

THE HARBOR, BUENOS AYRES.

THE OTHER END OF THE HEMISPHERE.

BY WILLIAM ELEROY CURTIS.

FOR a people so boastful of our enterprise and intelligence, we are shamefully ignorant of what is going on at the other end of the hemisphere, although transactions there are of much greater concern to us than the struggle for home rule in Ireland or the invasion of Afghanistan. We shall be roused from our indifference presently, however, when we meet the *estancieros* of Uruguay and the Argentine Republic in the markets for bread-stuffs and provisions, which our farmers and ranchmen have been accustomed to consider a permanent possession of their own. It is said to cost fifty dollars to place a carcass of Chicago dressed beef in the markets of London. The *estancieros* of the Argentine Republic are now shipping from seven to ten thousand carcasses a month, and those of Uruguay almost as many, at one-half that sum. Five years ago these countries imported their bread-stuffs from Chili and the United States. In 1884 they commenced to export cereals, and last year (1886) wheat, corn, and rye to the value of nearly seven millions and a half of dollars were shipped to Brazil and Great Britain. It is estimated, from the increased acreage under cultivation, that the surplus product for export in the Argentine Republic in 1887 will amount to the value of ten million dollars, and that of Uruguay about one-third more. We are sending from four to seven million dollars' worth of flour annually to Brazil. Mills are now being erected there to reduce the wheat of the Argentine Republic, and it will not be many years before the latter country will deprive us of our mar-

kets for bread-stuffs on the east coast of the Americas and the West Indies, as Chili has upon the west coast.

The valley of the Rio de la Plata—and by that term is indicated all the temperate zone of South America except Chili—will never compete with us in manufactured goods, because there is no fuel or water-power there, and the natives have no taste for mechanical industries; but at the present cost of production and transportation in the United States they must ultimately drive us out of the markets for provisions and bread-stuffs. If ocean ships could load at Denver and Minneapolis, if we could deliver beef cattle at tide-water at ten or twelve dollars a head and wheat at sixty cents a bushel, then we might compete with them; but with an area one-third the size of the United States, a very small portion of which is incapable of production, an extensive system of internal navigation, the value of which is enhanced by the depth of its rivers, supplemented by a net-work of railways, the nations of the La Plata have advantages surpassing those of any other nation on earth. In climate, in topography, and in resources they resemble the United States. The pampas are similar to the prairies of our own West; the “bleak and uninhabitable wastes” of Patagonia have developed into the richest of pastures, like the “Great American Desert” which used to lie between the Missouri River and the mountains. The pampas are of rich deep loam in the lowlands, and rise in mighty terraces to the west, where upon the uplands millions of cattle can be fed and sheltered. The foot-hills of the Andes are

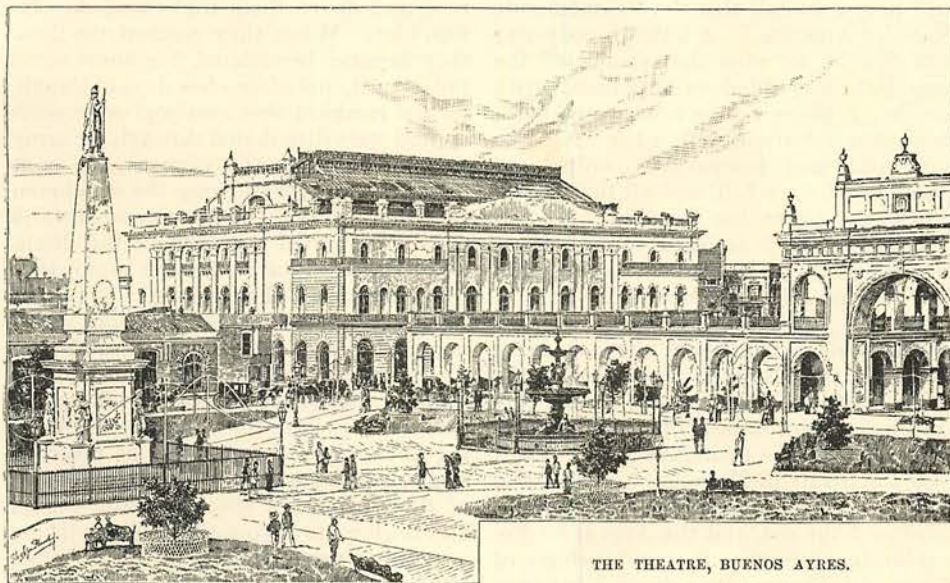
similar to the mountains of Colorado, and are practically unexplored. In the north are thousands of square miles of timber, and beyond it a soil that will produce sugar, tobacco, coffee, cotton, and rice. Within 1200 miles of Buenos Ayres can be grown every plant known to the botanists, and nature has provided the facilities for getting the results of that growth to market with a most generous hand.

During the last twenty-five years the population of the Argentine Republic has increased 154 per cent., while that of the United States has increased but 79 per cent., and the city of Buenos Ayres is growing faster than Minneapolis or Denver. Last year it received 124,000 immigrants from Europe, and the natural increase is very large. The new-comers are mostly Italians and Basques, with a sprinkling of Germans, Swiss, and Swedes. To tempt the immigrants into the agricultural districts the government has enacted land laws even more liberal than ours. Each head of a family is entitled to 250 acres free, and as much more as he desires to purchase, to a limit of 1500 acres, at about seventy-five cents an acre in our money. Or the settler may acquire 1500 acres free after five years by planting 200 acres to grain and twenty-four acres to timber. Free transportation from Buenos Ayres to the place of location is granted to all settlers and their families, exemption from taxation for ten years, and colonization societies are organized which issue bonds guaranteed by the government, the proceeds of which are loaned to the settlers in sums not greater than \$1000, for five years, with interest at six per cent., upon the cultivation of a certain amount of land and the erection of a certain amount of improvements. The results of these beneficent laws are conspicuous. In 1886 nearly nine hundred thousand acres of wild land were ploughed and planted. One firm in Buenos Ayres sold 1200 reapers manufactured in the United States, and other firms a lesser number; elevators are being erected upon the banks of the rivers, from which wheat is loaded into vessels for Brazil and Europe, and the average crop was twenty-two bushels of wheat to the acre.

