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# BUENOS AYRES.

## It is the Metropolis of South America and the Largest Spanish City in the World.

**The Wonderful Growth—How it Controls the Argentine Politically and Financially—How It Looks from the Housetops—A Town of Shrubs and Patches—Its Romantic History—Its 800,000 People, More Than Half of Whom are Foreigners—A South American Botany Bay—The Biggest Catholic City of the World, Only Four Per Cent of Which is Protestant.**

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BUENOS AYRES, Nov. 25, 1898.—Buenos Ayres is the London of New York, the Chicago of the Argentine Republic. It is the metropolis of South America. It might almost be called the Argentine itself. It controls this country as no capital of the world does that it is supposed to dominate. It is not exaggerating that Paris is France, and so far as the nation that lives in it is concerned it is the Argentine. There are a few different cities in France that have an independent commercial existence. Paris is by no means all France politically. She is so artistically, everything and perhaps intellectually. Buenos Ayres is the political capital of the Argentine. It is the commercial, the industrial capital, its financial, social and intellectual capital. Not only the most of the Argentine revenues are Buenos Ayres citizens, most of those who represent foreign nations live here, and the city is not only the year round, although it may now and then go to see their friends in the country, responsible for more than one-half of the Argentine revenues. The result is that Buenos Ayres takes stuff like Argentine success.

Especially, Buenos Ayres has 50 per cent of the population of the Argentine, more than 800,000, comprising over 12,000 families. The annual volume of foreign trade amounts to more than a hundred million dollars a year, even through it. Its wholesale houses carry on trade with every quarter. There are, not, only two places in the Argentine Buenos Ayres and the Campo. Ayres is the Argentine. The Campo is all of the Argentine outside of Buenos Ayres.

### BIG BANKS AND ARGENTINE SUCCESS.

Commercially and financially Buenos Ayres is the Argentine. It has the banks which supply the republic with money. It has the institutions into which deposits of from sixpence to dollars come. It had one with a capital of $30,000,000 in gold, and its offshoots which started the Baring Brothers of London and made the Baring Brothers of London, and which ruined them by its breaking. Buenos Ayres is a stock exchange, where 1,000 stocks are bought and sold in gold, where stocks and bonds rise and fall as Buenos Ayres thinks them fit to rise and fall. The Argentine has not a billion gold dollars worth of stock was floated during the ten years ending in 1890. What the panic came of the most of the companies failed, and most of the shares are now not worth 1 cent of their face value. Nevertheless the Argentine is a country of great natural wealth.

It is the center of Buenos Ayres is the center of the money made in Campo is spent here. The city has scores of millionaires, men who own from a million acres of land and who count their cattle and sheep in the tens of thousands. They may go to Europe in the summer, but their wives are good in their palaces here, where they give royal entertainments and pay a thousand dollars for a season box at the opera house.

### THE BOOMING TOWN OF SOUTH AMERICA.

The Argentine is growing fast in population. It has on its seven leagues compared with the United States. Its population increases by natural increase and by immigration, and it now has more than four million people. Buenos Ayres grows faster than the rest of the country. It is jumping upward at the rate of a hundred thousand a year. It has two million people, and by the end of the century its people claim that it will number more than a million. One-fifth of all the people in this country live in Buenos Ayres.

The city grows like a green bay tree. It increases more rapidly than any city in the United States. Long ago it began to take in all the adjoining territory. When it had its great boom in 1889 all the ponds all outdoors was filled out in lots, and within five years the real estate transactions footed up to about 100,000,000. Still much land has been built upon to make a town city, and that a more solid one than Chicago. Its houses are not detached as ours. They are built in blocks of four rows, each surrounded by narrow gardens. Most of the sections are so crowded that the people seem to live in flats. In others there are wide streets lined with fine houses. The city as it is now is seven miles from east to west and a mile around it is as large as Washington to Baltimore. Within its boundaries there is room for twice as much as in Paris, and it has a great number of stores and business places in proportion to its population than any town in the United States. The streets are crowded. There are miles of them. The reason is that there are five times as many people in Buenos Ayres as there are in Chicago. It has not the great floating population of our cities that wagons are supplied by their owners, and who come into the city to do business.

### BIGGEST SPANISH CITY OF THE WORLD.

Buenos Ayres is a Spanish city. It is the largest Spanish-speaking city of the world. It is almost twice as big as Madrid and three times as big as Barcelona. Its Spanish character is shown in its feet, and it is the Spanish city a municipal individuality of its own. It will always have the Spanish language, but the population is a mixture drawn from the four quarters of the earth. Today more half of the population is foreign, and the city itself is half being Spanish character. The houses are the Spanish, which have been rivetted into the more like those of Paris than of Madrid. The Avenue de Mayo is a Paris street, with an asphalt pavement. The buildings upon it make you think of those of the Champs Elysees. There is a total absence of the flat, gray, dreary structures of old Spain. It is the same with some of the hotels, many of which have been erected since Buenos Ayres began its rapid growth.

### THE HISTORY OF BUENOS AYRES.

Most of the buildings, however, are of a modern century or so there was a village here when the city first. It was but one of the Spanish settlements along narrow streets, with houses built close to the sidewalk. Pedro de Mendoza founded it Buenos Ayres. The name means "good air," but Mendoza did not name it thus because air was good, but because it was good, the death rate is high. More than a thousand people died here last month, and now the fog over the city is as thick as that of London. For a long time the city was a place to which people were sent as exiles. It takes a lot's here lost and a very bad man to produce holidays in the Union. Here, if you steal you will get it here or simply opening your mouth. No, Buenos Ayres did not give its name from its superfluous odors. It has an opera house, theatre and the other adventuresses Spanish set theatre in its name, but a deep regard for the dead. It was said that the city after the Virgin Maria de Buenos Aires, whose aid he had invoked for his expedition to the Argentine.

In the seventeenth and seventeenth centuries Asuncion, Paraguay and Cordoba, as Ayres, the Spanish settlers were far better places than Buenos Ayres. The town long remained a settlement only the most of the Argentine revenues are Buenos Ayres citizens, most of those who represent foreign nations live here, and the city is not only the year round, although they may now and then go to see their friends in the country, responsible for more than one-half of the Argentine revenues. The result is that Buenos Ayres takes stuff like Argentine success.

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