

The Planet

8. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

THE WEARINESS OF CHRISTMAS.

Edward Bok writes, in the December Ladies' Home Journal, that "there must be some radical and growing departure from the right and best way of celebrating Christmas when each recurring year we hear a larger number of men saying, 'Well, I'll be truly thankful when this Christmas business is over.' And they are led to this remark bravely by seeing their wives, mothers, sisters or daughters each Christmas Day utterly tired out, with the prospect of a siege of illnesses as soon as Christmas is over. And it must be confessed that this state of affairs exists in thousands of homes. Women themselves frequently acknowledge their satisfaction when the day is over. Now, there is always something wrong when we make a burden of our pleasures. And if one of our sources of pleasure in the calendar's greatest gala day is derived from a feeling of thankfulness that it is over, there is something askew either in the way we prepare for, or spend the day."

THE POPE AND THE NEW CENTURY.

So many people have thought that the papal decree appointing 1900 as a year of jubilee—the Holy Year—also gave the authority of the Vatican for regarding it as the first year of the new century, that we print the portion of the decree referring to this point:

"It is most becoming that we who are about to celebrate the commencement of the Holy Year, happily proclaimed by our Holy Father Leo XIII., should, in the depth of night, rise to greet the Author of time and prostrate before His altars."

"Since, moreover, at midnight of the last day of December of the coming year (1900) the present century will come to an end and a new one begin, it is very appropriate that thanks be given to God by some pious and solemn ceremony, for the benefits received during the course of the present century."

After reciting the manner in which the Holy year is to be celebrated, the decree says that it is to be so done "that it may end, after a prosperous course, by ushering in a still more happy century." The Pope, in common with all who have given the matter serious study, recognize the new century as beginning with the first of January, 1901.

NO MUNROISM FOR CANADA.

The New York Sun questions the moral right of Canada, as an American country, to join in a war of conquest in the old world. It says:

"It gives Canada a new relation to the British empire, assuredly, and, in so doing, it tends to give this hemisphere a relation to the continent of Europe which the American government is bound gravely and carefully to consider."

"For many years Africa has been virtually Europe. For an army to leave North America on an expedition of African conquest is wholly without precedent and pregnant with international complications to which the United States are traditionally averse."

From the extreme standpoint of upholders of the Monroe Doctrine the point is well taken. But let us look at it in this way: Canada is absolutely independent of the United States, has never accepted the principles of the Monroe Doctrine, and believes she is entitled to do as she pleases with her own. If she chooses to join the Empire in wars either of defence or conquest, what can the United States do about it? Nothing that we can see other than remodel her Monroeism to except this great and growing

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young country which certainly will not now nor in the future be guided by Yankee dictation.

The despatches tell us that the Toronto company were first inside that lager at Sunnyside. That's strange. As a rule it is larger which first gets inside Torontonians.

It is announced that Russia will adopt the new style in 1901, by omitting 13 days, the present error in the Julian calendar, at the end of their present year, making the first of January, 1901, to follow December 18th, 1900. If she does she will miss one Christmas.

Toronto seems to be a rendezvous for thugs and highwaymen these nights. Almost every night some respectable citizen is sandbagged and robbed on the streets. It is time the Toronto police did something to round up the thugs. Are they afraid of them?—Toronto World.

The Toronto police are all right, but are probably deterred from undue activity by the incomprehensible leniency with which dangerous and confirmed crooks are treated in the Toronto police court. Toronto justice seems to exhaust itself with the punishment of a few harmless drunks each day.

THEIR HISTORY.

Poultney Bigelow.

The history of the Boers is one-third war against England, one-third war with negroes, and one-third civil war.

BADLY NEEDED.

Detroit Free Press.

"There are misfit clothing establishments," she said thoughtfully. "There are," he acknowledged. "Then, why aren't there misfit Christmas present establishments?" she demanded, with some fierceness.

THE OVERTHROW OF MOSSBACKISM.

Hamilton Herald.

What a fine thing it would be if we could get the ratepayers of Chatham vaccinated with some of Hamilton's progressive lymph.—Chatham Planet.

Take heart, old man, it has taken a long time and much trouble to counteract the work of the moss-back element in Hamilton.

