The Planet

8. STEPHENSON, - Proprietor

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Planet pauses at the threshold dividing the old year and the newthe past century and the era just dawning-to extend to all its readers and the community at large the most sincere and brightest compliments of

The passing of the old century and the pressing of the new kindles the imagination and touches the heart. I is not to our credit, but to our loss, thought. He has no reverence who scorns to stand with shoeless feet on life's holy ground, and reverence is a first mark of a great mind. The crossing of the Great Divide between the centuries is an awesome step, and fills all but the stalest minds with new and strange and sobering

It is quite true that all times are sacred and all seasons holy. It is quite true that every morning is a glorious birth, every day a day of judgment, and every setting sun a mark of man's mortality. It is true, too, that to the faith that looks through death, and to the philosophic mind which experience brings, the ebbs and flows of life are out surface motions, and-

Our noisy years seem moments in the Of the eternal Silence.

And yet it is the greatest in us, not the littleness, that feels the touch of things sublime. It is to the most sensitive the mystery of life is most meaningful. It is to the most reflective the deep thoughts come that lift the mind and make it great.

The changing of the centuries is a rare experience, fitted to inspire the great thoughts that make lives great. To be capable of regret and sorrow, to feel the pulse and throb of high ambitions, to take heart against life's barrennest faitures and resolve afresh to forget the things that are behind and to press forward to the new and the untried-to do that is to play the part of men while we bear the form of m, even though the vexing years give the lie to every hope and turn to vanity every resolution.

THE RACE TROUBLES OF OUR NEIGHBORS.

It used to be supposed that the race question in the United States was a purely southern affair, but the numerous conflicts with blacks and whites in different sections of the Northern States during the past year indicate that human nature is the same in the North as in the South, and there is likely to be trouble between the two races where the blacks become num erous, no matter whether the place be morth or south of Dixie's line. The latest conflict has occurred at Ce mentville, Indiana, and if the telegraphic reports of the trouble are accurate the negroes appear to be to blame in this case. If there should in future be any considerable migration of negroes from the South to the North there may be very serious disturbances. The effect of such race troubles in the North may be to create; a good deal of sympathy for the whites of the South in their efforts

to disfranchise the negroes.

The most serious feature of the disfranchisement movement in the South is the grawing sentiment in favor of depriving negroes of educational privileges, tithe first step was to make the negroe's possession of the franchise depend upon an educational qualification from which the ignorant whites are free, and the second step is to make it impossible for them to get the necessary educational qualification. If the educational qualification were applied to all alike and the two races were given equat opportunities for education it is not at all certain that it would give the whites the political supremacy they desire. The annual report of the superintendent of education of South Carolina shows that in that state the negroes are more ready to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered than the whites are. The negro schools are attended by 155,602 children, and the east was \$202,171 during the past year, or a fraction less than \$1.30 a pupil. The white schools were attended by 126,395 children, and cost \$700,-540, or \$5.54 per pupil.

In North Carolina a similar condition of affairs prevails. Even in the districts where the whites are in the majority, the attendance at the neso schools is larger. For instance, in York County, N. C., with a large white majority, 5,979 negroes and 4,-066 whites attend school, while in Spartanburg with four times as many whites as negroes, 8,305 whites and 5,062 negroes were in the schools, and in Fairfield, which also has a large white majority 1,642 whites and 4,827

"The Thorn Comes Forth With Point Forward."

The thorn point of disease

is an ache or pain. But the blood is the feeder of the whole body. Purify it with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Kidneys, liver and stomach will st and? No thorn in this point. Severe Pains—"I had severe pains in my stomach, a form of neuralgia. My mother urged me to take Hood's Sarsaparilla and it made me well and strong. I have also given it to my baby with satisfactory results. I am giad to recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla to others." Mrs. JOHN LA PAGE, 240 Church St., Toronto, Oni. Complete Exhaustion—"After treatment in hospital, I was weak, hardly able to walk. My blood was thin. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla until well and gained 20 lbs. It also benefited my wife." ARTHUR MILLS,



educational qualification for the franchise applied impartially to the whites and blacks in North and South Caroline would lead to negro domination before many years if the two races were offered equal educational

ALAS! POOR GHOST.

