

The ATHENS of SOUTH AMERICA



Primate Cathedral of Colombia in Bogota.

THE name with which Licencado don Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada and his warring hosts christened the Andean plateau was Santa Fe. To that nobleman nothing seemed more fitting than to give to the land he had discovered the name of his birthplace—that classic Santa Fe founded upon royal command of Ferdinand and Isabella opposite the opulent Granada, to vex the multitude of heretic Mohammedans who aroused the jealousy and resentment of the Spanish by their fiestas and tournaments, the valor of their sons, the Moorish beauty of their women, and the unequalled romance of their arched windows, stone lacework, and balconies adorned by expert goldsmiths.

And what a thrill the conquistador must have felt, yet what homelickness must have been awakened within him as he gazed upon a plain watched over by two somber hills, so like that of his own land, with the Moorish Granada guarding the Castilian city, writes W. F. Anzola Sumner in the Bulletin of the Pan American Union. But the Valley of Castles (Valle de los Alcazares), the "Tensequillo" or recreation spot of Zipa de Bacata, its rightful possessor, was renamed by the new lords in mail and gorget. Bacata fled, abandoning his dominion, to die in the heart of the forest, never knowing that after centuries justice should be paid him; that the "very noble and loyal city" should bear his name, slightly modified, as decreed by the Emperor Charles V in 1540. On December 3, 1548, it was given a coat of arms portraying a black eagle on a gold field, with an open pomegranate in each claw, and bordered by golden branches on a blue field.

Old and New Are Mingled.

Bogota, the intellectual and cultured capital city, molder of thought, home of savants and thinkers, is a metropolis which, while offering to the tourist no startling display of New York or Parisian skyscrapers, boulevards or Broadway, claims attention by reason of the gifts with which nature endowed it. Spring is there eternal; the climate is ideal; the fertility of the soil surrounding is extraordinary.

Bogota conserves vestiges of her colonial period. Over the portals of rambling old houses which defied the ages are to be seen coats of arms. The century-old churches, venerable relics of the past, guard beneath panels of gold and costly wood collections of masterly paintings; Byzantine cornices of arabesque designs about the granite pilasters which support arches, and under dais of wrought gold and silver the choir lofts are to be seen; long spiral staircases, massive towers, and helmy spires stand out against the clear sky, just as they did centuries ago.

On the other hand, the tendency toward twentieth century building is irresistible, and the most up-to-date talent is displayed in the erection of luxurious homes or public buildings in Bogota today.

The national capital situated on the southern side of the Plaza de Bolivar, resembles the Church of the Madeleine in Paris, and is considered one of the best stone edifices in South America.

Along the entire western side of the plaza extends buildings uniformly of pure French style, and along the northern side modern buildings occupied by banks and commercial houses; the eastern side is occupied by the cathedral, a massive structure, the towers of which rise 80 meters, and some few old houses.

In the heart of the plaza there is a small park which attracts notice principally because of the statue of Bolivar the Liberator, which rises upon its marble pedestal in the center of the square, being one of the finest works of the Italian sculptor, Tenerani.

From the Plaza de Bolivar the main thoroughfares extend in every direction, almost all paved with asphalt and kept in excellent condition by the municipality. Calle Real, the principal business street, and Florian street are the most bustling of the city. The former, a wide thoroughfare, merges into Republic avenue (Avenida de la Republica), flanked by modern buildings and traversed by electric cars.

Called the Athens of the South.

The Colombian capital has long been the patron of science. The astronomical observatory, National Library, the academies, museums and universities form a group of institutions which maintain the right of Bogota to be considered the "Athens of the South," the name with which a European scholar christened her.

The observatory owes its existence to the efforts of the naturalist, Jose Celestino Mutiz. It is octagonal in form, 2,636 meters above sea level; hence, is one of the highest of the world and possesses a valuable set of instruments for taking observations.

The academies were established by devotees of science and art. The Language academy recently took possession of a new building. The Museum of Bogota contains objects of beauty and considerable historic worth. A Museum of Natural History founded by the Christian Brotherhood (Hermandades Christianas) possess exhaustive collections.

