

## CENTURY'S END AN OLD FIGHT.

CATO AND SCIPIO TALKED IT, NOW FLAMMARION SETTLES IT.

In the year 600 and 601 A. U. C., of Anno Urbis Condite—that is, after the building of Rome, or 154 and 153 B. C., says the Baltimore Sun, the question was discussed in Rome whether 600 or 601 was the beginning of the seventh century after the founding of Rome.

While, as in our days, the standing question in the capital of the Romans was "Quid nov? ex Africa?" (What is the news from Africa?) a third war with the Republic of Carthage seemed imminent, Cato the elder, Scipio the younger and other prominent men of the day found time for the discussion of the century question and disagreed. Some held that 600, others that 601, was the first year of the new century of old Rome.

So Calpurnius Piso, the Roman annalist, tells us in his records. He afterwards, in 148 B. C., commanded the Roman legions in Africa against Carthage, which, two years later, succumbed to Scipio Africanus, by whom it was destroyed.

No doubt, hardly a century passed after the times of Charles the Great (Charlemagne), in which the century question was again discussed, but it did not agitate the minds. This was especially the case in Italy in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

In the year 1600 there was such a hot discussion on the question in Germany that a medal was struck in commemoration of it, with the German inscription, which, in English version, is: "Oh, wonder of wonders, man counts sixteen hundred, and still he wonders how old he may be."

Toward the end of 1799 the same dispute arose in the Fatherland and the discussion was especially hot at Weimar, at that time the centre of German culture. There were two opposing parties, called respectively, the "Ninety-niners" and "Hundreders," according to their belief in either 1799 or 1800 to be the last of the eighteenth century.

Goethe and Schiller, as may be seen by their letters, at first siding with the "Ninety-niners," finally were converted to join the "Hundreders," but not without first having celebrated, over a bowl of champagne, the close of the eighteenth century on December 31st, 1799, and again celebrating in the same way the beginning of the nineteenth century on January 1st, 1801.

Dearest friend, is there no refuge to be found for liberty and peace?

Flammarion's Able Statement.

Mr. Flammarion writes: I have before me several works of the year, 1699.

First, a dissertation on the beginning of the next century, to ascertain which of the two years, 1700 or 1701, is the first of the century. Second, a critical letter to the author of the dissertation.

Third, a fresh dissertation on the next century, in which it is shown that the year 1700 is the first of the century.

Fourth, "The authors' quarrel on the beginning of the next century decided."

These four little books were printed in Paris in the year 1699. They consist of endless discussions with arguments drawn from the Bible, from the fathers of the Church, from the Christian doctors, from the law, from the institution of public offices, from the Pope—the interminable list of advocates, which confuses the question to such an extent that it is impossible to make anything of it.

Even GEOMETRY DRAGGED IN. The authors have even taken the trouble to insert geometrical figures to show how the years should be separated and counted.

Dissertations of the same kind are met with in 1599.

Even the Pope, who was mixed up in them, did not settle the question, but left it to the astronomers, who, moreover, have never varied any more than his arithmetic. Yet this eternal question is simple enough.

A dozen is composed of twelve units, and No. 12 forms a part of the dozen.

Now there was no year 0.

In the Christian era the first twelve months are called the first year, or the year 1.

When Christ came into the world no one expected the importance of his coming, nor the place which the religion that he was to found would take in the political history of nations. The year of his birth passed unperceived by the Romans as by the Hebrews.

Even the first century of Christianity, and the second, third, fourth and fifth had no place in the calendar.

PROPOSED BY DIONYSIUS.

It was only in the year 532 that the Christian era was proposed by the monk of the Roman Church, born in Scythia, named Dionysius, who, on account of his stature was nicknamed Dionysius the Little, or Dionysius Exiguus.

It was he who constituted the Christian era. That, as has been seen, was only in the sixth century. He supposed that Christ was born, Dec. 25th, in the year of Rome 753, and the year 754 of the foundation of Rome became the first of the Christian era.

