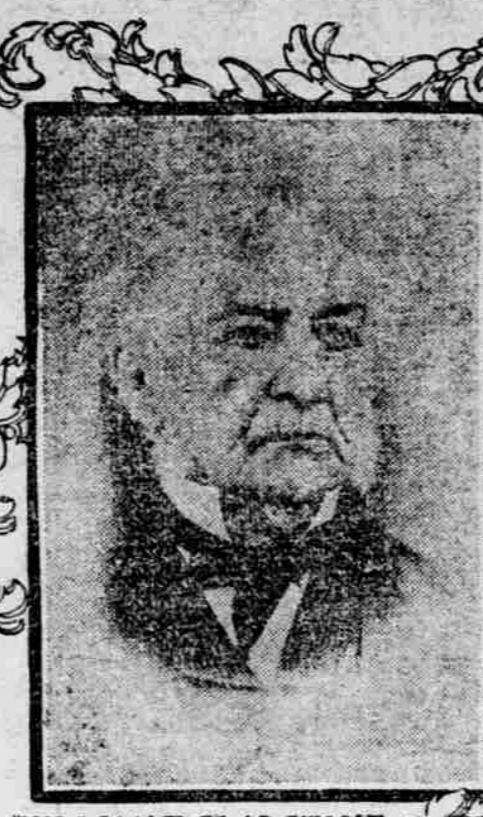


## THE CENTENARY OF THE YEAR OF GENIUS



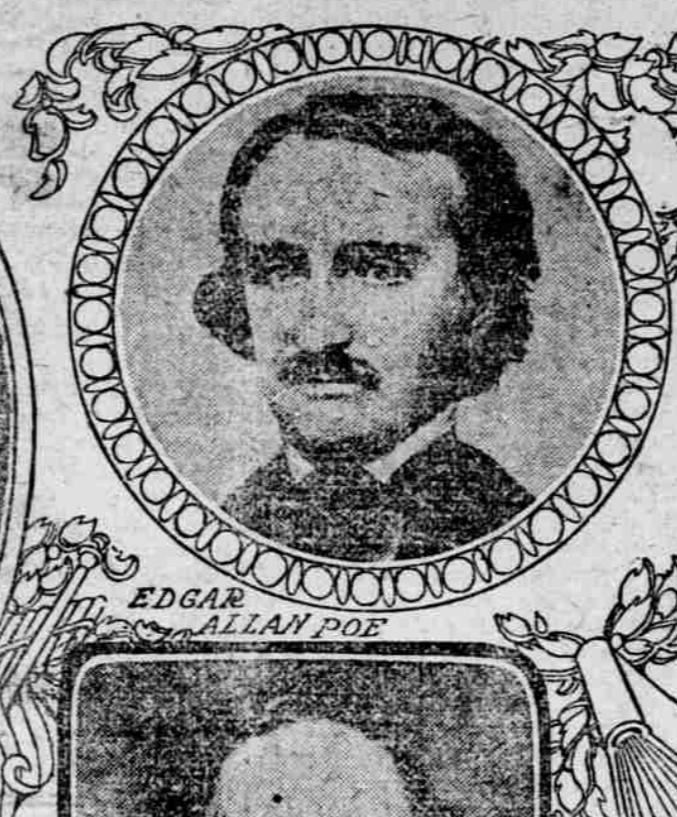
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE



FREDERIC CHOPIN



EDGAR ALLAN POE



CHARLES R. DARWIN



FELIX MENDELSSOHN



EDWARD FITZGERALD



OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



ALFRED TENNYSON

of changing his views when conditions seemed to him to warrant a change. Thus, after he had been an ardent supporter of Irish autonomy, and as late as 1893 he introduced measures for Irish self government in a masterly speech. He retired from active life in March, 1894, and died in his old home, Hawarden castle, May 19, 1885. He was buried in Westminster abbey.

In the current year one will easily recall in the list of poets and authors the name of Edward Fitzgerald, born in England March 31, 1809. He died June 14, 1883. His works are not numerous. The most important is his celebrated translation of the "Rubaiyat" of the Persian semiprecious astronomer-poet Omar Khayyam. The beauty of Fitzgerald's poem is greatly admired. He was the friend of Tennyson and Carlyle.

## Eminent in Music.

Somewhat has said that it is full whether the history of any musician discloses so wide a collection of qualities as does that of Chopin, the great Polish composer who was born in Hamburg, 1809. The man's life is reflected in many of his best compositions. All composers who were entranced with his genius of his customs was to have in musical performance in his home alternate Sunday mornings. He directed, his sister presided at the piano and his brother played on the violin while his second sister sang. He died in Leipzig Nov. 4, 1847.