The universities happily own adequate buildings. Recently the building to be used for anatomic lecture halls was completed, equipped much like the corresponding building of the University of Paris. Public instruction is becoming constantly more widely diffused and Bogota is the center of secondary schools supported by the government.

Cultured and Prosperous.

Bogota, by the refinement of its inhabitants and the luxury in evidence, might be taken for a European city. Culture is marked; foreign news is received promptly; desirable features of Paris and London are imitated to stimulate progress. Unfortunately, owing to the extreme narrowness of the streets, many of the architectural features of the city cannot be appreciated; nevertheless, upon contemplating the constant progress of the capital and its development, one is forced to the conclusion that Bogota will become an imperial city in the western world, the heart of the plateau which extends 16 leagues from north to south and 8 from east to west.

Economically Bogota is on a sound footing, being a commercial and banking center of constantly growing importance. There are five banks of large capital, the American Mercantile bank (Banco Mercantil Americano) having been established last year, and at present the establishment of another is under consideration. Several insurance companies contribute to the success of financial enterprises. Large export houses have founded headquarters there and importation is conducted on rather a large scale. Foreign credit companies in the United States and Europe are added factors in Bogota's development. Industry also is being exploited. Thread and textile industries compete with foreign establishments in the production of fabrics and cloth. Stock raising is increasing considerably on the plain, the strains having been carefully selected from stock brought from England, and the wool market is plentiful.

A Circus Romance

By EVELYN LEE

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"I have a puppus," said Hiram Pearce—"a puppus in going to the circus."

"What purpose?" challenged his equally homespun wife, although she had dropped the backwoods vernacular long ago. "A circus? And you a deacon of the church! Oh, Hiram! have you forgotten that all our woes and misery date from the day our little Leslie went to a circus?"

Thereupon Mary broke down utterly, her face fell into her hands and she sobbed and wept as though her heart would break. Hiram winced. Then he stole over to her side and placed a loving, gentle hand upon the silvered head.

"I haven't forgot, poor old dear!" he said tenderly. "It's because of Leslie that I'm goin'. There isn't an hour since my temper and cruelty drove him away from us that I haven't reproached myself. There hasn't been a month in all the weary, waiting five years that I haven't tried to find out what became of him."

Yes, Hiram Pearce remembered well the day when Leslie, a lad of fifteen, had run away from school and had gone to the interdicted tented show. It was the truancy and disobedience, more than the fact that he had visited the sawdust arena that stirred up his father, who had used the whipping strap as he never used it before and as he resolved later he would never use it again. That night Lester Pearce disappeared and his stubborn father had delivered the stolid dictum:

"Let him go—I sha'n't hunt for him, or stop him! As he makes his bed, so must he lie. When he is tired of husks he'll come back, like the prodigal, the wiser, and, I hope, the better for his little journey in the world."

But as the weeks went on, and then the months, and the years, there was an aching void in the heart of the grim old farmer, and the fast-wrinkling face and bent form of Mary told him of her secret sufferings.

"Mary," he said, "look up and keep calm. I have something to tell you. Only today through a correspondent I have received an intimation that Leslie has been with Morton's Big Show, and Morton's Big Show exhibits on the town common here tomorrow."

"Oh, Hiram! it can't be true!" quavered Mary, all a-tremble, and clinging to his arm, white and furred. "Oh, yes, yes—I can hardly wait. You must go to the circus, indeed, and I must go with you!"

All the next morning Hiram Pearce hung around the various groups of workmen erecting the tents and getting ready for the arrival of the performing troupe due about noon. Half a dozen times Hiram inquired about "a young fellow named Pearce," but those interrogated shook their heads negatively, and his spirits sank as the hours wore on. Then he was lost, confused amid the bustle and the crowds. Mary's face was twitching, her eyes anxiously roaming all over the great tent as they sat beneath the white, glaring canvas. If Leslie was with the show of course he must be an actor. She shuddered as the trapeze artists and bareback riders came into the ring and their daring feats showed the risks of their calling. But no Leslie appeared, and Mrs. Pearce drew down her veil to conceal her tears as they left the show. Hiram could not leave the scene. He went around among the wagons and small tents, and, coming across a man whose briskness indicated that he had something to do with the show, told him of his quest.

