

The Democratic Sentinel

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

J. W. McEWEN, PUBLISHER

THE YOUNG REPUBLIC.

BRAZIL: ITS RIVERS, FORESTS, PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS.

A Country Larger than the United States—The Immense Amazon Valley and Its Trackless Woods—Vegetable and Mineral Wealth.

A Mighty State.

Recent stirring events in Brazil, the overthrow of an old and well-established government, the foundation of a republic, and the unsuccessful attempt of its subversion, have given this faraway country an interest which otherwise it could never have acquired.

In shape Brazil closely resembles a heart—a heart of enormous extent by the way, being nearly 2,700 miles from north to south, nearly the same from east to west, and comprising within its territorial limits more than 5,200,000 square miles. Great Britain has more territory, but the dominions of Great Britain are scattered, and the globe has under his control a greater number of square miles, but they are contained in two continents; in Brazil alone can it be said that in one political and geographical division is comprised a greater extent of territory than in any other country on the globe. Excluding Alaska Brazil has 200,000 square miles more of area than has the United States, or, to use a familiar expression, is as large as the United States and one-half of Mexico. It is nearly as far from the most northern point in Brazil to the most southern as from New York to San Francisco, or from the frontier of Mexico to the Arctic circle. We are accustomed to think of Brazil as a tropical country, but as a matter of fact the most northern province of that vast country is almost as far from the equator as the State of Missouri. The coastline is nearly 4,000 miles in length, and a vessel that would sail from Cape Horn to the State of São Pedro do Sul must make a voyage equal in length to that from New York to Liverpool. It is difficult to grasp the idea of so enormous a country, nor is the difficulty lessened by a contemplation of the fact that of this vast territory more than two-thirds are drained by one river system, the greatest in the world. Some

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The city of Rio de Janeiro does not differ greatly from other cities save in such respects as are incidental to its situation and climate. It is fairly well built, well lighted, and has good communications in the shape of street cars and other conveniences, but the drainage is imperfect, and yellow fever is almost constantly present, though rarely assuming a malignant form. Several natural elevations in the city give it an extremely picturesque appearance, and the abundance of tropical vegetation imparts a luxuriance to the scene which is nowhere save under a tropical sky. Besides various public institutions founded under the empire and fostered by the liberal policy of the rulers, the city can boast of one of the finest libraries in the world. When the ruling family of Portugal emigrated to Brazil the royal library was taken along, and so the Brazilians have a collection of over 100,000 volumes and manuscripts mostly relating to the early Portuguese travels and settlements, and, historically considered, of immense value.

Protecting Ships' Bottoms.

The question of providing some effective method of protecting ships' bottoms has come to be a matter for serious consideration. The condition of the bottoms of the flagship Charles when taken out of the water the other day at Mare Island is described as astonishing. All sorts of marine growths, animal and vegetable, covered the entire wetted surface so thickly that it was impossible to inspect the steel plates; and until these growths shall have been removed, when it is feared more or less corrosion will have set in, this investigation cannot be made; and the problem how to protect the bottoms of our new and costly ships, especially in the Pacific, will be again presented to our naval authorities. One of the modes suggested for overcoming this difficulty is the use of Japanese lacquer.

It appears that this idea emanated from a lacquer manufacturer of Tokio, who noted the fact that lacquered objects that have been subjected to sea water were found to be practically uninjured after a considerable period of immersion. Experiments were made on ship plates at the Yokosuka Navy Yard, and soon after the bottom of the Fuso-Kan was lacquered. The result was so satisfactory that many other vessels of the Japanese navy have since been subjected to the same process.

Experiments are now in progress with anti-fouling lacquer that promises very well. The contractors guarantee a lacquer coat for three years, and, according to the rates charged in Japan, the cost of applying it to a vessel like the Charleston would be \$2,000, at 13 cents per square foot. The lacquer would in all probability cost about double the price here. It is understood that plates thus prepared are now at the New York Navy Yard under test. Lieut. Murdock, who has devoted a great deal of attention to the subject, estimates that it will last three years, is cheaper in the long run than painting.

How to Saw By.

