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BY R. H. TYSON.

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The Last Decade.

[From the New Jersey Mechanic.]

The ten years recently closed present  
an array of political events, scientific  
achievements, and social convulsions,  
the like of which is not recorded in  
modern history. The old proverb that  
"the mills of the Gods grind slowly,"  
would seem to have a very limited ap-  
plication in these latter days—they  
grind exceedingly fast; so fast that our  
heads swim if we try to watch the pro-  
gress or follow the results. The period  
of time stands unrivalled in the known  
account of time for the importance of  
the results that make up the sum of its  
history. Since the beginning of the  
year 1861, there has hardly anything  
happened which has not excited the  
wonder and moved the sympathies of  
mankind. Mighty empires have been  
overthrown, old dynasties have fallen,  
and great interests uprooted, the most  
ancient of temporal politics has ceased  
to exist, new nations have been created,  
wars have been waged on a scale of  
gigantic proportions and with weapons  
of destructive power; continental railroads  
have been laid down, obstacles in the  
path of commerce have been cut  
through or removed; remote nations  
have been brought into intimate inter-  
course through the agency of electricity  
and steam, while great discoveries in  
science and mechanism have added  
vastly to the means at man's command  
to render the earth subservient to his  
will. "To watch the seventh decade of  
our century," says a popular writer, "it  
is probable that we should have to take  
the greatest of modern centuries, even  
the sixteenth, to which belongs the  
reformation, and saw the beginning of  
those changes, the fruition of which was  
reserved for our own time, and for the  
next age."

This statement cannot be overdrawn,  
as any thinking man will admit, after a  
careful review in his own mind of the  
rapid progress of this period.

In England a great social revolution,  
bloodless it is true, but just as momen-  
tous, has been effected, and is still in  
successful progress. English politics  
and English institutions have been very  
nearly re-modelled. To use the words  
of the Tory party, England is being  
"Americanized." The most astonishing  
aspect of the great changes of political  
opinion in England is that the two  
great reforms were instituted by the  
Tory party. But this Tory liberal-  
ity had its limit, and the country de-  
manded more than the Ministry was  
willing to allow, and so it was left to  
a liberal Ministry under Mr. Gladstone  
to carry out these great reforms. The  
Irish church has been disestablished,  
and other measures of equal benefit in-  
stituted for the good of Ireland. An  
essential change in the English educa-  
tional system has been effected, which  
will make education popular and more  
widely disseminated among the com-  
mon people who most need it.

Of the Continental changes, they are  
so familiar with the people that to ex-  
pate on them would be needless. It is  
appropriate, however, to mention

that the last decade includes the rise  
and consolidation of the Italian King-  
dom, which has made Rome its capital  
by a unanimous vote of the Chambers,  
the occupation of the city to take place  
in July of the present year. Napoleon  
was essentially the father of this King-  
dom; but the overthrow of the father  
was necessary, that the child should  
fulfill its appointed mission. It was but  
ten days after Napoleon was taken a  
prisoner at Sedan, that King Victor  
Emanuel marched upon Rome with his  
army, and in less than a month the  
Papal States were united to the King-  
dom by an almost unanimous vote of  
the people.

To-day the leading and most power-  
ful nation on the Continent is formed  
by the union of Germany with Prussia  
into a homogeneous whole, under Wil-  
liam as Emperor.

The revolution in Spain has resulted  
in giving to that distracted country as  
much civil liberty and internal order as  
she is fairly capable of at present. In  
the person of her King, a son of the  
House of Savoy, which sits on the  
throne of Italy, she has secured as  
capable and influential a sovereign as  
she could well expect to get. So far,  
he has certainly proved himself a  
capable and energetic ruler whose whole  
heart and soul is with his people, and  
whose every effort is to elevate them  
and improve their condition, morally,  
socially, politically and financially. To  
this extent he is a success.

In Russia, civilization has made the  
same wonderful strides of progress, in-  
tensified, and on a scale of grandeur  
unexampled. The last decade has wit-  
nessed the emancipation of the serfs,  
25,000,000 in number, and the creation  
of a common free school system only  
excelled by that of this country in  
magnificent development. The iron  
roads connect distant parts of the vast  
empire, and telegraphs extend from the  
capital to the most distant outposts  
of the army on the desert of Turkestan,  
or the foot hills of the Himalayas, or at  
the great wall of China, and every day  
those outposts are advanced further and  
farther, asserting the determination of  
the Cossack to stop short at nothing  
but universal dominion. As an enlight-  
ened and intelligent nation, Russia now  
ranks second to Prussia, and as a civil-  
izer for the wild hordes of Asia, she is  
doing incalculable good.

