

RECORD OF A YEAR.

Important Events Crowded the Past Twelve Months.

MUCH HISTORY MADE.

The Year 1896 Will Be Remembered as a Most Notable One.

A Chronological Review Shows It to Have Been Remarkable in Many Respects—War with Spain Takes Foremost Place in the Interesting Record—Concise Story of That Victorious Conflict—International and Internal Discussions Among European Countries—Disaster and Death at Home and Abroad.

To him who is concerned with history in the making there very rarely comes a year more heavily laden with important events than the year 1896. It has seen every state in Europe, except peaceful Scandinavia and the Dutch communities, face to face with either war or internal dissolution—some of them within measurable distance of both. Yet the greatest effects have not been in Europe; 1896 has seen the United States forced, not by any greed of power, but by its humanitarian ideals, to take its part in European relations. A brief but glorious armed conflict with Spain has been presented to its end and settled by a treaty of peace upon which the ink is scarcely dry. The inception of great political changes has been witnessed in China; two European rulers have come to their death; several men and women prominent in statecraft, military affairs, reform, literature and music, have passed away; the year has been marked by some terrible marine disasters, causing great loss of life; and fire, flood and storm have numbered their victims by scores and caused extensive loss of property.

The chronological table that follows gives the most important happenings of 1896, foremost among which are those of the war with Spain.

CONFLICT WITH SPAIN.

Events of the War Lately Won by the United States.

- January.
- 1—U. S. battleship Maine, Capt. C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., is ordered to Havana, Cuba.
- February.
- 8—The publication of a letter written by Senor Dupuy de Lome, Spanish minister to the United States, speaking disparagingly of President McKinley, leads to the Minister's resignation of his post and the appointment of Senor Luis Polo y Bernabe.
- 15—The U. S. battleship Maine, lying in the harbor of Havana, is destroyed and sunk by an explosion between 9 and 10 o'clock p. m.
- 17—Rear Admiral Sigsbee, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, orders a court of inquiry into the loss of the Maine.
- 19—The request of the Spanish officials in Havana for a joint investigation into the loss of the Maine is declined.
- 21—The United States Senate orders an investigation into the Maine disaster.
- March.
- 8—Congress votes to place \$50,000,000 at the disposal of President McKinley as an emergency fund.
- 16—Spain renounces against the presence of the United States fleet at Key West and against other measures of defense by our Government.
- 17—Facts concerning Cuba stated in the Senate by Senator Proctor, of Vermont, as the result of personal observation.
- 18—Court of inquiry's report on the Maine sent to Congress.
- April.
- 5—Counsel General Lee recalled.
- 10—Counsel General Lee leaves Cuba.
- 11—President McKinley sends a message to Congress recommending armed intervention in Cuba.
- 15—Army ordered to mobilize.
- 16—Senate bill regarding resolutions passed.
- 18—Congress votes against Cuban recognition.
- 19—Congress passes resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Spain from Cuba.
- 20—Queen opens Cortes with war speech. Government announces its opposition to privatizing the Spanish sugar plantations to the nations of intention to blockade.
- 21—Our minister at Madrid, Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, informed by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs that diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States are terminated. President McKinley orders an ultimatum to Spain, demanding a reply by April 23. Senor Polo y Bernabe, Spanish minister, receives his passport and leaves Washington.
- 22—Cruiser New York, Sampson's flagship, captures Pedro, 2,000 tons, fifteen miles east of Havana. Cuban ports blockaded by the American squadron.
- 23—The President issues his proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteers.
- 24 (Sunday)—A Spanish decree declaring war against the United States was gazetted at Madrid.
- 25—Congress passes a resolution declaring that the state of war existed from April 21.
- 26—Recruiting volunteers began in New York City.
- 27—United States vessels bombard Matanzas. Seventh New York Regiment declines to enlist.
- 28—Commodore Dewey's fleet sails from Hongkong for Manila.
- 29—Spanish squadron sails from Cape Verde for the West Indies. New York shells Cabanas forts. U. S. cruiser Yale (Cruiser) arrives in New York.
- 30—Commodore Dewey's squadron arrives off Manila. Flagship New York fires on Spanish cavalry sharpshooters off Havana.
- May.
- 1—U. S. cruiser Topaka arrives at New York from Falmouth. Commodore Dewey's squadron destroys the Spanish fleet at Manila.
- 2—Cable from Manila to Hongkong cut by Commodore Dewey.
- 4—Battleship Oregon and gunboat Maletta sail from Rio Janeiro.
- 7—Commodore Dewey informs State Department of the seizure of Cavite.
- 9—Congress thanks Rear Admiral Dewey.
- 10—The Gussie expedition sailed from Tampa.
- 11—Ensign Worth Bagley and four of the crew of the torpedo-boat Winslow killed by a shell from the Spanish forts at Cardenas.
- 12—Admiral Sampson's squadron bombards the forts at San Juan, Porto Rico. The Spanish Cape Verde fleet arrives at Port de France, Martinique. Expedition repulsed.
- 13—Commodore Schley's fleet sails south to meet the Spanish squadron.
- 14—Spanish Cape Verde fleet sighted off Curacao.
- 15—Rear Admiral Dewey reports on fall of Manila. Sagasta's cabinet resigns. Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Terror disabled at Port de France, Martinique. Spanish fleet leaves Caracao. Gen. Merritt ordered to the Philippines as military governor. Gov. Black authorizes

