

The Leading Events of the Closing Century.

An eventful century truly has been this Nineteenth Century of the Christian era, now within a month of its close. From whatever standpoint it is regarded, its history is marvelous. In the knowledge we have gained during its progress, of our own globe, it stands unparalleled. There has been wonderful progress also in science, in education, and in the adaptation of natural forces to human purposes. Political and territorial changes, too, have made this a very different world from that of 1800. It is not possible in small space to even mention the events which make the century memorable, but it may be interesting to recall a hundred, which, if not the most important, are those that have had the greatest influence in shaping and developing the condition of the nations.

Wars and Revolutions.
 Battle of Austerlitz, Napoleon defeats Austrians and Russians, 1805.
 Battle of Trafalgar, Nelson sinks French fleet, 1805.
 Moscow burned by the Russians to entrap Napoleon, 1812.
 Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon vanquished, 1815.
 Battle of Navarino, securing Greek independence, 1827.
 Crimean War, Great Britain, France and Sardinia against Russia, 1853-55.
 India Mutiny, in which native soldiers massacre English men, women and children, 1857.
 Franco-Austrian War, 1859, followed by Garibaldi's Campaign uniting Italy, 1860.
 The Great Civil War in America, 1861-65. Surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox, April 9, 1865.
 Austro-Prussian War. Decisive battle, Sedow, July 3, 1866.
 Franco-Prussian War. Decisive battle, Sedan, September 1, 1870; followed by federation of German States in German Empire.
 Russo-Turkish War. Battle of Plevna, December, 10, 1877.
 Bombardment of Alexandria by the British, 1882, followed by the occupation of Egypt.
 War between Chinese and Japanese, 1894.
 American Spanish War. Manila, May 1, 1898; Santiago, July 3, 1898.
 War by Great Britain against South African Republics, 1899-1900.
 France becomes an empire, 1804; a republic, 1848; an empire again, 1852; Third Republic, 1870.
 General outbreak of revolutions throughout Europe, 1848.
 Rome, seized from the Pope, becomes capital of United Italy, 1870.

Exploration.
 In the Arctic Expedition of Sir John Franklin, 1845; DeLong, 1879; Greely, 1881; Peary, 1892; Nansen, 1894; Duke of the Abruzzi (farthest north), 1900.
 In the Antarctic; Biscoe, 1831; Balleny 1838; D'Urville, 1840; Ross, 1841; Wilkes, 1852; Borobgrevink, 1898.
 In Africa; Livingstone, 1840-73; Stanley, 1875-87; Speke and Grant, 1863.
 In America; John C. Fremont's journey westward to the Pacific, 1842-46.

Invention.
 First steamboat, the Clermont, made a voyage from New York to Albany, 1807; the first steamboat to cross the Atlantic, the Savannah, 1819.
 First railroad, Stockton and Darlington, England, 1825; Baltimore and Ohio, fourteen miles long, 1830.
 Lighting the streets by gas, first experiment in London, 1807.
 Electric light produced by Edison's application of sub-division, 1878.
 The McCormick reaper invented, 1834.
 Howe's sewing machine, 1846.
 The electric telegraph, Samuel F. B. Morse, 1837. First line in the United States, 1844.
 The telephone first exhibited, 1876.
 The phonograph 1877-88.
 Cable laid across the Atlantic, 1857; perfected 1866.
 Electric railroad at Edison's home at Menlo Park, 1880.
 Photography: first experiments by Daguerre 1839. First successful portraits by Morse, 1839.
 The spectroscope first used, 1802; perfected 1859.
 Roentgen rays found to penetrate solids, 1896.

Social and Humanitarian.
 Slavery abolished in the British dominions, 1800.
 Alexander II., Emperor of Russia, emancipates twenty three million serfs, 1861.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, 1862.
 First International Exposition in Hyde Park, London, 1851.
 First settlement of an international quarrel by arbitration instead of war, Alabama Claims of the United States against England, 1871.
 International Peace Congress summoned by Russia, meets at the Hague, 1890.
 Organization of the Red Cross Society at Geneva, 1864.
 Organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1878.
 First College Settlement established, 1866.
 The Christian Herald adopts 5,000 children orphaned by the India Famine, 1900.

Religious.
 Organization of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1810. First missionaries sent out, 1811.
 Organization of the first Sunday School Union in London, 1803. American, 1824.
 British and Foreign Bible Society founded 1804.
 American Bible Society organized, 1816.
 First Young Men's Christian Association established by George Williams in London, 1844.
 The Inquisition abolished by the Spanish Cortes, 1820.
 Beginning of the Salvation Army, 1865.
 Doctrine of Papal Infallibility formally endorsed by the Ecumenical Council, 1870.
 Bible Revision: New Testament issued 1884; Old Testament, 1885.
 Organization of the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, 1881.
 Organization of the Order of King's Daughters, 1886.

Disasters.
 Earthquakes: Caracas, 1812; India, (2,000 persons killed), 1819; Canton, China (6,000 perished), 1839; Calabria, (1,000 persons buried), 1835; San Domingo (5,000 killed), 1842; Southern Italy (14,000 lives lost), 1852; Calabria, (10,000 killed), 1857; Quito (5,000 deaths), 1859; Mendoza, South America (7,000 deaths), 1860; Manila, (1,000 deaths), 1863; Mitylene, (1,000 deaths), 1867; Arequipa and district (25,000 deaths), 1868; San Jose, Colombia (14,000 deaths), 1867; Scio (4,000 deaths), 1881; Casamicciola (1,990 deaths), 1883; Charleston, S. C. (property worth \$6,000,000 destroyed and 41 lives lost), 1887; in the Riviera (2,000 deaths), 1887; Japan (4,000 dead, 5,000 wounded), 1891.
 Famines: Ireland, 1846; Russia (America contributed through The Christian Herald a cargo of corn, sent on board the Leo) 1891; in India 1837, 1860, 1865, 1868, 1876, 1897, 1899. In the last two named years, there were large American contributions in money and grain through The Christian Herald. In 1898 these contributions amounted to \$409,000, including corn on board the City of Everett; in 1899 and 1900 \$600,000, including corn on board the Quito.
 The great fire in Chicago, 1871.
 The Cenemagh flood, destroying Johnstown, Pa., 1889.
 Tidal wave at Galveston, Tex., 1900.
 Tidal wave in Japan sweeps away 60,000 houses and kills 2,419 persons, 1889.

Literature.
 Goethe publishes Faust, 1808.
 Victor Hugo writes Les Miserables, 1862.
 Thomas Carlyle's History of the French Revolution published, 1837.
 Ralph Waldo Emerson's Essays, 1841-71.
 John Ruskin's Modern Painters published, 1843-60.
 Whittier's Poems, 1836-75.
 Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1851-52.
 Darwin's Origin of Species, 1859.

Statesmanship.
 President Monroe propounds the doctrine that bears his name, 1823.
 Sir Robert Peel Premier of Great Britain, 1834.
 John Sherman, U. S. Secretary of Treasury, resumes specie payments, 1879.
 Abraham Lincoln, elected President United States, 1860.
 W. E. Gladstone becomes Premier of Great Britain, 1868.
 Bismarck made President of the Cabinet, Prussia, 1862.
 Count Cavour, Liberator of Italy, appointed Premier, 1852.
 Louis Kossuth Dictator of Hungary, 1849.

Miscellaneous.
 Gold discovered in California, 1848; in Australia, 1851; in the Transvaal, 1887;

in the Klondike 1897.
 Diamond mines worked in the Transvaal 1870.
 Opening of the Mont Cenis Tunnel, 1871.
 Last spike of the Union Pacific Railroad driven, 1869.
 Trans-Siberian Railroad operated, 1899.
 Opening of the Suez Canal, 1869.
 Alaska ceded by Russia to the United States, 1867.
 First session of the Parliament of United Canada, 1867.
 The Australias under one government, 1900.
 Maximilian executed in Mexico, 1867.
 Expulsion of the Emperor from Brazil, 1889.
 Assassinations: Lincoln, 1865; Garfield 1881; Emperor Alexander II., 1881; Carnot, President of France, 1894; Shah of Persia, 1896; King Humbert of Italy, 1900.
 Expulsion of Jews from Russia, 1882-91.
 Massacre of Christians in Armenia, 1895.
 Massacre of missionaries and converts in China, 1900.
 Army draft riots in New York, 1863.
 Chloroform first used, 1847.
 Vaccination legalized, 1803.
 Pasteur discovers remedy for hydrophobia by inoculation, 1884.
 The Rosetta Stone furnishes key to hieroglyphs, 1841.

