

What a Generation Has Witnessed.

A CURE FOR THE FEMINIST.

It is sometimes well for those who fear that the world is on the retrograde—that we are constantly sliding down from some golden age of the past toward sure destruction—to mark off a given period within their remembrance, and set stakes from which to measure the actual progress that has been made.

The year 1880 will mark a new stadium. It leaves but twenty years ere we shall need to change the dates of our era; and those twenty years—if we may follow Paul's race-course illustration, will constitute the home stretch of the nineteenth century. If, as is alleged, there is a kind of geometrical progression in the movement of human events and influences, this closing period must be more fruitful of results than any twenty years that have ever yet been numbered. Especially does this seem probable when we consider how certain great events which are still fresh in the memory of living men have revolutionized the means and facilities for reaching and influencing all parts of the world. If we look back to the middle of the century, and embrace a period about equivalent to the average life of a generation, we shall see that the advances made in that time have affected all races and changed the whole face of the world. Thirty-three years ago our own country was cursed with slavery; slavery in the market and on the plantation; slavery in Congress and in the courts. It compromised the pulpit and the press, and affected the public sentiment of the North as well as of the South. Now, although difficult problems yet remain, the reproach of the nation is removed and the colored race is free. At that time there was no civilization in California, and very little on the Pacific Coast. The question of boundaries was but recently settled in the North-west, and Alaska was a Russian possession. Until the courageous overland journey of missionary Whitman, it was scarcely known whether such journeys across the mountain ranges were practicable, or whether this Republic could ever extend its power beyond the Atlantic Slope. Now we behold a full-fledged Christian civilization, though scarcely yet a generation old, extending from British Columbia to Mexico. The Atlantic and Pacific, both flanking the Republic through equal latitudes, are joined together by railroad lines and telegraphic wires, and all parts of our country, from ocean to ocean, are being settled and prepared for the influence which they are to exert in the world's future history.

Up to the time of this providential development of the Pacific Coast, Japan was the most exclusive of all nations. But having been opened in the years 1853 and 1854 to the commerce and Christian influence of the world, Japan has shown greater advancement in civilization in a score of years, than was made by some European nations in whole centuries of time. Indeed, has not the world, as a whole, made greater progress in the period of this one generation than mediæval Europe could be said to have gained from the tenth century to the fifteenth?

A generation ago China could scarcely be said to be open to foreign intercourse. There were only four or five parts that were accessible. Missionary work upon the mainland had scarcely made a beginning. Now, in all the great points of influence from Newchang on the north, to Canton on the south, are found the missionaries of a score of efficient organizations, American, British, Swiss, and German; and not less than fifteen thousand converts have been gathered into well-established and partially self-supporting churches. Translations of the Bible into the various

dialects have been made, institutions of learning established, all the beginnings of Christian effort and influence thoroughly initiated. Meanwhile, despite the evil influences of the opium trade, and the many vices of foreigners disgracing the Christian name, Christianity has won respect; and within the last year some of the noblest testimonies have been given by Chinese officials to the magnanimous and heaven-born charity which has been displayed by missionaries and their disciples toward the famished and perishing.

Within this generation a noble victory has been gained for the Gospel and for humanity in the islands of the Pacific. For years it has seemed a question whether all the toils and privations and even martyrdoms of missionaries were sufficient to counteract the combined and determined efforts of merchantmen, whalers, coolie kidnapers, and French and American naval officers, who sought to make those islands a hunting ground for slaves and a paradise of lust. The question is now so far settled that the Sandwich Islands are recognized as a Christian nation; and the English Governor of Fiji tells a London audience that he also is the ruler of a Christian people. As to the Samoan coolie trade, the martyrdom of such a man as Bishop Patterson has stung the heart of the British nation with shame, and reformed the labor traffic of her colonies. The several groups of Polynesia now number 80,000 church members, and in many instances their missionaries are laboring in the regions beyond. In this same period, Australia, from being little more than a penal colony, has become a great insular continent with boundless resources, great commercial cities, school and colleges, Bible societies and missionary organizations, and all the forces of an aggressive Christianity. Within a few months one of her bishops has bequeathed \$1,250,000 to the spread of the Gospel. Thirty years ago the very name "New Zealand" was a synonym for savagery; now the boasted "Albion of the South," has sprung into the van of modern progress, and gives promise of a noble Christian influence. Within the remembrance of this generation Siam had scarcely taken her first step in modern civilization, and the beginnings of missionary effort on her shores seemed almost hopeless. But recently Siam has shown peculiar interest in Christian nations. Her king has honored our American ex-President, has publicly expressed his welcome to our missionaries, and has given prestige to their work by large personal contributions. At Singapore and Penang, and through the Straits of Malacca, where piracy rendered commerce unsafe, the British power has established order, and bids fair to tame the wildness and develop the resources of the whole Malay Peninsula. Navigation and commerce through all the East are thoroughly established, together with postal facilities and even ocean cables.

