

Brazilian Liberty.

It may be said that the culture of a nation can be measured by the liberty its individuals enjoy. If this is true Brazil ranks today amongst the most highly cultured nations in the world, uncomparably higher than those European slave nations which claim to be the "bearer of culture".

Liberty is an ideal; democracy is one of the systems to reach this ideal, but not the only one. It is often thought in the democratic countries that theirs is the only way towards the development of a free and selfconfident citizen. This erroneous idea may lead to false conceptions about Brazil, which is not democratic.

This war has divided Humanity into two camps: the camp of Liberty, and the camp of Slavery. This is not a war between Tribunes and Praetorians, not a war between Democrats and Fascists, it is a war between free men and slaves. And in this war Brazil stands on this side of the trenches.

It has been rightly said that it is not enough to ask: "Liberty from what?". That it is necessary to ask as well "Liberty what for?" Brazil has asked both questions and found answers of their own. The result is that this country has become one of the great hopes of Mankind for a better future.

Liberty from what? From hunger. This blessed country does not know this problem in its most cruel form, this problem which caused and is causing almost every war and revolution in less happy regions. No large-scale social reforms are necessary here, where ~~the~~ nature bestows on men more than they can ever use. This is not to say that the social structure of this country is ideal. The difference between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is still very great and will have to be re-adjusted. But there is no reason why this re-adjustment should not come about organically together with the country's almost phantastic growth, and in fact a careful observation will find that a new class is rising in this country which never possessed a real middle-class, I mean the highly skilled worker, and it may be hoped that this new human type will fulfill its role better as a mediator than the old bourgeoisie did in other countries.

Liberty from what? From fear. Fear of Nature, of other men and of the state. The fear of Nature in a country like Brazil must needs be a problem of first importance. The Government has tackled it by attacking Nature. It stretches its foremost positions farther and farther in its drive to the West, opening yearly new and rich regions and pushing the Jungle deeper and deeper up to the springs of the large rivers which water the country. The nation is living in a broad civilized girdle along the coast, and its life is not different from the life of any nation with thousands of years of civilized history. And it watches with admiration and gratitude the struggle of the brave men which fight Nature to defend their country just as soldiers do. Fear of men is being abolished by an efficient legislation and by a powerful executive. This was not always so. There were times before the government of Getulio Vargas took over, when the country was too weak to protect its citizens against each other. Too much liberty is just as bad as too little. Discipline without liberty means tyranny. Liberty without discipline means anarchy. When Dr. Vargas became president, this second danger was imminent, and he avoided it by abolishing the old system and creating a new and strong government, without making it a dictatorship in the sense we use the word now. He preserved an enormous amount of personal liberty in spite of concentrating the power in one hand, and he is one of the very few modern statesmen who succeeded in this. This deed will live in History. Thus and only thus the inscription on the Brazilian flag is to be understood: Order and progress. Fear from the State: the problem of our epoch. It has been no problem here. Not because of legislation, but because of the character of this nation. No written laws can ever prevent a Government to tyrannize the people as completely as innate tolerance can. You will find few nations as tolerant as this. Itself a result of the mixture of many races, nations and religions, it recognizes readily the right of every one of these groups to exist. No racial, national or religious persecutions were ever heard of in Brazil and the result of this is the spontaneous assimilation of the most heterogeneous elements to the new type of civilisation now rising: the Brazilian nation. Liberty what for? For the development of the individual towards a happy and useful member of Human society. This enormous country with its empty spaces and almost unlimited possibilities of peaceful expansion offers an opportunity to everybody willing to collaborate.

and as yet unexplored regions are waiting for the cultivator, and not only in the geographic sense of the word. New industries will have to be created, education, art and literature to be developed, new cities and villages to be built. A new type of free man is being created, the pioneer of the twentieth century. The prospects which this idea opens, must be left to the imagination of those who believe that Humanity still struggles to become more human.

This country may be in a happier position than most countries in the world. But this is one reason more to believe that it is chosen to show Humanity one way out of its actual darkness.