

## XVIII

### MEN OF THE PAST

By Eugenio Astol,

Literary man. Journalist. Co-Editor of "The Book of Porto Rico."

#### José Campeche y Jordán

(1752—San Juan—1809)



JOSÉ CAMPECHE.

Some men there are, who it would seem, Nature planned especially to accomplish definite work, and such a man was José Campeche y Jordán who from his early childhood revealed his talent for painting. His father was a painter and gilder, and in his workshop the son fashioned figures of clay which were so good that they found purchasers. In fact, as one of his biographers writes, "such was his instinctive ability for design, that with pieces of charcoal or chalk, he used to draw on the sidewalks really remarkable pictures of the saints and of people of the city."

Lack of means prevented his studying in Europe, but nothing could prevent his becoming a real artist, an eminent painter, excelling in the composition of religious themes, in which development, the Spanish artist, Luis Paredes, once painter to His Majesty's household, and then exiled in Porto Rico, contributed to no slight extent by the instruction that he gave him.

It is unfortunate that Campeche was so modest, that few of his portraits were signed. Among those signed, however, the picture of Brigadier don Ramón de Castro is noteworthy, while the greater part of his mystic works are of positive merit.

In addition to his work with the brush, he turned his attention to both architecture and engraving, and the beautiful altar piece at the hermitage of Hormigueros is one of his creations, as is that of the main altar in Saint Ann's Church, San Juan.

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#### Juan Alejo de Arizmendi

(1757—San Juan. Arecibo—1814)

The Reverend Father Arizmendi was educated at Caracas, Venezuela, and was ordained priest in Santo Domingo. He was made Purveyor and Vicar-General of that island. In 1803 he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Porto Rico and while in that high position he worked actively in the foundation of the "Seminario Conciliar."

He officiated as Bishop in the public celebration that took place, on account of the inauguration of the Constitution (July 1812). He died while on a pastoral visit at Arecibo. His body lies in the vaults of the Cathedral at San Juan. Arizmendi was the only Porto Rican ever elected Bishop of the island. He was a man of great knowledge, a model of prelate, and was noted for his charitable sentiments and his evangelical piety.

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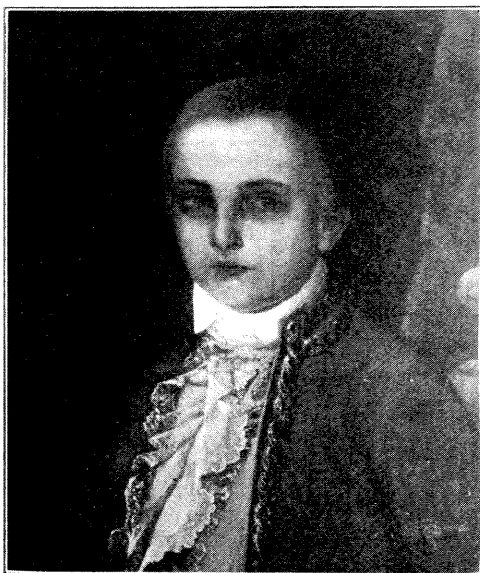
#### Ramón Power y Giralt

(1775—San Juan. Cádiz—1813)

Mr. Ramón Power went to school at Vizcaya, Spain, and later to Bordeaux, where he learned French, after which he entered the Naval Academy of "Guardias Marinas" of

Cádiz, and in May, 1792, entered the navy as a midshipman. In 1811 became captain of a frigate, having obtained his promotions through merit.

He was the commander of two war vessels which made the cruise between Costa Firme



RAMÓN POWER Y GIRALT.

and Spain. As the commander of a naval division in the waters of Santo Domingo he contributed to the conquest of the territory of that island, which had been in the hands of France in 1795. He represented Porto Rico in the Supreme National Board, which was constituted against the French invasion after the uprising of 1808.

He was elected Vice-President of the Cortes of Cádiz, where he represented the island, obtaining the withdrawal of the Royal Order of 1810 which gave full power to the Captains General of Cuba and Porto Rico, and which was once more put in force by Fernando VII. a few years later, said Royal Order having been revoked by the Republican Courts of 1873, when the first title of the constitution of 1869 was extended to Porto Rico.

Through his activities in 1811 a Royal Order abolished the meat concession or trust that had supplied very poor meat for the people of

San Juan. He also obtained the separation of the Intendencia (Administration) from the Governór General, and upon his recommendation the notable economist, Alejandro Ramírez, was named Intendant, he having been the first to hold that position in Porto Rico.

Among other improvements he worked for were that the ports of Ponce, Mayagüez, Aguadilla and Fajardo be opened to foreign commerce, whereas before that traffic was being made through San Juan.

Mr. Power died from yellow fever in Cádiz, and his remains were placed in the tomb which the municipality of Cádiz erected to the memory of the Deputies of 1812.

Power was a man of intelligence and character, as proved by the services he rendered, and his short life was prolific in useful initiatives for his country.

He was the first of the island's legislators as to chronological order, and was no less prominent than any one of those who worked after him, as regards his works and his virtues.

### Rafael Cordero Molina

(1790—San Juan—1868)

Mr. Cordero was a humble colored man, noteworthy for his devotion to teaching, realizing his ideal with the limited means which he possessed. His parents gave him his primary instruction, because at that time there was but one school in San Juan, and it did not like to admit negro children, as stated by M. S. Figueroa in his works.

In 1910, when twenty years old, he opened a school for the teaching of poor children, displaying such activity and enthusiasm in the enterprise that he acquired the highest reputation.

While engaged in this work without compensation he earned his living and supported his family as a cigarmaker.

For fifty-eight years Mr. Cordero performed this noble task with his own resources. Later, after much urging on the part of the parents

of his pupils he accepted the small pay assigned to first grade teachers.

The "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País" at one time gave him a prize of one hundred dollars for his work, and Cordero invested the money for his pupils' needs. Mr. Cordero became famous throughout the island for this work and a year before his death, "Las Antillas", a paper of Madrid, praised him for his services, and asked for them deserved recompense. When dead, he received the tribute not given in life, thousands of persons of all social conditions followed his body to the cemetery and among them the pupils of the colleges and schools of the city. Many prominent men in the Island acquired their first knowledge at the humble school of "Rafael the Teacher".

At the time Mr. Cordero was engaged in his altruistic work slavery existed in the Island, and so his great work and noble conduct was a live protest against the infamous condition of which his people were victims.

### **Román Baldorioty de Castro**

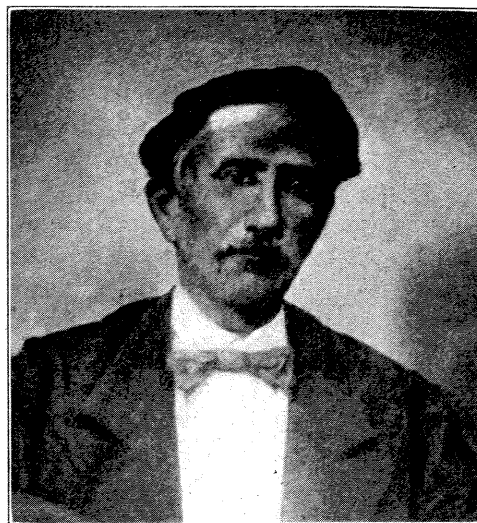
(1822—Guaynabo. Ponce—1890)

Mr. Baldorioty first studied in San Juan, at the school of Rafael Cordero. In 1846, his mentor Father Rufo Manuel Fernández, took him to Madrid for his university career. Helped by Father Rufo and subventioned by the Subdelegation of Pharmacy, he pursued his studies in the Universidad Central, obtaining in 1851 the M.S. degree.

There, during his student life, he began his labor for the welfare of his people, founding with other Porto Rican students "La Sociedad Protectora de Documentos Históricos de la Isla de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico." In 1851, by Royal Decree, he entered the Central College of Arts and Trades of Paris, in order to finish his scientific preparation.

In 1853, he returned to the Island well fitted to teach, filling the professorship of Botany, especially established for him in San Juan by several institutions; that of Navigation in the

School of Commerce, Agriculture and Navigation, opened at that time by Governor Norzagaray; and those of Physics and Chemistry



ROMÁN BALDORIOTY DE CASTRO.

in the Seminario Conciliar. He was also Secretary of the fairs held in 1860 and 1865, having edited the descriptive memorial for both of them, to whose splendor he also contributed by giving instructive lectures, without receiving any fee for his services.

In 1867 he officially represented Porto Rico at the World's Fair, held that year in Paris, and in 1869 he published a book extensively treating of his observations inspired by that world-wide event.

As soon as Porto Rican representatives acquired the privilege of attending the Spanish Congress, in 1869, he worked vigorously for the best candidates of the country, who came out triumphant at the primaries. Toward the middle of that same year he sailed for Spain, with an eight-month leave of absence, in order to cooperate with the elected representatives for Liberal reforms for the country.

While in Madrid he was elected Congressman for the Cortes Constituyentes of the year 1870 by his compatriots in a partial election held that same year and the speech he gave in Congress has remained as a monument of the Island's political history.

In that memorable parliamentary oration Baldorioty demanded that all the infamous misery which aggrieved the abject condition of the slaves be abolished, and he also formulated a bitter criticism against the then reigning colonial régime, asking for a Constitutional Charter for Porto Rico.

He edited nearly all the Liberal amendments in the Moret Law relating to the abolition of slavery. During that same period he founded in the capital of Spain a publication called "Asuntos de Puerto Rico," entirely devoted to his patriotic efforts. On November 3rd, 1870, while they were voting for the kind of government to be given to the Spanish nation, don Román voted a blank ballot, manifesting that as a Porto Rican representative he could not interfere in this question, "because Porto Rico could be just as happy under a democratic monarchy as unhappy under a despotic republic." In that election Amadeus of Savoy was chosen King of Spain.

Parliament having closed, and Baldorioty being again in the Island, he published a pamphlet entitled "Basis for the foundation of a bank of emission and discount," being thus the first to open the way for that kind of work in the Island, for at that time there were no such institutions in Porto Rico.

Soon afterwards he went back to Madrid to occupy his place in the Congress of 1871. To Baldorioty's attitude, full of humanitarianism and patriotism, the partisans of old colonial forms answered with a ceaseless opposition and on the 11th of March, 1871, in virtue of secret proceedings against the eminent creole, the professorships filled by him were suppressed with all their privileges.

In 1873 he came back to live permanently in the Island, residing in Río Piedras, there experiencing great economic troubles.

Afterwards he changed his residence to Ponce, where he and a number of brilliant collaborators founded the newspaper "El Derecho," which unfortunately only lasted six months, but did an intensive work in so short a period. In 1874, at the Conservative Reaction provoked in this island by the fall of the

Spanish Republic, Baldorioty had to go into exile and went to Santo Domingo, where he was fraternally received.

In that city he was head of the Navigation School founded by President Ignacio María González, and there later on he founded the "Colegio Antillano." In 1878 he returned to the Island, and tried to open a school for secondary education in Mayagüez under the name "Escuela Filotécnica," but Governor Despujol, though Baldorioty was Doctor in Natural Sciences, denied him the permission under the pretext that he did not possess a primary teacher's license.

In 1880 Ramón Marín founded the newspaper "La Crónica," in Ponce, and Baldorioty, being made its manager, began to advocate through its columns his ideas toward an autonomous government for Porto Rico. In 1886, the seed being ripe, he edited the so-called "Plan de Ponce," which served as a basis for the constitution of the Autonomous Party, at the general assembly held in that town in 1887, when Don Román, one of the foremost personages in that meeting, was elected President of that party.

In that epoch took place the infamous events of the "componete" under the government of General Palacios, and Baldorioty and Marín were imprisoned as they were about to sail for Spain, to inform the national government of the outrages committed in Porto Rico.

He and other patriots were taken to Morro Castle by the Rural Police, his stay in which, though short, was long enough to seriously injure his health, already impaired not by age, but by a long life of work and sorrow, and on September 30, 1889, he died in Ponce.

Don Román was a simple and kindly man with a high degree of culture and a warm heart. Misfortune softened his character and that is why many times he made his own the sorrows of others, giving continuous examples of self-denial and sacrifice. As a writer he was full of ideas and his style was sedate and clear. His speech was fluent and vigorous and his speeches full of copious teachings. His life was a real apostleship.



The Cuban patriot and orator, José Martí, in 1872, in his newspaper "Patria," of New York, highly praised Baldorioty, presenting him as one of the most eminent men of the Antilles. To Baldorioty are owed the following political studies: "Las Facultades Omnímodas en 1811" and "Los Diputados de Puerto Rico"; "La Interpelación del Diputado Don Luis Padial y sus consecuencias"; "La Junta Informadora de Reformas para Puerto Rico," but unfortunately his articles have not been collected. Among his literary works must be mentioned a poetical translation of Altieri's drama "Felipe II," and another of John Stuart Mill's "La Libertad."

### Manuel A. Alonso

(1823—Caguas. San Juan—1890)

Mr. Alonso attended the "Seminario Conciliar" and graduated as a M.D. at the University of Barcelona. He was one of the young Porto Ricans who, while in that city, wrote and published the book entitled "Album Puer-torriqueño", a collection of original writings in prose and verse, one of the foremost in the island's bibliography of literary books.

After completing his studies he went to Galicia where he lived for some time, afterwards going to Madrid where he practised his profession and at the same time writing for several newspapers. At the beginning of the revolution of 1868, he was General Serrano's medical adviser, and due to this circumstance he became involved in the persecution displayed against that General and other personages of the Monarchy, and was exiled to Lisbon.

Later, when back in Madrid, he worked with pen and person for the introduction of Liberal reforms in Porto Rico, and was fifty years old when he returned to his native island, where he continued his professional practice, though devoting a great part of his activity to literature. He belonged to the "Partido Liberal Reformista", was for some time editor of the paper "El Agente", and in his last years he was superintendent of the Boys' Charity School.

As a man of Letters, Alonzo wrote of the daily doings and customs of the people. He was a good observer and expressed his ideas in a plain and interesting manner, not lacking in witticism. He had a peculiar grace in depicting the manners and habits of peasants in their own characteristic language, and some of his romances have remained as models of this type. His literary writings are all compiled in a book called "El Jíbaro", of which several editions have been made.

### José Julián Acosta y Calbo

(1825—San Juan—1891)

Professor Acosta y Calbo pursued his advanced studies in the Seminario Conciliar and was one of the four Porto Rican students who sailed for Spain with Father Rufo in order to take a college course in Physical and Mathematical Sciences at the Universidad Central.

He afterwards continued his studies in Paris, London and Berlin, where he was taught by the naturalist Humboldt. In 1853 he returned to Porto Rico and accepted the professorship of Agriculture in the School of Commerce, Agriculture and Navigation. During that period he published a long criticism on the history of Porto Rico by Fray Iñigo Abbad Lasierra, and in 1876 for this work, he was made associate corresponding member of the Royal Academy of History of Spain.

He distinguished himself in the study of the Island's economic and social problems, advocating the "Brazo Libre" (open shop) and in a monograph addressed to the government of the Island and to the "Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País," he opposed the introduction of coolies.

In 1866 Acosta again went to Madrid and with other Porto Rican representatives was a member of the Board of Information on reforms for the Antilles. On April 10, 1867, the Porto Rican Delegation presented to the national government a famous document demanding the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico, with or without indemnity, the historical

and economic part of which was his work, he also having charge of the discussion in the debates resulting from it. Several years afterwards Acosta maintained the same humanitarian position in an eloquent speech before the Abolitionist Society of Madrid.

Back in Porto Rico, he became a victim of the Conservative Reaction, on account of his liberal attitude, and at the beginning of the secessionist movement in Lares, he was detained at the jail of Arecibo, though he had nothing to do with that event, and was soon afterwards set free.

Acosta belonged to the Liberal Reformist Party, of which he was, for some time, president, and he also cooperated in the foundation of the newspaper "El Progreso," in which were published his views. In 1869 by secret proceedings he was deprived of his professorship losing all its privileges.

In 1871 he was elected Congressman and once more showed in Parliament new evidence of his deep Liberal opinions. At the time of the fall of the Republic in Spain in 1874, there existed in Porto Rico, under General Sanz's government, much colonial suspicion, and Acosta lost his professorships of Geography and History at the Civil Institute, which was suppressed together with other insular institutions.

Acosta then devoted himself to lecturing in the Ateneo, in whose foundation he had cooperated. In 1878 the Provincial Deputation commissioned him and other scientific men, to study sugar cane diseases in Mayaguez, and a year later he was again elected Congressman at large for the Island. In Parliament he took active part in the discussion of the budgets for Porto Rico, and asked for the restoration of the Civil Institute, and it was at that time that he published in Madrid his pamphlet—"The Commercial Freedom and the Prohibitive System in America." Through his suggestion they made, extensive to the Island, León and Castilla's laws on public meetings.

His Parliamentary term having expired, Acosta was one of those who inspired and managed the newspaper "El Agente" of San

Juan, at a difficult time for the Island. On the restoration of the Institute in 1882, he was appointed its Director, but resigned this position two years later to accept the professorship of Agriculture, which position he filled until his death in 1891.

While he was so engaged the Government of Madrid granted him the Grand Cross of Isabella the Catholic, and on that account there was held a great parade in his honor in which representatives from all over the Island took part.

When the Liberal Reformist Party was fused in the Autonomous Party, Acosta retired from politics, as he was always faithful to his ideas of assimilation to Spain. In the hard times of the "componte" (a corporal punishment of political offenders), he used all his influence to overcome it, addressing himself by cable and mail to his friends Martínez Campos and León y Castillo, protesting against the accusation of conspiracy unjustly attached to Porto Rico, and demonstrating how fatal the discriminating features solicited would be, not only to the Island, but to the nation.

