

## Customs in Porto Rico

When a Porto Rican lady wishes another to come over for a friendly chat, she does not say, in order to impress upon her friend the informality of the invitation, "Come and bring your sewing." She says, "Come and rock." That means that they will occupy Vienna bent-wood rocking chairs on the balcony or in the sala, and rock violently back and forth until noon, to the accompaniment of local gossip and housekeeping discussion, and absolutely nothing else.

This "rocking" is the most violent form of exercise taken by the aristocratic Portorriquenas, except occasionally dancing, or walking up and down the plazas on concert evenings. Anything else would be as highly improper, not to say vulgar, as to possess a rosy complexion and muscular limbs.

When Lolita Rodriguez Hernandez returned to the family plantation near the capital after a year's visit in New England, with a straightened back, broadened shoulders, and a tinge of color showing through the clear olive of her cheeks, and showed an inclination to climb mango-trees and ride plantation ponies, the shock to the feelings of the Senora Rodriguez, her mother, eventually reduced that dignified lady to tears.

This was all due to the fact that soon after the close of hostilities with Spain, and while the island was occupied by the American army, a cavalry captain and his wife had been quartered in the Rodriguez house. Mrs. Mandell had taken a strong fancy to the lively, bright Lolita, then about fourteen years of age, and upon returning to her home in the Berkshire hills in the early summer had persuaded Don Rafael Rodriguez to allow his daughter to accompany her for a visit and a look at the world.

The shrewd old planter was far-sighted enough to realize that the lazy old methods would soon follow the troops of Spain back to their fatherland forever, and that the sooner the younger generation of his beloved island became Americanized, the better it would be.

Consequently he was delighted to have this opportunity for Lolita's advancement, but he had hard work to overcome the scruples of his wife. Never allowing her hospitality to lapse for a single instant, she yet looked rather askance at the stalwart, ruddy American woman, who could actually cook, and had once, in an emergency, saddled her own horse! Don Rafael himself, in his soul, would have preferred it had the choice fallen on Jaime, his son; but Jaime rather sided with his mother in her prejudices, and pretended to despise Captain Mandell's athletic build, although envying him mightily in secret.

Lolita sailed away one day aboard a huge white transport, crowded with returning soldiers. The proposed two months' visit lengthened into a year and more before she returned, as has been already related, as a state of scandalous physical robustness and with unheard-of notions in her head.

Don Rafael pulled a long face in his wife's presence, in deference to her feelings, but went about by himself, rubbing his hands and chuckling joyously behind his white imperial.

"Now if thou wouldst only become like her," he said to Jaime in private, "and induce the other young men to do the same—ah, what a race we should be in time!"

But Jaime's opinions coincided with the senora's in regard to Lolita's metamorphosis. Having risen earlier than usual one morning, he discovered her on the back veranda swinging a pair of light Indian clubs which she had brought from the United States, and was hardly prevented by his amused father from rushing away for a doctor to diagnose his sister's mental state. And when at desayuno, the early meal, she ate an egg and a piece of chicken—actually ate meat—and drank a glass of milk, instead of the customary cup of chocolate or strong black coffee, he left the table and lay down for an hour.

Don Rafael only laughed at him, and bought a milch cow and a few more hens, cautioning Lolita, however, to make due allowances for the difference in climate between New England and Porto Rico. Lolita grove all through the summer, and gradually took entire charge of the housekeeping, until the indolent Senora Rodriguez was forced to admit that bodily vigor had some advantages.

The American troops were still occupying the island, and patrols would often pass along the road from the camp situated a short distance above the house. The family had become quite friendly with the brown-faced troopers, who were never in the least insolent or overbearing, and who oft-

en looked back with longing eyes at the homelike, comfortable old house among the palms. Lolita, who adored everything American, was never allowed to speak to the soldiers, but she often sent a servant out from the kitchen with fruit or dainties, for which the big fellows would be as grateful as children; and they never failed to salute her in passing, to her unbounded delight.

One day, early in August, a stranger officer, in the uniform of the artillery, came walking up the palm-lined slope to the front steps of the Rodriguez house, leading a magnificent black horse which was dead lame. He asked permission of Don Rafael to leave the animal in his stable for a day or two, until it was well enough to be sent for from San Juan.

