

**RENAISSANT LATIN AMERICA: AN  
OUTLINE AND INTERPRETATION OF  
THE CONGRESS ON CHRISTIAN  
WORK IN LATIN AMERICA, HELD AT  
PANAMA, FEBRUARY 10-19, 1916**

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THE PANAMA CONGRESS IN SESSION

# RENAISSANT LATIN AMERICA

AN OUTLINE AND INTERPRE-  
TATION OF THE CONGRESS ON  
CHRISTIAN WORK IN LATIN  
AMERICA, HELD AT PANAMA,  
FEBRUARY 10-19, 1916

By

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## FOREWORD

In preparing this condensed account of an epoch-marking conference, the author has been embarrassed by space limitations which have necessitated the omission of much material quite as important as some that has been included. His aim has been to select that which is most typical of the Panama Congress and to omit duplications, so far as the completeness of separate chapters would allow. Repetitions still remain for the reason that a number of the Commissions needed to include material which had been used in a different relation in other reports; and to omit these duplicated portions would mar the completeness of a given Commission's work.

The author wishes it to be distinctly understood that this volume has been written with a constant desire to reproduce truly the ideas given expression at the Congress and not to emphasize his own judgments on many of the problems discussed. To that end, and with the concurrence of its editorial committee, he has used freely, and without acknowledging his obligations formally, the exact words of the reports and of the platform addresses. He has not inserted quotation marks always when the ordinary usage would require them. This is due to the exigencies of his desire to give the precise thought of a writer or speaker, and



at the same time to economize space; so that quotation, paraphrase and condensation may occur in a single sentence, making the marks of quotation, if used, an enigma and a blemish. This editorial license will be criticised most by those speakers whose more formal addresses are summarized and extracted from in Chapter X. The author hopes that he has not sinned in the manner described by Dr. McCosh in his "Divine Government," where he remarks, "A garbled quotation may be the most effective perversion of an author's meaning." If he has transgressed seriously in this matter, forgiveness is asked publicly for scores of offenses that may be noted not only in that chapter, but more especially in the extremely concise reproductions of ideas expressed in platform discussions.

Despite the brevity and omissions of this volume, it will have failed utterly of its purpose, if it has not brought to the reader some impression of the profound importance of a congress which should mean more for the higher life of Latin America and for the awakening of Christian responsibility for aiding its leaders in national uplift than any other single factor in its social, mental and spiritual regeneration. Happily, the full significance of the Congress may be more fully appreciated from the three-volume report, containing the investigations of its eight Commissions, as well as a careful report of its platform discussions and addresses.

July 15, 1916.

H. P. B.

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