

## LOOKING BACKWARD.

### A Glance at Some Leading Events of the Dead Year.

Statistics of the Loss of Life by Disasters of Many Kinds—Hangings, Lynchings, Murders, Suicides, Fires, Embzelements, Etc.

#### THE OLD YEAR AT HOME.

The year 1892, so far as its progress has affected the United States, has been a memorable one in many respects. It will be remembered for the many eminent Americans who have passed away from their various departments of labor; for the remarkable prosperity which has accompanied business interests, and the equally remarkable development of the national resources; for the unprecedented progress of the arts, education and religion, and the splendid benefactions which have made that progress possible.

#### Legislative.

The legislative history of the country is not so copious as it has been in some other years. Congress reassembled January 5 and adjourned August 5. Within that period of seven months the notable events in congress were the refusal of the house to pass a senate joint resolution to send a national vessel with supplies to Russia; the ratification of the Brussels anti-slavery treaty; the passage of the pure food and post office building bills by the senate; the issue of the president's proclamation reimposing duties upon Venezuela, Hayti and the United States of Colombia for refusing reciprocity; the defeat of the free coinage bill; the passage by the house of the Chinese restriction, free wool and free cotton-bagging bills, and the signing of the first named by the president, notwithstanding China's protest; the passage by the senate of the bill for American registry for foreign-built ships and by the house of the huge fifty-million river and harbor bill; the passage in the house of the bill admitting Arizona and New Mexico; the passage of Stewart's substitute silver bill in the senate and the refusal of the house to take it up; and the passage by the senate of the Canadian retaliation bill. In the present session of congress no legislation has been matured, the disposition being to consign everything of importance to the next congress.

#### Foreign Relations.

In our relations with foreign powers several matters of special interest have been adjusted. Early in the year Italy took steps to resume its relations with this country. A modus vivendi was agreed upon, the United States paid a small indemnity, and Baron Fava returned to his post. January 3 Chili expressed regrets for the assault upon American sailors, which were not altogether satisfactory. After much correspondence and an unavailing attempt on the part of Chili to secure Minister Eggn's recall an ultimatum was sent demanding the withdrawal of the insolent Matta letter and complete reparation. This ultimatum finally was accepted by Chili. Ample apology was made and the required indemnity has been received at the treasury. The Bering sea difficulty is on the road to final adjustment. The treaty was signed by Great Britain February 29 and was ratified by the senate March 20, after somewhat voluminous correspondence touching the preservation of the modus vivendi of the previous season. The agreement subsequently was effected. Justice Harlan and Senator Morgan will represent this country as arbitrators. Judge Blodgett, of Illinois, E. J. Phelps, of Vermont, and James C. Carter, of New York, as counsel, and John W. Foster as agent. Lord Hannen and Sir John Thompson will be the English arbitrators, and Baron de Courcelles is one of the French arbitrators.

#### World's Fair.

World's fair matters have played an important part in the congressional record, beginning with the visit to Chicago of members in February last. Two days after the visit the president sent a message to congress recommending the fair appropriation. No important action, however, was taken until July 13, when the senate attached non-liquor and Sunday-closing provisions to the bill. July 27 the house concurred in the five million appropriation, but it enemies, by filibustering on the motion to reconsider the vote, succeeding in cutting the gift in two and reducing it to \$2,500,000 and thus it passed both houses, and the money is now being accumulated by the safe of the souvenir half dollars. Meanwhile the preliminary Columbian celebrations began in New York city October 12 and were followed up in Chicago by the grand dedication pageant, October 19-21, though the public rejoicing was clouded by the illness of the president's wife, which had a fatal result four days later.

#### Political Appointments.

The political appointments of the year have been: January 7, William R. Morrison, James W. McMill and William M. Lindsey, interstate commerce commissioners; William D. McCoy, minister to Liberia, and William B. Hess, consul general to Constantinople; January 16, Lindsey declined the appointment; April 28, T. Jefferson Coolidge, minister to Paris, vice Whitelaw Reid, resigned; May 9, Charles E. Smith, minister to Russia, resigned; June 4, Secretary Blaine resigned, and William F. Wharton was designated as acting secretary; June 20, John W. Foster was appointed secretary; July 1, George D. Johnston, civil service commissioner; July 19, George Shiras, Sr., supreme court; July 21, Andrew D. White, minister to Russia; A. L. Snowden, minister to Spain; Truxton Beale, minister to Greece; July 26, A. B. Hepburn, comptroller of the currency, vice Lacey, resigned; July 27, Watson R. Sperry, minister to Persia; August 7, H. W. Cannon, Senator Jones, F. A. Walker, Senator Allison and Joseph B. McCreary, delegates to the international monetary con-

ference. Mr. Walker subsequently resigning and President Andrews taking his place; November 15, William Potter, minister to Italy; David P. Thompson, minister to Turkey; December 12, Person P. Cheney, minister to Switzerland, and James W. McMill reappointed interstate commerce commissioner; and December 22, Frederick J. Grant, minister to Bolivia.

