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The Story of the Old Year.

The eventide has come of another century. Facing for a little toward the past even one pessimistically inclined can scarcely avoid the conclusion that the year just now done has marked progress toward the highest ideals of living. Spite of war occurring throughout the twelve-month peace has been written upon its history. The United States in the Philippines and later our own nation in South Africa not unmindful of the horrors of war and shrinking from the awful sacrifice of life the broken hearts and darkened homes, its sure concomitants, yet with a broader horizon than the present and with the interests in mind of a wider circle than is comprehended by the term "our own" are purposefully prosecuting war since by no other means can certain and lasting peace ensue.

But if the wars of the year have been not of conquest but to insure to oppressed peoples liberty and equality with the blessings of advancing civilization, so making peace, much more have certain international negotiations tended toward the same end. The final act in the Venezuelan Arbitration completed a series of events, the earlier of which were decidedly foreboding and would have a few decades since surely issued in bloody strife. Canada and the United States are earnestly and persistently seeking by mutual concessions the equitable disposition to vexed questions that have for long been a menace to neighborliness. Even France, volatile and tempestuous as she is known to be, patiently endured the partly deserved castigation administered by a British statesman, who less than any of his colleagues is wise in his public utterances. Time was when the ill-concealed threat of the Colonial Secretary would have sounded