

CLOSE OF THE SECOND GENERATION.

Review of the Past 33 Years.

GREATNESS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The editor of the Boston Traveller, in his regular weekly review last Saturday, wanders off into a wonderfully interesting sketch of the past thirty-three and a third years, as follows:

With the close of this day, August 31, 1867, will close the second generation of the nineteenth century, and the fifty-sixth of the Christian era. A century is divided into three generations, of thirty-three years and four months each; and as the nineteenth century began on the 1st of January, 1801, its first generation closed on the 30th of April, 1834; the second on the 30th of July, 1867, and the third on the 30th of October, 1900.

The best explanation of what is meant by a generation is that given by De Quincy. It is not meant that the whole population of the earth who were alive at the beginning of a generation were dead at its close, but that a number equal to the whole population had died, one-third of whom were born in that generation. The two-thirds who died of those who were living at the beginning of a generation must embrace persons who belonged to the active part of the community, and therefore a new generation of active men may be said to come upon the stage three times in a century. The exceptions must be numerous, as a third of the deaths do not come from among those who were living at the beginning of the generation. Exactness of a literal character is not expected in such a case, but the estimate is sufficiently exact to meet the moral requirements of the matter. Looking back over the third of a century that now is closing, we find it full of wonderful deeds and great changes. When the generation began, the state of things in this country was very different from what it is to-day. President Jackson was in the second year of his second term of service, and was engaged in a hot contest with the United States Bank, the removal of the deposits question filling the public mind as much as it is now filled by the question of reconstruction. The Whig party was just formed, but the Democratic party seemed to be the more probably seated in power. The Abolitionists were in the spring of their movement, and were hardly less obnoxious to most Americans than were the early Christians to the conservatives who rallied round Jupiter Optimus Maximus. The nullification movement had been put down the year before, and the slavery question had been seized upon by Mr. Calhoun to take its place. The mails were rife by "gentlemen of respectability and standing," with Government's approbation, because they were supposed to contain "incendiary matter," and in Boston pro-slavery fanaticism was almost as strong as it was in Charleston. The number of States was but twenty-four, and "the West" was hundred of miles from its present occidental line. The navy consisted of wooden sailing vessels. War, except with Indians, had been unknown to the country for almost twenty years. Slavery was, apparently, as firmly seated here as the Papacy in Christendom. Railways were little more than talked of, and telegraphs were unknown. The generation that then began passes away, and with it passes the country that then existed, and of which the people were so proud. Of all the leading men who then lived, but few survive. Jackson, Calhoun, Webster, Van Buren, Clay, Harrison, J. Q. Adams, Livingston, Tyler, McDuffie, Marshall, Taney, R. M. Johnson, Mangum, H. L. White, Hayne, Preston, Burges, Hamilton, Cass, Scott, Gaines, Marcy, Woodbury, McLane, Stevenson, Porter, Benton, Rush, Dallas, McLean, Tazewell, E. Everett, John Davis, Berrien, A. H. Everts, H. G. Otis, Cambreling, Leggett, Dayton, Biddle, and many more, whose names had been as common in men's mouths in 1834 as those of Grant and Sherman in 1867, have departed. The United States Bank is as dead as the continental currency. The Whig party has been in its grave fourteen years, and the Democratic party is in a dying state. Slavery, that seemed strong enough to defy fate, and claimed to have subdued fortune, is abolished; and Abolitionism is the creed of the land. The navy that has become well-nigh as obsolete as the forces that fought at Salamis, being replaced by vessels built of iron, which are propelled by steam. The army, which was not strong enough to form an effective division, has been increased to ten times its former numbers. The number of States is increased one-half and more, while the extension of our territory exceeds the dreams of the founders of the Republic. "The West" is now on the shores of the Pacific, where we have two States, one of them the immediate creature of gold's power; and Territories there, or in the vicinity of the western ocean, are growing into States. Russian America, which was counted as lying beyond the boundaries of possible civilization, has become ours by purchase, twenty years after we had settled the Oregon dispute with England; and we are rapidly binding those remote regions to the East by telegraph, and the Pacific will be joined together by an unmovable bond of iron in about three years. Great and opulent cities have sprung into existence: San Francisco, Chicago, Milwaukee, and others, are of the creations of this generation; while scores of places have risen from comparative insignificance to wealth and greatness. We have had two great wars: that with Mexico, which grew out of the annexation of Texas, and which, meant to make slavery colossal, was the means of its overthrow, while its effect on the world's business through its leading to the acquisition of California is among the wonders of history, and belongs to the romance of commerce; and what may be called the great civil war, brought upon the country through the bullying and insolence of the slaveholding interest, directed and wielded by the leaders of the Democratic party—and the circumstances and incidents of that contest were as marvellous as the contest itself was unlooked for. At the beginning of the generation we had no national debt, and the States were comparatively free from pecuniary obligations; at its close the national debt is not less than \$2,500,000,000, and the States are enormously burdened with debt, of which they will not soon rid themselves—and most of these huge evidences of forced and unnatural expenditure, for the payment of which the industry and the ingenuity even of the unborn are mortgaged, were built up by war-makers, men who saved the country from being destroyed by the secessionists. What is remarkable, that the country prospers under a burden of taxation much greater than that known to England, and which came into existence *per saltum*. In literature, and many of the greatest American names belong to it—Prescott, Motley, Hawthorne, Bancroft, Lowell, Tilton, Kirke, Brownson, Ward, Beecher, Norton, Mrs. Stowe, Hildreth, Margaret Fuller, Godwin,

