

EPOCH VI.

RECONSTRUCTION AND PASSING EVENTS.



JOHNSON'S ADMINISTRATION.*

(SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENT: 1865-1869.)

THE death of Lincoln produced no disorder, and within three hours thereafter the Vice-President, Andrew Johnson, quietly assumed the duties of the Presidency.

Disbanding of the Army.—At the close of the war, the Union army numbered 1,000,000 soldiers. Within six months, they had nearly all returned home. Thus the mightiest host ever called to the field by a republic went back without disturbance to the tranquil pursuits of civil life. In a short time, there was nothing to distinguish the soldier from the citizen, except the recollection of his bravery. Other nations prophesied that such a vast army

Questions on the Geography of the Sixth Epoch.—Locate Raleigh. Heart's Content, and St. John's, Newfoundland (see map, Epoch II.). Alaska. St. Albans, Vt. Buffalo. Mt. Pleasant, O. (map, Epoch V.). West Point. Chicago. Boston. Duluth. Puget's Sound. San Francisco. Klamath Lava Beds, Oregon.

* Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh, N. C., 1808; died, 1875. When ten years old, he was apprenticed to a tailor. Never having been at school, he yet determined to secure an education. From a fellow-workman, he learned the alphabet, and from a friend, something of spelling. Thenceforth, after working ten to twelve hours per day at his trade, he spent two or three hours every night in study. In 1826, he went west to seek his fortune, with true filial affection carrying with him his mother, who was dependent on his labor for support. After his marriage at Greenville, Tenn.,

could not be disbanded peaceably. The republic, by this final triumph of law and order, proved itself the most stable government in the world.*

Domestic Affairs.—*Reconstruction Policy of the President.*—Johnson recognized the State governments that, during the war, had been formed in Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana, under the protection of the Union army. In the other States, he appointed provisional governors, and authorized the calling of conventions to form loyal governments. These conventions accordingly met, repealed the ordinances of secession, repudiated the Confederate war debt, and ratified the amendment which Congress had offered abolishing slavery. On these conditions, Johnson claimed that the States, having never been legally out of the Union, should be restored to their rights in the Union. He also issued a proclamation of pardon to those who had engaged in secession, except certain classes,† on the condition of taking the oath of allegiance to the United States.

In 1868, on Christmas day—most fitting time for deeds of good-will—a UNIVERSAL AMNESTY was declared.

The Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery, having been ratified by the States, was declared (December 18, 1865) duly adopted as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

he continued his studies under the instruction of his wife, pursuing his trade as before by day. His political life commenced with his election as alderman. He was successively chosen mayor, member of legislature, presidential elector, State senator, congressman, governor, and United States senator.

* A grand review of the armies of Grant and Sherman, two hundred thousand strong, took place in the presence of the President and his Cabinet. For twelve hours, this triumphal procession, thirty miles long, massed in solid column twenty men deep, rolled through the broad avenues of the Capital.

† Many of the persons thus excluded obtained pardons from the President by personal application. One complaint against him was the readiness with which he granted such pardons.

Public Debt.—The annual interest on the debt was now (August 31, 1865) over \$150,000,000. The revenue from duties on imported goods, taxes on manufactures, incomes, etc., and from the sale of revenue stamps, was \$322,000,000. This provided not only for the current expenses of the government, and the payment of interest, but also for the gradual extinction of the debt. It is a striking evidence of the abundant resources of the country that, in 1866, before all the extra troops called out by the war had been discharged, the debt had been diminished \$71,000,000.

Reconstruction Policy of Congress.—On the assembling of Congress, decided ground was taken against the policy of the President. It was claimed that Congress alone had power to prescribe the conditions for the admission of the seceded States. His proclamation and orders were treated as of no value. The Freedmen's Bureau, Civil Rights, and Tenure-of-Office bills* were all passed over the President's veto.

The Seceded States Admitted.—Tennessee promptly ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, and was restored to her former position in the Union. The other provisional governments having refused to do so, a bill was passed placing those States under military rule. The generals in command caused a registry of voters to be made, and elections to be held for conventions to remodel the State constitutions. After a bitter and protracted struggle, governments were finally established in Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and North and South Carolina,† and their repre-

* The first bill provided for the establishment of a department of the national government for the care and protection of the freedmen, i.e., the emancipated slaves, and also of the destitute whites at the South. The second bill guaranteed to the negroes the rights of citizenship. The third bill made the consent of the Senate necessary to the removal by the President of any person from a civil office.