Acosta devoted his last years to teaching in the Civil Institute of Secondary Education, and to writing a study on Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos which he left unpublished. His last public act was his attendance on a banquet given at Mayaguez, June 1st, 1898, in honor of Celis Aguilera, at which he delivered one of his most noted speeches.

Acosta was an upright patriot, of great moderation and of fair and tempered judgment. His speeches like his writings were serene and terse. His knowledge was extensive and as a mentor for youth he was one of the most influencing factors in the development of the Island's culture. There are few in Porto Rico who so justly deserve the honor of being called master, as Acosta.

Among his writings, besides those already mentioned, are: "Tratado de Agricultura," "El Padre Didón y los alemanes," and two notable selections of speeches, lectures and articles on different themes.

**José de Celis Aguilera****(1826—Fajardo—1893)**

From childhood Mr. Celis Aguilera was noted for his liberal ideas and his interest in public affairs. He lived most largely in Ceiba and Fajardo where he divided his time between agriculture and politics. At twenty he was imprisoned in Naguabo and later taken to Ponce, because he had the bravery to speak up for the people's rights, and publicly denounced an infraction of the government in a matter of hygiene, defending the people's health, which the bakers were injuring through bread made of flour mixed with sea water.

In 1867 the Island's governor, Marchessi, exiled him and other patriots, under unjust charges of being a conspirator against the national government, and he went to Saint Thomas returning, however, the next year, by virtue of an amnesty dictated by the provisional government at Madrid after the revolution of 1868, and becoming a member of the School Board of Fajardo and later Municipal Judge of Ceiba.

In 1866 he carried out an active propaganda for the abolition of slavery, though he himself owned slaves, and in 1870 he aided in the formation of the Reformist Liberal Party being elected Provincial Deputy of the district of Naguabo; then, in 1873, the district of San Juan elected him Deputy to the Republican National Courts and from 1879 to 1881 he again became a Provincial Deputy. When in 1883 his party developed tendencies towards assimilation, he was made its President, acting as such till 1885.

In 1887 when that political body was changed into the Autonomist Party, he continued faithful to his ideas of assimilation and retired to private life, loaded with years and high prestige. Mr. Celis Aguilera's formula was—"The greatest possible decentralization within the national unity," and he thought, within such moulds, without using measures that would provoke the government, Porto Rico could decide all its political and administrative affairs.

He published two pamphlets of political character, one in 1885 entitled, "Mi Honradez Política y la de mis Detractores," and another under the title of "Mi Grano de Arena para la Historia Política de Puerto Rico," a summary of his worthy services to the cause of the Island.

Celis Aguilera was a man of action and a master in political conflicts of marked intelligence and great sagacity, who profoundly knew the way in which he had to use his energies and abilities. He knew how to justly conciliate the practical suggestions of his mind and the noble impulses of his unblemished patriotism. After his retirement from political controversies, his old partisans frequently solicited the counsel of his experience.

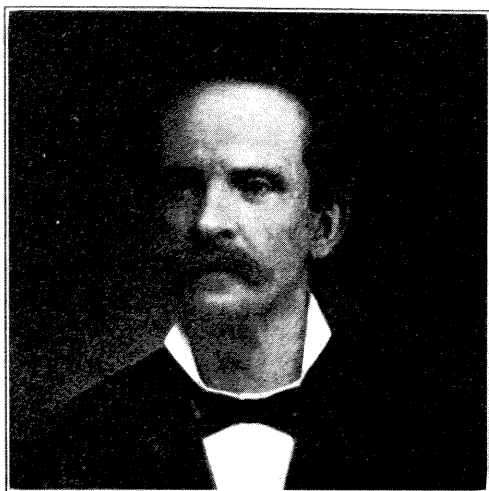
**Alejandro Tapia y Rivera****(1827—San Juan—1882)**

Mr. Tapia y Rivera received his early education in a private school at San Juan, then—lacking means for pursuing higher studies—he secured employment in the Treasury Department, but did not abandon his literary work.

In 1850 he was exiled to Madrid on account of a duel he fought with an artillery officer, in which he received a wound in one of his hands. He remained there two years during which he perfected his education, and then began his literary work. With several Porto Rican students there, he studied and compiled some valuable records which gave him material for a book—"Biblioteca Histórica de Puerto Rico",—which he published soon after his return to the island in 1854.

Later, for a time he lived at Havana, where he published a book, "El Bardo del Guamaní", which contains some of his first compositions. Then in 1886 he returned from Cuba and located in Ponce, where he taught at the school directed by Ramón Marín. He also aided in the organization of the "Reading Room" and gave lectures which were very well known. Returning to San Juan, he continued his lectures at the "Ateneo" and as a result came his book, "Lectures on Aesthetics and Literature",

the only work of this nature in Porto Rican bibliography, and a finished summary on the matters and ideas of those times.



DR. ALEJANDRO TAPIA Y RIVERA.

He founded and edited a review, "La Azucena", which was a herald of culture. He also worked for the diffusion of good music, organizing, together with the pianist Fermín Toledo, a society for concerts at San Juan.

Tapia was a man of strong Liberal convictions and when in Madrid on his second trip in 1868, he and other compatriots signed a document addressed to the Ministry asking for Liberal reforms in Porto Rico.

In 1875 he represented the "Partido Liberal Reformista" in a meeting held by the two militant parties of the island to call the attention of the national government to needed reforms in Porto Rico, and in 1875 he was temporary editor of "El Agente".

Tapia died like a soldier—in active service—while delivering a speech on some educational theme in the halls of the "Ateneo", his death coming suddenly from hemorrhage of the brain. A short time before he died he had been speaking in behalf of the Board of the "Sociedad Protectora de la Inteligencia", and that same day he had finished editing the by-laws for the "Instituto de Segunda Enseñanza".

Tapia was a literary man of real bravery in spite of the limitation of the environment

in which he lived. He wrote on many different themes and in all his works showed decided talent, wide knowledge and his devotion to noble forms of beauty. He wrote with remarkable spontaneity, had a dynamic and forceful personality, and "He was"—one of his biographers states—"the initiator and patriarch of Porto Rican literature".

Besides his writings already mentioned his works included the dramas, "Roberto d'Evreux", "Bernardo de Palissy", "Comeons", "Vasco Núñez de Balboa", "La Cuarterona", "La Parte del León", "Hero", (a tragic monologue), "La Palma del Cacique", (a Porto Rican legend); "La Sataniada", (an epic poem, praised by Menéndez Pelayo); the novels, "Póstumo el Trasmigrado", "Póstumo Envirginado", "A Orillas del Rhin" and "Enardo y Rosael"; the biographies of Campeche and Power, and also "Misceláneas", (stories and articles about customs); and an interesting pamphlet concerning Porto Rico and Porto Ricans of the past century. Also many poems and articles for the press which as yet have not been compiled.

### Ramon Emeterio Betances

(1827—Cabo Rojo. Paris—1898)

Mr. Betances studied in France and pursued his higher studies in Tolosa and his University career in Paris, where he graduated as an M.D. Afterwards he returned to Porto Rico, practising his profession at Mayaguez.

In 1856, when the Island was attacked by the cholera-morbus, he gave self-denying services, founding in that town the San Antonio Hospital. He also began to greatly distinguish himself for his secessionist ideas in regard to the political regime and the abolition of slavery. Toward the first, he conceived the vast project of a new nation, the Confederation of the Antilles, formed by Cuba, Santo Domingo and Porto Rico, and he undertook, accordingly, enterprises which won for him the nickname "El Antillano." In regard to the second, as some of his biographers manifest—he formed in the country a secret abolitionist society, because if it is certain that the law did not oppose

this propaganda if carried on peacefully, it is not less certain that the slave-holders attacked it, judging it unlawful and against social order.

Betances worked in a practical way for abolition because he collected funds among his friends, bought slave children, had them educated and then set free.

In 1859 he returned to Paris, being considered by colonial suspicion as a dangerous element to the government. In that city he renewed his intellectual work, writing in French—a language which he knew as his own—works of fiction such as “La Vierge de Borinquen” and “Les Vóyages de Scaldado,” demonstrating in a symbolic way his political ideals, and which appeared in “Le Temps,” “La Presse” and other dailies of that city. He also presented in the Academy of Medicine professional studies relative to elephantiasis, urethrotomy and tuberculosis, and in “El País” of Madrid he published scientific articles which were reproduced by many newspapers of Spain and Latin-America.

Back in his native island, in 1860, he began to work for his patriotic and altruistic ideals without omitting any sacrifice. In 1867 he was exiled by General Marchessi, who used the military uprising which occurred in San Juan in that same year as a pretext to expel him from the country as a conspirator and filibuster. Betances and Ruiz Belvis sailed for Saint Thomas in a sail boat from the port of Guánica. He travelled through Haiti, Santo Domingo, Curazao, Caracas and New York advocating wherever he went the independence of the Antilles. Finally he went to Paris.

In the columns of the “XIX<sup>e</sup> Siècle” of Edmond About, under the pseudonym “El Antillano,” he wrote a serial correspondence about the Cuban war. He also translated Wendell Phillips work about “Toussaint Louverture.” He collaborated in the “Moniteur de Haiti,” and wrote several articles on medicine.

Through his speeches, articles, proclamations, interviews and divers plans and through his epistolary correspondence, he tried to give impulse to the Porto Rican revolutionary spirit and efficiently helped the Cuban insurrection.

The Cuban Board of New York, in acknowledgment of his services, appointed him Diplomatic Representative to the French Government. He was rewarded with the Cross of the Legion of Honor. He had closed relations with the Spanish Colony in Paris and was a friend and physician of the Spanish Revolutionary Chief, Manuel Ruiz Zorrilla. His house in Paris, Bonafoux says, “was a refuge for all the persecuted of the world.” At the time of the movement against the Semites, he had fraternal words for the Jewish race and he also treated the political problem of the Philippines in articles which were published in “La Independencia,” of Manila.

Very much interested in the progress of Santo Domingo, which he represented for some time as first Secretary of the Dominican Delegation in Paris, he maintained assiduous relations with distinguished personalities of that Republic, and in the “Voltaire” he published a warm protest against the events of Porto Rico in 1887.

Besides the works mentioned, Betances published some poetical compositions in French like “Les deux indiens,” “Un Cousin de Louis XIV,” (a comedy in verse), “Courtisanes” (which deserved the praises of the critic Julio Claretie), a memorial of a medical character, and a considerable number of articles, among them some biographical essays.

As an orator, Betances was very interesting. Among his speeches may be mentioned as one of the most important ones, that which he delivered at a banquet given in honor of Ruiz Zorrilla in Paris, by prominent Republicans of different nations, in which he beautifully explained his democratic faith. Betances died in Neuilly near the city he loved so much. Important newspapers of Spain and America, among them the New York Herald, published posthumous praise of him and published his biography. By act of the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico, Dr. Betances’ remains were brought to his native island in 1920, and today they rest in Cabo Rojo under a monument dedicated to his memory. A funeral service was conducted before his venerable remains, rendering them great honors.

Betances is a unique figure in the history of Porto Rico. The man of science, all observation and study, and the man of politics, all enthusiasm and dreams, formed in his soul a fascinating union. He was a living protest of his unrealizable ideals against the imposition of a system. If he was not able to accomplish his aim, he knew nevertheless how to morally exalt it with his unflinching devotion, perseverance and energy. His life was a great example for the youth of the country.

### **José Pablo Morales**

(1828—Toa Alta—1882)

In his early youth Morales was a teacher in primary instruction at Naranjito and afterwards at Toa Baja. He studied by himself and through his own efforts, became a public notary and was engaged in practising his profession in Toa Alta, Corozal and Naranjito until his death. Mr. Morales collaborated assiduously in the advanced press of the island, discussing different questions, becoming one of the most polished and clever controvertists of his time. He began to write for the periodical press in "El Fomento de Puerto Rico," and also published in "El Progreso" magnificent doctrinal articles and in "Don Simplicio," writings of a satirical character. He collaborated assiduously in "El Agente," and in "El Buscapie," and edited a newspaper, "El Economista," which was chiefly devoted to financial problems. He founded "El Municipio Puertorriqueño," a review of reports in administrative affairs, its specialty being political controversy.

The Reformist Liberal Party elected him Provincial Deputy. In 1866, owing to an investigation raised by Governor Marchessi about the rules and regulations of the work in the island, Morales, in a series of articles published in "El Fomento de Puerto Rico," exposed and attacked the humiliating situation of the laborers, who since 1849, by an ordinance of Governor Pezuela, were obliged to carry a note-book in which the patrons wrote about their conduct. The campaign had good

results, that oppression being abolished. The writings of Morales have been published in two volumes with the title of "Miscelánear."

### **Segundo Ruiz Belvis**

(1829—San Germán. Valparaíso, Chile—1867)

Mr. Ruiz Belvis took his Ph.B. and LL.B. degrees at the University of Madrid, and while there translated from French into Spanish that part of a book by Juan de Laet that refers to Porto Rico.

In 1860 he returned to Porto Rico, residing in Mayaguez, where he soon attracted attention for his fervent patriotism and abolitionist ideas by giving freedom to the slaves he had inherited.

Having been elected a member of the Municipal Council of Mayaguez, praise of his attitude in the defense of community interests resounded all over the island, as an example of true citizenship.

He was appointed one of the representatives for Porto Rico in the Board of Information on Overseas Reforms constituted in Madrid in 1866, and edited the judicial report of the Porto Rican representatives asking for the abolition of slavery.

On returning to the island, the conservative reactionaries carried to an extreme their attacks upon him, pointing him as an agitator of secessionism.

With the uprising of the artillery force in San Juan, Governor Marchessi commanded Ruiz Belvis and Betances to appear before the metropolitan government within two months, exacting their promises as a guaranty. Disagreeing with this imposition they exiled themselves, sailing in haste from the port of Guánica to Saint Thomas, from where they went to New York.

There they separated, Ruiz Belvis sailing for South America and on arriving at Valparaíso, Chile, falling sick never to recover. Ruiz Belvis had all the virtues of a hero, he was generous and brave, and fought for the freedom of his island. His active life and his forced departure for a far away country, placed him among the most interesting figures in the island's history.

**José Gualberto Padilla**

(1829—San Juan. Vega Baja—1896)



DR. JOSÉ GUALBERTO PADILLA.

Receiving his primary education at Añasco, he obtained his Bachelor Degree in Santiago de Galicia, and took the first years in Medicine there. He also showed his ability in literature, starting a review called "La Esperanza." He finished his studies in the University of Barcelona, working as reporter on a newspaper to pay his way thru college.

Back in the island in 1857 he made his home at Arecibo, moving afterwards to Vega Baja. While practicing medicine he wrote assiduously for the newspapers, winning deserved fame for his poetic compositions, which placed him among the best and most elegant speakers of Spanish in America.

He was excellent in satire, in politics and customs, and as a good patriot took part in the civic controversies of the island and thus his pseudonym "El Caribe" secured great popularity. His satirical inspiration culminated in the literary controversy which he carried on in verse with the Spanish poet Manuel del Palacio, in which he proved himself in his cleverness and wit more than the equal of his antagonist, and carried off the palm of victory, in this defending the rights of his native land.

This debate has been reprinted several times under the suggestive title "Para un Palacio un

Caribe," and the Cuban critic and author, Aniceto Valdivia, writing of the descriptive stanzas of this poem "Porto Rico," compares them, advantageously, with the descriptions of Ercilla's epic poem "La Araucana." There is a complete modern edition of Padilla's poetry, published in Paris, in two volumes: "En el Combate" and "Horas de Pasión." We owe this work to the filial love of "La Hija del Caribe."

**Julio Vizcarrondo y Coronado**

(1830—San Juan. Madrid—1889)

Mr. Vizcarrondo received his education in San Juan, where, while still very young, he distinguished himself for his altruistic feelings, fighting the slave system. For the outspoken way in which he expressed his opinions he had to leave the island in 1850 for the United States. In 1854 he returned and at once began his propaganda of his ideas. He preached by example, freeing his own slaves.

In San Juan, the city of his birth, he founded the St. Ildefonse Charity School for poor girls, and published the newspaper "El Mercurio" in which he made bitter criticism of the colonial regime.

Being in open hostility with the Government, he went to Madrid in 1863, where he founded the Spanish Abolitionist Society, to which many distinguished men of the bar and politics belonged, Castelar among others. He also published a newspaper, "El Abolicionista Español," to fight for the cause.

He was active in the Republican Party and took part in the preparatory work of the revolution of 1868, and was a secretary of the Revolutionary Committee in Madrid. He also realized a great philanthropic work of founding in the Spanish capital the "Society for the Protection of Children," and the "Niño de Jesús Hospital," being helped in this institution by the Duchess de Santoña.

In 1865, during the cholera epidemic, he founded the society, "Friends of the Poor," to help poor people attacked by the terrible plague, and was given a medal for his heroic deed. Soon after the revolution triumphed he



advocated that from September 17 of the year 1868 on, all children born of slave women be granted their freedom and on March 22, 1873, he saw the realization of his life's ideal come true.

In 1886 he was elected Congressman for the Island. Through his efforts subventions were granted to Porto Rico for the free study of law, medicine, public notary courses and the sciences given at the University of Havana. He was also instrumental in obtaining that through a royal decree, criminals were given freedom every Holy Friday of every year in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines.

