

A FEMALE CHAPLAIN.

UNIQUE DISTINCTION POSSESSED BY A WYOMING WOMAN.

Mrs. May Preston Slosson Enjoys Rare Fame Among Her Sex—Modest and Unassuming But Zealous in Behalf of the Unfortunates in Stripes.

The proposed removal of the penitentiary at Laramie, Wyo., to Rawlins, calls attention to the fact that the institution possesses the unique distinction of having the only woman chaplain in the United States, if not, indeed, in the world. The chaplain is Mrs. May Preston Slosson, wife of the vice president of the University of Wyoming, and for over two years she has presided over the spiritual welfare of the convicts imprisoned at Laramie.

Mrs. Slosson is a quiet, modest, unassuming little woman just fitted for the work she has chosen. Rain or shine, she is at her post in the chapel each Sunday, having rarely missed a service during her two years of work. Neither the bleak winds or blinding snow of winter, nor the shimmering heat of summer have sufficed to keep her away from the prison and the men who so eagerly watch from the grated windows of their lonely cells for her coming.

Mrs. Slosson, besides being the only woman prison chaplain, was the first woman to receive the degree of Ph. D. at Cornell University, graduating well up toward the head of a class of young men. She was born at Elton, N. Y., in the early 60's, but went with her parents to Kansas when she was a small girl. From the village school she went to Hilldale College, Michigan, where she took the degrees B. S. and M. S., thence to Cornell, completing the three years' post graduate course in two years. All this before she had reached the age of 21. For a little while she held the chair of Greek in a Presby-



MRS. MAY PRESTON SLOSSON, terian college at Hastings, Neb. Ten years ago she became the wife of Prof. Slosson, professor of chemistry in the University of Wyoming, and since then has been a resident of Laramie.

British Red Tape.

During the South African War Ruyard Kipling discovered at Cape Town a hospital without bandages and in desperate need of them. This, too, was in a city where bandages were for sale in many shops.

He told an acquaintance that he was going to meet their want, and the gentleman at once offered to pay for all the bandages that Mr. Kipling would buy and take to the hospital.

A cart was quickly loaded, and then the author was informed that, under army rifles, the hospital authorities could not receive supplies from a private individual.

"Well," said he, "I will dump the packages on the pavement before the door, and then tell them to come out and clean up the litter. Perhaps they can get them into the building in that way without tearing any red tape."

He drove off with the bandages, and the supplies were somehow smuggled into the hospital.

Gen. De Wet's Clever Wife.

In Paris they tell a story illustrative of the "slimness" of Mrs. De Wet. An English officer was pointing out to her how impossible it was for her husband to escape the cordon of troops which were drawn round him. As Mrs. De Wet seemed unable to understand him, the officer placed a dozen eggs in a circle on the table with a half-crown in the middle. The eggs, he explained, pointing to himself, were the English; the coin, pointing to a portrait of De Wet on the wall, was her elusive husband. It was an excellent object lesson and it was perfectly successful. "I see," said the simple Dutchwoman, in excellent English. "But where is De Wet?" And the half-crown had disappeared!

The 1,380 miles between Skagway and St. Michaels, Alaska, are covered by 600 dogs, working in relays of 26 miles, in four and one-half days. Between White Horse and Dawson 140 horses are kept going day and night in relays.

WORKED FOR 50 CENTS A WEEK.

James Oliver of Chilled Plow Fame Is Now Worth \$15,000,000.

