

CHAPTER XI

Brazil and Argentina

“What should we do but sing His praise
That led us thro’ the watery maze
Where He the huge sea-monsters wracks,
That lift the deep upon their backs,
Unto an isle so long unknown,
And yet far kinder than our own?
He lands us on a grassy stage,
Safe from the storms, and prelate’s rage;
He gave us this eternal spring
Which here enamels everything.”

ANDREW MARVELL, “Song of the Emigrants in Bermuda.”

ON the western shore of the South Atlantic are two great States—Brazil and Argentina—where immigration has great possibilities owing to the vast areas of rich and sparsely peopled territory; but it there presents special features. Most of South America is occupied by a composite race due to the intermixture of two or three distinct races. Occasional areas have a higher proportion of European than the rest, but most of the continent is occupied by people of uncertain racial composition.

A.—BRAZIL

In Brazil this confusion of race is worse confounded, as in addition to the mixture of Indians, who are Mongolians, with south Europeans, there is a large infusion of Negroes imported as slaves. Brazil has the advantage of an unequalled extent of Equatorial lowland. The Amazon flows through vast alluvial plains which are amply watered,