Until within a few years the chief source of wealth was cattle and sheep. In 1885 there were forty-one million sheep in the United States, seventy-two millions in Australia, and one hundred mil-

ions in the Argentine Republic. We have two-thirds of a sheep to every inhabitant; in the Argentine Republic there are twenty-five sheep, and in Uruguay forty sheep, to every man, woman, and child. We have forty millions of horned cattle to a population of sixty millions; the Argentine Republic and Uruguay have thirty-eight millions of cattle to a population of four and a half millions. In Uruguay, with a population of five hundred thousand souls, there are eight millions of cattle, twenty millions of sheep, two million horses, or sixty head of stock for each man, woman, and child. Fifteen million dollars has been invested in wire fences in Uruguay alone, and more than twice as much in the Argentine Republic. In either of the countries a cow can be bought for five dollars, a steer fattened for the market for ten or twelve dollars, a pair of oxen for twenty-five dollars, a sheep for fifty or sixty cents, an ordinary working-horse for eight or ten dollars, and a roadster for twenty-five, a mule for fifteen dollars, and a mare for whatever her hide will bring. Mares are never broken to saddle or harness, but are allowed to run wild in the pastures from the time they are foaled till they cease to be of value for breeding, when they are driven to the *saladeros*, or slaughter-houses, and killed for their hides. A man who would use a mare under the saddle or before a wagon would be considered of unsound mind. There is a superstition against it.

Though we of the United States have little to do with the Argentine Republic nowadays, the pioneers of the prosperity of that country were citizens of this. In 1826 William Wheelwright, of Pennsylvania, was wrecked on the Argentine coast, and made his way to a small town called Quilmar, hatless, coatless, bootless, and starving. He remained in the place because he had no means to pay his passage elsewhere, and forty years later constructed the first railway in South America, from Quilmar to Buenos Ayres. He built the first railway in Chili also, and is the founder of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, whose vessels run twice a week from Liverpool to Panama, through the Strait of Magellan. Both Chili and the Argentine Republic have erected monuments to the memory of Mr. Wheelwright in their public squares. Another citizen of the United States may be given the credit of establishing the first ranch



THE THEATRE, BUENOS AYRES.

in the Argentine Republic, and laying the foundation of the wealth of the nation. This was Thomas Lloyd Halsey, of New Jersey, who in 1826 introduced improved stock from the United States, and commenced the business of raising them. Both Mr. Wheelwright and Mr. Halsey are dead, but Mr. Samuel B. Hale, who went down from Boston in 1828, and established the first commission-house in the republic, still lives to enjoy the esteem of the people and the great wealth he has accumulated, being recognized as the pioneer of the foreign commerce of the country.

From the herds Mr. Halsey imported have sprung the millions of sheep that now graze upon the pampas, and single ranches exist there which for the area inclosed by wire fences and for the number of cattle branded are larger than four of the largest in the United States combined. As in this country, the cattle business is becoming monopolized by vast corporations. Rich Englishmen and Scotchmen and Irishmen are combining their interests, leasing or buying empires of territory, and stocking it with the best breeds. Companies with five million dollars capital are common, and those with ten millions are not rare. The governments of Argentine and Uruguay subsidize the business of exporting frozen meat, and the Germans as well as the English and

Scotch are taking advantage of the liberal concessions. The governments will guarantee dividends of five per cent. per annum upon an investment of five hundred thousand dollars or more, provided the annual exports amount to twenty thousand carcasses of beef for every one hundred thousand dollars invested. The Liebig Extract of Beef Company has fifteen millions of dollars invested at Fray Bentos, a little town on the Uruguay River, where it consumes half a million head of cattle a year, and pays dividends of twenty-four per cent. The London and River Plate Frozen Meat Company is becoming as great a commercial octopus as the Standard Oil Company, and is now shipping seven thousand carcasses a week to England on refrigerator ships constructed for the purpose.

There used to be a place called Patagonia. It appears on our geographies now as "a drear and uninhabitable waste, upon which herds of wild horses and cattle graze, that are hunted for their flesh by a few bands of savage Indians of immense stature." I am quoting from a school-book published in 1886, and in common use in this country. The same geography gives similar information about "the Argentine Confederation." It makes the Argentines roar with rage to call their country "the Argentine Confederation." It would be just as polite

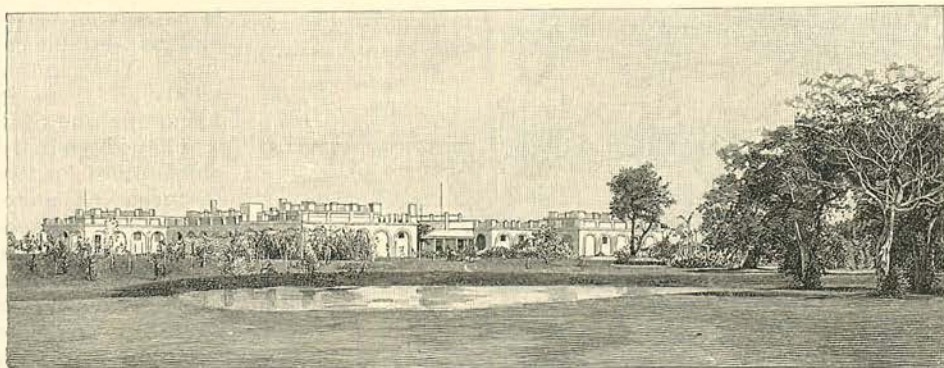
and proper to call this the "Confederate States of America." A bitter, bloody war was fought to wipe that name off the map, but our publishers still insist upon keeping it there. It is not a confederation; it is a Nation, with a big "N," like ours, one and inseparable, united we stand, divided we fall, and all that sort of thing—the Argentine Republic. To call it anything else is an insult to the patriots who fought to make it so, and a reflection upon our own intelligence.