This first year was not, therefore, even in the idea of Dionysius, that of the birth of Christ. Its beginning was seven days posterior to his birth.

FIXED BY HERODOTUS' DEATH.

The monk Dionysius made in his historical researches a mistake of four years, which can easily be verified, as the date of the death of Herod is accurately known.

Christ was born in the year of Rome 749, not in 753, and died at the age of 37, not 33, and the whole Christian era is four years too young.

But it would certainly be inconvenient to change it, although this mistake has been known for some centuries. It is already referred to in the dissertations mentioned, whose authors have been kept as it was proposed by Dionysius the Little. It is sufficient if people are agreed. It is clearly a matter of convention.

THERE WAS NO YEAR 0.

But whatever date be adopted for the beginning of the Christian era, there was no year 0.

Therefore the first year of the year 1.

The tenth year is 10, and the hundredth year of the first century is the year 100.

Put in this form, the problem does not leave a shadow of doubt in the minds of the reader. Nothing in the world could be simpler.

When the French revolution created a new calendar, it acted in the same way. It did not think of a year 0. It called its first year the year one.

What appears to deceive certain minds, probably superficial, at least, as far as chronology is concerned, is the change in the two first figures of the century—the figures 1799 to 1800, 1899 to 1900, etc. In these 99 years there is a change from 17 to 18 and from 18 to 19. This is true, but there is no other difference than that which makes the change from No. 9 to No. 10 and from No. 99 to No. 100—that is to say, to the completion of a decade or century.

In the decimal system a decade goes from 1 to 10, a century from 1 to 100.

VARIATIONS IN DATE.

There have also been variations in the date of the beginning of the year, which has been placed on Jan. 1st and sometimes on Dec. 25th, which was more logical from the Christian point of view, for the incarnation is evidently merely an incident. Sometimes it has been placed at the conception of Christ, otherwise the Annunciation, logically fixed by the Church at nine months from Dec. 25th; sometimes at Easter, the festival of the Resurrection and of spring.

On the other hand, the year was shortened by ten days in 1582 to bring the calendar into agreement with astronomy, but all this does not prevent the last day of 1900 from being the last of the nineteenth century.

CANNOT ALTER FACTS.

It may be seen by reading the papers that there are still dissenters in Paris, in the provinces and abroad.

These simply complain that the first year is called the year 1, instead of the year 0, but it was thus that the calendar was drawn up.

Dionysius the Little did not put the figure 1 after, but during the first year, and the first year was called the year 1.

It is, therefore, on Dec. 31st, 1900, at midnight, precisely, that the century will end, and fall in its turn into the abyss of the past to make room for the new century.

From a Moody Sermon.

I can imagine when Christ said to the little band around him, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," Peter said, "Lord, do you really mean that we will go out to Jerusalem and preach the gospel to those men that murdered you?"

"Yes," said Christ, "go hunt up that man that spat in my face; tell him he may have a smelly nose, but I will forgive him freely, and that he can be saved, if he will accept salvation as a gift. Tell him there is a nearer way to my heart than this."

Praise for the I. C. R.

A prominent member of the Dominion W. C. T. U. writes Mr. John M. Lyons, Esq., as follows:

Ottawa, Nov. 24th, 1899. Moncton, N. B.

Dear Sir,—A number of our party who attended the Dominion W. C. T. U. convention feel that we have at least written and tell you how very much we all enjoyed the trip to Halifax by the I. C. R. Personally speaking, I have been travelling for many years but never remember a line so much drawing-room cars so comfortable and officials so courteous, and meals so beautifully served and well prepared as by your line. We are grateful, too, for the low rates you kindly gave us. Rest assured we will always put in a good word for the I. C. R. Thanking you for the courtesy and kindness shown to the delegates of the W. C. T. U. Dominion convention en route, and return from Halifax.

Found Dead in Bed.