#### National Politics.

The presidential campaign has been the exciting political event of the year. The republican convention, June 10, nominated Benjamin Harrison for president on the first ballot and Whitelaw Reid for vice president by acclamation. June 23 Grover Cleveland was nominated for president and Adlai E. Stevenson for vice president by the democratic convention. June 30 the prohibitionists nominated John Bidwell for president and J. B. Cranfill for vice president July 4 the people's party nominated James B. Weaver for president and James G. Field for vice president. August 26 the socialist labor convention nominated Simon Wing for president and Charles H. Matchett for vice president. The lists were completed September 23 by the farcical woman suffrage convention, which nominated Mrs. Victoria Woodhull-Martin for president and Mrs. Mary L. Stowe for vice president. It is needless to state the nature of the platforms upon which the various candidates stood. The issue was joined November 8 and Cleveland and Stevenson were elected. As closely as can now be figured the popular vote for Cleveland was 5,617,012; Harrison, 5,184,261; Weaver, 1,001,301; Bidwell, 268,017; Wing, 16,429, in a total of 12,087,020 votes. The electoral vote probably will stand as follows, assuming, as now seems likely, that the vote of North Dakota will be divided evenly between Cleveland, Harrison, and Weaver: Cleveland, 276; Harrison, 148; Weaver, 23. The democratic majority in the house has been reduced considerably, but it is probable that by union with the populists the democrats will have a majority in the senate also.

#### Miscellaneous Events.

Other important events of the year have been the blow dealt at the New Orleans lottery by the decision of the supreme court affirming the constitutionality of the law excluding it from the mails; the failure of the Canadian reciprocity commission at Washington; the three great strikes—July 9, of that of the employees of the Carnegie works at Homestead, accompanied by fatal rioting and the attempted assassination of Manager Frick, and in August; the coal miners' strike in Tennessee and the switchmen's strike at Buffalo—all of which have ended in the discomfiture of the workers and great loss of time and wages; the arrival of cholera steamers at the New York quarantine from Hamburg and the intervention of the federal government to protect the country from the pestilence, entailing the probability that measures will be taken by congress for restricting immigration and strengthening quarantine next year; and, lastly, the alarming illness of Mr. Blaine, which, however, in the closing days of the year took a more favorable turn, giving the shadow of hope that his life may yet be prolonged for some time to come.

#### Our Southern Neighbors.

On this continent Central and South America have had their customary share of revolutions. Honduras and Costa Rica have both been the scene of sanguinary encounters, ending in the defeat of the rebels, and at present there is a boundary quarrel between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Chilians at last have secured an apparently stable form of government. A revolution against the government of Venezuela broke out in March which has been successful. Palacio was forced to resign and is now a fugitive in France, and Gen. Crespo, the leader of the insurgents, has been declared president. In Brazil, in January, President Peixotto was given unlimited power by the legislature, but some of the states are still in rebellion. Our neighbor, Mexico, has elected Diaz president for four years, and he is now dealing with a small rebellion in the northern part of the republic precipitated by the Garza revolutionists. In Canada the most cheering event is the growth of annexation feeling.

#### The Distinguished Dead.

The necrology for 1891 was remarkable for the long list of distinguished names it contained; that for 1892 is hardly less remarkable. The most celebrated names in this country are those of George B. Clarke, the telescope-maker; who died January 1; Gen. M. C. Meigs, the engineer; January 2; Randolph Rogers, sculptor, January 15; Judge Joseph P. Bradley of the United States supreme court, January 22; Dr. Noah Porter, ex-president of Yale college, March 4; Max Strakosch, impresario, March 20; Dr. D. H. Agnew, surgeon, March 22; Walt Whitman, poet, March 26; Cyrus W. Field, financier, July 12; George William Curtis, essayist and editor of Harper's Weekly, August 31; Daniel Dougherty, lawyer and orator, September 5; T. W. Parsons, poet, September 5; John G. Whittier, poet, September 7; Maj. Gen. John Pope, September 23; Patrick S. Gilmore, band leader, September 24; Mrs. Harrison, wife of the president, October 25; Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, explorer, November 2; Theodore Child, art critic, November 20; Alexander H. Wyant, artist, November 29; Jay Gould, capitalist, December 2.