A generation ago India was held with precarious tenure, by a sordid and unprincipled mercantile establishment. Since then its crimes and follies have been rebuked. Its encouragement to heathenism, and hostility to missions have called down judgment. In dark days of bloodshed and horror, the handwriting of its doom appeared. Its sceptre was taken away and it gave place to the established empire of the British Sovereign. Since then the cause of missions has been honored—even publicly honored—by representatives of the Government. The work of material improvement, of education, of social reform, and of evangelical religion has grown apace. Meanwhile Ceylon is fast becoming a British plantation, and the fixed abode of British institutions, and the haven of the Gospel is making gradual progress.

From Ceylon we look away north-

ward and eastward to Burmah, with noble Baptist missions and its tens of thousands of Christians Karens; and we can but exclaim, "What, even in our generation, hath God wrought!"

During the past thirty years marvelous transformations have occurred in Madagascar. Within the memory of those still in middle life, Madagascar presented scenes scarcely paralleled by the savage persecutions of Nero and Domitian. Now the country is ruled by a Christian Queen. The scene of its former martyrdoms is occupied by a memorial church. Missionaries are sent forth with public exhortations by the Prime Minister; and except in the remote districts Madagascar may be said to be one of the most thoroughly Christian countries in the world.

Within the same period great advances have been made in South Africa. In spite of all the wrongs inflicted by ungodly Boers and Britons, and by which the early labors of Vanderkemp and others had seemingly been rendered almost void, the later effort of consecrated men and women devoted to mission work, and the more enlightened statesmanship of such men as Sir Bartle Frere, have made South Africa in the main a Christian country. It is not only a mission field, but a new source of missionary influence for the interior.

And West Africa! That name at which all Christian nations might blush with shame! Its horrors had not ceased thirty years ago. The slave trade which flourished for two centuries was abolished only in name. The broad Atlantic still witnessed the horrors of the middle age. Lagos, hidden behind her lagoons, was still the skulking place, the spider's nest of the hideous traffic. But now the church spire of Lagos is the landmark by which merchant ships are guided to the opening of that lagoon, and the port which now thrives with a legitimate commerce.

Great things have been accomplished in the transformation of Egypt in this same period; in place of the savage and deficient Mahomet Ali, we find the pliant young Viceroy of a progressive country, whose policy is shaped by European Powers. Egypt is now not only open to successful missionary effort, but by great material changes it has become the gate to India by the navigable Isthmus, and to Central Africa by the protected Nile.

In the same time Abyssinia had been compelled to adopt a more humane policy; and last of all, the Sultan of Zanzibar has been led to abolish the East African slave trade; and he has attested his sincerity by aiding in the erection of a church on the site of the old slave market in his capital.

Two decades of exploration have transformed those interior regions once so vaguely designated on the maps as "Ethiopia," into noble plateaus, diversified with lofty mountains and fertile valleys, interspersed with great lakes, drained by mammoth rivers, and peopled with stalwart races of men hitherto unknown. And with the interest now felt in Africa, and the beginning already made, it is to be hoped that another generation may see every part of it penetrated with missionary influence.

The last thirty years have seen Rome disenthralled from the temporal power of the Papacy; Lombardy and Venice relieved from the tyranny of Austria; Naples rescued forever from the vice and oppression of a Bombr; a large part of European Turkey delivered from the dominion of the Turk; France relieved from the grasp of a perjured usurper; Germany united and aggrandized; Russia purged from the stain of serfdom; and Greece, after four centuries of oppression, and a half century of sanguinary struggles, finally established in constitutional self-government. Asiatic Turkey is placed under the

protectorate of England, and is already beginning to be opened by railroad and telegraph lines, and by inevitable reforms.

Re turning to our own continent, with which we began; we find that Mexico has within the period named, burst away the shackles of superstition and sacerdotal tyranny that had bound her hand and foot for more than two centuries, has resisted the efforts made to place her under an Ultramontane empire, and now stands forth a free republic, fostering religious liberty, welcoming the Bible, and already presenting missionary success scarcely unequaled elsewhere.

We have seen the revival of all enterprise, all moral and social as well as material advancement in Brazil, under her present enlightened Emperor. Brazilian slavery is abolished and religious freedom fully guaranteed while the solid foundations of missionary enterprise have been laid. On the Pacific coast also the various Spanish Republics have wearied of the old yoke of the Papacy; and within five years, a leading statesman, since elected President of Chili, has openly advocated the reading of the Bible in schools as the most important step in real national advancement.—*Christian Statesman.*

The Power of Sympathy.