Some boys do only what they have been done by somebody else; other boys, the boys who make a mark in the world, look at things with their own eyes, and if a thing needs to be done, set about doing it. Without brag or bluster they act as if their motto were, "What man has not done, man can do." Of one such boy the Washington Post prints a characteristic anecdote.

A few years ago a green country boy applied to the superintendent of a Western railway for work, and, somewhat against the superintendent's wish, on account of the danger to life and limb attendant upon such occupation, was given a place as brakeman of a freight train.

On one of his first trips it happened that his train met another freight train at a station where the side track was not long enough to accommodate either of them. The conductors were debating which train should back up to a point where they could pass, when the new hand ventured to suggest that neither should back; that they could pass each other by means of the short-side track if the thing was managed right.

The idea excited a good deal of laughter on the part of the old trainmen, but the boy stood his ground.

"Well, how would you go about it?" asked one of the conductors, confident that the lad would soon find himself against a stump.

The boy took up a stick and traced in the sand a diagram to illustrate his plan.

"Good gracious!" said the conductor, "I believe that will do it."

And it did do. To-day every trainman in America knows how to "saw by" two long trains on a short side track, but it is not so generally known that the thing was never done until an inexperienced country boy, who is now the manager of a great railway line, worked out the problem for himself.

Redemption of Paper Money.

Paper money drops from circulation, but is not lost; whenever a note becomes very much soiled and worn it is sent to the Treasury for redemption. The women experts employed to examine the money sent in are wonderfully skillful. It is marvelous how deftly they will poke over a few charred fragments of notes and set an accurate valuation upon them. Not very long ago a poor woman sent a bag corner of a twenty-dollar bill, with a pitiful story about her baby's having burnt it. Hardly more was left than a fragment big enough to show the figures of the denomination, but she will get the money back.

Mice are great destroyers of paper currency, and some of the most hopeless specimens that come in have been chewed up for beds for these little rodents. Sometimes a pill-box full of indistinguishable ashes will arrive, accompanied by a certificate stating the amount represented. Of course, such a case is hopeless. It is usually a kitchen-stove catastrophe. Kitchen stoves burn up more cash every year than is lost in any other way. People confide their hoards to them for hiding, and when they are lighted the greenbacks go up in smoke. It has been estimated that one per cent of paper money is lost or destroyed. Of the old fractional currency it is reckoned that eight million dollars' worth has been totally lost.

The fellow who stole the contribution-box at Goshen, Ind., is supposed to have just returned from the sea shore.—Columbus Post.

country. The varieties of timber are most wondrous, and the supply is inexhaustible. Prof. Agassiz counted on one piece of land not half a mile square 117 varieties of valuable timber,

cient to protect them from the weather, and when the neighboring forest and the stream before the door supply every want. This immense province, therefore, of 700,000 square miles, has but 70,000 population. Grão Pará, with 460,000 square miles of area, has but 320,000, and Maranhão, with 168,000, has only 385,000, the three Amazon provinces with an area larger than that of the United States east of the Mississippi, having a total of 775,000. Most of these aborigines are as yet unconverted; they are savages in the wildest sense of the word; warlike, revengeful, many of them are cannibals, and all are dreaded by the whites, who shun them and with great difficulty have been able to drive them back, but never to drive them away. Politically, Brazil is divided into twenty states and one "neutral municipality," the boundaries following those of the provinces which constituted the Empire. There is an enormous discrepancy both in the size and in the population of the States, however, from the enormous State of Amazonas, with its sparse population, to the petty State of Lérispe, which has only 39,000 square miles, though its population, 275,000, compares favorably with that of several which are, in geographical extent, greatly its superior. The total population of the republic is 9,913,000, which, considering its size, is very scanty, and to be accounted for by the extent and uninhabitability of the forests which constitute the valley of the Amazon. Besides the capital there are several cities of much commercial importance. At the mouth of the River Amazon, the alluvium of the stream, deposited for ages after age, has gradually built up an island, whose size may be imagined from the statement that it exceeds the combined area of the Azores, Madeira, Holland, Malta and Gibralter, opposite the southern shore of this island, from which it is separated by the Jara River, lies the flourishing City of Pará, the metropolis of the Amazon Valley. Pará, though with a population of only 70,000, is an exceedingly important city, since all the trade of the Amazon passes through the hands of its merchants, and though its manufactures are insignificant, its exports are enormous. In the year 1888 the exports of rubber alone amounted to 33,000,000 lbs., at a valuation of \$6,462,000, while the exports of precious wools, hides, coffee, sugar and other articles rendered the rubber export insignificant by comparison. The State of Pernambuco, also a maritime State, has a capital of the same name, generally called the Venice of America, on account of the numerous canals which run through it every direction. From Pernambuco the principal export is sugar, and no small share