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- 25—Three transports with 2,538 men start for Manila. President issues a call for 75,000 more volunteers.
- 26—Oregon arrives in Key West. One of Spain's cabinet ministers said the country was willing to accept "an honorable peace." Commodore Schley is in touch with the insurgent leaders. Florida expedition landed without opposition near Guantanamo, Cuba.
- 27—Spanish scout ships chased by American warships near Key West.
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- 4—Lieut. Hobson sinks cruiser Merrimac in the mouth of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba.
- 6—Fortifications of Santiago de Cuba received.
- 7—American squadron bombards and silences batteries at Santiago. Monitor Monterey and collier Brutus sail for Manila.
- 8—Assault on fortifications of Guantanamo Bay.
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- 13—Thirty-two transports with Shafter's troops sail for Santiago de Cuba. President McKinley signs the war tax bill.
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- 7—President signs Hawaiian annexation resolution. Admiral Dewey took Subig and 1,300 prisoners.
- 11—Cruiser St. Louis brings Admiral Cervera and 436 prisoners to Portsmouth, N. H. Admiral Sampson's fleet bombarded Santiago.
- 13—Announced that yellow fever has broken out in Gen. Shafter's army.
- 14—Gen. Toral and the Spanish army surrendered Santiago at 3 p. m.
- 17—"Old Glory" raised over Santiago at noon.
- 18—President issues a proclamation providing for the government of Santiago. Seven American vessels bombard Morozanillo and destroy seven Spanish ships.
- 21—Gen. Miles, with 3,415 men on transports, conveyed by warships, starts to take Porto Rico. American gunboats capture Nipe and sink the Spanish cruiser Jorge Juan. Gen. Calixto Garcia, commander of the Cuban army of Eastern Cuba, owing to discontent because the American Government has ignored him and his troops in the surrender of Santiago, withdrew. News reached this country that the second expedition to reinforce Admiral Dewey had arrived at Cavite.
- 22—Aguinaldo declared himself detactor of the Philippines.
- 23—Another expedition for the Philippine Islands sailed from San Francisco.
- 25—Gen. Miles and 3,500 men reach Guam. Porto Rico and effect of the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs that diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States are terminated. President McKinley orders an ultimatum to Spain, demanding a reply by April 23. Senor Polo y Bernabe, Spanish minister, receives his passport and leaves Washington.
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- 25—Congress passes a resolution declaring that the state of war existed from April 21.
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- 27—United States vessels bombard Matanzas. Seventh New York Regiment declines to enlist.
- 28—Commodore Dewey's fleet sails from Hongkong for Manila.
- 29—Spanish squadron sails from Cape Verde for the West Indies. New York shells Cabanas forts. U. S. cruiser Yale (Cruiser) arrives in New York.
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- 14—Spanish Cape Verde fleet sighted off Curacao.
- 15—Rear Admiral Dewey reports on fall of Manila. Sagasta's cabinet resigns. Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer Terror disabled at Port de France, Martinique. Spanish fleet leaves Caracao. Gen. Merritt ordered to the Philippines as military governor. Gov. Black authorizes