† As a requisite demanded by Congress for holding office, every candidate was obliged to swear that he had not participated in the secession movement. Since

sentatives admitted to Congress (1868), over the President's veto, after an unrepresented period of seven years.

Impeachment of the President.—The constantly-increasing hostility between the President and Congress came to an issue when the former attempted to remove Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. This being considered a violation of the Tenure-of-Office bill, the impeachment of the President was at last ordered (1868). After a tedious trial, he was acquitted, the two thirds majority necessary for conviction lacking one vote.

The Fourteenth Amendment proposed by Congress, guaranteeing equal civil rights to all, regardless of race or color, and basing representation in each State on the number of voters, was adopted (July 28, 1868).

Fenian Excitement (1866).—The Fenians, a secret society organized for the purpose of delivering Ireland from British rule, crossed the Canadian frontier at Buffalo, N. Y., and St. Albans, Vt., in large numbers. President Johnson issued a proclamation declaring the movement a violation of our neutrality, and sent thither General Meade to execute the laws. After some skirmishing with British troops, the expedition returned.

Foreign Affairs.—Purchase of Alaska (October, 1867).—Through the diplomacy of William H. Seward, Secretary of State, Alaska was purchased of Russia for \$7,200,000 in gold. It contains about 500,000 square miles, and is valuable for its harbors, furs, fisheries, and rich gold fields.

The French in Mexico.—While the United States was absorbed in the Civil War, Napoleon III., Emperor of France, took advantage of the opportunity to secure a foothold in

few Southerners could take this "iron-clad oath", as it was termed, most of the representatives were Northern men who had gone south after the war, and were, therefore, called "carpet-baggers".

America. By the assistance of the French army, the imperialists of Mexico defeated the liberals, and Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, was chosen emperor. The United States government protested against the measure, but was then unable to enforce the "Monroe Doctrine". When the American people were relieved from the pressure of civil strife, they turned their attention to the Mexicans hope-



LANDING THE ATLANTIC CABLE AT HEART'S CONTENT.

lessly struggling for liberty, and the United States government demanded of Napoleon the recall of the French troops. Maximilian, deprived of foreign aid, was defeated, and, falling into the hands of the Mexican liberals, was shot (June 19, 1867). This ended the dream of French dominion on this continent.

Laying of the Atlantic Cable.—While these great political events were happening, science achieved a peaceful triumph whose importance far transcended the victories of

diplomatic or military skill. A telegraphic cable 1,864 miles in length, was laid from Valentia Bay, in Ireland, to Heart's Content, Newfoundland.* The two continents were thus brought into almost instant communication.

Treaty with China (1868).—An embassy from the Chinese Empire, under the charge of Anson Burlingame, American ambassador to China, visited the United States. It was the first event of its kind in the history of that exclusive nation. A treaty was perfected, granting to us valuable commercial privileges.

Political Parties.—The republican party nominated General Ulysses S. Grant, of Illinois, for President, and Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, for Vice-President. The democratic party nominated Horatio Seymour, of New York, and General Frank P. Blair, of Missouri. Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas were not allowed to vote. As the other Southern States had been "reconstructed", had granted negro suffrage, and enforced a strict registry law, they were permitted to participate in the election. Grant and Colfax were elected.

* The success of this enterprise was due to the energy of Cyrus W. Field. In 1856, the line was finished from New York to St. John's, Newfoundland, a distance of over 1,000 miles. A company was then formed with a capital of about \$1,750,000. A cable was made, but in an attempt to lay it (August, 1857), the cable parted. A second attempt, in June, 1858, failed after repeated trials. A third effort, in July, was successful. A message was sent from the Queen of England to the President, and a reply transmitted. A celebration was held in New York in honor of the event, but on that very day (September 1) the cable ceased to work. The time and money spent seemed a total loss. Mr. Field alone was undismayed. The company was revived, \$3,000,000 were subscribed, and a new cable was manufactured. In July, 1865, the Great Eastern commenced laying this cable, but in mid-ocean it parted and sunk to the bottom. Again Mr. Field went to work, raised a new company with a capital of \$3,000,000, and made a third cable. The Great Eastern sailed with this in June, 1866, and successfully accomplished the feat. To make the triumph more complete, the vessel sailed back to the very spot where the cable of 1865 had parted, and, dropping grappling-irons, caught the lost cable, brought it to the surface, and, splicing it, laid the remaining portion. The two cables were found to work admirably. A dispatch has been sent across the ocean by a battery made in a gun-cap.

