

Southern mountaineers, actors in their own drama, "Stark Love"

the possibility that his method of constructing photoplays from real people in their real lives may yet produce films of epic quality.

Perhaps the second film of the type, "Chang," which has not yet had a public showing, may go further toward that objective. It is a story of man's struggle with the jungle, built from film taken in Siam—by the photographer of "Grass"—of Siamese people and wild animals.

### Stage Obscenity on the Defensive

BROADWAY has had decency thrust upon it. For the present, at least, the experiments and plans and proposed legislation for various kinds of censorship of the stage have given way to the statutory function of the police and the District Attorney to prosecute improper theatrical productions. Where discussion and sincere offers of purgation of the New York theater from within on the part of the higher type of theatrical producers have had no effect in removing the most objectionable plays of this

season, the law has stepped in and caused the conviction of the producers and actors of two plays for giving immoral performances. The productions had the indicative names of "Sex" and "The Virgin Man." The legal penalty of conviction is from ten to thirty days in the workhouse or a fine of from \$50 to \$1,000.

The New York State Legislature demurred during its recently ended session from making laws increasing public supervision of the stage. But it passed with alacrity a measure strengthening the hand of enforcement of the existing penal law—a measure providing permissively for a year's padlocking of any theater housing a play of which the owner, producer, manager, or actors were convicted of giving immoral performances. Governor Smith approved the bill, with a memorandum containing this comment:

I am satisfied that this power will be wisely and discreetly used and that no man will be deprived of his property unjustly. The overpowering majority of the people of the city of New York and the overwhelming majority

of theatrical producers desire clean, moral public entertainment, and it is more than reasonable to assume that the additional powers granted the local authority by the provisions of this bill will be exercised against those who do not so believe.

This clean-up activity on the part of the police and the Legislature has turned the tide, temporarily at least. The unscrupulous producers, not the persons—inside and outside the theater—interested in stage reform, are now on the defensive.

### New York's Titian

THE Titian just purchased by the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art is a portrait of Duke Alfonso the First of Ferrara, whose place in history is chiefly that of the last husband of the beautiful and famous or infamous Lucrezia Borgia. The portrait is ranked by critics as a superb example of Titian's art.

Two portraits of Alfonso were painted by Titian. There seems to be no doubt that the painting now shown in New York is the first and much the finer of the two. Charles V, the famous Emperor, received it as a gift from Alfonso at a time when Charles was about to arbitrate a dispute between Alfonso and Pope Clement. Other paintings went from Ferrara's art treasures to Charles V, and together they were very much in the nature of a bribe. It is said that the Emperor insisted on the inclusion of this Titian portrait and that the Ferrarese were loth to lose it. Probably he remembered that Titian himself had pointed it out to him as one of his finest paintings and that Michelangelo had praised it highly.

The acquisition of this splendid addition to the Metropolitan Museum was made possible by the munificent bequest of the late Frank A. Munsey, and the cost will be charged to the income from the bequest as "a worthy first purchase from that benefaction."

### A Soft Answer to China

THE attacks upon foreigners at Nanking by Chinese Nationalist troops have been met by the Powers with a treatment which is notable for its mildness. Having rescued their citizens by the fire of their war-ships, the foreign nations have refrained from any extreme demands for indemnities and from any assertion of military control in the area of the Chinese civil war. They have asked only for punishment of the commanders responsible for the attacks, a



written apology by the Nationalist Commander-in-Chief, with assurances for the future security of foreign residents, and reparation for personal and material damages.

