

1900-WELCOME-1900

1899---A REVIEW OF THE YEAR---1899

WHEN some twentieth century historian sits down to chronicle the happenings of the year 1899, he will find that particular twelvemonth a very eventful period. Many things, indeed, have taken place during this year which has just drawn to a close. Destinies have changed, maps have been altered and great problems have approached a solution. Many of these great questions, it is true, are still pending, and the mapmakers have not yet decided on all their lines. But it is at least possible to guess at the general trend of events and to foresee how the year 1900 will drop the curtain on those dramas which have had their beginnings or their denouements during 1899.

The most potent and one of the remarkable features of the year 1899 has been the renaissance of the war spirit, down in history as one of the ironies of the century that the year 1899 should open with a great display of the olive branch and the flutterings of the white doves of peace and yet go out in a river of blood.

There seems to be, however, a popular reaction against the spirit of unlimited belligerency, and those people who have been advocates of the "strenuous life" have found themselves opposed by a very energetic party making for peace. In the meantime, nevertheless, the war in South Africa continues, as does also the fighting in the Philippines, with considerable unrest in other parts of the globe.

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"splendid isolation" of such long standing, was glad enough to find a continental friend at last, and for obvious reasons she deemed it advisable to remain on relations of amity with this country, particularly so when she found herself about to plunge into an African war regarding the justness of which the great consensus of feeling was against her.

The visit of the kaiser to England late in the autumn tended to clinch this feeling of friendship between Teuton and Anglo-Saxon. It obliterated the possibility of European intervention in the Boer-British war, for, much as the powers of the old world might like to have a finger in the South African pie, they realized that all threats or hints were useless when once England could claim the open friendship of Germany.

A source of continued annoyance, however, to both American and British statesmen and diplomats has been the Alaska boundary dispute. The Quebec conference ended in a deadlock, and, notwithstanding the efforts of the authorities in London and Washington, no actual solution of the difficulty has yet been suggested. This is supposed

impracticable as a means of settling international dispute. It is true that Great Britain was unquestionably the victor in the bloodless war of words which lasted for so many weeks in Paris, and that that power gained nearly all that she had originally claimed. But Venezuela itself took the decision of the court of arbitration without a demur, and, as the connection of the United States with the case was merely that of a disinterested spectator insisting on fair play between a great power and a weaker one, the Paris decision met with universal approval in Washington.

One of the things which have tended to seal the friendship now existing between England and Germany and our government is the common desire to maintain the open door in the east. There has for some time been considerable apprehension over Russia's continued aggressions in China. Just what the intentions of the White Czar and his government are has not been quite clear, but, judging from Russia's absolutely unscrupulous conduct in the past, it has been felt necessary to keep a sharp eye on the Slav in the east.

British army at the Cape had even to depend on the American market for its supplies. In fact, the year has witnessed the triumph of American commercialism. A great wave of prosperity has swept through the land, wages have been increased, mills have reopened, and the one trouble has been to secure cars and vessels enough to carry back and forth the goods for which there has been such an extraordinary demand. That great artery of our commerce, the great lakes, has been secured in value for ships to accommodate the inland shipper.

This great commercial awakening of the country found its natural expression in the Philadelphia Export exposition, arranged for the purpose of giving exact information concerning things most suited for successful export from this country. The Omaha exposition, on the other hand, was a symptom of the nation's awakened interest in foreign and colonial affairs and was unique in the history of the United States, suggesting, as it did, the spirit of reconstruction which now reigns in Cuba and Porto Rico.

The great prosperity of the past year,

which the hero of Manila was welcomed home after his long trip half way round the world, with many visits in different European ports, is still too green in the memory of Americans to be expatiated on in this article.

In the yacht races America scored one more triumph, though Oxford and Cambridge got slightly the better of it in the international college sports.