of which were dark, heavy woods, beautiful as rosewood or mahogany, and susceptible of as high a polish. Over 400 different species of ornamental woods were exhibited at the last National Exposition held in Brazil, and even this exhibition was believed not to ex-

haust the number. Nor is the forest wealth of Brazil exhausted with the list of solid and ornamental woods. Medicinal plants are numerous, and their products are of immense value. The great macha Randolph, which towers above the other trees of the forest like the dome of

Idea of the size of the Amazon may be gained from the statement that over 350 rivers, any one of which would elsewhere be deemed a considerable stream, unite to make up this giant among rivers. For nearly 4,000 miles, according to Hennings, the Amazon flows in Brazil and the countries to the west, and some conception of its magnitude may be gained from the fact that 900 miles from its mouth it receives a tributary itself 2,000 miles in length.

Nor is that all. The magnificent Rio Negro, the greatest river of the tributary, itself 1,000 miles long, is connected by natural canals with the Orinoco, so that one may travel for 1,000 miles from the mouth without ever entering the main stream. It is safer to do so, for in certain seasons the "bora" or tidal swell in the river rises so高 that waves fifteen to thirty feet in height, which sweep everything before them, uprooting the stoniest trees and endangering the strongest ship. The Amazon is the river of a continent, it rises within seventy miles of the Pacific, and drains most of South America, and although only partial steam communication has been established over 10,000 miles of inland water travel have been thus opened up to the world. The whole of the Amazon Valley, which, as already stated, comprises two-thirds of Brazil, is one vast forest of tropical vegetation. A recent traveler says: "From the plains of Venezuela to the prairies of the Argentine Confederation there is a boundless diversity of grand and beautiful trees, at every point intertwined with vines of such prodigious size as elsewhere to be deemed trees, while the matted and creeping plants, draped, festooned, corded, matted, and ribboned in every direction, form an almost impassable bar to the progress of the traveler. Long Buckle pointed out that the exuberance of nature in a tropical climate, under a burning sun, with water in abundance, was almost as great a barrier to the progress of civilization as the rainless deserts of the Sahara or Arabia. Nature is too abundant. When a piece of land, with infinite pains and labor, has been cleared of the indigenous trees, a thousand species of grasses spring up, and by the most exertion the husbandman is unable to have a crop from the weeds. A road may be cleared through the forest with the hatchet and machete to enable the traveler and his company to pass, and a few days later it is impossible to detect where

the business of its 15,000 inhabitants

consists in handling this and the coffee, which, fresh from the tree, is drunk like milk; allowed to remain until coagulated, it provides an excellent article of food.

Among the important seaports the city of Bahia must take place in the first row. It is located in the State of the same name, which is the second in population in the republic, has a population estimated at 18,000, and an enormous trade with Europe. It is singularly favored by nature, having no less than eight spacious harbors, any one of which will admit ships of twenty feet draught. Like most tropical cities, Bahia is not impressive to the sight, at least so far as the buildings are concerned. Few of them exceed one story in height; most are of slight construction, the materials being easily available and very cheap. A few easily available and very cheap. A few walls of interlaced palm leaves, a roof of palm or tiles, and the tropical house of Bahia is built.

The city is spread over a wide extent of ground, since plenty of room is very essential in the tropics, and no dwelling is so poor as to be without its shade trees.

The soil of the State is especially well adapted to the growth of the sugar cane, and from one planting five or six crops

may be cut before a replanting becomes necessary.

It is said that the price of sugar sufficiently remunerative to justify the clearing of the ground Bahia could supply the world with sweetness and have some to spare for home consumption.