In the *S. S. Times* we find this pretty illustration by Rev. Dr. C. S. Robinson:

Once I knew a working man, a potter by business, who had one small invalid child at home. He wrought at his trade with exemplary fidelity, being always in the shop with the opening of day. He managed, however, to bear each evening to the bedside of the "wee lad," as he called him, a flower, or a bit of ribbon, or a fragment of crimson glass, indeed, anything that would lie out on the white counterpane, and give color in the room. He was a quiet, unselfish Scotchman; but never went he home at nightfall without some toy or trinket, showing he had remembered the wan face that lit up when he came in. I presume he never said to a living soul that he loved that sick boy so much. Still he went on patiently loving him. And by-and-by he moved that whole shop into positively real but unconscious fellowship with him. The workmen mane curious little jars and teacups upon their wheels and painted diminutive pictures down the sides before they stuck them in corners of the kiln at burning time. One brought some fruit in the bulge of his apron, and another some engravings in a rude scrap-book. Not one of them all whispered a word, for this solemn thing was not to be talked about. They put them in the old man's hat, where he found them; so he understood all about it. And I tell you seriously, that entire pottery full of men rather coarse fier by nature, grew quiet as the months drifted becoming gentle, kind and some of the ungoverned ones stopped swearing, as the weary look on their patient fellow-worker's face told them beyond any mistake that the inevitable shadow was drawing nearer. Every day somebody did a piece of his work for him, and put it up on the sanded plank to dry; thus he could come later and go earlier. So, when the bell tolled, and the little coffin came out of the door of the lowly house, right around the corner out of sight, there stood a hundred stalwart working-men from the pottery with their clean clothes on, most of whom gave a half-day of time for the privilege of taking off their hats to the simple procession, filing in behind it, and following across the village green to its grave that small burden of a child, which probably not one of them had ever seen with his own eyes.

—A rocking-chair is just as necessary to a woman's comfort as a mantel-piece or window-sill is to a man's.

Mosaic.

—This is how the destruction of the great Alexandrian Library came about: Said Omar: "Either these books are in conformity with the Koran or they are not. If they are they are useless, and if not they are evil: in either event, therefore, let them be destroyed." Such was the logic that led to the destruction of 700,000 manuscript volumes.

—A bunch of hair from the head of each president is preserved in the patent office at Washington City. The custom began in the days of Washington.

—The income of the czar of Russia is \$25,000 a day, the sultan of Turkey \$18,000, the emperor of Austria \$10,000, the emperor of Germany \$8,200, the king of Italy \$6,400. The president of the United States worries along on \$136 a day.

THE SABBATH.—What would the world be without it? It is welcomed by us not only as a day of rest, but by the Christian it is especially appreciated when he reads that "the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

—In South Norwalk, Conn., live two brothers named Finch, who resemble each other so exactly that it is impossible to tell which is which. One of them was fined for fast driving recently, and both brothers appeared before the justice saying that they were willing to pay the fine if it could be proved which was the guilty one. This could not be done, and the case was dismissed.

—Liberty, courtesy, benevolence, unselfishness, under all circumstances, and toward all men—these qualities are to the world what the linchpin is to the rolling chariot.—*Buddha.*

—Rev. Joseph Cook says that there are six books that have made him mostly what he is. *The Commercial Advertiser* takes the liberty of trying to guess, as follows: The Bible, Shakespeare, Webster's Dictionary, Browning's Poems, the Boston Directory, and Bartlett's Dictionary of Quotations.

MADAGASCAR.—During the past thirty years marvellous transformations have occurred in this island. Within the memory of those still in middle life, Madagascar presented scenes scarcely paralleled by the savage persecutions of Nero and Domitian. Now the country is ruled by a Christian queen. The scene of its former martyrdoms is occupied by a memorial church. Missionaries are sent forth with public exhortations by the prime minister; and except in the remote districts, Madagascar may be said to be one of the most thoroughly Christian countries in the world.

—The present head of the most celebrated Mohammedan college, the University ElAzhar, at Cairo, is a Jewish convert, Abbasi—according to Ebers, a son of a prominent Israelite—whose conversion to Islam occasioned at the time considerable excitement. He has 10,000 students and 300 professors under his control, and receives \$10,000 yearly, and a palace for residence.

A MINUTE.

A minute, how soon it has flown!
And yet, how important it is!
God calls ev'ry moment His own,
For all our existence is His;
And though we may waste them in folly
and play,
He notices each that we squander away.

MEMORIES.

Sing a low song!
A tender cradle measure sweet and low,
Not sad or long,
But such as we remember long ago.
When Time, now old, was flying
Over the sunny seasons, bright and fleet,
And the red rose was lying
Among a crowd of flowers all too sweet.

—A drunken Congressman said to Horace Greeley one day: "I am a self-made man." "Then, sir," replied the philosophical Horace, "the fact-relieves the Almighty of a great responsibility."