In the scientific world '99 cannot be looked upon as marking any great or momentous discovery. It is true the bacillus of the bubonic plague was discovered, and wireless telegraphy experimented with, and the Roentgen rays applied successfully to surgery, and the possibilities of liquid air first thoroughly exploited and understood, but nothing of startling moment occurred. In the mechanical world, however, there is one notable feature, and that is the general introduction of the automobile. At first it was thought that the horseless carriage would relegate to immediate oblivion man's good old friend, the steed, and that a very short time would witness the passing of the horse. Such does not promise to be the case, and until the cost of manufactur-

THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

BY R. K. MUNKITTRICK.

Christmas has just departed, and the scent of the Christmas tree still fills the house with its pleasant cheer. The society woman capers around in the scoldish sack and diamonds, the Xmas presents which are not yet paid for, and thus strengthens her husband's credit. The small boy displays his new skates and sled and is the chief particular envy of the boy whose father failed in November and who got nothing at all to remind him of the return of the holiday of all holidays. Another boy shows his independence of the fact that he is in the city where the mill pond doesn't flourish by skating along the thoroughfare on his summer or roller skates. The Christmas wreath is hanging on the wall to remind one of the holiday just passed, close to the hearth's nest that brings back pleasant dreams of the summer and unpleasant memories of what transpired at the time the nest was captured--memories that make one feel that his head is again a mass of throbbing knobs that seem like so many hot coals.

The Christmas turkey is not exhausted yet. There are still two wings for garnering the ashes, and a wishbone drying over the library door, and a carcass which will be picked at for a few days more and then put aside to form the base of next week's pea soup. The wistful soul of the poet when the demands of the butcher make it necessary for him to add an advertising feature to a poem intended for The Atlantic and sell it to a tooth powder concern for \$1.75. This is the week that women who love exchanged presents are calculating the values between what they have given and what they have received, to see whether they have been the gainers or the losers in the exchange. The ice carnivals at various northern points are in full blast, and pictures and reports of the ice man, who is making nothing, but who is filled with golden dreams as he saws the pond up like so much cord wood and packs it away to yield him many shekels of gold and silver when half a dozen weary moons shall have passed and the poodle jangles a can of stones out of tune every time he wags his woolly tail. You can tell that Christmas is over by the appearance of the proprietor of the toy store. He looks far sadder than that most popular of all sad creatures known to the chrysalis of rhetoric--the attenuated rooster that has been out all night in the rain. Before Christmas he was all smiles, and now he is all sighs of woe. He is the reverse of the "before" and "after" portraits in the patent medicine ads. He is not looking forward to the Fourth of July with the small boy, but to Christmas of next year. Everything has an after Christmas air about it. You can see it in the shopping districts and in the benevolent smile of the clergyman as he strikes a bee line for the nearest mart to dispose of the many pairs of fancily embroidered slippers with which he has been presented and which he could not wear at once, even if he were a human centipede.

NATIONAL COLORS.

