

# The QUEST of EL DORADO

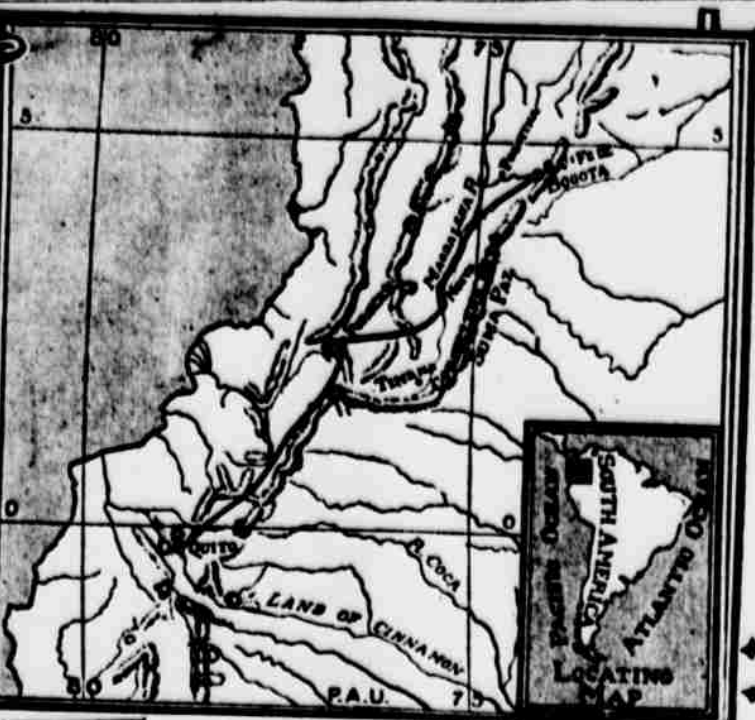
**D**URING a year's wanderings in Andean lands and in the valleys of the Amazon and the Orinoco I was frequently reminded of the numerous expeditions that centuries ago went in quest of that extraordinary will-o'-wisp, usually known as El Dorado, writes J. A. Manso in the Pan-American Bulletin. Whether gliding down a Peruvian river in a dugout or traversing in the saddle the llanos of Venezuela and the lofty table lands of Colombia, I found myself following the courses pursued by those intrepid adventurers who, while seeking a phantom, did so much toward exploring that vast region of mountain and plain which lies between the equator and the Caribbean. At one time I was in the footsteps of Gonzalo Pizarro and Von Hutten, at another in the wake of Ursua and Orellana. Now I was following the course taken by Belalcazar and his eager band, as they hurried across the Cordilleras in pursuit of the Gilded King; anon I was pushing my way through the dense and tangled forests which had been traversed by Jimenez de Quesada and his sturdy men, when in search of the great and peerless capital of the Omaguas; and still again I was sailing on the tawny waters of the Casanare and the Orinoco, which had witnessed the mad race of the fleets of Antonio de Berrío and Sir Walter Raleigh for the golden city of Manoa; for that—

"Imperial El Dorado, roofed with gold; shadows to which, despite all shocks of change, all onset of capricious accident, men cling with yearning hope which would not die."

An yet, strange as it may seem, little is known about these expeditions that at one time commanded such universal attention in both the New and the Old World, and which for the historian still constitute the most romantic



INDIAN SEIZED WITH GOLD OBJECT ON HIS BREAST



RODRI'GUEZ FOLLOWED BY SEBASTIAN DE BELALCAZAR IN QUEST OF EL DORADO



GOLD FIGURE OF A WOMAN WITH A BIRD ON HER HEAD, FOUND IN GUATAVITA



LAKE GUATAVITA



AN EXPEDITIONARY GALLEON

his victorious campaign against the generals of Atahualpa, and here it was, according to Castellanos, where—

An alien Indian, hailing from afar,  
Who in the town of Quito did abide,  
And neighbor to be of Bogota,  
There having come, I know not by what way,  
Did with him speak and solemnly announce  
A country rich in emeralds and gold.

Also, among the things which them engaged,  
A certain king he told of who, disrobed,  
Upon a lake was wont, aboard a raft,  
To make oblations, as himself had seen,  
His regal form o'erspread with fragrant oil  
On which was laid a coat of powdered gold  
From sole of foot unto his highest brow,  
Resplendent as the beaming of the sun.

Arrivals without end, he further said,  
Were there to make rich votive offerings:  
Of golden trinkets and of emeralds rare  
And divers other of their ornaments;  
And worthy credence these things he affirmed;  
The soldiers, light of heart and well content,  
Then dubbed him El Dorado, and the name  
By countless ways was spread throughout the world.

