

# BORN IN AN EVENTFUL YEAR--Principal Happenings

## During the Memorable Twelve Months of 1871

During 1871, the year of the birth of The Bee, there occurred some of the principal events in the history of the world. It was during this year that the Franco-Prussian war was being waged. During this year a commission was appointed to inquire into the condition of the republic of San Domingo and learn if it was the desire of the people to be annexed to the United States. During this year the Indian council of Ocmulgee convened for the purpose of organizing a territorial government, adopting the preamble of a constitution and a bill of rights.

In the United States congress, in 1871, the senate passed a bill abolishing the income tax. It was during this year that President Grant appointed a commission to confer with a like commission appointed by Queen Victoria to arbitrate questions affecting the people of British America. There was the impeachment of Governor Holden of North Carolina and the outrages of the Ku-Klux. Later in the year St. Joseph was visited by a hurricane and five persons killed.

During the fall of 1871 the republicans made important gains in about all of the southern states. In October occurred the great Chicago fire, by which \$300,000,000 of property was destroyed and thousands of people left homeless.

The principal events of the year are given in chronological order and are classified as domestic and foreign:

### Domestic.

President Grant appointed Andrew D. White of Cornell university, Senator Wade and Dr. Samuel G. Howe of Boston as the San Domingo commission. They were authorized to inquire into and report on the political state and condition of the republic of San Domingo, also the desire of the people to become annexed to the United States. The commission was accompanied by several scientific men.

The Indian council at Ocmulgee, I. T., convened for the organization of a territorial government of Oklahoma, adopted the preamble of a constitution and a bill of rights.

January 14—The steamer T. L. McGill, from St. Louis to New Orleans, was burned in the Mississippi on Shoo-Fly bar. At least forty-eight lives were lost.

January 26—A bill for the abolition of the income tax was passed by the senate by a vote of 26 to 25, the repeal to take effect from December 31, 1869. The house, on February 7, referred a bill for the repeal of the tax to the committee of the whole.

January 28—Steamer H. R. Arthur burned near Memphis. The boiler exploded and the boat took fire. Nearly ninety lives were lost.

February 4—A bill to organize Alaska into a county, with the county seat at Sitka, and with the public laws and the jurisdiction of Washington (then a territory) extended to it, passed the house.

February 6—Hudson river night express ran into an oil train near Newburg, N. Y. An explosion followed, and the locomotive and one sleeper went through a drawbridge. Twenty persons, including George Benedict, editor of the Cleveland Herald, were killed.

February 9—President Grant appointed the following to represent the United States in a joint high commission, suggested by Queen Victoria, "for the adjustment of questions materially affecting the relations between the United States and the territories and the people of British North America:" Hamilton Fish, secretary of state; General Schenck, Justice

Nelson, ex-Attorney General Hoar and Senator Williams.

February 12—Alice Cary, the well known poetess, died, aged 50 years.

February 16—Lower house of Arkansas legislature passed articles of impeachment of Governor Clayton. The senate could not meet for want of a quorum.

February 20 and 21—The great event of the season at Washington was the grand carnival to celebrate the completion of the wooden pavement on Pennsylvania avenue. The prominent features were a masquerade procession, a ball and a magnificent pyrotechnic display.

February 21—The house, by a vote of nearly two to one, passed the Southern Pacific railroad bill. The bill provided for the construction of a trunk road from Marshall, Tex., to San Diego, Cal.

March 4—House of representatives organized by electing James G. Blaine speaker. The first important act of the senate was the displacement of Senator Sumner from his position as head of the committee on foreign relations. The outrages of the Ku Klux in North Carolina, especially, where life and property were rendered insecure, were followed by the appointment of a congressional committee for the purpose of investigating southern affairs.

March 22—Impeachment trial of Governor Holden of North Carolina concluded. He was convicted on six charges.

March 23—President Grant sent to congress a special message recommending legislation for the suppression of lawless outrages in the south. A bill to more fully enforce the provisions of the fourteenth amendment was passed by the house, April 6, and by the senate, April 14.

March 29—Town of Tuckee, Cal., was almost totally destroyed by fire.

April 2—Four fishing schooners of Gloucester, Mass., were lost in a gale and all on board perished.