"It is only a slight strain, I think," said the officer, through Lolita as interpreter, "and a little rest and rubbing are all that are needed; but I am afraid I should ruin him permanently if I tried to get him in over these roads."

Don Rafael assented cordially, and promised that the horse should be thoroughly rubbed and cared for, declining with graceful but emphatic courtesy the officer's hesitating offer of payment. Jaime, who understood all about horses, or at least ponies, led the beautiful animal to the stables and gave orders to the negroes to attend to him; and the officer, after partaking of a light refreshment, trotted away on one of the plantation ponies.

"Wouldst thou not just love to ride him?" Lolita said to Jaime, with sparkling eyes, as she stood stroking the horse's sleek neck while a groom bathed the injured leg.

"No," said Jaime; "he's too big and quapo" (full-bodied). "I couldn't hold on."

"I think I could," said Lolita. "I used to ride a horse almost as big in Massachusetts."

"Oh, thou—thou—couldst ride an elephant, I suppose?" sniffed Jaime.

"Well, I have!" retorted Lolita. "In a menagerie last spring, whereat Jaime retired in disgust."

A peon brought the pony back the next day, and later the horse was presented by the officer to Lolita.

### Editorial Difficulties.

The troubles of an editor are many. Besides the difficulties inherent in making up his paper satisfactorily, he often has to live up to a reputation for limitless knowledge. For many people he is an oracle, and the column headed "Notes and Queries," or something similar, is his mouthpiece. A Philadelphia paper received a communication bearing pertinently on this matter. It ran as follows:

"Dear Editor,—Will you kindly inform me by return mail what number of seeds are contained in a seventy-three-to-seventy-five pound pumpkin, as I wish to settle an argument?"

A Western parallel to this request lies in an unhappy experience of an editor who one morning received two letters from subscribers. The first, an anxious father, wrote to find out the best way to bring up his twin babies in health and happiness, while the other, a farmer, wanted to know the quickest method of getting rid of grasshoppers.

The editor hesitated; then out of the fulness of his knowledge, he wrote two letters in reply. But in the haste of business he put the letters into the wrong envelopes.

The next morning the father of the twins received this interesting answer:

"Cover them carefully with straw and set fire to it. After jumping in the flames a few moments the little pests will be speedily done for."

And the man who was troubled with grasshoppers was bidden to "Give castor-oil regularly in moderate doses and rub their gums with a bone."

### Both Come in Bottles.

The father was testing his little boy's knowledge of the story of Noah, which he had carefully rehearsed. The boy had been thinking hard, says the New York Times, and his answer to the first question showed that he had at least the virtue of originality.

"Now," said papa, "can you tell me how Noah knew that the waters had gone down?"

The boy hesitated a minute, as if seeking for proper words to express himself, then he said:

"Noah knew the waters had gone down because the dove came back bringing him a pickle."

Olives and pickles were synonymous terms in the small boy's mind for things which come in bottles, and which he did not like.

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## RESULT OF STAMPEDE

### Less Than 100 Claims Are Staked

### Total Number of Applications Received on Milne Concession Amounts to 195.

Today is the last day the stampede to the Milne concession on May 1 will have an opportunity of recording, this being the eleventh day from that date, the last allowed by the regulations in which to make application to record. Anything staked on the 1st and not recorded today will have to be restaked again. The stampede was not near so extensive as it was thought it would be and not half the claims that were open to relocation were staked, and none of the virgin ground was located. The throwing open of the concession made 200 claims, approximately, available for relocation, but by actual count there were but 98 taken up. Upon that number, however, there were 195 applications received, an average of a trifle over two to each claim. A great many claims were staked but once, while one has no less than 12 recorded against it and two others 10 each. For the purpose of designating the location of claims adjoining the Anderson concession the latter was divided into imaginary claims 250 feet in length and numbering from 1 to 53, the staking in some instances extending back in the hills, notably opposite No. 32, as far back as the 16th tier of benches, a full mile back from the creek lacking only the width of two bench claims. The only claims covered by the Milne concession were the hillsides and benches adjoining the hydraulic reserve referred to and the creeks and hillsides of Henry gulch, which enters Hunker at No. 20. A glance over the records today shows that either a hillside or one or more benches were staked opposite almost every number, several of the benches taken up being as far back as the tenth tier. It may be of interest to many to know what claims were staked in the mad rush of May 1 and the number of locations filed in each instance, and the following transcript taken from the records will show the extent and diversity of the locations:

Adjoining No. 1: 2nd tier bench, 1; 6th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 2: 2nd tier bench, 1; 3rd tier, 1; 4th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 3: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 4: 2nd tier bench, 3; 4th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 5: 2nd tier bench, 1; 3rd tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 6: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 7: Hillside, 1; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 10: 2nd tier bench, 2.  
Adjoining No. 11: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 12: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 14: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 15: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 16: 2nd tier bench, 2.  
Adjoining No. 17: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 18: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 22: Hillside, 3.  
Adjoining No. 28: Hillside, 5; 2nd tier bench, 1; 3rd tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 34: Hillside, 7; Alderman Vachon and P. S. McFarlane being of the number; 3rd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 25: 3rd tier bench, 1; 4th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 27: 4th tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 28: 2nd tier bench, 1; 4th tier, 2.  
Adjoining No. 29: 3rd tier bench, 2; 4th tier, 2; 5th tier, 1; 10th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 31: 4th tier bench, 1; 8th tier, 1; 9th tier, 1; 11th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 32: 9th tier bench, 1; 10th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 33: 9th tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 34: 7th tier bench, 1; 8th tier, 1; 9th tier, 4; 10th tier, 3.  
Adjoining No. 35: 6th tier bench, 2; 7th tier, 2; 8th tier, 2; 9th tier, 2; 11th tier, 1.

Adjoining No. 36: Hillside, 1; 3rd tier bench, 1; 5th tier, 2.  
Adjoining No. 37: 2nd tier bench, 1; 12th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 28: 6th tier bench, 1; 7th tier, 4.  
Adjoining No. 39: 6th tier bench, 1; 7th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 41: Hillside, 4; 9th tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 42: Hillside, 7, including two ladies, Annie Golden and May Delaney.  
Adjoining No. 43: Hillside, 7; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 44: Hillside, 3; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 45: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 46: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 47: Hillside, 3; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 48: Hillside, 6; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 49: Hillside, 3; 2nd tier bench, 1; 3rd tier, 1; 4th tier, 1; 5th tier, 1.  
Adjoining No. 50: Hillside, 4; 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 51: Hillside, 2; end tier bench, 1.  
Adjoining No. 52: 2nd tier bench, 1.  
Upon Henry gulch there were but very few claims that had reverted to the crown and as such became the property of Milne when his concession was granted, but these were in great demand by the stampedeers. The upper half of creek claim No. 6 has 12 locations, among them being F. G. Crisp, the popular young barrister. The lower half of No. 7 has 10 locations and the upper half the same number. W. M. McKay is on the lower half. The lower half of No. 8 has 4 locations; the upper half, 5. No. 16 has but 1. There are but two hillsides on Henry gulch that were relocated. The upper half, right limit, opposite No. 4 has 4 locations and the lower half adjoining the same number.

But very little litigation has so far arisen out of the stampede and it is thought that in most instances where two or more have staked the same ground their differences will be settled between themselves without the costly experiment of a protest.

### Intelligible Announcement.

An American woman who understands Italian, but has not learned to comprehend Italianized English, had at a hotel in Florence an experience which she relates with glee.

She had asked that a carriage might be ready for her at a certain hour. She waited in the parlor for it to be announced, and when the time had passed she made complaint that her request had not been regarded.

"But, madam, I send up a boy where you and the other madam were sitting, ten minutes ago, and command him to announce your equipage," said the clerk.

"A boy said something in the doorway," said the lady, doubtfully, "but as he spoke in a language unknown to me, and did not seem to be addressing me, I paid no attention to him."

The boy, being summoned, gazed with brown, reproachful eyes at the lady.

"But I speak America," he said, plaintively. "I bow my head and say, fast, very fast, 'm'darm, m'darm, c'ridge, c'ridge, redde, redde,' and made my depart."

**Klondike Goes Down.**  
Between Monday evening and yesterday evening the water in the Klondike river fell between four and five feet and what was then a raging torrent is now a placid stream.

Workers on the toll bridge have repaired the injured pier, the job having been completed yesterday evening, and teams are now crossing.

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