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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1884.

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR.

When the dispassionate historian, who shall write about these days a century or so from now, takes up the records of 1884, he will probably find many things which will engage his attention and cannot be passed over without mention.

The year has not been marked by many very unusual events, but for all that there has been a good deal of history made since the bells rang in the New Year '84. Whether we turn our gaze to Europe, Asia, Africa, America or Australia, we will find that great influences have been at work producing results which cannot be without great effect in shaping the future of the world.

The Future of the World.

The peace of Europe has not been broken during the twelve-month and the year closes with no storm clouds over head, however many there may be about the horizon. Yet Europe has been the theatre of important occurrences. In Great Britain the passage of the Franchise Bill followed by the Redistribution Bill are tantamount to a revolution; but perhaps the most marked feature of the year, so far as domestic politics are concerned, is the demonstration of the fact that the House of Lords holds its place among the estates of the realm by suffrage only, and that a comparatively trifling cause may lead to a movement which will cause its abolition. Democracy has made great strides in England during the past year, and yet the crown has lost none of the respect of the people. The general state of business in England has been far from satisfactory, but there has been no wide spread destitution. Irish affairs have attracted more attention during the year than they have hitherto, but a policy of common sense and liberality will no doubt remedy the existing evils. The great event of continental politics during 1884 will probably be found to be Germany's new departure as a colonizing nation. This of itself, if found to be sufficiently successful to warrant a persistence in it, is enough to mark the year among the years. The German people are fast outgrowing the food-producing capacity of the Fatherland and the Chancellor has decided, since he cannot stop emigration, at least to try and direct it to countries where the emigrants will still be under the German flag. It is

Been far from Satisfactory.

A novel experiment and its success is problematical. In France we note that the Bonapartists are giving signs of activity, and it is not improbable that the impending failure of the Chinese expedition may lead to the overthrow of the Republic. Since the first day of January last, France has spent many millions of money and sacrificed many valuable lives in military and naval operations, which are entirely without glory and have hitherto been without profit. In Germany, Austria, and Russia, Nihilism has been making sure progress during the year, notwithstanding the arrest and conviction of numerous conspirators. While in Central and Northern Europe men have been plotting against their Kings, in Italy they have flocked to do honor to the Sovereign, King Humbert, who during the worst ravages of the cholera went about among the hospitals in a manner which proved him to be made of true kingly metal.

The Progress of the Cholera.

and the effectual way in which it was held in check at so many different points are among the noteworthy events of the year, inasmuch as they indicate a step in the progress of medical science, the effect of which cannot be over-estimated. The year closes with all the European nations at peace with each other and with no great war in progress anywhere. It is said that the relations between several of the great powers are more or less strained; but it is probable that much of the bad blood which is talked about in the newspapers has no existence, except in fertile imagination of some newspaper scribe. So far as can be judged from the surface of events, there is less prospect of a European war now than there was a twelve-month ago. We have heard of a Franco-German alliance against England, but the report was dissipated almost as soon as it was invented.

In Asia the year has been far from uneventful. The event of the Franco-Chinese war, if

war it may be called, are too recent to require recapitulation or extended notice; but they are far from constituting all that is worthy of note in the year's record of the great continent. Russian intrigue has been unusually active, and the New Year opens with a picket of the Czar's troops on the very border of Afghanistan, and a correspondence between the St. Petersburg and the British Government which, though conducted in friendly terms now, may at any time terminate in an appeal to arms. In the far East we find that Russia has extended her frontier towards the Corea, and now proposes to annex this peninsula, and thereby come face to face with England and France in Chinese waters. In India things are seemingly quiet. The departing Viceroy received the highest expression of loyalty and affection, and Lord Dufferin, who succeeded him, had a warm welcome; but during the year many signs have been observed which go to justify the belief that affairs in India are as yet in a transition state only. The Asiatic theatre seems to be about prepared to give the world

A Series of Startling Events.