James Oliver, the largest plow manufacturer in the world and reputed to be worth \$15,000,000, was once a farmer's chore boy working for 50 cents a week. He is a Scotchman. His father was a shepherd and had no faculty for accumulating money. The boy had practically no schooling. Mr. Oliver gives his mother and a Sunday school the credit for the education he received when a boy. At the age of 11 he came to this country with one or two other members of the family. On a farm near Geneva, N. Y., he was given work as a chore boy by a farmer, his pay to be board and lodging and 50 cents a week. At the end of 11 weeks he had saved \$5, every cent of which he had to send to his mother, who was in need. At the age of 13 we find him in Le Grande county, Ind., and a little later at Mishawaka, in the same state, working on his father's farm. Shortly afterwards his father died, and he again found employment as chore boy at \$6 a month. For four years he worked at anything he could find, picking up what little book knowledge he could. At the age of 17 he was working in a gristmill at Mishawaka, and at about this time invested all he had (\$75) in a house and lot, agreeing to pay for it \$775. He says of this investment: "When I look back upon it I feel that to it I owe, in a good measure, what success I have met with during my life, for to liquidate the debt I was forced to work hard and economize continually." At the age of 21 he married and went to live in a little slab house for which he paid \$18, adding \$11 for improvements. His wife gathered together a number of rags, borrowed a loom and wove a rag carpet, which he thought was the prettiest thing he had ever seen. He lived three months in this little slab house—the happiest months of his life, he says. Then he learned the molder's trade and accumulated a little money. At the age of 25 we find him operating a little foundry of his own at South Bend, Ind., where he made plows. After a great deal of ill luck and close study of the plow business—for he was trying all the time to perfect an implement that could be made cheaper and work better than any plow then made—he finally hit upon a chilling process, and the Oliver chilled plow, now known the world over, went into the market.

LABOR'S PARADISE.

That's What a Tonelist Calls the United States.

"The United States is a paradise for the workingman," says an American who has just returned from a five months' trip to Europe. "Nowhere in the world is he paid so much for labor as in this country. The wages here for farmers and workmen in industrial lines are fully 100 per cent higher than in Europe.

"It is true that in some respects living is cheaper in Europe than here. Rents are cheaper, but the necessities of life are higher; meat and bread are fully 50 per cent higher. The working people in European countries just drift; they do not live as Americans do. When they have meat once a week they are satisfied.

"There are plenty of labor unions in Germany, Austria, Hungary and other countries, but there are comparatively few strikes. There is more labor than demand and the people are glad to get work at any price. Just now there is a noticeable industrial depression; this is much felt in England on account of the war. It is the climax of a period of expansion. Industrial stocks have gone down materially, and it is felt everywhere. It is just the opposite of conditions in this country at the present time; our people are all prosperous and making good wages.

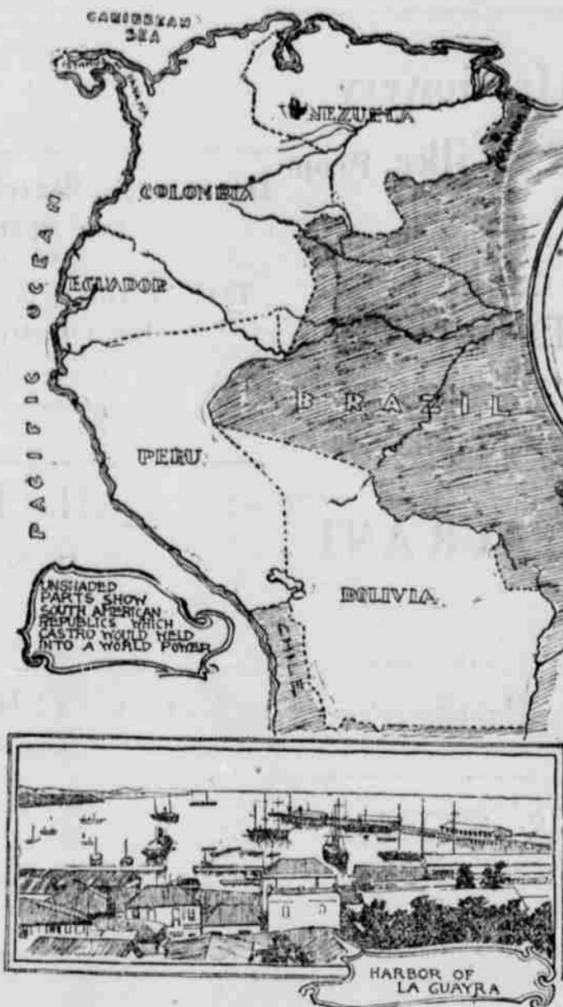
"Another thing which struck me forcibly is the small salary paid to the rank and file of the German army. More than 600,000 soldiers there, I am told, get a little less than 5 cents a day, and out of this they have to pay for their shoe blacking and a few other little things. In Austria they get even less—a little more than 2 cents a day. Comparing this scale of wages with ours, it makes strong contrast, and it would seem that we are particularly liberal."