Thoreau, Fields, Hillard, Whipple, Elliot, Fox, Child, and others, are of the list; but many others who were born in the generation's course, began their labors before it opened—Longfellow, Emerson, Kennedy, Bird, Simms, Mrs. Child, Miss Sedgwick, Willis, Verplanck, and Ferriol are of this class. Cooper belonged more to this generation than to its immediate predecessor, and Irving as much; and Bryant, who yet lives, has labored throughout its course. To science the country has contributed many eminent men since the beginning of 1834; and in sculpture and painting not a few Americans in that time have achieved eminence. Much has been done for education, and the pure fame of Horace Mann belongs entirely to the generation now so near its end, but coming time will preserve it. Most that has been accomplished here in periodical literature belongs to it, the *North American Review* being the chief exception. The newspaper press has risen to gigantic proportions in thirty-three years, among its conductors are numbered many distinguished men—Greney, Bennett, Raymond, Dix, Monroe, Morris, Nugent, Morse, Godkin, Blair, Prentiss, Greene, Conrad, Morton, Bryant, Houghton, Buckingham, Hill, Gales, Garrison, Hale, Knowlton, Forney, Bonner, Dana, G. W. Kendall, Leggett, Dow, Hudson, Ripley, Anthony, Robinson, Crosswell, Weed, Bowles, and others; while a host of unknown writers have labored for and on it, who are in the predicament of soldiers who fight hard and die in ditches to make fame and fortune for the few—men that resemble the bard,

