

**ANNIVERSARIES IN 1909.**

**Famous Men Who First Saw the Light in 1809.**

The number of great men for whom centenary celebrations will or may be held in the year 1909 is unusually large. The list includes such poets as Edgar Allan Poe, Edward FitzGerald, Alfred Tennyson and Oliver Wendell Holmes; such musicians and composers as Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Frederick François Chopin; such statesmen as Abraham Lincoln and William Ewart Gladstone, and such a scientist as Charles Robert Darwin. Three other anniversaries are thrown in for good measure. They are the 400th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Samuel Johnson and the centennial of the death of Josef Haydn.

The first anniversary will be that of Poe, who was born on January 19, in Boston. Among the plans proposed for the Poe celebration in New York are the dedication of a bronze statue in Poe Park, opposite Fordham College, readings and recitations from Poe's works in the public schools in The Bronx, lectures on the poet and his works in the public lecture courses and commemorative exercises in New York University, which is near the Fordham home of Poe and the aqueduct, which was his favorite walk.

Professor Trent, of Columbia University, will give an address before the Authors' Club at a memorial meeting to be held on January 28. The erection of a memorial at West Point has been proposed by friends of the United States Military Academy and admirers of the poet. Poe was a cadet at the academy for six months. His relatively brief period of study at the newly founded University of Virginia will doubtless be celebrated by appropriate exercises.

The second anniversary is that of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, who was born on February 3, at Hamburg. He was the son of a cultured Jewish merchant and the grandson of the Jewish scholar Moses Mendelssohn. The father of the musician used to say in jest: "Formerly I was the son of my father, but now I am the father of my son." It is probable that the anniversary of the musical lion of his time will be recognized in different parts of the world by the performance of some of his musical works, such as his oratorios of "Elijah" and "St. Paul."

Nine days after the famous son of the Jewish-Christian family of Germany was born in Hamburg two men whose names will long be borne on the roster of the world's great ones first saw the light on opposite sides of the Atlantic. One was Abraham Lincoln, born in a settler's cabin in Hardin County, Ky., and the other was Charles Robert Darwin, who was born in the home of an English rector in Shrewsbury. It is probable that Congress will provide for a national memorial of Lincoln, and that the 100th anniversary of his birth will be observed as a national holiday. His birthplace is to be preserved. In New York City commemorative exercises will be held in churches, halls and schools. A general committee, including among its members many persons associated with Lincoln and his assassination in a personal manner, has been appointed to arrange for an appropriate celebration, of which Joseph H. Choate is chairman. Hugh Hastings is chairman of the executive committee of this body.

Among the members are Mayor McClellan, Frederick W. Seward, Assistant Secretary of State from 1861 to 1869, who was nearly murdered while defending Secretary Seward, his father, on April 14, 1865; Judge A. J. Dittenhoefer, the only surviving Lincoln elector of 1864; Dr. Charles A. Leale, who was the first surgeon to reach the President after he was shot; Major General Sickles and Stabel and General James R. O'Beirne, who was provost marshal of the District of Columbia when the President was assassinated.

At Springfield, Ill., where Lincoln was buried, there will be addresses by Ambassador Bryce of England, Ambassador Jusserand of France, Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, and William J. Bryan on February 12.

The anniversary of the man responsible for the theory of evolution as an explanation of the origin of the various forms of life instead of the supernatural theory previously held will be widely celebrated by scientific societies in more than one country. Possibly reports on the recent discovery of a skull in France which, apparently, has been buried since the glacial period and which seems to approximate the theoretical "missing link" in its characteristics, will figure in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Darwin and the fiftieth anniversary of the first publication of his "Origin of Species" in 1859.