According to the chronicler, Juan Rodriguez Friesle, who was a son of one of the conquistadores of New Granada, the lake on which were made these offerings of gold and emeralds was Guatavita, a short distance to the northeast of Bogota. And the source of his information respecting the nature of the ceremonies connected with these offerings was, he assures us, no less than one Don Juan, the cacique of Guatavita, who was the nephew of the chief who bore sway at the time of the arrival of the Spaniards under Jimenez de Quesada, and who was even then preparing himself by a six years' fast to succeed his uncle as cacique of Guatavita. After this long fast, which was made under the most trying conditions, the successor to the caciqueship was obliged to go to the lake of Guatavita and offer sacrifice to the devil, who, Friesle informs us, was regarded by the aborigines as their god and master. After being stripped, he was anointed with a viscous earth, which was then overspread with powdered gold in such wise that the chief was covered with this metal from head to foot. He was then placed on a balsam provided with a great quantity of gold and emeralds, which he was to offer to his god. Arriving at the middle of the lake, which was surrounded by a vast multitude of men and women, shouting and playing on musical instruments of various kinds, he made his offering by throwing into the lake all the treasure which he had at his feet. After this ceremony was over he returned to the shore, where, amid acclamation, music and rejoicing, he was received as their legitimate lord and prince.

From this ceremony, our author continues, "was derived that name, so celebrated, of 'El Dorado,' which has cost so many lives and so much treasure. It was in Peru that this name Dorado was first heard. Sebastian Belalcazar, having met near Quito an Indian from Bogota, who told him about the Gilded Man just described, exclaimed: 'Let us go in search of that gilded Indian.'" Hence the report of El Dorado was spread throughout Castile and the Indies, and Belalcazar was moved to go in quest of him as he did, and hence also the cause of that celebrated meeting with Quesada and Federmann, which constitutes one of the most thrilling and dramatic chapters in the history of the conquest of New Granada.

The fact that only a few years after the arrival of Belalcazar at Bogota the Spaniards began to make efforts to secure the gold and precious stones which, according to tradition, were cast into the sacred lake of Guatavita by the Gilded King, is evidence that the statements of Friesle and other contemporary writers regarding the connection between this lake and El Dorado are substantially true. For more than three centuries attempts were made to drain the lake, with a view of securing the priceless treasures which were supposed to be spread over its bottom, but the success which attended the efforts of those who had the matter in charge, was only partial. There were never sufficient funds available to complete the work of drainage until a few years ago, when the attempt was again made by some Englishmen, who are still engaged in the under-

taking. But a number of gold objects were found, among them some interesting figurines, which confirmed many people in the belief they had before entertained regarding the existence of untold amounts of gold and precious stones at the bottom of the lake, the offerings of El Dorado to his god before the Spanish conquest, and convinced them of the accuracy of the accounts of the early chroniclers regarding the ceremonies performed here centuries ago, in which the Gilded Man was the chief actor.

At the time of the arrival of the conquistadores in South America three different reports were in circulation among the Spaniards regarding the mysterious personage whom the Spaniards, from the descriptions given of him by their informants, agreed in calling El Dorado, an abbreviation for el hombre o rey dorado—the Gilded Man or King. That they should have heard of him in different places widely separated from

one another is not surprising when we remember that the Indians of Darien and Costa Rica, long before Francisco Pizarro's advent in Peru, were aware of the wealth and the power of the Incas in the remote south. And that there should have been different accounts regarding the character and place of abode of this marvelous savage is what might have been expected by one who knows how prone Indians are to exaggerate or to modify what they have heard, so as to suit their own fancy. The same may in a measure be said of the Spaniards also. After the successes achieved by their countrymen in Mexico and Peru, and after the millions of treasure which had been found in the lands of the Aztecs, Chibchas and Incas, they were prepared for anything. Nothing seemed impossible, and no tale about gilded men or golden palaces was so extravagant as to be rejected as false. They were ready to give full credence to even greater fictions than the Golden Fleece or the Apples of the Hesperides, and would not have been surprised to find Ophir or Tarshish in the valleys of the Orinoco or the Amazon. The spirit of adventure and romance dominated everyone not only in the Indies but in the mother country as well. "For all this Spanish nation," writes an old chronicler, "is so desirous of novelties that what way soever they be called with a beck only, or soft whispering voice, to anything arising above water, they speedily prepare themselves to file and forsake certainties, under hope of an higher degree, to follow uncertainties, which we may gather by that which is past."

