

The Washington Times

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The Last Page of the Ledger.

How Do the Items of the Account Balance at the End of the Present Year of Grace?

There is a certain solemnity about last things and first things, about doing anything for the last time or the first time. It will be a phlegmatic person indeed who opens to the last page of his ledger today without some recognition, tacit and unavowed, that there is significance in the mere fact that it is the last page.

Tennyson sang "The year is dying; let him die." Obviously. We have no choice in the matter. But before he dies, it is almost inevitable that we cast a glance backward and consider what the year has brought.

To the world at large, it has been a year of varied bestowals. On one side of the ledger there are charged up frightful natural catastrophes, the devastation of Martinique and St. Vincent, the eruptions in Guatemala and Sicily, the earthquake in Turkestan. But on the other side is entered the ending of the bloody and wasteful war in South Africa and the opening of a new era of development and reconstruction in the regions lately swept by fire and sword.

The year closes with peace "the world around," if we except the still smoldering Venezuelan insurrection and the troubles between Venezuela and the powers. England has been agitated over the education bill, Germany over the tariff bill, France over the relations of the religious orders; but these are questions of legislation and statesmanship which do not greatly disturb the national peace.

To the United States the year has brought the ending of the Filipino insurrection, the proclamation of amnesty, and the establishment of partial self-government in the islands. The Congress elections insure the least possible disturbance in the general course of the Government for the next two years. Business has been good, the crops abundant, the great industries of the country prosperous. The chief shadow upon the year's prosperity has been the great strike in the anthracite coal fields, from the consequences of which we are still suffering.

And to the individual—what? That depends. It has been well said that there are two movements in life—one circular, the other an onward one. One is the movement by which a man goes through his daily pursuits and pleasures, most of them small, some of them sordid; one day almost the duplicate of its predecessor, each morning finding a man apparently precisely where he was the morning before. The other movement is one of advance, small perhaps, almost imperceptible, yet real. The two are not inconsistent: they go on together, or should go on together, just as the earth turns on its axis all the while that it is swinging in its orbit around the sun.

Happy the man to whom the year, with all its dullness of repetition and its daily drudgeries, has brought ever so little of this onward movement.

Sentiment and Utility.

A Curious Modern Instance of the Triumph of Sentimental Over Practical Considerations.

The cable brought word the other day of the opening of the sluices of the great dam which has been built at Assuan to hold back the waters of the Nile and permit their use for irrigation. The building of this dam is one of the greatest achievements of the British occupation, and the ceremonies with which its completion was celebrated were fully warranted by the importance of the incident.

But it is not generally known that in the building of this dam there was a notable clash between sentimental and practical considerations. When the site was selected and the original plans of the engineers were presented, it was found that the execution of the plans would put in danger the famous temple to Isis which stands upon the island of Philae, above the dam. The antiquaries and the artists protested vehemently. That was not strange. The strange thing was that their protests were heeded. The choice before the government was to impound twice as much water behind the dam and let the old temple go; or to spare the temple and content itself with half the possible quantity of water. The latter alternative was accepted. The engineers' plans were so modified as to reduce the crest of the dam by twenty-seven feet; and subsidiary measures were also taken to preserve the ancient buildings from the rise in the water level.

The dam as it stands is a masterpiece of modern engineering. It makes available for cultivation millions of acres which otherwise would have been barren; and it admits of two crops a year instead of one over a vast area. But it is a fact worth remembering, in an age which has been thought to be wholly devoted to utility, that merely to preserve an old temple its storage capacity was reduced one-half.

THE CALVO DOCTRINE.

Roumania's Concessions to the Jews Sound Its Death Knell.

In this new policy of Roumania, what has been called the "Calvo doctrine" is a serious reverse. In his treatise on international law, Calvo, himself a South American, carries to an extreme not sanctioned by us or by most other great nations the theory generally held by the South American republics, that foreigners must put up with whatever treatment may be accorded them in the country where they make their residence, without the right to appeal to their own government for protection.

