

public squares, victims of the *cuchillo*. This was the result of a night's debauch, and the fracas attendant upon it. No other punishment awaited the culprits than the remorse of their own conscience.

Now, Valparaiso, and indeed all Chili, shows a great change for the better; order reigns throughout; crime is rarely heard of, and never goes unpunished; good order and decorum prevail outwardly every where; that engine of good government, an active and efficient police, has been established. It is admirably regulated, and brought fully into action, not only for the protection of life and property, but in adding to the comforts of the inhabitants.

There is no country that more strongly bears the impress of the working of a master spirit, in conjunction with a desire on the part of the people to maintain order by good government, than Chili.

The civil power has now complete ascendancy over the military, which had so long ruled Chili with despotic sway. The breaking down of the latter was the first step to the establishment of good order, and removed the spirit of disorganization that a military ascendancy was for ever producing. Revolution had become another word in the army for promotion, for with it, every officer usually obtained a grade. Each officer was ever ready to seek self-aggrandizement, whenever he could create a party in his favour; and no opportunity was lost in bringing about dissatisfaction at the mode in which the existing government conducted affairs.

The predominant trait of the Chilians, when compared with other South Americans, is their love of country and attachment to their homes. This feeling is common to all classes. There is also a great feeling of independence and equality. Public opinion has weight in directing the affairs of state. The people are fond of agricultural pursuits, and the lower orders much better disposed towards foreigners than in other parts. Schools and colleges have been established, and a desire to extend the benefits of education throughout the population is evinced. This has been of late one of the constant aims of government.

The credit of forming this police is given to Portales. It consists of two distinct bodies, one mounted, the other on foot. The watchmen carry swords only. The former patrol the streets on horseback, while the latter take their particular walk round a square or two, for which they are responsible. A message may be sent through them to the farthest end of the city, and an answer returned, in fifteen minutes. They carry a loud and shrill whistle, the sounds of which are varied as occasion requires, and by it a concentration of force can be effected in a few moments. The notes of the whistle when all is well, are