

childless man who now resides near the United States legation at Caracas, with a pension from the government. With his death the name of the liberator disappears, although he is reputed to have left many illegitimate children.

Much has been written by Bolivar's enemies concerning his relations with women, and if one-quarter of it is true he was a notorious and conscienceless roue. Even his biographer admits that he was a man of licentious habits, strong passion, and inordinately fond of pleasure, and their is an entire volume, which was printed anonymously in Paris in 1858, devoted exclusively to his adventures and amours. It may be found in nearly every library of note in South America, and has been widely read. The book is made up almost exclusively of letters written by his associates to their friends, recounting incidents in his career in Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru, and contains some of his own amorous correspondence with his mistresses. The title is deceptive, as it reads, "Memoires y Documentos Para de la Independencia de Senior Bolivar," and the pseudonym of the author and compiler is "Pruvencena." There is no good biography of the liberator in English, nor in Spanish for that matter, for all the books about him have been written either by his devoted friends, who deify him, or by his rivals and enemies, who have endeavored to disparage his achievements or detract from his reputation. The most impartial biography was written by Dr. Lawazabe and was published by E. O. Jenkins, New York, in 1865. But the character of the man—and there have been few abler statesmen or more accomplished courtiers or men of greater military genius—can best be studied and judged by reading the somewhat tedious official collection of his correspondence published by the government of Venezuela.

BOLIVAR AT THE FRENCH COURT.

After the death of his wife Bolivar returned at once to Europe, taking her body with him, and remained there for some years. Accompanied by his brother-in-law, Don Fernando Toro, he went to Paris and witnessed the triumph of Napoleon; saw him seated upon the imperial throne and crowned as emperor. He spent many weeks in the court at the Tuileries, and at the palaces of Versailles, and followed the emperor to Milan, where he saw his coronation as king of Italy. Near Castiglione he witnessed the great review, and followed the train of the emperor to Florence, Rome, and Naples. Then he visited Egypt, and returning to Rome joined Don Simon Rodriguez, his former tutor at Caracas, under whose instruction he remained some time in studying ancient history and the classics among the ruins of the Eternal City. It was then and there, according to his own account and the corroborating testimony of Rodriguez, he formed the plans that he followed in his after life and reached a determination to

give his strength, his talents, and his fortune to the liberation of his country. Seated one day upon Mount Aventino (Sacrum Montem), he grasped the hand of his tutor and swore by that holy and historic land to devote the rest of his life to the freedom of Venezuela.

Proceeding to Paris he made the acquaintance of Baron von Humboldt, who had just returned from his first visit to South America, and accompanied him to Berlin, where he assisted in the compilation of that distinguished scientist's notes concerning Venezuela. Then he visited Hollan, and sailed from Hamburg for the United States. He visited Boston, New York, Niagara Falls, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Mount Vernon, Richmond, and Charleston. At the latter port he found a vessel about to leave for Venezuela and took passage in her for home, reaching Caracas during the latter days of 1806.

At the tomb of Washington he is said to have taken a second oath of devotion to the cause of Venezuelan independence, and to have made a vow to serve his country as he upon whose grave he stood had served the colonies of North America. Washington had then been dead some years, but his widow was still surviving and lived at Mount Vernon with her children.

At once upon his arrival at Caracas, Bolivar became a leader among the revolutionary propagandists, and, with his two brothers and other young men of similar rank and wealth, entered the army and commenced the work of converting their fellow-officers to the cause of freedom. Bolivar at this time was but 25 years old, and from his estates had an income of \$25,000 a year, which, in those days, was an enormous sum of money, and he owned over one thousand slaves, which were afterward manumitted. He was undersized in stature and of slight but muscular frame. A writer of the time in giving a pen picture of the future hero said:

"His eyes are large, dark, and languid, but when his attention is aroused they attest the internal fire and the overflowing soul. His movements are quick and determined, but graceful. He is fluent in speech and nervously animated in his gestures, and his voice is sharp and clear. His complexion is naturally dark, but has been darkened more by exposure; his beard is trimmed to his cheeks and chin according to the usages of the times; his eyebrows are thick and arched; his mouth wears a pleasant but impatient expression. He stands erect, like a soldier, and has the muscles of an athlete. His horsemanship is superior, and as a swordsman he surpasses, because he was educated in the manly arts in the gymnasi-ums of Paris. His manners are those of an accomplished courtier, his wit is quoted in every salon in Caracas, he is a reigning favorite among his own sex, and especially among the ladies."

AN OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF BOLIVAR.

Torrente, a Spanish official, writ-

ing at this time to his superiors at Madrid, concerning the revolutionary movement in Venezuela, speaks of "one Simon Bolivar, a lieutenant in the white battalion of Avaguna, a turbulent youth, distinguished for his wit, his wealth, the illustriousness of his birth, and his immeasurable ambition," so that the designs of the young man had been revealed soon after his arrival. But Bolivar seems to have taken no part in the insurrection of Miranda in 1808, although he was present and a participant in some of the local outbreaks at Caracas. The repressive measures of the Spanish governor compelled the young patriots to conceal their movements, and it was their habit to meet as if socially, not in the city, but at the estancias or plantations of their friends, under the pretense of celebrating their birthdays and the anniversaries of their patron saints. In 1810 Bolivar was openly accused of sedition and was compelled to conceal himself on an estancia in the valley of the Tuy, a considerable distance from the capital, to avoid arrest and imprisonment. Shortly after he sailed for Europe, where he met Miranda, and on the 5th of December, 1810, returned to Caracas, bringing the latter with him.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Then came the declaration of independence, the organization of the republic, with Miranda as military chief, the capture of the citadel at Puerto Cabello, the defeat of the revolutionary army at Victoria, the quarrel of Bolivar and Miranda, and the betrayal of the latter to the Spanish authorities, which is the most painful and questionable episode in the life of the liberator. But his motives appear in his answer to the Spanish governor, when the latter thanked him for the service done to the king.

"I surrender Miranda to punish a traitor to my country," was the reply, "and not to do a service for the king."

The governor was about to order Bolivar's arrest when one of his aids interposed.

"Don't mind this rash youth," he said. "He has done us a good service. Give him a passport and let him go."

When the revolutionists had recovered from their demoralization, Bolivar became their leader, and continued as such until the end of the war. Then he united Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador in a confederation and became their first president. Leaving the government in charge of the vice-president, he went to Peru and Bolivia, where he took command of the revolutionary armies and accomplished their independence. He resigned the dictatorship of Peru in 1826 and became "perpetual president and protector" of Bolivia, but the following year returned to his own country and he was re-elected president. But Gen. Paez, who had been one of his most effective aids in the revolution, defied his authority, assumed the dictatorship of Venezuela, and proclaimed its