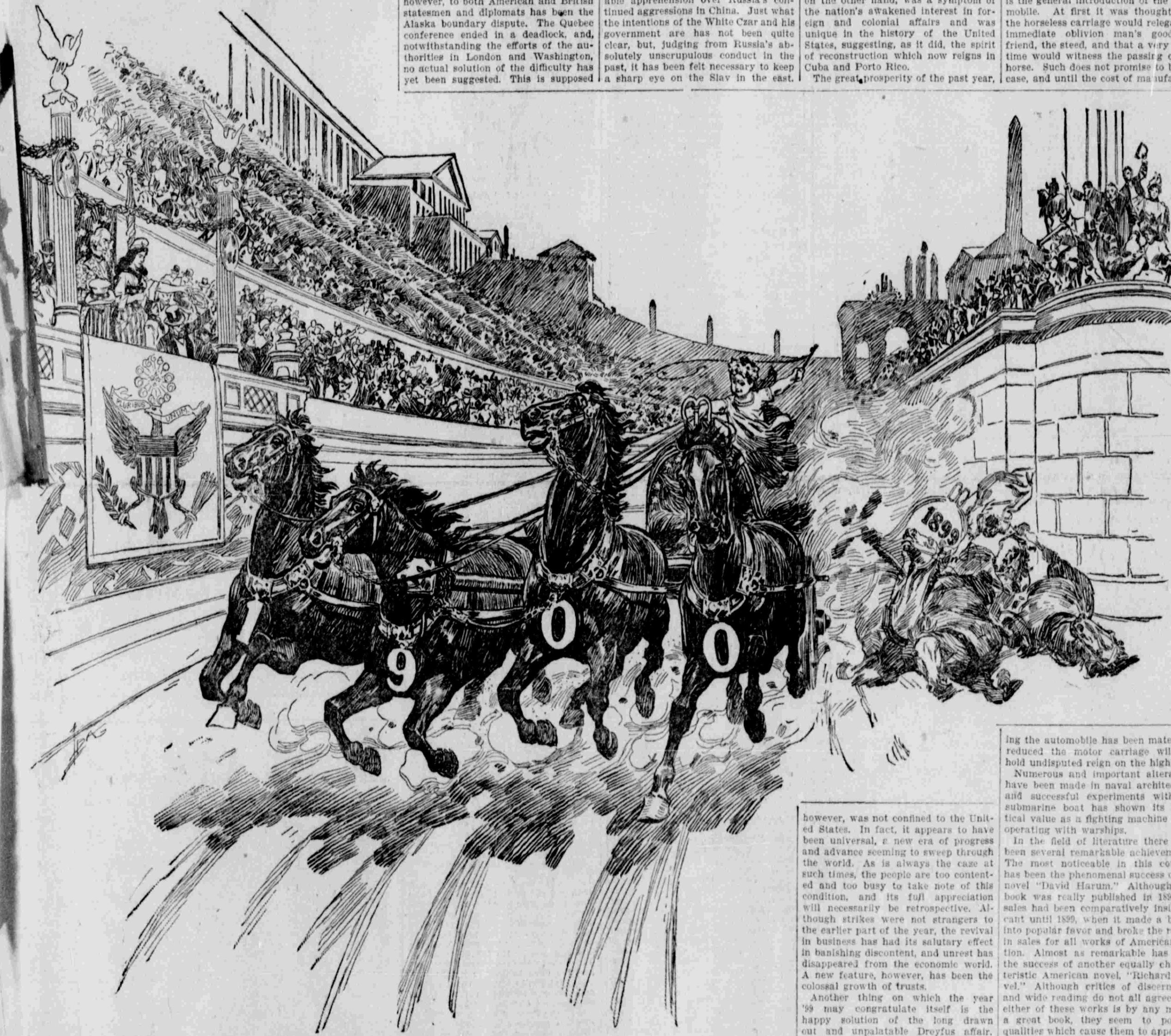
Though the policy of the military authorities in using less glaring colors in uniforms has been very marked of late years, red remains the most popular color for national standards. Of 25 countries 19 have flags with red in them, the list including Great Britain, United States, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Portugal, Venezuela and Cuba. Three countries have black as one of the elements of their flags--Germany, Belgium and China, but Germany is the only one of the three which has black and white altogether. There are six countries which have green as a color--Ireland, Brazil (the flag of which is green chiefly), Mexico, Egypt, Italy and Persia.

Nine countries have flags in which the color is partly of yellow. These countries are Austria, Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Sweden, China, Persia, Brazil and Venezuela. Countries with flags partly white are the United States, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Persia, Japan, Mexico, Holland, Denmark, Portugal, Cuba and Chile. There is no white in the national standard of Russia, but the British naval flag has a white background.

TOO SHREWED FOR HIM.

An old whitewasher stood before the court as a witness. The lawyer for the defendant tried to confuse him. "You are Frederick Miller?" "Yes." "Are you the Frederick Miller who was sentenced under mitigating circumstances for robbery?" "Yes." "No; I am not that Miller." "You are, perhaps, the Miller who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for theft?" "No; I am not that Miller either." "Were you ever in prison?" "Yes; twice." "How long the first time?" "A whole afternoon." "An afternoon! And the second time? You must make truthful statements for you are sworn. If you were in prison for so short a time, what did you do?" "I only whitewashed a cell ready for a lawyer who had cheated his clients." The lawyer did not ask any more questions on that subject.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.



