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THE CLOSING YEAR. History of far-reaching importance has been made in the year 1896. This is especially true of our own country, in which a political contest, involving the honor and credit of the nation and which commanded the earnest attention of the civilized world, resulted in a splendid victory for the party that stood for national integrity and good faith.

The year will be memorable in connection with our international relations. The amicable arrangement for settling the Venezuelan boundary controversy by arbitration was a diplomatic triumph highly creditable to this government.

It is safe to say that the indignation of polite Bostonians at having to walk about the city during the street car strike was expressed in good forcible polysyllables.

These repeated annual war scares are doing wonders in the way of stimulating congress to make respectable appropriations for strengthening our coast defenses and fortifications and enlarging and improving our navy.

Mrs. Laase is engaged to lecture to the students of a South Dakota school. If she teaches the young South Dakota idea to shoot with her own fanatic notions on industrial questions, taxpaying parents are likely to wish that their offspring had devoted itself strictly to football and other legitimate sports.

world is on the whole wiser and better than it was a year ago. Great as have been the calamities and misfortunes of the closing year, it has also had its blessings and its compensations. The world is moving forward in civilization and enlightenment, is steadily gaining in all ways that make for the betterment and elevation of mankind.

There is unquestionably much to be said in favor of the adoption of this system, at least so far as the transactions at the custom houses are concerned, but it is hardly probable that it will receive public sanction for use in private transactions. It would necessitate a popular education which the people would not take kindly to and which business men would not care to enter upon.

By far the ablest constitutional lawyer that has occupied a seat in the United States senate within the past quarter of a century is George F. Edmunds of Vermont. Senator Edmunds, who was and is still recognized by his colleagues as authority on questions of constitutional and international law, has this to say concerning Cuban independence:

Cuba has no stability, no autonomy, no constitution, no judicial system, no order of the people and no clear title to the land. The only thing that holds it together is the presence of a few American officials, who know about the affairs of the institutions with which they are connected.

Secretary Olney not only acted properly, but was a patriotic duty for him to make the statement he did. As the official of the government, entrusted with the management of our foreign relations, it was his duty to clearly state the result of his action, and I have no doubt that, if he had taken the opposite view from that which he did, the men who are now denouncing him would have been the first to say he was acting in a perfectly proper manner.

THE METRIC SYSTEM. The question of introducing the metric system of weights and measures into the United States has been more or less discussed for a number of years and it has not met with much public favor.

Omaha must be a most efficient training school for railroad men, judging from the number of local railroad officials who have recently been called from this city to higher and more responsible positions in the railway world.

actions. It is urged that it will be a considerable advantage to importers and to the treasury officials to enforce the metric system at the custom house, for it is the system already employed in the measurement of imports from all leading exporting countries except Great Britain.

The late Congressman Hatch of Missouri, who died last week, was the author of the oleomargarine law and the agricultural experiment station law, as well as of the anti-option bill that bore his name. He assumed it to be his special mission to watch over and promote all proposed legislation designed for the benefit of the farming interests and he was at one time prominently mentioned in connection with the secretaryship of agriculture.

Another anti-lynching crusade might be a salutary check upon the apparently increasing outbreaks of mob violence in the southern and border states. A little agitation now and then against this barbarous form of lawlessness could do no harm and may accomplish considerable good.

It is said that there are congressmen who are actually afraid to go home to spend the holidays for fear that the office-seekers among their constituents might insist on making life a burden for them at just the time when they ought to be basking in sunshine and peace.

There are African race. The list of names of the African race is not overcrowded, and Macao finds plenty of room on its roster, irrespective of its race.

There are Others. Congress is not always a pretty spectacle, but it is a long time since it has given any ground to the charge of ignorance or how much of a blunderer the latter may prove to have been.

A Charity Call Misdirected. Mrs. Annie Boman makes a touching appeal for a New Year's dinner for families stricken India, and if half she relates to her the conditions in some parts of that country are terrible, but we do not see why a nation could be called upon to relieve distress in a British province.

The Curfew Law. The people who want a curfew law which shall require children to go to their homes when the curfew bell tolls have a rational support for their proposition as far as it goes to take unattended and unprotected children of the streets at a proper hour in the evening.

