

THE HERALD

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1898.

A memorable year will end at midnight. It will pass into history as a year crowded with remarkable events throughout the world.

1898 affecting the welfare of the billion and half of beings who comprise the human race. There have been wars and rumors of wars.

As we individually look backward, over the twelvemonth now closing, who will regret its passing away? Who would care to begin at midnight an exact repetition of the life of 1898?

What cause have the people of the United States, collectively, for regret at parting with 1898? It gave us national glory, military and naval renown, and places us in the front among the greatest of the nations.

The United States may give the year credit for recording the act that we may rightly point to with pride. That is liberation of Cuba. It was a righteous act, nobly and bravely performed.

And what does California find for regret in parting with the year 1898? Confining the query to the southern end of the state, we should say, in "cracker" parlance, "powerful little, if any."

The Republicans of California have an elephant on their hands. The alarm is beginning to be widespread that the Southern Pacific may control the election of senator.

The Republican papers now opposing the railroad were quiescent during the campaign, and if they had then sounded the note of alarm as vigorously as they do now there would have been no trouble about electing a railroad senator.

When Napoleon's army was crossing the bridge from the Isle of Lobau to the main land, Emperor Francis asked his brother, Archduke Charles, why he didn't stop it.

Such is the situation in regard to the Southern Pacific railroad. It has been allowed to get too many members of the legislature into its camp.

The Republicans, we opine, will go into caucus and support the nominee, whoever he may be. None of them will dare to bolt, and we believe there is not a Republican newspaper that will have the courage to advocate a bolt of the caucus nominee.

It must be remembered that Hanna is casting about for contributions to campaign funds in 1900. It won't do to snub liberal contributors. Deprive Hanna of cash and his political play would be like that of "Hamlet," with the part of Hamlet left out.

We quite agree with those Republicans who are kicking against the pricks, and think they are reasonable in arguing

that the state of California should have the senator instead of the railroad. At the same time it is not feasible for the Republican party to work a bunco game on its powerful confederate.

The absorption of the Pasadena electric railway by the Huntington syndicate is not surprising. The new owners of the Los Angeles system of street car service are not hampered by lack of funds, and it was to have been expected from the first that they would expand the system wherever there was promise of profitable investment.

Here is an outside hint for Republican aspirants for the United States senatorship from California. Hon. Matthew Stanley Quay of Pennsylvania is under indictment for filing public funds from a Philadelphia bank.

Unless all indications are deceptive the Hon. Henry T. Gage will find a large and vigorous political hornet's nest in the stuffing of the gubernatorial chair. The particular kind of vespa crabro thus concealed is remarkable for extreme fecundity and pernicious activity of its business end.

President McKinley does not seem to have been specially impressed by the call of that delegation claiming to represent eighty million Christians. The object of the call was to enlist the United States in a plan for international arbitration as a substitute for war.

California will have to wait indefinitely for a battleship to bear her name. A splendid one is under contract to be built at San Francisco, but it will bear the name of the state that has given the country President McKinley, Senator Hanna and so many other eminent statesmen.

We incline to the opinion that the Congressional ministers of St. Louis have made a mistake. They publicly declare that the great number of robberies in the city are preventing people from attending church.

A London newspaper kindly tenders a suggestion for handling the Filipinos. Let the latter defy the Americans and bring about a decisive conflict. The issue would "bring the crazy Filipinos to their senses, and men of peace could proceed with their business."

From a Boston suburb we get news of the opening of the ice-breaking and drowning casualty record in the East. Thirty children were precipitated in eight feet of water, all in imminent danger; but the fortunate presence of police and numerous spectators caused the saving of all but three of the young lives.

It is terrible to learn that Chicago reports wickedness enough to require attendance of the whole city council before the grand jury. Bribery relative to the attempt of the street car combine to get a fifty-year franchise is the chief cause of this extraordinary proceeding.

From Cleveland we get the announcement that tomorrow the fastest long-distance railway train will begin service between New York and San Francisco. As Vanderbilt roads are mentioned in the very brief report, it is evident that the plan is an extension of the New York Central's fast service to Chicago.

We guess that Whitelaw Reid will be the next ambassador at the court of St. James. He has all the qualifications in an eminent degree. These are, first, plenty of money; second, the inclination to spend it lavishly for the glorification of its owner, and, third, the happy faculty of being able to do the toady act under all circumstances.

