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As suggested in The Republican a few days ago, the American delegates to the Pan-American congress now in session in the City of Mexico will have an excellent opportunity to study the bearing of a policy of reciprocity on our trade relations with Latin America. Undoubtedly they will find also that the problem of increasing our trade with our neighbors to the south is complicated by the fact that most of the freight to and from South America is carried in foreign bottoms.

While statistics sometimes are dry, the figures explanatory of the state of trade with the southern republics are full of interest. It is shown by Bradstreets that of Mexican imports the United States now supplies 40 per cent. Of imports to the Central American states, next removed by distance, though readily reached by water and now being tapped by railroads, we send 35 per cent; to Colombia, a trifle farther removed, but equally accessible by direct water communication, 33 per cent; to Venezuela, equally accessible, 27 per cent; to the West Indies, which lie in close proximity, but which have been up to the present time controlled by commercial nations whose policy in many cases has been to retain their commerce for their own people, 20 per cent; to the Guianas, also readily reached by water, 25 per cent of the imports of British Guiana, 17 per cent of those of Dutch Guiana, and but less than 6 per cent of those of French Guiana.

When we come to consider our trade with the countries of South America bordering on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, however, a much less satisfactory condition of affairs is presented. Of the total imports of all South America, 57 per cent is taken by the countries bordering upon the two oceans and but 12 per cent by those upon the Caribbean. On the eastern coast of South America we find Brazil importing in 1899 goods to the value of over \$105,000,000, of which the United States supplied about 10 per cent; Uruguay and Paraguay, \$25,000,000, of which our share was less than 7 per cent; and Argentine, \$112,000,000, of which about 10 per cent was from the United States; while a tour of the Pacific coast shows imports into Chili of \$38,000,000, Peru \$8,500,000, Bolivia \$11,600,000 and Ecuador \$7,000,000, the proportion from the United States averaging about 10 per cent. Thus the northern coast of South America, fronting on the Caribbean sea, imports goods to the value of \$26,000,000, of which we supply an average of 25 per cent; the eastern coast fronting upon the Atlantic, \$275,000,000, and the Pacific coast \$60,000,000, of which our proportion is in each case about 10 per cent.

The condition of things here ad-



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 Who has not known the woman whose disposition is described by that one word "sunny"? There's always a laugh lurking on her lips. Her cheeks are ever ready to dimple in smiles. Her household influence is as brightening and stimulating as the sunshine. Nothing can be crueller than to have this sunshine blotted out by disease. But this is a common cruelty. The young wife who was the sunshine of the home becomes its shadow. Every young wife should know the value of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription in the protection and preservation of her health. It promotes regularity, dries the drains which enfeeble body and mind, and cures inflammation, ulceration and female weakness. It nourishes the nervous system and gives to the body the balance and buoyancy of perfect health. It is a strictly temperance medicine.

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verted to is not a temporary one. There has been, it is true, a rapid growth in our exports to Mexico, especially since the opening of railway communication, and there has been a moderate development in the trade with the countries bordering on the Caribbean sea. Our total sales to the countries lying to the south of us amount actually to a smaller percentage of our total exports to the world than two decades ago. This is particularly anomalous, in view of the fact that we are the largest customers for some of the chief articles of export from South American countries, such as coffee and rubber of Brazil. We are also heavy purchasers of the wool and hides of Chili and Argentina, and of the tropical products of other South American countries, such as sugar, spices, fruits, dyewoods, cabinet woods, textiles and chemicals. As a matter of fact, we send to South America considerably less than half the amount we import from there, for in 1901 the United States purchased from South American countries goods valued at \$119,329,667, while the sales to them amounted to only \$44,779,888.

Of course, this situation does not exist without reason. It is suggested, for example, that the easternmost point of South America is 2,900 miles farther east than New York, and the sailing distance from that point to New York is actually greater than to the cities of southern Europe, and but slightly less than to the commercial cities of England and Germany. The markets of Europe are, therefore, about on a footing of equality with those of the United States, as regards distance. The European markets have, however, an advantage in the circumstance that the steamship lines entering South America are controlled by European capital.

The Hartford Courant thinks that what this language needs is more adjectives suitable to accompany a first-class report of a wedding. It is true that too many of those now in frequent use are not only tired but decidedly superfluous. For example, we have observed during a career of about one hundred and thirty-seven years that when a couple are married in a private house it is almost invariably conceded to be a "pleasant home" wedding. Now what's the use of either of these words? Would anybody on such an occasion write of an unpleasant wedding or of an unpleasant home—whichever the adjective may be taken to refer to? It is an old rule of correct writing to go through the article after it is drafted and eliminate every adjective not needed to tell the story. Applying that treatment to pleasant home weddings, they would appear simply as weddings. The rest goes without saying. Similarly the frequent explanation that a wedding occurred at "high noon," seems to be about one word too long. Is there any other than one kind of noon? When does low noon come in, if 12 o'clock is high? We have observed, too, that when people are married, they are very apt to receive "wedding gifts." What else would the gifts be at that time? The reporter who wrote of someone that sent a Christmas gift for an unpleasant wedding in a homeless house at low noon would experience a fall in his "profession." Every capable dictionary is abundantly outfitted with adjectives. But still those exactly suited to these festive occasions do not seem to present themselves at the time when their services are especially required.