Revivist Moody's Pointed Reply to Infidel Challenges. It is characteristic of Evangelist Moody that he has refused to discuss the merits of Christianity with a prominent secularist member of the Manhattan Liberal club.

The fountain of perpetual youth has again made its appearance—this time in California and a little ahead of schedule. The new discovery is a method of humbling the blimp system against pre-disposition to disease that will enable a man to prolong his life indefinitely.

While it is gratifying from one point of view to note the promotion of men whose work here has commended them to their superiors, it is from another point of view to be regretted that their rise in railway circles takes them to other cities.

German needs no aid to driving their English and American competitors out of the world's markets. German needs, however, should go slow in running up against American manufacturers. Under existing circumstances the drawing of a needle might kindle the spark that would start the commercial war, test the steel of the country, open the eyes of the people and break the already strained thread of diplomatic harmony.

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The most dangerous wrong step is the first one. The reformer is a living declaration of war.

There is such a thing as having great influence with the public, but it is not wisdom to use it in a way that leads to a general strike.

There is a great mistake for the young to despise what the old have learned by experience.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT. Chicago Post: The minister who is under arrest at Pittsburg charged with forgery seems to have made a slip somewhere.

Dubuque Telegraph: The case of Bishop Bonanza is of interest to Catholics, and also important to the hierarchy. Heretofore the bishops have been practically autocrats.

Dakota's Divorce Industry. Pioneer Press: The New York courts have recently taken a nip at the 'old-fashioned' divorce industry.

Chicago Tribune: Divorcees from the South Dakota trade mark are now thrown out of the state by refusing to recognize South Dakota divorces.

Sioux City Tribune: Those men and women who have secured divorces from North Dakota courts and then married again find their domestic relations much mised, and a decided cloud on their title.

Brooklyn Eagle: We need a national divorce law, or an agreement as to a jurisdiction, no longer to quarrel over a woman in New York who gets a divorce from her husband, going to North Dakota for the purpose.

Washington Post: The desirability of uniform laws on the subject of marriage and divorce is universally conceded, and an effort to secure that desideratum, begun some years ago, is still being pushed with strong prospect of ultimate success.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. It is not unusual for the duke of Westminster's charity bill to amount to \$100,000 a year.

Elia Wheeler Wilcox is no longer young and giddy. She has just celebrated her 42d birthday. The "Postman of Passion" was born near Madison, Wis.

Dr. Thomas Dunn English, the venerable author of "Ben Holt," was violently assaulted at his home in Newark the other day by a fanatic who was dissatisfied with his wage for clearing the snow off Dr. English's sidewalk.

Freeman O. Smith of Baltimore took out an accident policy for \$5,000. Afterward he commenced wearing a pair of new shoes, which produced a sore toe. The sore grew worse and blood poisoning set in, resulting in death. The company refused to pay the claim, but the Ohio court, in which the case was tried, decided that it was an accident and the widow gets the insurance.

President Cleveland is really fond of his summer home on Buzzard's bay and shows it by the considerable improvements he is having made there.

PLASHES OF FUN. Harlem Life: "Papa," said young Mrs. Trinker, "won't you please give George my \$100?"

Chicago Tribune: "I've been by a fashion firm in this paper that shirt bosoms are to be made shorter."

Detroit Free Press: "They tell me, Muskat, that your daughter is wedded to a musician."

Atlanta Constitution: "You might put on that old, faded husband to the rural suit, and then you'd look like a 'nigger'."

Chicago Tribune: "You might put on that old, faded husband to the rural suit, and then you'd look like a 'nigger'."

New York Press: "Bind him!" cried the leader of the brigands, "and at the instant of his death we will demand a tidy ransom, \$50,000."

UNANSWERED. I wanted you when the skies were red, And now the sky is gray.

I thought of you when shadows fled, Now falls the end of day, I found you when the hills were flame, And now the hills are bare;

When the little girl went away from home, I found her when the snowflakes came, And now the swallows part.

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THERE ARE KICKERS

Who are such from habit, but their fault-finding rarely accomplishes much. However, we rather like to encounter them because the harder they find fault with our clothing the better friends and customers they become when they discover their mistake.

The fact is that in making our Suits and Overcoats we try to anticipate all the kickers, and, if possible, to leave them without any ground for complaint, either as to goods or prices.

Come in and see for yourself how well we have done it.