The New York Journal has a beautifully circumstantial yarn in a special cable despatch from London, stating that "the Ghost of Mary, Queen of Scots, which appears in the Tower of London, before the death of a crowned head, made itself heard on Christmas eve." The faithful correspondent goes on to relate how "the fact has been carefully concealed from the Queen," but "has daused the greatest alarm in court circles." He adds explanatorially, "Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth in the Constable's Tower and was led from it to execution in the Tower Quadrangle." Either the court circles which have been thrown into alarm, by the appearance of Queen Mary's ghost at the Tower of London must be as ignorant of English history as-well, say, as the Journal's London correspondent; or the lamented Queen of Scots must have become more forgetful than ever since she lost her head, which perhaps is not surprising. During her life-time it will be remembered that Her Majesty forgot many things she ought to should forget that she was imprisoned and beheaded in Fotheringay Castle. Northamptonshire, and take to haunting the Tower of London under the erroneous impression that it was there she lost her head, is inconceivable. Had she called on Elizabeth's successor at Windsor Castle, her action would have been more intelligible. We can quite believe the Journal's correspondent when he says "the ghost of Mary in the Tower has caused more than a sensation."

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When appetite fails, it restores it. When food is a burden, it lifts the burden.

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A. M. FLEMING A-R-T-I-S-T

HISTORICA SET SEE SEE SEEN NE

NEAR BAIKIES

AN ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

Under Civic Control-The People of Blanke in Discuss the Maiter.

Jon s Gives Them Figures Con cerning the Cost-The Bylaw to be Voted on.

Special to The Planet. Blenheim, Dec. 29 .- A public meetng of the electors was held in the Town Hali last evening to discuss the y-law to be voted upon on Jan. 7th next, for the municipal ownership of hext, for the municipal ownership of the electric light plant. Mayor-Higgart presided and stated the pur-pose of the meeting. The town had now hid the light since 1889, during which time \$5,000 had been paid for lighting the streets, and now the town was no better off than when it was first installed. The money was gone and no asset remained. The gone and no asset remained. The council were of the opinion that now that the old contract had expired and thit the old contract had expired and no satisfactory arrangements could be made with a private company, that the best thing to do was to own it themselves. For that purpose the present by-law was submitted to the electors. Other speakers he said, would give them all information in 1eference to the matter.

"Mr. Gosneli, town solicitor, then spoke upon the legal aspect of the case and in reference to certain letters which had appeared in the papers from the proposed Blenheim

pers from the proposed Blenheim Electric Light Co. He said he had been consulted by the council when the old company declined to renew the old contract at the same figures. and at that meeting it was decided to call for tenders for lighting the streets. In response to this a ten-der was presented under the name of the Blenheim Electric Light & Power Co., C. E. Wharram secretary. I also submitted a written opinion as to the position of the council in case they wished to own the plant themselves. This tender was submitted as part of an agreement to be entered into by the council and the company; obections were taken to certain parts These were mutually corrected and the council passed a resolution authorizing him to prepare an agreement in accordance with these coractions, to be then signed and sealed by the members of the company and the mayor and clerk, and then submitted to the council for realification. thed to the council for ratification. This he had done, and in doing so had to insert the name of Mr. Muir, of to insert the name of Mr. Muir, of Detroit, who was putting in the plant, as one of the members of the company, as he wished his name to appear in that manner. After the contract and agreement was prepared Mr. Muir declined to sign it that day, as he was going away, and from that he was going away, and from that day to this he had heard nothing from him, and neither had any mem-ber of the company come forward and asked to sign the agreement, though 13 days had elapsed before the council passed a resolution to resoind the resolution making the agreement, and notwithstanding the statement of the company, as published in the papers, the agreement does not contain the name of a single one of them nor any name of a single one of them not any official of the town, as, under the circumstances, I advised them not to sign until the company had done so. In consideration of this aspect of affairs, and from information obtained by the council in reference to the sucing under no obligation to the com-pany or anyone else, I advised them to reconsider the matter, resoind the previous motion referred to, and take the proceedings which have culminated in the by-law to be voted upon

Mr. Greenwood, chairman of the water and light committee, stated that from his position as chairman of this committee, that ne had as much to do in this matter as any member of the council and that they could no doubt look for some imformation from him in reference to it. When the old agreement expired, council instructed the committee to review it, which they en deavored to do, but this the company would not do, but they would sell as they wanted to get out of this part of their business, tores it. When food is a We informed them that we had no authority to buy, but suggested if they wanted to tender for sireet lighting to appear at next council meeting and submit any offer they wanted. They did so for 14 are lights

brings the plumpness of health.

When work is hard and duty is heavy, it makes life bright.

It is the thin edge of the wedge; the thick end is food. other towns. He went to Wallaceburg but could get no information that would be of any possible value. The reason appeared to be that they were a private corporation and did not wish their business to be made public. They asked him the question "Whether he would advae the council to take this matter up themselves no not?" He said he would most decidedly as there was money in it.