Several years ago Patagonia was divided between Chili and the Argentine Republic, the Ministers from the United States to those two countries doing the carving. The summits of the Cordilleras were fixed as the boundary lines. Chili took the Strait of Magellan and the strip along the Pacific coast between the mountains and the sea, and the Argentine Republic the pampas, the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego being divided between them. Since the partition ranchmen have been pushing southward with great rapidity, and now the vast territory is practically occupied. There are no more wild cattle or horses there than in Kansas, and the dreary, uninhabited wastes of Patagonia have gone into oblivion with the "Great American Desert." The remnant of a vast tribe of aborigines still occupies the interior, but the Indian problem of the Argentine Republic was solved in a summary way. There was considerable annoyance on the frontier from bands of roving savages, who used to come north in the winter-time, steal cattle, rob, and ravish, and the outposts of civilization were not safe. General Roca, the Sheridan of the River Plate, was sent with a brigade of cavalry to the frontier to prevent this sort of thing. East and west across the territory runs the Rio Negro, a swift, turbid stream like the Missouri, with high banks. Fifty miles or so from the mountains the river makes a turn in its course, and leaves a narrow pathway through which everything that enters or leaves Patagonia by land must go. Across this pass of fifty miles General Roca dug a ditch twelve feet deep and fifteen feet wide. The Indians, to the number of several thousand, were north when the work was done, raiding the settlements. As spring came they turned to go southward as usual, in a long caravan, with their stolen horses and cattle. Roca galloped around their

rear, and drove them night and day before him. When they reached the ditch they became bewildered, for they could not cross it, and after a few days of slaughter the remnant that survived surrendered, and were distributed through the army as soldiers, while the women were sent into a semi-slavery among the ranchmen they had robbed. The dead animals and men were buried together in the ditch, and there has been no further annoyance from Indians on the frontier.

The few that remain seldom come northward, but remain around Punta Arenas, the only settlement in the Strait, hunting the ostrich and other wild game, trading the skins for whiskey, and making themselves as wretched as possible. The robes they wear are made of the skins of the guanaco, a species of the llama, and the breasts of young ostriches. There is nothing prettier than an ostrich robe, but each one represents the slaughter of from sixteen to twenty young birds, and they are getting rare and expensive as the birds are being exterminated, as our buffaloes have been.

The Gaucho (gowcho) of the pampas is the most interesting character on the continent. He is the descendant of the aristocratic Spanish don and the women of the Guarani race, a species unknown to any other part of the world, whose nearest likeness is the Bedouin of Arabia. He is at once the most indolent and the most active of human beings, for when he is not in the saddle, devouring space on the back of a tireless broncho, he is sleeping in apathetic indolence among his mistresses or gambling with his chums. Half savage and half courtier, the Gaucho is as courteous as he is cruel, and will thrum an air on the native mandolin with the same ease and *nonchalance* as he will murder a fellow-being or slaughter a steer. He recognizes no law but his own will and the unwritten code of the cattle range, and all violations of this code are punished by banishment or death. Whoever offends him must fight or fly, and his vengeance is as enduring as it is vigilant. He never shoots, or strikes with his fist, and his only weapons are the short knife which is never absent from his hand or his belt, the lasso, and the "bolas," implements of his trade, offensive and defensive. A fight between Gauchos is always to the death, and it is the duty of him who kills to see that his victim is



PALACE OF DON MANUEL ROSAS.

decently buried, and the widow and orphans cared for. The widow, if she pleases him, becomes his mistress, and the orphans grow up to be Gauchos under his tutelage. As superstitious as a Hindoo, peaceable when sober, but regardless of God and man when drunk, as brave as a lion, as active as a panther, with an endurance equal to any test, faithful to his friends, as implacable as fate to any one who offends him, he has exercised a powerful influence upon the destiny of the Argentine Republic, and retarded civilization until overcome by an increased immigration of foreigners.

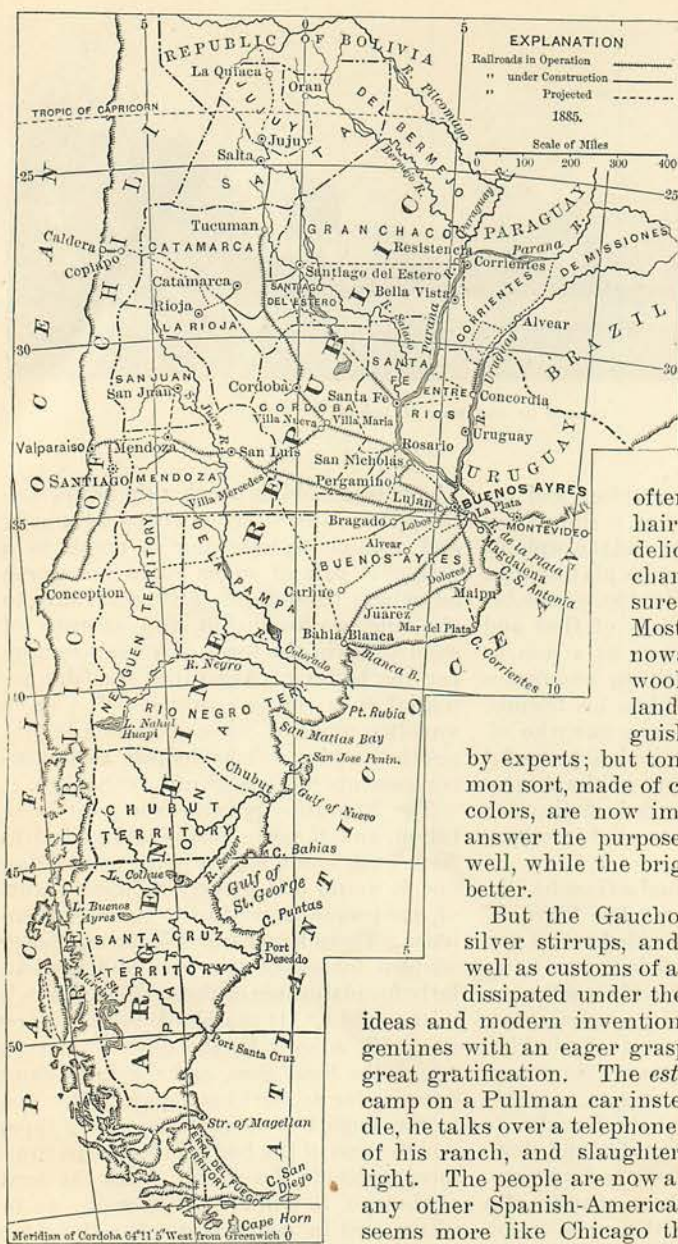
The Argentines once had a Gaucho Dictator, Don Manuel Rosas, "The Eternal," as he called himself, who ruled with a despotism of iron and blood for twenty-two years—from 1830 to 1852. He was the son of a wealthy Gaucho of the same name, and commanded a regiment of his kind in the war for independence. So powerful did he become that it was an easy step from the chieftainship of the Gauchos to the Presidency of the republic, and finally to the head of an absolute despotism, which existed for nearly a quarter of a century, in defiance of the constitution and the laws.

But the day of the Gaucho is passing. Immigration and civilization have driven him to the extreme frontier. Like the North American Indian, he decays when domesticated, and a tame Gaucho is always a drunkard, a loafer, and a thief.

