

LOVELY CARACAS.

VENEZUELA'S CAPITAL AND SOME OF ITS ATTRACTIONS.

Homes of the Inhabitants—An Impressive Capitol—A Famous Coffee Region—Statues of Washington and Bolivar.

CARACAS, for three hundred years the capital of Venezuela, presents itself to view with an enchanting dramatic effect, writes Almont Barnes in the Washington Star. One goes by rail or other road up from the edge of the sea at La Guayra, winding among the curves and lifts of the mountains until he is five thousand feet above that city, beyond which the Caribbean looks like a mill pond, and its fleets like "painted ships on a painted ocean," but five or six miles away. The peak of Naiguata and La Silla Mountains tower above Metracelles three thousand feet.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CARACAS.

perfect growth and loveliness, and a bewildering profusion of wild flowers, in view of a plantation, protected on one side by a sheer declivity of 1500 feet, and with flocks of swift parrots and more brilliant birds above his head, and all at once at his feet, a thousand feet below, lies Caracas, spread out in a basin of which all sides are apparently mountains to the south, hazy, golden, far-away, as in dreams, but bold and dominant where you are passing and along to the nine-mile distant coast. What a city that is for a new world—a mosaic of white



THE CAPITOL.

walls and red roofs, with patches of trees in the plazas, palms beyond the city edges, and outlined against the clearest of skies the spires and towers of public buildings and churches, and then again, beyond the city, coffee grows on the mountain side and emerald green crops of alfalfa and cane upon the plain—the city antique as the crusades, its setting new and fresh as the youngest babe of time.

Santiago de Leon de Caracas (St. James of the Lion of Caracas) has its last name worthily from an Indian chief. It is a city of romantic history. While the buccaners swept the Southern seas it never had a carriage road to it from the coast, yet it was cap-

tropical America was manifestly wise. No style of dwellings can be more comfortable and healthy outside a snowy zone. High and commodious rooms built around a large open central court or patio secure privacy, shade, open air and light, with room for plants and flowers, where women and children are at home out of doors. Caracas is full of such homes, usually neatly plain outside, but elegant and inviting within. They are eminently social homes, suited to the inhabitants.

The capitol is a massive building of stone and stucco, the legislative part being one grand story, the part for offices of two, and all the building, inclosing a large open square, of equal height. The style of architecture is Grecian. From the impressive front entrance, or from an immense salon to its left, which contains portraits in oil of all the most distinguished citizens of the country, mostly by native artists, you may look out upon a statue of Washington, while still farther to the left, in the beautiful plaza fronting the Casa Amarilla (yellow house) of the President, on one

Caracas has street car lines for its 80,000 people; railways reaching inland, and to its seaport at La Guayra and its bathing resort at Macuto; electric light and telephone service,



GENERAL BOLIVAR'S STATUE.

and the telegraph, of course. Its public and National schools, including the University of Caracas, are of well known excellence. It has a large public library, and its book stores and current publications are well patronized. Its people are highly cultivated, intelligent, active, honorable, hospitable and have a genius and destiny of their own.

Caracas is flanked and backed by a famous coffee and cacao region, and as these products are the principal ones of the country's so called agriculture, the city becomes the only point of convergence for them before they are shot down the seaward side of the mountain, through La Guayra, into the export steamers. Caracas cacao is second only to that of Ecuador in the foreign market, though the Mexican is perhaps as good; and "La Guayra" coffee was famous before it became simply false Mocha and Java.

In 1877 coffee was so cheap in all markets—four cents and less per pound in La Guayra—that large numbers of plantations were destroyed and reset with cacao trees. But since the use of coffee now increases faster than the production, coffee raising has become profitable beyond most products, and Venezuela is gaining greatly in prosperity, and Caracas planters in easily earned wealth, many citizens having country plantations, and taking life more without care than the old cotton planters.

The enchanting Venezuelan capital would be, with the sanitary care of this capital city, one of the healthiest cities of the world. At present it is one of the safest of South American cities, seldom being troubled even with yellow fever, and then in mild form. Latterly more care has been given to sanitation, with obvious benefit. But usually it is a safe as well as a delightful city to visit, where "English is spoke" as well as Spanish, and an American may chance to meet several of his countrywomen married and happy there, among them Mrs. Santana, a daughter of Josh Billings, who, with her family, sometimes makes a visit "home."

A Great Chinese Beauty.

Here is a curious and quite authentic portrait of one of the most celebrated actresses in China. In Peking



CONSIDERED A BEAUTY IN CHINA.

she is considered to be very beautiful. It would seem that Eastern and Western notions as to what constitutes beauty differ even more widely than one would have thought.

