

THE INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER

The Recorder

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SATURDAY, DEC. 26 1908.

The Year 1908 Was Good to Us.

The man who enjoys saying "I told you so" has had numerous signs to encourage the habit since January, 1908, but the end of the year finds him taking to heart Hosea Biglow's advice, "Don't prophecy unless ye know." The business reaction which set in toward the close of 1907 nowhere amounted to an acute disturbance of profitable activities. The depression felt was due to arrive presidential year anyway; hence the responsibility for the unsteadiness noted cannot justly be laid to the panic—if there was a panic.

Pessimists were inclined to look for a social crisis as a sequel to business retrenchment, especially as the national polls invited the masses to voice whatever grievances they might harbor. On the one hand a landslide of radicalism was predicted, even threatened in some quarters, and on the other hand it was feared. Yet nothing unusual happened. A record crop kept the agricultural toilers busy, and in spite of high prices for food products there has not been scarcity anywhere in the land of a degree to warrant putting the entry "Hard times" in the diary of 1908.

Contrary to misgivings at home and abroad, the Pacific cruise awakened no resentment on the part of rival powers interested in the far east. The Japanese accorded the personnel of the fleet a magnificent welcome in port, and the good will of the mikado's government was pledged in the identical notes exchanged Nov. 30 between the two countries by which mutual rights in the Pacific sphere were formally acknowledged. Thus our sole international entanglement was happily solved.

The automobile club responds to the accident indictment with "You're another." It admits that there are reckless drivers, but says that the chief fault lies with pedestrians. According to that, if reckless drivers are abolished pedestrians will insist on breaking their own legs and cracking their own skulls.

Something to cure that "misery in the back" caused by lifting the \$8,000,000 crop from the ground to the granary would be more welcome to most farmers than a dose of moral uplift.

Haiti can muster a good sized army at any time by simply drafting the "generals" in the ranks of presidential aspirants.

Strange how many explanations of things said or written do not explain!

More Vacant Chairs.

Among the scores of Americans distinguished for their public activities who passed away in 1908 it may be said without bias that none will be more often missed the next few years than Grover Cleveland. With the single exception of Grant, whose distinction anyway was gained in the field instead of the White House, no ex-president of the republic since the days of the founders having a personality as marked as that of Cleveland remained so long on the stage to enact the role of foremost citizen and elder statesman. The world of literature lost in Edmund Clarence Stedman a writer with his task completed, yet bearing worthily among his fellows and in the eyes of the cultured public the title "dean of American letters." Closer yet to the popular heart than Stedman, with a pen still active, Joel Chandler Harris had made for himself a place not to be easily filled.

From among the elder statesmen were also taken Senator William Boyd Allison and Senator Redfield Proctor. Journalism lost a past master in Muriel Halstead. The chairs of Dr. Charles Eliot Norton and Dr. Moses Coit Gilman will remain long draped out of respect to scholars who have placed our national culture in their lasting debt. Harriet Hosmer, the sculptor; Louise Chandler Moulton, the author; Bronson Howard, the pioneer native dramatist; Joseph Wheeler, the actor, and Donald G. Mitchell (Ik Marvel)—revered as a sage by the literary guild—all of the old school, yielded honors rather than powers at the summons of the great leveler.

The annual Nobel prize award is an ideal method for getting the whole

world know what has been going on among scientific toilers of late. But for the patient investigation of evidence by competent authorities few outside of technical circles would ever learn who has been doing the greatest work for humanity during the year or what branch of activity has achieved the most valuable result.

A chorus of "let us alone" extending from congress all around to Cuba was the echo to the annual message, notwithstanding that some critics insist that the document was only another sermon.

Even Japan's geisha girls and our chorus girls are asking whether that Washington-Tokyo "mutual interest" confab counts them out or counts them in or counts them not at all.

Notables Banquet at Washington

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The dinner given by the Negro members of the Board of Trustees for the Jeunesse Fund at Gray's cafe last Wednesday evening, while not large in point of numbers, was possibly one of the most representative assemblages of Negroes ever gotten together. Every man there was one with an enviable national reputation and good for something far beyond the ordinary.

