

PRETTY GIRLS OF PARAGUAY

The Queer Customs of a Land Where There Are More Women Than Men.

(Copyright, 1899, by Frank G. Carpenter.) ASCENSION, Dec. 28.—Paraguay is the paradise of South America. Its climate is delightful, its semi-tropical vegetation as luxuriant as that of the Garden of Eden, and it has about three rivers to every Adam. I have never been in a country where there are so many women. They swarm. They trot by the scores through the streets of the cities. They walk by you and with you on the highways and they pass by you so many that you find it hard to get out of their sight. PARAGUAYAN MEN KILLED OFF.

The women of Paraguay are so much in the majority that they do the work of the country. They are the buyers and sellers of every commodity, and outside the cities the men are the drones. Any bachelor in the United States can find a Paraguayan girl if he wants one, for the men are now so few that any two-legged animal without feathers of the masculine gender will have to be greedily grabbed. The sexes were once about equally divided, but Paraguay had a war which killed off the men. It was just before the close of the civil war between the North and the South. At that time Paraguay was the leading country of this part of the world. It was about the richest of all South America, and its wealth was the envy of the Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil. They combined against it and their joint army attacked the Paraguayans. The struggle lasted for three years, and at the end of the war the Paraguayan men were killed off. It is said that one hundred thousand of them died in battle, and that thousands of women and children were carried away as captives. It is hard to get accurate figures in any South American country, but according to the best estimates, the population of Paraguay at the beginning of this war was about 1,000,000. At the end of the war only 200,000 were left, of whom about 25,000 were men and 175,000 were women over the age of 15 years of age. The rest were children. Paraguay thus became a land of women, and nature seems to be keeping it that way. Since the war I am told that more girls have been born every year than boys. In Asuncion the girl births exceed the boy births by more than five to the hundred, and outside the city the percentage of girl babies is greater.

WOMEN OF HIGHER CLASS.

The most of the women of Paraguay are poor. Many of them are hewers of wood and drawers of water; but there are some who are rich. There are class distinctions here as everywhere, and the people of the better classes dress and act much the same as those of other countries. They are educated, they speak Spanish and French, and they are usually interested in politics, and through their husbands, have much influence upon the course of the government. They are good housekeepers, excellent wives and are, I may say, the equals of their sisters in any part of this continent.

HOW THEY LOOK.

Many of the Paraguayan women are very good looking. They are of all classes, and especially so of the young. A Paraguayan maiden is a trifle under middle height. She is as straight as an arrow and as limber as a willow tree branch, though inclined to be voluptuous in form. Her complexion is of the reddish brown of the Guarani Indians. She has, as a rule, more or less Indian blood in her veins. When the Spaniards invaded this country they were habituated by the gentle and semi-civilized Guarani. The two races intermarried. Their descendants took wives of the same race, and in the course of time there are comparatively few Paraguayans who have not a large proportion of Guarani blood. The Indian maiden has a soft, warm, and pleasant voice. Indeed, their tones fall softly on my ears after the parrot-like accent which has saved my tympanum during my associations with their Argentine sisters.

PARAGUAY LACE.

One of the chief industries of the Paraguayan women is lace making. It is true that the lower classes do all kinds of work, but all the women make beautiful lace. They spin webs as delicately as though they were spiders, and every house is full of beautiful lace. They make lace handkerchiefs, table and embroidery, and weave great quantities of thread so fine and so strong that they will outlast a generation. They have patterns of their own which they have taken from nature. One of the most beautiful is called the spider pattern, the threads of which are as delicately joined as though made by the tiny spiders which live here in the semi-tropical climate. Handkerchiefs are of silk, cotton and linen, and some of fiber grown in the country. It takes a long time to weave them, but they are wonderfully cheap, so that an article upon which a month or so has been spent can be bought for 25 cents. A good handkerchief will cost you \$10, and a lace shawl perhaps twice that amount.

ORANGES AND ORANGE GIRLS.

Paraguay is a land of oranges. It is perhaps the only place in the world where the orange grows wild. There are orange groves in every thicket and in almost every grove. The villages are built in orange groves, and there are orange trees in the streets. It is the best I believe of its kind in the world. It is eaten by every one, and the orange girls are among the loveliest of the Paraguayan. You meet women peddling oranges at all stations. You find them surrounded by piles of golden fruit in every market all along the Paraguay river. They are to be seen carrying oranges from the land to the boats, which are taken to the markets of the south. It is estimated that 60,000,000 oranges are thus annually shipped down the Paraguay river to Buenos Ayres, and the loading of this fruit is one of the greatest sights of the voyage. As we came up the voyage, we saw at every town mountains of oranges on the shores, with hundreds of Paraguayan girls kneeling before them and putting them up in baskets. The other hundreds were carrying them to the steamers.