Silver ornaments for bridle and saddle are legal tender in exchange for anything saleable wherever the Gaucho goes, and what is his seat by day and his pillow by night he uses as a sort of savings-bank.

I have seen saddles worth a thousand dollars, with solid silver stirrups, pommels, and ornaments, weighing as much as a man. A pair of silver spurs are worth anywhere from \$50 to \$100, according to size and workmanship, and stirrups of solid silver in the form of a heelless slipper the belles of Argentine consider essential to a riding costume. The same are often made of brass, and when highly polished add a unique feature to the accoutrements of an Argentine caballero.

The Argentine poncho is a great institution, and if some fashionable swell in New York would set the style by wearing one, it would add greatly to the comfort of our people as well as to their convenience. There never was a garment better adapted for out-of-door use, and particularly for plainsmen or those who are much in the saddle. It is a blanket of ordinary size, with a split in the centre through which the head goes, and the folds hang down as far as the knees, giving free use to the arms, but always furnishing them and the rest of the body shelter. In summer it shields the wearer from the heat of the sun, in winter it is as warm as an ulster, and in rainy days takes the place of an umbrella. The native is never without it, summer or winter, afoot or horseback, at home or abroad. It stays by him like his shadow, and gives him an overcoat by day and a blanket by night. Ponchos were formerly made of the hair of the vicuña, a sort of a cross between the llama and the antelope, found in the Bolivia Andes. Before the conquest vicuña was the royal ermine of the Incas, and none but persons of princely blood were allowed to wear it. A vicuña poncho



MAP OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

is as soft as velvet and as durable as steel. You can find plenty of them in Argentine and Chili that have been in the old families for two centuries or more, and have been handed down with the family jewels as heirlooms. They never wear out, and, like lace, improve with age. But genuine vicuña ponchos are hard to get, and very expensive, costing often as much as a camel's-hair shawl. The color is a delicate fawn, and will not change when wet, which is a sure test of its genuineness. Most of the fine ponchos worn nowadays are made of lamb's-wool in Manchester, England, and cannot be distinguished from vicuña except by experts; but tons after tons of the common sort, made of cotton and wool of gaudy colors, are now imported annually, which answer the purpose of the Gaucho just as well, while the bright tints please his taste better.

But the Gaucho, the poncho, the solid silver stirrups, and the other costumes as well as customs of a romantic past, are being dissipated under the new régime. Modern ideas and modern inventions are seized by the Argentines with an eager grasp, and are enjoyed with great gratification. The *estanciero* now goes to his camp on a Pullman car instead of a silver-laden saddle, he talks over a telephone with the superintendent of his ranch, and slaughters his cattle by electric light. The people are now a hundred years ahead of any other Spanish-American city. Buenos Ayres seems more like Chicago than any place south of Mason and Dixon's line. Five railroads radiate from it in different directions; 122 miles of street-car tracks furnish conveyance within its limits; there are more telephones in use in proportion to the population than in any other city on the globe; the electric light is in more general use for streets, dwelling, and business houses than in New York or Boston; nine theatres are constantly open; Italian opera is given twice a week for six months in the year, with tickets at six dollars; and there are twenty-one daily newspapers, two of which are published in the English language, the editor of the most enterprising being Winslow, the fugitive Boston forger. There are banks in Buenos Ayres larger in capital and volume of business than almost any in the world, and occupying palaces of iron, glass, and marble. The Bank of the Province has a paid-up capital of

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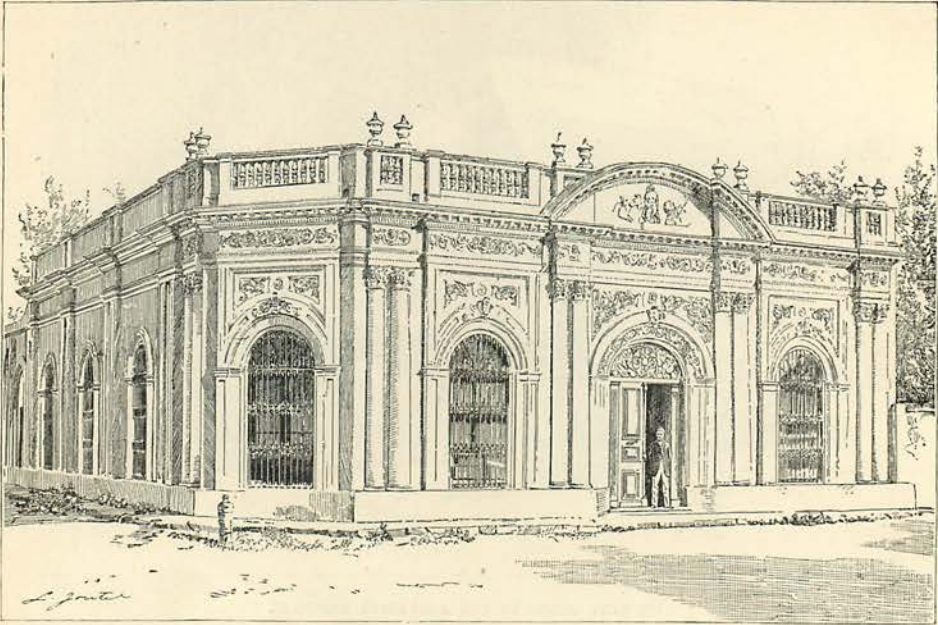
COUNTRY SCENE IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

\$37,000,000, a circulation of \$22,000,000, deposits amounting to \$56,000,000, and \$67,000,000 of loans and discounts. The National Bank has a capital of \$20,000,000, one-half of the stock belonging to the government, and it pays dividends of twenty-two per cent. There are nine banks with more than a million capital, and the average amount of deposits per capita of population is sixty-four dollars, while it is only forty-nine dollars in the United States.