"Who, notless as the race from which he sprung, Saved other names, but left his own unsung." The cheap press is one of the glories of this generation, and it includes books of all kinds as well as newspapers. Looking North, we see Canada risen to importance in the last thirty-three years, and promising to become a mighty nation by the close of the century. The "Dominion" is emphatically the child of the generation, as the movements out of which it grew were at the height just after the generation began, and then Canada attracted the world's attention, and ever since has steadily increased in wealth, power, and influence. Looking to the South, we see in Mexico a picture exactly the opposite of the pleasing one presented by Canada; and this, too, is a product of the generation, and one that does it no honor, as it was in 1835 that the constitution of 1824 was abolished, since which time the Mexican ship of state has been borne on a sea of troubles, till our "sister republic" has become a relative of whom we are ashamed; and the massacres of which she is now the scene remind us of the worst countries of the worst times of the Middle Ages—and we regret she was not "absorbed" by the United States in 1848. Mexico has gone backward as much as Canada has gone forward. In South America there has been much improvement, but there is room for much more. Brazil has become a powerful country, and is well governed; Chili is orderly and prosperous; Paraguay is stout and strong, as her recent deeds testify; Peru is not so orderly as she was under Spanish rule, but on the whole she has gained considerably through independence—and, speaking generally, there is nothing in the condition of meridional America that leads us to regret that most of it is no longer under European rule. The project of abolishing slavery in Brazil is talked of as the generation closes. The West Indies have been freed from slavery in this generation, with the exception of the Spanish possessions. It was in 1833 that the British Emancipation act was adopted, but it was not till 1838 that the work was really completed. Cuba has been much sought by the United States since 1834, but in vain; and it has been assailed by pirates from the South, many of whom were executed at the Havana in 1851, which put an end to filibustering in that direction. The whites in Jamaica complain of being ruined through emancipation, and say they cannot raise anything, whereby the price of tropical produce is much increased—but it is better to have free souls than free sugar. The Eyre butcheries, deeds worthy of Percy Kirke, were the outcropping of the old slaveocratic spirit, and show what we should have to expect were we to leave any power in the hands of our ex-slaveholders. Passing across the Atlantic, we see that Europe has changed immensely in thirty-three years, the consequence of great events that there have occurred in almost every country, from Cape North to Cape Matapan, and from the mouth of the Shannon to the mouth of the Volga. In 1834 Great Britain had fairly got under the government of the ten-pounders, because of the passage of the Reform bill. Many other reforms were the consequences of the great political change that had been wrought in 1832. Colonial slavery was abolished, municipal reform effected, religious institutions were considerably liberalized, the law was relieved of some of its burdens, something done for education, taxation made more equal, the fiscal system improved, the press freed from odious imposts, and much other good work performed. Still, the Liberals lost ground, and the Tories returned to power in 1841, but in 1845-6 occurred the Irish famine, the result of the potato-rot, a peculiar evil of this generation, and the effect was the abolition of the Corn laws, whereby fell the bread monopoly of the British aristocracy. The Whigs returned to power, and held it with brief interruptions down to the summer of 1866, when the present Tory Government was formed, which has carried through Parliament a Reform bill that confers the suffrage on about a million of men who had small hopes of receiving it two years since. Ireland has been the scene of her usual troubles in this generation. The power of Mr. O'Connell was shaken before his death (in 1847), in consequence of the proceedings against him by the British Government, and Young Ireland made itself heard. An attempt at insurrection in 1848 failed utterly; but during the last three years Fenianism has given "the Saxons" much annoyance, particularly as it operates in America as well as in Ireland, and even made an attempt to invade Canada in 1866. Great Britain has been engaged in many wars since 1834: in China, in Syria, in Afghanistan, in South Africa, in many parts of what is commonly known as India, in Persia, in the Crimea, and in the North of Europe, (against Russia), and in the far-away islands of the Southern Ocean; and in all these wars the steady bravery, the indomitable pluck, and the strong energy of the British race have been as honorably displayed and maintained as ever they were in former generations. In circumstances presented Britain from having the first part in the Russian war, one can say that British valor was more splendidly exhibited at Blenheim and at Waterloo than it was at the Alma, at Balaklava, and at Inkermann. The charge at Balaklava will go through history as long as the world shall be written. The Indian mutiny afforded England a terrible opportunity to show that she was competent to the highest work of war, and she did not neglect it. France has become very great since 1834. At that date the Orleans Government had tolerably established itself, but, though its intentions were always good, that dynasty never became popular. The French expected it would