Bowmanville, Ont., Jan. 2.—Mr. John McManis, a resident of our town, was found dead in his bed this morning. Heart failure is supposed to have been the cause. He was about as usual yesterday, and seemed to be in his usual health. He was a cabinet-maker, and at one time was in the employ of the Old Upper Canada Furniture Company here, but had not done anything for a number of years.

Surgical Operations as a Cure for Piles.

Are Painful, Expensive and Dangerous—The Only Certain Cure is Dr. Chase's Ointment.

Besides the acute misery produced by the itching and burning of piles, this horrible disease is the more dreaded because a surgical operation is commonly considered the only effective cure.

Fortunately this is a mistaken idea, for physicians have learned to use Dr. Chase's Ointment instead of applying the knife, not only because it is less expensive and less risky, but also because it is a more effective cure.

It frequently happens that after people have endured the torture of piles for years and submitted to operations that they are finally cured by Dr. Chase's Ointment, the only guaranteed cure.

Among persons operated on for piles and hemorrhoids cured by Dr. Chase's Ointment would mention Rev. J. A. Baldwin, of Arkona, Ont. H. Sutherland, Trapp, N. S. and W. D. Thornton, Calgary, N. W. T.

Dr. Chase's Ointment truly works wonders for it positively cures the worst cases of itching, bleeding and protruding piles and all itching skin diseases. Get a box at all druggists or Edman's, Bates & Co., Toronto.

For bronchitis, croup, coughs, colds and all lung troubles, send for Dr. Chase's Strychnine Linctus.

## ONE DAY'S NEWS NOTES.

The Windsor Daily World has ceased publication for the present.

It is expected that Premier Greenway will retire from office early next week.

The McDonald block was burned at Ridgeway causing a loss of nearly \$20,000.

John Cavanagh has been committed for trial at London, Ont., on the charge of murdering his mother.

James Baxter, a well-known broker of Montreal, was arrested on a charge of assisting Walter Herbert, of La Banque Ville Marie, to evade the police.

By-laws to extend the trunk sewer system of the town, the extension of water mains and establishing a public library were carried at Sarnia by substantial majorities.

Mrs. Weener, who has lived at Winnipeg several years in some what straitened circumstances, has fallen heir to \$20,000 by the death of a relative in the old country.

Mrs. Poole, of Norwich, and two other ladies were struck on the Burford road crossing by the T. H. & B. 0.35 train. The rig was damaged, but the ladies were only slightly injured.

The transports Montezuma and Laurentian are coaling at Halifax for the voyage to Cape Town. They will take between 2,500 and 3,000 tons each. The work of fitting up the Laurentian is going on.

Douglas B. Woodworth, ex-member of the Canadian Parliament, of late residing in California, is dead from injuries received a week ago, when his horse ran away and threw him from the carriage.

Thomas Rigney, one of the original members of the New York Produce Exchange, and one of the men most interested in putting through the reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States before the civil war, died at his home in New York in his 88th year.

## AT LAST THE RIBBON

Has Arrived From England for Canadian Veterans.

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—The ribbon for the veterans' medals has arrived from England, and the first issue of medals will be made as soon as the ribbon can be cut in lengths and attached to the medal, with the clasps.

The first issue will be made to the Ontario veterans, and will probably be about the 15th inst. Those who served in the Fenian raids and the Red River affair, living within the headquarters district, will receive theirs direct from the Claims award office; elsewhere in Ontario the medals will be sent out to the military districts. The medals to be distributed in Quebec will be dealt with after the Ontario ones are sent out, and so on to the coast.

There is still a large pile of unconsidered claims which have come in since the date originally fixed for closing the receipt of applications. After the claimants whose applications have been adjudicated upon have received their medals, these will be taken into consideration. The Board has found that some 98 per cent. of the claims presented have been genuine, and 2 per cent. have been rejected as being trumped up.

