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EDITORIAL

## FORGETFUL OF BOLIVAR.

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**S**INCE the experience of England with the Boers, the experience has been a favorite warning to the United States on the lips of “distinguished Latin Americans” whenever these broke into print to prophesy what would happen in the event of United States aggression south of the Rio Grande. The latest Latin American, carefully introduced as “distinguished,” to utter the warning is the Venezuelan Rafael de Nogales-Mendez. Senor Nogales-Mendez has done so in a memorial addressed by himself to President Woodrow Wilson, in which he informs the President that the United States would have on its hands the job that England had on her hands in South Africa, if the United States endeavored to run Latin America, or any portion thereof: 80,000,000 Latin Americans would rise “as one man.”

As a Latin American, especially a Venezuelan, Senor Nogales-Mendez should remember Bolivar, the great Simon Bolivar, to whose prowesses and abnegation, more than to any other one individual, South America owes her liberation from Spain.

When the last unhorsed trooper of Morillo had left Venezuelan soil, and the last batch of Vice-roys had been shipped back home at Callao, in Peru; when the labors of freeing the land from Spain being done, he turned his mind to the building up of the South American Nation; when, then, the South American feudal lords, feeling disengaged of the over-lordship of the Spanish Crown, gave full rein to their feudal instincts, and turned the land into a vast Scotland during the protracted period of the clans' feuds; when he then saw his illusions crumble, Bolivar, broken-hearted, uttered the prophetic words: “This land will have to be re-conquered.”

Since then that has happened that seemed to give the lie to Bolivar's prophecy. Every attempt—Spanish, British, French—to re-take armed possession of South American soil has been successfully fought back and foiled. Was Bolivar in error?

A series of recent events and facts answers the question.

The constitutionally elected President of Venezuela, Cipriano Castro, was unconstitutionally overthrown by a “palace mutiny,” during his absence abroad, and the chief of the mutineers, Gen. Vicente Gomez, was supported in his military usurpation by the combined navies of the United States, France and Great Britain, which barred Castro’s way back home and to the office to which he had been elected. Where were the 80,000,000 Latin Americans? Did they rise “as one man”? They submitted.

Colombian territory was dismembered by the Government of the United States, despite the treaty obligation to guarantee the territory of the Republic; the “Canal Zone” was seized; and the opera bouffe Republic of Panama was staged. Where were the 80,000,000 million Latin Americans? Did they rise “as one man”? So far from rising their separate Governments set the seal of approbation upon the conduct of the United States, by each and all recognizing the “Republic of Panama.”

These two instances are picked out of a mass of others, they being most typical, being most glaring.

Feudalism had expected a new lease of life in America when it overthrew Spain. But other social forces were in motion to prevent the consummation. As Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, the brilliant professor of political science in the University of Wisconsin, and now Ambassador to China, puts it in his recent work, *The New South America*, a new South America has risen from the waters. That new South America is the child of the breath of Capital, and by Capital the whole of South America is being re-conquered. Individual Don Quixotes, living in memories of the past, may fret and fume and predict mass-uprisings to the slogan of the battle cries of the War of Independence, the mass of the population of all ranks has been and is falling in line with social evolution.

Bolivar was right. Altho,’ no doubt, the “re-conquest” that he had in mind was not the re-conquest that lay in the cards of social evolution, yet is it a re-conquest, all the same, and emphatically so—and merrily will the conquering ball roll.

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