April 5—Report of San Domingo commission submitted to senate.

April 7—A serious riot occurred at Scranton, Pa., among the miners. Two coal-breakers were burned and state troops called out.

April 8—A heavy gale swept over Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, doing great damage and involving some loss of life.

An Indian war of considerable proportions was waged in Arizona during the early part of May. Two soldiers and eighty-five Apaches were killed.

May 21—A fire at Alexandria, Va., destroyed a number of buildings famous because of their historical associations.

May 24—Senate ratified the Washington treaty framed by the joint high commission appointed by the British and the United States governments.

May 27—The shaft of a coal mine at West Pittston, Pa., caught fire. There was no other egress for the miners at work and sixteen lost their lives.

During the first few days in June 100 squares of New Orleans, including 2,500 houses, were inundated.

June 12—A hurricane struck Galveston and did great damage during the eight hours it continued. A schooner of St. Johns, Newfoundland, was driven ashore and dashed to pieces. Forty lives were lost.

The United States army was, during June, finally reduced to a peace footing, in accordance with the act of congress of July 15, 1870.

June 24—Cornerstone of the capitol at Albany was laid with impressive ceremonies. There was a procession more than three miles long.

Fifteen persons were killed and twenty-three injured by the giving away of a railroad bridge near Nashville.

July 5—During a storm in Nebraska a train on the Fremont & Blair road was blown from the track. Two lives were lost and fifteen passengers injured.

July 12—Over 100 persons were wounded or killed in New York City during the rioting occasioned by the celebration of the Orangemen and interference on the part of the Catholics.

July 13—A terrible hurricane visited St. Joseph. Five people were killed and many houses destroyed.

July 30—The boiler of the Staten Island ferry boat Westfield exploded. Two hundred persons were injured, over 100 fatally.

August 16—The New York steamer Lodona was wrecked off the Florida coast. Twenty-one lives were lost.

August 26—Twenty-four persons were killed and fifteen injured by the collision of two trains at Revere, Mass.

August 27—The boiler of a steamboat in Mobile bay exploded, killing more than thirty people.

During September the United States authorities made important progress in the conflict with the Mormons in Utah. The prosecution of Mormons guilty of assassinating Gentiles was begun.

The October elections, except those in Texas, resulted favorably to the republican party.

October 2—Brigham Young was arrested at Salt Lake City for polygamy.

On Saturday night, October 7, a fire broke out in Chicago, which proved to be the most destructive conflagration in the history of the country. The fire devastated a district of four and a half miles in length by over a mile in breadth, involving a loss of between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000. About 18,000 buildings of all descriptions were destroyed. Within ten days after the fire over \$5,000,000 had been subscribed for the relief of the suffering.

Awful fires raged during the early part of October in northern Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Over 1,500 persons were burned to death in Wisconsin alone. Manistee, Mich., was almost obliterated, involving a loss of \$1,000,000 above insurance, and the destitution of hundreds of inhabitants.

A number of state elections were held in November. During the year elections were held in twenty-two states, fifteen of which went republican.

Toward the last of October the president was sent a petition, fifty feet long, in favor of polygamy, signed by about 2,500 Mormon women of Utah.

October 24—The murder of an American citizen by a Chinaman at Los Angeles led to a riot. Over \$20,000 worth of property was plundered from Chinamen, of whom eighteen were killed.

A whaling fleet met with disaster in the Arctic

sea. Thirty-three lives and \$1,500,000 worth of property were lost.

December 4—Congress assembled. In the senate there were fifty-six republicans, fifteen democrats and three vacancies. In the house there were 140 republicans and 103 democrats.

The Grand Duke Alexis was feted in many American cities.

### Foreign.

January 2—Prince Amadeus of Italy, despite the great indignation of Spaniards generally, was crowned king of Spain, swearing fealty to the British constitution.

January 10—General Chanzy of the French army, in the Franco-Prussian war, was forced to fight a battle near Le Mans by Prince Charles. After two days of hard fighting the right wing of the French army was routed and the left and center compelled to make rapid retreat. General Chanzy's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners was 40,000; that of the Germans, 20,000. Fifty thousand French troops that had left Cherbourg to reinforce Chanzy were cut off by the breaking of the railway communication at Alencon. This was the most notable engagement of the month.