Early foremost in that bright galaxy was Dr. Booker T. Washington. It

has been said that tenderness is always a sign of greatness. This is quite true in Dr. Washington's case, for it told that while Major Moton of Hampton Institute, in the course of his remarks was paying glowing tribute to the educator, praising his simplicity and his oneness of purpose and earnestness, when he recited how Dr. Washington refused \$150,000 gift for himself from the world's great ironmaster, saying in his refusal of this princely sum that he did not want money for himself, he only wanted to work and help his race, tear drops, rushing up from a heart as tendering as a woman's dimmed the eyes of Dr. Washington, and intense silence, only broken by the speaker's voice, prevailed about the banquet table as each guest cast furtive glances from the speaker to the great strong-minded but tender-hearted man at the head of the table who is today leading his race onward and upward.

And then in that assemblage was Bishop Abram Grant, whose dowerful physique makes him the cynosure of all eyes, a big man physically and mentally, a man who is as sound as the Biblical truths, an ecclesiastical and civic leader whose influence for good is so very, very helpful.

The medical profession was repre-

sented by Dr. John R. Francis, Dr. A. M. Curtis and Dr. E. D. Williston.

The country furnishes no greater phy-

sicians than this trio.

The legal profession had representa-

tion in the person of Judge Robert H.

Terrill and James A. Cobb, the former

acknowledged to be one of the best equipped

judges that ever sat on the munici-

pal bench, and the latter regarded

as one of the best trial lawyers that

ever appeared in a court. And then

there was Emmett J. Scott, whom

Carnegie has pronounced one of the

greatest private secretaries the coun-

try has produced. Quiet and unobtrusive, modest almost to a fault, an au-

thority on all questions, a man whose

loyalty is spelled with all capital let-

ters.

And Major R. R. Moten, known

wherever Hampton Institute is known

clear visioned, able and earnest, one of

the highest types of Negro nobility.

The name of the old war horse, ex-

Gov. P. B. S. Pinchback, must be an-

nounced or the mention of those pres-

ent would not be complete.

But we cannot enumerate the vir-

tues of all those who composed that

assemblage, and sufficient it is to say

that it was the brightest and brainiest

galaxy of Negroes ever assembled about a banquet board at the Nation's

Capitol. It was quality not quantity

there.

Others present were Ralph W. Tyler,

Bishop W. B. Derrick, J. C. Naper-

ier, R. L. Smith, Rev. John H. Hurst,

Rev. B. F. Watson, Sidney Wittman,

W. T. Vernon, John C. Danby, C. F.

Adams, Wyatt Archer and W. Mc-

Kinley.

Services at Wayman Chapel Sunday

with preaching at 10:45 and 7:45 by

pastor, Rev. A. Jackson. David Adam

class leader and Mr. Comer, Supt. of

the Sundayschool at 4:30, Tuesday

night Official board and Class with W.

B. Clemons leader. Thursday night

Prayer meeting and Trustee Board.

Thanksgiving Report Alpha Home

The ladies of the Alpha Home Asso-

ciation wish to thank the principals

and their assistance at the various

schools for the great efforts they made

in collecting Thanksgiving offerings

for the Home. Great credit is due No.

40, as she took the lead in sending the

largest donations this year: Five bars

of soap, 4 lbs. of coffee, 4 lbs. rice, 1 roll of

mush, 1 lb. dried peaches, 2 lbs. of flour,

1 lb. of hominy, 2 pecks of dried beans,

Rev. Geo. W. Harding, D. D., Pastor.

Our Presiding Bishops, Rev. G. L.

Blackwell was with us Tuesday eve.

Subject, "The matchless Speaker."

Dr. Callis was present, and made a

short address.

Preaching at Allen Chapel Sunday

at 10:45 a. m., and 8 p. m. Sabbath

school at 1:30 p. m., and C. E., at 7 p. m.

The first piano rally by the Junior

choir at 3 p. m. Rev. Sampson pastor

Services at Campbell Chapel by

pastor at 11 a. m., Sunday school at 2

p. m., preaching at 3 and 8 p. m. by

Dr. Marling, our new presiding elder.

Rev. Geo. W. Harding, D. D., Pastor.

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Services at Washington Court House

O., pastor of the A. M. E. Church, is in the city, the

guest of his brother, Rev. G. H. White

and family. He will preach Sunday

at both services.

The choir of Bethel A. M. E. church

will render special music Sunday

morning and evening, Mrs. Maud Beat

ty will sing in the morning, and Miss

McElrath in the evening. Miss Kate

Stewart, organist, J. Wesley Jones,

choirister.

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