

A Model Latin City

Santiago in Chile Bears a Strong Resemblance to Ancient Rome

Letter From Valparaiso

There is in the most typical form of the greater advantage of the city of Santiago, than at the capital, Valparaiso, and commercial center of Chile. It would appear that the city of Santiago, as chief center of the nation, has in general a more modern character, so that it takes one back into the past in more than one sense. As one walks through the streets, one gets the glimpse of a picture of the olden times, open to the sky, and one is led to believe that the city of those unaccountable days in the history of nations, the modern modern counterpart of the old Roman city is to be found in Chile, that certain phases of the culture of ancient Italy had been carried over to the city of Santiago, and that the city of the present bears a strong resemblance to the city of the past.

When one has been welcomed by a Chilean; his hospitality is always extremely delightful. He is glad to show you all the interesting sights of Chile's family life, and proud to make you acquainted with all that is noteworthy in his country. On a visit to the most loyal and patriotic, no cultured Chilean will hesitate to express his regret over Chile's continuous political snarl, with its baneful effect on the government, but he has an unmistakable confidence in the future greatness of his country.

Even what has been said of the education of the girl, it is clear that the power of the church over the women is very great. Among the men there is much indifference, but mothers and daughters may be counted on, to fulfill pious duties as demanded by the Faith. At the morning service the churches are usually filled with women. Following an old tradition, they attend in a long black dress and shawl, which is folded tightly over the head and about the throat and fastened at the back. Within the church with its customary half-light, the sight of hundreds of women in black is extremely mournful, but in the sunlight their appearance is very picturesque. During the entire morning, while shopping, or marketing, the women wear no other kind of outer garment. At no time of the day is the mantle considered bad taste, but for calls and outings, notably in the afternoon, it is discarded to make room for the latest fashion. In Spain, where all accounts would go to show that the long black shawl was the usual street garment of the women during several centuries preceding our own, there has generally been a great change, and the Parisian cloak and bonnet have crowded out the mantle, so that it is seen in large numbers only on the most solemn church festivals. This havoc among old custom is, perhaps due to the fact that the mantle did not seem to go very well with the top hat, now so popular with the men in the Spanish peninsula. In the Buenos Ayres, too, where European culture is freely imported and overdone, the mantle is rather a sign of necessary economy than adherence to time honored customs. In Peru and in Andalusia, the shorter, light lace mantilla for the hair and shoulders only, is more common, but in Chile the greater conservatism of the women has saved the older type of shawl from the inroads of parisian fashion.

Santiago in the Afternoon

Far different from the morning is the picture of the streets of Santiago in the afternoon. The upper class has now laid aside the mantle for the most fashionable gowns. Quite punctually at six o'clock (weather permitting) carriages begin to appear on the Plaza Armas, the chief square of Santiago, where there is a large circular promenade, very beautifully arranged with trees, flowers and statues in the center. A short while passes and the walk is filled with hundreds of strollers, moving steadily in two circles which revolve one with the other in opposite directions. Of these, usually the outer one consists of men, the inner one almost wholly of women, chiefly young señoritas under the immediate and watchful eye of some elderly lady. Occasionally greetings pass from circle to circle, or a young man will leave his place and walk for a few turns with acquaintances among the fair sex of the inner ring. All about there are benches filled with spectators, while the merry-go-round continues to revolve more than an hour. Several times a week the attractiveness of the walk is enhanced by the music of a military band, for which there is a special stand.