## CRASHED INTO A FREIGHT.

Toronto Engineer Injured in a Smash-up at Galt.

Galt, Jan. 2.—The morning's incoming freight train, carrying a train of the passenger locomotive, had one of his legs broken in two places, and was taken to the hospital. Both engines were badly smashed, although empty freight cars were hurled down the embankment. Traffic was delayed three hours on account of the accident.

## HOUSE 100 YEARS OLD BURNED.

The Old Wilkinson Homestead in Sandwich Gone Up.

Windsor, Ont., Jan. 2.—The Wilkinson homestead, near the Catholic Church in Sandwich, was burned to the ground last night. The house is believed to be the oldest in Western Ontario. It was built 100 years ago, and was once the residence of Sheriff Hands, one of the first officials appointed in this part of the province. Most of the lumber in the house was black walnut.

Syringes, Atomizers, Etc., Wholesale and retail at Gerrie's drug store, 32 James street. Good bulb syringes at 50c; 2 quart fountain syringes, 75c; combination hot water bottle and fountain syringe, \$1.25. Best English silk elastic stockings, \$1.25 each; leggings, \$1.15 each. Good English atomizers, 65c; also rubber gloves, etc., etc.

Torn to Pieces by Lions.

Vienna, Jan. 2.—One of the animal keepers at the Vienna Zoological Gardens entered the cage of lions yesterday in a spirit of bravado, and six lions rushed upon him and tore him to pieces.

The attendants sought in vain with flaming torches and streams of water to drive the wild beasts from their victim.

Eight Were Drowned.

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 2.—The schooner "Pittman" was driven ashore on Cabot Island in a heavy gale yesterday, and eight out of her crew of nine were lost. Six were married men with families. The survivor's arms were broken.

Thomas J. Rorke Dead.

Clarksburg, Ont., Jan. 2.—Mr. Thos. J. Rorke, one of the most widely known residents of this community, and a late Division Court clerk and Postmaster of Pease Lake, which position he had held for about 50 years, died at his residence this morning, after a prolonged illness. Heart failure was the cause of his death.

Henry Hilker, of Port Elgin, Dead.

Port Elgin, Ont., Jan. 2.—Henry Hilker, a prominent citizen of Port Elgin for nearly half a century, passed away this afternoon, after a long illness. Mr. Hilker may be said to have been the founder of Port Elgin.

No Evidence Against Them.

Forest, Ont., Jan. 2.—The two men who were arrested at Goderich a few days ago as the supposed murderers of the tramp found dead here in November last were let free to-day, as there was not sufficient evidence against them.

## SOME FIGHTING FAMILIES.

British Names That Are Honored for Valor.

## IRISH MOTHER REMEMBERED.

No better example of British patriotism and devotion to the throne can be furnished than the presence in our army of numbers of brave soldiers who are brothers in blood as well as in arms. Indeed, says a writer in The Bits, there are several instances in which the fathers of these fighting families are likewise in the army.

For instance, the Earl of March, formerly of the Grenadier Guards, is Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Third Battalion of the Royal Sussex Militia, recently called out, while his eldest son, Lord Settrington, is one of his captains. The Earl has also two other sons, one of whom is an officer of the Second Battalion Scots Guards, and the other holds a commission in the Second Battalion of the Grenadier Guards.

That record is, however, eclipsed by the splendid services rendered to the country by successive members of the Crookshank family. For upward of a century the eldest sons of the house have been officers in the British army and to-day five brothers, sons of the late Col. H. C. W. Crookshank, C. B., are serving as gallant soldiers.

They are Captain C. de W. Crookshank, who took part in the Miransal and Chitral expeditions, for which he holds medals and clasps; Lieutenant S. B. A. Crookshank, who figured in the later Northwest frontier expedition, which earned for him a medal and clasp; Lieut. A. A. Crookshank, of the First Battalion East Surrey Regiment, now in India; Lieut. W. P. Crookshank, a military cadet, C. C. Crookshank, of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, whose commission is almost complete.