He published a newspaper in Madrid called "La Revista Hispano-Americana," and was editor of several dailies of that city, also acting as correspondent of various newspapers of London, Lisbon and New York, and writing noted dispatches, etc., for some newspapers of the Island under the name of "César Bazán." He has left a didactic work, "Elements of the History and Geography of Porto Rico," adopted as a text-book in the schools of the Island, and a translation, enriched with many of his own commentaries, of the part relating to Porto Rico, of the work of Ledru and Boudin about a trip to the Antilles.

Vizcarrondo was a patriot, a philanthropist and an organizer who worked for the realization of high moral ideas. He possessed winning manners and always found willing co-operators in all his praiseworthy undertakings. He wrote with grace and simplicity. There are very few lives in Porto Rico's annals which like his have been so rich in generous actions for the weak and sick.

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### **Julián Blanco**

(1830—Vega Baja. San Juan—1905)

After he left the primary school at Vega Baja, Mr. Blanco entered an attorney's office in San Juan, and there he worked and studied so faithfully that due to the experience and knowledge he secured on jurisprudence, though not a graduate, he earned a reputation for performing legal deeds with all the thoroughness of a regular professional. In

fact, in the course of time he became such a master in judicial matters, even in spite of not having a degree, that he was an acknowledged authority by the most prominent lawyers of the Island.

When the political struggles commenced, Mr. Blanco, by virtue of his liberal ideas, talent and ability, made himself noteworthy for his energetic work, and was one of the founders and most prominent directors of the Liberal Reformist Party. An orator, vigorous and fluent, Mr. Blanco was able to present his ideas, of which he had many, in a clear, convincing manner.

In 1867, general Marchessi, considering him as an enemy to the National Sovereignty, ordered him to leave the Island, together with several other men, and to report himself within two months to the government of Spain. The result being that he, having no wish to put his head in the lion's mouth, went to Saint Thomas, remaining there for some time, and later returning to Porto Rico.

In 1868, at the time of the Lares revolutionary attempt, Mr. Blanco was imprisoned, but shortly afterward was granted amnesty.

At the same time that José Julián Acosta was editor in chief of "El Progreso", Mr. Blanco also wrote for "El Agente", "El Clamor del País", and others, becoming Provincial Deputy for the district of Caguas, later to be elected by the same district, in 1871, to the "Cortes" (National Parliament). His voice was always raised in an energetic way in the Spanish Congress, in defense of Porto Rico's rights.

He contributed with his ideas and prestige to the formation of the Autonomist Party in the memorable Ponce assembly, helping effectively its propaganda throughout the Island. He was political director of the party when it turned into the Liberal Party, and was, under the autonomous government, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, demonstrating in this position his knowledge in matters of political economy.

He was founder and adviser of the "Banco Territorial y Agrícola" (Territorial and Agricultural Bank). He lent his cooperation to the "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País" and

was the last president of this organization, which has left so permanent an imprint on Porto Rican education.

From Blanco came but one book, "Twenty Years After", in which he assembled some of his articles, most of which are scattered, as is the case with all the writers who have enlightened and lifted journalism in the Island.

### Francisco Mariano Quiñones

(1830—San Germán—1908)

In his early youth Quiñones was sent to a college in Bremen, Germany, where he studied German and English. On his return to the island he took an active part in the liberal and abolitionist public movements, becoming a member of the Municipal Council of San Germán in 1886. He was one of the informers of the government of 1867 and in this character he signed in Madrid the historical memorial addressed to the Spanish Government, asking for the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico with or without indemnity.

He protested in a manly manner against the administrative misbehaviour of 1887, and he founded and edited in his native town the autonomist newspaper "El Espejo." In 1891 he presided over the autonomist assembly at Mayaguez, and later on he became President of the Council of Secretaries under the Spanish autonomic regime. He was also mayor of San Germán and represented his district at the first legislature called after the American Occupation.

Francisco Mariano Quiñones was an indefatigable fighter, his writings and deeds deserving words of praise from the liberal newspapers of the island. His economic position permitted him to further greatly the patriotic desires of the island and until his death, he was the most influential and respected leader of the southern district.

As a young man he wrote novels on oriental themes, among these being "La Magofonia," "Fatima" and "Nadir Shah," and he has left many literary articles, a study entitled "Influencia de las Bellas Artes"; a pamphlet of political character, "Historia de los Partidos

Liberal Reformista y Conservador de Puerto Rico," besides others of similar propaganda, and also a book "Apuntes para la Historia de Puerto Rico," the best documental writing that Porto Rican bibliography has about the political events of 1887.

### Luis Padial y Vizcarrondo

(1832—San Juan. Madrid—1879)

Captain Padial studied for his military career in the Academy of Toledo, Spain, returning to the Island as an officer of the Spanish Army. In 1863, as Captain he carried out the campaign of annexation in Santo Domingo, being badly wounded in the assault of the trenches of Puerto Plata.

This caused his return to his home to recover from his wounds and by this time he began to show his great love for the Liberal party, and with all the freedom of an impetuous character, he expressed his opinions with absolute sincerity. For this, in spite of his irreprehensible conduct in the past, he was exiled to the Peninsula and kept there under observation. Later, Padial shared in the revolutionary movements that took place in different parts of Spain, fighting under Prim's command.

Twice he had to emigrate, first in 1866 to Portugal, and then in 1867 to France, where he resided in Paris. Padial was a Brigadier when the victory of the revolution came in September, 1868, and was then appointed chief officer of the "Batallón de Cazadores" of Madrid, and served at Alto Aragon, Spain, fighting against the Carlists.

At the Congress of 1869 he was appointed Representative for Porto Rico and boldly pleaded for local autonomy for that island beyond the sea. It was then on November 13th, 1869 that he made his memorable parliamentary interpellation concerning the colonial problems of the West Indies. It was Padial's voice which was first raised in the National Congress asking for Autonomy of the Greater Antilles.

In 1872 he was again elected Congressman by the people of Porto Rico and in 1873 he was

a member of the National Assembly. He also distinguished himself as an abolitionist forming with Baldorioty the law for the gradual freedom of slaves in Cuba and Porto Rico, which brought about as a logical consequence the total triumph of the cause of freedom, on March 22, 1873. At the restoration of the Monarchy, in 1874, he had to emigrate to Switzerland, and while there he wrote some studies on Military Law that made an excellent impression on the army.

He returned to Madrid in 1879, in such poor health that in a very short time he died. Padiá was a champion of Democracy and Liberty.

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### **Francisco J. Amy**

(1832—Arroyo. San Juan—1912)

Mr. Amy obtained his education at the "Episcopal Academy," Cheshire, Connecticut, U.S.A. and then devoted himself to teaching English and Spanish, and also wrote for various newspapers of New England.

After residing for a short time in Porto Rico he returned to the United States, and became an American citizen. Later, when he again came to the island, he lived in Ponce, and there published with the help of Zeno Gandía a literary and scientific review entitled "El Estudio."

In 1888 he returned to the United States, devoting his energy to journalism. During some years he published in New York "La Gaceta Ilustrada," and also wrote for other publications and after the change of sovereignty, Amy as official translator rendered very good services to the Government of the island. Among his literary efforts were the following books:

"Letras de Molde," a book of prose and poetry, published in New York, and a translation of "El Sombrero de Tres Picos" by Alarcón. He published in Porto Rico—"Ecos y Notas," (verses, some original and others translated); "Predicar en Desierto," (articles and poems of literary and political criticism), and "Musa Bilingüe," (a collection of poetical translations, in English and Spanish, of notable English,

American, Spanish and Spanish-American poets).

He was a writer of pure style and in Porto Rico he worked hard to popularize the study of foreign literature, especially English, which he knew so well. In addition to his original work he was also an excellent translator, one of those who know how to present the beauties of the original without making insipid the ideas and style.

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### **Francisco Oller**

(1833—Bayamón—1917)

Mr. Oller's name and that of Campeche rank first among the nucleus that furthered pictorial art in the Island.

In 1876, after residing in Spain and France for a long time, he was pensioned by the Provincial Deputation and the Municipal Government of San Juan, in order that he should visit the Viena Exposition, so as to render a report referring to same.

The industrial character of the exposition not impressing him, he went immediately to Paris, where he found adequate environment for his artistic sentiments, staying there for a long time.

Upon his return to the Island he painted, among others, the portraits of Manuel Sicardó, Padilla, Corchado, Santaella and that of the teacher Rafael Cordero, and some of these portraits hang in the art gallery of the Porto Rican Atheneum. For other information in regard to Oller, read the article in this book, on Painting, by Jesús Ma. Lago.

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### **Estéban Antonio Fuertes**

(1838—San Juan. New York—1905)

Esteban Antonio Fuertes received the benefits of an academic instruction and obtained in the United States the titles of Ph.D. and C.E.

In 1863 he sailed again for the United States, where he was first assistant engineer and later engineer in charge of the works of the Croton aqueduct in New York.

He held places of responsibility in the Government of Porto Rico, and in 1882 was Di-

rector of Public Works of the western district.

From 1870-71 he was engineer director of the official expedition which the United States Government sent to Nicaragua and Tehuantepec in order to plan out the possibilities of the construction of an isthmian canal to unite the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.

Later in New York he practised as a consulting engineer on broad projects and works of engineering in the United States and in various countries of South America.

In 1873 he went to Cornell University as Dean of the Engineering Department, which he raised to a noteworthy standing. The majority of the graduates, who while at Cornell were under his direction, have occupied and occupy at present important and lucrative positions, their professional ability being highly appreciated.

When Dean Fuertes resigned his chair there due to old age and sickness, the Board of Trustees of Cornell University publicly expressed its appreciation for the splendid labor which he had carried out during thirty years.

Dean Fuertes as a teacher paid special attention to practical training of his pupils, with the object that the graduates of his college might not have mere theoretical knowledge, but that they should be practical technicians, due to their experience in the shops, and often aided needy students from his own purse.

As civil engineer Mr. H. U. Odgen says, "the first practical classes in the laboratory taught in the United States in relation with the course of Engineering were given by Mr. Fuertes soon after he entered Cornell University. The West Point Military Academy and the Polytechnic Institute of Troy which were then two of the schools of that character of highest reputation in the United States, had no such classes of laboratory work as an integral part of the course of studies.

Mr. Fuertes' pupils, as well as the Professors and Teachers of Cornell University, held in very high esteem the scientific education of this citizen of Porto Rico, his professional experience and his work as organizer and teacher.

## José Severo Quiñones

(1838—San Juan—1909)

Mr. Quiñones graduated as Bachelor in Philosophy at the Seminario Conciliar going afterwards to Spain, where he began the study of law at the University of Seville, completing his study at the Central University of Madrid.

After finishing his studies he returned to Porto Rico and established an office in San Juan, becoming one of the lawyers of greatest prestige on the island. His oratory was grandiloquent and emotional especially in the debates of the forum.

He was made Counsellor of Administration by royal decree and worked in the most important parties of the colony.

In 1872 he was Vice-president of the Provincial Deputation. Presiding at that time over an election for Senators, in the hall of acts of that Legislature, he expelled the general governor, Gómez Pulido from the place, he having come there, where only the electors could be present, to impose his presence thus pretending to decide the election in favor of the candidates of the government. After that Quiñones dedicated himself to his professional tasks, without taking any active participation in the political strifes.

In 1897 he was elected by the Spanish Liberal Government, General Sub-treasurer and chief of the Civil Administrative Division of the Island, filling both positions until the introduction of the autonomic regime. In 1898 he was Secretary of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, ceasing in that position the same year because the Insular Legislature decided to suppress it.

Soon afterwards he was president of the Territorial Audience; and in 1900, under the American Government, he was appointed by President McKinley to the high position of President of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, a tribunal created by the Foraker Law, and filled this office until his death.

José Severo Quiñones was a man of integral character; a true Porto Rican, one of its first figures in the juridical order.

**Pedro María Berríos**

(1838—Barranquitas. San Juan—1919)

In his early youth Berríos devoted himself to primary teaching in the rural districts of the island under the title of Elementary Teacher, granted him by the Academy of Belle Letters. In 1861 from Corozal where he lived, he went to San Juan to study for the ministry, enrolling in the "Seminario Conciliar". The Bishop of this Diocese, Fray Pablo Benigno Carrión—his mentor and friend—ordained him priest in 1865, and on September 14th of the same year Father Berríos sung his first mass in the town of Toa Alta.

Some time afterwards the same prelate appointed Father Berríos Private Secretary, and when Bishop Carrión returned to Spain he took him with him so that he might realize his wish to enter the monastery of the Capuchin Monks, but he had to give this up on account of the Revolution of September. After his return to the island, for a long time he exercised his sacred duty in various parishes. The Autonomous Government presided over by don Luis Muñoz Rivera proposed Father Berríos for the high and dignified position of Bishop of Porto Rico, but the virtuous father, carried away by his great modesty, refused. When Monsignor Blenk fixed his residence in New Orleans, the Holy See appointed Father Berríos, Ecclesiastical Governor of the Diocese, the functions of which he fulfilled several times afterwards during the temporary absences of Monsignor Jones. By Pontifical order he was from 1914 Vicar General of the Church and Apostolic Prothonotary from 1917, and thru Bishop Jones' decision he was made Parson Emeritus of the Cathedral of Porto Rico.

On November 15th, 1916 he spoke at the entrance of the Church of Barranquitas, delivering an eloquent funeral oration to the memory of Muñoz Rivera, whose earthly remains were to be buried at his natal town.

Father Berríos had excellent qualities for sacred oratory, his speech was affluent and simple; his eloquency coming direct from his heart. He was also a real shepherd of souls

and his fervor and evangelical charity have become proverbial.

**Eugenio María de Hostos**

(1839—Mayaguez. Santo Domingo—1903)

Mr. de Hostos obtained his common school education in a private school at San Juan, and went afterwards to Spain, where he pursued the secondary school studies at the University of Bilbao, and studied law at the Central University. At that time (1863) he advocated in the press and at the Madrid Atheneum in favor of autonomical reforms and of the abolition of slavery in Cuba and in Porto Rico.

Then he published his first book, "La Peregrinación de Bayoán," (The Pilgrimage of Bayoán), exposing under the veil of fiction, the restrictions of the Spanish colonial regime. His democratic ideas made him join the Republican Party, and he obtained from its leaders the promise of an autonomical form of government for the Antilles as soon as the republic could be established in Spain. For this reason he added his personal efforts to those made to pull down the government of Elizabeth II, discharging some difficult commissions in several parts of the Peninsula.

Later he went to Paris and formed part of the Board there constituted by Castelar, Salmeron, Prim and other noteworthy Spanish republicans. This stand, says one of his biographers, and his determination not to receive a degree from a monarchical government, made him quit his studies when about to graduate.

His hopes shattered when the revolution was triumphant, he delivered a fiery speech at the Madrid Atheneum, December 20, 1868, published a Secessionist Statement, and returned again to Paris, from where he went to New York and offered his services to the Cuban Revolutionary Board. During two years he labored in favor of this cause on the public platform and in the press, being director of the paper "La Revolución" (The Revolution), the official organ of the Board, and writing in the paper "Puerto Rico." He never received any remuneration for these works, and earned his living writing for other papers, and trans-

lating literary and didactic works for the Appleton Publishing House.

At that time he sailed for Cuba accompanying the ex-president of the revolutionary government Francisco Vicente Aguilera, in the official capacity of Secretary of War, but a shipwreck caused the failure of the expedition. In 1871 he went to South America to widen, as he did, the sphere of action of his propaganda.

In Peru, among other works of public morals, he conducted a campaign in favor of the Chinese workers, who were being exploited by the contractors. In Chile, he was the first to advocate the scientific education of woman, was a member of the "Academia de Bellas Letras" of Santiago, and published besides other works, a critical biography of the Cuban poet Plácido, a historical review of Porto Rico, and his "Critical Essay of Hamlet," which has been translated to several languages, and was published in Germany as one of the four great works which have been written on Shakespeare.

In Argentina he initiated the purpose of building a transandean railroad and in recognition of his labor the first engine to climb the Andes was named Hostos. In Brazil, he wrote a series of articles on the prolific nature of the country and published them in "La Nación" (The Nation), of Buenos Aires.

In 1874 he was again in New York, directing together with the Cuban writer, Enrique Píneyro, "La América Ilustrada" (Illustrated America) and co-operating in the preparation of the International Exposition of Chile, of 1875. In the same year he moved to the Dominican Republic, fixing his home at Puerto Plata, where he directed "Las Tres Antillas" (The Three Antilles), as his most ardent dream was to bring about the confederation of the Antilles and from there he worked for the liberation of Cuba and Porto Rico.

In 1877 he was in Venezuela at Caracas; there he published a biography of the Cuban patriot Aguilera, and began his pedagogical endeavors, teaching in a college. Shortly afterward he went to St. Thomas, where he was painfully surprised by the so-called Zanjón Pact, which ended for the time being the hopes of liberation of Cuba.

In 1879 he made his residence at the capital of Santo Domingo, where he was asked to draw up the bill for the establishment of normal schools, and in February 1880, the Normal School was opened under his direction. In that famous establishment he set new pedagogical standards, forming professors and pupils, lecturing at the same time on sciences. He also lectured jointly, on Constitutional International and Penal Law, and on Political Economy at the "Instituto Profesional" (Professional Institute). This intense work lasted for nine years during which he wrote almost all his text books, and gave lectures on several subjects, which afterwards were compiled and published in a number of comprehensive volumes. His articles in the press of that country have been compiled under the caption "Nine Years in Quizqueya." It was then that he published his "Lessons on Constitutional Law," for which he was given a prize at the Exposition of Guatemala (1887), and which has served as a source of information to many a European author. He also published then "Moral Social" (Sociological Ethics), one of his best books.

