelling occupies a considerable ground area, as not only are all the rooms and offices on the one floor, but there is invariable a large central "patio," which is half court-

yard and half garden. This "patio" is the favourite sitting-place of the family circle. In the better houses there is a second inner "patio," round which are situated the kitchens, out-houses, and stables.

Amongst the better class, the standard of personal beauty is great, notwithstanding the admixture of blood. The women have symmetrical figures, a most graceful carriage, expressive black eyes and raven hair. In addition, they