
This is a pleasing novel by a writer evidently possessed of more genius than art, who hides his identity behind a pseudonym, and makes himself the hero of his own story. The scene is laid in the Peru of the present, geographically modified to meet the demands of the occasion, and the action is a curvus blending of the past with the present, and the possibilities of the future. Peru is a land rich in romantic traditions, which are lifted from the realm of fiction by the evidences of her antiquities; and it is strange that novelists, to whom these traditions should be suggestive and fruitful material, have so long neglected them.

The writer of this novel, who has evidently travelled in Peru, and given some attention to its antiquities and traditions, bases his work upon the mysterious disappearance of Manco-Capac, the last of the Incas, from the presence of his conquerors, as detailed by Prescott in his "Conquest of Peru." In working out his plot, the author sometimes outdoes Jules Verne in his inventions, though his evident lack of patient attention to detail, so characteristic of that author, leads him into blunders that will furnish mirth to historians, engineers, and electricians. For instance, he travels on the Mollendo and Puto Railroad some three years before the contract for its construction was signed. Reaching Lake Titicaca, he embarks on a flat-bottomed, stern-wheel steamboat, constructed some time previously, under his own supervision, at Wilmington on the Delaware. One of the peculiar features of this boat is that the engines are located on the upper deck, amidships. Besides the engines, she was provided with electric motors, "served by six immense storing batteries disposed symmetrically on both sides the keel." These batteries are charged by the "economical utilization of the nearly constant north-east winds of the lake, which generated electricity by means of machinery designed for the purpose."

This was in 1856. But these are only slight flaws. When the author reaches the hidden fastnesses of the Lost Inca's ideal kingdom, all is beyond criticism. Here Verne, Bellamy, and Henry George seem to have combined forces in an attempt to improve on More's Utopia, and the result might furnish suggestions to Edison as an inventor and to Ingersoll as a reformer. The book is certainly interesting and edifying, if not instructive.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.


— P. Blakiston, Son, & Co., medical and scientific publishers, booksellers and importers, 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, will publish in January "Massage and the Original Swedish Movements and their Application to Various Diseases of the Body," a manual for students, nurses, and physicians, by Kurre W. Ostrom, from the Royal University of Upsala, Sweden; a text-book on mental diseases, having special reference to the pathological aspects of insanity, by Bevan Lewis, medical director, West Riding
Science ns-14 (360), 431-446.

http://science.sciencemag.org/content/ns-14/360.citation

http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions