SCENES IN PORTO RICO.

TYPICAL DRAWING ROOM IN A PORTO RICO HOUSE.

In none of Uncle Sam's new possessions are there to be found so many beautiful homes and gardens as in Porto Rico. The little island seems to be covered with them, and it is safe to say if Ponce de Leon should return he would not go out of the place in search of the fountain of everlasting youth. These homes are not confined to the cities. In fact, most of them are to be found in the hills and high ground which surround them. In appearance they are veritable gardens of Eden. The visitor never tires of walking on the wide pathways or finding rest and repose from the rays of the tropic sun in the shade of the great palm and other trees which grow in abundance. The owners of these places seem to vie with one another to make their places the most beautiful, and as a consequence it is difficult to select the finest. One, however, which surpasses many of the others in the garden of the De Leon estate near Ponce. It is probably the largest and most beautiful on the island, and its grandeur is almost impossible to describe. It is situated on a hill overlooking the city, with its many church domes pointed to nearly all the colors of the rainbow. From its walks a view of the calm sea, whose color blends with that of the sky, can be had for miles. At different intervals along the broad walks beautiful pieces of marble statuary have been placed. Some of them were brought from Europe many years ago and are the handiwork of famous artists.

The fort of these gardens is beyond description. It does not alone consist of native plants, but specimens from countries of different climates have been imported. All seem to flourish. Roses which some of the best hotels in the tropic cities of the United States would be proud of grow with little care, while orchids and lilies, some of which are very rare in our own country, spring up in abundance. In the midst of these beautiful flowers and there is a fountain where sparkling water seems to cool the heavy, moist tropic air. At night, when the sun which has the appearance of a red ball of fire, seems to sink in the sea, these places look like fairyland. Beautiful insects adorn with phosphorescence fly from place to place, while the shadows of the night creep in, making grotesque figures along the walks and among the trees. The bright plumed wild birds dart from one tree to another adding to their noisy song. The cool breezes from the sea sweep over the island, and the price seems as nothing paradise.

The houses are furnished with great taste. At first sight they seem a little bare. This is due to the absence of carpets rugs and heavy hangings, all of which are discarded to keep the rooms as cool as possible. The floors are made of hard wood or stone. They are very highly polished. The windows are fitted with glass, which during the heat of the day is kept wet to cool the atmosphere. The furniture is artistic and suitable. The framework is made from the native cabinet woods. The tables and chairs have carved seats and are very seldom upholstered. The mirrors have all sorts of compliments pictures in a typical reception room in the home of the better classes.

Colin P. Huntington, the railway magnate, always eats on business days a bowl of bread and milk, which costs five cents.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW ISLE.

GARDENS OF THE DE LEON ESTATE, NEAR PONCE.

A BUST OF CHRIST WITH BLUE EYES.

The discovery in Madrid of a bust of Christ has created quite a sensation in the world of art. Collectors and dealers are wondering where this masterpiece of workmanship came from and how long it has been hidden away in the city. The bust was recently purchased by the Russian ambassador to Spain. Several experts who have examined it pronounce it to be the work of either Michael Angelo or the famous Donatello. It is decidedly different from the work of modern artists. The bust is of marble, handsomely carved. The eyes are of blue rock crystal of beautiful shade, which gives the bust a very lifelike appearance. A photograph of the work has been sent to Queen Victoria, who is desirous to have the bust copied in marble. It is considered of great value.

OUR MILITARY CHIEF IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Major General Lawton, recently ordered to the command of the military forces in the Philippines, in succession to General Otis, who has been appointed military governor of those islands, will undoubtedly prove efficient in his new command. He is recognized as one of the best executive officers in the service; took a leading part in the campaign about Santiago and led the division which captured San Juan hill. He fought in the civil war and at its close was a field officer in an Indiana regiment. With 200 men he succeeded in capturing Guaymas, the noted Apache chief, an undertaking which reflected the highest possible credit upon him. At the beginning of the war with Spain he was a brigadier general, but was promoted a major general and assigned to an important command in Cuba. Since the close of the war he has been in command of the Fourth army corps at Huntsville, Ala. General Lawton is tall and a man of splendid physique and very popular among his fellow officers. In the Philippine islands he will be second in command, but will have direct charge of the troops, and to him principally will be delegated the duty of preserving order.

A NEW PICTURE OF GENERAL AGUINALDO.

Many pictures have been printed of General Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the so-called Filipino republic, but the accompanying picture of the famous Philippine insurgent, taken from The Wave, is probably the best that has

thus far appeared. Aguinaldo is described as a quiet little man in spotless linen, who is very ambitious, very proud, very diplomatic, very fond of show and very much afraid of assassination. His well formed head, crowned by its lustrous black pompadour, has been coveted by the Spaniards for several years, and for a long time any trifler to the insurgent cause who desired to pick up $25,000 could have done so by presenting himself at Manila with the head of Aguinaldo carefully concealed about his person. But Aguinaldo has thus far shown a decided reluctance to parting with his head, and though it has been somewhat swelled by his numerous victories over the Spaniards it is still safe and sound upon his shoulders.

CROWLEY TO CHECK CUBAN LAWBREAKERS.

The officers and men of the police force of New York are highly pleased at the recent appointment of former Detective Sergeant Bernard J. Crowley to be stationed in Havana, where he is to organize a detective force. They are acquainted with Detective Crowley and familiar with his career since that he better selection could have been made for the performance of the duties devolving upon him in his new position. He has a knowledge of the class of criminals that are said to infest Havana, which, it is claimed, will have a salutary deterrent effect upon them.

Detective Crowley was appointed to the police force of New York almost 20 years ago and entered the detective bureau in 1887. He was known to be one of ex-Superintendent Byrnes' best men and his assistant in detective work was George McClusky, the present head of the detective bureau of New York.

The day before he received his call to proceed to Havana Crowley's last case was disposed of by Judge Cowing in the court of general sessions in New York. Harry B. Clark, arrested by Crowley, was then sentenced to the penitentiary for two and a half years. Detective Crowley has been eminently successful in tracing and arresting noted criminals.

A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE.

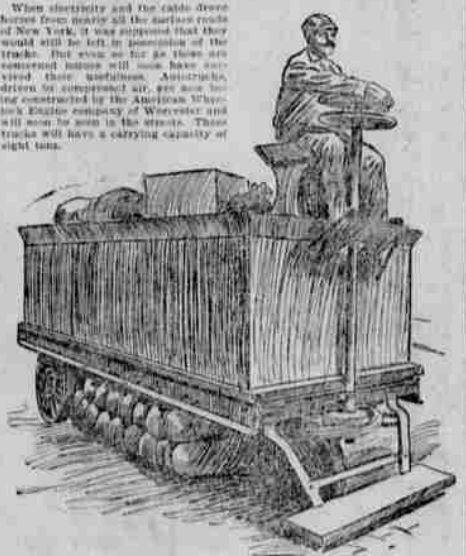
Many pictures have been printed recently of Pope Leo XIII which have been received with considerable interest throughout the United States. Most of these have shown the pope in the gardens or the beautiful walks outside the Vatican buildings. It has remained for H. Lanos, a well known artist, to give some idea of the pope at home. The accompanying illustration shows the pope granting a private audience in the Vatican. As will be seen, his holiness is surrounded by a number of the cardinals and soldiers of his household, while the person to whom the private audience has been granted is kneeling before him. It is said that it is more difficult to obtain a private audience with the pope than with any of the rulers of Europe. The picture was taken from life.

A VASE WORTH $6,000.

It would be believed without hesitation that some antique vases of superior design are worth a small fortune, but it is doubtless news to the majority of people that a vase of modern construction is valued at $6,000. Yet this was the original cost of a Diana vase of Doulton ware painted by the clever French artist, Charles Larsche, and now offered for sale by a London firm. The vase stands five feet high, and in order that a person may see its entire beauty it is made to revolve on an iron pedestal. It took the artist a long time to make it, and it represents old ivory.

Compressed Air Autotruck.

When electricity and the cable drove horses from nearly all the surface roads of New York, it was supposed that they would still be left in possession of the tracks. But even so far as these are concerned issues will soon have survived their usefulness. Autotrucks, driven by compressed air, are now being constructed by the American Wheelock Engine company of Worcester and will soon be seen in the streets. These trucks will have a carrying capacity of eight tons.



