

CHILI'S GREAT FIGHT.

WHY THE PEOPLE TOOK THE FIELD AGAINST BALMACEDA.

Their Liberties were at Stake—The Quarrel Between President and Congress—War the Result—How the Chilians Regard the Situation—Gay and Hopeful Amid It All.

After many months of sanguinary civil war, the end seems to have been almost reached in Chili. The causes that led to the rebellion against President Balmaceda and his government are but little known in this country. There is a most interesting and instructive history connected with the present outbreak in the most powerful of the South American republics, which is related here for the first time by a gentleman



PRESIDENT BALMACEDA.

having large interests in Santiago, and who arrived in this country from that city within the last few days.

The Chilian people form two groups: the upper class or descendants of the old Spaniards; and the lower class, or peons, who are the direct descendants of the Indians. The latter are largely in a majority. Of late years a third class has sprung up, taking a place midway between the other two. It is the artisans. The latter are now asserting their position in business and politics and are forming clubs and labor unions. This has afforded a nucleus for a democratic movement and quite a number of prominent men are actively leading it. There are five great political divisions in the nation: The clericals or conservatives (the latter name being generally used); the liberals, who for several years have controlled the government; the radicals, or extremists; the Montt-Varistas, who are exclusive and aristocratic in their tendencies; and, last of all, the democrats.

The Montt-Varistas are a small, wealthy faction, influential, yet so weak in numbers as to be designated the "Pollywog Party." The liberals have opposed the clericals on certain questions, and have thus lost their support, while they have alienated the radicals even further. The Montt-Varistas simply look out for their claim to possess the brains and ability of the country, being arrogant through long continuance in power. In the congress, the clericals have always had a small representation, the liberals the largest and the radicals a fair-



DONNA COUSINO.

sized support. The Montt-Varistas, though small in point of numbers, have great cohesion.

The political difficulties that led to the war may be thus summarized: President Jose Manuel Balmaceda, following the vicious custom of the past, employed the patronage of the government for the aggrandizement of his party and himself, and with the purpose of securing the nomination and election of his successor and keeping the liberal party in power. This patronage is very extensive. It embraces almost all the offices controlled by the governors, or intendentes, of the different provinces, cities and towns, the appointees to which are dictated by the executive. It applies also to all the sub-officials in these cities and towns, and even to the mayors and councilmen. President Balmaceda had favored the succession of Don San Fuentas at the close of his own term. It has been uncertain as to the political attitude of San Fuentas, who was believed to stand midway between the clericals and the liberals. Balmaceda's choice aroused considerable opposition in different quarters, but he was not disposed to yield, and the result was a concentration of all the anti-administration elements against him.

During the last few months, President Balmaceda has made several abortive attempts to force the political situation to

his own purpose. He aimed to have a cabinet that would be easily moulded to his will, and the congress was powerless to prevent it. But that body resolved that there should be no interference with the elections. The existing cabinet was summarily dismissed, because it was in harmony with the idea of congress on the election question, and a pliable cabinet was substituted. This step intensified the opposition in congress, and all the parties, to avoid trouble, united in an appeal to the president to throw aside the objectionable cabinet. The president failing to comply with this remonstrance, congress refused to pass the budget under which the government would have authority to levy taxes and make collections of the public revenues for the needs of the administration. The situation now was such that not even a stamp could be sold until the law was passed, and Balmaceda was in a desperate strait. Finally he consented to change his ministry, and after much delay he did so, when the congress immediately took action on the suspended tax bill. Believing that he had accomplished what he wanted, he broke faith, dismissed the new cabinet, prorogued congress and organized another ministry to suit his own purpose. This perfidious act aroused the indignation of the entire country.

In June last, the president was appealed to to convoke congress, but he refused. Meanwhile the government proceeded to collect the taxes, although it did so without authority, according to the views of the most experienced legislators. The president knew that, if he did call the congress, it would condemn him. The government was totally without estimates for the coming year, but Balmaceda held on to his course in defiance of congress. Talk of revolution was on every lip. The country was determined to put a check to an administration that had shown its contempt for popular representation. Balmaceda's



VARAS.

own party—the liberals—split in two over the grave question at issue, forming the presidencias and the anti-presidencias. Thus Chili found itself in a complete state of anarchy, politically; its president, with half a party, determinedly opposing the four other political parties and the section of his own dismembered following. Even Archbishop Casanova, who had hitherto held aloof from all politics, was driven to open opposition.