Great Britain has lost Sir George Biddell-Airy, astronomer royal, January 5; Prince Albert Victor, January 14; Cardinal Manning, January 14; Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, January 31; Sir Morell Mackenzie, surgeon, February 3; Lieut. Gen. James Augustus Grant, African explorer, February 11; Prof. Edward Freeman, historian, March 16; Arthur Gorring, Thomas, composer, March 23; John Murray, publisher, April 2; Amelia B. Edwards, novelist, April 15; Alfred Tennyson, poet, October 6; Sir Richard Owen, scientist, December 18.

The prominent Frenchmen were Ed-

ward Victor Antoine Lalo, composer, April 26; Ernest Renan, historian, October 2; Cardinal Lavigerie, the enemy of the African slave traders, November 26. Germany has lost Prof. Theodore Mommsen, historian, February 3; Grand Duke Ludwig IV. of Hesse, March 13; Mme. Brande-Goetz, prima donna, April 19; Robert Franz, composer, October 26; Dr. Ernest Warner von Siemens, electrician, December 6. Besides these the list includes Emile de Valay, the Belgian political economist, January 8; Tewfik Pasha, khedive of Egypt, January 7; Cardinal Simeoni, papal secretary of state, Italy, January 14; Grand Duke Constantine, brother of the czar, Russia, January 25; Francesco Lamperti, music teacher, Italy, May 7; Deodoro da Fonseca, first president of Brazil, August 23.

#### Summary of Disasters.

So far as reported 3,188 lives have been lost on the ocean and 158 on the lakes and rivers of this country (a total of 3,346 as compared with 3,505 last year and 5,015 in 1890), 4,424 by railroads, 657,217 by disasters in the old world and South America, and 7,725 by disasters in the new world, making in all 672,716 as compared with 283,203 in 1891, 114,543 in 1890, 107,013 in 1889, 74,697 in 1888, 199,104 in 1887, 122,701 in 1886 and 387,463 in 1885.

The serious disasters of 1892 have been as follows:

In January 20 were killed by a steam launch accident in Bogota, 8 by a drowning accident in Holland, 12 by a similar accident at Port Townsend, 10 by a coast; 65 by a mine disaster at McAllister, L. T.; 80 by drowning at Tiflis, 19 by the burning of the surgical institute at Indianapolis, and 50 by a falling building at Slobodski, Russia.

In February 40 lost their lives in a flood in Breslau, 20 by the burning of the Hotel Royal, New York; 18 by a railroad accident in Milwaukee, and 300 by a storm along the coast of Portugal.

In March 40 perished by a storm on the coast of Newfoundland, 50 by a railroad accident in Bruges, 215 by a mine disaster at Ardentes, Belgium; 9 by a boiler explosion at East Jordan, Mich.; 13 by a railroad accident at Sonoma, Calif.; 20 by a fire at Manila, and 200 by a fire at Manchuria.

In April 75 lives were lost by a cyclone in Kansas and the Indian territory, 10 by an explosion at St. Petersburg, 230 by a flood in the Tombigbee river, 100 by flood in Japan, 12 by a mine disaster at Minersville, Pa., 24 by fire at St. Petersburg, 12 by a theater fire in Philadelphia, and 45 by fire at Tokio.

In May 20 were killed in a mine in Japan, 15 by a storm in the same country, 44 in a mine at Roslyn, Wash., 30 by the fall of a rink in Buenos Ayres, 60 by drowning in Galicia, 125 by a waterspout in Hungary, 11 in the Andes mine at Butte, Mont., 15 by a cyclone in Kansas, 35 by flood at Sioux City, 27 by an earthquake at the Tropicana, 12 by a hurricane at Minneapolis, 20 by flood in Arkansas, 17 by drowning at Melbourne, 53 by cyclone in Kansas, 21 by fire at Caribell, France.

In June 400 were killed in a mine in Bohemia, 100 by fire at Olmec City and Titusville, Pa., 15 by explosion at the Mare Island navy yard, 15 by lightning at Mollana, Spain, 20 by explosion at Brage, France, 24 by a bridge disaster at Newport, Ky., 50 by a cyclone in Minnesota, 15 by explosion at Brest, France, 24 by a landslide in St. Petersburg, 11 by a cyclone in Japan, 15 by drowning in St. Petersburg, 19 by cyclone at Peoria, 230 by an explosion at the Philippines islands, 10 in a mine in Ireland, and 16 in a mine at Portaventura.