Chopin is another musician who is recalled during the year. If he is ever forgotten, he was born in Poland March 1, 1809. He died Paris Oct. 17, 1849. He was the first of pianists, and his piano like his music, was marked, a biographer, by a strange and interesting grace.

What is pronounced the "most entertaining book of genuine travel written" was the story of the life of Darwin, the naturalist, who was born in England Feb. 12, 1809. No writer is held in higher esteem in this country than Darwin. He was a naturalist, geologist, zoologist, and all countries honored him with other distinctions. He died in London April 19, 1882, and was buried in Westminster abbey.

Few, if, indeed, any, English poet so generally and so admirably reserved and moody nature, known well in his own country, was known here save as accounts of his life and his poetry that appealed to people here. He was born in Lincoln, England, Oct. 6, 1800. He was created a peer with the title of baron in 1884.

Other noted people on the honor whose names will be remembered this year are: Kemble, the actress; Frederick Douglass, the American abolitionist; Richard M. Milnes, Lord Howe; poet; Hannibal Hamlin, vice president of the United States; John Blackie, English critic; J. Asher, pioneer aeronaut; Mar Robert, French soldier; Jules Verne, French statesman; Mary Clarke, English Shakespearean actress; A. Dahlgren, American naval officer; Kit Carson, pioneer, and G. T. Russell, author. All the above were born in 1809.

FRANK H. B.

REMARKABLE history was made in the last hundred years. The pages are crowded with the names of illustrious men. Centenaries to be observed in the present year will accentuate this fact. Few, if any, similar lists of statesmen, poets, artists and writers can be found in any hundred years of any era in which men of genius played a part. The realm of exploration and discovery seems almost to have been circled. Research in science has been far-reaching. Thought along all lines has been evolved which the sages of the preceding century would have allied with madness.

An English writer said a few years ago that if all history preceding the year 1809 were lost there would be sufficient in the events since that time to satisfy mankind and prepare for the future. This may have been an exaggeration, but it contained some truth.

The first centenary this year of the most remarkable man in the history of his country is that of Abraham Lincoln. There was nothing in the obscure birth of Lincoln or in the twenty years that followed to indicate that he was marked for any higher destiny than that attained by the average man. A rapid chronology of the man tells the strange story that was crowded into a life of fifty-six years:

Born in a log cabin on a farm near Hodgenville, Ky., Feb. 12, 1809; as a struggling farm boy to Indiana in 1817; motherless a year after. At the age of eleven he was given to the care of a stepmother. When he was sixteen years old his education at school was finished. He was just twenty-one when he removed to Illinois, the state in which his career was fashioned.

## Lincoln a War Captain.

He first emerged from private life in 1832, when he became a captain in the Black Hawk war. The same year he had his first defeat in public life. He was beaten as a candidate for the legislature. The following year he became a country merchant in the village of New Salem. In 1833 he was again a candidate for the legislature

and was elected. When he was thirty-three years old he and Mary Todd were married in Springfield, Ill. Two years later Henry Clay was a candidate for the presidency, and Lincoln espoused his cause. In that campaign he showed the qualities of a political debater. Two years after he was elected to the lower house of congress. In 1854 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States senate. Two years later the Republican party had become a factor and Lincoln was its acknowledged leader in his state. In 1858 occurred the famous campaign with Douglas for the nomination for United States senator, and Lincoln was defeated. In this defeat there was no forecast of his nomination for president on the Republican ticket, but that occurred two years after, in 1860. No candidate had ever been known before in this country. His election made him an international character. How he got to Washington in time for his inauguration, March 4, 1861, is a singular chapter in history. Thirty-one days after he was in office he was confronted with the biggest and most stubbornly contested war in modern times. The first gun was fired at Fort Sumter April 12, 1861. He got the title of the "great emancipator" Jan. 1, 1862, when he signed the emancipation proclamation. Six months from that event the battle of Gettysburg was fought, and Vicksburg surrendered. In 1864 he was re-elected president and was inaugurated for the second time in 1865. Thirty-six days after, Appomattox—end of hostilities. Six days after the surrender he was assassinated.

There were twenty-four days' difference between the birthdays of Lincoln and Edgar Allan Poe. The latter was born in Boston, Jan. 19, 1809. At the age of eleven Poe was an orphan. The life of this master of romance was a struggle. His genius did not come to its present stage of recognition until he was dead. Contradictory statements about his career occurred from time to time, but his place as a genius in the literary world has been fixed.