Some Uses of Ants.

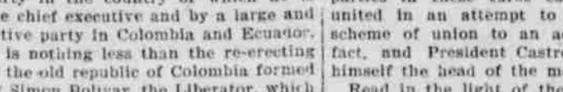
Ants commonly are regarded as nuisances, yet they have their uses. If you dig up a nest of common brown ants, you will notice, by putting your face close to the hill, a pungent odor arising. This is the vapor of formic acid, the principle of ant poison. Now, formic acid has the property of making plants grow as hardly anything else will. Therefore the mold of which the ant nests are composed makes a valuable dressing for the market garden when spread on while it is fresh. Another little known benefit to be derived from ants is the collection of their eggs for fish food. In the late summer a good many people make a living by gathering ant eggs in the pine woods of Surrey and Berkshire, Eng., and selling them to the London fish dealers.

CASTRO PLANS TO WIPE OUT FIVE

REPUBLICS



INSPIRED PARTS SHOW SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS WHICH CASTRO WOULD WIELD INTO A WORLD POWER.



HARBOR OF LA GUAYRA



AN ORINOCO RIVER BOAT

Few people in this country realize the magnitude of the ambition of President Castro of Venezuela, an ambition in which he is supported by his own party in the country of which he is the chief executive and by a large and active party in Colombia and Ecuador. It is nothing less than the re-erecting of the old republic of Colombia formed by Simon Bolivar, the Liberator, which consisted of the countries now known as Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia. That accomplished, it would be a logical step in the advancement of his ambition to seek to add to the reconstructed nation Peru and Bolivia, as Bolivar sought to do, and in which he almost succeeded, being for a considerable time not only president of Colombia, but the arbiter of the affairs of those two nations. This would mean the formation, in place of five weak, discordant, belligerent and turbulent countries, of a nation with a population of between thirteen and fourteen millions and an area nearly as large as that of the United States, exclusive of Alaska.

It would be larger than the Russian empire in Europe, larger by about 2,000,000 square miles than the German and Austrian empire or the republic of France, and nearly two-thirds the size of Europe. In population it would be equal to European Turkey, the kingdoms of Serbia and Roumania and the principality of Bulgaria taken together. Its boundaries would be almost coincident with the territory reigned over by the Incas and their tributary princes at the height of the power of the ancient Peruvian empire. It would have a coast line of 5,500 miles, of which 3,000 are on the Atlantic and the Caribbean sea and the remainder on the Pacific. Venezuela alone has a coast line of 2,000 miles, with thirty-two natural harbors and fifty bays. The rebuilt nation would be the third power on the Western continent in point of area and population, the United States being the first and Brazil the second.

The natural resources, as yet developed hardly at all, of the lands comprised within the boundaries of the contemplated republic are immense and varied and under a stable government the nation would be one which would afford opportunities for the working out of the best destinies of the Latin race in the Western World, and would be a power strong enough to defy foreign aggression from any European quarter whatsoever. The projected Pan-American railway would run through the heart of this nation, and, with its branch lines, would connect with the Pacific ocean on the west and the Caribbean sea on the north, thus hastening the material and social development of the country and vastly increasing its commercial importance.

It will be seen that it is with no mean ambition that President Castro is credited. At present the agitation for a union of the separated nations does not amount to a sentiment within the domain of practical politics, except in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

In Colombia and on the borders of Venezuela and Ecuador actual fighting is going on for the accomplishment of the scheme of reunion. The Liberal parties in these three countries are united in an attempt to bring the scheme of union to an accomplished fact, and President Castro has made himself the head of the movement.