The father of these five gallant officers died from wounds received in the Hausa expedition, eleven years ago; their grandfather, Captain B. C. G. Crookshank, was seriously wounded while on convict guard at the Antipodes, and their great-grandfather, Lieut. C. W. Crookshank, K. H., was awarded the English and Portuguese medals for service at Salamanca, and a gold cross for service in four actions. Surely this is a record of which any family might feel proud.

The Lambton family has furnished no fewer than seven sons to the army and navy. One of them is Captain the Hon. Hedworth Lambton, commander of the naval contingent at Ladysmith, while his brother, the Hon. D'Arcy Lambton, was at one time a lieutenant in the navy.

The other five brothers have all served in the army. The Earl of Durham and the Hon. J. W. Lambton have both been lieutenants in the Coldstream Guards; the Hon. Chas. Lambton is a major of the First Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, and, like his brother, Major the Hon. William Lambton, of the Coldstream Guards, served with the Nile expedition of last year. Both were present at the battle of Khartoum and earned mention in the despatches. The remaining brothers, the Hon. Geo. Lambton, held a commission in the Derbyshire regiment.

It will be remembered, too, that in the course of a recent public speech Lord George Hamilton stated that he had thirteen nephews serving in the Transvaal war.

There are several instances of numbers of brothers serving in the rank and file of the army. Four brothers of the appropriate name, of the Battle belong to the Coldstream Guards, and are now actively engaged at the seat of war.

The seven sons of a widow, Mrs. Eldenden, of Riverhead, near Sevenoaks, all embraced the profession of arms, as their father did before them. He joined the 14th Light Dragoons so early as the year 1858, and retired on a pension after twenty-eight years' pension.

Five brothers of the name of Clarke are now serving with the colors in South Africa. Three of them are in the 6th Lancashire and took part in the battle of Glencoe, while another brother, who belongs to the Army Medical Corps, is also at the front. The fifth brother, who, as a reservist, has just been called up, returns to his old regiment, the 17th Lancers.

It is a noteworthy fact that the father and grandfather of these five brothers were in their day members of the 17th Lancers. Indeed, three of their father's brothers, all of whom took part in the Crimean and Indian mutiny campaigns.

Mrs. O'Keefe, the widow of a sergeant formerly in the Munster Fusiliers, has at many an evening served as soldiers of the Queen at the present time. This fact was brought to the notice of Her Majesty the other day, and thereupon the sovereign caused the following letter to be sent to the old lady:

"The Commander-in-Chief, having brought to the notice of the Queen the fact of Mrs. O'Keefe having at present seven sons serving in the army, Her Majesty's private secretary is commanded to forward the enclosed present of £5 from the Queen, and at the same time express to Mrs. O'Keefe the gratitude with which Her Majesty has learned of this remarkable and praiseworthy instance of voluntary service to their Queen and country in one home. Her Majesty the Queen thinks Mrs. O'Keefe has every reason to be proud of her sons."

Brakeman Killed.

Winnipeg, Jan. 2.—W. M. Smith, a C. P. R. brakeman, was killed at Medicine Hat yesterday while making a coupling. The body goes to Paris, Ont., for burial.

COCHRAN'S, 3 JAMES N.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE FINEST JEWELRY at such low prices can come from John Street? Yes, it is. Just see our dainty new stock Gold Watches, Pearl and Diamond Rings, Ruby Bracelets, Long Guard Reliable Watches for gifts, gold spec. cheap spec. \$1. Jewelry made to order in few hours notice. Expert watchmaker and engraver. Open till 10. 23 WIN PASS, English Jeweller, 91 John street south.

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### Housekeepers' Month.

January is housekeepers' month. It's the time for sorting up—a gathering together of the hundred and one little necessities about the home—and nowhere we believe will you find so much lacking as in the cooking department—the kitchen. A dollar or even fifty cents invested in some of the following very low priced items will save a tremendous amount of annoyance some day.