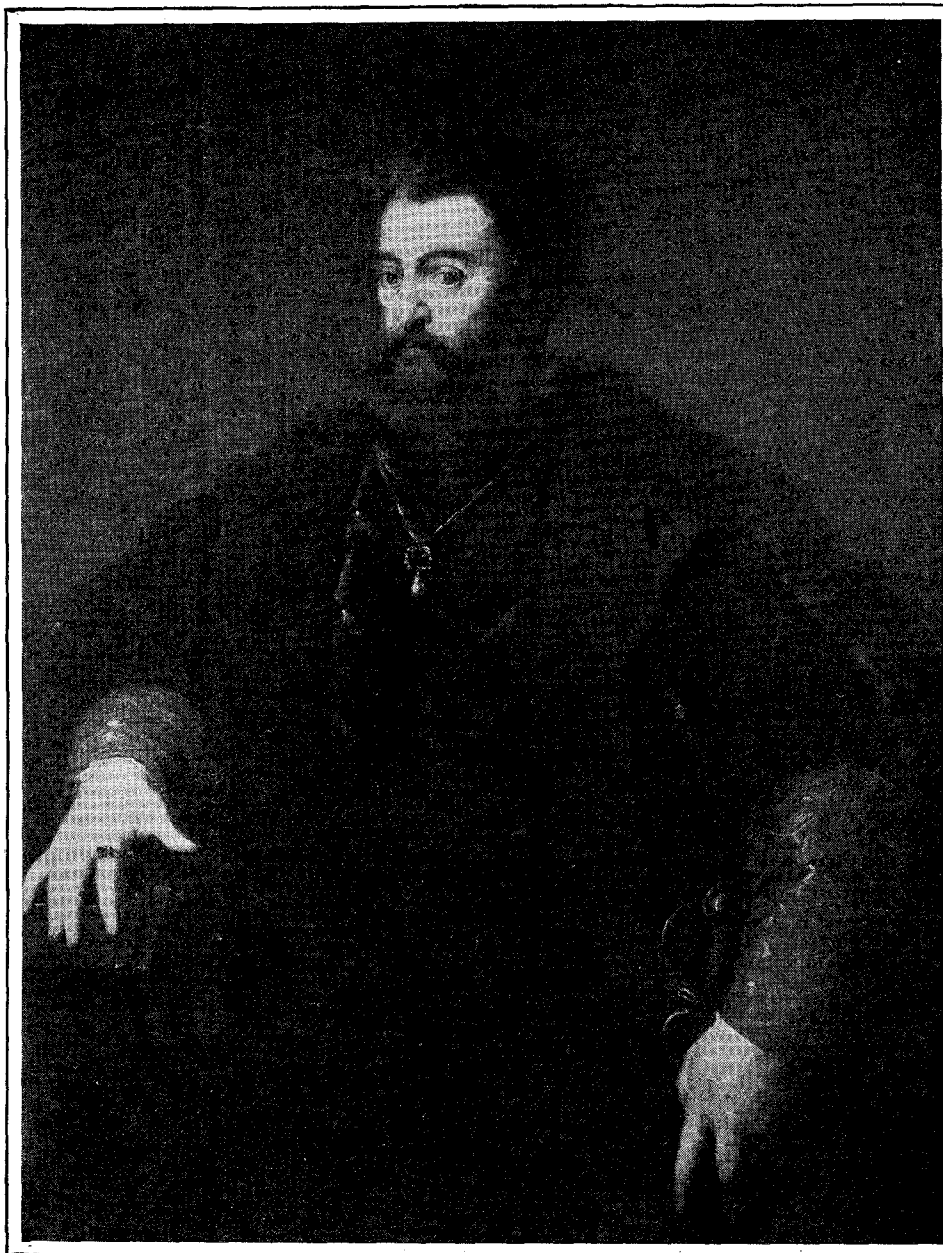
The Powers did not send joint demands, but did deliver identical notes to the Nationalist administration at Hankow and the Commander-in-Chief at Shanghai, the United States acting in accord with Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan. Thus they presented a united front. The influence of the United States may be perceived in the moderation of the policy which has been announced. Against the urgent insistence of many European and some American groups in China that a program of intervention and reprisal be adopted, the official American stand has been consistently and wisely for restraint and non-interference in Chinese affairs, together with protection of the lives and interests of foreigners.

Meanwhile the internal situation in China has become more and more confused. The advance of the Southern Nationalists towards Peking has been stopped north of the Yangtze River, and they have been thrown back on the river by a counter-drive of the Northern armies. Dissensions between the Nationalist military leader, General Chiang Kai-shek, and the more radical civilian authorities of his party at Hankow are reported. In Peking Northern Government troops have raided the Soviet Embassy and Consulate and the Russian bank, and are said to have found a quantity of rifles and ammunition and supplies of propaganda literature in favor of the Nationalist cause. Diplomatic exchanges about the incident are in progress. An amusing complication is the fact that the Southern Nationalist administration has apologized to the Soviet Government for the action of the Northern administration, while the Northern officials—to cite a precedent—say that the Russians have twice raided the Chinese Embassy in Moscow.

While the outcome of all these rivalries and conflicts for power in China is being determined it is fortunate that our own cool-headed Executive refuses to allow the United States to become involved in them.

### Mr. Stimson's Mission to Nicaragua

THE purpose of sending Henry L. Stimson to Nicaragua as the representative of President Coolidge is officially stated as "to take to our Minister, Mr. Eberhardt, and Admiral Latimer certain views of the Administration



Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Titian's portrait of Alfonso I, Duke of Ferrara, third husband of Lucrezia Borgia

which cannot conveniently be taken up by correspondence and in order to get information from them as to the entire situation in that country to bring back for the use of this Government, which they cannot very well give us through correspondence." It was done at the suggestion of Secretary of State Kellogg. Nothing further is officially known as to the what and why of the mission. There is, however, no lack of speculation and conjecture.

The departure of Mr. Stimson for Nicaragua came at a time when the Diaz Government had just been reported to have won a military triumph. That triumph came through the active support of the American Government. Therefore, it is argued, a responsibility is felt to guide the situation and make certain a fair election next year, when the term of President Diaz will expire. Nothing must be done, it is said, which

would have the effect of preventing the defeated faction, or any other, from participating in that election on equal terms. With Diaz dominant, it is said, care is to be exercised to prevent complications which might add to the confusion instead of clearing it up.

Withal, there is the belief that the despatch of Mr. Stimson to Nicaragua has to do with the negotiation of a treaty involving both the canal rights and the general question of relations among Central American Governments and between them and the United States. The Bryan-Chamorro Treaty, by which the United States acquired the right to construct a canal through Nicaragua, is regarded as too elastic. On the other hand, the so-called Hughes treaties between Central American countries are regarded as in some of their provisions too rigid. Besides, the United States is not a party to them, and there-