Commercially, the State of Rio de Janeiro is of more importance than any other in the republic. Its lower extremity is the Tropic of Capricorn, so that the city has a climate almost identical with that of Rio Janeiro, which lies under the Tropic of Cancer, and the State has 300 miles of coast line, an area of 63,000 square miles and a population of 1,164,000, the city itself, the "neutral municipality" already mentioned, having a population of 406,000. Nearly two-thirds of the sugar and coffee exports of Brazil find their way to the outside world through the magnificent harbor of Rio, and in sight of the wonderful Sugar Loaf Mountain, a remarkable natural formation, may be seen at one time the flags of every maritime nation in the world. In 1888, 3,330,185 bags of coffee were exported from Rio alone, each bag weighing 132 pounds, and more than two-thirds of the entire export comes to this country. Reciprocity with such a country would pay well, and the sound policy which has dictated a commercial

policy has been made to establish colonies on the banks of the Amazon, but in vain, and the only inhabitants of the great State of Amazonas, the largest in

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DAVIS' DAUGHTER.

She Is the Ideal Realization of Southern Maidenhood.

Miss "Winnie" Davis possesses not only the ability to make a profession of her artistic powers, but has developed also her literary powers to a practical extent, writes Alice Graham McCollin in a sketch of the daughter

of Jefferson Davis in the Ladies Home Journal.

She has of late months written extensively for the current periodicals, and reviews of this country, and is always a welcome

contributor. She

sings delightfully, playing her own accompaniments with charming simplicity. In appearance Miss Davis is even prettier than her portrait makes her.

Tall, slender, fair-haired, with gray eyes of peculiar beauty, she is the ideal realization of Southern maidenhood.

She has a sweet Southern voice and a manner which evidences the gentle, courteous heart beneath.

Her mother bears tribute to her as "the best and dearest of daughters."

Her father when on his deathbed said that she had never disobeyed or given him pain, and without an exception every one who comes at all under her gentle refinement feels her to be a woman with

Heart on her lips, and soul within her eyes.

Soft as she is, and sunny as her skies,

Clever Colle.

T. Sidney Cooper, the English animal painter, says that he often made valuable studies in Cumberland, at places where Scotch drovers halted with their cattle for the night. On such occasions, he often had a chance to see illustrations of an animal's intelligence, as well as of its physical

strength.

One day, when there was a pouring rain, a man consented to sit for me at the inn where I was staying. He brought his collie with him, and both of them were dripping wet; so he put off his plaid, and laid it on the floor by the dog.

I made a very successful sketch of the man, but before I had finished it, the dog grew hasty with the wet plaid, and his master said, "Tak! it awa' man, tak! it awa'!"

The dog took the end of it between his teeth, and dragged it out of the room.

After I had finished the drover's portrait, I asked him if he thought his dog would lie quiet for a time, as I wished to sketch him.

"Oh, yes, mon," he answered, "he'll do anything I say to him. Watch! Watch!" he called, and then "whistled" for the dog, as the Scotch say.

As the dog did not appear, we went together to look for him, and found him sitting before the kitchen fire, with the end of the plaid in his mouth, holding it up to dry. I expressed my admiration of his intelligence, and the master replied:

"Ah, he's a canny creature, sir!

He knows a many things, does that dog, sir. But come awa', mon; the gentleman wants to mak' your picture."

So we returned to my room, and the handsome collie sat for his portrait.

A First Class Kicker.

Round the neck of the holy virgin of Almudens, the patron saint of Madrid, for whom a fine new church is being built close to the royal palace, a very beautiful diamond ring hangs on a thin gold chain. The ring belonged to the late King Alfonso XII., and a strange history is connected with it, which may well appeal to the minds of the superstitious Spaniards. On the day of his wedding to Mercedes, the daughter of the Duke of Montpensier, the King gave the ring to the bride, who wore it till her early death. After the funeral the King gave the ring to his grandmother, Queen Christine, who died soon after. Infanta María del Pilar, the sister of the King, then became its possessor. She had worn it only a few days when she died. Then the ring became the property of the King once more, and he gave it to the sister of his late consort, Princess Christina, the youngest daughter of the Duke of Montpensier. Three months later the girl was dead. The King had now become aware of the unfortunate coincidences, and instead of giving it away again he himself wore the ring till he also went to his early grave.

Pall Mall Gazette.

Dont's for Wives.

Don't nag your husband.

Don't think your husband's heart is bigger than his stomach.