President Roosevelt is not likely to be disturbed by the shrieks of horror and rage that are heard from the south over his action in entertaining at his own table Booker T. Washington, who has brains, character and a dark skin. If he took the trouble to consider the matter at all, the president knew what the southern politicians would say of his extension of social courtesies to a black man, and had the characteristic independence to do what seemed to him right without regard to its effect upon his political fortunes. The spirit that prompted him to invite the head of the Tuskegee Institute and chief representative of a large body of fellow citizens to dine at his table was the same that moved him to appoint democrats to federal offices in the south and won for him the in the latter case the warmest commendation of the very class that is now clamoring for his social and political ostracism. It is as futile now as it was fifty years ago to argue such a matter with the south. To point out that Mr. Washington is the intellectual superior of editors and politicians who call him a nigger—a more useful citizen, doing a greater work than they are capable even of comprehending—would only incite them to greater virulence of speech and prolong an unprofitable controversy. Enough to say that President Roosevelt has confirmed the good opinion of his character formed by right-thinking men whose perceptions are not obscured by prejudice.

Fiscal experts continue to scan with attention the statistics of the government revenue as they are compiled from day to day, with the result that they are not inclined to regard the showing made for the past few months as indicative of that for the year as a whole. The reduction in internal revenue receipts for the first quarter of the fiscal year was certainly much smaller than was expected. A change has, however, taken place during the current month. The internal revenue receipts for the earlier part of the month were considerably below those for the corresponding days of last year, and there is a likelihood now that the reduction will turn out to be con-

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considerably beyond that suggested by the first quarter's returns, though probably under that suggested by the framers of the revenue reduction law. At the same time, the expenditures of the government are decreasing and are likely to continue to do so for a while, though, perhaps, not at the rate noticed in the earlier months of the fiscal year. In any event, the situation will present for the early consideration of congress the question as to the disposition of the surplus.

Some of the members of the religious orders in France who do not choose to conform to the new law of that country regarding associations are likely to come to the United States, and it is not surprising to see the announcement that some of them are expected in Maryland. That state, especially tolerant from the first in religious matters, was really founded as a refuge for Lord Baltimore and other Catholics, and has always had a leadership in the affairs of the Roman church in America, though only a minority of its people are Catholics. These voluntary refugees from French hostile requirements are for that matter free to locate anywhere in the United States. They will be free here from all such conditions as those imposed on them by the French law. The Jesuits have a great many educational establishments in this country—all of which have been found quite harmless. Most of them have been forced, by no other law than that of competition, to adopt many of the educational methods prevalent in the United States. They are especially good teachers of the Latin tongue and classics.

Secretary Long's naval estimates have been made public and they aggregate almost \$99,000,000. It is said to be likely that the department will ask for three new battleships, two armored cruisers and several gunboats. Congress ought to show no hesitancy about appropriating money generously for the navy, including liberal amounts for new ships. There should be no waste and no parsimony. Battleships cost millions, but as President Elliot reminded Charles Francis Adams, they may save millions. This is no time to halt in adding to our sea power. It is noticeable that the estimates include items relating to the naval and coaling stations in our insular possessions; these features of our naval appropriations surely merit sympathetic consideration and approval. San Juan, Ponce, Manila, Honolulu and the ports in Tutuila and Guam will be important naval centers for our fleets in the years to come. The naval facilities there should be developed now with thoroughness and foresight.

The latest raid of the Boers to the southward is spectacular in the extreme. Within a few miles of Cape Town, as the party of five hundred that has reached Saldanha Bay now is, and at a sea coast point of some strategic advantage, they seem to be in a position to exert at least a sentimental adverse influence on the British cause. Very likely they will be driven back by the British troops, but it is a sharp revelation of conditions in Cape Colony when a commando as numerous as this can make its way, apparently unopposed, to such a point. The fighting handful of Boers are foolish, of course, to maintain their resistance against the inevitable, but they certainly are capable of making the British government much trouble, even now.

Missionaries accuse Mark Twain of being instrumental in reducing the volume of subscriptions, which is less this year than last. But then Mark Twain has made so many people laugh, that we can forgive him.

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REMARKS ANENT ST. THOMAS.
 What Bret Harte Thought About the Island, or Thought He Thought.

The revival of the project to buy the Danish West Indies recalls what Bret Harte wrote in 1865 when the purchase of St. Thomas was considered. More poet than politician, Harte was opposed in sentiment to the acquisition of island territory. His muse begins:

Very fair and full of promise
 Lay the island of St. Thomas;
 Ocean o'er its reefs and bars
 Hid its elemental scars;
 Groves of coconut and guava
 Grew above its fields of lava.
 So the gem of the Antilles—
 "Isles of Eden," where no ill is—
 Like a great green turtle slumbered
 On the sea that it encumbered.

Then said William Henry Seward,
 As he cast his eye to leeward,
 "Quite important to our commerce
 Is this island of St. Thomas."

The poet pictures the mountains, the sea and "the black-browed hurricane" as vehemently opposed to a change in ownership, and concludes:

So the mountains shook and thundered,
 And the people stared and wondered
 As the sea came on them leaping;
 Each, according to his promise,
 Made things lively at St. Thomas.

Till one morn, when Mr. Seward
 Cast his weather eye to leeward,
 There was not an inch of dry land
 Left to mark his recent island.
 Not a flagstaff or a sentry,
 Not a wharf or port of entry,
 Cray-to-cut matters shorter—
 Just a patch of muddy water
 In the open ocean lying.
 And a gull above it flying.
 —New York Mail and Express.

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