A dispatch from Manila says that "Admiral Dewey considers it absolutely necessary that a first-class statesman be sent to Manila to thoroughly investigate the situation here and ascertain the aspirations of the Filipino Republicans." Certainly, those "aspirations" should be attended to at once, and a statesman of highest eminence should be selected.

A returned Klondike miner reports having found on his claim the perfect skeleton of a mastodon. It is said that an effort will be made to dispose of it to the Smithsonian institution or the British museum. It would be well for the managers of the Republican party to investigate this and, if it might turn out to be an ancestor of G. O. P. elephants.

The Filipinos temporary cabinet is described as very anti-American. It allows of no American co-operation whatever, and "wants to declare a free republic and consider Americans as allies." We think, on reflection, that it would be preferable to us to have the Filipinos consider Americans as antipodes.

New York's former police chief, John McCullagh, has been laying the foundation of a modern police system in Havana. He wants a thousand men for the new force. If Jack could recruit from his old force in New York it would be safe to bet Havana would behave herself, and no emphasized nonsense about it.

The increase of railway mileage for the year is the largest since 1892. California stands seventh in the list, with 115 miles to its credit. The only eastern state that makes any considerable showing is our remotest neighbor, Maine, which leads California just eight miles.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Menace of Trusts The extent to which "combinations in restraint of trade" have multiplied and grown under the fostering care of the Republican tariff may well cause alarm even for the stability of our institutions. It has come to be a serious menace to the system on which our government rests.

Ship Bounties Not Needed The shipbuilders insist upon some form of direct or indirect checks on competition. They claim that they cannot do business without it. The claim is unfounded. We are sending locomotives to Japan and to England.

A Scandalous Appointment The old chapter of ante-bellum promises to win delegates is still being worked. There is the case of A. T. Wimberly, who has been confirmed collector of the port of New Orleans. He was nominated because Mark Hanna, in the winter of 1895-96, promised him this reward if Wimberly would vote for McKinley instead of Reed at St. Louis.

Spoils System in the Colonies President McKinley has been a much more staunch civil service reformer in form than in fact. Subservience on the part of the executive to the will of party bosses might lead to most deplorable consequences if it should result in sending to the West and East Indies such political harpies as too often attain to places of responsibility and emolument in the United States.

No Pensions for Ex-Rebels The strange proposal made by Senator Butler of North Carolina to pension the ex-confederate soldiers has, of course, no prospect of adoption. It may be sent up as a trial balloon, but it has not the slightest chance to find a favoring wind.

Significant Act of G. A. B. Men It is significant that the first Grand Army post to act on the president's speeches in the south adopts a resolution heartily approving his sentiments and indorsing the suggestion of Federal care for the graves of the Confederate dead.

Not a Patriot If Don Carlos were more of a patriot than a Carlist he could now give a splendid manifestation of his patriotism by refraining from inaugurating a struggle that means almost inevitably the ruin of his country.

Work to Do at Home The confirmation of the corrupt and scandalously Wimberly as collector at New Orleans is a disgrace to the United States. Political debts incurred in Mr. McKinley's interest is another reminder that the president did not speak by the book in saying that we have "no home problems" requiring our attention.

The Flag Argument This flag argument is the shabbiest of tricks. The United States gained in honor and prestige when it pulled down its flag in the City of Mexico and a dozen other places in that republic and marched away. If so minded, our country should have kept our flag there, just as we can keep it in the Philippines.

Lithuokalani's Cross Ignorance Lithuokalani protests against our government's appropriating the crown lands of Hawaii, which, she says, belong to herself. She is not educated in the methods of civilization, or she would understand that it was "destiny" for her to lose the lands and for the United States to take them.

Another Startling Discovery St. Louis is acknowledged to be the finest convention city in the world, both in the completeness of its accommodations in the matter of convention halls and for its satisfactory hotel capacity for delegates and the thousands of visitors who then crowd the city.—St. Louis Republic.

In the Front Rank of Heroes Just add to your list of heroes Paul Fisher, the elevator boy of the Melrose flats in Chicago, who ran his cage till it was dragged out by an officer, bringing down from the upper floors more than 100 persons, many of whom would have perished.—Minneapolis Times.