Africa has received more attention in 1884 than ever before in her history. The events which have transpired in Egypt, especially Wolseley's advance up the Nile with Canadians and Indians for his pioneers are worthy of a place in history, but the most signal event of the year in the Dark Continent is the opening of the Congo country to trade and the assertion of sovereign rights upon the west coast by the leading European nations. Africa with its millions of people may be considered now as fairly opened to the enterprise of the world. The political condition of the country has been greatly changed by the formal recognition of the African Peace Association, which begins its existence with a territory nearly as large as North America and a population fully as great. The Egyptian problem appears to be as far off solution as ever, but the fact that El Mahdi has made no progress, while Gordon has held his own and Wolseley has penetrated far into the interior would appear to give strength to the report that his influence is weakening.

Australia has Commanded Attention

during the year by her demands upon the British Government to occupy neighboring islands, and by the actual occupation of a part of New Guinea, and the year closes with a good deal of hard feeling among our antipodean friends because Germany has been also permitted to get a foothold upon that important island. The idea of an Australian confederation has taken shape during the year and it may be regarded as an event likely to be consummated at a very early day. The year 1884 is remarkable in South America because it has been one of peace, if not of good will. The republics in the southern continent appear to have grown tired of contending with each other and to be willing to take a short rest. The last news was to the effect that Brazil and the Argentine Republic were about to quarrel and every one knows that such an event is very far from improbable. During the year the trade relations of South America have received more than usual attention from the commercial nations of the world.

The United States

have passed through an exciting year. A Presidential year is always more notable than others, and the present one has been characterized by the return to power of the Democrats, after nearly a quarter of a century during which their opponents have swayed the affairs of the Republic. A noticeable feature of the year is the abundance of testimony forthcoming to prove that the advent of a new commercial era in the United States is near at hand. We have already specified the circumstances which incline us to this view, and they need not be repeated here. A memorable event in 1884 was the Cincinnati riots, when the people rose by thousands to express their dissatisfaction with the manner in which justice was administered. The year has also been marked by great storms and floods in the West causing the loss of many lives and much property. In mercantile and financial circles 1884 will be long remembered. Not only did at least one serious panic disturb the even course of business, but there has been a wonderful unsettling of values, a general depreciation in railroad and other property, and a remarkable falling off in speculation pure and simple. Many of the richest men of the United States are poorer by millions

than they were twelve months ago. The political events in which our neighbors participated during the year, other than the Presidential election, which will be likely to have an important effect on the future, are the attendance of a representative of the Washington government at the Congo Conference, being the first active part which our neighbors have taken in old world politics for some time,

and the negotiation of the treaty, which may involve them in relations more or less strained and hostile with Great Britain and other European powers. The opening of the New Orleans Exhibition is an important domestic occurrence. Taking the year 1884 as a whole it must be admitted that it is one in which our neighbors have not only shown in a high degree their capacity for self-government, but have evinced a disposition to make their influence felt in the councils of the world in a manner appropriate to the dignity of a nation composed of nearly 60,000,000 of free men.

Coming nearer home and scanning the Canadian field, while we may not find many things to congratulate ourselves upon, we see enough to warrant the statement that 1884 has been

An Important Year for the Dominion.

Parliament met when the year was quite young, and all remember the extraordinary concessions granted to the C. P. Railway Company. The \$30,000,000 loan, which our descendants will have to pay, was contracted in 1884. The Exchange Bank scandal, the Toronto bribery case, the scandals in political life in Quebec, all serve to give the year an unsavory character. A redeeming feature is found in the triumphant assertion of Provincial rights by Ontario, both as to legislation and territory. The year though crowned with a good harvest has not been favorable in a business sense. Probably it has been the hardest year that Canada has experienced in a quarter of a century, and in New Brunswick the feeling of a portion of the people has found expression in a demand for closer relations with the United States. Both political parties in Ontario have made "demonstrations," and in Quebec an incurable split seems to have occurred in the ranks of the dominant party. Among the new questions which have arisen during the year is that of political and commercial union with the West Indies. The scheme of Imperial Federation has also received an impetus during 1884.