In August 14 perished by fire at Rzecze, Poland, 9 by drowning in Tunis, 18 by drowning at Victoria, B. C., 11 by dynamite explosions in Rome, 80 by flood in Japan, 11 by fire at Tredyfelin, England, 7 in a mine at Swansea, 12 by a flood at Gratz, Austria, and 11 in a mine at Glamorganshire, Wales.

In September 20 were killed in a mine at Hainault, 300 by a hurricane in Japan, 14 by a fire at Olkusz, Poland, 11 in a mine at Bessemere, Mich., and 400 in a second storm in Japan. October 12, 12 by a cyclone in a mine at Shakespear, 14 by a severe accident in Hamburg, 70 by flood in Sardinia, 50 by fire in Cains, 11 by drowning at Douro, Portugal, and 50 by flood in Mexico.

In November 10 were killed by a railroad disaster at Thirsk, England, 25 in a panic at Vinaigera, Austria, 12 by drowning at Jappa, 40 by the fall of a mill in Moravia, 9 by a falling house at Bejar, Spain, 80 by a waterspout in China, and 19 by a storm in Japan.

In December 36 were killed in a mine in Japan, 50 in a mine at Wigan, England, and 14 in a fire at Brest, France.

#### Battles.

Though there have been no great wars during the year yet the loss of life in battles amounts to 26,521, as compared with 22,627 in 1891, 18,789 in 1890 and 40,276 in 1889. The loss is distributed as follows:

The French wars in Africa, 7,463.

Soudan, 100.

The Chinese rebellion, 9,000.

Tonquin, 183.

The Afghanistan revolt, 3,500.

The Venezuelan revolution, 3,975.

Honduras, 300.

Bolivia, 1,000.

Brazil, 1,000.

Aggregate of Casualties.

The complete list of casualties in the old world and South America, where the loss of life was serious enough to be reported by telegraph, including those who perished by disease and battle, was 657,217, as compared with 270,675 in 1891 and 90,890 in 1890.

Various Disasters in the United States.

The following table gives the loss of life resulting from various disasters in this country as telegraphed during the year:

Drownings, . . . . . 3,174.

Cyclones, storms, . . . . . 418.

Lightning, . . . . . 328.

Fires, . . . . . 1,775.

Falling bldgs, etc. 655.

Explosions, . . . . . 790.

Railroad Disasters.

The loss of life by railroad disasters for the year is 4,428, as compared with 3,261 in 1891 and 3,420 in 1890. The number of seriously injured was 8,383, as compared with 2,707 in 1891 and 2,740 in 1890.

Murders.

The total number of murders committed in 1892 shows a large increase, being 6,791, as compared with 5,906 last year, 4,290 in 1890 and 3,567 in 1889. In fact the record of murders during fifteen years past shows a steady increase and unquestionably one out of proportion to the increase in population. The causes of these murders may be classified as follows:

Quarrels, . . . . . 2,027.

Highways kid, 148.

Assaults, . . . . . 789.

Insanity, . . . . . 518.

Outrages, . . . . . 28.

By highwaymen, . . . . . 376.

Strikes, . . . . . 31.

Infanticides, . . . . . 240.

Rioting, . . . . . 2.

Resisting arrest, . . . . . 240.

Suicides.

The number of persons who have committed suicide in the United States during the year is 2,380, as compared with 3,231 last year, 2,640 in 1890 and 2,324 in 1889. The total is much larger than that of any of the eleven preceding years. Of this number 3,055 were males and 805 females. It is somewhat remarkable that physicians continue to head the list of prominent persons who have taken their own lives. Last year there were 23 physicians and 12 clergymen in the sad catalogue, while this year there are 37 physicians and 11 clergymen. The causes of suicide were as follows:

Despondency, . . . . . 1,463.

Liquor, . . . . . 824.

Insanity, . . . . . 520.

Health, . . . . . 278.

Domestic infidelity, . . . . . 255.

Business losses, . . . . . 236.

In these cases of self-murder, 1,900

shot themselves, 1,000 took poison, 608

hanged themselves, 390 drowned themselves, 319 cut their throats, 15 burned themselves, 91 threw themselves before locomotives, 50 stabbed themselves, 56 jumped from windows, 15 froze themselves, 6 starved themselves, 1 killed himself by placing his head under a trichammer, 6 killed themselves with dynamite, and 1 beat his head against a wall.

Hanging.

The number of legal executions during the year was 107, as compared with 123 in 1891 and 103 in 189