In 1888, Hostos, disgusted with the political procedures of President Hereux, returned to Chile in response to repeated calls from President Balmaceda. In 1890 at Santiago he was director of the Liceum of the Miguel Luis Amunátegui Class, founded especially for instructing in the nation his system of teaching. Beside this, he found time to teach Constitutional Law at the University to co-operate in the activities of several educational establishments, and to carry out an extensive journalistic and literary work (eight years of incessant work).

Among the works published by him at this time are his treatise on "Evolutionary Geography," used as a text book, and his "Public Letters on Cuba." As a homage to his great merits, the eminent Chilean, Guillermo Matta, expressed himself at the National Legislative Chamber as follows: "Hostos is the foreigner of most extensive intellectual culture that has come to Chile, after Bello."

When the Cuban Revolution broke out again the Nationalist ideal revived in Hostos and he decided to leave Chile with his eyes set on

Porto Rico. Unable to prevent his trip, the Ministry of Public Education, commissioned him to study in the United States the institutes of experimental psychology.

When he arrived in New York, General Miles' expedition, which landed in Guánica on the 25th of July, 1898, was already organizing. Under those supreme circumstances he struggled to bring the Porto Rican people to determine his standing in view of the facts, so that the United States authorities should recognize the right of the people of Porto Rico to decide their own status by means of a plebiscite. This was the fundamental principle of the League of Patriots, organized by Hostos when the change of sovereignty occurred.

Another aim of his was to establish a rational system of public education, and the creation of a number of institutions, educational and civic, that would be in favor of the purposes of Hostos. As Juana Diaz was the first town to subscribe to the ideas of Hostos, the first assembly to start the campaign was held there. This was followed by others of similar nature in different parts of the island. The League had a mouthpiece at Ponce and numerous members of the League sent to Washington a commission to lay before the American government the necessities of Porto Rico. This commission, composed of Hostos, Zeno Gandía and Henna—the last residing in New York—had an interview with President McKinley in January, 1899, presenting for his consideration an extensive report on the questions of Porto Rico, and asking in rational petitions, for the appropriate solution of its fundamental problems.

Shortly after the return of Hostos to the island the American Civil Commission arrived and to them Hostos again presented the same problems and ended by suggesting the basis for the most convenient form of civil government for the island. By the middle of this same year he founded at Mayagüez the Municipal Institute, striving always to intensify the activities of the League, but his efforts along this line were short from useless. The people were not yet prepared to take a unanimous political stand to safeguard their personality and their rights, and the master left for Santo

Domingo there to be hailed by President Vázquez in the name of his old disciples.

There he took charge of the central college and shortly afterward was made inspector general of Public Education, and devoted his time to the establishment of schools, the organization of progressive institutions, writing pedagogical programs and laws, and carrying to every corner of the Republic his message of intellectual striving and achievement, full of hope for the future. While engaged in this work, death came to him. Five days of an infectious fever were enough to destroy an organism, already broken down by the deep moral suffering caused by the perishing of the patriotic ideas so dear to his soul.

The death of Hostos caused great pain to the Dominican nation and there his memory is revered. In 1905 a book was published in Santo Domingo, in his honor, which consists of four hundred pages containing his biography, a bibliographical catalogue of his works, and documents written in his honor by men of world-wide reputation, and the homage paid to him—at his death by papers both in Europe and America.

Hostos has left about fifty books, published and unpublished, covering the whole field of moral and political sciences. Of some of his works new editions have been brought out since his death, among them his "Treatise on Sociology." Several of his literary works were compiled in Paris and made into a volume with the title "Meditando" (Meditation) and it is purposed to make a complete edition of his works.

Hostos also found time in his busy life to cultivate both music and poetry. He wrote and composed a hymn to Borinquen, sung at Añasco on the first anniversary of his death, as well as at Mayaguez and Cabo Rojo on the occasion of taking the remains of Betances to this last resting place. He also composed nursery songs for his children and three one-act comedies entitled "El Empleado" (The Employee), "¿Quién Preside?" (Who Presides?) and "El Naranjo" (The Orange Tree), and the first two were acted at Añasco by amateurs at the Hostos Theater, founded by Dr. Guzmán Rodríguez, in 1907.



Hostos was a many-sided man, yet with a wonderful balance in his sentimental and intellectual powers. His thoughts were profound, and his speech, vehement and energetic at first, acquired clearness and precision, without forsaking any of its energy, brought about by his constant thinking and studying and his work as a professor.

He carried all over America his propaganda of freedom for Cuba and Porto Rico. For his services, he was morally a citizen of all the nations he visited, as if the continent were a fatherland to him. As a writer he went deep into the heart of things to bring out their truth or their beauty. As an educator he accomplished a genial and truthful work and no one is superior to him in this field of endeavor and few his equal. He made books from his methods, and with his methods he developed men.

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**Manuel Corchado y Juarbe**  
(1840—Isabela. Madrid—1884)

Sent when still very young to Barcelona, Spain, Mr. Corchado pursued there his high school and college studies, finally becoming a lawyer. At the same time he cultivated letters with application, and in 1863 won the first prize in the poetical competition organized in San Juan, Porto Rico by the "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País", in honor of the island's artist Campeche, in which many of the notable men of the island took part. On finishing his studies he practised his profession with great success.

His oratorical temperament and liberal ideas inclined him to politics, and he enrolled himself in the Federal Republican Party, whose progress he helped with word and pen. He collaborated in the political newspapers of Barcelona and Madrid on capital punishment, and in 1871 he delivered a magnificent speech at the "Ateneo Catalán". Later he delivered another speech at the Economic Society of Madrid on circumstantial evidence, which demonstrated his wide judicial knowledge. Both

speeches being published in the Spanish capital.

A group of Barcelonian citizens proposed this democratic young man as a candidate to the "Cortes Constituyentes" of the year 1869, but his entrance in Congress did not take place until 1872, when he was elected a member from Porto Rico. While there he worked for political reforms for the Antilles, and in the National Assembly of 1873 he worked in behalf of the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico.

He returned to that island in 1879 and began at once to give his services to his country, his eloquent speech resounding many times in the halls of the "Ateneo". Mr. Corchado was editor-in-chief of "El Agent" of San Juan and was also one of the directors of the "Partido Liberal Reformista", whose voters elected him to the Deputación Provincial. There his oratorical ability won for him in a short time a well deserved popularity. One of his most noted speeches was delivered at the Ponce Fair in 1882 in the "Círculo Mercantil" of that place, and treated on capital and labor.

In 1884, on account of ill health, he sailed for Madrid, but soon after his arrival on November 30, 1884 he died. The press of that city devoted many columns of regret to him, and mourning was general, the island's poets expressing their homage for him. All the writings he left were published in Spain, among these being "Historia de Ultratumba", an interesting exposition of his spiritualistic ideas; "Al Trabajo", a lyric poem; a pamphlet, "Biografía de Lincoln"; another of a political character, "Las Barricadas"; a philosophical literary work entitled "Dios" which was an answer to the atheist Suñor y Capdevila, a drama "Maria Antonieta", given for the first time at the Apolo Theater, Madrid. Another theatrical production of his "El Capitán Correa" is still unpublished though it has been produced at Arecibo. In addition to these works there were a number of his poems, published in the newspapers and in collections of works of the island's poets.

Corchado was aggressive and also a great worker, possessing many marked talents

among which the most important was his power of oratory. He was a real political orator, of remarkable faculty, who fascinated the public with his vibrating and vehement speeches. In his time and environment there was no other speaker more forceful and eloquent, and his character was worthy of his talent.

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### **José María Monge**

(1840—Mayagüez—1891)

Without further instruction than that which he received in the elementary schools, thru his personal study, Mr. Monge acquired more than usual literary culture, and could read in its original the Latin classics and the masters of Italian, English and French literature. He can be rightly called one of Porto Rico's greatest classical writers.

He was a thoughtful writer of pure style, and in both prose and poetry he used satire with great ingenuity; such writings he signed with the pen name "Justo Derecho," which he made popular thru political debates. He also wrote in several newspapers of the island.

In Mayaguez, where he filled positions of great responsibility, he was one of the chief factors in the progress and welfare of that city. In 1884, he went to Italy and on his return, published a book on his experiences in that country, the only one of its kind by a Porto Rican author and one of the best ever written on that subject in Spanish. After his death, a book of his best poems was published.

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### **Salvador Brau**

(1842—Cabo Rojo. San Juan—1912)

Mr. Brau received his early education in his native town, afterwards devoting himself to business, but at sixteen he already showed proofs of his literary ability. In Cabo Rojo he was for three years at the head of a dramatic society and together with several others started a popular circle for mutual

learning, where classes in languages and other subjects of scientific character were held. Alternating with these tasks he wrote poetry, contributed to the Liberal press of San Juan and also devoted time to dramatic writing. He successively wrote three plays; one of a historical type: "Héroe y Mártir" (based on the episode of the Castillian communists); "De la Superficie al Fondo", and "La Vuelta al Hogar".

In 1865 he was appointed secretary of the Local School Board and in 1873, under the Spanish Republic, he became trustee of the Municipal Council. Then in 1880, in the prime of his faculties and vital energies, he moved to the capital of the island, and by Treasurer General, Francisco Fabro, was appointed Cashier in the Treasury Department, holding such office for ten years without bond. At that time he began to take active part in journalistic campaigns and was a writer on "El Fomento", chief contributor to "El Agente" and manager of "El Clamor del País", collaborating also in "El Asimilista", "El Buscapié", and "La Revista Puertorriqueña".

In 1883, friends of his in Madrid, compiled in a pamphlet called "Lo que dice la Historia", a series of letters addressed to the Ministro de Ultramar from the columns of "El Clamor", and in 1886, he collected in a volume "Ecos de la Batalla", a selection of his newspaper articles. He also wrote, for the theater, a historical play,—"Los Horrores del Triunfo", recalling the Sicilian vespers, which is considered the best of his work in this field; social studies such as "The Working Classes of Porto Rico", "La Campesina", and "La Herencia Devota"; a rural novel, "La Pecedora", two local narratives, "Una Invasión de los Filibusteros", and "Un Tesoro Escondido", as well as "A Geographical Description of Porto Rico".

In 1888, in the lyric debates held in the island, he won the first prize, "Flora Natural", for his poem "Patria", the decision being given in Madrid by a jury composed of Gaspar Núñez de Arce, Emilio Ferrari, Manuel del Palacio and Miguel Ramos Carrión.

In 1889, his Liberal opinions in politics caused his retirement from office, General Ruiz Dana asking for his resignation as Cashier of the Central Treasury.

He then bought "El Clamor" and in it continued his political campaigns. On the editorial staff of this newspaper was his son Salvador Brau Zuzuárregui, unfortunately—because of early death—lost to Porto Rican literature. In that same year he was elected Provincial Deputy for the district of Mayaguez, serving for four years. Later he was appointed Secretary of the Autonomous party and accepted, refusing the salary assigned to the office.

At his initiative, during some historical lectures he gave at the "Ateneo", there was erected, in 1893, on the banks of the Culebrinas river, near the harbor of Aguada—the place where, according to one version, Columbus landed—a column carved in marble, from the mountains of Luquillo, to commemorate the fourth centenary of the discovery of Porto Rico, Brau as the representative of the press association delivering a speech at the unveiling of this monument. In 1894 he sailed for Spain, delegated by the Provincial Deputation to do research work in the Archives of the West Indies in Seville, on the historical sources of Porto Rico, and while in Valencia he published a book entitled "Puerto Rico y su Historia".

In 1897 he returned to the island to stay definitely, and the Government appointed him provincial historian with a salary of two thousand dollars a year, which office he resigned when home government was granted to Porto Rico. Brau then decided to retire from active politics, and to the repeated suggestions made to him to give up his idea he answered—as one of his biographers says—"I have not gone back on my convictions, I am, and will be an Autonomist, but it is the young people who must combat for new ideals". Fernández Juncos, then Secretary of the Treasury, asked him for his cooperation in the Custom House at San Juan and Brau took charge as chief of the office. When the change of sovereignty took place, he resigned his office, and turned

over the funds to the Military Commission of the United States.

General Brooke, however, requested him to remain in office and he continued for two years, resigning at last on account of ill health.

In 1903 he published, for school use, an excellent "History of Porto Rico", and later, patronized by the Spanish Casino of San Juan, a capital work—"History of the First Fifty Years of Conquest and Colonization of Porto Rico." He also published a volume of lyric poems under the title of "Hojas Caídas". There exists another pamphlet of his called, "Two factors in the Colonization of Porto Rico". He left unfinished a book, whose title would have been "Lejanías", and also a voluminous compilation of notes for a history of the island.

In 1908 he was appointed by the Insular Congress, Historian of Porto Rico, which position he filled until his death. On his return from Spain, in 1897, Brau commenced again his lectures in the "Ateneo" and gave an extensive exposition of his historical work.

Brau's works place him among the most prominent intellectual men of Spanish America. He was a writer of high classical style, a poet of exquisite perception, and a master in the handling of Castilian prose. As an eminent journalist, he treated with great tact the problems of Porto Rico, whose rights he always defended with manly integrity. As a historian, he told of the genesis of the island, clearly explaining the factors of civilization thru the centuries. His lyric poems and dramas were nearly always inspired by his patriotic ideals. He was an austere man, and a man of character. In San Juan there is a statue erected to his memory.

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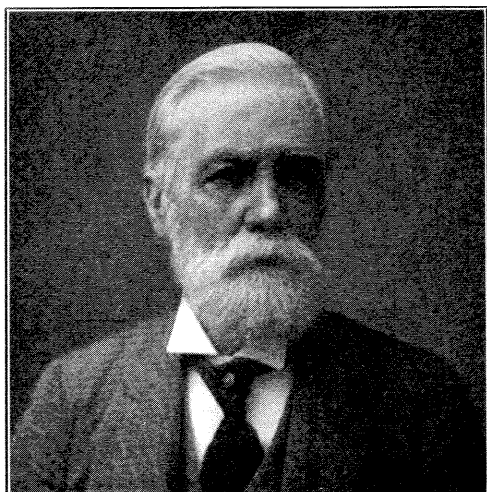
### Agustín Stahl

(1842—Aguadilla. Bayamón—1917)

Dr. Stahl, though born in Porto Rico, was of German descent and obtained his early education in that country. In 1864 he graduated as a Surgeon at the University of Prague, returning to his native land where he practised his

profession in several towns and later moved his permanent residence to Bayamón.

In 1874 he was made Professor of Natural History at the Spanish Institute of Secondary Instruction. In 1878, as a member of a commission appointed by the Government, he studied the disease of the sugar cane at the Agricul-



DR. AGUSTÍN STAHL.

tural Station at Mayaguez, publishing two volumes as the results of his investigations.

Dr. Stahl created a museum of natural history in which were classified 2,300 specimens and which was purchased by a scientific society of New Orleans.

Among his published works were a Catalogue of the Zoological Cabinet, formed by him at Bayamón, "Los Indios Borinqueños" (an anthropological and archeological study of the island's aborigines), several pamphlets on the Porto Rican Flora, of a series he did not finish, another work entitled "La Fecundidad de la Mujer en Puerto Rico" and a study concerning the illness of Frederick III, Emperor of Germany.

In his last years, due to his great services he was pensioned by the Insular Government.

Stahl was a close observer of nature and an example of perseverance and painstaking scientific study that has not been surpassed in the island, and is rightly considered as one of Porto Rico's leading scientists.

### **Manuel G. Tavárez**

(1843—San Juan. Ponce—1883)

With the help of the "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País" and several admirers of his musical talent, Tavárez went to Paris to study music when fifteen. There he secured admittance to the Conservatory of Music and studied harmony and composition under Auber and piano under D'Albert, and before long distinguished himself among his fellow students. A serious illness left his hearing in poor condition and his left hand somewhat useless and for this reason he was forced to return to Porto Rico a year after his departure.

Even in spite of this great handicap, Tavárez always played with notable dexterity. After giving a series of concerts in the principal towns of the Island, he devoted himself to piano teaching in San Juan, then in Caguas and lastly in Ponce, where having formed a class of pupils, he resided permanently. Tavárez greatly influenced musical art in Porto Rico and he was one of the greatest musicians and composers of his time.

### **Santiago R. Palmer**

(1844—San Germán. San Juan—1908)

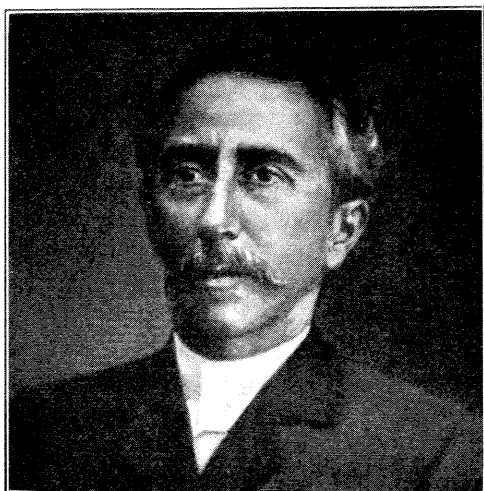
Mayor Palmer of Mayaguez was born in San Germán and educated in the schools there. In his youth he was municipal secretary of Sábana Grande and public scribe in San Germán, Coamo and Mayaguez, in which latter place he acquired the title of Notary Public, having been employed in that profession there, in Añasco and later in San Juan, up to his death in 1908.