So far as New Brunswick

is concerned, while the year has brought its quota of accidents by land and sea, it has not been especially marked in this particular. While business has been unusually depressed, an extraordinary activity has existed in railway circles, and we have seen the Northern and Western, the Caraquet, and the Sackville & Cape Tormentine, and the Havelock Railways begun and pushed on towards completion with vigor. These railways, to be completed in the ensuing year, will add more than 200 miles to the already large mileage of iron road of which our Province can boast. In addition to these roads the Central Railway, involving the construction of nearly a hundred miles more of road, has been surveyed, and a new line across the north of the Province, of fully one hundred miles more has been projected. We have to record a year of good crops, of comparatively few heavy business failures within the Province; and perhaps it is not too much to say that, as a Province, we have held our own quite as well as our neighbors. Locally the year 1884 will be marked as that which saw the beginning of the St. John River bridge.

A List of the Disasters

of the year would fill a large place in our columns; so many and so great were those which marked the early part of January that it was a matter of common observation at the time that the New Year bade fair to be one of calamities. Happily the last half of the year, though not lacking in melancholy occurrences, has not equalled the first six months. By an odd coincidence London and New York have, in the past year, received an indication of a fate possibly in store for them, and an earthquake has shown on how insubstantial a foundation they rest. It was remarked after the London shock that a slight acceleration in the speed of the vibrations would have laid the British metropolis in ruins.

Among the events of the year the rescue of the Greely party takes a conspicuous place, not only because of the interest attaching to the restoration of the explorers to their homes, but because of the stories of alleged cannibalism, which led to a discussion of the right of men to kill and eat their fellows, and upon which there has been for the first time in history the solemn judgment of a Court, in the Mignonette case—that to kill a man for the purpose of eating him to sustain life is under any circumstances murder.

The Roll of the Dead.

Death reaped a rich harvest in 1884. Among the dead of the year, whose names may be mentioned here, are the Duke of Albany, the Duke of Brunswick, the Crown Prince of Orange, and the well-known Zulu King, Cetewayo. Two remarkable men, born in lands far remote from each other, and each in one

way the highest type of the civilization of which he was the representative, Wendell Phillips and Chunder Sen, joined the silent majority during the year. Among the distinguished jurists who passed away it may be sufficient to mention Judah P. Benjamin, the Confederate Secretary of State, and afterwards leader of the English Bar and Charles O'Connor, the great New York lawyer. Among public men, the names of Dr. Lasker, the great German Liberal leader, Postmaster General Fawcett, Earl Cowley, Sir Bartle Frere, and Lord Amthill may be mentioned. Among the authors who passed away the most familiar name is that of Charles Reade. The list is quite a long one, but not many of the names are generally known in New Brunswick; that of Jane Grey Swisshelm, of Alex. M. Sullivan, and of Thomas Kinsella are exceptions to the general rule. Art mourns the loss of Sir Michael Costa, Madame Anna Bishop, Brignoli, Chaufray and Tagliani. The great defender of Sebastopol, Tolstien, has surrendered to the enemy; Hoe, of printing press fame, McCormack, of reaper notoriety, Vennor, the weather prophet, Delmonico, the caterer, Pinkerton, the detective, Moulton, the mutual friend, Bass, of xxx celebrity, the rich Duke of Buccleugh, the eccentric Duke of Wellington, and others of greater or less fame and worth are not with us now to welcome the coming of the New Year.

Such is a brief and imperfect summary of the year's events. A thousand things have been omitted from it, but this short review may serve to remind our readers of occurrences which it would be useless to attempt to describe in a single article.

And so we prepare to take leave of 1884 and welcome 1885 and in so doing we wish our readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

and many returns of this anniversary.

THE ISSUE IN SUNBURY.