- reorganization of disbanded Thirteenth Regiment.
- 17—Sagasta's new cabinet announced at Madrid.
- 18—Ninety thousand troops ordered to mobilize in Chickamauga.
- 20—Spanish fleet arrives at Santiago de Cuba.
- 22—Cruiser Charleston sails for Manila.
- 23—Troops A and C arrive at Camp Alger, Falls Church, Va.
- 24—The Spanish fleet is bottled up at Santiago.
- 25—Three transports with 2,538 men start for Manila. President issues a call for 75,000 more volunteers.
- 26—Oregon arrives in Key West. One of Spain's cabinet ministers said the country was willing to accept "an honorable peace." Commodore Schley is in touch with the insurgent leaders. Florida expedition landed without opposition near Guantanamo, Cuba.
- 27—Spanish scout ships chased by American warships near Key West.
- 28—Commodore Schley reports the trapping of Cervera in the harbor of Santiago de Cuba. Cruiser Columbia arrives at New York, having been in collision with the British steamship Foscolia, which sank.
- 29—Troops embark at Tampa for Havana.
- 31—Rear Admiral Sampson's fleet bombards forts of Santiago de Cuba.
- June.
- 1—Transports for Manila arrive at Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Boys in Blue become the guests of the city. Monitor Monadnock ordered to Manila from San Francisco.
- 2—Spain again appeals to the Powers to intervene.
- 3—American squadron bombarded Santiago de Cuba.
- 4—Lieut. Hobson sinks cruiser Merrimac in the mouth of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba.
- 6—Fortifications of Santiago de Cuba received.
- 7—American squadron bombards and silences batteries at Santiago. Monitor Monterey and collier Brutus sail for Manila.
- 8—Assault on fortifications of Guantanamo Bay.
- 9—House agrees on war revenue conference report.
- 10—Admiral Sampson reports he has held Guantanamo harbor since the 7th. Senate agrees on conference report on war revenue bill.
- 11—Four Americans at Calmanera are killed in a fight with the Spaniards.
- 13—Thirty-two transports with Shafter's troops sail for Santiago de Cuba. President McKinley signs the war tax bill.
- 14—Two Americans and several hundred Spaniards killed in a battle at Calmanera.
- 15—Second expedition sailed from San Francisco for Manila. Great destruction results to Santiago forts through the use of the dynamite guns of the Vesuvius.
- 17—Spanish squadron sailed from Cadiz and passed Gibraltar.
- 20—Transports with Gen. Shafter's troops arrive off Santiago.
- 22—Part of Shafter's troops landed.
- 23—Balance of troops landed without accident. Admiral Canara's Cadiz fleet arrives at Island of Pines.
- 24—Sixteen American soldiers killed and forty wounded in driving back Spanish soldiers at Santiago.
- 27—Commodore Watson to command fleet to attack Spanish home territory. President McKinley recommends thanks of Congress for Lieut. Hobson, and that he be transferred to the line.
- 28—President proclaims blockade of Southern Cuba from Cape Frances to Cape Cruz.
- 29—Gen. Shafter reports he can take Santiago in forty-eight hours. The Senate thanks Lieut. Hobson and his men, naming each one personally.
- 30—Egyptian government refused to let Canara coal his fleet at Port Said.
- July.
- 1—Shafter's army began the assault upon Santiago de Cuba, capturing the enemy's outer works.
- 2—Shafter renewed the attack upon Santiago, losing about 1,000 killed and wounded, and making 2,000 Spanish prisoners. The Spanish casualties probably exceeded those of the Americans.
- 3—Cervera's fleet destroyed at Santiago, with great loss of life.
- 6—Spanish transport Alfonso XII, blown up off Puerto Rico by American gunboats. Hobson, the hero of the Merrimac, and his comrades exchanged for Spanish prisoners outside Santiago.
- 7—President signs Hawaiian annexation resolution. Admiral Dewey took Subig and 1,300 prisoners.
- 11—Cruiser St. Louis brings Admiral Cervera and 436 prisoners to Portsmouth, N. H. Admiral Sampson's fleet bombarded Santiago.
- 13—Announced that yellow fever has broken out in Gen. Shafter's army.
- 14—Gen. Toral and the Spanish army surrendered Santiago at 3 p. m.
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SIXTY YEARS AN ACTOR.

The Late Charles W. Couldock Was the Dean of the American Stage.

When Charles W. Couldock, the veteran actor, breathed his last in New York City recently, the curtain was rung down upon the career of the oldest actor on the American stage. For over sixty years he had been before the footlights in this country and in England, and in the many different characters in which he appeared he made



CHARLES W. COULDOCK.

himself popular with theater-goers. To the generation of to-day he is best known in the character of Dunstan Kirke, the blind miller in "Hazel Kirke." Couldock was born in London eighty-three years ago. He was put to work in a warehouse to begin a commercial career when 13, but acting was more to his liking. When 21 he made his debut on the stage in his native city, paying \$50 for the privilege of appearing as Othello at a benefit. His early experiences on the stage were accompanied by much hardship, but by persistent work he managed to attract a little attention and played through England in tragic roles with some of the prominent actors and actresses of those days. He came to the United States in 1849 with Charlotte Cushman and played with her throughout the country. Among the roles in which he appeared were Jacques, Macbeth, Cardinal Wolsey, Othello and King Lear. He was engaged at Laura Keane's Theater, in New York, in 1858, and there played with Joseph Jefferson and the late E. A. Sothern. Theater-goers of to-day are most familiar with the name of Couldock as associated with the play of Hazel Kirke. He first appeared in this piece in the character of the blind miller in 1879, and altogether played it more than 1,500 times.

INDIANA BAPTISTS.