

CHRONOLOGY OF 1890.

RAW MATERIAL FOR HISTORY—RECORD OF A YEAR.

Victims of Steamship Wrecks, Mine Disasters, Fire Horror, Boiler Explosions, Railroad Collisions and Epidemic Disease—Great Floods of the Year—Incidents of Each Month.

The year 1890 opened in unexpectedly as far as accidents were concerned, and the national administration, outside of politics, was singularly unfortunate early in the winter. At the beginning of the social season in Washington the wife of the President suffered an affliction from which she died. The same month the death of Walker Blaine, the oldest son of the chief member of the Cabinet. Within a fortnight Mr. Blaine mourned the loss of his eldest daughter, Mrs. Coppering, and then came the terrible calamity that befell the family of Secular philosopher, the attentive reader will observe that neither wealth nor high official station exempts anybody from the ills of human life.

It is evident that the railroads of the United States lost \$2,000,000 yearly by landslides, \$5,000,000 by floods, \$1,000,000 by fire, and \$6,000,000 by collisions.

Important occurrences follow, with dates:

- 1. Seven steamers exploded in St. Louis, Mo., and many small fires started by electric wires which were broken by a storm.
- 2. Announcement made of the discovery of Cleopatra's tomb in Egypt.
- 3. Fire at Lexington, Ky., created thirty-five deaths, and more than the trooper Bell Boy, for which \$51,000 had been paid, and whose owner had once refused \$100,000 for him; total loss \$350,000.
- 4. Number of cases of influenza (or "la grippe") increased to such an extent that the number of deaths due to the disease was 650. Drunkenness greatly increased at Paris, because physicians prescribed alcohol as a preventive.
- 5. The papal bull on which the government is opposed to Catholicism Catholics must obey the state where such a course does not entail disobedience to the divine laws; also, they must not take the church to any political party. The Spanish State Legislature passed its first bill—to provide for refunding the indebtedness of the States.
- 6. About a thousand fishing boats wrecked off the Fosan coast, Japan; nearly all on board between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per boat.
- 7. Incoming weather at New York reported the worst weather ever before known on the Atlantic Ocean.
- 8. Andrew Charter (colored), aged 8 years, received at the Nashville penitentiary, to serve out a life sentence.
- 9. Near Cascade, Cal., the tracks of the Central Pacific Road were covered by snow to a depth of fifty feet; trains in the Sierras were snow-bound and passengers lived on canned goods for a fortnight.
- 10. Burning of the residence of Secretary of the Navy Tracy at Washington; Mrs. Tracy, his daughter Mary, and a French maid Josephine, all lost their lives.
- 11. Celebration at New York of the centennial of the United States Supreme Bench; addressed made by ex-President Cleveland, Associate Justice Field, and others.
- 12. Explosion in Alabamian colliery, near New Haven, Conn., killing 100.
- 13. In the municipal election at Salt Lake City the Gentiles were successful by over 800 majority, the event being considered the virtual overthrow of Mormon rule in Utah.
- 14. Dead-lock in Iowa House of Representatives ended by compromise, having lasted over five weeks.
- 15. Sixty persons drowned by the giving way of a bridge at Prescott, Arizona.
- 16. Twenty bodies of murdered Indians found on the premises of a widow named Sko-biski, whose house was burned at Warsaw, Poland.
- 17. Loss of the steamer Quetta in Australian waters; 118 persons drowned.
- 18. MARCH.
- 19. Near Chapel Hill, Tex., a half-timber to the depth of eighteen inches to two feet was reported.
- 20. Explosion in the Moras colliery, Glamorganshire, Wales; 88 miners perished.
- 21. Prince Bismarck, Chancellor of the German Empire, tendered his resignation and retired to private life.
- 22. Louisville, Ky., struck by a cyclone; 108 persons killed. Along the line of the Louisville and Kentucky, outside Louisville, 150 persons were killed; at Clay the dead numbered twenty-three.
- 23. Stoker reported as missing in Europe; throughout Catalonia in Spain, 40,000 factory employees and 32,000 shoemakers in England quit work, and the colliers at St. Elo, France, demanded a advance in wages. . . . Leagues along the Mississippi and Ohio, and the vast amount of damage resulted, the town of Skipwith, near Vickburg, was swept out of sight by the water from a large crevasse, and in Deale County, Arkansas, 1,000,000 acres in extent was covered by the flood, the settlers living on the tops of houses and trees and suffering for food.
- 24. MAY.
- 25. At Laurel Fork, W. Va., James Seaton, aged 101, and Mrs. Terence, aged 83, were married; the groomsmen was 81 and the bridesmaids 78. . . . Hermit, the winner of the sensational Epsom Derby of 1867, when 66 to 1 was bet against him, died of old age; he was the property of Henry Chapman, Minister of Agriculture of England, who won a fortune on him.
- 26. Fire in Longue Pointe Lunatic Asylum, near Montreal, Quebec; over 150 lives lost. . . . Burning of the singer sewing machine factory at Elizabethport, N. J.; loss, \$5,000,000.
- 27. Powder explosion at Havana, Cuba, results in loss of thirty-four lives.
- 28. Ellis Island, New York harbor, turned over to the United States Government as a landing place for immigrants. . . . Report that New York entered into an agreement to refuse answering questions of census enumerators touching acute or chronic diseases, or defects of mind or body.
- 29. JUNE.
- 30. Bradshaw, a Nebraska town, laid in ruins by a cyclone.
- 31. Death of the Fourth District of Indiana, universally recognized Congressman William S. Holman the nineteenth time he has been similarly honored by his party.
- 32. Cholera made its appearance at Valencia, Spain, and in Spain.
- 33. Explosion of a stamp in a coal mine at Dunbar, Pa.; thirty-four killed.
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- 43. The lower house of the Louisiana Legislature passed a bill extending the franchise of the latter community twenty-five years; the company is to be paid into the State Treasury \$1,250,000 yearly. In a match race at Sheephead Bay, Long Island, the four-year-old colt Salvator established a record that is likely to remain unbeaten for years—he having ran a mile and a quarter in 2:26.
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