Another Mammoth Cave.

Another mammoth cave has been discovered in Kentucky. James Hoarino, E. N. Ingram and John H. Hurst made an exploration of a cave at the limestone quarry near Pineville. They report going into the earth half a mile and finding a small lake some eighteen or twenty feet square, of ice water. They brought out with them some stalactites and other peculiar formations. It is at present wet and muddy, and after leaving the entrance and going back about one hundred feet, one comes to a precipice about twenty-five or thirty feet high, and down which people must let themselves with a rope or ladder. It is not yet known how far back the cave extends, nor if it will become popular as a place of resort.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Station Indicator.

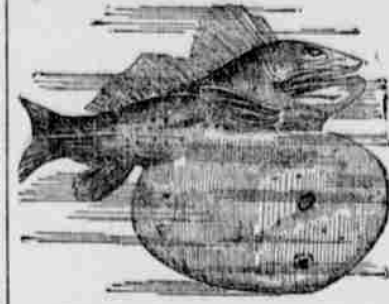
The introduction of advertisements on the walls of the railroad stations in London has made it necessary for the Metropolitan Railway to introduce a station indicator to announce to the passengers the name of the station which the train he is riding in is approaching.

AN OCEAN FREAK.

The Deep Sea Fish known as the "Black Swallower."

The chiasmodon is one of the rarest creatures known to science. Only three specimens of it have ever been seen, so far as naturalists have any record. And of these none was taken alive. The chiasmodon is generally known as the "black swallower." It is not understood that he has any mission on earth except to swallow, and the only reason he ever comes to die is that he does his work too well. This "black swallower" is a deep sea fish, dwelling, when he is at home, in about 1500 fathoms of water. The only specimens that have been obtained have all been picked up in the North Atlantic, not far from the Newfoundland coast. They are built for their business. In color they are inky black, as the name indicates, save on the stomach. The body is long and of almost uniform thickness. The taper of the tail is very abrupt. They are devoid of scales. The skin is perfectly smooth. A scaly coat would interfere with perfect elasticity, and that is the "black swallower's" necessarily strong point. He must stretch or his job is gone.

Of course, this fish, swallowing the monsters that he does, must have a mouth constructed especially for the purpose. His head is subconic in shape, narrowing forward, and this egress, all swallowing mouth is deeply cleft. It runs away back of his eyes and is filled with teeth, which are long and movable so as to be gotten out of the way if need be. Furthermore, they point backward, like the teeth of a snake, so that once hav-



THE CHIASMODON WHEN GORGED.

ing seized the tail of another fish he can never let go. He must go the whole figure, engorge his victim or fail and be trailed along open-mouthed until he dies.

When dinner time comes and the chiasmodon is very hungry he selects a fish about twice his own length and of almost any bulk. He approaches his prey cautiously from behind and seizes him firmly in that giant mouth. After the first brief flight and struggle are over the real job of swallowing begins. The jaws are unbinged and steadily the swallower climbs over his victim. This is the time when the elastic skin is called into play. Up to this stage of the proceeding the chiasmodon has been a long, lean fish, but as the prey disappears inch by inch within those horrid jaws it is crowded down into the stomach, which distends to accommodate it.

The Red Man and the Bicycle.

"The noble red man may yet be civilized by means of bicycles," said A. L. Bartlett, of Beatrice, Neb., at the Regent. "The Otoe tribe have steadily resisted all efforts to induce them to become citizens, and their numbers have dwindled until but few of them remain. In fact, there are few more Indians in Nebraska now than in New York and Indiana. A few days ago one of the chiefs of the Otoe tribe visited Beatrice and became much interested in bicycles. The owner thought it would be fun to let the old Indian learn to ride, and it was not long before the chief had mastered the art. Then he must have a wheel of his own, and not having any money he traded four ponies for one. He rode it to the reservation and next day half a dozen Indians came to town, bringing ponies to trade for bicycles. 'Ride faster. No feed,' they say, and when the bicycle manufacturers learn this new field it is probable that they will reap a harvest, and the Indians will lay aside their primitive customs and join the L. A. W. in a body."—Washington Star.

Noble Charities.

The will of the late Nathan F. Graves, of Syracuse, N. Y., provides for the erection of a home in that city for indigent aged people. Mr. Graves' estate is estimated at \$500,000, and about \$400,000 of this is bequeathed to the home. The will also makes Syracuse University a beneficiary to the amount of \$10,000, the income of which is to be applied to a lectureship on missions, and which will perpetuate the course to which Mr. Graves annually for some years had given \$500.—New Orleans Picayune.

In Storms Take to the Trolley.