Where the rivers do not run, the government is building railroads, and on the 1st of January, 1887, there were 4200 miles under operation, with contracts for an extension of the system amounting to nearly fifty millions of dollars. All of the roads are either owned by the government or subsidized by it. The common method is for Congress to give a tract of land as a gratuity, and guarantee interest to the amount of four or five per cent. upon the actual amount of money invested in construction. It is a singular fact that the government has never been called upon to make good any of the several railroad guarantees. It is claimed that the capital invested in railroads in the Argentine Republic gives a larger return than in any other country, the dividends for the entire system averaging over six per cent. Nearly all the capital is Eng-

lish, while most of the employés are Irish or Scotchmen. Baldwin locomotives and Pullman cars are generally used, and constitute, with agricultural machinery, the bulk of the imports from this country. There are very few people in the United States who are aware that Pullman sleeping cars are running across the pampas from the Atlantic Ocean to the foot-hills of the Andes, and it will be a surprise when I say that within a year or two those who desire to cross the southern continent from ocean to ocean may have a choice of railway routes. One line, now completed with the exception of a hundred miles or so, runs almost directly from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, Chili. The other is to connect the port of Bahia Blanca, two hundred miles south of Buenos Ayres, with the coal-fields at Concepcion and Talcahuano, on the Pacific coast. These roads will save commerce five thousand miles of ocean navigation around by the Strait, and revolutionize the trade of the continent.

But an enterprise of still greater magnitude and importance to the world at large is the railway that is being pushed into the heart of the continent northward from Buenos Ayres. Let whoever is interested in the subject take a map and trace a line northward through Santa Fe and Santiago to Tucuman, where the rail-



A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN BUENOS AYRES.

road now extends; then to Jujuy, to which point it is under construction; thence northward to Potosi and the lake of Titicaca, on whose islands the empire of the Incas was born. There is a railway now from the Pacific coast to Lake Titicaca, operated by a Mr. Thorndyck, of Boston, and all the produce of Bolivia reaches market by that route; but having once reached the Pacific, it must be transported through the Strait or around the Horn, or by the Isthmus, which route shippers avoid.

Bolivia is doubtless the richest in minerals of any land on the globe, and millions upon millions of precious metals have been taken out of her mines by the primitive process which still exists, and must exist till railroads are constructed to carry machinery there. Every ounce of ore that finds its way out of the Andes is carried on the back of a man or a llama, and the quartz is crushed by rolling heavy logs upon it. By this method Bolivia exports from twelve to fifteen millions of gold and silver annually, and the output would be fabulous if modern machinery could be taken into the mines. The distance from Jujuy to the farthest mining district of Bolivia is seven hundred miles, and it is no farther to the dia-

mond fields of Brazil. Bolivia offers a grant of twelve square leagues of land and forty thousand dollars a mile for the extension of the Argentine Northern to Sucre, and English capitalists are ready to continue the work as soon as the Argentine government drops it at the boundary line. When it is built the owners of this road will hold the key to a country which has excited the cupidity of adventurers since the New World was discovered. It has furnished food for four centuries of fable, and armies of men have died in search of its treasures. A territory as large as that which lies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains remains entirely unexplored. On its borders are the richest of agricultural lands, immense tracts of timber, diamond-strewn streams, and the silver and gold deposits of Cerro de Pasco and Potosi. What lies within is the subject of speculation. The tales of explorers who have attempted to penetrate its mysteries read like the old romances of Gondal and the El Dorado of the Amazons, where the women warriors wore armors of solid gold; but the swamps and the mountains, the rivers that cannot be forded and the jungles which forbid search, the absence of food, and the difficulty of



STATUE OF ST. MARTIN.

carrying sufficient supplies on foot, with the other obstacles that have prevented exploration, will be overcome eventually, and the secret that has tantalized the world for four centuries will be told by ambitious scientists.

Hinton R. Helper, who wrote a book that hastened the American civil war, is considered a lunatic because he goes about advocating the construction of a railway from the city of Mexico southward to the capital of the Argentine Republic,



THE CATHEDRAL OF BUENOS AYRES.

but his arguments and the answers to them are the same that were used when Thomas H. Benton advocated a transcontinental line in the United States. Mr. Helper anticipates events, that is all. He may not live to see through trains running from New York to the Rio de la Plata, but they are as certain as the movement of the stars, and to doubt it is simply to assert that the coming generation will not be as enterprising as this.

It is expected that the railway to the northern boundary of the republic will be completed by the end of the present year, and the shippers on the Pacific coast will not have to wait much longer till two lines of track are open to the Atlantic. Then Buenos Ayres will be the London, the New York, of South America, the entrepot of the south half of the continent. All merchandise sent to and from the Pacific must pass through its ports, and the enterprising government is preparing to handle it. When Pedro Mendoza, in 1533, came to establish a colony on the Rio de la Plata, he selected about the worst spot he could have found for his city, although he had half of South

America to choose from. But, as was the rule with the Pickwick Club, Spanish explorers went out at their own expense, and Don Pedro stuck his stakes where he landed. The site of the city has been repeatedly changed on the map, but no influence has been sufficient to induce the people to move, until now they have accumulated to the number of four hundred thousand, and such an act cannot be expected of them. The river is about sixty miles wide, and the water correspondingly shallow. The erosion of forty thousand miles of swift-flowing current is dumped in front of the place where docks ought to be, and vessels have to anchor from seven to ten miles out to find water enough to float. There they are loaded and unloaded by means of lighters, and in the winter season, when that dreadful pest the "pampero" (a prairie wind) blows, they often have to lie for a week at a time waiting for the water to go down so that they can land their load and passengers. Nor can the lighters reach the shore, but the freight has to be unloaded into water wagons, with wheels about seven feet in diameter, drawn by mules

that are driven into the stream till only the tips of their noses are above-water. Passengers who arrive are given the choice between a cart and the back of a stormy Italian, who never fails to swear by all the saints and the Virgin that the man on

To remedy this the government has tried various means, and expended a large sum of money. Finally a contract has been entered into with an English firm for the construction of a harbor—a pocket of piers with the mouth down-stream,



JUAREZ CELMAN.

his back is the heaviest he ever carried, and demands more than the usual fee for extra baggage. Lacking confidence in the sincerity of the *cargador*, the passenger will promise him heaven and earth if he won't drop him into the water, and fights for fair treatment when he gets safely on shore. All freight has to be handled at least three times between the steamer and the warehouse, and the cost of loading and unloading is double the price of transportation to Hamburg or Liverpool.

which it is believed is practicable, and will allow vessels to be docked. The cost is to be ten million dollars, and the time of construction limited to five years.

The magnitude and the increase of the foreign commerce of the valley of the River Plate are remarkable. In 1876 the Argentine Republic imported thirty-six millions' worth of manufactured merchandise; in 1885 the imports reached eighty-four millions. In 1875 the foreign commerce of Uruguay amounted to twenty-five millions; in 1885, the last figures

obtainable, it had jumped to over fifty-two millions. One-third of the imports are furnished by England, and about one-fifth each by France and Germany, while the United States comes in at the tail of the list along with Sweden and Hungary. We buy a lot of carpet wool and many hides, for we must have them. They buy of us such goods as they cannot get elsewhere—agricultural implements, railroad cars and engines, a little lumber and petroleum, amounting to less than half what we buy of them. During the last ten years our exports to the River Plate Valley have increased about three million dollars. Those of England during the same period have increased over twenty-two millions.

