

Peg
Campbell
1. 1926

Influence of Spain orig

The United States —

We have followed with interest the stupendous and hazardous undertakings of those first explorers under the Spanish crown and will never be able to read of them without a thrill of admiration. —
As for their ^{methods of} colonizing New Spain, here we may feel differently, certainly living in the aftermath, (products one might say) of English colonization we are not in sympathy with the old Spanish Style of Procedure. — However — in looking up different authorities, I was surprised to find many historians minimizing the harshness of Spanish Rule and claiming that many of the tales of relentless methods ^{of carrying them out} were much exaggerated. — So — the thought has come that perhaps we of this part of the Americas, and in these days of advanced thought, are apt to appraise their attempts and methods by modern standards also by the measure of their failure rather than by the degree of their success. —

These Spaniards undertook the magnificent impossible task of lifting a whole race numbering millions from Paganism

into the sphere of European thought, life and Religion — Bernal Diaz, an old campaigner of the time, relates that to him the outstanding feature of these conquests, was the great change in the life and conditions of these Indians — "Instead of the pagan altars" (he says), smoking with human sacrifice, are the Christian Churches — "In a generation and a half these natives have had endowed upon them, the hard earned fruits of countless effort, the result of long years of toil and study, namely — The Developed Arts, the various domestic animals the grains, vegetables, fruits, the use of letters and the printing press. If all these gifts came thru warring and conquest — well so did Roman Culture come to Gaul & Britain."

It was typical of Spain to always have a missionary accompany their expeditions and as soon as a settlement was started it would be dedicated to God — In this way it is simple to trace the Spanish colonization in what is now the

United States, from the chain of missions scattered thru Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California - Many of these missions have been rebuilt or restored, while several of the originals are still standing -

The first permanent establishment of the Christian Religion in the United States dates from the founding of St. Augustine, Florida in 1565. The previous 50 yrs of Spanish effort to convert the Indians was of little avail and very costly to the lives of the missionaries -

(Father Marcos de Niza discovered the territories of Arizona & New Mexico) (In 1539 -) 88 yrs before any English settlement was made on the sea coast)

(1) But it took many courageous and disastrous attempts on the part of the missionaries before a successful permanent foothold was made (among the Indians) at the end of the sixteenth century;

Read Myrtor

Postals etc

Missions the only direct influence that is felt to this day -

If the missions are the only direct influence on the United States that has descended to us from Spain's occupation on this continent - many are the artistic influences we feel to-day coming to us from that Romantic country across the sea. Influences that show themselves ^{especially} in Architecture, ^{Southern} Music, and Dance.

Along our ^{Southern} border line, influenced no doubt by the fine architecture of the old missions and similar climate there is a pre-dominance of Spanish architecture. Especially in Florida and California these reproductions and adaptations of a beautiful style is something most creditable and worth while to add as part of our American architecture. But it is not alone along the border that all this is true, for many architects are specializing in this style and it seems to be "meat and drink" for the succums of interior decorators.

Even if we didn't feel these influences in the arts coming from old Spain they would be kept alive by our close relationship with our sister

Republics of South America. This close relationship ^{and good will} cherished by our Government toward these people is exemplified in the beautiful Pan-American Building at Washington - and again in the popularity of the Spanish language in our public schools so important for those who will later be part of our large trading business with South America -

In recent times the immigration of Spain has continued to go to these other republics and the direct immigration to us very small - For the past century and a half the most of our Spaniards have come from these other republics - The skilled workers have gone to the large cities such as New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland and to special centers, such as Tampa and Newark. There has also been an immigration of miscellaneous unskilled workers - Here in our birth town, I believe, there is a small colony of Spanish Jews.

There is not a year that doesn't bring us some Spanish head in dress, and is there any wonder with their beautiful lace, muslin fringe and vivid coloring as inspiration - The furor for Spanish shawls, fans, and combs are but a few examples of this -

Even in the world of cooking Spanish flavor gives zest to the ordinary soy bean, and rice family - and those who like high seasoning in food will enjoy the "hot tamale" and chile con carne -

As for Amusements, Bull fights are not allowed -

The Kolo games have come over to Florida from Cuba - a very swift ball game that is becoming popular too -

Popular dance music always includes Spanish rhythms as well as our better music.

Spanish Dancers are a welcome addition to any stage productions

7.

This year has been quite a
spanish season for the stage
Reguel Meller so popular
in Paris, completing her New
York engagement this week -

And next week the Guerrero-
Mendoza Artists arrive
at the Manhattan Lyceum

In summing up the influence
of Spain on the United States
I repeat.

The Missions, and what they
accomplished, ^{first} in blazing a
trail through an unknown pagan
land, literally sowing seeds
which was to make California one
of our greatest agricultural
states, figuratively sowing seeds
of religion in the minds of the
Indians (ground less fertile by far)
Secondly leaving us some masterpieces
of Architecture in a land that has
so little of real old relics -
are all the home of direct influence
from Spain.

The present day influence is not

8.

the kind will change us
fundamentally but rather
will furnish our work-a-day
world with a little of the
Romance and Beauty of a
country which lacks those
fundamentals of which we
are so proud —

Influence of Spain
on U.S.

Study Club
May - 1926.
