

ticularly in hides and coffee, and whilst most of the merchants there are Germans, most of the goods are English. The people of Venezuela themselves would pay little attention to the boundary question were it not for the efforts of President Crespo to create some political advantage for himself out of the situation and to direct attention from local dissensions by intensifying the importance of the international question.

Venezuela has a population of over two million inhabitants, and not more than one hundred fami-

most wonderful pieces of engineering in the world. The road over which it travels is about 26 miles long, and in that distance rises over 3,000 feet, at times climbing on the edges of precipices, around and around the same hill, or crossing by slender bridges chasms of enormous depth. The journey takes two hours and a half. This road, which was built and is run by an English company, pays exceedingly well. The locomotives and cars used were especially designed for this class of travel. They are built exceedingly heavy below and very



LANDING-PLACE, LA GUAYRA.

lies of these are pure-blooded. The rest are a mixture of Spanish, negro and Indian, the proportion of Spanish blood being about one-sixteenth. President Crespo is a full-blooded Indian. The city of Caracas has a population of from 60,000 to 70,000 people. It has its street cars, its electric lights and its palatial hotels, and is almost European in appearance. It was nearly swallowed up by an earthquake in 1812, when 12,000 of its people were destroyed.

The railway which connects the port with the capital is one of the

light above. This is done to prevent any accident in turning round the sharp curves which are very numerous, when the upper parts of the carriages absolutely hang over empty space. It is possible in many places to touch the mountain from the window of the carriage on the one side, while from the other window a stone may be dropped many hundreds of thousands of feet. While the journey presents many attractions to a traveller, it has its disconcerting phases as well, as it is not uncommon to hear falling on the roof of the car, stones and earth