

it would have been down there with the Spanish having conquered and held the land. And so you have what you might call a "sleeping continent". Now Japan, as you read in section 67 for today, Japan was not sleeping during the 200 years that westerners were not allowed in. Japan was cut off from the west, and as Palmer said, "No westerner could know anything about what was happening in Japan. It was completely cut off. You couldn't go in the country except to chase a few dutchmen on the little island near it." But the Japanese, if he were interested he could find out who was the president of the U.S. He could find out something about conditions in Europe. They ~~were~~ felt safer in trying to keep us out, but they were a wide awake people; and when finally the time came when they did open up their country, they just went ahead by leaps and bounds; but here was S.A. where you had a little group of Spaniards, a very very small group of Spaniards holding this land, this whole area here for 200 years, and you had a great deal of Indians but just held in subjection under these Spaniards and even the Spaniards who stayed there were only Creoles of the next generation. You can see what the situation was. I came across an interesting book last spring called "The Rediscovery of South America." Since I was just about ready to go down there I decided it would be interesting to read what they meant by rediscovery. I soon found that it was something I hadn't thought of before. It was the account of the first ~~Indian~~ English speaking people who visited S.A. after the revolution of Spain in the 20's, 30's and 40's and that area, about a century ago. And they went in there as if into an entirely new providence. The Spanish had discovered it 300 years before but the English knew absolutely nothing about it, and these men went in there an established business and learned something about it (7) the accounts of them as they went from one country to the other. That's an interesting thing in our Western Civilization. To think of Spain as the greatest, most powerful country in the world in the 16th century, and Spain getting this tremendous area over here and from its wealth establishing Spain's wealth and power during the 16th century, and then for 200 years simply holding this territory as a field from which you bring in gold and silver and something that is kept absolutely backward in the position of a 4th rate power, and in the end she lost all of the empire that she had there. Now of course you