January 18—Exactly 180 years after the coronation of the first king of Prussia, Frederick I, King William accepted the title and crown of emperor of Germany.

January 26—George Ticknor, author of "History of Spanish Literature," died.

In the Franco-Prussian war the capitulation of Paris occurred on January 28. Articles of armistice agreed upon between Count Bismarck and Jules Favre provided for its continuance until February 19. The object was to convene a French assembly, freely elected, which should decide whether the war should continue, or what terms of peace should be made. With Paris were surrendered 1,900 pieces of artillery and 18,000 prisoners. The delivery of arms was completed February 12. The French elections resulted in making M. Adolphe Thiers chief executive of the republic. In his address to the assembly he urged the necessity of peace, but promised to insist on terms of peace consistent with French honor.

Mont Cenis tunnel, extending seven and one-half miles—from Fournoux, France, to Bardouneche, Italy—was completed in January. The work was begun in the spring of 1858.

February 7—The French transport Le Cerf wrecked on rocks off Cape de la Haque. Number of lives lost, over 1,100.

February 26—Terms of peace accepted by MM. Thiers and Favre and the consultative commission of the French national assembly. France ceded the whole of Alsace and other territory to Germany. The ceded portion embraced 6,000 square miles and contained 1,600,000 inhabitants. France agreed to pay Germany a war indemnity of \$1,000,000,000.

The insurgents issued a proclamation for communal elections, of which the mayors of Paris refused to take notice.

March 1—The Germans made their triumphal entry into Paris. Ex-Emperor Napoleon addressed a communication to M. Grevy, president of the French

National assembly, in which he protested against the vote of the assembly decreeing the fall of the empire. The French assembly met at Versailles March 20. The wisdom of its avoidance of Paris was demonstrated by the rioting of the malcontents in Paris. On March 19 the mob held possession of that city.

During the early part of April occurred a series of unprecedented earthquakes in China. Over 3,000 were killed.

The insurrection in Paris proved itself sufficiently powerful to hold the city against the Versailles government and compelled the latter to institute a siege. Nowhere outside of France did the communist rebellion succeed. The Versailles army was placed under command of General McMahon. There was continual fighting between his forces and the insurgents during April.

April 14—A religious riot, in which Jews were despoiled and violent outrages committed, began at Odessa. It continued for three days and was only put down at the point of the bayonet.

May 10—A treaty of peace between France and Germany was signed at Frankfurt.

The Italian senate and the chamber of deputies passed the bill which tended to banish the last vestige of the temporal power of the papacy.

May 21—Buenos Ayres fell a prey to the yellow fever. In fifty days there were 12,000 deaths. The population of the city was reduced from 200,000 to 40,000.

The last days of the Paris commune were marked by the violence and internal dissensions which had characterized that body from its organization. The Versailles army rapidly approached the city ramparts, and on May 21 entered with but little resistance.

May 17—A naval expedition, consisting of American, English, French and Prussian vessels, set out for Corea for the purpose of endeavoring to make a treaty with Korean authorities for the protection of shipwrecked sailors. After the Korean envoys had made professions of amicable intentions they suddenly opened fire, but were soon driven from their forts.

May 26—Volcanic eruptions in Singapore, killing over 400. A cooile ship with a cargo of 500 or 600 cooiles burned fifty miles off Hong Kong. Few survived.

May 28—The final surrender of Paris by the communists to the government forces. The loss of the latter in taking possession of the city was less than 3,000. The communists had 10,000 killed and 20,000 taken prisoners. The destruction of property and life led to the summary execution of a large number of the captured insurgents.

May 31—Prince Napoleon addressed a letter to M. Jules Favre full of bitter denunciation of the men of September 4, and the policy. He also urged that safety could be found only in a free expression of the popular will.

August 6—A serious riot occurred in Dublin, occasioned by an attempt to hold a meeting in favor of an amnesty for the Fenian prisoners.

Earthquakes throughout Asiatic countries, involving enormous loss of life, were common during August. There were also ravages of pestilence and famine in Persia.

August 26—Charles Scribner, the head of the eminent publishing house, died at Lucerne.

September 2—The court-martial of the communist prisoners of Paris was concluded. A large number received the death penalty.

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