WENT TO BOTHWELL He then went to Bothwell and met Mr. Johns, who was mayor at the time the plant was installed there, and told him his business, was introduced by him to the clerk, who placed all the books of the corporation at his disposal. Their engine, boiler and plant, were new throughout, but they had made a mistake in the first place in the interests of economy by putting in too small a plant, which they in the interests of economy by puting in too small a plant, which they had afterwards to replace by a larger one. During the past year they had had 270 paying lights for which they received \$984 revenue; they also supplied free of charge 36 lights for pubbilidings at a value of \$13.40, and 15 are lights at \$75 each, \$1,125.00, making a total revenue of \$2,239.40. Their expenditure for all purposes, including payment of debentures was \$1,736.85, giving them a revenue of \$192.55. They were now installing new lights which would increase the number from 270 to 325. The Methodst church there had 20 lights installed at a cost of \$63, for which they paid \$30 per year. Other churches in same proportion. The collecting of the revenue was done by the Chief of Police once a month. The service is 12.30 except Saturdays, when it is one ocions. The coal costs when it is one ocions. The service is 12.30 except Saturdays, when it is one o'cloc. The coal costs them \$3.25 per ton laid in shed. Had

A Crash— And a Smash

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John McConnell, Park St., Bast Phone 190.

tested it with soft wood at \$2 per cord, the wood being the cheaper of Mr. Senior complimented Mr. Greenwood upon his abje report. He, him-self was not personally in favor of the town entering into this work, as he considered the present debt of the town high enough now, but he had written to a friend in Exeter, a town somewhat similar to Blenheim, and had received from him the follow

and had received from him the following information:

The old company, of which the writer was a member, sold out to a new company about a year ago. They found it a paying investment and sold at a profit, also received five per cents on investment as dividend the first sears although under unfavorfirst year, although under unfavorable circumstances, as they had to make payment on machinery. The probable cost of plant was \$12,500. Use steam power, high speed engine, with direct belting from engine to dynamos, also condensed. Have 10 arc lights on front street costing 19c. per light per night, and 21 incandes cent lights on back streets at 5c. per light per night. There are about 900 incandescent lights in stores and private residences at an average of about 3-4c. per light per night. The average running during the year is about six hours, cost 46c. per hour. for fuel, employ two men, an electri-cian and fireman. From experience ership, believe the cost of lighting the town could be saved and possibly

cheaper light to consumers if owned Mr. Senior also stated that he had already given his own views so far as he was personally conceined in the matter, but as a citizen and at the request of the mayor he had obtained the information, which he cheerfully submitted to them, if it would be of any service in assisting them to form a correct judgment in the matter.

EXPERT TESTIMONY. E. B. Jones, of Chatham, addressed the meeting as to the practical side of the matter. He has prepared the plans, estimates and specification for the installation of the plant and was confident that it could be constructed within the amount stated be constructed within the amount stated. He said there had been objections in Chatham at first to the council running the plant but they had done so and instead of paying 23c per light per night as formerly they now paid including the debentures for the purchase of plant only 16½ cents per night. While other speakers had given figures based upon a midnight service he submitted the following for an all night service based upon 300 incandescent 16 candle power lamps and 13 are lamps for a full load for 12 full hours per night for 365 nights:—

Coal for incandescent lamps per

Oil and waste	111	
Engineer' salary	\$2053	
REVENUES. 300 lamps at 35 cents each per month. 13 arc lights at \$75 each	\$1260 975	
If run on the moon-light sche-	\$2235	00

dule the cost would then be

But as very few incandescent lamps are burned all night, the average being about 6 hours for actual use, the coal expense would be further reduced \$552, making a notal cost for an all night service on the moonlight Add amount of debentures

13 are lights

Mr. Jones very strongly urged the ownership of the piant by the council.
Mr. Wallen, an old Blenheim boy, now electrician with now electrician with the Bell tele sugegsted idea of erecting the plant in the base-ment of the town hall, and utilizing the exhaust steam for the purpose of

Not New.

Don't think our Vapo. Cresolene is something new, for it isn't. For more than twenty years it has been extensively used for all forms of bronchial and been extensively used for

throat trouble. Mrs. Ballington Booth said of it, years ago, that "No family where there are young child-ren should be without Vapo-Cresolene." You breathe-in the vapor, it goes all though the bronchial tubes, soothing, healing, curing. It's

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cipal ownership.

The meeting was fairly, though not largely attended considering the importance of the matter, and a disapportance of the matter of rtance of the matter, and ing the by-law not coming forwi and taking part in the discussion, though they were invited to do so

FIRST AND FOREMOST In the field of medicine is Hood's Sar-In the field of medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla. It possesses actual and unequalled merit by which it cures all
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