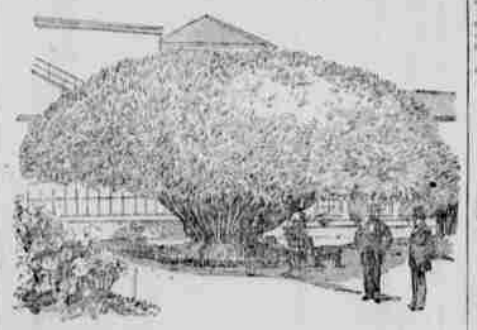
Baracoa as a Winter Resort.

Baracoa, a seaport town on the northeast coast of Cuba, has been recently mentioned as a favorable place for a winter resort. The climate there during the winter months is similar to that of spring in our middle states, and the nights are cool and pleasant. The elevation of the town is delightful, and

there is a notable absence of those causes of sickness prevalent in other sections of the island. It has a beautiful beach, is easily reached and is well located for a health resort. On each side of the town mountain streams enter the sea from the south. The fishing in the sea and streams is good, and deer, pheasants and similar game are plentiful in the surrounding mountains.

According to Crockford's clerical directory, the Church of England has 23,091 clergymen, of which 4,297 are unemployed.

The Wonderful Dragon Tree.



One of the most remarkable trees in the world is to be found in the garden of the royal residence Ajuda in Lisbon. It is known as the dragon tree, and while there have been many specimens brought to Europe from their native soil in the Canary islands none equals in size or age the one mentioned. This tree is about 200 years old. It is the only tree of its size and strength which has lived in southern Europe after being transplanted. It is a most beautiful specimen and is one of the most attractive in the garden. It is about 45 feet high. The circumference around the stem is about 120 feet. In shape it is like an open umbrella. Just above the roots spring forth scores of larger branches with touches of leaves about equal feet long. These are light green in color and shaped like a sword. Large white flowers arrange themselves on stalks about two feet in length. The bark is heavy on both stems and branches, and when it is cut a reddish brown, tasteless and odorless gum oozes forth. This hardens quickly. It is known in trade as genuine Canary dragon blood and at one time represented an important article of export from the islands.

The largest dragon tree ever found was in a native garden in Tenerife. It is claimed by scientists that this tree was 5,000 years old or the oldest in the world. It had already reached a height of 71 feet when the islands were conquered by Portugal in 1495. It was destroyed in a storm in 1868.

LATEST MATINEE IDOL.

The New York matinee girl has a new idol.

Not that this in itself is a very rare occurrence, for the matinee girl is not only fickle in her adoration, but her affections are very broad.

But it is important in this, that the object is an opera singer, and she has

been faithful to her opera idols for a longer period than to any more active.

This season, however, there came over the scene a house named Van Hoey. He made his debut in "Walkuere," in the role of Wotan. At once he was pronounced the finest basso New York had ever heard and is being worshiped by the girls.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Mulhausen, in Germany, has a bathing establishment, the owner of which, 8 years old, imperts himself daily in the water with his patrons.

Wooden churches in Norway 700 years old have been perfectly preserved because they have been carefully cared with for.

A scientist, looking for microbes, says there are absolutely none on the Swiss mountains at an altitude of 2,000 feet. Here is a place for the gouty party.

A German author, C. Salomon, has written a treatise in which he recommends that children should not be sent to school till their seventh year; that in the first year three hours a day should be the maximum of brain work, and that the bodily health should be looked after with special care from the ninth to the twelfth year.

A Mr. Thomas George of Wales has just published a pamphlet which attempts to prove that Stanley, the explorer, is really a Howell Jones, son of Joshua Jones, a Carmarthenshire farmer.

Rear Admiral Archibald Lucius Douglas, who has taken command of England's East Indian squadron, is a Canadian by birth and the first son of that colony to attain so high a place in the British navy.

More than 200 municipalities in England, Scotland and Ireland now own the municipal gas works.

A year ago a German schoolmaster, Mr. Ernster, was convicted by a criminal court of some act of immorality. Not long ago he died insane, and an autopsy showed that he was doubtfully morally irresponsible at the time the offense was committed. With German thoroughness a new trial was ordered and the dead man has recently been acquitted in due form.

Cannon balls are made for the cattle land in Missouri and sold for 25 to 75 cents per bushel. The delivery is also an important cost in Indiana, and one factory at Brightwood turns out between 4,000 and 5,000 a day.