This doctrine, of course, would give to Venezuela the right to do as she pleased with the nationals of Great Britain, Germany or the United States, and she would deny to those governments the right to intervene for their protection. Our own policy and practice were very clearly laid down by Chief Justice Marshall in these words:

"The American citizen who goes into a foreign country, although he owes local and temporary allegiance to that country, is yet, if he performs no other act changing his condition, not entitled to the protection of his own government, and if, without the violation of any municipal law, he should be oppressed unjustly, he would have a right to claim that protection, and the interposition of the American Government in his favor would be considered as a justifiable interposition."

Moreover, Secretary Seward, in his instructions to Mr. Adams, our minister at London, wrote in 1865: "The United States believe it to be their duty, and they mean to execute it, to watch over the persons and property of their citizens visiting foreign countries, and to intervene for their protection when such action is justified by existing circumstances and by the law of nations."

INNOVATIONS IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

By T. H. NORTON, Consul of the United States at Harput.

AM glad to chronicle a steady increase in importations from America into Harput since 1900, as well as a marked increase in direct exportations to America. An agent has taken up the introduction of irrigation machinery. A consignment of American pumps has been received the past summer, and has already been put into active operation.

The question of irrigation here, as in the southwest of the United States, outranks every other factor in the economic development of the country. Negotiations have already commenced for the introduction of our windmills for raising water. Local capitalists are endeavoring to raise a fund sufficient for the purchase of an American drill.

An agency for the sale of our agricultural machinery and implements was established in 1901, and a variety of plows, harrows, and drills, as well as a reaper, were imported.

The results obtained from the deep plowing of the American plows were striking, when compared with the yield of grain in adjacent fields where the ground had been "ticked" by the primitive native implement. Equally striking results were obtained when the wheat drills were employed instead of the customary broadcast seeding. The reaper was used during the harvest of the past summer. After overcoming some minor difficulties, it was found to work quite successfully. It now accomplishes in one day the work of forty men.

As the chief item in raising grain here is the cost of harvesting, it may readily be imagined that the introduction of such a labor-saving appliance caused no little stir in a region where the laboring population is so exceptionally dependent upon the earnings of harvest time. Soon after the reaper was running regularly and smoothly, the price of a day's labor descended promptly 30 per cent—from 20¢ cents per diem to 14 cents.

The enterprising agent—a graduate of an American agricultural college—was forced at once to face a condition of affairs similar to that which followed the introduction of the spinning jenny and the cotton gin. Every attempt was made to wreck the dreaded innovation, so that it was necessary to keep it at night in the owner's habitation. His garden of American vegetables was destroyed, his fruit trees were cut down, shots were fired at his house during the nighttime, and his workmen were induced to desert him.

In spite of all these discouragements, the experiment was pluckily continued to the close of the season. Another year will see the more widespread use of the reaper and the introduction of the threshing machine. Both machines will be transported from farm to farm, as needed, by individual or corporate owners.

The chief difficulties in the way of using the reaper extensively are the terraced arrangement of irrigated fields, the smallness of the individual holdings, the abundance of stones, and the existing habit of cutting the grain close to the ground, in order to secure the maximum of straw. The thrasher, when introduced, must be accompanied by a straw-cutter. The straw is withdrawn from the old-fashioned "thrashing floors" in a very soft, finely cut condition. The "upholing" is so accustomed to strew in this condition that it is useless to attempt to introduce machinery leaving it in any other form.

An illustration of the tenacity with which they hold to old methods is the practically universal demand of the farmers, in ordering American plows, for the reversible or "side-hill" plow. In plowing with the primitive oriental implement, it has always been customary to plow back and forth and not around the field. The farmers here, while recognizing promptly the enormous superiority of a share and mold-board, still dislike to deviate from the ancient method of conducting the operation. In many cases, however, when using plows on long, narrow terraces in irrigated fields, they are probably correct in preferring a reversible type.

