

New York Herald
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Ponce Back in Business

PONCE, Puerto Rico, Sunday.—The occupation of the city was carried on with as much thoroughness and as little lack of friction as though the United States had made a practice of picking up rich islands for the last hundred years. The army has been here four days now, and the Custom House is already open for business; the wrecked railroad has been put in motion by General Stone, and telegraph offices have been opened.

Shutters have been taken down from the windows of stores and cafes. No stranger entering the city would believe that three days ago the frightened inhabitants were locked inside their houses and that business of all kinds was paralyzed. Good order is maintained in the city. The Pennsylvania and Wisconsin volunteers, who guard it act with discretion and judgment. There has not been the slightest conflict or rioting.

Ponce is the most important city in the island next to San Juan. The establishing of a military government here has given the city a sudden value which General Miles will so use as to make a decided impression upon the citizens of San Juan. Fearing that Ponce will be selected as the capital of a more prosperous people they will desire to conciliate the Americans. Their influence will thus be given in favor of throwing open San Juan for the invaders of Puerto Rico.

Starting Up of Commerce

A captain of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade asked permission yesterday to clear for neighboring Puerto Rican ports and to dispose of his cargo. His request was granted. He then raised a question for which there was no answer in American history by asking if he should fly the American or the Spanish flag. If he set the Spanish flag the warships in the harbor would seize his vessel as a prize; if he flew the American flag he could visit no other port in the island except Guanica without being thrown into Jail.

General Brooke and his transports have not yet arrived. The army will halt here until they appear.

In Ponce today the American flag will be raised with much ceremony over the city hall and 40,000 persons. So many villages and towns have asked to be placed under the protection of the flag that General Miles has cabled for a supply of colors. About the only thing this expedition seems to lack is the flags of its own country. No one could have foreseen that it would be so extremely popular and wanted so soon.

Alger's Son an Invalid

Captain Alger, of General Miles' staff, has been ordered home. He is on the invalid list. He twisted his kneecap so seriously that the surgeon general believes that the leg should be placed in plaster. Captain Alger's appointment was criticized at the time he received his commission on account of his youth and inexperience. It was said that his only claim to a commission was that he was the son of his father; but his father, the Secretary of War, has

every reason to be proud of his son. Young Alger served throughout the Santiago campaign. At Aguadores he reconnoitred the Spanish position. Under heavy fire he commanded a detail of Michigan troops.

That fight showed his pluck, judgment and ability as a leader. Every one who knows him regrets that he must leave the expedition as keenly as he does himself.

*(Source: FultonHistory.com,
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