Civilization and Christianity march  
hand in hand along to the occupation of  
the promised land. China and Japan  
have been partially opened to "outside  
barbarism," and will soon discover the  
great benefit of the change. The Gov-  
ernment of British India has instituted  
many reforms; Turkey, Egypt, and  
other semi-barbarous powers are becom-  
ing somewhat liberalized; the great  
Island of Madagascar has become highly  
civilized, and material improvements  
have greatly enlarged their borders on  
the continent of Africa. All this indi-  
cates what the material progress of the  
decade has been. The completion of  
the Pacific Railroad, the Suez Canal,  
the ocean telegraph and the Mont Cenis  
tunnel through the Alps has given a  
prodigious impetus to the course of  
human progress, and enormously aug-  
mented the aggressive power of man  
over the obstacles of nature. The pro-  
gress in scientific discovery, arts and  
learning has been equally great.

Job No. Two.

A certain good-natured old Vermont  
farmer preserved his constant good na-  
ture, let what would turn up. One day  
one of his men came in, bringing the  
news that one of his red oxen was dead.  
"Is he?" said the old man, "well, he  
always was a breechy cuss! Take his  
hide off and send it down to Fletcher's,  
it will bring the hard cash." An hour  
or so afterwards the man came back  
with the news that "Limeback and his  
mate were both dead." "Are they?"  
said the old man, "well I took them of  
B. to save a bad debt that I never ex-  
pected to get; it is lucky it ain't the  
bridles." After the lapse of another  
hour the man came back again to tell  
him that the night bridle was dead.  
"Is he?" said the old man, "well, he  
was a very old ox; take off his hide and  
send it down to Fletcher's; it's worth  
cash, and will bring more than any two  
of the others." Hereupon his wife, who  
was a very pious woman, reprimanded  
her husband severely, and asked him if  
he was not aware that that loss was a  
judgment of Heaven upon him for his  
wickedness. "Is it?" said the old  
fellow, "well, if they will take the  
judgment in cattle, it is the easiest way  
I can pay it!"

"Is molasses good for a cough?" asks  
a youth with a heavy cold. It ought  
to be, it is sold for consumption.

TOOLS TO WORK WITH.

[From the Journal of Education.]

No intelligent farmer, we opine,  
would send a hired man into the field  
to put in a crop of wheat, without sup-  
plying him with teams, plows, harrows,  
and the various implements needed for  
the effective performance of the work.  
The farmer knows that upon the man-  
ner in which the seed is planted will  
depend the question of a profitable re-  
turn for the labor. Looking beyond  
the planting, beyond the growth, be-  
yond the harvest, he sees in imagina-  
tion, a bountiful store of his sustaining  
element, and a replenished purse, pro-  
phetic of added comfort, luxury, social  
consequence and power. Such results  
as he desires can only be secured by  
right beginnings, hence no care nor  
expense is spared to get the seed depos-  
ited in the well prepared soil, under  
the most favorable auspices.

The same intelligent farmer, it may  
be, is a member of the district board—  
the director—in a school district. He  
also has children to send to school who  
possess powers and capacities that only  
need to be developed to insure intellec-  
tual eminence. Yet our intelligent  
farmer, the school district director, the  
father of children whose infant years  
are full of promise, proceeds at the pro-  
per time to make diligent search for a  
"cheap teacher," which having se-  
cured, he considers his duty discharged  
and himself exonerated from further  
care.

The "hired man," whose labors  
bring material prosperity, is set to work  
in a broad and beautiful field made fer-  
tile by agricultural art, given tools to  
work with, and subjected to careful and  
personal supervision, lest some part of  
his work should be neglected.

The teacher, on the contrary, whose  
high mission is to plant in the hearts of  
children the germs of intelligence, vir-  
tue and truth, is suffered to toil on  
within four narrow deserted walls,  
every aspect of which inspires disgust  
instead of hope, unvisited, unless it be  
to mete out harsh censure, unnoted,  
save in the distorted picturings of  
study-hating urchins, and with none of  
the implements of the teacher's art to  
aid in the operations of imparting in-  
struction. What wonder that schools  
languish and teacher's fail! What  
wonder that the best talent seeks other  
and more appreciative avenues of use-  
fulness!

The state of affairs above indicated  
may not exist, to the extent described,  
in all our schools, perhaps not in many,  
but it is undeniable that apathy, lack  
of interest and ill-judged economy pre-  
vails much too generally.

Whether viewed from a public or  
private standpoint, there is no subject  
that ought more earnestly to engage  
the attention of all than that of the  
common schools. It is there that the  
seed is planted which will either take  
root and develop into a plant of beau-  
tiful proportions, bearing in profusion  
the fruit of civilization and progress, or  
dwarfed by barren and unwise culture,  
produce but ragged thorns and bram-  
bles, yielding blasted and bitter fruit—  
ignorance, vice, crime. Make the  
school-houses attractive, pleasant, home  
like; supply them with blackboards,  
maps, and other essentials; visit the  
schools often, and interest yourselves in  
what you see; encourage teachers and  
pupils, and be assured that in no other  
way can time and money be expended  
more usefully.

Carrots for Horses.