Fifty-seven steamers arrived at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres each month last year. There is not a city of any importance on the Atlantic or Mediterranean coast of Europe that has not direct communication at least twice a month, and most of them have steamers going back and forth weekly. In 1886 there arrived at these ports 309 steam-vessels from England alone, and not one from the United States. This great progressive nation was represented by two per cent. of the vessels that arrived under canvas, and yet there are those who wonder why we have no trade with the River Plate!

Nearly all of the steam-ships which enter the mouth of that river receive subsidies from the nation under whose flag they sail. England, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, all encourage their ship-owners to furnish transportation facilities for their tradesmen. The English government spends five hundred thousand dollars a year for mail transportation to the River Plate, and the commerce she enjoys is the result. For several years there has been a standing offer on the part of the Argentine government of a subsidy of one hundred thousand dollars a year to any company that will establish direct steam communication with the United States, notwithstanding the fact that she has the benefit of twenty-one direct lines to Europe to which she pays no subsidies. There is, however, one serious condition attached to the offer which has prevented its acceptance. The government of the United States must pay as much.

The people of the River Plate countries are amazed and humiliated by the attitude

of the United States toward them. They look at this as the Mother of Republics, they dispute with Chili the honor of being estimated "the Yankees of South America." They study and imitate our methods, and in many instances have improved upon them. They want intimate political and commercial relations; they want a reciprocity treaty, under which they agree to admit free of duty our peculiar products, provided we will admit free their carpet wool. No protection will be removed from our industries, for we do not produce the wool they sell us—the heavier, coarser varieties, used for making carpets alone. They offer to give us ten to one, and we now discriminate against this friendly neighbor by the classifications in our custom-houses. To be the United States of South America is the ambition of the Argentine Republic. While Brazil has the greater population, and Chili is exulting boastfully over her devastation of Peru, the Argentine Republic is enjoying the greatest prosperity, and laying the most solid foundation for national greatness. Its credit is good among nations, its bonds are above par. Its people enjoy civil and religious liberty to a greater degree than any other of the Spanish American nations. Its next generation will wipe out all the old traditions of Spanish domination, for the young men and women of the republic are being educated as ours are, to be useful citizens.

The foremost citizen of the Argentine Republic, till his recent death at a ripe old age, was Francisco Domingo Sarmiento. He was once Minister to the United States, and while here became imbued with the spirit of our institutions. Being elected President, his first executive act was to organize a school system similar to that of the State of Michigan, which he most admired, and the university of that State recognized the compliment by honoring him with the degree of Doctor of Laws. Through the co-operation of the widow of Horace Mann, he imported twenty or more teachers from the United States to organize a group of high-grade normal schools for the education of instructors, which are still in operation, and have proved a great success. Between thirty and forty ladies are now engaged in the work, most of them graduates of our higher institutions of learning. Their influence has been wide-spread. Their example has widened the spheres of the

women of that country, and broken down the old social restrictions inherited from Spanish times. Not long ago one of these ladies, Miss Clara Armstrong, of Minnesota, was rebuked by the papal envoy for teaching heresy in her school. He com-

age in the republic are enrolled. Not only are the schools free, but books and apparatus are furnished by the government. Teachers are paid larger salaries than in the United States, and are sent once a year at the expense of the government to



MAXIMO SANTOS, PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY FROM MARCH 1, 1882, TO NOVEMBER, 1886.

plained of her to the Minister of Education, and the charges were investigated. Miss Armstrong was sustained by the government, and the papal envoy was expelled from the country by order of the President for interfering with civil affairs.

The annual appropriations for the support of the school system are four millions a year, which is \$10 20 annually per pupil—a larger sum than any other government devotes. The average in the United States is \$8 70, in Germany \$6, and in England \$9 10. Education is compulsory, and seventy-two per cent. of the children of school

Teachers' Institutes, where they are instructed in the duties they are expected to perform. Those pupils who attend the normal schools are paid thirty dollars a month for a course of three years, provided they will sign a pledge to teach three years at salaries not less than \$480 a year. The two national universities, at Cordova and Buenos Ayres, like the common schools, are free to all who enter them. The former has a faculty of twenty professors, and two hundred and ten students; the latter a faculty of forty-two, and over four hundred students. The instructors are mostly Germans, but the director of

the National Observatory is an American, Mr. B. A. Gould.

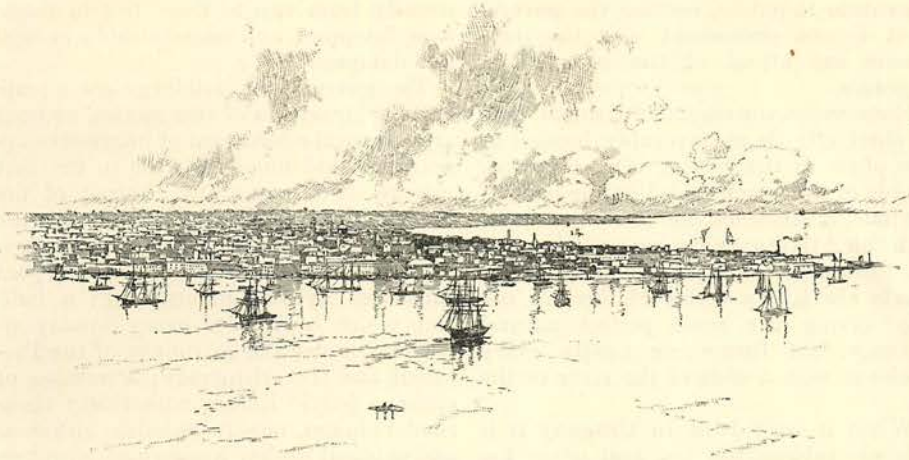
There are a Church of England society, a Scotch Presbyterian, an American Presbyterian, a German Evangelical, three Methodist churches, and a Jewish synagogue—the only one in all Spanish America. In some of the countries Jews are not allowed to live, but in Argentine, where religious as well as civil liberty is protected, they are numerous, and worship every Saturday in their own way. In 1884 the Methodists celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Protestant service held in the country, and it was emphasized by an incident which attracted a great deal of comment, and was significant as showing the religious toleration that exists. Formal invitations were sent as a mark of courtesy to the President and all the prominent officials, but there was no expectation that they would attend, as the great majority of the people are Catholics, and officials are sworn to support that faith. Just as the services were about to commence, however, the managers of the affair were astonished to see the President, followed by his cabinet, walk into the church. Conspicuous seats were given them, and they seemed to take great interest in the exercises. After the Rev. Dr. Wood, the Superintendent of Missions, had concluded his address, in which he reviewed the history of Protestantism in Argentine, he invited President Roca to speak. The latter promptly responded, and the audience knowing he had been born and reared in the Catholic Church, were amazed at the eulogy he pronounced upon the Protestant missionaries, and the enthusiasm with which he complimented the work they had done. To their influence he attributed much of the progress of the republic, and he urged them to enlarge their fields and increase their zeal.