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

Frau Krupp Upsets All Germany by Withdrawing Libel Suits Against the "Vorwaerts"—New Turkish Ambassador to Great Britain Well and Favorably Known—Of an Interesting Family—Developments in Austria-Hungary.

Emperor William Confounded. Emperor William has been profoundly and justly dismayed by the extraordinarily bold action of the widow of the German "Canon King" Krupp in insisting upon the immediate abandonment of all those legal proceedings, criminal as well as civil, against the "Vorwaerts" and other socialist democratic journals whose frightful charges against the great iron-master brought on that fit of apoplexy which killed him. The Kaiser was very fond of Krupp, held him in high esteem, attended his funeral in person with a good deal of state in order to emphasize his regard, and at the obsequies delivered a remarkable speech, defending his friend's memory and stating that he would do his utmost to bring to justice those who had slain him by their standers, as the most effective means of vindicating his memory.

Yet after all this, the widow has insisted on abandoning all proceedings, criminal as well as civil, against the papers in question, and not only has the public prosecutor informed the "Vorwaerts" that no further action will be taken against its management, but he has actually given directions to the police to restore to the paper all those issues thereof containing the accusations against Krupp, and which were confiscated by the authorities.

An Indescribable Sensation. It is impossible to describe the sensation which has been created by this step. No one blames the Emperor, as his speech and his championship in behalf of his dead friend were dictated by the impulse of a generous and warm heart, which declines to believe evil of those in whom it has reposed confidence. Those behind the scenes are aware that the widow of Herr Krupp is, perhaps, not altogether mentally responsible for her actions, that her life with her husband was not altogether happy, and that at the time of his death she was under medical treatment in a Dresden sanitarium for nervous ailments.

But the public at large is not cognizant of this, and starting from the standpoint that a wife is likely to know more about her husband than a mere friend—especially one of imperial rank—the world will naturally assume that the abandonment of the prosecution of the "Vorwaerts" and of the other papers which assailed Krupp has been due to the fact that after all there was foundation for the disgraceful charges.

The latter are not fit to be touched with a pair of tongs. But I should like to state here that while they figure on the German criminal code, the latter is never invoked, as, when proved, the guilty parties are invariably regarded by the tribunals as morally irresponsible and insane. Italy goes still further, and for the same reason does not make any provision for the punishment of crimes of this character, holding that those guilty thereof are ipso facto crazy.

Interesting Turkish Ambassador. Stephen Musurus Bey, who has just been appointed Turkish ambassador in London, is no stranger there, having been not merely secretary, but also charge d'affaires of the Ottoman mission to the court of St. James during the many years which his father, the late Musurus Pasha, spent as representative of the Sublime Porte in Great Britain. The late Musurus Pasha, a Christian like his son, and a native of Crete, spent over thirty years as Turkish ambassador in London, and his wife, a Princess Vagorides, died there in a very dramatic manner, expiring suddenly without a minute's warning at a grand reception given by the late Lord Granville at the foreign office. Stephen Musurus, his son has been Turkish minister at Rome, and likewise governor—that is prince—of the island of Samos.

Unlike his father, who suffered from chronic impecuniosity, Stephen Musurus is immensely rich, his wife being the daughter and heiress of that old Sir John Antonides, who, of great birth, commenced life as an illiterate stevedore at Alexandria and died a multimillionaire. British knighthood having been conferred upon him by Queen Victoria for his services to the English ship and wounded at the time of the Arabi rebellion, while his gardens on the Mahmoudieh Canal, near Alexandria, enjoy a world-wide fame and are visited by every tourist who includes Egypt among his peregrinations.

