

REMINISCENT AND OTHERWISE.

The century (nineteenth) now drawing to a close has been the most marvellous in the world's history. So readily do we adapt ourselves to changed and improved conditions that it is hard to realize the manifold and wonderful changes wrought during this brief space of time.

Many are now living who saw the birth of the lucifer match, that great invention which has spread to the furthestmost limits of the civilized world and which has now become so indispensable. Suppose this simple-looking match and all knowledge thereof blotted out of existence and the world thrown back upon primitive methods to preserve or obtain fire,—what then? Is it any wonder that the ancients regarded fire as possessing attributes of the Deity and so entitled to their homage and worship?

Others are now living who were in existence long years before stoves came into general use in the smaller hamlets and remote settlements for heating and cooking, and who well remember when the first clock, piano, organ, and carpet was brought into the neighborhood to become the nine days' wonder and its owner the envied one in the settlement.

And many more there are whose birth antedates or was contemporary with the electric telegraph, locomotive railway, power loom, sewing machine, mowing machine, harvester, cream separator, and the like, while those not now beyond mature youth recall the advent of the bicycle, trolley car, telephone, automobile and the thousand and one discoveries and inventions which have blotted out time and space, lightened the burdens of the toilers, and which so minister to the comfort and happiness of all as to add years of longevity to the span of life.