LOADING AT VILLA PILAR.

The scene is one that you cannot have outside this country. Stop with me at Villa Pilar and look at it. Villa Pilar has about 10,000 people. It is a

HEAVY THINGS ON HEADS.

The head and not the arms is the place of burden of the Paraguayan woman. If we stand a moment at the corner of the market we can see all sorts of curious things coming and going on the heads of women. There comes a girl now at a two-forty pace with a demijohn on her crown, and a load of wood in her arms. Her black face is wrapped in a black band, and her black legs show out under her white skirt half way below her knees. There is another woman with a white sheet around her head and shoulders. Notice that platted filled with oranges and vegetables upon her head. There is a great chunk of raw meat on its top. She walks along without touching her burden, and that is the case with all the women about us.

Here comes a young girl with a bundle of sticks perfectly balanced on the top of her cranium and with her hands at her sides. She has bought as much fire wood as you could hold in your arms and she is carrying it home. Behind her comes a young mother with a similar bundle and a baby in her arms. She has stopped to make a purchase of that orange peddler over the way. Notice how carefully she stoops down without bending her back. There she has picked up a half dozen oranges and is walking off without trouble. But, wait, the woman of whom she has bought is excited. She is calling her back. The young mother returns, and putting her hand away down inside her chemise, takes out a coin and gives it to the peddler, who in turn stoops in at the neck of her dress. The bosoms of the women are their pockets, and before they make change they often have to fish for some time for the coin.

And so we go in and out through the crowd, jostling and being jostled by women with bags of potatoes, baskets of corn, fire wood and bottles on the tops of their heads. We beg pardon at every step, for we fear that a push may throw a basket of eggs neat on some one, or a chunk of raw red meat on some one, or a piece of wood thrown off on our clothes. There is no danger, however, for every woman is as quick as a partridge in autumn, and we do not for some of her ways you might fall in love.

BEAUTIFUL PARAGUAY LACE.

To an American her attractiveness is spoiled by the use of tobacco. I have thought until now that there was no greater beauty destroyer than the sun-chewing of the American girl, but the smoking of cigars as it prevails among Paraguayan women, is far worse. The Paraguayan maiden smokes like a chimney. She begins to use tobacco when she begins to wear dresses, and even before, for you may see school girls of six, eight and ten with cigars in their mouths. I have seen scores of little girls of seven and eight smoking cigars almost as big around as their waists, and as to old women, they are used as such in many cases at least, so that a woman takes part of her bed for her clothes when she goes out to walk.

HOUSEKEEPING IN PARAGUAY.

The common people here have indeed few wains. They do not seem to care much for money, and think one who works like a foreigner is very foolish indeed. I venture that the average family of Paraguay does not spend as much in a year as the family of our average town. The features of many Paraguayans are half-Japanese, and their character is half-Japanese. They have the back districts they have the same delightful disregard for clothing. Very young girls, as I have said, and often under there is a tier of collars running about a hollow court and forming the walls of the market house proper. The court, the cells and the cloisters are filled with women. There are hundreds of them all in their bare feet and many of them squatting on the bricks with their wares before them. They stand in stalls with pieces of beef hung upon hooks at the back. The favorite cut is a strip, and much of the meat seems to have been cut from the animal's sides and back, and they are about half an inch thick, one layer being cut after another until the bone is reached. The sheets are either hung up in the market and sliced or dipped off as the customer desires. Each customer brings a cloth with her to wrap her purchase in, and she carries her meat or vegetables home in a upon a box or pan which she rests ever furnishes paper or string for her

AMONG THE BUTCHER WOMEN.

But let us go further into the market and take a look at the butchers. They stand in stalls with pieces of beef hung upon hooks at the back. The favorite cut is a strip, and much of the meat seems to have been cut from the animal's sides and back, and they are about half an inch thick, one layer being cut after another until the bone is reached. The sheets are either hung up in the market and sliced or dipped off as the customer desires. Each customer brings a cloth with her to wrap her purchase in, and she carries her meat or vegetables home in a upon a box or pan which she rests ever furnishes paper or string for her

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INSISTS THAT THE BROADWAY BRIDGE FUND ACT BE REPEALED.