Cyclone Franks.
 A traveller in the West, the Rev. C. T. Brady, says that of all the manifestations of power he ever witnessed, from an earthquake down, a cyclone is the most appalling. The midnight blackness of the funnel, the lightning darting from it in inconceivable fierceness, the strange crackling sound from its bosom, the suddenness of its irresistible attack, its incredibly swift motion, its wild leaping and bounding, like a gigantic beast of prey, the awful roar which follows—all this but feebly characterizes that strange ravener of the plains. He continues:
 The cyclone plays odd pranks. I have seen two horses lifted in air and carefully deposited, unharmed, in a field about an eighth of a mile away. I have seen chickens and geese picked clean of feathers, and yet feebly alive.
 One house, I remember, had a hole ten feet in diameter cut out of its roof, as if by a circular saw. I have seen the black, whirling cloud lift a building and shake it to pieces, as one shakes a pepper-box. One of the worst cyclones I ever knew threw a heavy iron safe about as a child might toss a wooden alphabet-block in play.
 It is an irresponsible as well as an almost omnipotent monster, and it seems to love the hideous jokes of its own concocting.

Half-a-Dollar Well Spent.
 It is not your habit to buy an illustrated book for your family's Christmas reading, try the experiment. "Toronto Saturday Night's Christmas," sixty pages, full of stories and pictures, will interest everyone and widen the vision of all as Canadians. Four pictures suitable for framing, one of which—"Raphael's Mother and Child"—is an exact reproduction of the costliest and best picture in the world. No where else can you get the same value! Five dollars' worth of the best art and literature for 50 cents. Get it from your news-dealer, or from The Sheppard Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto.

A Shanghai Rumor.
 "No, I don't know what the European concert will play," observed Li Hung Chang.
 Then with a knowing smile, he continued:
 "But I should not be surprised if we furnished the Tsun."
Business Proposition.
 "Do you believe that young Swinton proposed to the elderly Miss Linton last night, as she says?"
 "That's what she calls it, but all he did was to make a proposition to propose if she would advance him some of her proposed allowance."
Some for Chocolate, We Trust.
 "Stimson is a mean man."
 "Why so?"
 "He's got a way of keeping his wife from going through his pockets for loose change."
 "How's that?"
 "He spends it all before he gets home."
A Terrible Revenge.
 Bill—"So the Old Batch Club is sore on Jenkins because he was seen rowing with a girl?"
 Jack—"Sore? Why, we expelled him immediately and then married him in effigy!"
 "But," they said to the illustrious noble man, "how is that you are so well educated if you spent every day of your life on the battlefield?"
 "Easy enough," he answered; "I went to knight school."

A New Nation.

Considering its great size, the vastness of its resources, the character of its government and institutions, and the racial affinity of its people, we, of America, are strangely ignorant of the history and present status of the Australian States, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly. We know almost as little about them as we do of the Soudan or of Siberia, and much less than we know of other civilized lands.
 It is well to be reminded at this time that the entire group of Australian lands is actually as large as the United States outside of Alaska, and only 400,000 square miles less than the area of all Europe. It could accommodate within its borders 15 republics of the size of France, or 18 kingdoms of the dimensions of Spain, and have room enough to spare in each case to tuck in 15 or 20 Switzerlands. It has a population at present of over 6,000,000, and is increasing this figure at the ratio of about 150,000 a year. A country with such possibilities before it as these figures imply we certainly cannot afford to despise.

While the Australian mainland has been known to civilized man since early in the 16th century, first to the daring Portuguese, then to the adventurous Dutch, its real history covers less than a century. The colony of New South Wales was founded in 1788, but for 25 years its settlers were acquainted only with a strip of country 50 miles wide, between the Blue Mountains and the sea coast. In 1830 the population of the whole country was only 40,000. The unfortunate selection of the island for the establishment of penal colonies gave the region a bad name, and this undoubtedly helped to retard its progress, even after the practice of making it a dumping ground for criminals had been abolished. The discovery of enormous gold deposits in New South Wales in 1850, and two years later in Victoria, marked the actual beginning of Australia's development. Population began to flow that way from all parts of the world, and in the next two decades it had increased to over 1,500,000, and that figure was more than doubled by 1890. And the tide has only just begun to roll in.
 In comparison with other civilized lands, Australia has had a remarkably quiet and uneventful history. It has been under the strong and kindly sway of the British crown from the beginning, and no internal wars, insurrections, or invasions have ever disturbed the peaceful current of its existence. It has been left singularly alone by the rest of the world to work out its own destiny in its own way, according to the natural laws of industrial and political development. Since the abolition of penal transportation in 1859 the Australian colonies have had little or no cause for complaint against the mother country, but have had a steady and healthy growth under her wise and fostering care.