From 1869 Mr. Palmer took a prominent part in the strongest political parties of the island, and in Mayaguez was one of the founders of the Reformed Liberal Party, taking an active part in its management.

An advocate of the abolition of slavery, in 1887 he was one of the patriots imprisoned in El Morro. Seeking freedom for the slaves, he won imprisonment for himself.

In 1891 Mr. Palmer took an active part in the autonomist assembly held at Mayaguez, and the Liberal Party elected him Represen-

tative for that district to the Autonomic Insular Legislature, which was of short duration due to the change of sovereignty. Dur-



SANTIAGO R. PALMER.

ing the period of Military Government he was Mayor of Mayaguez.

A strong believer in Masonry for years his was the directing mind of the Masonic movement in the island and it was he who created and organized the Grand Sovereign Lodge of Porto Rico, of which he was six times selected Grand Master.

As a man, a citizen and a patriot, Mr. Palmer won the esteem and respect of his countrymen, and for his noble heart and deeds he will always be remembered by them.

### Rafael del Valle

(1847—Aguadilla. San Juan—1917)

Receiving his higher education at the Instituto Civil Dr. del Valle was graduated in medicine and surgery in the University of Barcelona, Spain, returning to Porto Rico in 1871. He practiced his profession in Aguada, Aguadilla, and afterwards in Arecibo where he lived a long time being there military surgeon and titular physician of the navy. For his works in those positions Dr. del Valle received the medal of "Military Merit" for noteworthy services rendered during a small-pox epidemic.

He distinguished himself in politics for his liberal ideas, being president of the Autonomist Committee of Arecibo, and was greatly persecuted for his courageous propaganda in favor of the island.

As physician he studied the microbic theory, advocated by Pasteur. In 1866, having lost his wife—a victim of a puerperal fever—he went to France, to search for the origin of the microbe of that disease.

During seven months he worked in Paris as Pasteur's assistant and pupil. Upon his return he advocated this new medical point of view. He practiced his profession in Arecibo, giving free medical advice, medicines and even food to the needy.

On account of the persecutions to which most distinguished patriots were subjected at that time, Del Valle, in 1891, had to go to Caracas, Venezuela, to reside. There he became an intimate friend of General Joaquín Crespo. A few months after, General Crespo started a revolution at "Totumo," Venezuela, against President Andueza Palacio, for the latter desired to remain in office a longer time than that prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic.

Del Valle united General Crespo's forces and edited in co-operation with General Pietri, the historical document in which the leader expressed to the Venezuelan people, his firm purpose to maintain unharmed the fundamental laws of his country. When the fight became more active Dr. del Valle returned to the capital, with secret instructions from the revolutionary leader for an active propaganda there, even at the risk that this would entail. When the revolution successfully ended, he became secretary to General Crespo, his adviser and family physician.

With the great influence of his new position, he behaved on all occasions with absolute disinterestedness. On the petition of the President he founded and edited the official newspaper, "El Derecho," but gave up its publication because he did not want to defend an unjust affair that was raised by one of the ministers.

He filled in Venezuela some diplomatic commissions, one of them at the Colombian Government, being connected with the Panama

Canal. The most prominent physicians of Caracas considered him as an eminent authority and he was honored with the medal of "Busto del Libertador," and was a member of the Medical Academy of Caracas and of the National Academy of the Spanish Language. He was President of the Central Council of Acclimatization and Industrial Improvement and a contributor to the principal newspapers of Venezuela.

In 1899 he returned to his native land and resided in San Juan. There he worked with the American authorities for the establishment of a microbiological institute from which came the Institute of Tropical Medicine. With his deeds, his pen and speech he contributed to the formation of the Unionist Party, being one of its presidents. He was a member of the Executive Council and its temporary president, on some occasions, and he presided over the commission that went to Washington in 1912, to ask for the maintenance of tariff protection on sugar. Dr. del Valle distinguished himself in the island's literature as one of the most notable writers and poets of Porto Rico. His verse is brilliant and rich in fancy and he wrote interesting works of scientific value.

His style as a public speaker was elegant, clever and delightful. He was a man of integrity. In 1884 he published at Arecibo, a book of original poems with a prologue by the Cuban writer Aniceto Valdivia, and two novels, "Lucila" and "De la Forma al Fondo," besides other works that have not been published. A posthumous edition of his poems was given to the public in San Juan.

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### **Tulio Larrínaga**

(1847—Trujillo Alto. San Juan—1917)

Larrínaga received his C.E. degree at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y., completing his studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

He was one of the engineers in charge of the construction of the Grand Central Station, New York, and was also engaged on other engineering work in that city. Larrínaga's professional work was the equal of the best

ever done in any country, and in Porto Rico few could equal him on construction work, his name being connected with many of the leading engineering enterprises of the Island.

As engineer for the Provincial Deputation he was prominent in the San Juan harbor construction work, and for ten years, his was the brain that largely directed the extensive road construction in the Island. In 1893 he was appointed chief engineer of the Porto Rico Exposition.

In other lines of effort he also did praiseworthy work, and was one of the founders of the Ateneo, where he gave free instruction in English to poor young men, also teaching in almost all educational centers of the Island.

As a patriot and public man his life's work is very honorable. In 1870, he helped the Cuban revolutionists in New York. Working first in the Reformist Liberal Party, he took prominent part in all the evolutions of the popular feeling of Porto Rico. In 1898, under the Spanish autonomy, he was Sub-Secretary of public works, and of means of communication, and when the change of sovereignty occurred, he again assumed the direction of the construction of San Juan Harbor.

He was one of the directors of the Federal Party, representing it in a commission that went to Washington in 1900 to ask for Home Rule, and to discuss the Foraker Bill, and was a delegate to the Insular Legislature from the district of Arecibo, where he advocated important measures in favor of the island's agriculture. He was elected in 1904, Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico in Washington, and filled that high position for three consecutive terms until 1911. His first public function in that position being a speech delivered in 1905, interceding for the continuance of the Porto Rican regiment that was to be suppressed. In 1906 he presented the law project amending the Foraker Bill. He took active part in the negotiations made in Washington by the Island's Municipal League, and presented nineteen liberal amendments to the project of the Olmstead Law.

As Resident Commissioner, Larrínaga had the great honor to represent the United States

in different international assemblies; in 1906 he was named by President Roosevelt with other Americans to take part in the Pan-American conference of Brazil; in 1908 and 1910 he represented the National Congress in the interparliamentary conferences of Berlin and Brussels. He also represented Porto Rico at the scientific congress of New Mexico Irrigation, and in the conferences of Mohonk Lake, and at the Social Sciences Academy of Philadelphia.

Later he was President of the Engineers' Association of Porto Rico, member of the Insular Library Commission, consulting engineer for the Irrigation Committee of the southern coast, and President of the Agricultural Commission. In 1915 he was designated by President Wilson as a member of the Executive Council, and although ill, he caused his sons to take him there so as to vote the Unionist Plan of electoral division, which won by one vote, this being his last political activity.

Larrínaga was a man of a strong character and possessed a consistent scientific mind. He was a tireless worker, an educator of great distinction and wherever he went he represented Porto Rico with dignity.

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### **Manuel María Sama**

(1850—Mayaguez. San Juan—1913)

A poet of real sensitiveness, Mr. Sama was noted for the beauty of his short poems and, due to his methods, was often compared to the Spanish poet Becquer. With other literary men, he published in Mayaguez an exceedingly valuable anthology called "Poetas Puertorriqueños," which was well received.

His literary talent, however, was not confined to poetical work, as he was also a dramatist and, among other plays, wrote: "Inocente y Culpable" y "La Víctima de su Falta," as well as a short dramatic composition on the discovery of America. Among his other works was a short historical treatise on the voyage of Columbus, in which he affirmed that the discoverer first landed at the spot where Mayaguez is now built, and also wrote a valuable essay on "Porto Rico's Bibliography."

In fact, though he engaged in other lines of work, he always rendered enthusiastic cooperation and valued service in every sort of artistic and literary effort. Due to ill health, Mr. Sama had to leave his native town and go to live in the mountains of the island, later moving to San Juan where for some time before his death he was President of "El Ateneo."

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### **José Gautier Benítez**

1851—Caguas. San Juan—1880)

Gautier Benítez was educated in his native town and entered the Military Academy at San Juan to prepare himself for the army, being graduated as an Infantry Lieutenant. His career took him to Toledo, Spain and although prior to this he had written some laudable poems, home-sickness intensified his poetical inspiration, and to this period is due some of his best writings. After a short time he gave up his military career, returning to Porto Rico in condition to give free impulse to his poetical abilities.

In 1873 his patriotism being intensified by the conservative opposition against the attitude in favor of the abolition of slavery, he wrote for the newspaper "El Progreso," a series of articles, "Cuadros Sociales," that profoundly affected public feeling. In 1879 he founded with the help of Alejandro Tapia a fortnightly literary review: "Revista Puertorriqueña," which gave great prestige to the "Ateneo." He died of tuberculosis, in 1880, while still very young.

Gautier Benitez is the most popular poet of Porto Rico, a popularity well deserved, because no other has sung the island's beauty with greater love and deeper feeling. He showed his great love in his poem "Canto a Puerto Rico," which was praised in Spain by the critic Narciso Campillo, and the poets Ventura Ruiz Aguilera and Ramón de Campoamor. After his death, his poems were published in a collection. All his writings are full of melancholy and he is the most genuine of the island's representative poets: a sorrowful singer in a sad country.



**Manuel de Elzaburu y Vizcarrondo**  
(1851—San Juan—1892)

Mr. Elzaburu took his LL.B. degree at the Central University of Madrid and later on he gave lectures there on law at the Jurisprudence Academy. After a long stay in Madrid he returned to Porto Rico where he soon became well known as an enthusiastic and enlightened promoter of letters and arts.

Elzaburu was the initiator of the Porto Rican Atheneum and through his efforts there was included in it the Institution of Superior Studies, in which the most promising intellects of the island received their education. He founded the art gallery of the Ateneo which has been so enriched with the lapse of time, also endowing that institution with a good library and a valuable collection of antique newspapers and historical documents.

As president of the Porto Rican Atheneum he obtained from the government the privilege of having professors of the Havana University come to Porto Rico, periodically, to examine the students who pursued in the island the studies of Law and Medicine. He also largely coöperated in the establishment of the Institute of Secondary Education, the Municipal Library of San Juan and other organizations of culture, serving as a professor in some of them and as a member of the directorate of others, and giving impulse to all by his indefatigable activity.

He excelled, above all, as a writer of enlightening ideas of bright and polished style. He translated some poems of Teófilo Gautier and works of French prose-writers. He contributed to the principal newspapers and reviews of the island, especially to "Ilustración Española y Americana" and in "La Ilustración Popular," of Madrid, using first the pen name of "Fabián Montes" and later that of "Américo Amador."

Among his productions are an excellent work about Guttenberg, a brilliant one about Castelar, his prologue to the poems of Gautier Benítez and his celebrated speeches on the "Sentiment of Nationality," and on "The Influence of Literature in History." As a lec-

turer he had great power and succeeded in conveying adequate coloring to the prose and poems that he read. He influenced in a notable manner the literary development of Porto Rico with his authority, his enthusiasms and his liberal character.

His activities extended also to other fields of action in which he filled important judicial and administrative positions and worked honorably in the most important political parties of the island. He was President of the Ateneo and Provincial Deputy for twelve consecutive years. His portrait hangs with justice in a most prominent place in the assembly room of the former.

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**Federico Degetau y González**  
(1852—Ponce. San Juan—1914)

Degetau pursued his higher studies in Barcelona, where he demonstrated by his contributions to the press, his ability as a writer. Graduating as a lawyer at the "Universidad Central", in 1879 he went to Madrid, there to begin a period of intense literary activity.

The newspaper man Luis Paris, in his book "Crítica Inductiva", devoted to the study of several young authors, includes him among them. Degetau took a strong place in the "Partido Republicano Federal". In 1882 he and Ginard de la Rosa, the publisher, were commissioned to interview Ruiz Zorrilla in Paris about certain views of the Spanish Republican politics, and a little later he went back to Paris as a delegate of the Freemasons of Spain to attend an organized assembly of the International League against capital punishment. Toward that purpose he was also delegated to the Academy of Anthropological Science where he presided over the division of Ethical and Political Sciences.

In 1887 he founded a newspaper in Madrid called "La Isla de Puerto Rico", to attack the governmental acts of General Palacios in regard to political events which occurred that year in Porto Rico, but when Palacios was dismissed from office, that paper ceased its publication. In 1886 he formed part of the

Commission sent to Madrid for the political negotiations of the "Partido Autonomista Puertorriqueño", and in 1887 he was elected Congressman for Porto Rico, which office he held when the change of sovereignty took



FEDERICO DEGETAU Y GONZÁLEZ.

place. Degetau then resigned and decided to partake of the fate of his country, though many Congressmen—among them Rafael María de Labra—advised him to remain in Congress; stating that his position was of a national character. Degetau, however, enrolled in the Insular Republican Party, because he thought that Porto Rico would become a state of the American Union.

In 1900 he was elected Resident Commissioner for Porto Rico in Washington and his work was fundamentally inspired by the course marked out by his political ideals. His term of office having expired, he returned to the island, but he did not remain inactive, frequently giving lectures at educational centers on matters of educational and sociological subjects.

Degetau possessed wide knowledge, his

speech was most persuasive, almost evangelical, and his writings show marks of an elevated idealism. Among other distinctions he had that of honorary member of the Teachers' College of Cataluña, Spain. In that country he published the following writings: "El Fondo del Algibe", (a Porto Rican novel); the novels "El Secreto de la Domadora", "Juventud" "Cuentos para el Viaje", "La Redención de un Quinto", the latter in collaboration with other authors. In Ponce, his birthplace, is a public square bearing his name.

### Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón

(1855—Luquillo—1913)

In his boyhood Matienzo Cintrón was taken to Spain by his family, residing for a long time in Barcelona, where he finished his primary education, his secondary one, and then entered the University of Barcelona where he graduated as a lawyer.

At the University he distinguished himself among the other students for his brightness, intelligence and talent, and after finishing his career, he made trips through Europe, in order to broaden his education

In 1884 he returned to Porto Rico, residing in his native town, where for a time he devoted himself entirely to study and investigation, and then in 1890 he practiced his profession at Mayaguez. His intellectual endowments recommended him to the Island's consideration and his speeches in several institutions stamped him as a lecturer of high ideals and pure words, far distant from academic seriousness and unsubstantial arguments; difficulties sometimes found in oratory. He influenced, as an active factor, in the liberal politics of his time, and was elected Provincial Deputy by the District of Mayaguez.

In an autonomous assembly held in Ponce in 1887, he represented the Liberals of Mayaguez, showing himself as a notable statesman. Since then during his entire life he always distinguished himself among the group of patriots who defended the rights of the island. With

his persuasive speech and his vigorous actions, he took an active part in advocating the autonomic ideal, and was one of the most prominent leaders of the "Partido Autonomista" (Autonomous Party). His voice was heard in all meetings and he supported with all his enthusiasm the initiatives of Muñoz Rivera, that the Porto Rican autonomists should make a pact with some one of the Spanish Democratic parties, and thus became an important factor in the government of the Island.

This purpose being adopted, in the assembly held at Caguas by the Delegates of the Liberal Party, Matienzo was appointed one of the commissioners sent to Madrid to achieve that purpose.

His two speeches at the Assembly held at San Juan in February, 1897, to make known the information of this Commission, and at which the agreement between the Autonomists of the Island and the "Partido Liberal Fusionista" (Liberal Fusionist Party) of Spain was approved, are perhaps his most noteworthy orations.

In March of that same year, Matienzo went to Ponce to practice as a lawyer. In 1898, soon after the American Occupation, Matienzo was named by General Davis, President of the Court of Ponce, together with the Associated Judges, Isidoro Soto Nussa and José Ramón Becerra. He filled this position until August 8, 1899, on which date the courts of the island were reorganized, and he again took up his professional work at Ponce.

At that time, Matienzo was an active member of the Republican Party, and in 1900, when with the Foraker Law, Civil Government was established, he was one of the four Porto Ricans, not heads of departments, appointed to the Executive Council. While so engaged, at the time General Eaton was Commissioner of Education, an Insular Board of Education was created and Matienzo was appointed one of its nine members, holding this position up to 1902. By that time he had conceived the plan of a new political party uniting Porto Ricans in one body, in order that the different opinions manifested by the public

would have a unanimous consent in the solution of fundamental matters in which the island was then interested.

In this way, the Porto Rican Unionist Party, shortly afterwards established, was conceived by Matienzo, and acquired its realization through his efforts.

Matienzo soon left the Republican Party and devoted himself to lecturing throughout the Island, spreading the ideals of Unionism. This campaign started on the floor of the most genuine representative institution of the island's higher education—the lecture-hall of the Atheneum—by a series of lectures that confirmed him in the public mind as an orator, a thinker, a patriot and a statesman. He then wrote also for the press, brief substantial articles which were an obvious factor in his propaganda.

The union of hearts and minds, which he proclaimed, was realized, and the Unionist Party won in the first elections, those of 1904, Matienzo's eloquence contributing greatly to that success. In the legislative periods of 1904-06, Matienzo was Speaker of the Insular Legislative Assembly and continued acting in that body as a delegate from 1907 to 1910, cooperating efficiently in the island's parliament and delivering there many of his eloquent speeches, among which are noteworthy those advocating the abolition of capital punishment.

Later, his health not being very good, he left Ponce for his native town, Luquillo, hoping to recover, but on December 13, 1912, he died, his death being one of the island's greatest losses.

Matienzo was more a man of ideas than a man of action, and as he read and studied constantly, his mind was always busy. He was Porto Rico's foremost orator, ironical at times, but always forceful, excelling in parliamentary oratory and philosophic conceptions occasionally of a picturesque style, gracefully used to argue with his opponents, and original in his viewpoints, he expressed them graphically. Upon studying Porto Rico's popular psychology and upon considering that it is an extension of the personality of the brother Spanish-American countries, Matienzo Cintrón

reached the conclusion that they lacked a name which would identify them all as of one sole type; and consequently he called them by the nickname of "Pancho Ibero". For its accuracy this name had the deserved appreciation of Porto Rico and other countries.

His active and profound spirit was always in search of new and worthy objects to introduce in the island for her people's good, this individual personality making him unadaptable to the regulations of political parties.

He wisely advised the Porto Rican landowners not to sell their lands and thus some day thereby find themselves politically and economically dispossessed in their native land. In another instance, he thought of a great cooperative association, "El Centavo Diario" (The Daily Penny) composed of working people and modest landowners, thus bringing welfare and comfort to Porto Rico's poorer classes. But the obstacles of that time caused his noble projects to be but dreams, though today's dreams may be the tomorrow's realities.

Matienzo was a philosopher and an idealist, his conceptions being ample and manifold, he being always in search of harmonious and progressive ideas, thus not giving way to established forms which were not in accordance with his views.

He was a strong believer in spiritualism and greatly worked toward the spreading of spiritualistic ideas in Porto Rico, and when speaking with friends he always was the orator: rich and easy in words, witty in phrases, and genial in conceptions.

Summing up, it can be said that he was a man of eloquence, endowed with the strength of a great intelligence and the energies of a generous heart.

### **Carlos M. Soler Martorell**

(1855—San Juan—1917)

In 1873, after obtaining his A. B. degree at the Seminario Conciliar Mr. Soler sailed for Madrid in order to study jurisprudence, graduating there as a lawyer.

On his return from Spain, where he had practiced his profession with the lawyer Gabriel Jiménez, he opened a law office at San Juan soon attaining distinction. So much so, in fact, that he was called from private practice to fill several official positions, among them that of Judge of the Primary Court of Claims of San Juan, Lieutenant Auditor of War, Registrar of Deeds and others, in all of which he demonstrated his integrity and his character.

He became attorney for the "Sociedad Anónima de Crédito Mercantil" filling that position also for its successors, the Spanish Bank of Porto Rico and the Commercial Bank.

In 1898 he was appointed Vice-President of the "Banco Español," holding this office in the banks succeeding it, and being elected President of the "Banco Comercial de Puerto Rico," still successfully filling that position.

From boyhood he was fond of astronomy and kindred subjects, being a student at the Madrid Observatory, having held correspondence with Flammarion and other noted astronomers of his time.

He made some interesting astronomical observations, being then considered the greatest authority on the subject in Porto Rico, and contributed interesting articles on this subject to the "Revista Puertorriqueña," published by Fernández Juncos.

Mr. Soler's public life was the true image of his austere principles; his love for astronomy and the time he devoted to it, however, did not permit him to take part in political activities, but when the Liberal Party was established, under the autonomous regime, as a continuation of the party of the same name in the Mother Country, though not fond of politics he felt it his duty to join it, becoming an important factor in increasing popular sentiment for it, due to the authority which his noble qualities gave him.

He was successively one of the directors of the Liberal, Federal and Unionist Parties and on one occasion was president of the latter.

He rendered splendid service on financial

questions as a member of the House of Delegates from 1903 to 1912, being elected President of several committees.

### **Calixto Romero Cantero**

(1856—San Juan. Ponce—1911)

Dr. Romero Cantero graduated as a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in the College of St. Francis Xavier, New York, and in September, 1877, took his M.D. degree at "Bellevue Hospital Medical College," New York. He then went to Madrid and Paris to do post-graduate work, and was licensed to the practice of medicine in Porto Rico by the Spanish Department of Education in April, 1880.

From that date on he devoted himself to his professional practice. He was the physician for the Saint Louis House of Health in San Juan, having been its director from 1880 to 1884. In 1885 he was the physician for the society of "La Benefactora," and at the same time was English professor in the Professional School.

Later he went to reside in Barranquitas and then in Cayey, working as titular physician in said municipalities. He also held important offices in the insular government.

Romero was giving lectures throughout the island as a supporter of the Antituberculous League when he suddenly died, on September 19, 1911, at Saint Luke's Hospital, Ponce.

Dr. Romero Cantero was a man of wide knowledge and ability. A fine writer of Spanish, either in prose or verse, a most interesting talker who always charmed his hearers. He spoke French and English with absolute correctness, and was a good Latin speaker as well. He could draw and paint with ability, and had a deep knowledge of music, having written an excellent musical work as yet unpublished.

He was a noted professional man, distinguishing himself in the practice of surgery as well as in medicine. Intellectually and morally he had a very high conception of his profession. He gave freely his professional services to the poor, helping them often-

times also to buy the medicines which he prescribed.

Dr. Romero Cantero most rightfully stands among the men of highest culture and refinement of Porto Rico.

### **Luis Bonafoux**

(1856—Bordeaux, France. London—1918)

Mr. Bonafoux spent his childhood in Porto Rico, the native land of his parents, and received his Bachelor's degree at the Jesuits Institute, in San Juan, sailing later for Spain, where he became a lawyer at the University of Salamanca. At the early age of eighteen he began to write and for many years he signed his productions with the pen name of "Aramís" and later used his own name. He became widely known because of his controversy with the notable critic Leopoldo Alas (Clarín).

In Madrid he founded and edited the newspapers, "El Español" and "El Intransigente", and in Paris, "La Campaña" and "El Heraldo de París". For twenty-three years he was a reporter on the "Heraldo de Madrid", sometimes in Paris and at others in London. He was asked to collaborate in the most important newspapers of Spain and South America and was also correspondent of several journals of Porto Rico.

His best known writings are "Ultramarinos", "Risas y Lágrimas", "Betances", "Bilis", "Emilio Zola", "Bombos y Palos", "Clericallas", "Franceses y Francesas", "Melancolía", "Dreyfus", "Príncipes y Majestades", "Gotas de Sangre" and others, and a great many of his writings were published in the "Heraldo de Madrid" and other newspapers.

On account of one of his articles he was exiled from Spain, and for another from Porto Rico, where he had fulfilled as in Havana and Santander, Spain, official positions. He then moved to Paris where he lived many years until, on account of his peace declarations on politics and war, he was obliged to go to London, where he died.

Bonafoux possessed an extraordinary satiri-

cal strain. His criticism was sharp, keen, sarcastic and often rude but he had a real artistic temperament and wrote beautiful articles of great delicacy and sensibility. His opinion in social matters made him sympathize with the radical ideas of his time. As a humorist he was noted in Spain.

### **Eliseo Font y Guillot**

(1856—Trujillo Bajo. San Juan—1923)

Finishing his secondary studies at the Seminario Conciliar when only eighteen years old, Mr. Font Guillot earned by competition in this institution, a chair of Latin and Spanish which he could not fill on account of his age.

In 1875 he went to Spain, where he took his degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery in 1880, at the University of Santiago de Galicia, and obtained his degree of Master of Science at Madrid, being one of the few students mentioned in the roll of honor of the University.

While a student and after finishing his studies, he published some interesting works on professional subjects, and on his return he was appointed Professor of Latin and Spanish at the Provincial Institute. Later he lived at Mayaguez and there he founded together with Dr. Benito Gaudiern a scientific review entitled "El Laboratorio" (The Laboratory).

At the time of the change of sovereignty he was mayor of that city by appointment of the Liberal Party and on him devolved the duty of handing the keys of the city over to the commanding officer of the American troops. The latter requested him to continue the exercise of his functions, whereupon Font Guillot answered nobly that since Spain had raised him to that position it was his duty to fall with her.

Shortly afterwards he again returned to San Juan and there won through competitive examinations, the post of specialist on nervous and mental diseases for the Insular Insane Asylum.

He published a paper "La Verdad Médico Social" (Medical Social Truth), where the fundamental problems of the country were treated with depth of thought.

During the year 1917-18 and part of 1919, he rendered very valuable services as assistant Commissioner of Health, those being his last official activities.

Politically, Font y Guillot furnished valuable aid to the liberal parties of Porto Rico, especially to the Federal Party.

In 1900 he was a member of the editorial staff of "El Territorio" (The Territory), pushing the campaigns of this paper with his enlightenment, his experience and his writings. He was one of the highest intellects in the Unionist Party.

He gave very valuable services to Porto Rican freemasonry, being initiated in the Great Spanish Orient in his youth, when a student. He worked for religious freedom in the review "Dominicales del Libre Pensamiento" (Free Thought Sunday Edition). In the Island he belonged to the Great Sovereign Lodge of Porto Rico, in which he attained the highest degrees.

He founded several lodges in San Juan and Mayaguez. He presided over the Inter-Antillean Masonic Congress held in San Juan, Porto Rico, in September, 1922, and presented in it a notable lecture on "Means that must be adopted by freemasonry to take active part in the solution of social problems according to the peculiarities of the respective country." He gave his last lecture at the University of Porto Rico, a few days before his death on "Inter-course Between Hygiene and Civilization."

Font Guillot distinguished himself especially as an educator and a physician. He was an expert alienist, an authority on hygiene and an entertaining and wise popularizer of medical science in relation to social problems.

He exercised great initiative in the Medical Academy and in almost all the important educational institutions. In his writings and lectures he always showed high ideals, extensive and solid culture, and an ardent enthusiasm for the advancement of humanity. He was an academic orator and a writer of the classical school, clean and clear in his conceptions, pure in his language, a scrupulous and faithful upholder of the traditions of the Spanish language.

**Juan Morell Campos**

(1857—Ponce—1896)

After learning to play several instruments Mr. Morell Campos distinguished himself as a performer on the flute. He entered the band of the "Batallón de Cazadores de Cádiz" as one of the chief musicians and on some occasions acted as its leader. He contributed excellent musical compositions at the "Feria de



JUAN MORELL CAMPOS.

Ponce" in 1882, and later made a trip to several South American countries as director and soloist of an orchestra. On his return to his native town he reorganized "La Lira Ponceña," a concert society. He organized and directed until his death, the firemen's band of Ponce, and also was director of the sacred musical concerts of the Parochial Church there.

On the night of April 26th, 1896, while conducting the overture of the comic opera "El Reloj de Lucerna" at "La Perla," in Ponce, he fell against his music stand, a victim of an acute attack which caused his death a few days later.

As a composer he was noteworthy, and he remains even today the most popular musical composer of Porto Rico. Apart from his various other productions, his dance music is something that is truly Porto Rican—something that vibrates intensively in the hearts of his countrymen.

**José Celso Barbosa**

(1857—Bayamón. San Juan—1921)

Dr. José Celso Barbosa obtained his primary education in his native town, graduating in 1874 as Bachelor of Arts at the Seminario Conciliar of San Juan. After that he resided with his parents in Bayamón, earning his personal expenses as a teacher. He played the violin exceedingly well, and by means of it he also made money by playing at balls and feasts.

When, due to lack of means, he gave up hope of following academic studies, he went to work as a foreman on the sugar cane plantation of Don Escolástico Berríos, a good friend of his family, but his taste obliged him to resign this position, and by so doing he decided his future life, because he went to the United States and entered the Collegiate Institute at Fort Edward, N. Y., where he was taught English by a German lady. The following year, 1877, he went to Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, where he obtained his degree as Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, after which he returned to the island, establishing himself in San Juan.

The practice of his profession at first was a matter of great struggle, from which he came out successful a few years later, due to his noble qualities and his very accurate vision of social prejudices; thus gaining for himself the respect and esteem of all. He was always ready to further any work which might mean progress for his island, enthusiastically coöperating in the educational program of the "Ateneo Puertorriqueño," disseminating primary knowledge among young men of San Juan and giving very interesting lectures on sociological matters. To him was entrusted the teaching of natural history in the University studies held at the Atheneum.

The Examining Commission of Havana University, which annually came to Porto Rico to conduct examinations, made him, after examination in matters of instruction, a licentiate in Medicine and Surgery, thus giving a national character to his American professional degree.

His political career began in 1883 when, as a member of the Liberal Reformist Committee





DR. JOSÉ CELSO BARBOSA.

of San Juan, he helped in the preparatory work of the autonomist evolution. In 1887 he attended as a delegate from San Juan the Autonomist Assembly at Ponce. In 1894 he contributed decidedly to the reorganization of the Party Delegation in Ponce, as he had been given full power by the assembly of 1893, which had been held at San Juan in the instance of a great crisis for the Party; becoming a member of the directory of the Party as Economic Director.

He opposed the covenant of the Autonomists of the island with the Liberal Party of Spain, led by Mr. Sagasta. At the assembly held at San Juan in 1897, in order to hear from the commission which had returned from Madrid bearing said covenant, he opposed the fusion, and as he was defeated by the votes of the majority, he said in a vigorous speech that he would take home the flag of the party to wait for better times.

The Autonomic régime having been established that same year he reorganized the Or-

thodox Autonomist Party, which was called "Puro," and under that same régime he was Sub-Secretary of Public Instruction, representing his party in the government.

On May 12, 1898, when San Juan Bay was bombarded by Admiral Sampson's fleet, Dr. Barbosa, who was out of town, crossed the bay in a small craft under shot and shell to perform his duty as one of the Directors of the Spanish Red Cross.

After the change of sovereignty he placed himself on the side of the administration to help in whatever way he could the development of the new régime, earnestly working for the Americanization of Porto Rico, that it might some day be a sovereign state of the American Union. That was his policy from 1900, one which he kept unchanged, constantly striking with the strength of his convictions the anvil on which Porto Rico's government was shaped, upon the basis of liberty and democracy. And because of such work he was the most decided factor of the constitution of the Republican Party in that same year, collaborating with Mr. Manuel F. Mossy and Mr. James E. Keedy in the drafting of its platform.

Together with Dr. José Brioso, he founded "The Times" (*El Tiempo*) in 1907, as the organ of that party, being its main supporter and the leading will of its propaganda. Although he always refused to occupy the presidency of the party, he was its foremost leader, the one to have the most influence because of his authority and experience.

When the civil government, by virtue of the Foraker Act, was given to the island, President McKinley named Dr. Barbosa as one of the members of the Executive Council, he being reappointed to the same position by Presidents Taft and Roosevelt, and again in 1916 by Woodrow Wilson, notwithstanding that he sent to the latter his resignation when Mr. Wilson, a Democrat, was appointed President of the nation.

When the Jones Bill—the present organic law of Porto Rico—was being discussed by the National Congress, Dr. Barbosa earnestly

advocated that American citizenship should be extended to the Porto Rican people. In 1917, said law having been granted to Porto Rico with its two elective Chambers, Dr. Barbosa was elected Senator-at-Large by the popular vote, being reelected in 1920.

During 1900-1917, the years in which he was a member of the Executive Council, he worked on the Committees of Franchises, Public Instruction, Health, Local Government and Finance, contributing to the legislation with very useful initiatives. Among others, he was the author of the law of Habeas Corpus, of that which defines the rights of the people. As a Senator he also worked out efficient activities principally in the Commission of Finance, where he carried out a constructive work worthy of praise. He was an actual authority on economic matters, his opinion being of great weight in questions of budgets.

Dr. José C. Barbosa in the course of his legislative and political duties, carried out official missions of notable importance: In 1901 he bore to Washington, as an honor entrusted to him, the message of the Executive Council, which in accordance with the law gave power to President McKinley to declare free trade between Porto Rico and the United States; he was also a member of a commission of merchants, journalists and men of prominence in public matters which was named by Governor Hunt as a delegate to a joint meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of New York, Boston, Springfield, Albany, Rochester, Utica, Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He was also a member of the political commission which in 1908 visited the most prominent men of the Republican Party in different cities of the United States.

In 1911 the University of Michigan, in view of his merits for services rendered, granted him the degree of Master of Arts, and as an acknowledgment of his work in favor of the education of the island, the University of Porto Rico on June 13, 1917, granted him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

His death occurred September 21, 1921, after

a few days of illness, causing in San Juan a wide manifestation of public mourning. He died in poverty, having given up the brilliant opportunities that his medical practice offered him and accepted as an apostleship his political duties.

Dr. José C. Barbosa was a democratic man and a worthy citizen. His political sincerity, his everlasting perseverance and the strong constitution of his spirit gained for him the respect and appreciation of the men of his age, and due to these outstanding qualities during his life he was the highest political and moral authority of his party, and one of the most prominent men of Porto Rico.

A hearty supporter of his convictions, he never weakened, and up to his last moment expressed an ardent love for the ideals of his life. Though not an orator, he said most expressively whatever he wished. His wit and his good sense made him, whether he talked or wrote, a formidable opponent. But above all, he had unbreakable and sound faith in what he believed and thought right; the faith which enables man to take action and to keep up struggling without weakening, starting anew with new hope after every failure. Such an example of perseverance and indomitable energy is seldom seen.

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### Luis Muñoz Rivera

(1859—Barranquitas. San Juan—1916)

While it is perfectly true that good early educational advantages insure a man a far greater chance of high advancement and future service to his brothermen, it is equally true that a far greater degree of successful service is assured by the man, who, lacking such advantages, does not lack the God given gifts—determination, clear thought and industry.

