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VIEWS OF PORTO RICANS. Continued from Page 3. tend in a measure to the creation of caste, to the rise of an official class sharply set off from the rest of the inhabitants. The passing of the Spanish language will in itself be viewed with regret, for, Spanish as it is, it is dear to all who speak it. Impediments in the transaction of affairs, business as well as governmental, will also necessarily be produced by this difference in language, and their tendency will be more or less toward irritation and friction. "How many of my countrymen may agree with me in the views I hold I cannot state with positiveness, but that there are not a few I am confident, and it seems to me that it should be easy for all to comprehend where their best interests lie. The American press has rightly made a great deal of the open arms with which the Porto Ricans have received the army of General Miles. All these manifestations of delight—the resounding addresses of welcome, the flowers, the tears of joy, the embraces of unrestrained enthusiasm—were unquestionably honest and sincere. Yet—and I assert this with absolute conviction—they were founded upon a serious misapprehension. The Porto Ricans have taken for granted that the purpose of the United States was, first, to strike a military blow at Spain, and, second, to seize the opportunity to put an end forever to Spanish misgovernment in the Antilles by erecting on the island a free and independent government. The policy of annexation, the imposition of sovereignty upon a people without its solicitation and even without inquiry as to its desires, they never suspected for one moment, opposed as it was to the fundamental principles which had hitherto guided the republic. What revulsion of feeling may follow a recognition of the true intention of the United States no one can foretell. "But what avails it now to talk in this strain? The die is cast. The policy of the United States has been declared to the world, and it is doubtless unalterable. This being so, it behooves Porto Ricans to consider the future in the fixed light of annexation. Whatever disappointment may be felt, however acute it may be at first, I expect that it will give way to a general and hearty acceptance of the status. "The infinitude of good involved in the change from Spanish to American allegiance forbids any other conclusion. But since our lot is cast with the United States we shall now desire with intense eagerness to be admitted to full participation in all the prerogatives and privileges of a sovereign unit of the republic. We aspire to reach as speedily as possible our station among the states—to be that element in the affairs of the Union which such status implies. The establishment of a military government will be particularly objectionable to us. It will be of the utmost disadvantage to us if a territorial government will be established as a necessary step to our admission with a view to our participation in the same. Some would have us regard our present position as a mere step to our admission to the Union. We do not so regard it. We regard it as a step to our admission to the Union, but we do not regard it as a step to our admission to the Union. "No doubt in a very few years Porto Rico will be admitted our state. But of course, must come the brief military government. After that a short period of territorial government, and then full participation in the glory and responsibility of national self-government. "Mr. Bonilla was asked if he would be disappointed if the territorial period lasted for ten years. With much positiveness, as if a very long time had been suggested, he replied: "I, for one, certainly should, and I think that most Porto Ricans would be. It will be a very few years before Porto Ricans are thoroughly fitted for the admission of the island to statehood. I base this opinion in part on the fact that three-fourths of the population can read and write. There are schools all over the island. I do not content that they are highly advanced schools, but they impart a foundation of education and remove the reproach of illiteracy. It is significant that in Spain, the mother country, the conditions are precisely the reverse. Three-fourths of the population cannot read and write. The provincials have been more ambitious and aspiring and have done more to prepare themselves for modern life than the proud Spaniards have done. The Porto Rican schools number 503, many of them in the country and owing their institution to the native population. "I base my opinion also on the fact that for many years Porto Ricans have gone to the United States to be educated, and have thus imbibed American ideas. The business and professional schools of the country have been full of them. As a result of such residence in this country and of commercial contact at least 10 per cent of the population of Porto Rico can communicate in the English language. There is no prejudice against the introduction of that language; there is no known obstacle to speedy and thorough Americanization. For all these reasons I believe the day is practically at hand when Porto Rico will be fully qualified for admission into the great sisterhood of states. In addition we

must take into consideration the part politics may play in bringing about such a result. Who knows when it may suit the interest and policy of a dominant party to make Porto Rico a state?" —New York Post.

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