lift their country out of the slough into which it had been cast by the events of 1813-15; and assert for them a high place in Europe and throughout the world; but "peace at any price" was its motto, and it acted up to that motto. When M. Thiers had brought his country to the verge of war with most of Europe on the Eastern question, Louis Philippe got rid of him, and M. Guizot was placed at the head of affairs in 1836, when monarch and monarchy and minister were involved in the ruin effected by the revolution of February. A French republic was established, which had a sickly existence of almost four years, when it was overthrown by its own President, who made himself Napoleon III. The bitterest enemy of the Emperor must admit that he has done much for France. He made her a great nation once more, and secured for her the leadership of Europe. His part in the Russian war was a great one; and at the Congress of Paris (1856) his moral supremacy was admitted. His part in the Italian war also was great, and led to the overthrow of Austria, and to the ruin of the plan she had formed of making Italy one of her dependencies. He increased the territory of France; and the material warfare of his subjects has been much promoted by his action. Never were the French so "well off" as they are under his rule. Had he not entered into the Mexican business, under the mistaken notion that the secession war had ruined this country, his power could not have been shaken; but that was fatal to his honor, and it may prove equally fatal to his power. He behaved in the meanest manner when he abandoned the Archduke Maximilian, to whom he had pledged his full support, and on the imperial head should the archducal blood be. Maximilian was the first of powers in 1854. She, though it is to the ruin of the plan she had formed of making Italy one of her dependencies. He increased the territory of France; and the material warfare of his subjects has been much promoted by his action. Never were the French so "well off" as they are under his rule. Had he not entered into the Mexican business, under the mistaken notion that the secession war had ruined this country, his power could not have been shaken; but that was fatal to his honor, and it may prove equally fatal to his power. He behaved in the meanest manner when he abandoned the Archduke Maximilian, to whom he had pledged his full support, and on the imperial head should the archducal blood be.

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much to her disadvantage. Sweden ought to be happy, according to Montaigne's saying, for her annals are warlike—to the outsider; but she has had some domestic troubles. Greece has changed her dynasty, and is desirous of war with Turkey, if she can be backed by Russia. Turkey has been worried throughout the whole generation; worried about Egypt, about Montenegro, about Roumania, about her Christian populations, about Syrian massacres of Christians and Christian occupation of Syria, about Candia, about money, and about her generation. This would have been the boldest and buttressed by Western Europe again and again. Christendom saved her from Egyptian ambition in 1840; and the Czar talked of her as a "sick man" as early as 1844; and in 1853 he purposed doctoring her, hoping to restore the cross in Constantinople in the year that completed the fourth century since the Crescent had been placed over the first of Christian capitals—a grand design, which might have succeeded had the boldness of his movements borne any proportion to the audacity of his conceptions. Christians prevented his success, and thus this generation lost what would have been a magnificent addition to its property in events. Egypt's Viceroys have been made a King, and the house of Mehemet may prove as fortunate there as were the Lagides. Proceeding East, we are reminded of the fighting about Herat; the invasion of Afghanistan; the expedition to Khiva; the tremendous wars between the English and Sikhs, leading to the conquest of the Punjab, a conquest that had a memorable effect on the reconquest of India after the Sepoy mutiny; and the absorptions into and annexations to British India, of minor countries, under the lead of Lord Dalhousie, one of the greatest of British Viceroys, including the kingdom of Oude; the siege and taking of Mooltan, and the acquisition of the Koh-i-noor, which is supposed to take had luck to its possessor; the mutiny itself, with its horrors, its hard battles, its desperate sieges, its long marches, and its great spoils; and the short revival of Mogul rule at Delhi, and the final extinction of even that shadow of a shade, the Indian King, who was so far descended indeed from Akbar and Aurangzebe. The East India Company was abolished as a political party immediately after the mutiny, and Victoria (whom God long preserve!) is Queen of Hindostan. The quarrels of England and China belong principally to this generation. They began just before the close of the last generation, but little was then done, while throughout this generation they have been carried on with considerable energy. France taking part in them at last, and Russia appearing too, though she did not pursue the same course as the other European powers; and America was also concerned to some extent in them. The general result of these affairs is, that the Chinese shell is broken, and that Christendom has conquered the prejudices of China. Future times will complete the work. China has been the scene of vast rebellions, of which the Tae-ping rebellion was by far the most important, and at times seemed likely to effect its purpose, the overthrow of the Manthoo dynasty. The Chinese emigration to America is one of the most remarkable incidents of the time. Japan, after a sealed country to foreigners, has been forced to change her policy in this generation, through the exertions of Europeans and Americans; and from what has been done in the present year we may conclude that she will soon be brought within the ring-fence of civilization, as occidentals are pleased to denominate their modes of life. France has entered on operations in Cochinchina, in pursuit of her crazy conceit of obtaining colonies that do her no good. Australia has grown rapidly in the last thirty-three years, and the discovery of gold there in 1850 has been attended with great consequences. All through that part of the world is vigorous life, and British nations are there fast coming into existence. Africa affords little matter for remark. In the extreme southern part of that continent the English are steadily reclaiming the country, and they have had severe contests with the savages. France continues to hold Algeria, which has been a school for her soldiers for a generation; but of real colonization she has effected little. Tunis has become an enlightened community. Morocco had wars with France and Spain.

