

IN SOUTH AMERICA.

TROUBLES IN BRAZIL AND THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Latest Revolutionary Disturbances of Our Southern Neighbors—Unsatisfactory Results of Republicanism in Brazil—Argentina's Experience

Political Upheavals.

The political disturbances and complications in Brazil and the Argentine Republic are thoroughly representative instances both of the acute and the merely normal manifestations of South American unrest. The Brazilian trouble is a violent one, with every symptom of the most convulsive disorder and every indication of a critical culmination. The Argentine difficulties, viewed from this distance, seem to be only ordinary and comparatively mild ones for a South American country; yet if we had in the United States troubles of anything like their seriousness to deal with, we should be likely to wonder whether our republic was drifting.

In Brazil the developments have been so grave that it has become a very practical question whether the only solution is not a restoration of the empire.

There is a powerful party in favor of the monarchy. The latent feeling of friendship and attachment for the royal family which ruled prosperously for three-quarters of a century, and whose sway was marked by virtuous purposes and liberal ideas, must be reckoned an exceedingly strong factor in these times of trouble.

FLORIANO PEIXOTO.
President of Brazil.

The middle classes, remembering the peace and stability and steady progress that the country enjoyed from the close of the Paraguayan war in 1889 until the fall of Dom Pedro, are disposed more and more to consider the advantages of restoration. The negroes, constituting half of the population, identify the Braganzas with their emancipation. The entire influence of the church is on the side of royalty, and, although not much is said about the existence of an active clerical party in Brazil, everybody informed about the affairs of the country knows that any political cause favored by the Catholic Church in that country has a tremendous advantage. It is said by persons who are familiar with Brazilian affairs that there is scarcely a republican priest within the vast extent of the republic.

It has been indeed an ill-starred venture, this experiment of republicanism in Brazil. The Emperor was deposed on Nov. 15, 1889. Marshal Dedoro da Fonseca was installed Provisional President. From that day to this there has been no tranquillity in Brazil. Fonseca handed the reins to a radical party that speedily made government impossible. Its chiefs were visionaries, "opposed to land-

LUIS SÁENZ.
President of the Argentine Republic.

lords, opposed to clericalism, opposed to authority, and full of an idea that all Brazil required to become a Utopia was modern ideas, by which they meant new banking facilities, industrial speculation, secular education, and a highly centralized and prodigal administration." In November, 1891, matters had come to such a pass that Congress undertook to provide measures for the President's impeachment. Thereupon the President vetoed the bill, and the veto was overridden by the representatives of the people. The President dissolved Congress by armed force, declared martial law and proclaimed himself Dictator.

The country has shown no improvement under Peixoto's rule. The disaffection in the provinces has continued. The partisans of Fonseca were added to the other disaffected elements. In April, 1891, the Government had to proclaim a state of siege in Rio Janeiro in order to suppress public manifestations arranged for the celebration of Fonseca's restoration to health. Throughout 1892 and the early part of this year there was a constant fermentation. The culmination in open civil war seems to mark another radical crisis.

The finances and business interests of the country have been greatly and constantly embarrassed throughout this time. Fonseca and his Cabinet, upon assuming power, found a foreign debt of \$154,000,000 and an internal debt of still larger proportions. Besides, the Government stood as a guarantor of \$14,000,000 of railroad

bonds, although only one Brazilian railway line, capitalized at \$9,000,000, was earning the amount of the guarantee. The Fonseca Government proceeded to plunge affairs into greater confusion by launching into all kinds of ill-advised enterprises to please the politicians and their localities. Peixoto's administration has not in any way extricated the country from its financial woes.

In view of this melancholy history, it is not strange that thoughtful people recall the words of St. Hilare on the conditions of government in Brazil as compared with those in the United States:

"The American Union, and, above all, the spirit which animates the Americans, tried to render every day more compact the society formed by

the period have been none the less serious, involving methods of correction and adjustment that have something of the true South America characteristics.

The Tower of Silence.

The Parsees will not burn or bury their dead, because they consider a dead body impure, and they will not suffer themselves to defile any of the elements. They therefore expose their corpses to vultures, a method revolting, perhaps, to the imagination, but one which commands itself to all those who are acquainted therewith. And, after all, one need not bring but the quiet, white-robed procession (white is mourning among the Parsees) following the bier to the Tower of Silence. At the entrance

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