

A CENTURY WATCH NIGHT

IT WILL BE OBSERVED BY LOCAL CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES.

The Wonderful Achievements of the Nineteenth Century—Watch Night Anecdotes.

There are several billions of human beings in the world at the present time, and probably not one of them will live to witness a repetition of the great event which is scheduled to occur one week from tomorrow midnight.

From the time of the fathers of the early Christian church the custom has been observed among many religious bodies of holding what are known as "watch night meetings" on the last night of each year.

Of late years this custom has fallen somewhat into disuse. This is no doubt due to the frequency with which last days of years roll around, making it difficult to mark and remember the last day of a century.

Every American will agree that the greatest achievement of the dying century has been the evolution of the United States into the foremost of all world powers.

The nineteenth century will go down to its grave proud in its wondrous achievements in the field of inventive genius.

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The collars of Kingswood, England, were in the habit of spending the last night of the year in drunken revels and Bacchanalian songs prior to the introduction of Methodism.

The character of watch night meetings has changed but little since the days of Wesley. The Church Economist in a recent article says: "Generally the service begins at 9 o'clock and starts with a good deal of jollity."

The Economist directs attention to the curious and interesting fact that, although watch night services are usually characterized by excellent music, none of the world's composers have ever thought it worth his while to write an anthem or an instrumental piece in commemoration of the birth of a new century.

A valuable suggestion for the observance of the birth of the twentieth century is offered by the periodical mentioned. It is that a part of the services be devoted to an historical summary of the nineteenth centuries that have elapsed since the beginning of the Christian era.

Locally the end of the year and century will be quite extensively observed, especially in churches not located near the business heart of the city.

churches is that it is inconvenient for the members, many of whom live some distance, to get to and from the service.

For several weeks the large membership of the Maennerchor Society has been engaged in elaborate preparations for the appropriate celebration of the dawn of the twentieth century.

A pleasing custom that has been in vogue many years is that of several families gathering at a certain home on the last night of the year and celebrating the event in a social manner.

John J. Murdock, manager of an attraction that is playing at one of the local theaters, was born and reared near New Castle, Pa., a State that is famed for its steadfast adherents to religious faith and observance.

That Doubtful General Not an Accomplished Diplomat.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"That letter in which General Chaffee 'called down' Field Marshal Count Von Waldersee for German looting must have been an amusing document," said an officer of volunteers.

When Coffee is Deleterious.

Discussion Before the New York State Medical Society.

New York Evening Post.

When Coffee is Deleterious.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper a physician, who has devoted several years to the investigation of coffee poisoning, told of an amusing case in his own practice.

A Thankful Heart.

That art not rich, thou art not poor, The fortune sweeps the middle way.

NOT A GREAT ART CENTER

WELL-KNOWN ARTIST SAYS AMERICA WILL NEVER RIVAL FRANCE.

American Buyers, However, Beat the World—Young Artists Advised to Stop Copying Pictures.

John W. Alexander has not been seen in this country much of late. He has lived abroad, with occasional trips to America, for the past nine years.

It was the center of attraction in the gallery to which it was assigned, and one proud day in Mr. Alexander's career there came to him a notification that he had been elected a member of the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts.

NOT AN ART CENTER.

America the art center of the world. This is the dream of patriotic painters who have returned from triumph at the Paris exposition to compete for fresh laurels at home exhibitions.

There is something lacking in this country. The necessity for encouraging art is not recognized by our government as it is by foreign governments.

A FICKLE PUBLIC.

"Yes, I find that the public is somewhat fickle in its tastes in the matter of paintings, just as it is with writers and actors.

ancient works of the old world have, but we can begin such galleries now, and in a few centuries American homes will have ancestral picture galleries with the best.

"We are attaining an enviable position in the fine arts. In the exhibitions Americans have taken more medals than the artists of any other nation in the world."

"We have no American school, so-called," replied Mr. Alexander. "This is a new country and also a very large country.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

It is Well at This Time to Consider the "Fashion of the Smiling Face."

From Stevenson's "Christmas Sermon."

It is for things not wrong in themselves that they reserve the choicest of their indignation.

