Bidding for Culture Center of America

WHILE European nations are discussing between fights the question of which is the most cultured, two nations of South America are gradually acquiring the title, in the opinion of travelers to the southern hemisphere. Of course no European nation will yield the title to any American country, yet the United States may have to surrender all claims to the culture championship of the new world, unless we progress more than we have.

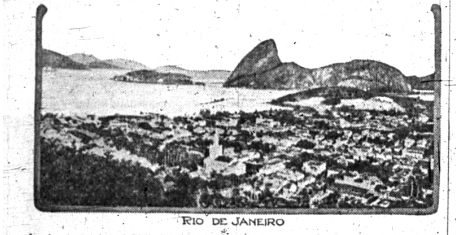
A half-century ago South America, except Brazil and Guiana, was emerging from a state of chaos following the fight for freedom from Spain. Brazil even then had attained some distinction as a culture center, because it had been the home of a European king, but the court of Rio de Janeiro was never popular as a resort for European Kings, and the emperor of Brazil rarely had guests from across the water. When Brazil decided to establish a republic a score of years ago, the emperor was given a pension and sent away to exile. He took up his residence in Paris and the last claim to a royal palace and court America could boast was lost.

But the pomp of royalty continued in the capital of the new republic, and there is still an appearance of royal influence around the capital city. Rio de Janeiro is one of the most beautiful capitals of the world. All that was good in old-world development of old-world beauty was adopted by the Brazilians in laying out their parkways and beauty spots.

And Rio had more beauty spots to start with than any European city. It is a town of wonderful natural attractiveness and charm. This has been used to the best advantage.

Buenos Aires' Rapid Growth.

The other aspirant to the great American city of culture is Buenos Aires, capital of Argentine Republic. When one is asked the name of the fastest growing American city he naturally thinks of Chicago, New York, Seattle, Los Angeles and other cities in the United States. But the city which has made the greatest gains in population in America in recent years is Buenos Aires. It now is the third city in size on the American continent,



RIO DE JANEIRO

having outstripped Philadelphia in the last five years, according to the claims of the people of Argentine. In 1910 it was the fourth city of America, with Philadelphia third. The fifth city in America is Rio de Janeiro.

When one goes to the dictionary to define culture, he will find that it is the application of labor or other means to improve, correct, train or refine man's physical or mental condition. The two South American cities have done more in the last fifteen years to improve, correct, train or refine the people of their cities than any other cities of the world. Then, going back to the definition, we must conclude they are cultured.

In many respects we look down on Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. We consider the people there in the light of gamblers and high livers. They know less than we do about cutting down the cost of living, for food prices are higher there than here. The people are in debt and their educational system is different from ours. We consider our system of education the best, but they think their system is more direct. They believe we waste our time on nonessentials.

The South Americans now are trying to get the American university for one of their cities. They believe the educational capital should be south of the equator. Wouldn't Rio make a fine university town, with its miles of ocean and bay front, with its hills, its rows of palms and its theaters and fine streets?

Sao Paulo Rivals Rio.

Near to Rio is Sao Paulo, capital of one of the most prosperous states in Brazil. Sao Paulo makes no denial of the fact that it aims to rival Rio de Janeiro itself, both in attractiveness and in providing such high-class entertainment as a cosmopolitan center is expected to supply.

The municipal opera house is an institution in which Sao Paulo has a right to take pride. Few opera houses in the world surpass this magnificent structure, and in the season the best talent that money can obtain is brought to the city for the enjoyment of this extremely music-loving people. Opera is something that every Sao Paulan delights in. Italian and French companies are regular attractions, and there is also a fair sprinkling of native performers. Brazilians are loyal to a degree, and in recent years there has been a decided effort to give the fullest encouragement to home talent.

Although Sao Paulo was founded in 1553, it has grown so fast and become so thoroughly modernized that few architectural signs remain of the older period. The city stands on several hills, and it is characteristic of the good place that every building of importance is situated on an eminence. This is also the case with the municipal opera house. From whatever direction it is viewed the structure makes a striking picture. The large and beautiful public garden, in the center of the city is also one of the features of the community.

In the immediate vicinity of this city is a building erected in honor of the event which separated the country from Portugal in 1822. This independence building contains what is thought to be the largest fresco painting in the world, showing Dom Pedro of Braganza, then regent of Brazil, surrounded by his generals, proclaiming the independence of the new nation.

Not only is the culture idea foremost in the minds of the people of Brazil and Argentine, but in all South American nations the idea is uppermost.

Advantages for Uruguay Women.