"There are some people who are mortally afraid during a thunderstorm," said Vice-President Hutcheson, of the Citizens' Company, the other day. "They cannot find a safer place anywhere than on board of an electric car. Lightning cannot strike them, because they are absolutely protected against such danger. If they were not, and the electric fluid should strike one, it would go to the power house and burn out the whole plant."—Detroit Free Press.

What the Father Said.

Punxsutawney young men are of careless speech, according to a local paper, which says that one of them taking his sweetheart home said to her on reaching the gate, "Just one," and was painfully surprised to hear her father's voice through a lattice, saying, "Your watch is an hour fast; it isn't more than 12, but it's time you were taking your sneak."—New York Sun.

STYLISH APPAREL.

SOME STRIKING FEATURES OF WOMAN'S COSTUME.

A Handsome Basque of Blue Etamine Cloth for Dressy Occasions—The Newest Thing in Gloves is a Mirror.

ROBIN'S egg blue etamine cloth that matched the skirt made the handsome basque depicted in our large illustration, the full vest, collar, revers and belt being of lemon colored peau-de-soie. The revers and inside of medioc collar are covered with black point-de-gene lace



HANDSOME AND DRESSY BASQUE.

finished with narrow edging to match. The fronts and lower edges are faced with the light silk. The mode is a variation of the Louis XVI basque, the rippled revers forming a soft and graceful finish to the jacket fronts. The full blouse vest, gathered at the neck and waist line, is arranged over linings fitted by double bust darts that close in centre front. The vest is sewed to the right front lining and closes with the standing collar at the left shoulder and under the left jacket front. The wrinkled belt is joined to the lower edge, and closes with the drooping front. The jacket fronts are reversed at the top in large pointed revers that are creased to fall with graceful rippled effect. Two large fancy pearl buttons decorate each front. The flaring medioc collar is finished inside to match revers, meeting them at the top. The lower outline forms short points before the single darts that are lengthened beyond and slightly cut away over the hips. The glove-fitting back is adjusted with the usual seams, each being sprung below the waist to form ripple plaits with points at every seam. Basques in this style are sometimes made of brocade and other fancy silks to contrast widely with the skirt. These are intended for afternoon receptions or other dressy occasions. For ordinary wear the material should match the skirt as here shown, endless variety being possible by the introduction of different vests.

the palm of the glove as not to interfere with the shutting of the hand. He has likewise taken the precaution of putting it in the left-hand glove, so that when its owner shakes hands with a friend it will not be observed.



MIRROR IN THE PALM OF A GLOVE.

It is not the fair sex alone that will find this ingenious contrivance useful. Men are quite as vain as women, so the latter claim, and will be seen by any observer to look at themselves in every mirror they pass on the streets.—New York Journal.



STYLISH LADIES' JACKET.

The quantity of material forty-four inches wide required to make this basque for a lady in the medium size is three and one-half yards.

BLACK HATS WITH WHITE DRESSES. Black hats with white dresses are considered very effective. These are laden with plumes, five or six being considered a small number for one hat. A smart ribbon bow on one side

WIDE RINGS. Rings that cover the finger from the knuckle to the joint above are the latest designs in the matter of swell jewelry. Their only disadvantage lies in the fact that the number worn must necessarily be limited by the size of one's finger. Moderate sized diamonds surrounding some single large stone, or set just above it in a pear shaped group, form the usual setting.



A STREET IN CARACAS.

tured and sacked by Sir Francis Drake. Then, in 1811, on the 5th of July, the revolutionary assembly there passed its declaration of independence of Spain.

There Bolivar was born, liberated his slaves, was President, Dictator and after achieving the independence of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, and dying in exile and poverty, there his bones are gathered in the Pantheon, and his bronze statue adorns the principal plaza. Above and extending down into the newer city are the ruins of the old one, destroyed in 1812 in an earthquake of a few moments' duration, with twelve thousand or more of its people. The earthquake delayed independence, as the people were taught that thus deity manifested His displeasure. The importation of the Spanish method of domestic architecture into

Toward the capitol is the splendid church of Santa Ana, and the face of its pictured Virgin is as the face of the wife of Guzman Blanco. Nearer is the new theater, the finest in South America. Far to the front is the Masonic Temple, with its twisted and ungraceful columns, and on ground near the foothills of La Silla (the saddle) where the earthquake made havoc, stands the Pantheon, where the bones of heroes of the independence are enshrined. In removals there of the remains of General Paez, once President, and Admiral Brion, compatriots of Bolivar, the writer was privileged to take part and to hear noble orations in honor of liberty and republican institutions, worthy of any land. If Washington City knew Caracas as Caracas does Washington City, the latter would be always a more interested and willing neighbor.