Many Rich Connections. One of the new ambassador's sisters is the extremely wealthy widowed Princess de Braucovan, who makes her home at Paris, her salons there being celebrated as a musical and literary center, while her husband was known as the most liberal patron of the arts and wits, head of the Roumanian house of Bibesco, which formerly reigned as Hospodars over Wallachia, and whose princely title, unlike those of so many other Roumanians prefixing titles to their names, was perfectly authentic, having been conferred by the Holy Roman Empire on the Bibescos some two centuries ago.

A young brother of the new ambassador is that Paul Musurus, who, while secretary of his father's embassy in London, created so great a sensation by eloping with Mile. Marie D'Imecourt, daughter of the very wealthy countess of that name, and a niece and ward of ex-minister of war, General the Marquis de Galliff. He abducted her from the convent where she was being educated, took her over to England, married her there according to English law, and then some weeks later ventured back

to France with her with the object of becoming reconciled to her mother.

Police End a Romance. The moment, however, that they landed at Boulogne, they were both arrested by the French police on the demand of the girl's relatives, Paul Musurus was expelled as an undesirable foreigner and told that he could consider himself fortunate that he was not prosecuted criminally for abduction, while the girl was interred in another convent. The marriage contracted in England was declared by the French courts to be null and void on the ground that Marie D'Imecourt had neglected to obtain the consent of her mother and guardian to the match, which was, according to the French code, indispensable in order to render it legal. A couple of years later she was married with much pomp and ceremony at Paris as "Mlle. D'Imecourt" to Prince Kraft Hohenlohe, of the Austrian cavalry, who is inarrison at Wiener Neustadt, wearing at the ceremony a bridal gown trimmed with orange blossoms, just as if Paul Musurus had never existed.

A Tiny Throne in Prospect. Prince Alfred Liechtenstein has just solemnly and officially renounced his allegiance to Emperor Francis Joseph, has ceased to be an Austrian subject and citizen, and has resumed his position as a prince of the reigning house of Liechtenstein, a liege, therefore, of his cousin, Prince John II of Liechtenstein, to whose throne he is destined in course of time to succeed, both Prince John and his only brother, Francis, being unmarried.

This renunciation by Prince Alfred of his Austrian citizenship and of his allegiance to Emperor Francis Joseph is not dictated by any animosity toward the latter, but solely with the object of enabling his second son, Aloys, to marry Archduchess Elizabeth this month on a footing of perfect equality. Prince Aloys, it is true, is an officer of the bodyguard of Emperor Francis Joseph. But as the scion of a foreign reigning position he occupies an entirely different position with regard to a princess of the imperial family of Hapsburg than he would as a mere Austrian subject. Prince Aloys has an elder brother. But should the latter remain a bachelor the Archduchess Elizabeth might yet be called upon to share with her husband the throne of Liechtenstein, one of the tiniest states of Europe.

I may add that the entire Liechtenstein family, including the reigning prince, make their homes in Austria, and one of their number, Prince Rudolph, is the head of the imperial household at Vienna, and grand master of the Emperor's court, while another, Aloys by name (an uncle of the young officer who is to marry Archduchess Elizabeth), is the leader of the most powerful political party in the Austrian portion of the dual empire.

MARQUESE DE FONTENOY.

Statesmen and Their Ways.

McClellan for Mayor.

When the slate is made out in Tammany Hall for the next local campaign in Greater New York there is a strong probability that the Hon. George Brinton McClellan will head the ticket as the tiger's candidate for mayor. At least it would be the part of wisdom to keep one disengaged optic leering toward "Little Mac" just to watch the developments of his boom, which is now just large enough to be seen if one goes searching. It gives promise of becoming a healthy sort of a boom, and is certain to attract attention as the weeks and months roll on nearer and nearer to that biennial period when the metropolis is convulsed with a local election. The tiger is back in his lair whetting his claws preparatory to springing forth at the proper time and devouring a few self-constituted reformers who don't reform. The average New Yorker does not go into the paroxysms of joy over the success of the administration of the fusionists; he is weary of the sort of reform which out-Tamman Tammany, hoarsely sick of the Jerome extravaganzas, and at present the indications are that Tammany Hall will be restored to power as soon as the opportunity is afforded.