It was a vague and fantastic rumor like this that lured Belalcazar from Quito to the Sabana of distant Bogota, where he met Quesada and Federmann. According to the Indian from whom the Spaniards chieftain received his information, the province of El Dorado was called Cundurmarca, and was not more than twelve days distant from Quito. This distance, if the Indian's statement was true, would preclude the plain of Bogota as the home of the Gilded Man, for it was impossible to reach this place in such a limited time. Besides, Cundurmarca is a Quichua word, and could not, it is asserted, have been the name of a province in New Granada, where the language of the Incas was unknown. Despite, therefore, the positive statement of Piedrahita that the motive of Belalcazar's expedition to the north was the discovery of El Dorado and the House of the Sun, it may be that the real reason was the desire on the part of Pizarro's lieutenant to cut loose from his chief and find a country of which he himself might become the adelan tado. Subsequent events and the realization of his desire to be appointed governor of Popayan give color to this surmise.

Whether, however, Belalcazar misunderstood his informant regarding the location of the province of Cundurmarca, or whether he was merely looking for a pretext for escaping from Peru, where he was overshadowed by Pizarro, it is certain that the next expedition in search of El Dorado, by some considered the first genuine expedition in quest of the Gilded King, was headed for the eastern slopes of the Andes instead of for the northern plateau of New Granada. The country of the Gilded King, it was now thought, was in the vicinity of the "Land of Cinnamon," and preparations were forthwith made to add these rich lands to the possessions of the Spanish crown.

Taking to the Tall Timber,  
"Sisteren and bretheren," exhorted Uncle Abraham, a recent promotion from the plow to the pulpit, "on de one side or dis here meetin'-house is a road leading to destruction, on de udder is a road gwine to hell and damnation. Which you gwine pursue? Dar is de internal question: Which is you gwine pursue?"  
"Law, Brer Aberham," spoke sister Eliza from the back pew, "I speck I'm gwine home troo de woods!"—Lippincott's Monthly.

Demonstrated Efficiency.  
"So you think your wife is qualified to help reform politics?"  
"Well," replied Mr. Meekton thoughtfully, "she has made a success of home rule all right."

## YOUNG BOY A HERO

BETHANY CITIZENS TO BUILD STREET CAR LINE.

## NEWS FROM OVER THE STATE

What is Going on Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska and Vicinity.

**Broken Bow**—Through the heroism of a 9-year-old boy, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Harbaugh of this city, was saved from drowning. Three little boys, one of them being the son of A. L. Ford, went to the Swope ice pond in the afternoon to fish. Becoming tired of the sport, the 3-year-old Harbaugh boy climbed to the top of the ice chute and, losing his balance, slid down the incline into deep water. Without hesitation the Ford boy jumped into the water and with great difficulty succeeded in getting his little companion to shore.

**Killed in Auto Accident.**  
Arlington—Joseph Bruening of St. James, a well-to-do Nebraska farmer, was killed Sunday afternoon in an automobile accident. The machine he was driving turned over while going down a hill in the vicinity of his home. He was thrown some distance and his neck was broken. Mr. Bruening was an old resident of Cedar county and leaves a wife and ten children.

**To Build Line of Their Own.**  
Bethany—Dissatisfied with the results of their fight made against the Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice interurban street railway, citizens of Bethany have organized a corporation to be known as the Bethany Traction company and will build a street car line from that suburb to connect with the state farm line of the Lincoln Traction company.

**Hastings Juniors Disciplined.**  
Hastings—The junior class of Hastings high school attended classes all day Saturday, the first occasion of its kind on record here. It was by the order of Principal Mitchell and a direct result of the junior "sneak" of last Tuesday when the third class, in imitation of the seniors, took a class holiday.

**Served Eight Years Without Pay.**  
Lincoln—According to a petition filed in district court Saturday by Sam Jacobson, that individual worked all most eight years for Samuel M. Fogel son without receiving any pay what ever. He now desires the court to require Fogel to pay him \$7,075 for the services thus performed.

**Drowned in the Loup.**  
Genoa—Lee Tinckom, aged 17, and Edwin Olson, 16 years old, of Newman Grove, were drowned in the Loup river a mile south of here Tuesday afternoon.

Superior has been granted free delivery of mail, beginning September 1.

## STATE BASE BALL NEWS

Beatrice will have morning games July 4 and 5.

Parrott and Balderson have been released by Superior.

Catcher Wacob of Wichita will play with Superior this season.

"Ducky" Holmes' bunch in the Mink league is playing good ball.

Saturday games at York will be called at 3 o'clock hereafter.

Columbus won the opening game at home from Seward, Wednesday, 3 to 1.