American history is replete with the proof of this statement—"Lincoln the Rail Splitter"—who rose through work and self study to the Presidency, and Edison, the electrical wizard, who reached his place as one of the world's greatest inventors, from humble boyhood em-

ployment as a newsboy on a railway train, being but two examples among thousands of men who grew to be world famous characters in spite of very limited schooling.

Clear thinking and teaching one's self to think right, will carry men far no matter what their early circumstance may be, as has been proved in all ages and countries, Porto Rico perhaps, offering her best proof in Luis Muñoz Rivera, that man who taught himself to such good effect that for thirty years he was looked upon as a great leader and an exponent of all that was best for Porto Rico, and died a great popular favorite with the mass of every class.

Mr. Muñoz, though he had no schooling save in the elementary school of Barranquitas, due to the fact that he read from childhood every book that he could get hold of, and especially works of real literature, developed his mind and his taste by the constant study of great writers.

His poetical inclination was revealed in a marked way in his early youth, and in 1882 he began to contribute to several papers of the Island, usually signing his poems with the pseudonyms "Incognitus" and "Rigoló." He published his first verses entitled "Adelante" in "El Pueblo" (The People) of Ponce, and afterwards came his first composition of actual force, an epical essay called "Vasco Nuñez de Balboa" in "El Buscapié" and thenceforth he sincerely showed his liberal convictions.

Mr. Muñoz was president of the Liberal Committee and a member of the municipal assembly of Barranquitas, where he was a partner in the firm of Muñoz and Negrón.

In 1885 he was elected by the district of Juana Díaz a candidate for Provincial Deputy, but he did not accept the nomination as he knew that it would be useless to fight against the government-supported candidates.

He attended the autonomic assembly held in Ponce in 1887, representing the towns of Vega Alta, Cidra and Barranquitas.

In October, 1887, the Spanish journalist who directed "La Revista de Puerto Rico" (The Review of Porto Rico), was put in jail, thus leaving the paper without direction, and as it came very near disappearing under the frightful wave which menaced all Porto Rico, Mr. Mu-

ñoz Rivera offered his services from Barranquitas and by his writings supported the newspaper.

In 1889 his name was presented as candidate for Provincial Deputy by the districts of Caguas and Juana Díaz, having been appointed by that of Caguas. As one of his biographers, Quintín Negrón Sanjurjo says: "The unconditionalism upon striving to void the action of Muñoz Rivera, presented his father, don Luis Muñoz Barrios, as the candidate of Juana Díaz, against the will of the latter. Mr. Muñoz Barrios expressed his determination to resign his commission should he be elected, and he ordered his son to fulfill his duty, while he himself would work for Mr. Manuel M. Rossy, who was the autonomic candidate who won the elections." True to his father's will and to his own conscience Mr. Muñoz Rivera issued a manifest recommending the candidacy of Mr. Rossy to his fellow citizens of Juana Díaz.

As regards his candidacy for Caguas though he won the election, his certificate of election was made void by the conservatives, and the case, having been brought before the Territorial Audience, that tribunal recognized the validity of the election, but this came too late, the young representative not occupying his place because his term had finished by that time.

In 1890 Mr. Muñoz went to Ponce to live and to direct "La Democracia" (The Democracy), the first issue of which was published on July 1st, of the same year. "La Democracia" was soon at the head of the Island's journalism, vigorously fighting the corruption of the regime.

Muñoz's first article entitled "En Campaña" (Campaigning) was a complete exposition of his program and plan of conduct. His articles against the monopolies, the customs tariffs, administrative irregularities of all kinds, prevarications of judges, intemperances of the police and the civil guard, as well as other campaigns, entangled him in numerous lawsuits, but also gained for him the applause and appreciation of public conscience, his name being henceforth the most popular in Porto Rico.

It was then that he thought of giving the

Island liberal politics and more proper directions than those it had had up to that moment.

In the autonomic assembly held in Mayaguez in 1891 he proposed with José de Diego the appointment of a commission to go to Madrid to represent the Porto Rico Autonomous Party, in order to try and make an agreement with either the Liberal Monarchical Party or with the Republican Party. Said propositions, however, did not have the approval of the assembly then but the seed had been sowed and in that meeting Mr. Muñoz was revealed as an orator of clear-sighted and strong character.

In the following assemblies, held in 1894 and 1895, in San Juan and Aguadilla, he figured among the foremost organizers and advocates greatly cooperating in the adoption of several agreements of high importance for his party.

After five years of strenuous work on May 4th, 1895, he made his first visit to Spain and from Madrid he sent to "La Democracia" a series of interesting articles and also had the opportunity to make the acquaintance there of persons prominent in both politics and letters.

In January, 1896, he returned to Porto Rico and in the assembly of that year held in San Juan, he proposed new plans for the Autonomic Party. His purpose was to form the Liberal Party in Porto Rico, as a branch of the Spanish Liberal Party, so that if the Autonomic regime should be given to the Island, it would not be applied by the Conservative Party, and thus be of no service for Porto Rico.

In July, 1896, the Autonomous Delegation gathered in Caguas, agreed to send a commission to Madrid with full powers from the party within the spirit of what had been proposed by Mr. Muñoz, and Mr. de Diego in the assembly of 1891. That same month Mr. Muñoz, together with Mr. Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón, Mr. José Gómez Brioso and Mr. Federico Degetau sailed for Spain, where he was the actual director of the works of the commission.

In February, 1897, the commissioners returned to Porto Rico bearing a covenant of the Spanish Liberal Party with the Porto Rican Autonomists and that covenant was sanctioned by an assembly immediately held in San Juan,

at which Mr. Muñoz Rivera was named provisional president, that he might organize the Insular Liberal Party.

In the assembly of March of that year the covenant was ratified and Mr. Muñoz Rivera was confirmed in his powers as actual president against his will. At that time he founded "El Liberal" (The Liberal) in San Juan as the organ of the recently organized party.

In August, 1897, Premier Cánovas of the Spanish Cabinet and chief of the Conservative Party having been assassinated, Mr. Sagasta, leader of the Spanish liberalism, was made premier, and the Island's government was placed in the hands of the Porto Rican autonomists and in November of that year the Autonomy was granted to Cuba and Porto Rico.

To Mr. Muñoz Rivera was entrusted the charge of Secretary of Grace, Justice and Government in the Cabinet constituted under the government of General Marín, and later he was made president of the Cabinet.

When the change of sovereignty occurred in 1898, the Council of Secretaries placed their resignations before General Brooke who did not accept them. the new governor General Henry tried to abridge the powers of the Cabinet, and Mr. Muñoz in a highly patriotic document repelled the executive's pretensions of the right to do so, and in accordance with the other members of the Cabinet presented to General Henry their resignations, which were accepted. The Cabinet being then constituted in 1899 with four departments created by the military government.

While he was in charge of his office, as above, Mr. Muñoz Rivera created and organized the Insular Police.

In 1899 he was sent to Washington representing the agriculturists of Porto Rico in order to work for the free trade of Porto Rico with the United States, and by chance he exposed there Porto Rico's political problem.

Under the economic aspect he presented to President McKinley and to the Federal Government far-sighted reports as to the needs of the Island's agriculture, and the convenience which would be derived from the establishment of free trade.

In August, 1899, the terrible San Ciriaco

hurricane swept the Island, and Mr. Muñoz being in the United States, he solicited the Government's help for the families which were without shelter, help being immediately sent to Porto Rico.

In 1900 when the Civil Government was inaugurated, Mr. Muñoz organized the Federal Party and also founded a newspaper, "El Diario de Puerto Rico" (The Porto Rico Journal). The feeling of the government against that party resulted in an abnormal condition in the Island, his press and the newspaper being destroyed.

Mr. Muñoz sailed for New York in May, 1901, there to publish the review "Porto Rico Herald," in which he campaigned against the methods employed by the government in the Island.

In 1902, in the memorable assembly of the "Olimpo," together with a group of fellow-countrymen, he dissolved the Federal Party and formed the party "Unión de Puerto Rico" (Union of Porto Rico), of which he was one of the directors.

After the political situation became normal under the administration of Governor Winthrop, the Unionist Party won a series of triumphs in all the electoral campaigns. Mr. Muñoz going all over the Island winning for him and his party the adherence of the people.

He was delegated to the House of Representatives by the district of Arecibo in 1906 and by that of Guayama in 1908, earnestly working in legislative activities during a period of four years.

In 1909 he went to Washington presiding over a commission of the House of Delegates which was sent there to protest before the National Government against several actions of the Executive Council which were frankly against the rights of the people.

In 1910 he was elected Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico at Washington and in 1914 he was re-elected and during this time, in 1912, he attended the conferences held at Mohonk Lake.

Absent from the Island in Washington he continued writing for "La Democracia," contributing to various sections of that newspaper, articles entitled "Cartas de Washing-

ton" (Letters from Washington), which he signed with the pseudonym "Fairfax," behind which everyone guessed Mr. Muñoz's vigorous and courageous style.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Muñoz made an actually extraordinary effort, whereas, notwithstanding his mature age he attained in a very short time a working knowledge of the English language, of which he had previously some knowledge due to study and reading, thus enabling him to express himself without the help of interpreters.

His last parliamentary speech—perhaps the most noteworthy piece of oratory of his long public career and in spite of the difficulty of delivering it in a language that was not his own, was that of 1915 in the House of Representatives at Washington regarding the Jones Act. In that speech he explained the aspirations of the people of the Island upon the basis of a brotherly agreement with the United States, without giving up its characteristics or its personality and history. Another of his important speeches was the one delivered in that same forum of right in favor of the Porto Rican Regiment.

During the six years that he represented Porto Rico in Washington he devoted his attention to questions concerning that island which were brought before the national government, without severing his close connections in the island. His experience, placed always at the service of the Unionist Party, made him the actual leader of that organization.

His last campaign in Congress as Resident Commissioner was that which he fought tenaciously supporting the Jones Bill (Porto Rico's present organic act), which was approved of, though perhaps unfortunately without some liberal amendments suggested by him. His last triumph was to obtain from Congress—an amendment stopping the general elections in Porto Rico until the new organic act was in force.

Mr. Muñoz Rivera returned to Porto Rico, September 20th, 1916, and delivered a speech of salutation to the people.

The next day he felt ill and was ordered to go to Barranquitas, his native place, where

he did not improve however, and so he returned to San Juan and went to the residence of his friend Don Eduardo Giogetti, in Santurce, where he died a few days later, on Wednesday, November 15th. His body laid in state for three days in a lighted room in the City Hall of San Juan, at the end of which it was taken to Barranquitas, where he was buried.

Thousands of persons of all classes followed the mournful funeral cortege across the Island, thus affording a sight never before or since seen in Porto Rico.

Muñoz Rivera's life covers thirty years of Porto Rico's history. He was Porto Rico's foremost political organizer, being endowed naturally, to be the leader of the island. Helped by such natural ability, he did his utmost within the limitations of the environment, occasionally surpassing said limitations.

Mr. Muñoz was also an innovator in Porto Rico's social environment. As regards art his verses gave to Porto Rican poetry—as properly expressed by one critic—"the string of bronze which it lacked," that is, civic poetry, which showed the patriotic ideals sublime; to journalism he gave the manifold and wide spirit of the modern press in his own light; in politics, he harmonized the promptings of idealism with the needs of reality, as he cooperated more than any one else to form governing parties of the Island's liberal elements, thus facilitating the fulfillment of Porto Rico's desires and the solution of its problems.

In the last period of his life, Mr. Muñoz revealed himself as a statesman and was credited as such in the United States, the same as he was for his moral qualities. He personified both strength and kindness, and is forever homaged in marble and bronze and better yet in the hearts of the people.

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**Quintín Negrón Sanjurjo**  
(1859—Barranquitas. San Juan—1922)

Mr. Negrón Sanjurjo was very diligent in his studies and early showed his ability for literature by contributing to the newspapers of the island. In his natal town he filled

several positions of an administrative character, but later devoted himself to business.

He was Municipal Treasurer in Comerio and Cidra, and manager and editor of "La Democracia," in Ponce. Under the Autonomous Government he filled such positions as Customs House Accountant of that port, and chief of the Government Secretaryship.

During the American Occupation he was Internal Revenue Agent, for that District and when he gave up that work, he founded and edited with Eugenio Astol, the Ponce newspaper "El Porvenir," which made an active propaganda for the party "Unión de Puerto Rico." Back in San Juan he succeeded in becoming a lawyer, studying alone, at the age of fifty years. He became Municipal Judge of the District Court of San Juan, Second Division.

He was a patriot of firm Liberal convictions, but his modesty hindered him from becoming prominent in political campaigns. As a writer, his style was synthetic and clear; he belonging to the small number of those who know how to observe and remember.

As a poet, he wrote pleasing verses of deep feeling, cultivating with preference, the epic style. Related by brotherly ties to the distinguished patriot Luis Muñoz Rivera, being his boyhood friend and companion, he wrote a biography of him, splendidly recorded and full of vivid personal impressions. This book will soon be published under the title "The First Thirty Years of Luis Muñoz Rivera."

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**Luis Rodríguez Cabrero**  
(1860—San Sebastián. San Juan—1915)

After obtaining his A.B. degree at the Civil Institute, in San Juan, Mr. Rodríguez very promptly proved himself a poet of great wit, through his first verses published during 1881-2.

The next year he sailed for Spain to take Law at the University of Santiago de Galicia and published in that city a satirical and literary review, called "Café con Gotas". Later in Saragosa he founded "La Camisa", a paper devoted to cartoons. Then going to Madrid, he made himself well known in "Madrid Có-

mico" for his witty writings, which were equal to those of the famous Spanish writers of that style.

He returned to Porto Rico without finishing his university studies but with well-deserved prestige in literature. In 1905, Rodríguez Cabrero was on the editorial staff of "La Democracia" at Ponce, publishing there his best works, exceeding in a notable manner in political satire, sometimes even exposing his life by that work. He was once brought to trial for defending the rights of Porto Rico.

Later, in San Juan, he was editor of "El Territorio" and "El Diario de Puerto Rico", papers of the Federal Party, and in collaboration with the poet José Mercado published a weekly, "El Sastre del Campillo", and also the review "Gil Blas".

Rodríguez Cabrero signed his works by several nom de plumes, "Diabolín", "Súarez de Mota", "Agapito Hinojosa" and "Cortadillo", being the most popular, and there is a selection of his poems in a small book entitled "Mangas y Capirotos".

He was admirably endowed as a writer; his satire being both sincere and full of fun, though in his lyrical composition a painful pessimism and a profound disillusion is revealed.

He also wrote, when circumstances demanded, strong articles advocating right causes, articles showing deep thought and courage, regardless of personal consequences. He was well versed in Spanish literature and especially familiar with the classics. His prose ranks among the best in the Island's literature.

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### Herminio Díaz Navarro

(1860—San Juan—1918)

Judge Díaz Navarro spent his childhood in Yauco, where his parents were teachers, and completed his higher education at the Jesuits College in San Juan. Returning to Yauco he began the study of Pharmacy, but later gave it up and went to Spain. There he became a lawyer at Madrid and Doctor of Laws at Barcelona. Returning to his country in 1885 he opened his office at Ponce. For his capacity

and diligence he became prominent in the Porto Rican bar, and obtain high standing in his profession.

In 1887 he made his first political campaign, at the Autonomist Assembly at Ponce. There and later in the tribune he secured a great oratorical reputation advocating self government.

In 1893 he became Municipal Judge at Ponce and later he was elected Provincial Deputy for that district. He was one of the founders and manager of the Liberal and Federal Parties, and in the papers of these parties he wrote vigorous articles, signing them with the penname of "Concha Alcázar. In 1898, he was elected representative to the Autonomic Legislature of which he was appointed President.

In 1899, under the American Military Government, he was Secretary of Justice of General Henry's Cabinet and in this capacity, he established the law for divorce, and abolished the use of the shackle in the prisons. In 1902 he was elected to the Insular Legislature for the district of Humacao and in that body was one of the leaders of the Federal minority and defended with firmness the rights of his island.

In the same year he went to the United States to study American law and in 1903 graduated as Master of Laws at Washington. In 1904 having retired from all political activities, he was elected to the Executive Council by the President of the United States. In 1908 he renewed his political activities, belonging to the Unionist Party, and was again elected member of the House of Delegates, rendering great services to the island's Parliament.

Most of the time he was President of the Legislative Committee of the House of Delegates and to him we owe many improvements in the code of laws. In 1912 he gave interesting lectures in the Ateneo concerning the political status of Porto Rico, in which he stated that the granting of citizenship implied the incorporation of Porto Rico as an organized territory. In 1916, he temporarily acted as President of the House of Delegates during the absence of the Speaker, Jose de Diego.

In 1917, he was the victim of an accident which badly injured his mental faculties and health, though even in this condition he kept

on working hard, but his vivid and clear intelligence began to gradually fade away until death overtook him.

While a student at Madrid he was a pupil of Rafael María de Labra and belonged to his social set, and on his return to Porto Rico he showed all the liberal ideas of his teacher. He possessed great facility of speech and a clear voice, well suited to oratory, which personal qualities, added to his extensive culture, won for him the applause of the public. An excellent parliamentary speaker, he was terrible in debate. He was also famous for his legal speeches. For his many useful works he should be long remembered by the people of the island.

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### Francisco Gonzalo Marín

(1863—Arecibo. Cuba—1897)

As soon as Marín finished his primary instruction, impelled by his journalistic taste, he founded in Arecibo a weekly newspaper entitled "El Postillón," but his patriotic fairness and the rude frankness of his style brought him many persecutions and trials. His newspaper was suppressed and he had to emigrate, first to the Dominican Republic and afterwards to Venezuela.