Read in the light of the knowledge of this movement for unification, the seemingly confused state of affairs in Colombia and Venezuela becomes more comprehensible. For a long time we have been reading dispatches from South America telling of invasions of Colombian territory by troops from Ecuador and Venezuela and of the violation of the territory of these republics by the troops of Colombia. The news has been really a record of the stand which is being made by the Conservative party of Colombia against the Liberals of the other two nations. Ecuador, being a small nation and the government seemingly having the Liberals better in hand than they are in the other two countries, has so far managed to keep from becoming embroiled in actual war; but under the lead of Castro the Liberals of Venezuela have made common cause with their brethren of Colombia against the Conservatives, who opposed the union and a state of war exists between the two nations. Should Castro, with the aid of the Colombian Liberals, succeed in overthrowing the existing government of Colombia, the union is inevitable, and Ecuador would come into the federation quietly, as she did before in Bolivar's time.

After that it will be time enough to talk about Peru and Bolivia. At present armies are marching and battles are being fought for the unification of the states which Bolivar freed from the Spanish yoke and formed into a nation which he fondly hoped should flourish and be forever a monument to his memory—a landmark of his fame—but which fell to pieces upon his death. Castro, in seeking to re-establish the great nation of Bolivar, may be like the dog in the fable, and in grasping at the vision of what he desires may lose the substance of that which he has; for his enemies are numerous and are not idle. At present, however, he seems to hold Venezuela with a firm hand, the firmest which has been at the helm of state since Guzman Blanco left the country to its fate and became fat, supine and politically impotent amid the pleasures of Parisian life.

Castro has great energy, great ambition and cannot be denied considerable ability of a certain sort. In politics and war his career has been adventurous, and when he suddenly became a political factor his rise to power was rapid. He came to the presidency of Venezuela by fire and sword, and he holds his power in a manner which would not be tolerated in many countries.

Memorials for Horses. After their conflict with China a

few years ago, the Japanese erected a monument to the memory of the horses killed in battle. The duke of Wellington built one at Strathfieldsaye, where the famous charger Copenhagen died. The height of Farley Mount, not far from Winchester, is crowned with an obelisk erected to a horse buried there. The name of the animal was Beware Chalk Pit, this cognomen having been bestowed on account of the fact that the horse during a hunt jumped into a chalk pit twenty feet deep, with its master on its back. The obelisk is a landmark for many miles around. The mention of this horse as a hunter recalls the fact that at Sandiway, in Cheshire, there is a monument to another animal of the chase—a foxhound. Bluecap was its name, and its exploits were the theme of songs which are not yet forgotten, though 120 years have passed since the hound died. The obelisk was erected by the late A. H. Smith-Barry.

Grave of a Methuselah.

Germantown as a district has a certain renown for the longevity of its natives, and the "oldest inhabitant" of the settlement east of the Wissahickon is a patriarch, indeed. A tombstone in the old Concord burying ground, on Germantown avenue, above Washington lane, however, makes the more modern Methuselah's pale into insignificance. The inscription on this marble slab recites that the person buried was "aged 969 years," which is one year older than the biblical patriarch at the time of his decease. That the carved figures are erroneous is evident, and the generally accepted theory is that the stonecutter chiseled the figures 96 in mistake for 69, and when this was detected cleverly plugged up the first 9 and then carved the number after the six. Time wore away the plug, so that today this tombstone claims for him who lies beneath a record for longevity never yet equaled.

Gave Apples to England.

Of all the productions of the vegetable world which the skill and ingenuity of man have rendered conducive to his happiness and to the increase of his enjoyments the apple stands forward as the most conspicuous. It is now a fruit crop of universal growth, and although the most beautifully sun-stained examples reach England at various periods of the year from Canada and California and the temperate regions of the great Australian colonies for flavor none of them equal those grown in England. The garden apple is believed to have been introduced into Britain by the Romans, and the wild apple of our hedgerows is the type of the fruit when left to degenerate, and to which it would speedily return but for constant culture.

Looks like we are going to have a long fall.