He was graduated from the University of Virginia when he was seventeen years old. Between that time and three years later he had published three volumes of poems. "The Raven" appeared in the New York Evening Mirror Jan. 29, 1845. He was paid \$10 for it. Its authorship was credited to another for five months. He tried the regular army for two years and then returned to the field in which he became so famous. It is said that he was recognized in France before his own country admitted his worth. In the words of a biographer, "the rich currents of Irish, Scotch, English and American blood were in his veins." At the age of twenty-six he married his cousin, Miss Virginia Clemm. He died in Baltimore Oct. 7, 1849. The monument which marks the site where he is buried was placed there a quarter of a century after. There is an

other monument to him in Richmond, the city he loved so well. Near Poe's grave is that of the man who slew Lincoln.

## Holmes, America's "Grand Old Man."

In the "gambrel roofed" house in Cambridge, Mass., Oliver Wendell Holmes, our "grand old man of letters," was born Aug. 29, 1809, and died in Boston Oct. 7, 1894. The anniversary of his life was the same at home and abroad. Honors came to him wherever he went. He was the consolation of age as he was the de-

light of children. His temperament was pre-eminently sympathetic. He was well born and bred. Whether in speaking about him or to him he was always addressed in adjectives of endearment. He belongs to that group which includes Hawthorne, Longfellow, Thoreau, Emerson, Lowell, Whittier and Margaret Fuller. He was graduated from Harvard in 1829 and then went abroad. He was twice married. A son who bears his father's name is the only surviving child of Dr. Holmes. As editor, humorist, critic, poet, novelist, he gained quick recog-

nition at home and abroad. As a citizen he was public spirited and gentle. Gladstone the Reformer.

It remained for a commoner of England to leave an indelible impress on the time in which he lived. William E. Gladstone was that man. The centenary of his birth will occur Dec. 29, for he was born in Liverpool on that date, 1809. He deserved the title that was bestowed upon him in the afternoon of his life, "Grand Old Man of England." He was prime minister several times during the reign of Queen Victoria. He was a power so long ago that it seems as if he lived in a very remote age. He ruled the British empire before Balfour was born. Churchill had not opened his eyes when Gladstone was a force. Strenuous in many respects, in diplomacy Gladstone was always fair and always for peace. It was said of him when he was at the zenith of his fame that he was the embodiment of reform. Born a Tory, he left that party in 1845. He held the privilege

of Mr. Knox his most intimate were never aware of it. Pro public act of Mr. Knox gave prominence to the visit he made to Paris in the interest of the Panama canal. He invited on that occasion the right of the canal company. On his the canal company was paid \$600,000, and \$10,000,000 was paid to him.

The head of the Knox house been before the public so long he need be said about it in the past. He was the son of Dr. Knox, a banker in Brownsville, Pa. Mr. Knox was born in 1853. He was educated at Union college, Ohio, and graduated the class of 1872. He was admitted to the bar in Allegheny in 1875. He was successful in his law practice. In 1876-7 he was assistant States district attorney in the Pennsylvania district. In 1877 came one of the firm of Knox in Pittsburgh. In 1891 he became attorney general of the United States in the administration of President McKinley. In 1894 he was known as the Great Northern ties merger fight.

BRUCE M'LA

HOLIDAYS A MISTAKE Dr. Toulouse, the eminent medical writer, has just published a book in which the holiday as an institution is unsparingly condemned. Above all, the doctor objects to the idea that "it is necessary to remind by exerting the body."

To take a long walk, for instance, after several hours of intellectual labor is simply adding one fatigue to another, he says. Fresh air and hour's walking per day are all that is required.

"We do not need long rest, we need short ones," says the doctor, not rest sixteen hours per day, but four separate half hours per day. Do not rest one month per year after ten months of intense labor and work, but divide two months into occasional half of delightful laziness.

"What would you say of a man who would work unceasingly for years and then spend a whole year in rest? Yet this is exactly what we do on a smaller scale with our summer holidays." But probably most of us will enjoy our holidays and summer

## Valley Forge Home of Philander Chase Knox

ON the site where Baron Stouven's drilled the ragged Continental in 1777-8, while the American congress was in session at York, Pa., stands the favorite home of Philander Chase Knox, who will be secretary of state in the cabinet of President Taft. The official home is in Washington, being the mansion that was built by George W. Childs of Philadelphia. There is another home in Pittsburgh, and still another summer home is on the Beverly farms in Massachusetts.