OR CASH STAY STOP

Some of the members of the Ramsey Delegation are afraid that the repeal bill might be disastrously on their future political fortunes—Third and Sixth Wards Are Especially Sensitive. The bill introduced in the senate by Senator Ives and passed by that body, authorizing cities of 50,000 inhabitants to transfer bridge funds to bridge repair funds, came before the house on general orders on Friday. Senator Schurman, of Ramsey county, asked that progress be reported on the bill and it was so ordered. The bill introduced in the senate by Senator Ives and passed by that body, authorizing cities of 50,000 inhabitants to transfer bridge funds to bridge repair funds, came before the house on general orders on Friday. Senator Schurman, of Ramsey county, asked that progress be reported on the bill and it was so ordered.

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IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Pupils in the seventh and eighth grades of the Madison school are looking up notes for a paper to be written on the twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. The lower grades are also working on similar papers. In some of the rooms, Thursday, school was dismissed owing to the cold.

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NEWS OF THE LODGE ROOMS.

Vita Nova Council No. 828, National Union, held a meeting at their hall, corner Sixth and Robert, Tuesday evening. The lodge was well attended and acting applications for membership were received. The lodge was well attended and acting applications for membership were received.

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WHEAT SHOWS GAIN

May wheat, Minneapolis, 71 1/2 to 72 1/2; Chicago, 71 1/2 to 72 1/2; Duluth, 71 1/2 to 72 1/2. Chicago, Feb. 11.—Numerous crop damage reports today, light receipts, heavy clearances at the Atlantic coast and higher cables all worked toward a decline in the price of the wheat pit. Shorts were forced to cover and May closed with a gain of 3/4 cent. Corn advanced 1/2 cent and closed at 52 1/2. Pork left off with an improvement of 1/2 cent, and closed at 7 1/2 and ribs, 7 1/2.

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'On or Before' MONEY 'On or After' To loan on improved property a Minneapolis and St. Paul. 5 OR 6% In sums to suit. 4 per cent allowed on six months' deposit. P. M. NEWPORT & SON, Receivers, Pioneer Trust Bldg., Minneapolis.

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H. HOLBERT & SON, Bankers and Brokers, 341 Robert St. St. Paul.

Live Stock

Lytle & Raeburn, Cattle Dealers. Family and Dairy Cows. UNION STOCK Y. B. B. Branch, Midway Cow Market 2161 University Av., St. Paul.

FARMERS, STOCKMEN,

The Breeders' Gazette,

The leading authority on Live Stock Matters in the United States. Published weekly, can be given as a premium for one year to any country reader who will remit \$3.50 to pay for a year's subscription to The Daily Globe. The regular price of both papers is \$5.00 per annum.

Table with columns: Bull, Cow, Sheep, etc. and prices.

Bar Silver, New York, etc.

FOREIGN FINANCIAL—New York, Feb. 11.

The Commercial Advertiser's London market cablegram says that the market here were exceedingly quiet today. The tone was firm. Copper was the special feature. London bought in anticipation of the bank week, hardening prices, and market closed at the weekly bank statement—New York, Feb. 11.—The weekly bank statement shows a falling balance. Surplus reserve, \$1,940,500; loans, \$1,235,500; deposits, \$1,235,500; increase, \$1,235,500; decrease, \$1,235,500; circulation, \$1,235,500; excess of the requirements of the currency, \$1,235,500.

MOVEMENT OF SPECIE—New York, Feb. 11.

The exports of specie from the port of New York for week amounted to \$4,000,000 in gold and \$1,000,000 in silver. The imports were: Gold \$2,000,000 and silver \$1,000,000.

ST. PAUL.

DULUTH, Minn., Feb. 11.—Cash sales today were: 100 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 2 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 3 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 4 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 5 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 6 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 7 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 8 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 9 hard wheat, 100 bushels of No. 10 hard wheat.

ST. PAUL.

Quotations on grain, hay, feed, etc., furnished by Griggs Bros. and seed merchant. WHEAT—No. 1 northern, 70¢; No. 2 northern, 68¢; No. 3 northern, 66¢; No. 4 northern, 64¢; No. 5 northern, 62¢; No. 6 northern, 60¢; No. 7 northern, 58¢; No. 8 northern, 56¢; No. 9 northern, 54¢; No. 10 northern, 52¢.

Live Stock Markets.

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Feb. 11.—The receipts at the Union stock yards today were: Cattle, 50 head; sheep, 25 head; pigs, 10 head. The market was steady and firm. Cattle were sold at \$10.00 to \$12.00; sheep at \$5.00 to \$6.00; pigs at \$3.00 to \$4.00.

ST. PAUL.

COURT DAYTON, Ohio, Feb. 11.—Business was hurried through for the good of the order, and progress was made. The court was held in the forenoon. The case of the State vs. the People was argued. The court was held in the forenoon. The case of the State vs. the People was argued.

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