

*PATRONIZING THE SOUTH AMERICAN
REPUBLICS*

THE report made by Mr. Bard to the trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace¹ describes a tour of South America made by a party of twelve young men from our universities, and one naturally inquires what the party proposes to do in behalf of international peace. The purposes of the expedition seem to have been comprehensive—remarkably so, in fact—though nothing is said specifically about peace. It is inferred that peaceful ends are to be attained through the cultivation of friendly relations in general and by the building up of North American commerce with South America. Any one who has much personal acquaintance with South American peoples and conditions is necessarily interested in such expeditions.

It is fully realized nowadays that neither persons nor peoples can be friends unless they have some acquaintance with each other, and we are bound to think well of any effort that really helps, or seems likely to help, towards a better acquaintance with our Latin neighbors. But the discoverer of a new country always does well to be modest in his claims, and, in so far as possible, to look at things from the point of view of the country and of the people thus discovered. And really the business of discovering people is a bit risky, for the reason that they may not be entirely new, nor is discovery altogether flattering to the people discovered. A while ago Mr. John Doe, a distinguished North American, made a trip to South America, where he was kindly received and handsomely treated, and when he came home he gravely announced that South America was waking up. A gentleman who had known that part of the world for a great many years received the statement with the quiet remark: "I suspect that it is Mr. John Doe who is waking up."

¹ "Intellectual and Cultural Relations between the United States and the Other Republics of America," by Harry Erwin Bard. Publication No. 5, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Division of Intercourse and Education. 8vo, 35 pages. Washington, 1914.

But Mr. Doe's discovery was not the first one, nor yet is it the last one. Various societies for the promotion of all sorts of things, and boards of trade from all sorts of places, have made the grand tour of South America, visiting the same cities, being received by the same people, and seeing the same sights, and they have all come home with the same story: "South America is waking up!"

When an organization of such serious purposes as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace entered the South American field, it was supposed that, having grown to man's estate, we had now put away childish things. But though this last expedition takes itself very seriously indeed, the program as given in the published report looks remarkably like the same old thing. The description of the experiences of one of these junketing expeditions is much the same as that of any other. They make known their coming beforehand in the countries to be visited, and the program is about the same for one as for another. Greetings are wired back and forth from various stopping-places on the way, and even while they are yet at sea, so that by the time one of the chief cities is reached the whole nation is fairly agog. Arrived in port, they are met with special launches by official committees appointed by the government, at whose expense they are put up and entertained at the best hotels; traveling inland they are given special cars and special trains, and are met at railway stations by various dignitaries, often with bands of music and fireworks; they are driven about in the finest of motors; they are shown all the showy sights of the cities they visit; they are taken to the operas at public expense; refreshments are served them on all possible occasions; they are banqueted and toasted and hear beautiful complimentary speeches and deliver a few themselves; and finally, loaded with presents, pictures and publications (p. 17) they get back on board their steamers (at government expense again), where they settle down in their comfortable steamer chairs, profoundly impressed with their own importance and by the sensations they are evidently creating. And all these manifesta-

tions of the warm-hearted, polite and generous hospitality of the Latin peoples our representatives accept as evidences of the "waking up" of South America, and as tributes to our general superiority, sagacity and super-humanity.

Thus encouraged, these representatives of ours—these innocents abroad—generally open their hearts and give their hosts the benefit of their wisdom and patronage. In the present case it was suggested to a minister and also to a president that a certain group of teachers would like to visit the United States and the Panama Exposition, "and they seemed pleased with the idea" (p. 12). And such a new idea too, and one that would cost so little—to us! Of the city of S. Paulo, Brazil, it is said that the "people show intelligence and purpose in all their movements" (p. 8). How it must please the people of Brazil to be told that they show intelligence and purpose! It is frankly stated that the chief aim of the party was to "make favorable impressions everywhere," and it is believed that the general impressions on both sides were good (p. 20), while everywhere they found eagerness for "closer intellectual and cultural relations with the people of the United States" (pp. 8, 15, 19).

Is it any wonder that the utility of such expeditions is questioned? What do these young men know, and what can they reasonably expect to learn in the few strenuous days spent among them, of the grain, the traditions and the point of view of the people of South America? This particular expedition spent eight days in Brazil, three days in Uruguay, six days in Argentina, nine days in Chile, and one day in Peru—just twenty-seven days on the continent of South America! The author of the report lays stress on "the experience and knowledge gained on this trip" (p. 20), while some fear is expressed lest "this golden opportunity for mutual service may pass without profit" (p. 20)—a fear that we cordially share with the members of the party.

Evidently it is not realized by those who are responsible for them that such excursions tend to discredit the very men—their fellow-countrymen—who have lived for years in

South American countries, who must of a necessity form the very groundwork of any future business we can reasonably hope to develop; for they are the ones who have built up good reputations and sound business by right living and right dealing, and who do more for North American trade than all the junketing expeditions and drum-beating delegations ever sent out either by public or by other organizations whose judgment is not on the proper footing with their good intentions.

Our profound ignorance of Latin America is not to be whitewashed over by such processes; nor are the people of South America of the kind to be taken in with a lot of colored glass beads or palaver.

There are a few fundamental principles that should be called to the serious attention of those who are responsible for such expeditions as this one, or for efforts of any kind to cultivate trade or friendly relations with South America:

First, business relations and business confidence in South America are things of slow growth, just as they are in other parts of the world.

Second, the experience of residents, and authorities who have spent their lives in studying and meeting the conditions of commerce and intercourse can not safely or justly be brushed aside and disregarded.

Third, if the people of Latin America are to be patronized and talked down to, our efforts to gain their confidence or to establish cordial relations with them will never meet with any genuine success.

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January 8, 1915

*A NEW FIELD SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY FOR
HARVARD UNIVERSITY*

At a meeting of the visiting committee of the department of geology and geography held with the members of the staff on January 30, plans were presented and approved for extending the field work conducted by the department during the summer months. Professor Wallace W. Atwood, who recently re-