In certain of its climatic and physical characteristics Australia proper is seriously handicapped as a competitor with other countries of its size and population and industry. Its entire coast line is singularly deficient in good harbours. The rainfall of the country is small, and over enormous districts in the interior there is practically none at all. The western half of Australia is a low, barren plateau, not yet fully explored, and so far as known, with no resources of any kind, mineral or otherwise, to support a population. Unless it can be transformed by irrigation, the process now being tried in the Sahara with success, more than half the Australian continent must remain practically a desert. There are only two navigable rivers in the country, the Murray and the Darling, and in the long, dry, hot summers these streams dwindle away to a mere succession of pools. In the interior are many stream beds, dry except after infrequent showers and terminating for the most part in dreary marshes.
 Practically all the interest in the country past, present, and future, lies in the east region of the south and east, the territory embraced in the colonies of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Here are the flourishing cities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane; here the great mines of gold, silver, iron and copper, and here the vast sheep farms and cattle ranges from which Australia draws the larger part of her wealth. Nearly one-fourth of the world's gold supply comes from Australia, yet the yearly product from all her mines is but one-fifth as valuable as the pastoral and farm products. Nearly half the population of the country is found in the four cities named. Melbourne has a population of nearly 500,000 and Sydney nearly as many. The latter has also the

unique advantage, to that land, of one of the largest and most beautiful harbors in the world.
 Australia is chiefly associated in the popular mind, in America at least, as the country of the kangaroo and other curious forms of animal life; the boomerang, that remarkable weapon of savage warfare, and the native bushman, reputed to be lowest in the scale of humanity. In later years it has figured somewhat unhappily in the public prints on account of the rabbit pest, and more unhappily still from the extraordinary and deadly heat which prevailed over large sections of the island for a considerable period in the summer of 1898-99 at a time when in the northern latitude we were shivering in the blasts of winter. The thermometer during this awful visitation ranged above the hundred for days together, and the heat became so intense that birds, wild animals, sheep and cattle died by the thousands. Australia, as a general rule, however, has a salubrious climate, and the country has been as notably exempt from cyclones, earthquakes, plagues and famines as it has been from wars and revolutions.
 Like all the other branches of the English speaking race, the Australians have taken a large interest in religious, education, literary and scientific progress, and their institutions representative of these departments of human activity are comparable with the best in England and the United States. In the realm of political reform the world owes much to Australia for an improved ballot system, which has been adopted, with some modifications, in England and the United States.
 Recently Tasmania and four of the Australian States confederated and the new governor general, Lord Hopetoun, is on his way from England to the antipodes to take up the duties of the first executive of the confederation. His salary is to be \$50,000 a year. A federal executive council is to be chosen by him from the States originally forming the union. Provision is made for the accession of colonies not now joining, it being expected that New Zealand and possibly other adjacent islands belonging to England may come in. The governor general is to summon the federal parliament within six months of the date of the establishment of the commonwealth, and there must be a session each year. The parliament is to consist of the queen, a senate, and a house of representatives. The senators elected for six years, half of them retiring in rotation every three years. There are to be six senators for each state. The representatives are to be elected on a popular basis, no state to have less than five, and the house is to be twice as numerous, as far as is practicable, as the senate. The members are to be paid \$2,000 a year.

A Letter Day Prodigal.
 Mr. Johnson—Deacon Simpson's prodigal son returned last week.
 Mr. Jackson—I s'pose de ole man killed de fatted calf?
 Mr. Johnson—No; de prodigal stole de calf and skipped out ag'in 'fore de deacon even had time to lock up de barn!
 Young Mother—George, de baby hasn't cried all day.
 George—What did you give it; chloroform?
 "I can't think of suitable heading for this item about the death of the old baggage master."
 "How would 'Passed in his checks, do'?"

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