On the Valley Forge farm the home life of the Knox family is seen at its best. After the official strain at Washington is over Mr. Knox hastens first to Valley Forge. There he plays golf, gallops across the historic acres, drives, walks, reads in his library or on the great veranda, receives and entertains his friends, walks under the shade of the great trees, looks in at the stables where his blooded horses are cared for and, returning, plays poker with any who may care to meet him in the game in which he is an expert. When all this is over he likes to listen to young Phil play ragtime on the piano, which was put in to please the young man. When not otherwise engaged, Mr. Knox can be found looking at his flock of fine sheep, which he says trims the lawns as they should be trimmed. It is an ideal life at Valley Forge. Every member of the family enters into the spirit of it.

Valley Forge is twenty-four miles west-northwest from Philadelphia. The entrance to the lawn of the home is on the Forge road, one mile from the old village. The mansion stands 200 feet from the pillared gateway. The house is conspicuous on account of the bright yellow hue of the walls and its roof of dark mahogany shingles. The antique windows are quaint, some of them being glazed in colors. Ivy, woadvine and red Rambler roses clamber about the veranda and the walls. Great native trees shade the lawns. The library, containing thousands of volumes, is on the second floor. A big flat desk on which are strewn the latest periodicals and books stands in the center of the room. Spacious chairs suggest rest and comfort. The drawing room is furnished with solid mahogany. The dining room is in oak.

## Picture of the Home.

The house is a typical specimen of colonial architecture, and it was oc-

cupied by General Henry Knox when he was Washington's chief of artillery. It was the headquarters of General Knox when the Continental army was in cantonment at Valley Forge in 1777-8. It is in the garden spot of 300 acres. It looks out upon rolling hills, vales, meadow and wood. Old Forge creek bubbles musically near by. The present occupant of the house claims no relationship to the family of General Knox. He laughingly confesses that for some time after he took the property a good deal of his time was taken up in denying that

there was any connection between the two families.

The industry of the farm is the breeding of fine horses, although there is an extensive dairy on the place which is under the management of Reed Knox, one of the sons, who relieves his famous father of politics by talking of cows and the best way to make butter.

The crack team of the stables, which is always trotted out for visitors, cost \$9,000. The chief delight of Mr. Knox is to sit behind this team and engage in spirited brushes with his neigh-

bors. At one time this team held the record, 2:10 1/4. It was made while Mr. Knox held the ribbons. The performance gained for the owner the reputation of being the best horseman in the United States.

When the family first went to Valley Forge it consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Knox, three sons—Phil junior, Hugh, Reed—and the daughter, Rebecca. The latter married afterward, becoming Mrs. James Robert Thiele of Pittsburgh. The love of the family for this home was expressed by Mrs. Knox to a friend in Washington when

she said, "We exist for a few months of our Washington home, but at Valley Forge farm we live."

## The Family on the Farm.

All the family reunions are held at this farm. The table in Washington is supplied from Valley Forge farm. The fowl, the vegetables and the fruit are raised on the old home farm. Every new kind of vegetable or special brand of stock or fowl that comes into market is duplicated on the farm. A four horse vehicle, the device of Mrs. Knox, conveys visitors to and

from the depot when they go to spend the day at the Knox farm. Another conveyance is an old fashioned coaching car in which big and merry parties are taken out to inspect the farm. The mistress of this ideal American home was Miss Lillian Smith, daughter of the late Andrew D. Smith of Allegheny. The popularity of her girlhood has been retained in the home life of Mrs. Knox.

Mr. Knox since he acquired Valley Forge has had occasion to say repeatedly that he is not of Revolutionary stock. He is Irish on the paternal side, and his mother's forebears were English. His grandfather withdrew from the Church of England, but Mr. Knox has always remained a member of the Protestant Episcopal church. There were one dozen children in the Knox family, and Philander Chase is the eleventh. He was named for Philander Chase, who was bishop of Ohio in the middle of the last century. The bishop was an uncle of Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. Mr. Knox's boyhood friends called him "Phil," and he confesses that he always liked it.

When he is off official duty the dignity which is supposed to hedge an official is not noticeable in him. He is old fashioned in his ways, and when he is smoking a cigar, of which habit he is fond, he is the personification of old school democracy. While the Washington home is noted for its hospitality, those who have visited both places, the official residence and the Valley Forge home, declare that there is a difference between the two and that the difference is in favor of the Valley Forge house.

