

Our Mission in Porto Rico

REPORT OF THE BISHOP-IN-CHARGE, ~~OF PORTO RICO~~

-1912 - 1913

date
Upon the resignation of the Right Rev. J. H. Van Buren, Bishop of Porto Rico, the Presiding Bishop issued his Commission to me to administer the Church in that ~~island~~ until the election and consecration of the next Bishop for Porto Rico.

During the year I have visited the ~~island~~ and all the points at which Missions have been established; but owing to the depletion of the clerical staff, I administered confirmation only in St. Luke's, San Juan, and St. Andrew's, Mayaguez. By reason of the quarantine regulations enforced by the other ~~islands~~ against Porto Rico on account of ~~subonic~~ plague, I reached the ~~island~~ only after many delays, and after having exhausted much of the time I had set apart for my visitation. I regretted this very much, as I do not wish our Church people to feel that they have been abandoned. I was prevented from making a second visitation by the necessity which required me to go into a hospital for a serious surgical operation. However, so much has been written about our work in Porto Rico that it is hardly necessary for me to go at all into anything descriptive of it.

The Staff

During the year there has been added to the ~~staff~~, the Rev. Paul R. R. Reinhardt, who after completing his studies in the General Theological Seminary was ordained to the diaconate in June, 1913. Mr. Reinhardt is a native of Porto Rico. He has been assigned

temporarily to the Church in Ponce. In absence of the Rev. F. A. Warden on furlough, the Rev. Rowland S. Nichols supplied the Church of St. John the Baptist in San Juan. The Rev. S. F. Adam who has been connected with the work for several years resigned in May, 1913. Miss Woodruff, who was attached to the teaching staff in Ponce, resigned before the opening of the school year. The Rev. Leonard Read was transferred from Vieques and given temporary charge of St. Andrew's, Mayaguez, and the Rev. S. F. Adam was given temporary charge of Holy Trinity, Ponce. The Rev. W. E. Hendricks was given charge of Vieques in addition to his work at Fajardo. In this manner all of the Missions were supplied with clerical services after my visit in December, 1912. I am glad to report that Dr. Lyman W. Crossman and Miss Violet Whitbeck have been added to the staff during the year. The Rev. Rowland S. Nichols was appointed archdeacon of Porto Rico and Haiti for the year 1913, and has done quite a good deal of service in Porto Rico during the year.

Evangelical^{the} Work

The smallness of the area of Porto Rico, together with the density of its population, gives great opportunity for evangelistic^{the} work, but we cannot report much advance made during the year. This has been due principally to the scarceness of clergy. As the language of the people is Spanish, although in a generation more they will all probably understand English, at the present time no successful evangelistic work can be done excepting in their own tongue. This means that clergymen from the United States have to

spend several years in the Island before they can efficiently minister to the people. The only solution for the native Missions is a Native Ministry; but with this Native Ministry there should always be the balancing influence of clergymen from the United States, who grasp and realize the genius of our Church.

Educational Work

The parochial schools as established under Bishop Van Buren in the earlier days of the work when the Governmental Schools were lacking in accommodation, have been continued up to the present time. I cannot feel that our supplemental work in this respect is so much needed now, although I am not in favor of abandoning the schools altogether. I think the schools should be conducted as Church schools, but that a tuition fee should be charged in all of them. This would serve the double purpose of teaching the people of Porto Rico self-support, and of relieving the demands on the Treasury of the Church. These fees could be graded according to the location of the schools and the class of people to which they appealed.

Hospital Work

I am glad to report that St. Luke's Hospital, Ponce, was reopened in February, 1913, with Dr. Lyman W. Crossman in charge, and Miss Violet Whitbeck as head nurse. This Hospital is well located, admirably built, and thoroughly equipped, ~~for its work,~~

and I feel sure that it has entered upon a period of excellent work. A house for the physician in charge has been provided for through the generosity of friends.

Albion A. Knight,
Bishop in Charge.

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Porto Rico.

Collected

Report of the Bishop in Charge of Porto Rico.

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During the year I have visited the Island and all the points at which Missions have been established, but owing to the depletion of the Clerical Staff, I administered Confirmation only in St. Luke, San Juan, and St. Andrew's, Mayaguez. Omission of the quarantine regulations enforced by the other Islands against Porto Rico, on account of the Bubonic Plague, I reached the Island only after many delays, and after having exhausted much of the time I had set apart for my visitation. I regretted this very much as I do not wish our Church people to feel that they have been abandoned - I was pre-vented from making a second visita-

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John W. Smith
Physician in Charge