DAYS SERENE IN PORTO RICO.

A Representative of the Deseret News in the Old City of Saint John the Baptist—La Casa Blanca and Other Famous Sights—Oysters Growing in Trees.

Special Correspondence.

San Juan Bautista, Porto Rico, Sept. 20.—Perhaps the most interesting object in the capital of our new possession is La Casa Blanca (the White House), which Juan Ponce de Leon built for himself 396 years ago, and as there he lived during his time virtually the governor of the island. It stands in a narrow, cobble-paved street, about half-way between the Castillo del Morro and the present government palace, and although in his naughty old age he did little for the city, he should at least have named the street after him, if not erected a monument to him. Ponce de Leon was a great conqueror, and although it was on account of the double sins of wounded pride in Spain.

Ponce de Leon's time, the quarter between the fort and castle was occupied by the best of the city, and, as it fact, owing to his influence, he had a fine house with a general view of the harbor and sea. After the natives of Northern and southern Hispaniola had been wiped out, Ponce de Leon, with the similar ambition of his chief, Columbus, asked for more, Commander signed for more Indians, and brought them to Porto Rico. It was said in the year 1509 that the Indians had to be conveyed in boats to Cuba, where he died, and his body was brought back to this island and deposited towards the altar of the Dominican church of San Juan, just fourteen years after the beginning of his administration in Porto Rico, and the building of the casa blanca. There is sacred the most than three hundred years, when, in 1865, the roof and the floors of the building (the remains of the conquerors were discovered. The mission was to build a convent for the Dominicans, and the idea was to place the coffin beneath it, but why they began to the wrong end of the business, by digging the bones before the building was ready, I am unable to state there, I am unable to say. The monument was never completed, and after thirty-five years above ground, the remains of the discoverer of Florida and the conqueror of Porto Rico, were interred. Both seems to have gone together, as the remains of early Conquerors, for having been long since sold of the American conquest of taking his bones home to the modern country, which is now called Florida.

Ponce Hernan is very remote in his duty if he sets the letter go for other. We look the island with all it contained, Spain Rico, Spanish Rico, Porto Rico. Hence never served extra taxes to the Roman catholics which needs them.

The Dominican church of San Juan is the finest in Porto Rico by a fine and pile, though greatly the worse for wear and tear of nearly four centuries and apparently suffering so far from a number of a noisy city chapel attached to the church you may say they are to call rear which contains the dust of Ponce de Leon. As treasure goes mostly the coarse is only about three per square, based with eastern stone, ended in the center with the great hemispheral roof. On the outside arrow which it rests, the inscription—in Spanish of course—reads as follows: "This narrow grave contains the remains of a man who was a king of kings, and much more by his deeds." Rather embarrassing and not altogether in good taste, the first quality was the Spanish mantle, hereditary, but perhaps Ponce's spoke appreciative the intended compliment. The old church is full of curious decorations, also of Murillo's paintings and moldy relics of bygone centuries, and it is seriously to be hoped that the professor will be allowed to remain undisturbed in the place of honor, which he has occupied for 396 years, and to which he is entitled by prominence and the fact that he was the first governor of the island. The Rogers Publishing company, Holyoke, N. Y.

Carpenter's Geographical Reader—North America, by Frank G. Carpenter, is the second volume issued of the series of Carpenter's Reader, and is intended to describe the several continents, their countries and peoples from the standpoint of travel and personal observation. The author has taken the children as he encounters them in the course of his travels, and has made the children are taken by the author on an excursion tour through the most characteristic parts of the North American continent, including the Dominion of Canada, the United States, British America, Mexico, and Central America, showing the interesting features of life and work among the people of each country, having how they are alike, and what they do. Silver, Burdett and company, New York, Boston, Chicago.

The Regent Publishing company has issued a short story entitled "Mrs. Gardner, the Humble Businesslady," by Mrs. Isabella M. Witherspoon, author of The Tragedy of Ann, etc., etc. The plot hinges on the introduction of the fatefully Mann, and deals with the effect of Mann's influence upon the Gardner family. The entire picture is fairly interesting, and the moral is highly commendable. Regent Publishing company, Chicago.

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IN GRAND SWITZERLAND

A "News" Correspondent Sees the Sights and Feels Disappointed.

IN THE HOME OF WILLIAM TELL.

At Bern and Interlaken—Glaciers and Their Victims—The World-Renowned Matterhorn—Antiquities.

Switzerland is situated on the borders of France, Germany, Austria and Italy. It is small and entirely mountainous. The majestic Alps make it their home. I came over the line in the German city, stopping my first stop at Bonn. Bonn is the home of the Bonn idea, and one of the important cities in Switzerland. The town was fed by the commission plaque, which is the every portion of high ranges. I will speak of it more by and by. A day of hours' ride taught me to Lucerne, the prettiest and most frequented spot for tourists in Switzerland. Here are the best hotels, and the prettiest lake in the region. It abounds in pretty spots and fine views. Every one visits the Rigi mountain for the view in some sacred fear. I would rather lend my opinion of it. Mt. Pilate is another of the same style. Both cost the pay much also. They are accessible by railway. Lucerne is a fine place to stay if Pilate, Rigi and Mt. Wasmunden, running in every case, the other one being merely a big snow-capped mass of rock. Lucerne is the place to get the most out of