

THE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY.

An Evening at the White House of Montevideo.

How Receptions are Held with Soldiers in the Hallways and Gating Gates on the Roof
—President Castex and His Revolution—The Montevidean Aristocrats and Their Handsome Women, Who Wear \$100 Dresses and Have Diamond Galois—Their Queer Customs of Courtship and Marriage—How Young Men Play the Dragon—Why No Birch of French Cases, etc., etc.

Montevideo, Uruguay, Feb 11, 1899.

During my stay in Montevideo I spent an evening at the president's mansion. The occasion was one of the weekly receptions, and the wealth, culture and beauty of the capital were present. I ought not to say that the reception was held under indoor conditions, for there were soldiers at the door who separated every guest as he passed in. I left their own house through me when I entered with our consul general and his family. Gating arms, canons and dynamite bombs looked down upon us from the roof, and I doubt not that private detectives were stationed here and there along the streets.

The president of Uruguay lives upon a political volcano. He is in daily danger of assassination, and he never knows when a revolver will be pointed at his overcoat collar. He is indeed one of the most remarkable men in South American Politics. His name is José L. Castex. He was vice-president at the time of the assassination of President Flores in 1870, and his successor at the death of his friend, Dr. Flores. He became president at Flores' death, and his term should have expired on March 1, 1898. He is still in office, however, because dictators do not like to give up power.

In July last a resolution was sprung in overthrust him, and he was forced to resign. He was succeeded by Dr. Montevideo, and many of the chief officers were in the conspiracy, if they could have had time to plot. Some of them have been arrested, and probably killed.

The revolution failed because the man who was to set the revolutionists against the government did not do his duty. The thought was that the president was ambitious as soon as he was elected, plotting to become president. In the winter there were disturbances so grand, but very unimportant.

The houses of Montevideo are as solid as the white marble with which they are built. The height, however, varies,

which is as big as Washington, and quite as wide, there is not a furnace room in the entire building. During cold weather, however, other rooms are dressed in furs, with her feet in a muff and her hat on a water bottle.

Montevideo has both its summer and winter houses in wreaths of flowers.

WAGES AND SERVANTS.

Such families have hosts of servants. They have their conditions and customs, and the same may be said of the women. Rich cooks are often employed and in such cases it is customary for the cook to make a sumptuous meal for the master and his wife, and take his wages out of his allowance. When he is given this sum, he is told to go to a pawn shop near by, and, leaving alone with his lady love, each thing is not bought out.

The wages of servants are high. Cooks receive from \$15 to \$25 per month, or more, according to the size of the house and the number of children.

Waiters, chambermaids, and housekeepers are paid from \$10 to \$15 per month.

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