

No. 8 West 40th, St., New York.

Aug. 17th, 1899.

To His Excellency William McKinley,  
President of the United States.

Sir:

The undersigned Commissioner of the Puerto Rican people, ~~and in their name~~ respectfully submit for the kind consideration of your Excellency:

That in view of the condition, ~~and~~ ruin, and desolation in which the natives of the Island of Puerto Rico have been left by the disastrous action of the hurricane of August 8th, inst, which has destroyed one-fifth of their dwelling residences, and ware houses; <sup>the</sup> entire crops and plants of coffee, sugar-cane, tobacco, and smaller fruit; one-third of the live stock; almost all the industrial <sup>sources</sup> ~~sources~~, and agricultural implements, amounting to a total of about seventy-five million dollars, it becomes urgently necessary in order to bring relief, to begin <sup>at once</sup> by reconstructing the Island's sources of subsistence and interest. And for that purpose, the following concessions are deemed imperative, ~~and asked:~~

First. That the present rate of tariff duties be reduced 90 % on all goods imported to the Island, proceeding from the United States.

Second. That an extension of two years time be granted for the payment of all obligations, which fall due within the next year.

Third. That charters or concessions for the construction of means <sup>ways and</sup> of transportation be granted in order to invite capital in enterprises, that will give labor to the

destitute working classes.

Fourth. That banks and loaning institutions be established, if possible, under the control of the Government, that the agriculturists, merchants, and industrials, may without delay raise loans, with which to begin their work of reconstruction.

Fifth. That the United States Government begin at once the construction of public works in order to give employment to the hundreds of thousands, which are, at the present moment in a state of absolute destitution.

Respectfully submitted by

J. Julio Herrera  
Puerto Rican Commissioner.