

not even the power of impeachment. This shows that much of the trouble can be attributed to the defectiveness of the Chilean Constitution.

It appears that Balmaceda was supported by England, and that she is likely to have another "Alabama" controversy on her hands. But what is rather strange about this matter is Minister Egan's conduct. It is stated that he supported Balmaceda, and thus endorsed his old enemy England.

That Balmaceda developed into a dictator is more or less believed by the people of this country, but of the situation which led up to his final rupture with Congress, it is very difficult to form a settled opinion. The political status of these South American countries is not very well understood even by intelligent residents.

THE PAN-AMERICAN RAILWAY.

Not long ago the London *Times* had an article on the projected pan-American railroad, stating that if such a scheme were to be accomplished the United States would have to guarantee the funds for its construction. The *Times* then deduced from this, that the South American republics would ultimately become in a measure subject to the United States.

The Boston *Herald*, in considering the possibility of building such a road says that 1674 miles are already built in Mexico. There are at present 17,000 miles of railroad in operation in South and Central America; and many new lines are in process of construction. It will require about 3000 miles of road to be constructed before communication can be established by rail between the United States and the southern regions of South America.

The Boston *Herald* is emphatic in its opposition to permitting any European country to have an ownership in this projected continental railroad. It also says that the difficulties in its way are more political than financial or topographical. The roughest portion of the road would be between Oaxaca and Tehautepec. Between the latter country and the boundary line of Guatemala there is an undeveloped country, and railroad construction there would be difficult. However, it is confidently stated by an American engineer who is conversant with the southern countries, that a road can be built the whole length of the continent for \$30,000 a mile. This gentleman also says that there is every probability that the road will be taken up as an international enterprise by the different governments through whose countries it would pass.

This engineer, whose name is Conn, is very enthusiastic over the proposed highway. He has a well written article in the *Engineering Magazine* for August, treating on the road and its possibilities from a commercial and political point of view. Its accomplishment would be the acme of reciprocity, while in a political sense it would make every country through which it may pass absolutely American. In this way he thinks that the Monroe doctrine would finally prevail from Patagonia to Alaska.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

SPECIAL advices from the World's Fair directory of Chicago, state that work is progressing rapidly on the buildings. They will be of monstrous proportions. It will take a fence six miles long to enclose them. The largest will be the Hall of Manufactures and Liberal Arts. It is now being rapidly forwarded. A railroad track runs through its center, and on each side rise tremendous piles of lumber, iron and all sorts of construction material.

At all the other great buildings similar scenes are to be witnessed. Within the enclosure the exposition site resembles one vast work-ground, surrounded by freight cars and lumber yards. Looking out towards the lake, the breakwater, the long pier and foundation for the naval exhibit present the appearance of a mammoth dockyard. The woman's building is already so far advanced that it looms up imposingly against its back ground of park trees.

The electricity and mines and mining buildings are also beginning to appear above the surface. The foundations have been completed, and the scaffolding shows up strongly. The horticulture and transportation buildings are in progress also. Rush and activity are the characteristics to be noted everywhere within the grounds.

Hundreds of men are engaged on every possible sort of construction work. Laying water-mains, fixing the electric-light plant, modeling for the exterior decorative work and developing landscape effects around the ornamental waters. In a short time it will be as busy by night as by day, by aid of the electric lighting which has been arranged for. It will be found that Chicago will make the name of America synonymous with enterprise, activity, energy and engineering in her accomplishment of the gigantic World Fair.

"Dr. Huguet" is the title of Ignatius Donnelly's latest novel.

A RULING FROM MICHIGAN.

THE Supreme Court of Michigan has confirmed the judgment of a lower court that a wife's earnings under all circumstances are the property of her husband, and the authority of the courts cannot therefore be invoked by her for the collection of her wages from an employer. Here earnings, says the court, in substance, belong to her husband to do with as he please.

This is the most barbarous ruling that has been handed down from any court of the United States since the extinguishment of human slavery. It is in every important feature a revival of the most degrading conditions of that abhorred institution, the only difference being that the curse is so instituted as to fall upon the wife only with the husband instead of a hired brute for the task master.

Go as far back on the track of civilization as you will and this relic of savagery, which in the year of our Lord 1891 has come out of its grave to disgrace the State of Michigan, will be seen to stand out among the rest of human barbarisms as a most depraved and brutal feature. Brutal, because it fixes a penalty the most degrading upon womanhood. Depraved, because it degrades the associations of equality that should exist between man and wife to the level of a proprietorship, making of the marriage contract a sort of lease or whatnot upon the body of the bride, for her lifetime, or so long as the court shall decree. By the very act which the laws of civilization have endeavored to surround with the most sacred of rites and obligations for her especial protection, she consigns herself to a sort of bondage the character of which is controlled absolutely by the inclinations of the man she espouses.

This is not such a showing as one might expect from the State of Michigan—the State that has furnished her bar of America with such an array of judges and other leading lights of the profession. Michigan has furnished Utah with more of its legal guides than any other State in the Union. It now looks as though some of them were needed at home. Judge Powers as a champion of women in the abstract has figured in the front rank. The great and only Alger who has exerted himself more or less in the amelioration of women has made Michigan renowned by being one of her citizens. He might with profit transfer his energies from his arduous endeavors to be President of the United States to the work of wiping this obnoxious statute from the records of his State.