A word of greeting from this American outpost, not only of occupation, but of our Church. Today Puerto Rico is being made a great garrison of our national defense and great military cities are arising in different parts of our Island. Of course we regret the cause for this feverish activity but it has brought great prosperity, at least for the time being, to your densely and overpopulated island.

In the early 1860s, some residents of the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico, organized a religious work and placed themselves under the Bishop of Antigua, a Diocese of the Anglican Church. This was an unusual arrangement under direct permission of the Spanish crown at the request of Queen Victoria. This was the only non-Roman Church work in these Spanish possessions up until the time of the American occupation of the Island in 1898. A church building had been sent out to Ponce from London and although it had been closed for some two or three years, and the Church bell had never been permitted to be rung for services, when General Miles' Army entered Ponce, some members of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood, found the Church, opened it, cleaned it out and rang the bell for service, so the people of Ponce have always called this the second liberty bell. The present rector of Holy Trinity Church in Ponce is the Rev. Asteban Reyes Garcia, a Puerto Rican educated at the DuBose School in Tennessee and holds services of the Church in both English and Spanish. His oldest son, Francisco Reyes, about 22 years of age, is now a student at the DuBose School and is a candidate for Holy Orders.

As you have gathered from most of the literature from the Church Missions House, the work of the Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico is largely rural. These are the people who need our attention and care. Their own Church, during the 400 years of its existence, has not shepherded the people in their rural homes and we feel that we can be of the greatest service to the people of this Island by going into their country communities, establishing the Church, putting up a building for their use and having a priest with his family live among them. It is impossible to describe the success of this undertaking and it is very difficult for the Bishop to keep up with the demands for rectors, Church buildings and parish houses in the growing work among these country people. Recently a mission has been established at a community called Mirasol (looking at the sun). The services are held in the people's cottages and there is a great demand for a church building. A widow woman of that community who owns only one acre of land has offered to contribute a location for a church building if we will agree to build a Church for them. This is a direct challenge which I am most anxious to accept and hope to build there this year. A building large enough for this community will cost from $600 to $1,000. Parish houses are also greatly needed in these country districts. The young people have no where to meet for entertainments, dances, etc. The only places that are inviting to them are the small country stores where native bad rum is sold and where the young people soon become intoxicated and bad results follow. At the Mission of the Transfiguration in the mountains, the priest in charge requested me last year to build a small room for such meetings and entertainments for the young people. We built the place at a cost of about $225 and it has already proven to be of great usefulness. They have a phonograph but are in great need of records. They need games of various kinds for entertainment of the people. I should like to repeat this experiment in a number of different localities.

The young people of whom I speak in the Puerto Rican mountains are all American citizens. They have not had the privileges of the
young people in the United States, but they have the same right to an 
education in religion and morals as do the young people of our own 
country. They are of fine stock and are capable of taking a good deal 
of training. There are fifteen native clergy here today and we have 
three more excellent young men in training for the ministry.

I welcome very greatly this opportunity to address your young 
people and to bring to them a message about their fellow American boys 
and girls in this American island of Puerto Rico. May God bless all of 
them and given them abundant opportunity for their religious education 
and may I beg of you to offer a prayer to our Heavenly Father that He 
will likewise bless and favor the young people of this beautiful island.
February 12, 1941.

The Rev. Horace W. B. Donagan, D.D.,
St. James' Church,
865 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Donagan:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 4th and for giving me an opportunity to place before the children of your Church School, the work in Puerto Rico. I am most happy to send through you, to your Church School a word of greeting from this American outpost, not only of our nation, but of our Church. Today Puerto Rico is being made a great center of our national defense and great military cities are arising in different parts of our island. Of course we regret the cause for this feverish activity but it has brought great prosperity, at least for the time being, to our densely and overpopulated island.

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Dr. Donegan.

to be present at one of the Lenten services for the children of your Church on a Monday afternoon. This would be thrilling for him and, I believe, would be interesting for the children.

As you have gathered from most of the literature from the Missions House, the work of the Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico is largely rural. These are the people who need our attention and care. Their own Church, during the 400 years of its existence, has not shepherded the people in their rural homes and we feel that we can be of the greatest service to the people of this island by going into their country communities, establishing the Church, putting up a building for their use and having a priest with his family live among them. It is impossible to describe the success of this undertaking and it is very difficult for the Bishop to keep up with the demands for rectors, Church buildings and parish houses in the growing work among these country people. Recently a mission has been established at a community called Mirasol (looking at the sun). The services are held in the people's cottages and there is great demand for a church building. A widow woman of that community who owns only one acre of land has offered to contribute a location for a church building if we will agree to build a church for them. This is a direct challenge which I am most anxious to accept and hope to build there this year. A building large enough for this community will cost from $600 to $1,000. Parish houses are also greatly needed in these country districts. The young people have no where to meet for entertainments, dances, etc. The only places that are inviting to them are the small country stores where native, bad rum is sold and where the young people soon become intoxicated and bad results follow. At the Mission of the Transfiguration in the mountains, the priest in charge requested me last year to build a small room for such meetings and entertainments for the young people. We built a place at a cost of about $225, and it has already proven to be of great usefulness. They have a phonograph but are in great need of records. They need games of various kinds for the entertainment of the people. I should like to repeat this experiment in a number of different localities.

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Dr. Donegan.

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Thanking you very much for this opportunity and with best wishes for the success of your Lenten work among your young people, believe me ever,

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,