CHARIOT RACES OF THE YEARS--1900 WINS.

Ninety-nine has been a bloody year. In Egypt it witnessed the wiping out of the khalifa and the tremendous slaughter of the Mahdi's forces by General Kitchener and his troops. In South Africa it has seen destruction of life and property that was absolutely unanticipated when the Boer and the Britisher first took up arms against one another. The customary number of South American revolutions have taken place, though it must be confessed the amount of bloodshed was unusual. The struggle of the American forces against the insurgents in the Philippines has not abated during the last part of the year, and it will be some time before it is even known just how great the loss of life has been in that remote quarter of the globe. Such a small thing as the war in the Samoan islands has been completely overshadowed and forgotten amid more stirring and ominous events. The meeting of The Hague peace conference in the early part of the year, in view of all these warlike events, cannot be said to have been so effective as it was expected to be. In fact, it will go

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moan islands dispute. England, Germany and the United States several months ago all experienced sensations of unrest and even alarm at the foreboding developments regarding the administration of the Samoan archipelago. There seemed a tendency on the part of America and England to unite in resisting what was deemed the aggressiveness of Germany. The bad feeling which lingered in connection with the Von Diederichs affair with Admiral Dewey in Manila bay did not tend to allay any irritation that the attitude of the officials of the kaiser might have caused, and for several weeks an open rupture was not unexpected. But the kaleidoscopic changes of international relation are inscrutable. Instead of the rupture there was a satisfactory partition of the islands and a gradual growing together of the three powers, until at the present time there might be said to exist some tacit understanding which the rest of the world, apparently without adequate warrant, has taken on itself to regard as a sort of second triple alliance. England, tired of her

to be due to the pertinacity of Canada, who clings desperately to her demand for a Klondike harbor on the Pacific seaboard, notwithstanding what grounds or lack of grounds she may have for claiming the same. There seems a desire on the part of England to bring the matter to a close, but, under the circumstances, she finds herself between two fires. She wishes to retain the friendship of her largest colony and yet she is unwilling to insist on the demands which the Canadians have laid out, realizing that that would militate against her present friendly relations with this country. Just how the dispute will eventually end it is impossible at the present time to foretell.

In connection with this dispute one naturally turns to the Venezuelan boundary matter and his happy ending several months ago. This may be well regarded as one of the great events of 1899, not because of the specific importance of the decision itself, but because in the same may be found a significant promise that arbitration is not

however, was not confined to the United States. In fact, it appears to have been universal, a new era of progress and advance seeming to sweep through the world. As is always the case at such times, the people are too contented and too busy to take note of this condition, and its full appreciation will necessarily be retrospective. Although strikes were not strangers to the earlier part of the year, the revival in business has had its salutary effect in banishing discontent, and unrest has disappeared from the economic world. A new feature, however, has been the colossal growth of trusts.

Another thing on which the year '99 may congratulate itself is the happy solution of the long drawn out and unpalatable Dreyfus affair. Tardy justice was at last in a measure meted out to the unhappy man who had suffered so much at the hands of unscrupulous enemies in the French army, a strange fatality seeming to pursue those officials who had struggled so long and so hard to persecute an obviously innocent man. The affair has passed away so quickly amid the stir and stress of other things that the international enmity of which it threatened to be the source has practically disappeared. At one time it was thought that this "Affaire Dreyfus" would be the means of converting the approaching Paris exposition into a comparative failure, owing to the threatened ostracism of Paris by the rest of the civilized world. Such does not seem to be the case, however, and now that Dreyfus has been restored to his family the somewhat hysterical feeling which the trial awakened has died a natural death.

There are two things which cannot be omitted from anything that approaches a complete resume of the great events of the past year, and those things are, first, the return of Admiral Dewey, and, second, the international yacht races. The enthusiasm with

ing the automobile has been materially reduced the motor carriage will not hold undisputed reign on the highway.

Numerous and important alterations have been made in naval architecture, and successful experiments with the submarine boat has shown its practical value as a fighting machine when operating with warships.