Mr. Arthur Glasier was nominated in Sunbury last year as a supporter of the local government; he received the votes of all the friends of the government, and having been returned by a handsome majority made good his promises by his course in the legislature. Considering the number of votes polled his majority was very large, and even admitting that some of his over-zealous friends may have not kept strictly within the law, it is preposterous to presume that his election was due to corrupt means employed on his behalf. Shortly after the change of government the constituency of Sunbury was opened by the death of Mr. Sterling, and at the election which ensued even Mr. Morrow felt compelled to declare on the hustings that he did not offer in opposition to the government, that it would be useless for him to do so as he could not get forty votes in the county in opposition to the administration. The government, however, accepted Mr. Glasier as their candidate, and we claim that his return was a distinct expression by the electors of Sunbury of confidence in the policy and personnel of the administration. Mr. Morrow seems to have changed his mind; at least he has seen fit to play into the hands of those who have caused it to be published to the world that his fellow electors were bought up like so many sheep, and that they are so supremely ignorant as to be unable to form an opinion for themselves as to who shall be their representative. We very much mistake the temper of the people of Sunbury if they do not resent with indignation these repeated insults to their honor and intelligence. Mr. Morrow will probably deny that he is responsible for the scandalous assertions made by the opposition press against the electors of Sunbury, but he must accept the responsibility of them, for they are made by his political allies, and emanate from a quarter whence he has received all his inducement to persist in needless litigation and to force upon the county an unnecessary election. The prime mover in the campaign of slander against the Sunbury electors is the *Maritime Farmer* of this city, which is the recognized exponent of the views of Mr. Wetmore, the leader of the Opposition and Mr. Morrow's political godfather. Upon Mr. Wetmore's shoulders rests the responsibility of the charges that the electors of Sunbury are monstrously corrupt and that the officials within the county are ready to commit the most outrageous frauds at the instigation of the local government. He has chosen, at the same time that he placed Mr. Morrow in the field, to place this opinion of Sunbury on record, and Mr. Morrow's most strenuous denials will avail him nothing. His candidature and his leader's insults to the constituency must go hand in hand.

It is well understood that Mr. Morrow's candidature is not pleasing to a large number of persons in the county who were friendly to the late government, but are

much surprised that any gentleman of standing would enter the political field under circumstances which must necessarily make him the apologist and defender of Mr. W. E. Perley. There are only two sides to politics in this country, and the man who sets himself up to oppose a recognized supporter of the local government must be understood as condemning the government and sympathizing with their adversaries. We were therefore quite prepared to learn that several respectable and influential gentlemen, who were asked to take the field, declined to do so and thereby assume the uncongenial and impossible task of justifying Mr. Perley's gross irregularities to use no harsher term. Mr. Morrow has, it appears, allowed himself to be persuaded to take such a step, but we fancy that the Sunbury electors will not be slow to stamp his conduct with their disapproval.

But Mr. Glasier, in asking for re-election, does not merely rely upon sympathy for himself, the indignation of the electorate at the charges made against them and the rottenness of the local head of the opposition party. Neither does he rely in any large measure upon his own personal popularity. He asks the electors of Sunbury, as intelligent men, to pronounce upon the policy of government, and he is willing to stand or fall by their verdict. He can point to what has transpired in the political arena since the defeat of the old administration and can claim that no government has ever, in so short a time, done so much that has been acceptable to the public. One only of their measures, a measure which received the unanimous support of the legislature, we refer of course to the school law amendments, has been the subject of attack; but since these amendments have come in force and are being understood in their practical working all complaints have ceased, and the two great tests which the opposition proposed, the number of Grammar and Superior Schools established, and the number of new applicants for places in the teaching profession, have demonstrated their practical value and popularity.

Whether we regard the career of the local government in respect to its administration of Public Works, in its management of the Crown Lands, in its business-like method of attending to necessary legislation, in the general discharge of its administrative duties, its course will bear investigation, and for proof we point to the fact that the opposition press, though constantly on the alert for points upon which to make an attack, have failed to discover one against which they could direct their blows with the slightest hope of success. It is, therefore, with no doubt of the result, that we ask the electors of Sunbury to give an new expression of confidence in the local administration by returning Mr. Glasier with a handsome majority; and in so doing they will not only retain their position and influence in the legislature, but they will mark with disapproval the betrayal of public trust which has by sworn testimony been brought home to Mr. Perley, and they will give the best possible refutation to the infamous charges of corruption and fraud which the leader of the local opposition has seen fit to make against them.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORSHIP.

It seems to be generally understood that Lieutenant-Governor Wilnot will not be re-appointed, but will retire from office in February 12th, when his term of office expires. The name of his successor has not been made public, even if the individual has been fixed upon. A rumor gives the place to Senator Botsford, who, it is said, will take it on the understanding that he will resign when Sir Leonard Tilley gets ready to step out of the political arena. We only give the report for what it is worth. The only thing that seems certain is that we will have a new Lieutenant Governor to open the Legislature.

REMEMBER.

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