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Ignatius Donnelly. The first day of the new century was the last on earth for Ignatius Donnelly, a gentleman who, if he had not achieved fame in the better sense of the word, had at least attained to a very extensive notoriety. Mr. Donnelly was, we believe, by birth an Irishman. Thirty-five years ago he made his home in Minneapolis where, as a politician and an author, he won a reputation which was much more than local, if he has not been constant in his party affiliations, having been connected at one time or another, it is said, with nearly every party in the State, and ending with being a Middle-of-the-Road Populist, of which party he was the candidate for the Vice-Presidency in the late election. Mr. Donnelly was, however, most widely known, not as a politician but as a Shakespearean scholar and critic, and especially in connection with what is known as the 'cryptogram' theory—the theory, that is, that the works ascribed to Shakespeare bear within themselves incontestible proofs that they were the production of the great Bacon. Certain words and letters in many of the plays suggested to the ingenious mind of Mr. Donnelly the theory that Bacon wrote the works which, he held, were impossible to an unlettered man like Shakespeare, and knowing their value determined, while hiding their authorship at the time of writing—to escape possible imprisonment if not death—to indicate it by the repeated use of his name throughout the play in a manner which would cause it to live in posterity, through the discovery which he believed would be made sooner or later. Mr. Donnelly elaborated the cryptogram or key to Shakespeare in a series of books, fascinating in their style, and ingenious in their conclusions. He made many converts on this side, but the great bulk of the scholars of the world remained untouched. Indeed, the theories of Mr. Donnelly were laughed at, while the man himself was indulged on the lecture platform for his genial personality, his humor, which was racy of the soil, and his varied knowledge, which was remarkable in a self-made man.

Australia. Significant among the events which have marked the dawn of a new century is the formal inauguration of the new Commonwealth of Australia. On New Year's day, amid scenes of unwonted pageantry, the Earl of Hopetown was sworn in at Sydney, N. S. W., as the first Governor-General of the Confederate Colonies. Many thousands of people participated in the demonstration. The Governor-General's arrival was marked by a thousand voices singing the hymn:

"O God, our help in ages past,"

which was followed by a prayer offered by the Archbishop. After his commission had been read the Earl of Hopetown took the oath of office and signed it at a table which had been presented by the Queen, —a salute of 21 guns, the playing of the National Anthem by the bands, and rousing cheers re-echoing among the hills, accompanying the act. After the first Federal ministers had taken their oaths of office, the Governor-General briefly congratulated the members of his cabinet and then read a congratulatory message from the Colonial Secretary, declaring at the Queen's command, Her Majesty's heartfelt interest in the inauguration of the Commonwealth and her earnest wish that, under Divine Providence, it may insure increased prosperity and well-being to her loyal and beloved subjects in Australia. The Queen's message was followed by a message from the Home Government in the following terms: "Her Majesty's Government sends cordial greeting to the Commonwealth of Australia. They welcome her to her place among the nations united under her Majesty's sovereignty, and confidently anticipate for the new Federation a future

of ever-increasing prosperity and influence. They recognize in the long-desired consummation of the hopes of patriotic Australians a further step in the direction of permanent unity of the British Empire, and they are satisfied that the wider powers and responsibilities henceforth secured to Australia will give a fresh opportunity for a display of that generous loyalty and devotion to the throne of the empire which had characterized the action in the past of its several States." The birth of the New Commonwealth has been hailed with universal satisfaction by the London press, and serves to relieve somewhat the depression consequent upon recent occurrences in South Africa.

Lord Roberts in England. Lord Roberts arrived in England from South Africa on Wednesday last, royalty and democracy uniting to extend to him an enthusiastic welcome. The Field Marshal still has his arm in a sling in consequence of a fall from his horse in South Africa, but otherwise appears to be in good health. The Queen has conferred an earldom upon the great commander, with provision for the passing of the patent of nobility to his daughter. It will be remembered that the only son of Lord Roberts was killed a little more than a year ago while serving under General Buller in Natal. Replying to an address presented to him shortly after his landing, Lord Roberts said that he regretted that his return was not accompanied by immediate peace, but while he feared hostilities would continue for some time he had implicit confidence in Lord Kitchener and had no fear respecting the outcome. He praised the magnificent army of Great Britain, all the component parts of which, he said, pulled together splendidly.

