

which were a period of extreme suffering, she has almost entirely recovered from the seemingly incalculable losses to which she was subjected.

AN AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

The recent action of the United States government in the case of the Brazilian rebellion is bearing fruit, and taken in connection with the government's course toward the Central American republics it indicates a trend of affairs that, following in the wake of the present commotion in this nation, may lead to radical changes in governmental affairs on this continent. Brazil has not had heretofore any special leaning toward the United States, her form of government and business relations being such as to bind her more closely to European powers than to the Republic, though the visit of Dom Pedro to the United States did much to establish a more cordial feeling.

The recent rebellion in Brazil, however, brought the opportunity for a marked improvement of friendly relations with this government. The Brazilian government being republican, it had no particular support from Germany and Great Britain, the latter practically taking side with the rebels. The attitude of the United States, however, was that of strict neutrality, and when the rebel admiral began his insolent treatment of neutral powers in the harbor of Rio, the prompt and courageous action of the American commander elicited the admiration of the Brazilians, and the United States took a long stride forward in the respect in which it was held by the greatest South American republic.

One effect of this is being manifest now in the preparations making at Rio de Janeiro for the celebration of the Fourth of July there. It is something novel for one nation to celebrate another's natal day; and while it may not be said that Brazil is officially doing this, yet the fact that the whole thing is being engineered by the Brazilian rulers, from President Pelxoto down, practically gives it that effect. The proceeding appears to be entirely free from any inspiration on the part of the American residents, and to be a spontaneous movement on the part of the Brazilians to, as they say, observe the Fourth in a manner to demonstrate to the United States the good will existing toward them on the part of the people. There is to be a public demonstration, the program including a military and naval review and the laying of the corner stone of a monument to be surmounted by a statue of President Monroe, author of the "Monroe doctrine." The United States has been asked to send a squadron to participate in the naval review, and special medals are to be presented to the chief executives of both republics.

This proceeding shows a marked inclination to draw closer to the United States, and to recognize in this nation the head of the free states of America. Naturally the establishment of more intimate commercial relations will follow the feeling thus manifested and the volume of Brazilian trade will be in this direction instead of going to Europe. And in connection with the

same event is the attitude being assumed by the Central American republics, where there is a strong and growing disposition to break from the Old World relations and combine with the United States. Heretofore the Central American republics have not been able to get together on any kind of a proposition, as it has been to the interest of European diplomats to keep them apart. The statement in the dispatches that a movement is on foot to effect a general revolution throughout Central America hardly can be interpreted to mean that there will be a general war inaugurated there, but is more clearly expressive of the fact that internal dissensions and outside pressure really are proving effective for consolidation, and that the creation of a Central American federation, including Guatemala, Costa Rica, Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras will be the immediate result.

In the case of events of this nature, which seem reasonably certain to occur within a brief period, the United States naturally will be looked to for advice and perhaps for active support. The policy of the nation is to make its influence felt for union and the preservation of human rights among the Latin-American states, and this is inspiring among our southern friends a confidence in the principles of republican government such as has not existed heretofore. Give this feeling a little time to grow, and in the ordinary course of events as these are shaping themselves now, when the present disturbances in this government have been adjusted and affairs are conducted more nearly the constitutional design of sustaining the rights of all citizens, the way will be open for forming on this continent a grand American Union, with the United States as its chief cornerstone. The time is not yet, but already there is dawning upon the darkness of the present among the nations of this land not only the possibility but the probability of such a consummation.

THE EARTH REELING.

Some time ago the News published an observation made by one of its esteemed friends relating to an apparent irregularity in the relative positions of the earth and the sun, the heavenly luminary seemingly slowly receding toward the south. The subject seems now to be a matter of scientific inquiry. A Washington correspondent to an exchange states that observations will be made at Washington and at Manila, in the Philippine Islands, simultaneously, for the purpose of ascertaining what is the matter with the earth's axis. For some time past there has been a suspicion that the revolutions of our sphere have not been as regular as they used to be, and astronomers think it is high time to study the matter and find out the cause of it. An equatorial telescope has therefore been constructed and sent to Manila and the sky will soon be searched from two almost directly opposite points of the globe. Should the variations already observed continue, it is thought that in the course of a certain period the changes on the earth will be such as to

make present geographies entirely useless. The latitude of every place of the globe will be altered, continents will be submerged and islands expand into continents; where now lie perpetual ice and snow, a tropical climate may obtain dominion, and vice versa.

Holy writ teems with predictions to the effect that a time will come when everything shall be in commotion, and particularly definite are such allusions in the message held by the Latter-day Saints to be divinely inspired. "The earth shall tremble and reel to and fro;" "the sun shall hide his face;" "the heavens shall shake;" such statements are repeatedly made. If astronomers have really commenced to inquire into phenomena which are thought to indicate nothing less than a change of the earth's position relative to the plane of its orbit, it is pertinent to say that such expressions may ultimately be proved to be literal truths, without the slightest exaggeration for dramatic effects. It may possibly soon be ascertained that the earth is rolling on with accelerated speed towards a great and terrible cataclysm.

THE NEWEST HEALTH SUGGESTION.

This is the age of reforms; and of dress reforms—like the making of books—there is no end. Formidable and imposing is the title of the very latest organization with objects in this especial direction: "The Society for the Encouragement of Loose Clothing." It was formed in London for the purpose indicated in its name, and it expects to have branches in all parts of England as well as in America. With the hope of getting the movement started in New York, a Mrs. Julia Leith is now visiting the metropolis; and pursuant to the usual program in such cases made and provided, she has been getting herself extensively interviewed by the reporters. A representative of the *Mail and Express* lately gave the genial visitor this much of an opportunity to ventilate her views:

We apply our principle to both sexes. We do not believe that men ought to wear tight clothing any more than women. Of course they do not, but then you will find a great many men who wear very tightly buttoned vests, which we believe to be injurious. Our idea of how clothing should be made is entirely original. I am negotiating with a tailor now to get up some models. We believe that as far as the mechanical limitations, the clothing ought not to touch the body at all, except at the points of support. This we expect to accomplish by means of a fine wicker-work, which will hold the fabric off say the sixteenth or quarter of an inch, and so permit a freer circulation of air. A man will look a little larger than he really is, but that is not to be considered when health is our main consideration. We shall also advocate the manufacture of cloth of coarser fiber than is now used for men's clothes, and we have a chemist in our society who is experimenting with certain drugs which will be incorporated into the cloth for the purpose of warding off disease germs.

It will be generally admitted, we assume, that Mrs. Leith's claim of originality for the wicker-work underwear idea is well-taken. It may also be asserted in advance that there is