This was the situation when the revolt broke out. It first began in the navy—the strongest arm of the Chilian national defence. Spreading to the army and to the populace, it soon became general throughout the country. Its progress has witnessed the steady depletion of the Balmaceda forces through desertion. Even at the last, when the revolutionists were marching on the capital, the desertions continued, and the hundreds of artisans who stole out of the beleaguered city to join the revolt were accompanied by many soldiers from the loyal regiments, which, under the veteran General Baquedano, commander of the army, still held Santiago. Baquedano led the Chilians on many a field. The old warrior now finds his hardest experience in fighting against the



A CHILIAN BELLE DRESSED FOR MORNING MASS.

men who carried his standards to victory in Peru.

Alfonso, the minister of foreign affairs, and Varas, the leader of the Montt-Varistas, have been important factors in the present troubles. They have been closely identified with the commercial progress of Chili ever since the presidency of Pinto, and more particularly since that of Santa

Maria, under whose administration the treaty of peace with Peru and Bolivia was negotiated. There are many in Chili who severely censure the Balmaceda party for adopting the policy devised by Don Augustin Edwards, the minister of finance, who has been called the "actual president of Chili," and who was the chief promoter of many of the extravagant schemes that were characteristic of Balmaceda's administration. These schemes involved the country in a mass of indebtedness from which it will take years to recover. Don Edward is a Chilian by birth, and a very wealthy banker. It is impossible to estimate the damage to the national commerce inflicted by the revolution. The nitrate industry, the mines, the export trade of all kinds are



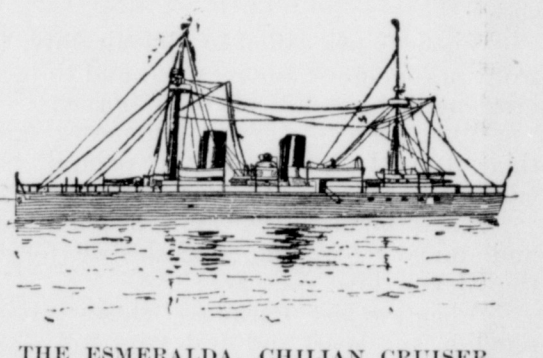
GENERAL BAQUEDANO, COMMANDER OF THE CHILIAN ARMY.

crippled, and the claims for damages inflicted on private property will be enormous, more particularly on the towns along the coast.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop H. Chauncey Riley, a native Chilian, who is now in New York city, spoke encouragingly of the situation in his native land. "Chili has been an aristocratic republic," he said, "governed by people of large wealth. Many of the deputies to congress, being rich men, have served without salary. It is a very patriotic country. That is one of the strong points of the Chilian character, and many serve their country for the pure love of it. Of late years the government has fallen under the control of a small circle of wealthy men, and they have come to regard political position as a rightful inheritance. The liberal party has retained power for a considerable time, and Balmaceda, who was a liberal, was elected upon a platform representing the ideas of these wealthy aristocrats."

"Under his administration the rich landowners launched out into various enterprises. The government encouraged the building of railroads in every conceivable direction, and the most amazing schemes were projected. Now, there is a great deal of education among the Chilians of the younger school. The sons of the older families have been sent to Europe to study in foreign colleges. The result is that, returning, they have introduced modern ideas almost everywhere. One going to Santiago is impressed at once with these thoughts."

"Naturally these progressive ideas have been communicated to the masses of the



THE ESMERALDA, CHILIAN CRUISER.

(3,000 tons.)

people and the result has been a growing feeling of discontent over the fact that the wealthy aristocrats were clearly plotting to perpetrate their control of the government. They realized that the power enjoyed by the president of naming his successor might in its abuse result in the establishment of a hereditary presidency. They saw, moreover, that Balmaceda was determined to carry through his schemes of opening up the whole country by railroads, and was spending immense amounts of money as they thought, unnecessarily, and imposing a heavy burden of debt on the nation. It was a part of the liberal policy to build up a powerful navy, and to do this they had secured from England the costliest war vessels. I remember that when the *Esmeralda* was bought, she was considered the most terrific engine of war ever constructed up to that date. When she was sent to Chili the Englishmen who brought her there expressed the hope that the nation that owned that cruiser would never go to war with England. With her navy, which comprises such ironclads as the *Blanco Encalada*, *Almirante Cochrane*, *Huascar*, and *Amazonas*, and many others, she is complete mistress of the Pacific ocean. Secretary Blaine dares not press any claim upon Chili.

