

SOME HINDRANCES TO PAN-AMERICAN HARMONY

AN illuminating view of the way cultured Latin-Americans interpret the attitude of the United States and the American people toward the countries of the southern continent may be obtained from two articles appearing in current numbers of European reviews, one by a Spaniard, long resident in Colombia, and the other by a Brazilian.

Senhor Oliveira Lima, a member of the Brazilian Academy, writing (at the request of the editor) in the *Deutsche Revue* (Stuttgart), maintains that, in spite of all the rapidly succeeding pan-American Conferences (which resemble each other in their "barrenness of practical results and their faint-hearted utterances"), the unity of the two Americas—the Anglo-Saxon and the Latin—is thus far "hardly more than a pretty theme for pan-American literature, and, particularly, for pan-American after-dinner speeches."

At bottom, continues Senhor Lima, an "apparently incurable mistrust prevails on the one side and a contempt which seems no less incurable on the other." Though but slightly separated by nature, the "moral separation between the continents has always existed."

The United States has always viewed the other American countries, with the exception of Canada, which is under the dominion of their own race, with an invincible disdain—a disdain which could not remain a secret to the Young Latins, since it can not be readily concealed; or, to speak more exactly, it has never regarded the nations of Spanish and Portuguese origin as really its equal. The Government may upon occasion flatter this or that country—yesterday it was Mexico, to-day it is the turn of Brazil—for purposes of its own. Nevertheless, the feeling of general disdain continues.

It must be admitted, continues this Brazilian writer, that the Latin-American has gained a "sad and not altogether undeserved reputation by reason of his stormy temper in civil affairs and a lack of rectitude in administrative concerns nurtured by a peculiar militarism—a militarism which, in a certain aspect, verges upon the ridiculous, but, in another, is stamped with tyranny and tragedy; and it has not yet run its course. Argentina and Chile seem to have overcome it definitely,

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but the other republics are still suffering from its baleful influence."

Although in the United States, we are told further, intellectual development is being constantly widened, life, on the whole, "is not characterized by the natural refinement that makes itself felt in such urban centers as Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Lima and Caracas." Life in Buenos Aires "pretty closely resembles that in the United States, owing to private wealth—the greatest in South America—and its peculiar civilization, which is rather material than intellectual, plutocratic than aristocratic."

After reproaching the United States Government for what he terms arrogance and ruthlessness in its attitude toward the Latin-American delegates at the latest Hague conference, Senhor Lima closes with a few gracious remarks about the clearing of the sky in the matter of international politics. He says:

The international situation in the New World has improved. There is more apparent, even if not real, cordiality; and an "American" international jurisprudence has even been contemplated—as though it must not needs be the same as the European; the same wherever a Christian spirit and civilization prevail. Secretary Root, under President Roosevelt, made a laudable effort to cast the threats of the "big stick" into oblivion; and if in the course of the past year the United States did not scruple to proceed against President Zelaya of Nicaragua, as, in the year before, to break with President Castro of Venezuela, it has, at least, yielded to Chile in the Alsop case, submitting to a court of arbitration.

The Spanish writer referred to, Señor Manuel Ugarte, writing in *La Revue* (Paris), has some very gloomy things to say about the Pan-American Conference which is to meet in Buenos Aires in the early days of the present month. The confidence and enthusiasm that call for "a continental manifestation of political solidarity" will, he thinks, be lacking.