The term of office for which President Roca was elected expired in September, 1886, and he was succeeded in office by his brother-in-law, Juarez Celman, a gentleman of great learning and ability, who has served in various positions of distinction, and was a Senator in Congress at the time of his inauguration. Roca was a soldier born and bred, frank, firm, positive, with a high ambition for the future of his country, and the true spirit of progress. Celman is a man of greater culture and experience in statesmanship. Roca sprang

from the saddle into the President's chair; Celman comes ripened by long experience in public affairs, and with quite as broad views as his predecessor. He may not have the energy of Roca, but has better judgment. The six years for which he is elected will see great progress in the Argentine Republic, and if the same degree of peace can be obtained in Uruguay, there will be a corresponding development there.

The twin cities of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo are distant one hundred and ten miles, the former being on the right and the latter on the left bank of the river, which is sixty miles wide. Two lines of magnificent steamers connect them—just a night's ride—and people go back and forth as they do between New York and Boston. The larger business firms and several of the bankers have houses in both cities, and the social as well as commercial conditions are similar. But the political history of Uruguay is a story of revolution and tyranny. The two political parties are "the Colorados" and "the Blancos," but I have never been able to find out what either represents, or wherein they differ. General Santos, who has been President most of the time since 1882, gave them an issue to fight over in the war of extermination he waged against the Catholics; but while the Church has always stood in the path of progress, and the priests have always been engaged in political conspiracy, Santos adopted extreme measures, and by his tyranny and exactions created a party of the opposition that was finally strong enough to overthrow him.

The inhabitants of Uruguay are known as "Orientals," with a strong accent on the last syllable. Although it is the smallest of the South American states, its agricultural and pastoral resources are believed to be the richest, with undiscovered possibilities in a mineral way. In the time of the Viceroy considerable gold and silver were obtained from placer washings, but during the long struggle for independence, and the sixty years of internal wars that followed, the operation of the mines ceased, and their localities were forgotten or obliterated by the people, who were mercilessly robbed of the wealth they gathered from this source. No country ever suffered more from war than Uruguay, as for the last hundred years a bloody struggle, under one excuse or an-



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other, had been going on within her borders, and until Santos came into power, there was a new government, or an attempt to form one, almost every month.

It is said that there is not an acre of unproductive land in Uruguay. The soil and climate are such that almost any grain or fruit in the list of food products can be raised with a minimum of labor. There is plenty of useful timber, and the grass is so luxuriant and nutritious that more cattle can be fed upon a given area than in any country in the world. All Uruguay needs is peace to become rich and powerful. Her population has doubled within the last ten years, not from immigration alone, but from natural causes, for her statistics show a larger birth rate and a smaller mortality than any civilized nation. It is quite remarkable, and the fact is deserving of attention from scientists, that of every 1000 births in Uruguay, the ratio for several years has been 561 males to 439 females. In the United States the ratio was 506 males to 494 females by the last census, in England 485 males to 515 females, and on the continent of Europe 492 males to 508 females. Another remarkable fact is that the ratio of insane is only 95 per 100,000 of population, while in the United States it is 329, in Great Britain 322, and on the continent of Europe 248 to the 100,000. But what is equally interesting to home-seekers is that food products are cheaper in Uruguay than anywhere else on earth. Beef, mut-

ton, and fish cost from three to six cents per pound, eggs seven and ten cents per dozen, partridges and similar game birds ten cents each, domestic fowls from ten to fifteen cents each, with other articles in proportion. Labor is very scarce and wages are high, consequently the public wealth is increasing very rapidly. A few years ago peons were not paid more than five or six dollars a month, while thirty cents a day for odd jobs was considered exorbitant. Now no native can be hired for less than a dollar, and the Italians, who compose the laboring class for the most part, will demand and often get more. The latter are thrifty, economical, and save their earnings. The wealth of the country in 1884 was \$580 per capita of the population, while the foreign commerce amounted that year to \$240 for each man, woman, and child. The increase since has been rapid. With a population of 500,000 in round numbers, Uruguay produces 5,000,000 bushels of wheat annually, an average of ten bushels per capita, and this with only 540,000 acres of ground under cultivation, including gardens and parks. I believe no other land can show such an average.

The aborigines of Uruguay, who were an intelligent, industrious race of Indians, and had some of the simpler arts, have been entirely exterminated. Their civilization was complete. Of the 500,000 population, nearly one-third are of foreign birth. Italy furnishes the most and the

best of the immigrants, but the arrivals are not so large or so regular as in the Argentine Republic, because the government is not permanent, and the newcomers are afraid of the conscription sergeants.