The Darwin family is an interesting study in the problem of heredity. Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles, who lived between the years 1731 and 1802, was clearly the forerunner of his famous grandson. He anticipated much that Charles himself advanced to the point of general acceptance. His theories attracted much attention and some opposition at the time they were advanced. Two of Charles Darwin's sons have acquired distinction, one as a botanist and the other as a geologist and mathematician. Darwin, who was warmhearted and a brilliant conversationalist, was punctilious regarding details. Although, owing to poor health, he was able to work only a few hours a day, he always attended personally to his voluminous correspondence. Every letter was answered by himself in person, even to that of the young man who was called upon to prepare a lyceum lecture

and wrote to him for an abbreviated statement of his views because the writer had not time to read his books. He died April 19, 1882, full of years and honors, and was one of three of those of 1809 to find burial in Westminster Abbey.

The first day of the lively month of March will mark the 100th anniversary of the gentle fingered and romantic spirited pianist and composer, Frédéric François Chopin. He was born in Zelazowa Wola, near Warsaw, Poland. His name is one of many that have added to the fame and glory of the proud spirited Polish people. A considerable portion of his life was spent in Paris, for he could not bear to return to Warsaw after it fell into the ruthless hands of the Russians. Brought up among cultured people of aristocratic society, he inherited a liking for fashionable life. In the course of his career he came into contact with a circle of men and women whose names have become a

shop, being a lover of books, to look at the bargains offered in the stalls of the dealer outside his door. Pinging over the booklets in the penny box he came upon a brown covered pamphlet which had originally been published at five shillings, but which, apparently, had met with such a poor reception that it had fallen to the level of the penny box. The pamphlet contained quatrains from the Persian of Omar Khayyam translated into English by an anonymous writer. Investing a penny, Stokes took the pamphlet home. After reading it he passed it on to Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who in turn read it and passed it on to Swinburne. All seemed to think that the verses were poetry of a high order, and spread the knowledge. It was discovered that the translation was by the well known recluse Edward FitzGerald, who two years previously had offered some of "the less wicked" of the quatrains to "Frazer's Magazine." The editor failing to recognize their merit, they did

music led to a cousin taking him into his home for instruction. His hard luck began early. A student in the choir school connected with the great church of St. Stephen's, in Vienna, from the age of eight to eighteen, he was wretchedly poor and often without sufficient food. His voice changing at the age of eighteen, and being therefore useless for the time, the choirmaster made the boyish prank of cutting off a fellow pupil's queue an excuse for dismissing him. A former chorister whom he met took him in, and a kind hearted tradesman lent him 150 florins, which he afterward repaid with good measure. When twenty-six years old his circumstances changed for the better, and he fell in love. The object of his affections, however, decided to enter a convent, and her father, Laban-like, persuaded him to marry the older sister instead, by way of recompense. She did not appreciate him. She tore up his manuscripts for curl papers and pie forms, squandered his earnings for finery, and even selected a house to be occupied by her when her kind hearted husband should shuffle off the mortal coil and leave her a widow. Fate had something in store for the lovable musician, however, for she died before her husband, and he was the one who occupied the house.

Haydn wrote more than a hundred symphonies and nearly as many quartets, more than a dozen operas, numerous sonatas, the Austrian national anthem, and the oratorios "The Creation" and "The Seasons." An interesting anecdote is told in connection with one of his symphonies, the "Abschieds" ("Farewell"). In 1760 he became kapellmeister to Prince Paul Anton Esterhazy. In 1772, while the prince was at Esterhaz, his summer seat, the members of the orchestra asked leave of absence to visit their families. This was denied, and they decided to leave his service. Never was a strike more gracefully and pathetically begun. Haydn composed the "Abschieds" symphony for the occasion. Toward the close of the symphony one player after another extinguished his candle and went out. Finally only one, the violin leader, remained. Having played the last phrase, he, too, blew out his candle and departed. The music and the action of the players moved the prince so deeply that he granted their request.

Haydn deeply loved Vienna, his adopted city. When it was bombarded by Napoleon, the third shot caused him to fall into convulsions. He died on May 31.