If Croker Keeps Off. The belief is general that if Richard Croker continues to occupy himself minding the cows and making butter and keeps his hands off a straightout Tammany ticket will be successful at the polls. Leader Murphy, whose notable accomplishment in rolling up a 121,000 majority for Coler last November attested his ability as a leader, is said to view with favor the incipient candidacy of the Hon. George B. McClellan, and to believe that the Democrats should not go outside the Hall to get a majority candidate. That being the case, who is there better qualified than the present Representative from the Twelfth Congress district. He is young, aggressive and popular, and if his record in Congress has not been marked with especial spectacular brilliancy, it has been a good one, and is devoid of ground for criticism. He is serving his fourth term and has been elected for a fifth, but there is no doubt that he would relinquish his seat to become a candidate for mayor of the greatest city of the greatest State of the greatest country on earth, as who of us would not, especially when there is a bright prospect of success? But this is not all. The Jeboanar young statesman is said to aspire to still greater honors. There is a governor to be elected again two years hence, and a successful mayor might not be objectionable as a candidate for that office. So near did the Democrats come to electing a governor this year, that they have been again inspired with hope, and in a Presidential year with a New York Democrat such as Judge Parker leading the national ticket there would be a good chance of a bustling young man like the Hon. George B. McClellan to slide into the statehouse at Albany. Perhaps that may be speculating a little too much upon the possibilities, but it is a certainty that he is now the most-talked-of man in connection with the next mayoralty campaign. He has been president of the board of aldermen of Manhattan, and it is believed that he could command as large a following among the Democrats outside of Tammany as any other man in the organization.

Minority Leadership. Since the announcement was made some time ago that the Hon. Champ Clark would be a candidate for the empty honor of the Democratic candidacy for the Speakership several other members have signified intentions of entering the race. So brief and spiritless was the contest on the majority side that the Democrats purpose to afford whatever interest and amusement may be had out of the situation. For a long time the Democrats have been grinding their knives for the Hon. James D. Richardson, and had they succeeded in carrying the House his mantle would have borne more incisions than did Caesar's, and even now they intend to use their weapons upon him. Just at present the man most talked of as the minority floor leader is the Hon. John Sharp Williams of Mississippi. Republicans unhesitatingly pay him the compliment of being the ablest man on the Democratic side, and they would undoubtedly prefer to have any other man than he selected to oppose them. Besides his recognized ability, he has the advantage of a large personal following. No man across the center aisle enjoys being drawn into a running debate with the Yazo statesman, for he is almost certain to be obliged to take to the tall timber before the discussion has proceeded far.

Many Aspirants. Besides Williams and Clark there are several other prominent members who aspire to the honor of leadership. There is the erudite but cold and unapproachable DeArmond, who, any time he sees fit and upon any topic, is capable of giving the Republicans a most unpleasant and unhappy half hour, but he lacks the personal magnetism of either Clark or Williams. Then there is Underwood, adroit, clever and capable, but the inferior of all three in the possession of qualities which are needed to corral the disorganized forces of Democracy and contend with any marked degree of success against the majority. There are others, but they do not need to be considered with the quartet already mentioned in the race against the elongated, serpentine Richardson. In fact, the contest gives promise of becoming so heated that there is a possibility and even a probability that Mr. Richardson rather than to suffer defeat for a position which carries with it much responsibility and no reward, may decide to abdicate his leadership and watch the others scramble to the front. Should he do so it is gold eagles to gingerbread that the Hon. John Sharp Williams will be chosen in his place. In any event Mr. Richardson's hold upon the members of his party in the House is insecure, and it would surprise no one to see Mr. Williams the Democratic floor leader in the next Congress.