course of African discovery has gone on with a good spirit, and it is claimed that the fountains of the Nile have been reached; but it is asserted that this particular discovery is nothing more than a revival of old knowledge. The slave trade has been steadily proscribed, though not to its former extent, and subjected to severe attacks; and it is thought that recent events will soon put an end to it, so far as Christians are concerned in it. Its entire suppression will, we may assume, be one of the glories of the third generation of this century. Abyssinia has attracted some attention of late, because of the disputes between its Government and that of England. Zanzibar has ascended to consideration, and was separated from Muscat seven years since. Of miscellaneous matters belonging to our generation, we may mention the growth of Mormonism; the building of the Panama Railroad; the triumph of liberal principles almost everywhere; the establishment of cheap postage; the restoration of the remains of Napoleon to France; the visit of the Prince of Wales to the United States; the advance of the temperance reformation; the canalization of the Isthmus of Suez, though not completed; the appearance of rinderpest in Western Europe; and the holding of great Exhibitions for the promotion of industry, science, and art. The literature of the time will compare advantageously with that of any other generation. Its chief characteristic is its humane spirit. The names it furnishes to history are among the greatest known, whether in the severer pursuits or in the lighter departments of letters. Never was literature so well rewarded as it has been throughout this generation, which is one of the effects of the general diffusion of education, a peculiarity of the generation. The "largest liberty" of discussion prevails almost everywhere, as respects most subjects. In science the progress made since 1833 is vast, and merely to name its achievements would require a volume. From the highest flights of the greatest astronomers to the deepest researches of the most enlightened and persevering of geologists, progress has been the world's law. That series of discoveries and inventions which began with Daguerre belongs to the fifty-sixth Christian generation. But the changes wrought by the application of steam power to navigation and travel, and by the use of the electric telegraph, stand at the head of the work of this generation. They can be fully comprehended only by persons old enough clearly to remember the condition of the world at the beginning of 1834. Ocean steam navigation, railways on an extensive scale, and the electric telegraph are things of this generation. All that had been done in respect to railways previously to 1834 sinks to insignificance when compared with what has been done since that date. And of ocean steam navigation the same can be said, with even more emphasis. The electric telegraph is entirely ours; and its use has been produc-