"In the international conference in Washington, she maintained a most independent position and would not consent to arbitration. When the Chilian navy took up the popular side of the struggle against the aristocracy and those who believed in the inherited political power, the war broke out in earnest. Our vessels have harbored many of the fugitives who were driven away by the Balmacedists, including members of the congress. The struggle is very

similar to that in Mexico, where the masses were victorious. We shall probably see a like result in Chili."

Chili is a land of handsome men and beautiful women. In spite of the frequent distractions of war, which seem to be inseparable from all South American republics, its people are gay and light-hearted. The delightful climate, in which fruits and flowers bloom all the year, doubtless contributes to this happy condition. A Chilian looks in amazement at a foreigner who might casually remark that "the weather was fine," all days are fine in Chili.

Society is very gay, particularly in the holiday season, when Santiago is as merry as ever was Madrid during the carnival.

There are no lovelier beings in the world than the young Chilian belles, and a walk around the streets and squares of the capital discloses to the observer a bewildering affluence of patrician dames and girls with the most beautiful complexions imaginable, the product of the climate, which is the finest in South America. Traits are everywhere visible of the rich Spanish blood that has flowed in Chilian veins ever since the days when Pizarro's famous comrade, Don Diego de Almagro, crossed the snowy Andes, (which are everywhere seen forming a picturesque background,) with his mixed Spanish and Peruvian armies, hot for gold and conquest. There are many Chilian families who can trace their lineage back to the days of Captain de Valdivia, who was the first settler of Chili.

The homes of the wealthier classes are marvels of beautiful and chaste architecture and wonders of interior adornments. This is specially true of the Palais Cousino, the home of the famous Donna Cousino, the richest woman in the world. Her beauty, no less than her fabulous wealth, has made her famous even in the United States, and when, a few years ago, it was announced that Donna Cousino contemplated a visit to New York, the news excited a considerable flutter there. Her residence is by far the most luxurious in the republic in point of elegance, artistic decoration and modern comfort; the sculptures being worth a vast fortune and the gardens and grounds superb beyond description.

MAHOGANY.

How the Beautiful Wood was Discovered and Brought Into Use.

The discovery of the beautiful and costly timber known as mahogany was purely accidental. The first mention made of it was by Sir Walter Raleigh, who used it in 1597 at Trinidad for repairing his ships. About the beginning of the eighteenth century a small quantity of it was taken to England by a West India captain named Gibbons, who sent a few planks to his brother, a physician residing in London. This gentleman, at the time of the receipt of the wood, was having a house built, and placed the planks in the hands of the carpenters. They attempted to cut it, but because of its hardness very quickly threw it aside. The doctor expostulated, but the workmen remained fixed in their determination to have nothing to do with a lumber which so successfully resisted their attempts to saw it. The planks were then taken to a cabinet maker named Wollaston, who was directed to make a candle-box with a portion of the wood. The same objection was advanced by this workman, but being a persevering individual, he persisted and finally made the box. When polished it so outshone anything previously made that it very quickly became an object of curiosity, and the people flocked to see it.

As a consequence the wood became quite popular, especially after a portion of the physician's treasure were employed in the construction of two bureaux, one for himself, and the other for the Duchess of Buckingham. These specimens of cabinet work caused the rejected wood to become a prominent factor in the construction of luxurious pieces of furniture. Thus Wollaston was amply awarded for his perseverance in fashioning it into the candle-box, and his name, together with that of the physician and his nautical brother, became inseparably connected with the history of the introduction of this wood into civilized lands.

Losses in Battle.