After seemingly countless revolutions, the elite get into their carriages, it being near the hour of dinner, and in a short while the square appears quite deserted. This strange promenade, with more or less variety, may be seen in almost every town on the western coast of South America. It appears to be the chief means of giving vent to the deeply rooted desire which has always characterized the Spanish people, to see and be seen. If standing on the balcony or at the window becomes monotonous, a stroll on the square is sure to offer some novelties. The promenade is in reality a daily open air entertainment for all who choose to come, whether he moves about or sits still. The popularity of the custom may be judged from the fact that mothers and daughters with scanty means will frequently sacrifice more urgent necessities in order to be able to appear well in the public eye. If it were not for the modern dress of the participants in these gatherings, one might easily imagine oneself in the city of Madrid about the year 1800. The afternoon on the Prado, of which we have such detailed pictures in both drama and novel,

THE LETTER FROM HER SWEETHEART

Posed by Miss Edith Blair, Prima Donna of "Sergeant Kitty"

Since the days of the stone age when it is generally acknowledged by college professors that letter writing first became a habit, even if then a



"Does He Still Love Me?"

most laborious one, human beings of all ranks and color have looked upon letters as one of the greatest institutions of civilization. It is not until we miss a letter for which we had



"It's All Right, He Still Loves Me."

been anxiously waiting that we fully appreciate, however, the efficiency of the mail service of the world. It is doubtful if there is any class



"He Says I am the Only Girl in the World to Him."

of people who are more dependent upon letters than are travelling theatrical folk. They are here today and gone tomorrow, visiting in rapid succession cities and towns where they have no acquaintances. In this way



"Oh Joy! I am going to See Him Tomorrow."

they depend largely upon their correspondence from home or from other travelling theatrical persons for information of friends and of events that interest them. In the case of the young actress who is "on the road" and has a sweetheart in her home city or town the condition is more aggravating. A letter missed is often in her case a day spoiled.

Miss Edith Blair, prima donna of "Sergeant Kitty," who posed for these pictures, has shown the feelings of a young actress who, because of unavoidable circumstances, has not written to her sweetheart for several days. She receives a letter from him and is half afraid to open it for fear that he has misconstrued her failure to write and has ceased to love her. The pictures show how she hesitates, then on opening learns that he does still love and understands the delay in her correspondence and how she feels when she reads the lines that tell her that he thinks she is the only girl in the world for him and the climax of her joy when she finds that he will drop all business and travel several hundred miles to see her and that she will meet him tomorrow at the next town to be visited.

Miss Blair's posing is, however, distinctly a matter of art, and is in no way personal.

A Remarkable Mail Carrier

(Cor. of Washington Star, Owinsville, Kentucky.)

Robert L. Athy, who has just been appointed mail carrier between Camp-ton and Spradlin, Wolfe county, has the most remarkable record of any man in this part of the country. His unusual record began at his birth, when he weighed only two and one-half pounds. He grew up, however, to medium size.

Athy has been a mail carrier in different sections of the mountains for nearly twelve years and in that time has made a great reputation as a hunter, having killed several bears, a large number of wildcats and almost a thousand squirrels, besides a number of rattlesnakes. Several times in his career Athy has been compelled to leave his horse at the bank of some swollen stream and to place his mail sack in his teeth and swim across. In all his twenty years of service the mail has never once been delayed. Once Athy narrowly escaped being killed by a landslide which swept down a mountainside and completely obliterated the road just in front of Athy.

Athy is also a preacher of the gospel. Each day at one or two points along the trail he finds a crowd awaiting him, and there he gives five or ten minute talks on the methods of getting in and staying in the straight and narrow path. Many have been converted by his teachings. Athy also acts as messenger boy for that entire mountain district, and when any one wants a bundle brought from the "store" he never hesitates to ask Athy to bring it for him.

Athy states that he has been engaged to be married twenty-eight times but has never been married yet. Athy has educated himself and is well read for a citizen of that part of the mountains. He is always well dressed and polite, and is undoubtedly one of the most popular of Uncle Sam's mail carriers.

Athy is thirty-seven years old. He has ridden one horse all the time that he has been mail carrier, and it is estimated that they have covered nearly 12,000 miles together.

Father (who has been called upon in the city and asked for his daughter's hand)—Louise do you know what a solemn thing it is to be married? Louise—Oh, yes, pa; but it's a good deal more solemn being single.—Judge.

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