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REVISTA "LATIN-AMERICAN WORLD"-EDICIÓN DE 1945

A VISIT TO GABRIELA MISTRAL

BY WILLIAM J. ENTWISTLE

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On a Sunday in the late autumn of 1941 I was driven along the road to Metropolis in the car of that distinguished scientist and charming lady, Miss Berta Lutz. The afternoon was one of imposing grandeur. The strong rays of the sun flooded the level crossings and long lines of the suburbs of Rio for the first part of the trip, and continued upon the imperial road that winds up the hills to the summer capital. It struck every now and then along the heavy bottom edge of clouds which threatened to transform the scene into a deluge. Yet little of this remains in my mind, which was possessed by the brilliantly informative and witty conversation of my companion and by the expectation on the summit.

Gabriela Mistral received us with a queenly kindness and sauvity, such as my companion's merits indeed deserved, but which has never ceased to surprise me as in some way richer in action than even my rich memories of it. It proceeds much more from the stored and prolific wisdom of the great poetess-philanthropist herself, it is more inevitably a mark of her own wisely gracious nature than the result of mere social contacts and conventions. Her voice is low and measured. There is nothing of the stridency so notable in the voices of Spanish women, but it seems to be the inevitable enunciation of a poetic mind which transmutes with every phrase information into sagacity. The tones charm me, so that I do not venture to interrupt them. I believe Gabriela Mistral has said of me that I am a singularly silent person. This may not be so; but I feel that there is a silence of the temple, such as the old Greek heralds used to command, where no profane word must be spoken lest it obscure the oracle.

The poetess spoke of her keen desire to help the Allies and her absolute conviction of the justice of our cause. She asked for suggestions, but I, who doubt the usefulness of all direct propaganda, could make none. Then she spoke

A visit to Gabriela Mistral [manuscrito] William J. Entwistle.

Libros y documentos

AUTORÍA

Entwistle, William J. 1895-1952

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A visit to Gabriela Mistral [manuscrito] William J. Entwistle. 3 h. ; 33 cm.

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