

these limits are found the unexplored and almost boundless *serras* of the great Amazonian basin in the north, a large slice of the rich *pampas*, in the south, and by far the largest of the three great elevated masses that constitute the bulk of the continent, in the centre. These table lands, well watered, well timbered and possessing a climate unparalleled in the tropic regions of the earth, represent about four-sevenths of the whole country. As a rule the high plateaus are of exceptional salubrity. These broad acres of fertile farming land, rich pastures and almost inexhaustible supplies of timber and minerals are rendered easily accessible through the natural highways furnished by the three great river systems—the Amazon on the north, the La Plata on the south, the San Francisco in the centre. The Amazon, among its numerous affluents and tributaries, numbers twenty larger than the Rhine, and it holds in its mouth an island larger than Switzerland, almost as large as England.

The material resources of Brazil are almost incalculable. The range of its productions embraces the products of both the temperate and torrid zone—the cereals, cattle, sheep, horses, cotton, sugar, coffee, rice, rubber, drugs, dye-stuffs, precious metals, etc. The coffee exports alone amount to nearly eight million sacks per annum. According to Humboldt, Brazil is capable of supporting a population of four hundred millions.

The country is divided into twenty provinces, each having a President appointed by the General Government, and a Legislature elected by the people; and, so far as the internal economy is concerned, the provinces are practically free States. The General Government is a very mild form of constitutional monarchy, with an hereditary Emperor. The law-making power is vested in a Senate, holding for life, and a House of Representatives elected for four years. The people enjoy a limited and qualified suffrage. The country separated from Portugal in 1822. The constitution was granted in 1824; but the real growth of the country must always date from the accession of the present enlightened Emperor.

#### THE PEOPLE.

In 1794 the population was less than three millions. In 1819 it had increased to nearly four and a half millions; and ac-

cording to the last census, that of 1872-73, there was a population of 9,930,478; the males outnumbering the females by more than 720,000; whites, 3,787,289; blacks, 1,954,452; mixed, 3,801,782; Indians, 386,955. This does not include the independent Indian tribes, which, according to General Conto de Magalhães, amount to a round million. At that date there were 1,410,000 slaves. The rate of increase may be safely put at 2.8 per cent. per annum, which would give us at the beginning of this year a population of 14,266,118, including the untamed Indians, the 1,149,723 slaves now held, and about 540,000 children of slave parents (*ingenious*) born free under the law of 1871.

The pure white race is diminishing, notwithstanding the influx of white emigrants from Europe, and the coming race—the strong race of the future, which is to determine the destiny of the nation—will be the mixed. The white element is Portuguese, descendants of that heroic little nation that cut such an mighty figure in the sixteenth century, shaping the destiny of Europe, and barely missing permanent greatness. She gave to commerce and international communication an impulse that is still felt; to literature a Camoens, “the Homer and Virgil of Portugal,” and to history Vasco de Gama, Magellan, and a host of others. The leading traits of Brazilian character are still largely Portuguese. They possess the strong nativism, sensitiveness, excitability and impracticability that characterize not only the Portuguese, but all the Latin races.

#### SOCIAL CHANGES. — SLAVERY. — ROMANISM.

During the past twenty years great social changes have taken place. Under the influence of her broad surroundings a strong leaning toward the broader, freer and more progressive life of the New World can be seen. Modes of life and thought are escaping from the influence of the old civilization, and are being moulded to the new conditions.

The fact that this people has survived the corroding influence of slavery, and the burdens of three centuries of Romish priestcraft, is of itself proof that they possess elements of strength and greatness that will win for them a place among the nations. Slavery is doomed. Whatever may be the defects of the present emancipation law and the horrors of these last days of slavery, there are elements at