Beatrice Mink league players claim to be in fine trim and are looking for scalps.

At the opening game at Columbus with Seward, all the stores were closed and there was a big automobile parade with music by the band.

Mayor Wolz opened the Fremont season by delivering the first ball.

A record crowd witnessed the Kearney game with Hastings, who won 3 to 1.

Gus Wisser of St. Joe has taken charge of the Beatrice Mink league team as manager. Wisser is an old ball player and knows the game thoroughly.

The Hastings management has made a special admission fee of 10 cents to the boys of the city.

Pierce expects to open the baseball season about June 1. Last year when the club disbanded it had won the greatest percentage of games over all the teams in northeastern Nebraska.

Manager Dorsch of Superior has lined up his men in better shape, and with the two new men, Haaler and Kerr, he has a much stronger team than at any time since he has been training his recruits.

When the Nebraska editors come to Lincoln next week they are to be guests at Antelope park of the Lincoln baseball management on Monday, and of the commercial club on Wednesday, and some good games are promised.

A girl thinks a young man who spends money freely is the whole thing—but if she marries him and finds he has spent it all she changes her mind.

**If You Are a Trifle Sensitive**  
About the size of your shoes, you can wear a size smaller by shaking Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic powder, into them. Just the thing for Dancing Parties and for Breaking in New Shoes. Sample Free. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

**A Cold Day.**  
Howitt—So Gruet is to marry a Boston girl this week?  
Jewett—Yes, he is harvesting an ice crop.

The Paxton Tillet Co. of Boston, Mass., will send a large trial box of Paxtine Antiseptic, a delightful cleansing and germicidal toilet preparation, to any woman, free, upon request.

**The Flat That Failed.**  
Howell—How do you like your new home?  
Powell—It is a flat failure.

Cole's Carbolicacid quickly relieves and cures burning, itching and torturing skin diseases. It instantly stops the pain of burns. Cures without scars. 25c and 50c by druggists. For free sample, write to J. W. Cole & Co., Black River Falls, Wis.

The chronic borrower discovers that some people are so close you can't touch them.

But a man who leads a double life never does two men's work.

Beware of Spring's sudden changes; keep Garfield Tea at hand. Drink hot on retiring.

German silver is an alloy of nickel, copper and zinc.

## WOMEN SHOULD BE PROTECTED

Against So Many Surgical Operations. How Mrs. Bethune and Mrs. Moore Escaped.

Sikeston, Mo.—"For seven years I suffered every thing. I was in bed for four or five days at a time every month, and so weak I could hardly walk. I cramped and had backache and headache, and was so nervous and weak that I dreaded to see anyone or have anyone move in the room. The doctors gave me medicine to ease me at those times, and said that I ought to have an operation. I would not listen to that, and when a friend of my husband told him about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and what it had done for his wife, I was willing to take it. Now I look the picture of health and feel like it, too. I can do my own housework, hoe my garden, and milk a cow. I can entertain company and enjoy them. I can visit when I choose, and walk as far as any ordinary woman, any day in the month. I wish I could talk to every suffering woman and girl."—Mrs. DEMA BETHUNE, Sikeston, Mo.

Murrayville, Ill.—"I have taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for a very bad case of female trouble and it made me a well woman. My health was all broken down, the doctors said I must have an operation, and I was ready to go to the hospital, but I decided that I began taking your Compound. I got along so well that I gave up the doctors and was saved from the operation."—Mrs. CHARLES MOORE, R. R. No. 3, Murrayville, Ill.

**The Army of Constipation**  
Is Growing Smaller Every Day.  
CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS are responsible—they not only give relief—they permanently cure Constipation. Millions use them for Biliousness, Indigestion, Sick Headache, Sallow Skin. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.

Ask for this Box  
It's the goodness of this root-beer as well as its tonic properties that make it so great a favorite.  
One package makes 8 gallons. If you prefer it's supplied, we will mail you a package on receipt of \$1. Please give his name.  
Write for premium puzzle. Sold by dealers or 5c per package for St. Louis, Mo.  
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placed anywhere, abides all flies at all times. Heat, clean, economical, convenient, cheap. Lasts all season. Made of metal, can't spill or tip over; will not soil or injure anything. Guaranteed effective. Sold by dealers or 5c per package for St. Louis, Mo.  
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**THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3.**  
**TheraPion**  
Used in French Hospitals with GREAT SUCCESS. Cures Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Migraine, Headache, Stomachic Disorders, Catarrhs, Chronic Ulcers, Skin Eruptions, Itchings, Burns, Scalds, Frost-bites, etc.  
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