The battle of Torgan, fought by Frederick the Great in 1760, is well known to have been one of the most murderously-contested actions which have ever taken place, but until lately no trustworthy enumeration has ever been given of the killed and wounded and missing on either side. In the *Militär Wochenblatt*, the organ of the German general staff, carefully prepared tables are published of the losses suffered by the several Prussian regiments of cavalry and battalions of infantry engaged, and from these it appears that the 59 battalions which took part in the action, and which numbered altogether 26,000 officers and men, lost a total of 15,650 officers and men, or about 60 per cent. of their aggregate effective. In the 39 battalions which fought under the personal direction and immediate orders of the king, the proportion of losses was even greater, so that after the action the five battalions of grenadiers had to be formed into one battalion, the remnants of six battalions of two other regiments being also temporarily organized into one battalion. Of the 26,000 infantry soldiers who went into action, 3,350 were killed, 7,956 were wounded, while 3,130 were reported as missing. As a contrast to this terrible proportion of killed, wounded and missing, it may be mentioned that the loss suffered at Gravelotte amounted to only 1-11th of the whole number of troops engaged on both sides, at Worth and Mars-la-Tour to 1-6th, at Spicheren to 1-8th, at Koniggratz to 1-5th only, and at Magenta and Solferino to 1-11th.

MEN AND WOMEN TALKED ABOUT.

The wife of Lucien Bonaparte, the Princess Marianne, who is separated from her husband, lives in Ajaccio, and is the only member of the Bonaparte family now living in Corsica.

The rumor comes that Mrs. John B. Gough has had a paralytic stroke. As the Gough estate is to be sold soon, Mrs. Gough will be obliged to quit her pretty home, Hillside, near Worcester.

Miss Bjornson, daughter of the well-known Norwegian novelist, is a pretty and accomplished young lady, and is the possessor of a remarkably fine voice. She intends to go on the stage, but, in mercy to the public, will choose a more musical name than her own for stage use.

Cyrus W. Field, Jay Gould, and a half dozen other millionaires who live at Irvington, are engaged in a war against a new schoolhouse. These gentlemen live in what they themselves term the richest school district in the United States, and they oppose the erection of a building that will cost over \$5,000, inasmuch as there is already one \$50,000 house in the district.

The professional career of Miss Florence Marryat is, for superabundant energy and talent, one of the most phenomenal known in the history of women's achievements. The youngest of Captain Marryat's eleven children, she began writing at a very early age, and up to date has published fifty-seven complete novels, more than one hundred short stories, an enormous quantity of journalistic work, besides unnumbered essays, poems, recitations and plays. For fifteen years she has been a successful actress, and has had as many as nine of her dramas on the provincial stage of England at one time. Miss Marryat has been twice married, is the mother of eight children, has made and lost a superb fortune, and to-day, with undimmed energy, is producing fiction as fast as her publishers can put in on the market. Not content with lives that would crowd to suffocation the lives of five ordinary women, Miss Marryat has taken to raising dogs, owns large, valuable kennels, and every year sells numbers of high-priced puppies.

Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, who died recently in New York, was the last of the great leaders of the civil war, and the last American to bear the high title of general. He was born in 1820, and was a soldier by birth and education. He served in the United States army from the time he reached the minimum age for admission to West Point until the maximum limit of age brought his retirement from the highest military office in the nation. His famous "march to the sea," though celebrated in song and story, is not considered of as much importance as his work immediately before and after it. In attempting it, however, he incurred a great responsibility, for, as he wrote himself, "success would be accepted as a matter of course, whereas, should we fail, this march would be adjudged the wild adventure of a crazy fool." Gen. Sherman was fond of the social life of New York, and was a frequent first-nighter at the theater. His dress was plain, and he generally wore a soft slouch military hat. His beard was grizzled, his step quick and firm, and though in ordinary conversation his manner was somewhat brusque, he could be geniality itself whenever he desired.

When I first met Ruskin, writes Holman Hunt, I was struck by his slenderness of build, which was not yet without remarkable gracefulness of motion in quiet life. In manner his persevering politeness and untiring pains to interest me and others in his possessions almost surprised me, and it would have been really unbearable to receive so much attention had he not shown so much pleasure in gratifying his guests. On further acquaintance he was quite capable of expressing the most extreme discontent that his friends would not adopt all his views. He was displeased with me for my determination to go to the east, and that I did not set myself to work to found a school. I was often amused at his ignoring the state of paralysis I was generally in from want of means. He would ask me why I did not go to Scotland for a few weeks or months for a holiday when I appeared overworked? and more than once

urged me not to delay leaving England for the purpose of seeing Italy—when in truth my purse would have been empty at Dover, and there would have been no means of making sure of a home had I returned on foot from the coast. It was quite strange to witness how his life-long experience of finding all things that he wanted at hand had made him, not incapable of talking of poverty, but without power of realizing how straightness of means prevented a man from obeying the inclinations of his mind and body at every turn. Whatever feeling he professed towards one's purpose, I can say that I never found him anything but most gentle and tenderly affectionate; and although for some years circumstances made us unable to see one another much, I never had any reason to think him other than one of the truest men I had ever met as a noble friend.

Edwin Forrest, the tragedian, who believed that Macready had conspired to ruin him when he went to England, visited the Theatre-Royal, Edinburgh, when Macready was playing Hamlet there, and relieved his pent-up feelings by a prolonged hiss when the star delivered the line—

"They are coming to the play, I must be idle. Get you a place." Forrest, in a subsequent letter, professed to take exception to the appropriateness of Macready's action in driving pell-mell across the stage several times, meanwhile flourishing his handkerchief triumphantly aloft. His "fancy dance," he said, was a desecration of the poet. Hamlet, however, took the measure of his opponent, and defiantly repeated this morsel of stage business.

Mr. George Healy, an American portrait painter, who has painted many royal and aristocratic personages in Europe, gossips in the *North American* about his sitters in a pleasant paper of a dozen pages. When Louis Philippe first sat for his portrait, says Mr. Healy:

"I remember that the conversation turned especially on Fieschi, who had just been executed. Louis Philippe was not tender on the subject of king killers, and said, 'My dear general, my country people like to play at being heroes, but I shall let them see that I have the guillotine and the galleys at their service.' He spoke English most admirably, using it not only correctly, but by no means disdaining familiar expressions."

Mr. Healy contrasts Louis Philippe's pleasant, easy way of conversation with our Queen's stately stiffness. He says Queen Victoria evidently feared to address an obscure commoner, and his American blood rather boiled in his veins when she put all her questions to him through Prince Albert. But he says:

"My indignation did not prevent me from looking very hard at her majesty. I was struck by the delicacy of the features and complexion of the young queen, and by the extreme elegance of her very handsome husband. This was in 1841."

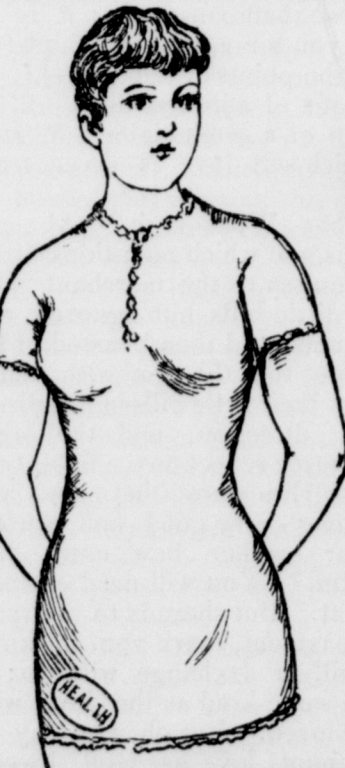
He gossips pleasantly about the Queen of Roumania, whom he has painted repeatedly, and whom he praises enthusiastically:

"I think that all who have approached the Queen of Roumania will agree with me when I say that no woman was ever more thoroughly a woman, more daintily refined, more genuinely warm-hearted, kind, compassionate, more enamoured of all that is pure and noble."

Mr. Healy also painted Pius the Ninth, of whom he writes:

"The pope was dressed all in white cloth, with scarlet shoes; the hair was white, the face rather pale, with very bright eyes, not incapable of sparkle, for his holiness knew how to take a joke. He was a pretty good sinner, but somewhat restless, and curious also as to what his painter was about. On one occasion he arose from his seat to look over my shoulder. When I am earnestly at work I wish my sitters to help me, and do their duty by remaining in the attitude I have chosen. I exclaimed, perhaps, a little abruptly, 'I beg your holiness to sit down.' The pope laughed and said, 'I am accustomed to give orders, not to receive them. But you see, Mr. Healy, that I also know how to obey,' and submissively went back to his chair."

"You're a fool, if a bet is your best argument." "If I'm a fool, you are no better."—*Drake's Magazine*.



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