Within the last few years there has been a noticeable interest manifested in all that pertains to the advance of woman in Uruguay. The commission of woman teachers has been especially active, and it was due to the efforts of this organization that a member was sent to the United States, a while ago, to study the American systems of public instruction. It was as a result of this investigation that the plan was worked out to establish the normal training course.

This course is to be both theoretical and practical. It is to take up the work in its entirety. A graduate of this normal school will obtain a certificate as teacher of woman's vocations and may aspire to a position as permanent teacher in the department for the professional instruction of women which it is purposed to establish soon as a branch of the public school system of Montevideo.

While the women of Montevideo are rapidly absorbing information as to many essentials connected with household affairs, throughout the country sections there is the greatest need for more specific training along this line. In the interest of greater economy it has been decided to extend the teaching work so as to include manual training with a view to improving home affairs, and it is therefore expected that the normal course in this capital will be a boon to the whole country.

The government has been liberal in appropriating money for public schools, and it is anticipated that the allowance for the normal course will be large enough to warrant a complete teaching course with a view to extension.

Sawed-Off Sermon.

A man's busy day is when he stays at home to rest and his wife gets to do a few little odd jobs around the house.

Valuable Pearl.

A large pearl found recently in western Australia was reported on as follows by the secretary of the fisheries department: "The gem was found in a blister in the adductor muscle of a five-pound mother of pearl shell. The blister was 1¼ inch long, 1 inch wide and seven-eighths of an inch in height. This blister, on being opened, was found to contain a perfectly round pearl of 100 grains, being cleaned down to 36 grains. The pearl, although marked slightly, is a very valuable one, and if it can be cleaned to a perfect luster and should retain its shape, it should realize $40,000."

Play a Bigger Part.

So many people drift into disappointment and dreariness because they are dissatisfied with the materials of life, and would like to play a bigger part than they are entitled to play. It is all a deep mistake, the worst mistake a man can make. It is not the impression a man makes on life that matters; it is the impression which he makes upon himself.—North American Review.

Mecca Always Storm Center.

The history of Mecca has been eventful. Mahometan legend holds that it was inhabited by Ishmael, whose posterity was supplanted by the Banu Jurhum of Yemen, who in their turn were supplanted by the Khuza, also of Yemen, in the year 210 A. D. About 450 a certain Kusaat of the Koreish family, and an ancestor of Mahomet seized the Kaaba, and his family is supposed to reign there today. It was here that Mahomet was born, and the same year the city was menaced by the Abyssinians. Its patricians were at first opposed to the prophet. But eight years after he had fled to Medina, they capitulated.

More Dire Threat.

There was trouble in the back yard. Six-year-old Billy had thrown a stone at a boy in the next yard, who was making vociferous threats. "If you throw another stone," he yelled, "I'll sick my dog on you!" "Huh!" replied Billy. "If you come into my yard I'll sick my mother on you!"—Youth's Companion.

Pretty and Popular Shirt Waists

The women of America, at least, are faithfully devoted to the sensible and smart shirt waist. Manufacturers of these essentials of the wardrobe have entered the field with models very close to the original design and have found them more heartily appreciated than ever. These waists are cut with a masculine severity of line, of the softest and most supple silks, and finished with hemstitching and needlework, decorative buttons and other items of daintiness in detail that proclaim them as utterly feminine.

Wash silks and crepe de chine are the favorite materials for shirt waists. They are cut with high or convertible collars, which must be provided with supporting wires if they are to stand up. Sleeves are long and finished with cuffs.

The three waists pictured here may be accepted as correct in style without any misgivings. The first one is of crepe de chine with hemstitched seams. The fronts are tulled on to the narrow yoke. The straight collar supports a second collar of embroidered batiste which opens with wings at the front. The cuffs are deep, close-fitting and plain, finished at the edge with machine hemstitching. Small jet buttons fasten the front.

At the right a similar waist has a narrow panel down the front, fastening to the left side with flat pearl buttons. The plain cuffs are sloped, and fasted with buttons, also. The choker collar may be protected by a dainty embroidered turn-over band.

White wash silk with narrow black and gray stripes is used for the mannish waist shown below the others. It is perfectly plain, with collar that may be worn either closed or open at the front. Pearl buttons fasten the front and the cuffs. The latter are made to turn back.

The new waists are cool and very easy to launder. They are washed in warm suds and ironed when partially dry. It is the simplest of processes. Altogether the new waists have everything to recommend them.

