

duce compliance by means of force. It is to be hoped, however, that the rumor regarding Italy's intention to resort to such extreme processes is incorrect.

We are not prepared to receive as reliable the statements to the effect that Secretary Blaine intends to include in a communication to Rudini, data of the lawless acts of the Mafia. We believe that Secretary Blaine is too clear headed a statesman to introduce into his correspondence with the foreign government in question material liable to further inflame Italian sentiment against this country. No other effect could be produced by such a course, as it would appear like an attempt on our side to avoid the main question of the issue. Rudini would doubtless come back at such a representation with a reply to the effect that Italians had been admitted to the United States and were consequently, according to treaty obligations, entitled to the protection of and liable to the penalties of the laws of the Republic. The complaint on the part of Italy is that a number of her citizens were murdered by an organized mob while in legal custody and after having been acquitted by due process of law of the crime charged against them. Even this country cannot, as we understand it, go behind that acquittal, which is a legal declaration of innocence, and it is not to be expected that Italy will do so. This is the status even if, as a matter of fact, the persons who were murdered by the mob were guilty of assassinating Chief of Police Hennessy.

Should the reported intended action of the Italian government prove to be true—we are not prepared to credit it—it would give coloring to the opinion that some other power is at the back of Italy. It would also bear out the statement of the British press, that Italy would not retreat from the position it assumed from the beginning of the controversy.

A CONGRESS OF THINKERS.

In connection with the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, will also be held a "Congress of Thinkers." This enterprise, which bears the formidable name of "World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition," will, it is believed, draw together, into intelligent consideration, and discussion of all the more important subjects within the range of human thought, a greater number of the world's great thinkers than ever before assembled.

Charles C. Bonney is the promoter of this movement. In a prospectus recently issued by him he defines the

object of the Congress. He says it will be for the consideration of the living questions in all the departments of human progress. The most eminent representatives of art, science and politics will be present to interchange ideas and opinions. There will be sub-congresses on education, science and philosophy, temperance, moral and social questions, labor, literature, law reform, religions, medicine and surgery, commerce and finance, agriculture, arbitration and peace, music, etc.

Differing religious denominations, temperance societies, and other organizations will work in harmony to secure a result in which all are alike interested, and to obtain which the Auxiliary will endeavor to exercise the highest impartiality and justice.

A SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

The developments taking place on the American continent naturally incline one to learn something of the various nations which make up this hemisphere. Politically and commercially there seems to be a tendency to bring these inter-continental countries into closer relations. A railroad is talked of, which if completed will unite all these countries in a certain social and industrial sense. The trade reciprocity project is another step in the direction of international fusion. The Nicaragua canal, and the increasing interests of United States citizens in the Latin Americas all tend to bring our vast continent into a commercial homogeneity, at least.

One of these southern countries which is very imperfectly known to us of the north, is Ecuador. It does not figure as often in revolutionary horrors as many of its sister states. The northern boundary of Ecuador is the equator and the United States of Colombia; the eastern, Brazil; the southern, Peru; and the western, the Pacific Ocean. Its area is estimated at 249,000 square miles, and its population at about 1,000,000. Half of its people is said to be pure Indians of the old aboriginal type.

Ecuador was formerly a part of New Granada, but Simon Bolivar liberated it from Spain. Its constitution was adopted in 1830. The government is a republic. But there are educational and religious tests imposed for the franchise. The President is elected every four years, by 900 electors, who are themselves elected by the people qualified to vote.

There is also a Vice-President, a Prime Minister, and three other Cabinet Ministers, the first of whom is elected, but the others are appointed.

The Council of State is composed of

the above-named ministers together with seven others, and presided over by the Vice-President. There is a Senate and a House of Deputies, something after the order of our Congress.

There is a Supreme Court which sits at Quito, the capital, and four courts of appeal for the provinces.

The State religion is Roman Catholic. Toleration of other sects is optional with the ruling powers. A tithe of its revenue is sent annually to Rome.

The Quito valley has a general elevation of 7,000 feet. It is rich and fertile, and were it not for lack of transportation in the way of railroads, would become a perfect garden. The Napo region is a dense forest broken only by rivers. The Amazon drains a large portion of Ecuador.

The mean annual temperature at Quito is 58.8 degrees, the extremes in a year being 45 to 70 degrees. The mean annual rainfall is 70 inches, while that of New York City is only 42 inches. In the mountain ranges snow and hailstorms prevail, and frosts often injure cereal crops. The coast regions are sometimes submerged. These are very unhealthy. The scourge of Quito is elephantiasis.

In the matter of natural products Ecuador abounds in cinchona, India rubber, vegetable ivory, orchilla grass, and other valuable articles. In cultivated products cereals, coffee, cacao, cotton, fruits, tobacco, nuts and yams are raised. Wheat ripens at any season of the year. Agriculture there is in a very primitive state. Cattle and sheep are reared in vast numbers.

In minerals the country is rich. Gold mines were worked extensively in former times. Gold is still found in the mountain streams, but mining is all but suspended there.

Manufacturing in Ecuador is very limited. However, in many branches the women excel, such as in linen fabrics, carpets, drapery and other textures of this kind.

The great obstruction to progress in this country is likely to arise from the bigotry of its people. They are of all the Latin-Americas the most devoted to Rome, and the most intolerant to other sects. Yet it is said that the Indians are very docile, and the most part of the labor performed there is done by them. But the country is only sparsely settled. As already said the population is about 1,000,000, while the most moderate estimates affirm that it is capable of supporting 20,000,000 of people without any danger of crowding.

Christine Olsen, a young woman of Glende in Berg, has mysteriously disappeared from her father's home.