DOWN THE LINE

The genial gentleman and smart writer who is usually responsible for this column took the train yesterday for Sacramento, en route for Sacramento, whence he will give the Herald readers the very latest and the most inside news concerning the senatorial scandal.

Stevens has, during the last ten years, occupied about every position on a newspaper, from office boy to managing editor, but I believe this is his first assignment as a special correspondent in the field. That he will fall as gracefully into the way of it as he has into every other thing he has ever tackled goes almost without saying.

College Bred Journalist Stevens is a standing argument on the right side of the old controversy as to whether a finished education is really advantageous in newspaper work or not. "Steve" in his youth was afforded the opportunity to receive a liberal education and embraced it.

Anyone who has followed "Steve" work of late years has not failed, I am sure, to note another advantage which the "college-bred newspaper man" has over the other one. Whenever he was at a loss for the right idea or expression all he had to do was to slip in a little French or Italian or German or Hawaiian idiom or phrase and the reader who had the least idea what it was all about supposed that it was something sublime, of course.

J. P. Stockdale, whose business it is to see that you have a good time when you drop into the Columbia club rooms, was talking yesterday to tell everybody that he has something new which he hasn't had before for twenty years. He had everyone guessing and was enjoying the air of mystery with which he had surrounded himself immensely.

An Honest Assay In the Nadeau corridor yesterday I chanced to be, for a moment, where I could not help but overhear a conversation between a gentleman who is evidently a promoter of mining companies and a gentleman whom I took to be a capitalist seeking investment in mining property.

Clarence Martin of Pasadena, who is a royal good fellow, anyway, was telling yesterday—speaking of Christmas—how he and another Pasadena chap endeavored to have a good time in New York city one Christmas day about twelve years ago.

"Here, here, here, move on there, lively now. I'll run you in; no more ov that. We'll have one yet in this Sandy Claus business on th' s'brates. Move on—not a word—I'll run you in, shure."

Rosenthal, who for a few brief hours is illumining Los Angeles and demonstrating that a piano can be taken out of a water-tight plane, is a water-tight plane. Two years ago the great pianist fell a victim to typhoid fever and has always attributed his illness to drinking water. Now he shuns water as he does the devil and a discord. He will not use it in any shape or form, except to wash with, and even then it has to be distilled; in fact, he always carries about several gallons of it to wash his teeth with and for other ablutions.

Frederick von Gleichen-Russwurm, a great-grandson of Schiller, has recently been invited to visit Vienna by the German-Austrian Literary society of that capital. He delivered a lecture on "The Influence of Women."

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USE GERMAN FAMILY SOAP IN THE PUBLIC EYE The father of Major Marchand is an old carpenter at Thiosey, in the Ain, and he is vastly proud of his son's achievements. Governor Wolcott of Massachusetts has recovered from his recent attack of the grip and expects to resume his duties in a day or two. A brochure by Mary Foote Henderson, wife of ex-Senator J. B. Henderson of Missouri, advocating a new White House to be erected on Meridian hill, is being distributed to the capital. Dr. Shweninger, who won fame and fortune through Prince Bismarck, has accepted the headship of a big hospital which is being built in Steiglitz. He will open a college of medicine in connection with the hospital. Miss Wiesch recently won the first prize for marksmanship at the little town of Attinghauer, made famous by Schiller. She won from over 100 competitors, including her father, seven brothers and three sisters. The family took nine prizes in all. Arthur M. Hadley, professor of political economy in the academic department of Yale university, is at present considered the most likely successor to President Dwight. Professor Hadley is a graduate of Yale of the class of '76. New York Yale graduates are booming Judge Henry W. Taft of the class of '80 for the place. Mrs. Caroline Frances Fuller a New York widow, has given \$20,000 worth of real estate to the Salvation Army to be used in carrying on the work of organization among the poor. She did not want her identity to become known in the transaction. Since she has been found out she says she is estranged from her relatives and wishes to dispose of her property before her death in order to avoid litigation. Frank Pierpont Graves, LL.D., who has just been installed president of the University of Washington, in Seattle, was born in Brooklyn in 1869, was graduated from Columbia university in 1890, became an instructor in Greek in his alma mater and later became professor of classical philology in Tufts college, the chair having been created for him. He remained there five years, until the spring of 1896, when he accepted the presidency of the University of Wyoming.