Gown of Semitransparent Fabric

The pretty gown shown in the picture is developed in a net-top lace with heavy pattern of embroidered flowers and scalloped edges. It would look just as well made of shadow lace, voile, embroidered batiste, chiffon, or any other of those semitransparent fabrics for which women show an increasing partiality. All the summery dress muslins and the new voiles of fancy weave are at the disposal of the copyist who fancies this model.

Since it is the airiness and coloring of the fabric more than anything else that counts in a gown of this character it may be made to cost much or little. For nets, laces and voiles an underslip of silk is needed, and a slip of this kind looks best under any of the transparent materials. But if one must practice strict economy the underslip may be of some of the silky looking cotton fabrics or of mull with good effect.

An underslip of pink taffeta supports the flounces that make up the skirt in this dress, and the fichulike drapery of the bodice. This fichu falls over a wide girdle of pink ribbon with bow and looped ends at the back. The girdle is supported by a shaped and boned foundation, and laces down the front with a silk cord.

The silk skirt is moderately wide and finished at the bottom with a box-plaited ruching of the silk, of which there are glimpses back of the scalloped flounce. The three flounces are moderately full and overlap only to the depth of the scallop. There are no sleeves in the slip, but the lace is gathered over the shoulder and caught under the arm, forming a short bell sleeve.

Stockings to match, one must have to be in the mode this season. These are of fine silk. But the slippers may match the gown in color or not. They are likely to be of bronze leather.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Colors and Complexions.

Light blue makes blonde complexions look ashen.

Dark blue sets off a blonde complexion in high relief by supplying a suitable background.

Blue is unbecoming to a brunette, unless her cheeks be florid. If she be sallow it makes her face look tawny.

Green has the same effect as blue upon brunettes, but makes the cheeks of a fair face look pinker.

Red heightens the effect of pale brunette beauty.

Yellow is highly becoming to a pale brunette, especially in artificial light. It softens an olive skin and gives it a creamy tint.

Silk in Hatdom.

This cleverest play of flower and leaf cannot be bought right away in the millinery markets; it has to be concocted by the artist in hats.

The silk hat is not only a very nice feature just now, but almost a necessity, because the straw-hat-making quarters are hampered by the lack of both dyes and plait. The dye question will no doubt be settled to the satisfaction of the manufacturers in time, but meanwhile, until the difficult financial side of it has been adjusted, our choice in hats must be less in straw than in silk.

Fortunately, fashion is more set on silk, so that the side of it we call exclusive will not suffer from thwarted inclination. The clever gay trimmings in color are not asking for straw, but for a dull silk background.

Deception.

It many times falls out that we seem ourselves much deceived in others because we first deceived ourselves.—Sir Philip Sidney.

The Threatening Star

☆☆☆☆☆

By EDGAR PRENTISS

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"If I could get only a paltry ten thousand dollars, dear, I could save your life," sighed John Hagan to his young wife, Mary. She was dying of famine—literally starving to death in the midst of plenty. For Hagan, a poor clerk in one of the gigantic clothing factories, earned only three thousand a year. It would be years before he would be raised to four thousand, and his wife needed nourishing food. A rare malady, which science had not succeeded in alleviating, was sapping her strength, and only comfort—comfort such as was wholly beyond his reach—could stave it off until Nature triumphed.

All over the land the cry of discontent was rising. Desperate men were planning to seize the reins of government. At Philadelphia, one of the suburbs of New York, a hundred thousand rioters had been sent to their death. Men cursed the rich. But their curses availed nothing.

It was then that Professor Joram of the Washington observatory announced the approaching end of the world.

A brilliant star, five thousand times larger than the sun, had set its course for the earth ten million years before. So huge was he that even the pull of giant Jupiter could not deverse him from his course when once he was within the solar system. And ever so, should he pass within five million miles of earth it was calculated that its attraction would sweep the earth into its bulk as though it were a grain of sand.

If it passed within ten million miles the earth would become its satellite. It would either be scorched by fire or drawn away from the protecting sun into the cold regions of space, to become a frozen moon. Which of these would happen Professor Joram could not foresee. But it was certain that it was heading direct for earth.

The news was confirmed from the European observatories. And soon the monster began to be visible in the sky, a hundred thousand million miles away, like a little moon.

All over the land prayers went up to heaven. The rich prayed to be permitted to live, to enjoy their wealth. The poor forgot their misery and prayed to live a little longer. But a few men like Hagan were utterly careless.

"For the first time all human beings will be equal in this world, Mary," he said, as he sat at his wife's bedside. "It will not matter to us."

Mary Hagan answered nothing; but she, too, prayed. She prayed that somehow they might find mercy—she and John and every living soul upon the planet.