Some Interesting Dates. In an article on The Wonderful Century, the Montreal Witness recalls a number of interesting events and dates connected with the history of our country. The war between Great Britain and the United States early in the century, of which Canada was largely the battle-ground, taught the advisability of improving the inland navigation of the country, and accordingly between the years 1821 and 1825 the Lachine Canal was constructed, followed by other Ottawa and St. Lawrence Canals. "In 1833 the steamship Royal William left Quebec and crossed over to Gravesend, and as this was the first steamship that ever crossed the ocean, we are rightly proud of it. In 1836 the first line of railway in Canada was opened between Laprairie and St. Johns, and this was followed in 1837-38 by the dark days of the rebellion. The settlement of the boundary line between Canada and the United States by the Ashburton treaty took place in 1842, when our neighbor, as usual, outdid our champions in the bargaining. The first railway in Upper Canada from Toronto to Bradford was opened in 1853, and in the same year the first ocean liner arrived at Montreal. Seven years before, the first telegraph line had been established between Quebec, Montreal and Toronto. We adopted the decimal system of coinage in 1858, and in the same year gold was found both in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. In 1876 the Intercolonial Railway from Quebec to Halifax was opened, and only fourteen years ago the first through train ran from Montreal to Vancouver over the Canadian Pacific, the largest railway enterprise in the world."

Boer Invasion of Cape Colony. The news from South Africa during the past week indicates clearly that the Boer invasion of Cape Colony is a very serious business, and the result is viewed with much apprehension at Capetown, where it is felt that the seriousness of the situation

is not properly appreciated in England and many of the old residents are said to regard a general uprising of the Dutch throughout the Colony as by no means unlikely. The loyal people of the Cape seem to be earnest in giving what aid they can to the military authorities to turn back the invasion. Martial law has been proclaimed in Worcestershire and several other of the more disaffected parts of the colony. The Cape government has called upon the loyalists in twenty-seven districts including Capetown to assist the military to repel the invasion. In a preamble to the call, the Government announces the situation as follows: "Owing to the fact that armed forces of the enemy have penetrated south of Carnarvon in the west, and south of Middleton eastward, it is necessary to repel the invasion promptly, and the government calls upon the loyal inhabitants to aid the military in this duty by the formation of a colonial force for the sole and exclusive purpose of repelling invasion, guarding lines of communication and maintaining the districts." Volunteers are to be paid five shillings a day and supplied with horses and forage. Enlistment is going on actively. Men and guns from the warship Monarch have been landed at Capetown to relieve the troops there for service northward. A despatch from Lord Kitchener to General Forester-Walker, who is in command at the Cape, expresses pleasure at the action of the Cape Government, and gives directions for getting the Colonial troops to the South of the enemy; whom he describes as few, but very mobile. It is said that but few colonists have so far joined the invaders, but this is believed to be due to lack of sympathy with the Boers. Loyal farmers, coming in, describe the invaders as moving in parallel columns with numerous flanking parties, sweeping the country of horses, plundering loyalists and carrying off everything eatable.

The latest despatches indicate that the situation in Cape Colony is growing more serious. There is great apprehension on the part of the loyal colonists at Capetown and there appears to be strong feeling if not actual movement of the Dutch Colonists in favor of the invaders. It may be however that in the lack of definite information the people of Capetown are feeling more alarm than the real facts of the case would justify, but the London Mail's correspondent at Capetown is calling for 40,000 fresh troops to be sent out to South Africa, and says that prominent Afrikaner Loyalists declare that the rebellious Colonists will construe the colonial call to arms as a challenge. He considers that the necessity was never more acute for despatching reinforcements.

Good so far as it goes. The Dominion Parliament in the session of 1900 passed an Act further to amend the Criminal Code of Canada. The said Act came into force on the first day of the new year. Several of the amendments are of considerable importance, the most important probably being that which relates to the suppression of lotteries, since it will have the effect of doing away completely with the exception which under the old law permitted lotteries to be carried on by the so-called art societies. The proverbially corrupting influence of evil associations had found a good illustration in this case, for the said societies instead of exercising an influence for the encouragement of art, had come to be principally if not wholly a means for the promotion of gambling. A good thing has been done in removing the exception to the application of the anti-lottery law in the case of the art societies, but the amendment is open to criticism on the ground that it should have gone farther. As the law now stands its anti-lottery features do not apply to the division by lot or chance of any property by joint tenants or tenants in common or persons having joint interest in any such property: it does not apply to raffles for prizes at any bazaar for any charitable or religious purposes, held by permission of the municipal authorities concerned, if the articles raffled for thereat have first been offered for sale and none of them are of a value exceeding fifty dollars; and it does not apply to the Credit Foncier du Bas-Canada; or to the Credit Foncier du Bas-Canadien.—We do not know of any good reason why there should be exception to the general application of the law in any of the cases and especially we are unable to perceive any good reason why there should be a special provision to enable lotteries to be carried on for religious purposes.