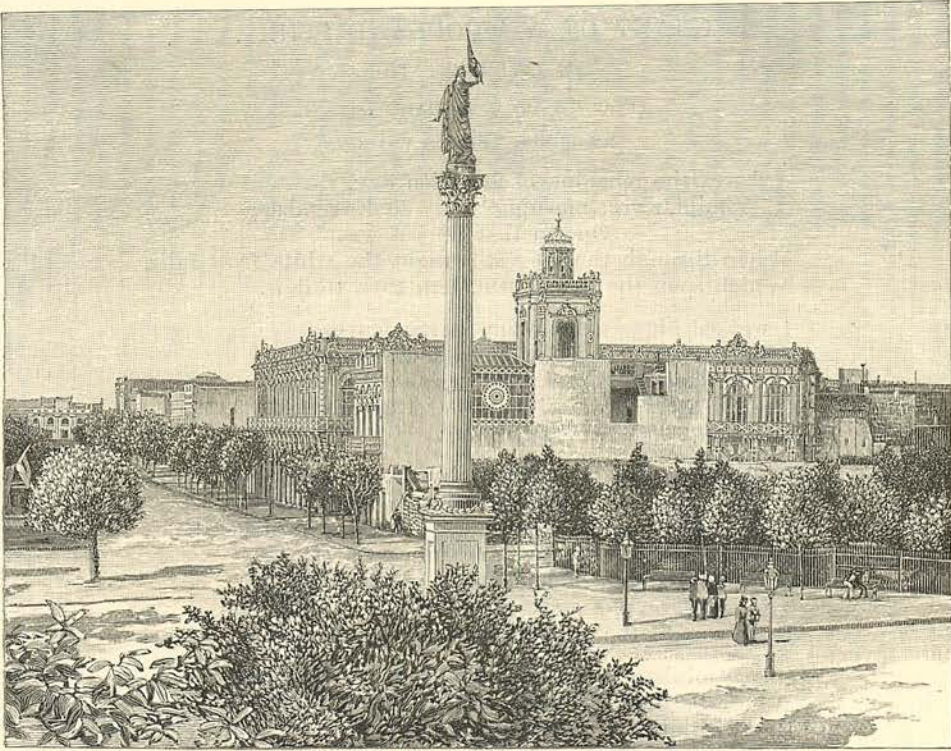
Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay and its chief city, is as favorably located as any place in the world. On a narrow tongue of limestone rock like the back of a whale, it stretches out from the coast, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Rio de la Plata on the other. The streets are like a series of terraces, not only giving the most perfect natural drainage, but furnishing nearly every residence with a vista of the river or the sea.

When it isn't June in Uruguay it is October—seldom too hot, and never too cold. There isn't such a thing as a stove in the entire country, and the peons wear cotton garments the year round. But the thorn in the side of Uruguay is the pampero, a cold westerly wind that is born in the Andes, and sweeps across the pampas with the violence of a hurricane. Then the ships in the harbor pull up their anchors and run out for sea-room, and the inhabitant of the city wraps his poncho about him and says "Caramba!" What Montevideo most needs is a harbor, and it hopes soon to have one, a French company having been given a contract to construct a breakwater that will cost nine millions of dollars. Around the curve of the bay fronting the river are a large number of beautiful villas, or "quintas," as they are called, built in the ancient Italian style, with the most luxuriant display of gingerbread work and plaster of Paris mouldings. The gardens which surround these villas are full of fruit and flowers summer and winter alike, and give the place the appearance of perpetual spring. During the summer season the people of Buenos Ayres come over for the sea-bathing, and the city is very gay. A prevalent taste which inspires the owners of these villas to paint them in gay colors—red, pink, purple, green, and orange—is being somewhat modified by foreign travel, and of late years the quintas as well as the city houses are taking on more sombre hues. There are more beautiful and costly residences and business blocks in Montevideo than in any other South American city except Santiago, the capital of Chili. Considerable carved mar-

ble is used, but the standard building material is sun-dried brick, and the walls are usually from two to three feet in thickness, fire-proof, and impenetrable to heat and dampness.

The government buildings are cheap-looking structures of two stories, without architectural adornment or impressive appearance, and much inferior to the best private dwellings. The Church of the Mother, the cathedral of Uruguay, is the largest and finest building in the country. There are three theatres; an Italian opera subsidized by the government; a bull-ring which is crowded every Sunday afternoon, under the patronage of the President and the aristocracy; a number of clubs; a public library with thirty thousand volumes, mostly Spanish historical and political works; a museum; a university which is the summit of a free-school system; and all the et-ceteras of modern civilization. The ladies dress in the height of the Paris fashion, the shops contain everything that can tempt the taste of an extravagant people, there are dinner parties and balls, and time is improved or wasted as it is in Paris or Madrid. The gentlemen go to their counting-rooms at seven in the morning, when their wives and daughters go to mass. At eleven they return to their homes for a breakfast of seven or eight courses, then take a siesta, go back to their business about three, work until six, and dine with great formality at seven. The ladies of Uruguay are famous for their beauty and fine complexions—the blessing of the atmosphere; but after thirty they lose their symmetry of form, which is doubtless owing to their indolence.

Street-cars run everywhere, and pay big dividends, for no Spanish-American ever walks when he can ride. Even the beggars are literally on horseback, and the stranger is often startled by a ragged and dirty creature galloping up to him and asking, in a piteous voice, "For the love of Jesus, gentleman, give me a farthing to buy bread." The national drink, for which he will undoubtedly spend this, is called *cana*, and is made from the fermented juice of the sugar-cane. It contains ninety per cent. of alcohol, and is sold at two cents a goblet, so that a spree is within the reach of the poorest man. All goods are delivered from the shops by horsemen, for there is not a cart in town. When you hire a carriage, for



SCENE IN MONTEVIDEO.

which you are expected to pay one dollar an hour, a peon, called a "chancadero," runs along beside it the entire distance, no matter how great, so that he may get a fee for opening the door when you reach your destination. He is actually a footman, and is never allowed to ride beside the driver, who is of better caste, and regards himself as a superior being. No hackman will ever get off his box, and if you refuse a *medio* (six cents) to the "chancadero," you are a miserable sponge.

The cemetery, which overlooks the sea, is one of the finest in all America, and fortunes have been expended in erecting tombs and monuments to the dead. There may be single sepulchres in Greenwood that surpass in costliness any that are to be found in the Campo Santo of Montevideo, but nowhere is so great an assemblage of costly and beautiful tombs.

One of the customs of the country, which I have not observed elsewhere, is for the dead to be carried to the tomb by the hands of their friends.

The city is lighted by electricity, and more than three hundred telephones were

in use in 1885. Gambling is the national vice, and men, women, and children selling lottery tickets are as thick as newsboys in the cities of the States. The porter at the hotel informs you that he is supplied with tickets for all the drawings; the clerk at the store where you trade invites you to invest the change he hands you in his favorite lottery, and tells you that a lady who bought a ticket of him drew a prize of ten thousand dollars last month.

One of the curious customs is the manufacture of butter. The dairyman pours the milk warm from the cow into an inflated pig or goat skin, hitches it to his saddle by a long lasso, and gallops five or six miles into town with the milk sack pounding along on the road behind him. When he reaches the city his churning is over, the butter is made, and he peddles it from door to door, dipping out the quantity desired by each family with a long wooden spoon.

The city of Montevideo has a population of about 125,000 souls, and twenty-three daily newspapers.