By the beginning of the summer of 2205 the star had visibly increased in magnitude. There were two moons in the heavens now. The monster, which was named Og, after the fabulous king of Bashan, was no more than forty thousand million miles away. And still it was heading toward earth. Nothing could save the world, said Professor Joram. He indited these words after making an application for an increase of salary, to take effect on the first day of the succeeding January. The directors refused his application, on the ground that after that date he would, by his own calculations, have no need for an increase of salary. Professor Joram, who was struggling to make both ends meet on a pittance of twenty-five thousand, was deeply chagrined. He even made a private application for a better-paying position in the University of Buda-Pesth. Such are the inconsistencies of the human mind.

And the splendid object in the skies waxed in size continually. It was visible by day now, as well as by night, a huge moon, larger than the sun, and of a silvery whiteness.

"When it gets within a thousand million miles of us, at the beginning of December, the heat will be considerably increased," wrote Professor Joram. "Therefore it is safe to say that we shall never have another winter. We shall have a milder summer, a second summer in spring, and next summer will mean the beginning of the end."

The Monster Was Now Three Times as Large as the Sun.

Following which he laid in his winter coal supply.

It was not that the professor did not believe in the celestial visitor. Nothing could be more certain, as all the astronomers agreed, than that the earth must inevitably be consumed. But the human mind cannot quickly adjust itself.

The crowds stood staring up at Og nightly. They measured its day by looked through telescopes to see "the man in Og." Meanwhile Mary Hagan was fading swiftly. It was a question whether she would live to see the end of all things. And her husband's desperate plea for a few hundred increase was vetoed for the same reason that had been given to Professor Joram. He was also working overtime, because the factory was supplying large quantities of heavy overcoats for the forthcoming winter.

"John, dear," said his wife, "have you noticed that the human mind refuses to believe what the professor says? Don't you think, dear, that perhaps the mind of the people may be more truly guided by instinct than the minds of the savants? I feel that the calamity will never happen."

"It must happen," said John. "It must. There is no possible escape."

And in his heart he added: "Let Mary die before that terror comes upon us."

Terror reigned inimitably in September. The monster Og was now three times as large as the sun, and it was only a few thousand million miles away. Churches were filled. It began to be noticed that charity was increasing. John Hagan rendered desperate appeal for a raise of salary again. This time he got it. He was to receive four thousand after the first of the year. But by that time, according to Professor Joram, Og, which was traveling with increased speed, would inevitably have deflected the earth from its orbit.

"Changes in temperature may be looked for after the New Year," said the weather bureau, which liked to be right, even in these days. Certainly there would be changes.

And now panic descended on all the world. Men went about their work in a daze. Long estranged families began to be reconciled. Enemies made up. Men wanted to die with clear consciences.

It was a few days before Christmas that a sudden hot wave struck the world. The overcoats remained unsold on the factory shelves. The temperature was that of balmy summer. Nobody could understand why the chance had come about so suddenly until on Christmas day.

Then the huge star, which had filled several degrees of the heavens, was seen to have disappeared. In its place was a red mist, like a new Milky Way, which glowed by day and night. And the heat, instead of increasing, gradually gave way to normal. Winter temperatures again as the mist finally turned white and hung, a nebulous curtain, in the heart of the constellation Hercules.

And then Professor Joram announced the truth. A miracle had happened, such as no one could have foreseen. The huge star had collided with a dead, dark body equally large, that had been circling about the solar system since the beginning of time, unguessed at. It seemed to have been planted there by providence for just such an emergency. At a distance of a thousand million miles from earth the two had collided squarely. The shock of the impact had disrupted both into fine particles of incandescent gas. The heat was the cause of the sudden increase of the earth's temperature, but as the particles cooled, and began to coalesce, all that was left of Og and its dark enemy was the fragments of what was to be a new universe, aeons hence.

And with the knowledge that it was saved the world went mad with joy. Men kissed each other upon the streets. The prisons were opened, and all the inmates released. Wars ceased, the rich gave back their plunder to the state, which distributed it among the nation. There were no more poor, nor ever would be. Preachers traced from that day the beginning of the real world of joy and happiness in which we are now fortunate enough to live.

"I knew, dear, that it would be," sobbed Mary, as John Hagan caught her in his arms. "It's better than revolution, isn't it, John, dear?"

That was what all the world was saying. For the poor suddenly found that the rich were their brothers, and the rich that they had never before known the meaning of happiness.

Condensed Knowledge.