"Pearce?" repeated the latter; "we have no one with us of that name."

"He is my dear lost Leslie!" sobbed Mrs. Pearce.

"You couldn't mean one Leslie Warburton?" spoke the man quickly. "You see, circus folks use fancy names. About twenty, light hair, slightly curly, always joking and smiling?"

"Yes! Yes!" cried Mrs. Pearce. "That's our boy! Oh, Hiram! have we found him at last?"

"You come with me," spoke their informant, and he led the way to a huge wagon, so large that it had doors and windows like a house, and resembled one as to its interior. It was filled with cots and invalid chairs, and half a dozen men, women and children occupied these.

A pretty, dainty girlish woman was fanning a fevered child in this circus hospital. A young man, who limped as he walked about, smilingly conversed with this and that recumbent patient. Toward him Mary ran with the fervent words:

"Oh, Leslie! Leslie! don't you know me?"

When the circus left town that night it departed without Leslie Pearce and his wife, Eloise, daughter of the ringmaster. Once more the truant boy was back under the home roof, with a wonderful story to relate—of a crippling fall from a trapeze, of becoming the "doctor," who took charge of those injured like himself, and the sick children of performers. And he would have gone home unsolicited that some day had not father and mother come after him, for he had saved enough to pay off the mortgage on the old home, with a surplus left to add two wings to the house.

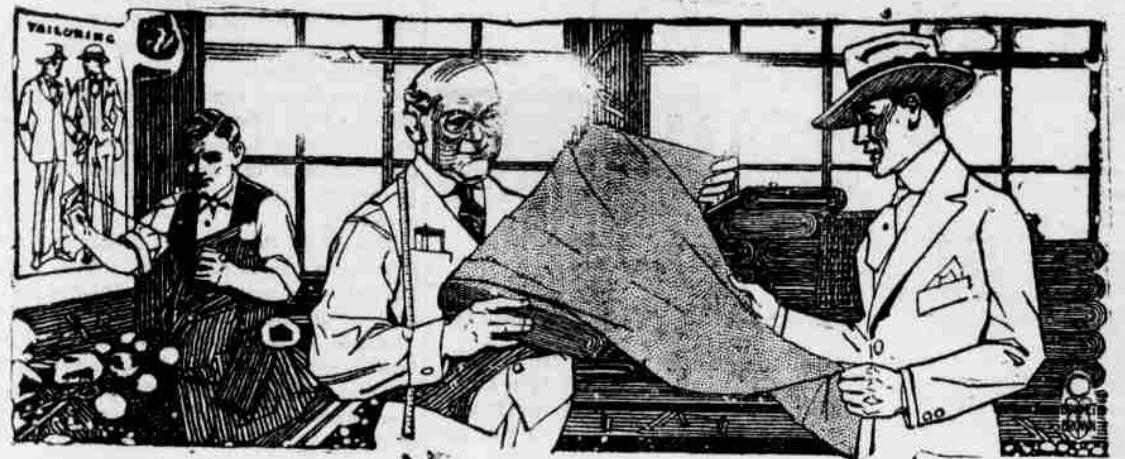
The Camel's Swiftmess.
Everyone has heard of the swiftmess of the dromedary, that on his native sands he can travel faster than an Arab horse. There is a picturesque Eastern proverb which declares: "When thou shalt meet a camel and say to the rider, good morning, before he shall have answered, he will be far off and out of sight, for the camel's swiftmess is like the wind."

Youth Will Seek Its Fortune!
Japanese are sturdy voyagers. Recently, when many Japanese were going to Brazil, a patriarch of ninety gathered his descendants to the number of forty-four and at their head fared forth to South America in search of new adventures and a fresh fortune; he already had a very handsome competence stored away.

The Zuyder Zee.
The Zuyder zee, or Southern sea, was formerly a lake surrounded by marshes. Its present extent being the result of floods in the thirteenth century. Its area is about 2,000 square miles, and the average depth from 10 to 19 feet. The Hollanders have reclaimed a million acres from sea, lake and river since the sixteenth century.

Read the Herald classified ads.

Classified ads on page 5.



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