Unable to Draw the Line.

Washington Star.

"I'm getting along," said Mr. Cumrox; "I'm progressing slowly, but surely."

Soft downy pillow by his head, good night.

Rock-a-bye, hush-a-bye baby, my love.

Rock-a-bye, hush-a-bye baby, my own.

Rock-a-bye, hush-a-bye baby, my dear.

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCE

IMPROVEMENTS IN FARM METHODS AND CARE OF LIVE STOCK.

Processes of Feeding—Transportation of Animals—Progress in Dairying—Fertility of Soils.

Maryulous are the discoveries of the century in the domains of science, manufacture and commerce, they by no means eclipse the contemporary achievements in agriculture.

"The division of labor in agriculture, as in other productive occupations, has become a feature of the age. Although the farmer should still be somewhat of an 'all around man,' he no longer is required to be a plowright, farm implement maker, harness maker, woodman, etc."

Ever since the patriarch Jacob outwitted his father-in-law in the division of their flocks and herds by the use of "peeled rods" the art of breeding has been more or less faithfully pursued.

Two instances of remarkable development in horses within the century may be mentioned—the American trotter and the Kentucky gaited saddle.

In the diversity of talents used by husbandmen those of the chemist play an important role.

Great strides have been made in methods of preventing and overcoming animal diseases, deserving of far more extended mention than it is possible here to make.

VETERINARY PRACTICE.

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utilize both time and space. Interstate and transoceanic traffic in live stock have recently been greatly improved by mechanical and scientific efforts, until our cattle travel with a degree of safety and comfort not experienced by our human ancestors of a century ago.

DAIRYING IMPROVEMENTS.

It is said that among the early town records of Hadley, Mass., is an entry to the effect that the cows gave so little milk through the winter that the babies had to take cider as a substitute.

Contrast the tedious and laborious sorting of milk in shallow crocks for two days, then removing the cream with a scooper, etc., allowing it to sour in the kitchen, acquiring the aroma of boiled dinners in transit, churning with a dash churn and kneading by hand, with the new process of converting fresh milk into "butter for breakfast in a minute and a half."

Co-operative butter and cheese making has transferred this work from the kitchen of the busy housewife to the factory of the expert to the great advantage of the product and satisfaction of the wearied housewife.

In several large establishments milk is now being modified by changing the proportions of its constituents to make it closely resemble human milk, and for other specific purposes in the feeding of infants and the sick, and it has even been made without the intervention of the cow.

FARM MACHINERY.

One of the most signal achievements in the agriculture of this century is the displacement of so much hand labor by improved machinery, operated by horse, steam or other power.

The harrow has been transformed from the frame of scantling armed with iron spikes to the disk, cutway, spring tooth and lever adjusting types, alike vastly superior in efficiency and economy of labor.

For seeding and planting the hand hoe has been replaced by the rower, the tobacco sifter, grain drills, etc., not to mention the machine that marks a row, plows its furrows, distributes and incorporates fertilizers, drops and covers the seed at the same time.

A liberal education of the last century consisted mainly in the study of things of the past which the history and literature of the ancients formed the major portion.

Agriculture is so emphatically a study of the present century that even yet few have begun to grasp its import; nay, there is a general misconception of its nature and scope.

During the past forty years agricultural colleges have sprung up in each of our United States, doing what was calculated to make the twentieth century agriculture far superior to that of the present.

Hand in hand with this educational work investigations have been extended into all the varied fields of husbandry. Insects are yielding up their life's history, revealing facts suggestive of methods of protecting our interests against their ravages.

FRED S. COOLEY, Professor in Massachusetts Agricultural College.

A Touch of the Romantic.

Detroit Journal.

"Officer shoot him like a dog!" cried Rodriguez.

"Well, miss," replied the policeman in the play, modestly, "I've always made it a point not to shoot a dog."

"Experts Smoke Exports"

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The Twentieth Century

Will find them well supplied with Exports, the manufacturers having by the greatest effort succeeded in catching up with the enormous demand for this PEERLESS PRINCE OF FIVE CENT CIGARS.

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