At an examination held at Edinburgh university a student was being examined in physiology. His knowledge was soon gauged by the professor, who rather surprised the young man by asking if he had his card—meaning his matriculation card. The professor in question is one of the most genial men in the university, and the young "med," fancying that he proposed to take some personal interest in him, replied that he had, and at once presented his visiting card. "Thanks," said the professor, blandly. "Now, will you kindly write on that all you know about physiology."

Fiction and Fact.

Fiction writers dare not take the liberties with the truth that fact does. Listen: Inside of 24 hours a young Los Angeles man lost a friend, dodged a duel, won a bride, chased across five counties, and wound up happy and married before a benign minister. If any novel presented that plot in the same length of time readers would turn away disgusted at the improbability, and critics would rise up with long-winded explanations of how it couldn't possibly have happened and be "true to life."

All Right in Heaven.

A lady of Somerset, England, bewailed the loss of a somewhat afflicted but extremely wealthy neighbor, who had been very liberal in his help to her country charities. "Mr. X—— is dead," said she. "He was so good, and kind, and helpful to me in all sorts of ways. He was so vulgar, poor, dear fellow, we could not know him in London, but we shall meet him in heaven."

HOW

BIG MISTAKE OF DAIRYMEN

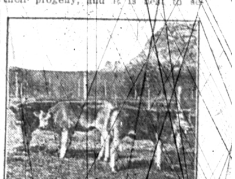
Young Bulls Disposed of Before Thoroughly Tested—Dehorning Greatly Modified Temper.

One of the greatest mistakes that dairymen make is that of disposing of breeding bulls while they are young and before their get is tested by work in the dairy.

Sense of the very best bulls are discarded when only one or two years old. This is due in many instances to farmers being afraid to handle them after they have reached that age. Dehorning greatly modified their temper if it does not completely remove all their vicious tendencies.

Horns on a bull are a constant menace and should be removed when he need not be sacrificed before his breeding value becomes known.

We must depend upon animal foods if we are to secure the transmission of the qualities of our best cows to their progeny, and it is best to se-



Nucleus of Fine Dairy Herd.

cure the first breeding bull by breeding the sire back to one of his daughters.

In order to secure the best results the bull and the cow should have the same general conformation. In no other way can we secure prepotency than by inbreeding.

If we think there is danger of carrying the inbreeding too far and fresh blood is desired, it is not necessary to go outside the family to preserve the vitality, for the infusion of the new blood of a first or second cousin may be as fresh and vigor giving as that of one not related, and there will be no danger of losing the permanency of the established functions of the family.

MANAGING THE KICKING COW

Animal Can Be Handled Successfully If One of Front Feet Is Tied Up by Means of Strap.

If a cow kicks during milking it is said that she can be handled successfully if she is tied securely and one of the front feet held up by means of a strap reaching around her body just back of the shoulder.

Slip a common strap on the strap and let it hang down below her belly. Buckle the strap closely, then take a small strap with a ring on it and buckle around the cow's right front leg, just above the hoof. Then draw her leg up and snap to the ring. As soon as she steadies down she may be milked without the milker being in danger of being kicked.

In the course of time the strap can be dispensed with and the cow, having been used to being milked without causing trouble, will no longer kick.

REASONS FOR COW TESTING

Enables Farmer to Discard Animals Not Paying for Board—It Is Plain Common Sense.

A few of the many reasons for cow testing are:

It enables the farmers to eliminate cows that do not pay for their board.

It saves many a good cow from the shambles.

It is an encourager of good feeding and good care.

It gives the farmer an opportunity to build up a good producing herd.

It increases one's interest in dairying as a business rather than as a means of labor merely.

In short, it is plain common sense.

Be Kind and Gentle.

Care includes kindness, regularity in feed, water and milking, as well as the quarters. But above all be kind and gentle. If you have a cow that it is not possible to be kind to (and there are a few such unregenerates) better fit her for beef, than to worry along with her because the profit will not be nearly so much as with a cow responsive to kindness, aside from the worry they are to the milkers.

Warts on Teats.

The ordinary, small, scabby wart is generally quite easily cured by smearing it with pure olive oil, sweet oil or carbolated vaseline. If, after treatment of this sort for several weeks, the growth does not disappear, it may be necessary to cut it off with a pair of sharp scissors and touch the sore with a stick of caustic potash. This treatment should be followed up with olive oil or vaseline applications.

Milking.

Before milking, the cow's udder and flanks should be wiped off with a damp cloth to remove any dust and loose hair which might fall into the pail. The milkers should milk with dry, clean hands, and should practice cleanliness in every respect while handling the milk.

Observe Good Feeding.

The dry cow deserves good feed, for at this time she is building up her stamina for use during the next period of lactation.