#### Annual January 5c and 10c Sale.

AT 5c.	AT 10c.
Any of the goods in this list purchasable in our Housefurnishing dept. at 5c each.	Any or the following are purchasable in our Housefurnishing dept. for 10c each.
Heavy Tin Pudding Pans, Tin Pie Plates, Layer Cake Tins, Bread Pans, Egg Lifters, Square Jelly Cake Pans, Strong Tin Dippers, Pancake Turners, Tin Drinking or Measuring Cups, Coal Oil Funnel, Sugar or Flour Scoops, Strong Dust Pans, Fire Shovels, Vegetable Graters, Gravy Strainers, Pepper Dredges, Baking Boxes, Cake Cutters, Sink Brushes, Ironing Wax.	Fine Irish Linens, Our Fancy Goods Dept. can interest you this month in a very fine exhibition of high-class Irish Linens. New goods, the equal of which has not yet been shown here.
Table Covers. Fine Hemstitched Table Covers 30x30, 35x35, 40x40, 45x45, 50x50, 55x55, 60x60, 65x65, 70x70, 75x75, 80x80, 85x85, 90x90, 95x95, 100x100, 105x105, 110x110, 115x115, 120x120, 125x125, 130x130, 135x135, 140x140, 145x145, 150x150, 155x155, 160x160, 165x165, 170x170, 175x175, 180x180, 185x185, 190x190, 195x195, 200x200, 205x205, 210x210, 215x215, 220x220, 225x225, 230x230, 235x235, 240x240, 245x245, 250x250, 255x255, 260x260, 265x265, 270x270, 275x275, 280x280, 285x285, 290x290, 295x295, 300x300, 305x305, 310x310, 315x315, 320x320, 325x325, 330x330, 335x335, 340x340, 345x345, 350x350, 355x355, 360x360, 365x365, 370x370, 375x375, 380x380, 385x385, 390x390, 395x395, 400x400, 405x405, 410x410, 415x415, 420x420, 425x425, 430x430, 435x435, 440x440, 445x445, 450x450, 455x455, 460x460, 465x465, 470x470, 475x475, 480x480, 485x485, 490x490, 495x495, 500x500, 505x505, 510x510, 515x515, 520x520, 525x525, 530x530, 535x535, 540x540, 545x545, 550x550, 555x555, 560x560, 565x565, 570x570, 575x575, 580x580, 585x585, 590x590, 595x595, 600x600, 605x605, 610x610, 615x615, 620x620, 625x625, 630x630, 635x635, 640x640, 645x645, 650x650, 655x655, 660x660, 665x665, 670x670, 675x675, 680x680, 685x685, 690x690, 695x695, 700x700, 705x705, 710x710, 715x715, 720x720, 725x725, 730x730, 735x735, 740x740, 745x745, 750x750, 755x755, 760x760, 765x765, 770x770, 775x775, 780x780, 785x785, 790x790, 795x795, 800x800, 805x805, 810x810, 815x815, 820x820, 825x825, 830x830, 835x835, 840x840, 845x845, 850x850, 855x855, 860x860, 865x865, 870x870, 875x875, 880x880, 885x885, 890x890, 895x895, 900x900, 905x905, 910x910, 915x915, 920x920, 925x925, 930x930, 935x935, 940x940, 945x945, 950x950, 955x955, 960x960, 965x965, 970x970, 975x975, 980x980, 985x985, 990x990, 995x995, 1000x1000, 1005x1005, 1010x1010, 1015x1015, 1020x1020, 1025x1025, 1030x1030, 1035x1035, 1040x1040, 1045x1045, 1050x1050, 1055x1055, 1060x1060, 1065x1065, 1070x1070, 1075x1075, 1080x1080, 1085x1085, 1090x1090, 1095x1095, 1100x1100, 1105x1105, 1110x1110, 1115x1115, 1120x1120,	