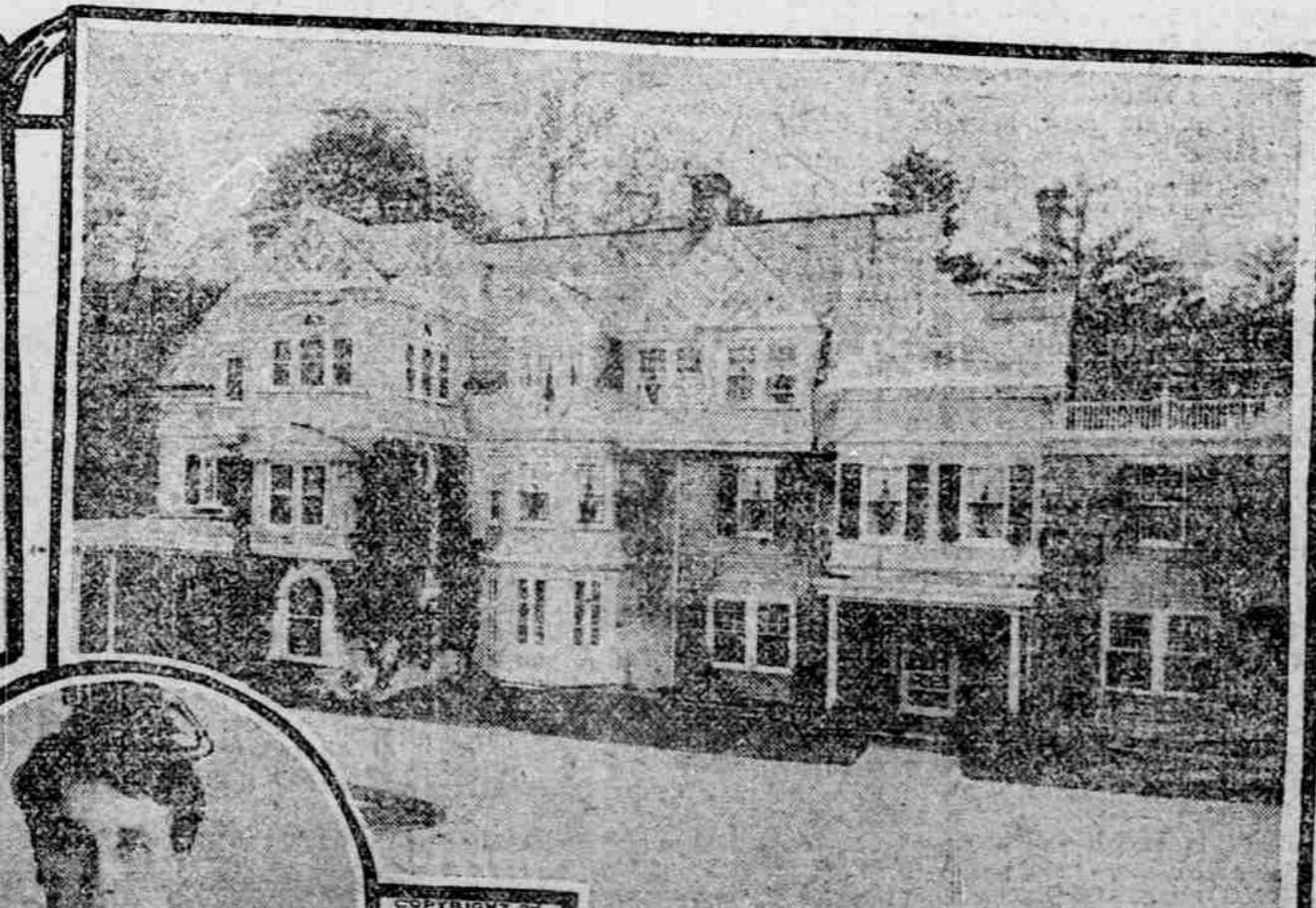
While Mr. Knox is always accessible, he is not what is called a mixer. He rather shuns official society. There is something in his appearance and manner which suggests a French noble of the eighteenth century.

## Political Nicknames.

When Mr. Knox was mentioned as a presidential possibility last year people made free with his character, as is the custom in this country when there is a prospect of such a promotion. All was good natured, of course, and grew out of some notable act of Mr. Knox. Thus he was termed "trust buster" and then he was referred to as the "young David" of the McKinley administration. And President Roosevelt facetiously called him "a saved off cherub." If any of these appellations ever had any effect upon



PHILANDER C. KNOX



MRS. PHILANDER C. KNOX

THE KNOX HOME