KRUGER OBJECTS TO THE SCOTCH.

Victoria Times.

President Kruger once said with great bitterness: "It's not the English who worry me; it's those confounded (verdamme) Scotch." There would never have been any Union difficulties if it had not been for the Scotchmen. A Scotchman would rather go without anything than his political rights. President A. Lincoln, strange to say, said pretty much the same thing—"First thing an Englishman wants when he strikes America is a hotel; an Irishman wants a uniform and a Scotchman a vote—and then he takes the rest!"

THE MUSE OF LABOR.

"And I Saw a New Heaven and a New Earth."—Revelations.

I come, O heroes to the world gone wrong;
I bring the hope of nations; and I bear
The warm first rush of rapture in my song.
The faint first light of morning on my hair.

I look upon the eggs from a tower;
I am the Muse of the Fraternal State;
No hand can hold me from my crowning hour;
My song is Freedom and my step is Fate.

The toilers go on broken at the heart;
They send the spell of beauty on all lands;
But what avail? the builders have no part—
No share in all the glory of their hands.

I have descended from Alcione.
I am the Muse of Labor and of Mirth;
I come to break the chains of infamy,
That Greece's blind hammer forges about the earth.

I have descended from the Hidden Place,
To make dumb spirits speak and dead feet start;
I feel the wind of battles in my face,
I hear the song of nations in my heart.

I stand in Him, the Hero of the Cross,
To hurl down traitors that mispend His bread;
I touch the star of mystery and loss
To shake the kingdoms of the living dead.

I come to overthrow the ancient wrong,
To let the joy of nations rise again;
I am Unselfish Service, I am Song,
I am the Hope that feeds the hearts of men.

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HERE AND THERE

James Gorman, the new mayor of Kenosha, Wis., is a barber.

There were 249,145 marriages in England and Wales last year, more than in any years since 1876.

It is said that 4,000 Finlanders desire to settle in British Columbia. They ask nothing but the land.

Previous to 1834 the House of Commons was lighted by candles, which were affixed to massive chandeliers.

The latest estimate of the population of England and Wales is 31,009,000, the women being in a majority of 960,000.

In 1684—a normal year—the death rate of London was nearly 44 per 1,000, or one in 23. In 1889 London's death rate was only 14.3 per 1,000.

The Presbytery of Boston has refused to make total abstinence from tobacco a condition precedent of ordination in the case of the young ministers under its care and old elders elect.

Gottlingen University has established a seminary for "The Science of Insurance," with two sections, one mathematical, the other legal and administrative. There are over sixty insurance students already.

Hans Richter has decided to stay in Vienna, his salaries having been raised so that he will receive 17,000 florins a year. He has leave to attend to the engagements he has made for this year in England.

Picture postal cards have their disadvantages. Complaints have been made, especially in Germany and in Australia, that they are likely to disappear en route, probably to adorn the collections of postal clerks.

Six of the thirty-four State Senators of Missouri are over six feet tall. The "big four," as they are known, are Charles Schweichardt, 6 feet 2 1/2 inches, 210 pounds; Buell L. Matthews, 6 feet 2 inches, 210 pounds; E. B. Fields, 6 feet 2 inches, 225 pounds; and J. M. Rollins, 6 feet 3 1/4 inches, 245 pounds.

Snipe are scarce in Germany. They cost \$1.12 apiece in the market, and \$1.25 apiece to amateur hunters. At any rate it is known that 100 amateur hunters spent \$2,500 last year, near Munster, bagging altogether twenty birds.

The New Zealand birth-rate has been steadily diminishing during the last two decades. In 1882 it was 37.3 per thousand; to-day it is 25.96, or lower than that of any European country except Ireland and France. England's birth-rate is 30.4.

In Paris and other large towns in France, female bootblacks are increasing numbers. They wear a peculiar garb, not unlike that of Sisters of Mercy, which renders their appearance rather neat and attractive. Not a few among them attend to their work with gloved hands.

There are in France 39 rivers and 52 canals, the traffic of which amounted to more than 400,000 tons each in 1897. Of these, 55 showed a tonnage exceeding 500,000 tons. The total tonnage of the navigable rivers amounted in 1897 to 13,553,350 tons, and that of the canals to 17,055,876 tons.

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