In coming to Porto Rico, I was frequently asked the question, "Will you seek to do those people an injustice rather than otherwise, by unsetting their faith and leave them just as with no religious belief at all?"

This may be the idea held by many who are ignorant of the spiritual condition of the people of Porto Rico, but there is room for such a fear when you are once informed as to what are the facts in the case.
that there is a God and a future life of reward or punishment. Every native or tribe, however ignorant or depraved, knows that much the work of the Christian missionary is to give the poor deluded once a correct idea of the one true God and to carry to them the comforts and consolations of the grace of the blessed Lord Jesus whom we love. According to this definition of a missionary's work, the need of the people of Porto Rico is to be great as that of any people from the idolatrous Molos to the superstitious.
mon grace of manner &
with the possession of
wealth it is better suited
perhaps, but never the less
reproach.
This I have observed, the
Holy Sabbath is totally
ignored as a hallowed
day. A few weeks ago
the Legislature did enact
a law requiring all stores
& shops to be closed after
11 o'clock on Sundays. But
theatres, balls, picnics &c
are reserved for that day.
The following instance illustrates
the low standard of truthfulness
among the better classes:
The Alcalde (Mayor) sent a
police man to summon a
prominent business man
to his Court. When the Messa

teach. In the cities you will
see at the first glance
the evidences of a depraved
& unscrupulous populace;
great stone walls capped
with broken glass or high
lion fencing surrounds
every house with gates
locked by day as well
as by night & wherever
possible a fierce
watch dog guards the
promised $8000 to others much
thieves & other crimes.
I am told by those who
ought to know, that among
the upper classes, the
educated & wealthy people,
SIN, immorality &c, is just
as prevalent. With mon
purely a man of the world, living for the world and conforming to the world in all things. But what better could be expected? The church which has been established has for generations done and attracted him to her worship: only a few women gather thus, the men may give a passing glance and thus but to be interested to take any part in the service, to even attend a service is as foreign to their thoughts as to attend a lecture or to spend a leisure hour in journalism. Friends and relatives attend the funeral, of their departed one or six the family of the deceased.

now delivered the gentleman, who were busy in his store replied, "tell the alcalde that I am not here, I have gone to the Bay for a bath & will not be back for two or three hours." The messenger insists but the gentleman insisted that such an answer should be returned as he had no time to obey the alcalde and when the policeman was induced to return with such a report the busy merchant went on with his work not giving a second thought to the falsehood which he had told. Controlled by policy and the custom of society with one or two them a little natural kind-heartedness we find the Porto Rican...
so the Protestant Missionary will not injure any established faith nor alienate the people with no religion at all. What he does will be to supply so far as his efforts are successful a faith with which there is none.

That our God is the ruler of nations and governs them has been known since the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and still shows us as one of His agencies for evangelizing the world. Thus in Porto Rico.

as wealthy & can afford to pay for the services of the priest, they may go to the church and be present as the burial service is performed only given through with, but more than the church does own gain the attendance. That respect can they have for an institution which is only known if spoken to by the takers in misery from purchase in misery from purchase evil day, the future evil day. So far as the country districts are concerned, outside the towns, I am sure the people are all great strangers to the Gospel as the most ignorant of any
of the Outland. Schools of all grades, from the Primary to the High School, together with Manual and Industrial training, are in operation or about to begin. If you, my reader, could attend me of the public exercises such as I attended on the 22nd of May, and see the bright, eager interest of little children listening to their recitations and songs and note the wonderful improvement that must have been made by them during the past two years, you would have overflowed with gratitude.

It is my manifest, known that the Government is at work to roll back the tide of ignorance, depravity and sin. Thousands of dollars are spent each year to support a civil government by which law and order are maintained, life and property preserved, while the trade and commerce and trade more smoothly forward. Thousands of dollars are spent to maintain the troops abroad to keep the peace, the government may be enforced. Thousands of dollars are invested every year in educating the children.
feel that surely God is using this great government of ours in His own work, and if you could see the noble unselfish devotion that is manifested by the American young women who have come to teach in these schools I think you would feel that God's Holy Spirit is surely moving them in their unselfish devotion of their lives to the great cause in which they have enlisted. And then too the capitalists are here, millions of dollars are invested, developing the to God that He is doing so much through the American Government for the uplifting of humanity. If you could have listened to the speech of Dr. Lindsay the newly appointed Commissioner of Education for the Island, Dr. James E. Russell of New York and Dr. C. Hammond of Philadelphia at the "Conference on the Progress of the Educational System on the Island." I think you too would have
rising upon the scene of the present disgrace and in all things a new life covering the whole land.

But as I behold this vision, as I meditate with pleasure, what is being done for the material, the physical, and the mental improvement of the Island another scene comes before my view.

The policy of our Government must move from the beginning, strictly to respect the Stake from the Church. To have nothing to do with man's religious views but to leave him to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Natural resources of this amazingly fertile land, the wheels of machinery are humming with their busy roar. What a decade will bring forth does not require the wisdom of a sage or the inspiration of a prophet to foretell. Ten years or perhaps a little more & Porto Rico will be a garden pleasant on earth, the children educated, her laborers skilled, her lands giving forth of its richness. Gradually by the hundred fold enough to spare, she can finance in her own with increased revenue which other lands shall pour into her capacious

homes.
Time has proven the wisdom of this policy at home and its strict observance in Porto Rico today. The teachers are not allowed even to speak of religious exercises, no word of religion training (save of course, the Christian life). Of this, more women giving the light through their own lives, is given in the schools or will be. The Government in some of its departments undertakes this task. The capitalists can not be expected through their operations to do it. What then? Educate the children, teach them to learn and think for themselves, give them no other remittance...
the few military roads, the 169 miles of R.R. and the steam boats, which only touch a few coast towns, the only way of travel is on horseback as the roads are impassable for vehicles. Yet if the American school teacher can encounter the lonely path or mountain trail or her prong, surely the soldier of the cross will not shrink from the midwater. With a band of life earnest, energetic and unselfish men prompted by a burning desire to save souls and filled with... to clear our conscience of the responsibility laid upon us must be up to doing, and while the body and mind are being trained we must see to it that the heart is right—the soul converted. That then awaits the missionary a cordial welcome. I am convinced that the progress of his work will be rapid, but that can not doubt but that grand opportunities are passing us only too true passing to the Nige of the Island the work of the Island can be done evangelizing can be done with facility. It is true that apart from...
The Holy Church, led by a
big-hearted wise
self-sacrificing
Bishop, the whole land
could be reached & the
Sound of the Gospel
heard, directly or indirectly
by every one, if such
a system were inaugurated
here as was used by
the itinerant Methodists
in the early
prayer in the early
days of America and
the seed of the Gospel
sown in every place &
place in every town &
Chancellor visited at least
once each month by either
Priest or Bishop, Pray...
Master find his own
in that day when
he comes to make up
his jewels.

E. Stirling

Ponce, Porto Rico,
March 22nd 1902.