Mr. McClellan's Mistake. The Hon. Samuel Walker McCall has succeeded in making himself most unpopular with the shipowners along the North Atlantic Coast by the agitation of a proposition to suspend for a stated period the operation of the coastwise laws in order to enable foreign ships to carry coal between American ports. Mr. McCall's motive in advancing this proposition was laudable enough in itself, but this is not considered by those upon whose interests it encroached, and they are disinclined to accept his explanation. The winds blow bleak and cold in old New England, frost is in the air, snow is on the ground, but there is no coal in the bins of Mr. McCall's constituents. Hence he conceived the idea—or rather, as he may explain, it was conceived for him—of allowing foreign vessels to carry coal in order to the sooner get coal to the freezing people of Massachusetts.

Shipowners Protest. But right here Mr. McCall encountered a vigorous protest from American shipowners, who declare that they will carry all the anthracite Mr. McCall can get to the coast from the mines; that the difficulty is in obtaining coal to transport, rather than the scarcity of ships in which to carry it. They have called upon Mr. McCall to probe the fuel, and have offered guarantee that within a week every family in Mr. McCall's district will be sitting beside a cheerful coal fire. It was an unfortunate blunder on the part of the usually prudent and far-sighted Massachusetts statesman, and one which has brought down upon him the wrath of every shipowner from Baltimore to Bath.

AN IDEAL MEETING PLACE. In the choice of a place for holding their annual meetings this week the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the score of affiliated bodies which convene at the same time are peculiarly fortunate. It would be hard to find a city in the United States whose public buildings, scientific bureaus, and historic environs equal those of Washington in attractiveness. Moreover, it is the permanent home of an exceptionally large number of investigators, some of whom might have found it difficult to attend a meeting anywhere else. If, in the present instance, the mountain has gone to Mohammed, it will undoubtedly be the gainer thereby.

The time selected for this week's group of conferences is an innovation. Hitherto the scientific societies which hold only one meeting annually have been about evenly divided in their preferences between winter and summer. It remains to be seen whether the change now made by many of them will prove wise or not. As yet the British Association for the Advancement of Science still clings to late summer or early autumn. The failure of that organization to choose cold weather may be due, however, simply to backwardness in taking up the question afresh.

Possibly, too, the controlling considerations of convenience may not be the same on both sides of the Atlantic. At any rate, the change in this country is something of an experiment, and its outcome can only be discovered after two or three years. If any mistake has been made the special popularity of Washington will more than compensate this year for the drawbacks to it time now chosen.—New York Tribune.

THE RIGHT TO PEACE.

An interesting speculation on possible further development of the international law of neutrality is contained in an address on "The Conception and Realization of Neutrality," delivered some months ago before the American Social Science Association, and now published by Dr. David Jayne Hill, Assistant Secretary of State.

Dr. Hill points out that international law with its present requirements makes the position of a neutral extremely difficult. Along with the rights of neutrals go the duties of neutrals, and under the rules laid down by the treaty of Washington, which led to the Geneva award, those duties are so onerous that a war involving civilized nations is almost as serious a matter to neutrals as to the belligerents themselves.

The United States was the leader even in the eighteenth century in securing international recognition of neutral rights. Likewise it was the leader in enforcing this advanced theory of neutral duties, which, as Wharton says, "placed limita-

tions on the rights of neutrals greater even than those England had advocated to impose during the Napoleonic wars, and far greater than those which the United States had ever previously been willing to concede."

Under the rules a government to fulfill its obligations, would be obliged to police its ports to prevent extraband articles from going to a belligerent, and have a powerful navy to intercept vessels escaping from its ports in violation of neutrality laws. No nation, except the United States and Great Britain, has formally accepted the Geneva doctrine, but if it ever should be generally accepted, Dr. Hill thinks, "justice would require that the duties to which the doctrine binds should be offset by an enlargement of neutral rights, for a foreign war would be a calamity a great that unusual measures on the part of the nations would be justified to avert it. Such an offset could be found only in an extension of the right of intervention for the sake of peace."—New York Tribune.