He was exiled from both countries, however, on account of his attacks on the government as then constituted.

On his return to Porto Rico, in 1890, he resided in Ponce, where he again published "El Postillón," which in its first stage had but an ephemeral life and died—says one of his biographers—"by the force of fines, lawsuits and suspensions."

He was in New York in 1891 and there he demonstrated his rebelliousness against the Spanish Government, collaborating in the secessionist newspaper, "La Gaceta de Puerto Rico," of A. Vélez Alvarado.

He was the secretary of the "Borinquen Club" and then published his first book of poems entitled "Romances."

In 1896, desirous of fighting for the liberty of Cuba, he arrived there forming part of the expedition of Dr. Rafael Cabrera. Soon after-

wards he was sergeant in the convoy of the general in chief Máximo Gómez and office secretary assistant.

While engaged in campaign he published another book of poetry, "En la Arena," of which there are few copies existing. Having lost his health from malarial fever contracted in the swamps he was sent with three other soldiers to a healthful and safe place where he could recover, but on going through the country, he could not stand the painful conditions of a long trip. His companions, on his petition, left him in the wilderness near Tariguanó, an islet of mangrove trees, trusting to return promptly with the necessary means to take him to his destination. They returned at the end of a month, but the brave skirmisher had died of the disease and they only found his skeleton.

Pachin Marín was a restless spirit, impelled by noble radicalism. His poems are full of passion. All his work is a cry of protest and of combat.

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### José Mercado

(1863—Caguas. Havana, Cuba—1911)

Mr. Mercado's schooldays unfortunately were short as it was necessary for him to go to work at an early age, his boyhood therefore was spent in humble commercial activities at Caguas.

While so employed a prize was offered in a contest of popular troubadours, when, much to his friends' surprise, "Jose," whose talent had been hidden, came to the front and carried off the laurel with the best compositions on tithes.

Soon after he went to Cayey to accept a commercial position there, but a born writer could not remain hidden in a business office, and a little later he was at San Juan engaged in journalism and producing many poems of amusing satire which proved to be the joy of his readers. In "La Balanza," in 1893 Mr. Mercado published many poems and prose articles sticking epigrammatically to current events and "hitting the nail on the head" every time. They were signed with the nom de



plume of "Momo" and soon friend "Momo" was very popular all over the island.

During his later life he wrote lyric verse; leaving in that form many demonstrations of patriotism. His best poems have been collected and published in a small volume entitled "Virutas." In 1905 he went to Cuba where he wrote for several newspapers, and won many new admirers, but unfortunately little money. Some years later he died at Havana. Of him it may be said sincerely "his humor was as witty as his talent was bright."

### **José Contreras Ramos**

(1865—San Juan. Ponce—1908)

Of poor and humble origin Mr. Contreras began his studies by the expenditure of very great effort, but could not go on due to most serious failing of health. Together with other students he founded in 1886 a literary review entitled "El Palenque de la Juventud" (Youth's Stronghold), the stepping stone of some of the Island's good writers.

At that time Mr. Contreras wrote two works of very different character, which showed the flexibility of his mind: One, "Juicio crítico sobre los principales poetas puertorriqueños" (Critical essay on the principal Porto Rican poets), and another, "La sociedad de socorros mutuos" (The Mutual Aid Society).

Moving to Mayaguez, he directed in that city the paper "El Imparcial" (Impartial). Then he went to Santo Domingo in 1894 and was director of "El Listin Diario" (The Daily Notes), waging in its columns a very strong campaign for the independence of Cuba and Porto Rico. He acquired a deserved popularity there for his articles and speeches, he being a very eloquent orator.

At Venezuela, later on, he was editor of "El Amigo del Pueblo" (Friend of the People). Returning to the Dominican Republic on several occasions and in one of them, he was expelled by President Hereaux, on account of his emancipation ideas, which broke all limitations.

In Venezuela he brought out a drama, "Marta," acted by the Spanish-Italian company of the actor Roncoroni; a comical comedy "Gajes del Oficio" (Tips of the Trade),

acted by Porto Rican artists, and also published a small book entitled "Notas Varias" (Assortment of Notes), a collection of campaign articles.

He was also on the editorial staff of "El Liberal" (The Liberal) and in 1901 edited "La Vanguardia" (The Vanguard) of Puerto Plata. In one of his return trips he edited at Aguadilla "El Criollo" (The Native), which belonged to the journalist Rodolfo Hernández López.

In 1898 at Ponce he was one of the editors of "El Correo de Puerto Rico" (The Porto Rico's Mail), where he carried out propaganda work in favor of the League of Patriots, thus seconding Hostos in the latter purposes.

In 1908 he was editing at Ponce "El Aguila de Puerto Rico" (The Porto Rico Eagle) and worked on this paper for four years, the last ones of his life. Once in a while he used to give lectures in the educational centers of the city.

Contreras was a dreamer, a candid soul, rather than a practical man, and paying no attention to himself. He had ability for criticism, liked historical subjects, and had very interesting controversies with other noteworthy journalists on historical points. He wrote with great facility and like so many writers died poor.

### **José de Diego**

(1867—Aguadilla. New York—1918)

Mr. de Diego took his bachelor degree in Spain, at the Polytechnic Institute of Logroño, attending afterwards the University of Barcelona, where he studied law. He started his political career as a member of the Progressive Republican Committee of Logroño. His literary inclinations and his liking for journalism were early shown by his contributions to "Madrid Cómico" (Comic Madrid), the "Semana Cómica" (Comic Weekly), "Verán Ustedes" (You will see), and the "Dominicales del Libre Pensamiento" (Free Thought Sunday Edition).

In 1885 he was prosecuted for a number of political articles he wrote, and imprisoned in

the jails of Barcelona, Tarragona, Valencia and Madrid, and after these political adventures returned to Porto Rico for a short time.

In 1887 he attended the Autonomical Assembly at Ponce, representing the municipality of



JOSÉ DE DIEGO.

Moca. Then he moved to Cuba, where he finished his law studies at the University of Havana, graduating in 1891, and taking his doctor's degree the following year. In 1892, he returned to Porto Rico and served his apprenticeship in the law office of Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón. He had already made himself known as an orator at the Autonomical Assembly at Mayaguez in 1891, where he made a sensation by the flashing fire of his speech. Shortly afterwards he practiced at Arecibo, where he took an active part in the political campaigns of his party establishing a paper "La República" (The Republic), the propaganda of which had a powerful influence on the people of the northern part of the Island.

In 1897, when the Autonomous Government was established, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Government and Justice, and at the same time was editor in chief of the paper "El Liberal" (The Liberal), founded by Luis Muñoz Rivera, and one of the most powerful papers that there have been in the island. Under the Autonomous Government he was Magistrate of the Territorial Audience.

In 1899 he was designated by General Brooke, U. S. A., to act as prosecuting attorney, and President of the Criminal Audience at Mayaguez, and in 1900 was appointed to the Executive Council by President McKinley, thus ending his judicial functions. In that same year he resigned his position together with Councilman Camuñas because it was then the opinion that the plan for dividing the Island into electoral districts had been designed in a manner which constituted a violation of the organic law of Porto Rico.

In 1903 his legislative work began in the House of Delegates, to which he was elected by the District of Mayaguez, and as leader of the Federal minority he fought there, a memorable campaign in defense of the rights of the people. From 1902 to 1917 his candidacy was always triumphant in all the elections. He was president of the House of Delegates (1907-1917) and Speaker of the House of Representatives (1917-1918).

In 1904, at the Assembly of the "Hotel Olimpo," the birthplace of the Unionist Party of Porto Rico, Mr. de Diego maintained in an ardent speech the so-called fifth plank, which committed the party to uphold in its program the aspiration to an absolute sovereignty, as one of the political aims expressed by public opinion. In 1907 he attended in his official capacity the Assembly of Speakers held at Jamestown in the States, where he presented a comprehensive report of his legislative activities.

On this occasion he called on President Roosevelt, then at Oyster Bay, and laid before him the case of Porto Rico, both as to its economic and its political aspects. Referring to the latter he called the President's attention to

the conflict of powers in the Foraker Act, by which a member of the executive council was also a legislator.

In 1912 he asked the national government for an appropriation of \$650,000 for dredging the harbor of San Juan; and was a member of a commission, which went to Washington to work toward this end. At that time, he attended in the federal capital the public hearing held on the bill creating the Department of Agriculture and Labor, where he spoke in favor of the measure. In 1913 he was a member of another commission which went to Washington to work for the maintenance of the protective tariff on sugar, and the same year he presented a thesis on "The Problem of Porto Rico," at the Mohonk Lake conference, addressing shortly afterward, a report on the main aspects of the question to the President and Congress of the United States.

Mr. de Diego was President of the Unionist Party. In 1915 he published a pamphlet suggesting a number of bases for the establishment of the Union of the Antilles, thus being a successor in this work of de Hostos and Betances.

In 1915 the Institute "José de Diego" was established at San Juan, in his honor and for a time he was professor of Roman Law in that establishment. At this time he was also President of the Porto Rican Atheneum, to which he gave great impulse with his conferences and by other means, always striving to establish close connections between this institution and those of similar nature in Spain and Latin America.

During his last years he devoted his energies, almost absolutely to the maintenance and propagation of the nationalist ideal. For this purpose he made a trip to Santo Domingo and Cuba in 1915, and another one to several provinces of Spain in 1916.

He was always greatly admired as an orator. Special mention being made of his speeches at the Madrid Atheneum, and at the house of America in Barcelona. On account of this patriotic pilgrimage, several papers in Spain and Spanish America referred to him by the title of "Knight of the Race."

Mr. de Diego founded in Porto Rico the Antillian Academy of Language, inaugurated at the Municipal Theater of San Juan on the night of the 23rd of April, 1916. This Academy, without relinquishing its own independence was to function as correspondent to the Royal Spanish Academy, and in harmony with institutions of the same character in Spanish speaking countries.

On returning to his native land, the decline of his life began, old diseases coming back more intensively, so that in 1917 it was necessary to have a leg amputated. Even so his moral vigor was unabated, but the disease continued its progress and he was taken to New York to be placed under the care of eminent specialists, but there shortly after his arrival on July 16th, 1919, "the Knight of the Race" died, and his body was brought to Porto Rico, where it received the great homage from all the people.

The last speech of Pepe de Diego was delivered in a Civil case before the Supreme Court, two days before sailing for the States. He was honorary member of the "Real Academia Hispano-Americana de Cádiz," of the "Unión Ibero-Americana" of Madrid, of the "Liga Cervantina Universal," of the "Academia Colombina Onubense" and was member of other judicial and literary societies.

Besides his journalist work and several pamphlets on political and administrative subjects, he published among others the following books: "Los Grandes Infames" (word pictures, in verse, of a revolutionary library in Spain, written in his youth); "Sor Ana" (his first poem in chronological order); "La Codificación Administrativa," "Apuntes sobre delincuencia y penalidad," "Arco Iris," "Pomarrosas," "Jovillos," "Cantos de Rebeldía" (verses); "Nuevas Campañas" (political articles), and he also left unpublished several artistic works and an epic poem on the discovery of América.

José de Diego possessed a multiplicity of faculties which he maintained in activity by his energetic and exhaustive endeavor. As the prominent jurist that he was, he studied deeply into the sources of law, to derive principles of universal application. As a poet, he

belonged to the good romantic school, although his lyric presented several phases: of a jovial, laughing nature in its beginnings, it later became revolutionary with touches of an ardent erotic emotion; then it turned constructive, enlivened with Christian feelings; afterwards it acquired a melancholic subjectiveness clothed in the spirit of modern poetry, and at last, the political and civic poet appeared, dedicated entirely to his country—the “Knight of the Race.”

As an orator, Mr. de Diego was one of the most applauded, especially on the public platform; his overflowing imagination subdued the multitudes and embellished his speeches with glittering literary images. In controversy he was quick with clinching arguments in his replies. As a prose writer his thoughts were expressed in bright, solid paragraphs. As a legislator, he paid attention to all the fundamental problems of the country and many improvements in the law were due to his constant, thoughtful action.

In the political order, he was the last apostle for the independence of Porto Rico; its most eloquent exponent with a voice that rang across all the seas, to gain the respect and consideration of the world.

José de Diego will always be remembered as a typical outgrowth of the old latin tree, for his dazzling eloquence, his inexhaustible search for the ideal, and his matchless spirit and fire.

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### **Tomás Carrión Maduro**

(1870—Juana Díaz. Ponce—1920)

Mr. Tomás Carrión Maduro was a self-educated man, but nevertheless made himself well known through several literary articles published in various papers of the Island.

In 1894 he went to Cuba remaining there one year and in Havana was an assiduous contributor to the journal of Juan Gualberto Gómez. There he also published a book of criticisms on Manuel Sanguili, entitled “Galop,” and some of his best poems.

Upon his return to Porto Rico he was several times prosecuted and imprisoned on account of his vigorous attitude against the gov-

ernmental regime of the Island. And after the change of sovereignty engaged in politics figuring in the Republican Party to which he gave his services as a journalist, an orator and a legislator, when elected to the House of Representatives.

He attended the Congress of Races held in London in 1911, visiting also the United States, France, England and Spain.

Besides his writings of a historical, literary and social character, which have not yet been compiled, he published three works: “Cumba” (a pseudonym which he frequently used), “Ten con Ten” and “Oradores Parlamentarios.” These three works are very difficult to classify, especially the first two for the reason that Mr. Carrión being a voluminous writer who did not specialize in any given method, used to embrace in an article the most varied topics; though he always gave whatever he wrote the seal of a powerful imagination, enriched with original ideas and observations.

His speech was warm and fluent as were his writings. In politics he was true to his convictions, and went oftentimes, in matters of proceeding, against the discipline of his party. He had the moral courage to publicly praise the merits of his opponents, and this even in times of earnest strife.

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### **Angel Celestino Morales**

(1876—Gurabo. Cienfuegos, Cuba—1911)

Pensioned by the Provincial Deputation and afterwards by the Municipal Government of Gurabo, his native town, Morales studied for six years in the Conservatory of Music and Declamation of Madrid, obtaining the first prize in scale exercises and another in violin playing.

He won the competitions for two positions as violinist; one in the orchestra of the theatre “Real” and the other in the Concert Society of Madrid, but did not accept either on account of family affairs that caused him to return to Porto Rico. He won meritorious fame as a concertist in his native land, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Haiti, the United States and Mexico.

**Eugenio Benítez Castaño**

(1878—Fajardo. San Juan—1918)

Mr. Benitez Castaño obtained his primary education at Vieques, and was municipal secretary there and later at Río Grande. During his free hours he studied law, and acquired wide knowledge in other matters. In Carolina in 1903, he published a weekly of intense patriotic ideals, "El Ideal Latino".

Later he went to the United States and there studied law at the National University at Washington. He finished his law studies getting his LL. B. degree in eleven months, and in the examinations won seven of the ten prizes given and also the medal of honor. He was warmly praised in the most important newspapers of the city for this victory which showed so strongly both his application and abilities.

Benítez Castaño opened his law office at San Juan, and acquired in a very short time merited judicial fame.

In politics, he was one of the younger leaders of the Unionist Party, and in literature he contributed to the principal newspapers of the island. He was one of the founders and editors of "La Revista de las Antillas" and was twice appointed to the House of Representatives (1910-11 and 1911-12) by his political colleagues. In 1909, with Muñoz Rivera and Cayetano Coll y Cuchí, he went to Washington as a member of a commission named by the legislative body, to present before the national government, the inalienable rights of the island.

Because of his ability and character he was, above all, a natural born leader. He was a writer of energy and courage and also a capable public speaker of sober and correct language. He was a poet of vivid inspiration and became noted for his patriotic poetry.

**Celio S. Rossy**

(1892—San Juan. Bangor, U. S. A.—1918)

Mr. Rossy completed his high school studies in San Juan in 1910, and in the same year he went to the United States, entering the Institute of Technology at Boston, where he

pursued the first year of engineering. But his inclination took him to another field of study and the following year he went to Harvard University, where in 1915 he became a teacher of Psychology. In 1914 he practised at the Psychopathological Hospital, an experience useful to him in his future studies.

Rossy dedicated his intellectual activities to experimental psychology, distinguishing himself as a specialist in diseases of the mind and nerves, and completing his studies he was appointed Psychopathologist in the Psychic Clinic of Sing Sing Penitentiary, New York State. In 1916 Harvard University awarded him the degree of Master of Arts for his praiseworthy labor there, where he worked with great enthusiasm, being one of the first to apply psychological methods to criminology.

The development of his study devoted to industry and commerce brought, in 1917, his appointment as manager of the Works Department of a large industrial concern in Norwalk, Connecticut, where he was also elected Vice-president of the Red Cross Association.

In 1918 he was appointed Industrial Counsellor of an important concern in Bangor, Maine, to make scientific examination and classification of the one thousand six hundred employees who were employed there.

Attacked by influenza, he was taken to the General Hospital of the State of Maine, where he died five days afterwards, being buried at Gardner, Massachusetts.

At an age when, as a rule, life really begins, Rossy began to acquire fame as a psychologist in American Scientific centers, and his premature death will always be mourned by his country.

Rossy published interesting articles on his specialty in American newspapers, and also gave several lectures, and an extract of one of them, given at the New York State University, was translated into Spanish by Dr. F. del Valle Atilas and published in "El Buscapié."

He left several dramatic essays, and toward the end he was busy with the publication of a book on criminology, tending to the creation of a Criminological Hospital for the cure of prisoners.