

The Evangelist

Vol. LXX.--No. 52

NEW YORK: DECEMBER 28, 1899

WHOLE No. 3640

SONG OF A PILGRIM-SOUL.

Henry van Dyke D.D.

March on my soul, nor like a laggard stay!
March swiftly on. Yet err not from the way
Where all the nobly wise of old have trod—
The path of faith made by the sons of God.

Follow the marks that they have set beside
The narrow, cloud-swept track, to be thy guide;
Follow, and honour what the past has gained,
And forward still, that more may be attained.

Something to learn, and something to forget:
Hold fast the good, and seek the better yet:
Press on, and prove the pilgrim-hope of youth,—
That Creeds are milestones on the road to Truth.

—From *The Builders and Other Poems*.

All Round the Horizon

In this last issue of the year we take a wider view than that within the seven days' bound. The twelve months occupy our field of vision, this year so full of stirring incident, so pregnant in influence upon the years to come!

The most notable feature of current history is the world-wide industrial awakening shared by all the leading nations. The United States is not alone in the unprecedented expansion of manufacturing and commercial interests; yet our unbounded resources and national enterprise give us a foremost place in the onward march of material civilization. The industrial expansion of the last three years in this country is called by a writer in the *London Bankers' Magazine*, "One of the most remarkable economic episodes of our time." There has been, indeed, a too rapid enlargement of corporate capitalization in this direction, leading to the sharp financial spasm of last week in Wall street, which brought ruin to many. But this is not a sign of public adversity, the monetary stricture having been chiefly caused by abounding prosperity which calls for the use of all available capital.

This country has suddenly become a formidable competitor for the trade of the world. We export now over \$40,000,000 worth of goods to the far East. With a continuance of the "open door" policy this may soon increase to \$150,000,000. In Manchuria alone the import of American cotton goods has risen within a short time from 15 to 50 per cent. Our exports of iron and steel products amounted this year to \$85,000,000. The net balance owed us by foreign nations for the last three years has reached the enormous sum of half a billion dollars. With our financial system placed upon an unquestioned foundation, and the continuance of peace, this country seems to be upon the threshold of an unparalleled extension of its industrial and commercial interests.

The century does not end without blood-spots on the map of the world. But forebodings of widespread war among the nations, or a worse shattering of the social fabric, are not fulfilled. Compared with the end of last century the closing year of the present, with these exceptions, opens in peace. Although disturbing conditions and possible premonitions

of more extended strife must be recognized, it is a fact that some threatening questions have been eliminated as causes of future warfare. The presence of Spain in the Western world was such a cause. The dying rebellion in the Philippines will give place to a just and enlightened government, and American sovereignty over the archipelago will prevent the squabble of other powers for that rich fragment of the earth's surface.

No war-cloud appears in the European sky since the Servian and Macedonian troubles were quieted early in the year. The perennial civil conflicts in South American countries have broken out recently in Colombia and Venezuela, with opposite results in the apparent outcome. In Samoa the spring months saw some fighting between the two native parties, in which foreign war-ships took a hand; but future difficulties in that remote field are probably obviated by the amicable division of the islands between Germany and the United States. There remains the lamentable and bloody struggle of Christian peoples in South Africa, which bids fair to be the most costly in which Great Britain has been engaged since the Napoleonic wars. Right and wrong may be found on both sides. The conflict was inevitable if Great Britain was to maintain her supremacy in South Africa and establish her dominion from the Cape to Cairo. All must hope that the result will be for the advancement of Christian civilization.

The year has been a memorable one in the history of Foreign Missions. All the great societies show increased receipts. The work in the foreign field has been encouraging. Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians are formally established at Manila, and though one could wish for a better illustration of Church comity, they are there for the good of the world. J. Hudson Tyler of the China Inland Mission has sounded the bugle call for a forward movement in that empire, urging not only the readiness of the people, and the open doors, but the large sums of money now on hand for new work.

The London Missionary Society under the veteran John Griffith, and the Presbyterian Board, have entered the new province of Hunan, hitherto the anti-foreign province. In Korea the societies at work have found it difficult to keep pace with the ever increasing demands of the people for the Gospel. The revision of the treaties and the opening of all the country of Japan to foreign residents have greatly increased the desire of the natives to learn English and afforded a wider field for the missionary. The edicts restricting education may temporarily embarrass this part of the work, but the outlook in Japan was never more hopeful.

The famines in India and China as in times past are working to the furtherance of the Gospel. The missionary is the one trusted by the native and official alike, and the cause of Christ grows apace in the midst of most terri-

ble suffering and sorrow. General Kitchener's recent proclamation opening the Soudan makes possible a great missionary work in the near future. On the shores of Victoria Nyanza are thousands of Christians ready to push into the regions North—the neglected field of the Soudan.

There is such a thing as making a paper too good, and for this pleasant fault we have to thank a large circle of contributors. Our more serious-minded readers will not blame us for them; the children may perhaps with reason think that they are defrauded of their share and then we beg to have patience, or rather to look back to the Christmas number, when they had a rich feast and forward to the first number in the new year, when it will again be their turn. We have, however, to ask our older readers to wait seven days for a larger part of our review of the year's history, with our missionary reports and much Church news, and to explain to a number of our valued contributors that there are limits to the possibilities even of an anniversary number, and that with the deepest regret we have been obliged to hold over their articles to another week. Especially is this true of an article by Dr. Maurice B. Edwards on Christian Science, and of a noble tribute to Mr. Moody by Dr. Cuyler, for both of which we know our readers will look eagerly next week, and not in vain.

For more than one generation the giving of Handel's great Oratorio, *The Messiah*, has been a notable feature of Christmas week. Never more than now does society need this reminder of the sacred meaning of Christmas-tide. The Oratorio will be given this year by the Oratorio Society, Mr. Frank Damrosch Conductor, on Friday afternoon, December 29 and Saturday evening, December 30. The soloists will be Madame Gadski, Miss Grace Preston, Mr. George Hamlin and Mr. David Bispham.

The New Jersey Historical Society held a service in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Washington on the evening of December 14, in the First Presbyterian Church of Newark. As was most fitting, the pastor, Dr. D. R. Frazer, gave, as a part of the proceedings of the present occasion, sketch of the George Washington funeral services held in Newark, December, 1799. There were also addresses by Gen. William S. Stryker, and Austin Scott LL.D.

A WORD FITLY SPOKEN.

DEAR EDITOR: I am sure we all feel in a congratulatory mood as *The Evangelist* approaches the date when it comes of age, full age. Long may it stand for that liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. A narrow liberalism shocks one. I have appreciated what has seemed to me a finer ethical handling of present controversies in *The Evangelist* since you have taken editorial charge. May you continue your noble defense of a generous liberalism. Most sincerely,

CLEVELAND,

H. W. HULBERT.