ive of the most extraordinary results. While steam has achieved but a partial victory over space, electricity has annihilated time. The most stupendous of the telegraph's conquests was that involved in the success of the project of laying the Atlantic cable, which has chained America to Europe. The whole world, indeed, is fast becoming united by the spread of telegraphic wires. Looking at what has been done since 1833, we are at a loss to comprehend what has been left for men to do hereafter; but, no doubt, there are still "mighty secrets hid in Time and Nature" for them to discover. Just now, their ingenuity is mainly directed to the promotion of agencies of destruction, as it has been for years past. It is of the nature of a practical antithesis that the most humane and enlightened of generations should have contributed most to render weapons of war effective; but it is argued that the ultimate effect must be to render all war impossible. Be that as it may, science has done as much for war as for peace in the generation that closes with this day. At the same time, the additions made to the means of promoting human comfort are very great. The sewing-machine has been invented—and so has the needle-gun, which is the sewing-machine of war. Many eminent foreigners have died in this generation, only a few of whom have we room to name—Prince Albert, Wellington, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Tom Moore, Lord Palmerston, Cavour, Lafayette, Czar Nicholas, Louis Philippe, Southey, C. Lamb, South, (last survivor of Napoleon's Marshals,) Professor Wilson, Lord Eldon, Lord Macaulay, Lord Lyndhurst, William IV, the Earl of Carlisle, Sir R. Peel, Lord Melbourne, Miss Bremer, Lord Dundonald, Faraday, Mrs. Jameson, Earl Grey, Lord Stowell, Bernadotte (Charles XIV, King of Sweden), Prince Metternich, eminent Neogrammeters, Lord N. M. Rothschild, Mehemet Ali, Marquis II, Thomas Hood, Marshal Radetzky, Charles X (in exile), Douglas Jerrold, Lord Raglan, Marshal Plessier, Maria Edgeworth, Mrs. Gore, Lord Lansdowne, Sam Rogers (at 93), Mrs. Gaskell, Lady Morgan, Chateaubriand, Lord Clyde, the Archduke Charles, Mr. Buckle, Prince Paskevitch, Henri Beyle, Sydney Smith, Lord Jeffrey, Dr. Arnold, Mrs. Browning, Wm. Mure of Caldwell, Sir R. Adair (at 93), J. W. Croker, the Archduke Maximilian, Lord Elgin, K. Arndt, Baron Von Stein, Doctor Whewell, Archbishop Whately, Lord Plunkett, Mrs. Shelley, the Duke of Orleans and his wife, Sir G. C. Lewis and his wife, Mary Berry, Joanna Baillie, Charlotte Brontë and her sisters, Madame d'Arbly (Fanny Burney), Marshal St. Arnaud, Leigh Hunt, R. L. Stille, Mrs. Trollope, W. S. Lander, Lady Dufferin, Miss Landon, Hallam, James Montgomery, A. Von Humboldt, Marshal Bertrand, Grouchy, Robert Montgomery, Pushkin, Prince Polignac, Sir H. Lowe, Harriet Lee (at 90), Ludwig Tieck, A. W. von Schlegel, Jane Porter, T. Campbell, Branger, Lucy Aiken, Miss Mitford, G. Croley, H. Heine, Michael, M. de Barante, Præd, John Sterling, Wm. Motherwell, Allan Cunningham, R. Cobden, Lockhart, Schelling, Hogg, Ary Scheffer, Cornelius, E. Sue, Uhlard, Horace Vernet, Count Szechenyi, Augustin Thierry, Prince Felix Schwartzberg, and many others not less distinguished than those named. Our summary is necessarily brief and bald, and it could not be made as complete as it should be, even had we ten times as much space at our command as we have. What we have said is intended to be less instructive than suggestive. Take it for all in all, this generation is exceeded in the importance of its events—considered with reference to their probable consequences—only by three of its predecessors. These exceptions are:—1. The generation from the autumn of 1407 to the close of 1600, in which occurred the fall of the Burgundian house (Valois) and the rise of Switzerland; the establishment of the Tudor dynasty in England; the discovery of America, and the beginning of its colonization; the progress of Portuguese discovery, including the doubling of the Cape of Good Hope, and the beginning of that European conquest of the East which since has been carried so far; the spread of the art of printing, and other matters of high moment. 2. The generation that began with 1501 and extended to the spring of 1534, in which so much of America was conquered and colonized by the Spaniards; when the House of Austria became so powerful that the broad and solid foundations of a universal rule appeared to have been laid through successes in matrimony and in war; and when the Reformation broke out. 3. The generation that began in 1707 and closed with the year 1800, in which Napoleon was born, and which saw the rise of Russia and the partition of Poland, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the union of Great Britain and Ireland, the formation of the American Constitution, and the extension of British power in India. Nothing has occurred in our generation that can be classed with the discovery of America, the Reformation, or the French Revolution; but in secondary matters this generation can claim superiority over any and all the three exceptions named. The greatest European event is the change in Germany. Perhaps the abolition of slavery in the United States may prove to have been as great an event as the abolition of the old monarchy in France; but the point can be determined only by time, when all who are now living shall be as dead as the self-emancipated gladiators who served under the standard of Spartacus, whatever that may have been.

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