It was on the tenth day of July, 1509, at Noyon, in Picardy, France, that John Calvin first saw the light. Calvin is credited with the performance of several things which have had an influence upon history. He systematized the doctrine of Protestantism and organized its ecclesiastical discipline. As a religious teacher, a social legislator and as a writer he is credited with being second to none in his age. His theological teachings and his new church polity did more than all other influences together to weld into a whole the scattered forces of the Reformation. His teachings have had a marked place in the history of the United States, especially in New England, where the stern tenets of his doctrine long held sway. Bancroft attributes modern republican liberty to the influence of Calvin's little republic of Geneva and to Calvin.

Continued on eighth page.



**RUNNING A RHEA IN SOUTHERN PATAGONIA.**

—Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.



**THE RHEA OVERTAKEN.**

—Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.

part of the literary and musical history of the world. Among them were Liszt, Heine, Berlioz, Mérimée, Meyerbeer, Balzac, De Musset, Dumas and George Sand. Chopin is looked upon by many as the emancipator of the pianoforte from the thralldom of the orchestral style of composition. He died October 7, 1849, from consumption, the germs of which disease developed in the course of the eleven days in July, 1837, which covered his first visit to England. On the day of Chopin's death Edgar Allan Poe breathed his last in Baltimore, on the other side of the Atlantic. Chopin was the second in point of age of the famous group of 1809 to die, the first being Mendelssohn, who died two years earlier, at the age of thirty-eight years. Chopin was in his forty-first year.

One day in 1859 a certain personage by the name of Whiteley Stokes was walking along the streets of London. He paused in front of a book

not appear in that publication, and FitzGerald, tired of scanning the pages for them, gave them to his publisher, Mr. Quaritch, who issued them in the five shilling pamphlet. FitzGerald was born on March 31, 1809, at Bredfield House, near the market town of Woodbridge, in Suffolk. He died on June 14, 1883, at Merton Rectory, Norfolk, and was buried at Boulogne.

The next anniversary following that of FitzGerald is that of the death of Josef Haydn, which occurred in Vienna on May 31, 1809. Haydn was born at Rohrau, Lower Austria, March 31, 1732. He therefore lived ten years longer than George Washington, who was born a month earlier than himself. A man of gentle spirit and unflinching good humor, his career had in it much fighting against untoward conditions. His father was a travelling wheelwright, with a natural love of music. He expected his boy to enter the Church, but the latter's aptitude for

**RUNNING THE RHEA.**

*Relative of Ostrich Chased with Dog and Horse.*

For the person who desires a unique form of sport "running the rhea" in Southern Patagonia is recommended. The rhea is a member of the ostrich family, but somewhat smaller. It runs with the swiftness of the greyhound or a fast horse, and has a knack of doubling on its track, which often serves it in eluding its pursuers. The natives in hunting it use horses, dogs and the bola. The dogs course after the fleeing bird in full cry, while the hunters follow after at top speed, prepared to throw the bola if opportunity offers.

The bola, consisting of two or three heavy balls of lead or stone attached to a thong six or eight feet long, serves to hamper the movements of the bird, for the balls twine about the part which the bola strikes, regardless of whether it be the legs, neck or wings. This permits the dogs and hunters to overhaul and dispatch the bird.

At the approach of danger the rhea will often crouch flat upon the ground with neck outstretched under the grass, remaining motionless until the dogs have passed. This stratagem is often successful when the wind is blowing against the scent, but when the contrary is the case the dogs soon discover the hiding bird. In this case, doubtless bewildered by the sudden failure of its artless ruse, it makes no attempt at escape.

The chase of the rhea, which sometimes extends over a distance of five or six miles, is a thrilling one. It has, for the rider, all the excitement of a horse race, with the added satisfaction of knowing that the winning of the race will result in a welcome addition to the larder. The wings of the rhea have a flavor not unlike that of turkey, and if one is not averse to the taste of horse flesh the meat of the thigh is very satisfactory. The rhea is one of the main food supplies on a Patagonian hunting trip.

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