In the field of literature there have been several remarkable achievements. The most noticeable in this country has been the phenomenal success of the novel "David Harum." Although this book was really published in 1898, its sales had been comparatively insignificant until 1899, when it made a bound into popular favor and broke the record in sales for all works of American fiction. Almost as remarkable has been the success of another equally characteristic American novel, "Richard Carvel." Although critics of disincarnated and wide reading do not all agree that either of these works is by any means a great book, they seem to possess qualities which cause them to appeal to the taste of the great reading public, which would not respond so readily to workmanship of a more delicate and subtle character. America has also found herself in possession of a humorist of worth in Mr. Dooley, whose books have also had a tremendous circulation. These Dooley sketches deal with topics of the moment, satirizing in a very happy manner the failings and shortcomings of the different prominent countrymen of the author, who is Mr. Peter Dunne of Chicago.

On the whole, the past year has shown, both in the literary world proper and in the dramatic field, that the time of the American author has at last dawned. England has matched up eagerly the different dramatic productions which have proved successful in this country, and the same might be said of nearly all successful American books.

So the year 1899, all things considered, will go down in history as a very remarkable and a very important epoch in the world's career. And although it had its dark days, it may not inappropriately be called a year of happiness and content.

PEOPLE ONE HEARS ABOUT.

Representative Seneca E. Payne of New York has the largest head of any member of the house.

General Lew Wallace has purchased a tract of land near Crawfordville, Ind., and will make a fish preserve of it. The land is watered by a number of excellent springs and creeks, which will be dammed for the purpose of trout breeding.

Alfonso XIII of Spain is not yet 11, but the German emperor has resolved

to invest him with the order of the Black Eagle.

The shah of Persia reserves to himself the right of riding in a coach of barbaric splendor, drawn by six horses, their long tails dyed crimson.

Joaquin Miller, the poet, wants the name of "United States of America" changed to "Ueland," and he desires that the people be called Uelandians. This idea is not new, and it brings to mind the western professor who some time

ago proposed that the name of this country be changed to "Usona" by taking the first letter of each word of "United States of North America."

The oldest resident of the town of Emporia, Kan., is J. P. Mather, who is said to be a direct descendant of Cotton Mather. Though 85 years of age, he goes daily to the gymnasium and exercises on the bars.

Since boyhood Joseph Chamberlain, British colonial secretary, has worn a monocle. He was not known to fame when he entered parliament. When he

made his appearance in the house, Premier Beaconsfield looked him over carefully and remarked, "He wears his monocle like a gentleman."

Dimitri Sergievitch Septagin, the new Russian minister of the interior, was born in 1853 on the estate of his father, near Moscow. He began his career as justice of the peace. Then he became president of the justice bench of his county and later assistant marshal of the nobility of the government of Moscow. In 1888 he became governor of Kharkoff, in 1888 governor of Kur-

land, in 1891 governor at Moscow, in 1893 assistant minister of the imperial domains and in 1894 assistant minister of the interior and equity to the czar.

Bishop Satterlee (Episcopal) of Washington, having been asked by Secretary Root to nominate a "young, strong, healthy and wholesome Episcopal clergyman" as an army chaplain in the Philippines, has asked the Rev. J. Woods Elliott, rector of St. Andrew's church, Baltimore, to accept the appointment. Mr. Elliott is a graduate of the General Theological seminary in

New York and was for nearly three years under the training of the Cowley fathers in Boston. He was chaplain of the Fifth Maryland regiment during the Spanish war.

General Maximo Gomez has collected a very large quantity of manuscript treating of the warfare in Cuba from 1868 to the present time, which he regards as his greatest treasure. Of late he has been going carefully through his diaries and papers, arranging all data bearing upon the subject, with the view of writing a history of the revolution

as he has known it internally and externally.

Prince David of Hawaii, like his aunt, ex-Queen Liliuokalani, is infatuated with Washington and likes it so well that there is a possibility that he may make it his permanent home. The prince is greatly interested in automobiles.

Boston's Cobb twins, Cyrus and Darius, recently sat for a photograph, and when it came home they were obliged to ask the photographer which was which.