

October 20, 1922.

To the President and
Members of the Board of Trustees,
Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

I am so profoundly impressed with what I have seen and heard during my few weeks' stay here in San German that I cannot resist the impulse to give expression in some way to my endorsement of the work. It seems to me to be most unique, unusually promising both for the present and the future.

I find over three hundred students are at work--cheerful, active and enthusiastic, both in their studies and in their manual work. Several hundred promising boys and girls are on the waiting list, eager and anxious to be admitted to the Institution; but, alas! there is no room for them as the dormitories and eating rooms are stretched now to the utmost capacity. Some have even offered to bring their own beds and sleep on the porches if only they may be permitted to come. Cannot something be done to accelerate the building program?

Dr. and Mrs. Harris are wonderfully efficient and capable, as is evidenced by what they have already done and are doing with the facilities at hand. Young men and women who have gone out from this Institute have made a most enviable reputation for themselves and for the institution. Almost daily unsolicited letters come telling of the influence of the graduates in the communities whither they have gone. In every town we pass through, in motoring, these former students come running out to greet Dr. Harris, proclaiming themselves with pride as "his boys". These graduates occupy positions in banks and commercial houses. Some are preachers and teachers.

The religious atmosphere of the Institute is most marked - sincere and earnest. Yesterday was Communion Sunday, and thirty-three of the students united with the church, thirty-two on confession of faith and one by letter. The students frequently hold Evangelical meetings on the streets here and in different parts of the Island.

Dr. Harris' unusual ability as an all-round Christian teacher and worker cannot be overestimated in a project such as this. His executive ability as a planner with large vision, his familiarity with the people of the Island, his perfect knowledge of their language and habits of life, and his ability to handle men, all make for the best possible returns for any increased facility that may be given him.

It would be entirely unnecessary to state these facts to any one of your number who may have had the pleasure of visiting the Institute. But is there not some way to make others realize these facts? Dr. Harris has an able assistant in the person of his good wife who bears her full share of responsibilities, not the least of which is her mothering of the seventy-five or more girls of the institution who look to her with gratitude and love for her guidance and help.

I anticipate with confidence that a future is opening for this wonderful work so auspiciously begun.

That God may continue to abundantly bless and sanctify this work in His Name is the earnest, daily prayer of

Yours very sincerely,

George D. Selden.