The value of carrots for horses is  
thus stated in Youatt and Spooner's  
valuable work on the horse, and similar  
statements are made in the other horse  
books:

The virtues of this root are not suf-  
ficiently known, whether of contributing  
to the strength and endurance of the  
sound horse, or the rapid recovery of  
the sick one. Half a bushel will be a  
fair daily allowance. There is little  
providence of which the horse is fonder.  
The following account of the value of  
the carrot is not exaggerated: "This  
root is held in much esteem. There is  
none better, nor perhaps so good.  
When first given, it is slightly diuretic  
and laxative, but as the horse becomes  
accustomed to it, these effects cease to  
be produced. They also improve the  
state of the skin. They form a good  
substitute for grass, and an alternative  
for horses out of condition. To sick and  
idle horses, they render grain unneces-  
sary. They are beneficial in all chronic  
diseases connected with breathing, and  
have a marked influence upon chronic  
cough and broken wind. They are ser-  
viceable in diseases of the skin, and in  
combination with oats, they restore a  
worn out horse sooner than oats alone."

Senate Report on the Overland Railroad  
Question.

From the above-named report we  
learn that the price paid before the war  
for the transportation of the mails over-  
land to the Pacific Coast was \$1 30 per  
100 lbs for every 100 miles. The  
highest price paid to the railroad for  
transportation is not more than 25 cents  
per 100 lbs. for every 100 miles, show-  
ing a saving during the years 1868, '69  
and '70 of about \$17,551,666, which  
the committee claim would pay all  
arrears of interest now due upon bonds  
issued to the Pacific Railroad Company  
more than three times over. We ex-  
tract the following from the Report:

"The Secretary of War on the 15th  
of February, 1871, in answer to a resolu-  
tion of the Senate, estimates the cost  
of the military service, through the  
War Department, in guarding the over-  
land route from the Missouri River to  
the Pacific Ocean, from the acquisition  
of California to 1864, a period of six-  
teen years, at about \$100,000,000, and  
states that this sum is "rather below  
than above the true cost of the service."  
This sum would equal \$6,250,000 per  
annum for the entire period. As this  
expense was constantly increasing, the  
annual cost at the time of the opening  
of the Pacific Railroad must have been  
much greater.

The expenses of the Indian service  
for the same period, as shown by the  
report of the Commissioner of Indian  
Affairs, was over \$560,000 per annum,  
and the mail service averaged a little  
less than \$1,000,000 per annum for the  
whole time; but in the year 1864 it  
had reached \$1,296,000 per annum,  
and was increasing with the population  
of the Pacific Coast. These sums  
together make an average annual cost,  
from 1848 to 1864, of over \$8,000,000.

These statements fully corroborate  
the statement of Secretary Stanton and  
of the Chairman of the Senate Commit-  
tee on the Pacific Railroad, made in  
1862, that the cost of this Government  
service at that time was about \$7,500,-  
000 per annum, and that this cost was  
annually increasing.

The whole amount of the bonds issued  
in aid of all the Pacific railroads is  
\$64,618,832. The annual interest on  
the same is \$3,877,129 92. The earn-  
ings thus far have paid about 30 per  
cent. of the interest, which, deducted  
from the annual interest, leaves the net  
annual expenditure for interest \$2,-  
713,991.

The net result to the United States  
may be thus stated:

The cost of the overland service for  
the whole period from the acquisition of  
our Pacific Coast possessions down to  
the completion of the Pacific Railroad,  
was over \$8,000,000 per annum, and  
this cost was constantly increasing.

The cost since the completion of the  
road is the annual interest—\$3,877,-  
129—to which must be added one-half  
the charges for services performed by  
the company, about \$1,163,138 per  
annum, making a total annual expendi-  
ture of about \$5,000,000, and showing  
a saving of at least \$3,000,000 per  
annum.

This calculation is upon the basis  
that none of the interest will ever be  
repaid to the United States, except  
what is paid by service, and that the  
excess of the interest advanced over  
freights is a total loss.

In this statement no account is made  
of the constant destruction of life and  
private property by Indians, of the large  
amounts of money paid by the Secre-  
tary of the Treasury as indemnity for  
damages by Indians to property in the  
Government service on the plains under  
the Act of March 3d 1849, of the in-  
creased mail facilities, of the preven-  
tion of Indian wars, of the increased  
value of public lands, of the develop-  
ment of the coal and iron mines of Wy-  
oming and Utah, of the value of the  
road in a commercial point of view in  
utilizing the interior of the continent,  
and in facilitating trade and commerce  
with the Pacific Coast and Asia, and  
above all in cementing the Union and  
furnishing security in the event of  
foreign war.

Some years ago, a young man of  
culture and good taste went to hear a  
well known ranter. Getting disgusted  
before the sermon was half through, he  
left his seat and was going on tip-toe  
toward the door, when the preacher  
roared out; "Young man, had you  
rather go to hell than hear me preach?"  
Somewhat startled at first, the young  
man faced about, and, with a graceful  
bow responded: "On the whole, parson  
I think I would."

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