

agricultural colonies and will stimulate immigration. Chile earnestly desires immigration and as far as lies in her power endeavors to encourage it. She considers it one of the chief factors of her progress. We need more people in Chile, and we have here a country which, if properly cultivated, would support many times our present population."

After a question as to the nitrate deposits which the president answered by saying that he investigations show that they will last for a long time yet, I asked his excellency what Chile thought of the Monroe doctrine. This was a rather delicate question, as many people down here think that the United States wishes to control the policy of the two continents. His written answer, however, was as follows:

"The international policy of Chile has always tended towards the maintenance of peace and the strengthening of her political and commercial relations with the nations of the American continent, and I believe that this policy does not depart from one of the phases, perhaps the most important one, of the Monroe doctrine."

Correspondent—"Will the pending question between Chile and the Argentine be amicably adjusted or is there likely to be a conflict of arms?"

The President—"I am confident that the matters now pending between the Argentine and Chile will be peaceably arranged, and I believe that both governments are anxious that they should be." This closes the interview.

Chile is a republic, but there are a number of differences between its constitution and that of the United States. The Chilean president is elected for five years instead of four, and he is not eligible for a second term. The presidential election day is June 25th of the fifth year of each presidency and inauguration day is September 18th, of the same year. Both of these dates are in the winter months, and the 18th of September is also the Chilean day of independence corresponding to our 4th of July. The president of Chile gets a salary of \$12,000 for expenses. This is, however, in Chilean money, so that it is equal just now to not more than \$11,000 in American gold. President Errazuriz probably spends several times this sum every year. The president has the veto power the same as our President has, but his veto can be overridden by a two-thirds majority of the members of congress present at the time the measure is brought back, and the political situation is such that when a presidential measure fails it is usually the custom for the cabinet to resign, so that Chile has a new cabinet I am told, on the average once a month. In addition to his cabinet, which is made up of ministers after much the same lines as those of our cabinet, the Chilean president has a counsel of state, consisting of five members appointed by himself and six chosen by congress.

Chileans cannot vote until they are twenty-five years of age if they are unmarried, but married men can vote at the age of twenty-one. Members of the house of deputies, which corresponds to our House of Representatives, must have an income of £100 sterling a year, and senators must have an income of £400, or \$2,000 a year. Congress sits in regular session from June 1st until September 1st every year, but the president can call an extra session whenever he chooses. The building known as the houses of congress was burned a year or so ago and is now being rebuilt. It was an dwill be the finest building in Santiago. It covers a full square of ground and looked not unlike some of our great buildings at Washington, save it was made of brick covered with terra cotta stucco instead of granite or marble. The walls of the

building still stand and within a short time it will be again ready for occupancy. At present the lower house is meeting in one of the halls of the university of Santiago, and the senate holds its sessions in one of the buildings devoted to the government departments. The sessions of congress are often very stormy. The Chileans are fond of politics and you will hear more political talk here in a day than you hear in Washington in a week. There are two great political parties, the conservatives and the liberals, each of which has a number of subdivisions. The conservatives are the more compact, but the liberals are much the more numerous, and they are represented by the power now in power. They are the progressive party and they advocate popular education, the elevation of the masses and everything modern. The conservatives are more what their name implies, and they include also the clerical or church element, which here in Chile has enormous influence.

One of the curious divisions of the president's cabinet is the branch or department of "worship and colonization." Catholicism is the state religion, and the Catholic church receives a certain amount every year from the government treasury. Nearly all of the Chileans are Catholics, and all church affairs of note are attended by the government officials. On the Chilean anniversary of its "day of independence," the president and all of his officials, including the officers of the army and navy, attend church. The other day a celebrated bishop who had been dead for I don't know how long was honored with a new monument in the Cathedral of Santiago, and this was made the occasion of a great celebration. I went in company with the American minister, and found that nearly all of the foreign diplomats were present. The president, the general of the army and the admiral of the navy were there in their official dress, and during the ceremonies all knelt again and again in unison with the priests and other church dignitaries. I am told, however, that within recent years other religions have been more tolerated by Chile than almost any other South American country. There are two large American schools here in Santiago, one supported by the Methodist and the other by the Presbyterian churches of the United States, and there are other missionary colleges and churches in different parts of the country. These are tolerated, however, on the grounds of modern progress rather than from any desire of the Chileans to change their religion. They are, I believe, satisfied with Catholicism, though the educated Chilean man does not like the way in which the church meddles with political matters. He does not go to church except on Sundays and feast days, and, like many other men outside of South America, he leaves most of the church exercises to his wife and daughters. The women of Chile are one of the strongest elements in upholding Catholicism and its influence. They are very devout. You see them in the churches week day and Sunday kneeling on the stone floors and saying their prayers. You meet them on the streets going to confess or mass, each carrying a prayer rug in one hand and a prayer book in the other, and if you will enter the churches you may, perhaps, see a pretty devotee who will look at you out of the tail of her eye as she mumbles her prayers with a cross old duenna in the background. As in Peru and Bolivia, the women in Chile wear solid black when they go to church. They cover their heads with black mantas, and a church congregation makes you think of a nunnery

with all of the nuns clad in black. Indeed, to wear white at such times is a sign of grief and shame rather than of purity and joy. It is the custom for women who have done wrong to put on white shawls to show that they are penitent and are resolved to be good for the future. I have seen several very pretty girls so dressed and as they passed have thought of Hawthorne's story of the "Scarlet Letter," and wondered if in some cases there should not be a priest walking beside them.

The Catholic church here is enormously wealthy. I have heard it said that its property in Santiago alone is worth more than a hundred million gold dollars. It has some of the best business blocks of the city. The whole of one side of the Plaza, which is the very center of the most valuable of Santiago business property, is taken up by the palace of the archbishop and by the cathedral, and there is other property all about this belonging to the church. It has acres of stores, thousands of rented houses and vast haciendas upon which wine and other things are made for sale. Nearly all of this is controlled by the archbishop, although much of the church property is held by its different organizations. The Carmelite nuns of this city are the richest body of women in South America, if not in the world. They have whole streets of rented houses near their nunnery and own also large farms, which bring them in a steady income. These nuns never allow their faces to be seen by men, and if for any reason men must be employed in the nunnery for the making of repairs, et cetera, the nuns shroud their forms and heads in thick black cloth when passing by them. Of course no one is admitted to the convent proper, but through a friend who has some influence with them I was admitted to the beautiful chapel which they have established for the use of their employes and outsiders. In getting the permission we talked with the nuns, though we did not see them. Our speaking tube was a dumb waiter, and the voice that came down was singularly sweet, and as I heard it utter the soft musical Spanish it seemed to me a shame that it should, as is the rule of the establishment, be confined to a whisper.

The Dominican Friars also own millions of dollars' worth of property in Santiago. I walked for blocks past houses every one of which I was told belong to them and paid them rent monthly. They dress in black hats and gowns, with soft white flannel undershirts, and they look quite imposing as they fling themselves along the streets. Their church is perhaps the finest in Santiago. It is almost a cathedral in size and appearance, and its altar is one of the most beautiful on this hemisphere. When the altar was ordered from Europe the size of the church was not considered, and when it arrived it was found that it was too big for the church. The good friars did not know what to do for a time, but, as the altar had cost thousands of dollars, they concluded to build a new church. Here, however, another mistake was made. It was found that the church had been enlarged too much, and that the space left for the altar was now as much too big as it had formerly been too little. They filled in the space, however, with other material, so that today the costly altar looks rather patchy, after all.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Privates W. M. Holden and Louis Dunn of company I, Fifty-first Iowa, have died at the division hospital at San Francisco.