GRANT'S ADMINISTRATION.*

(EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENT—TWO TERMS: 1869-1877.)

Domestic Affairs.—Pacific Railroad.—The year 1869 was made memorable by the opening of this road, which completed the union between the Atlantic and the Pacific. The traveler can now pass from New York to San Francisco, a distance of about 3,300 miles, in less than a week. This great highway has linked the West to the East by iron bands, has carried thousands of pioneers into the hitherto wild country along its route, developed fresh sources of industry and mines of wealth, and opened the United States to the silks, teas, and spices of Asia. American ingenuity has solved the problem which foiled

* Hiram Ulysses Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822. He was unwilling to follow his father's trade, that of a tanner, and, at seventeen, he secured an appointment to West Point. His name having been wrongly registered, Grant vainly attempted to set the matter right, but finally accepted his "manifest destiny", assumed the change thus forced upon him, and thenceforth signed himself "Ulysses Simpson", the latter being his mother's family name. Two years after completing his four-years course as cadet, the Mexican War broke out, in which Grant conducted himself with great gallantry, receiving especial mention and promotion. He then retired to private life, where he remained until the opening of the Civil War. Having been appointed to command a company of volunteers, he took it to Springfield, where he became aid to Governor Yates, and was finally commissioned as colonel of the 21st Illinois regiment. His military and political career was henceforth a part of the country's history. A plain, quiet, gentle, unostentatious, reticent man, he attracted little attention to himself personally. But his inflexible resolution, that held steadily to its purpose through every delay and disaster; his fertility of resource to meet each movement of his wary opponents; his power of handling great masses of men, and of maneuvering in concert the widely-separated Federal armies; his unruffled calmness, alike in moments of defeat and of triumph; his quick decision and prompt action in a great emergency, as if he had foreseen and prepared for it; above all, his sublime faith in his ultimate and perfect success, inspired his companions-in-arms with an intense devotion, and made him seem to them the very "incarnation of the cause for which they were fighting". After the close of his presidential terms, he made the tour of the world. During this extended journey, he was everywhere received with marked enthusiasm and honor, and his dignified and consistent conduct shed luster upon the country he represented. He died at Mount McGregor, N. Y., July 23, 1885. People from all parts of the once-severed country united in sympathy for his loss.

Columbus and the olden navigators. It has made for itself a route to India.

The Fifteenth Amendment, which guarantees to all the right of suffrage, irrespective of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude", having been ratified by the requisite number of States, was formally announced as a part of the Constitution (March 30, 1870).

Prosperity of the Country.—The nation rapidly recovered from the effects of war. The price of gold fell to 110, and the national debt was reduced \$200,000,000 during the first two years of this administration. The bitter feelings engendered by fraternal strife fast melted away.* The census of 1870 showed that the population of the United States was over 38,000,000, an increase of about 7,000,000, while the manufacturing establishments of the country had nearly, if not quite, doubled in number and value during the preceding decade.

Fires.—1. A great fire broke out in Chicago, Sunday night, October 8, 1871. For two days, it raged with tremendous violence, devastating 3,000 acres. Twenty-five thousand buildings were burned, \$200,000,000 worth of property was destroyed, and 100,000 persons were ren-

* Though the nation was still agitated by political strife—the ground-swell, as it were, of the recent terrible storm—the country was rapidly taking on the appearance and ways of peace. The South was slowly adjusting herself to the novel conditions of free labor. The soldiers retained somewhat their martial air; but "blue-coats" and "gray-coats" were every-where to be seen engaged in quiet avocations. The ravages of war were fast disappearing. Nature had already sown grass and quick-growing plants upon the battle-fields where contending armies had struggled.

"There were domes of white blossoms where swelled the white tent;
There were plows in the track where the war-wagons went;
There were songs where they lifted up Rachel's lament."—*B. F. Taylor.*

Strangely symbolical of the new era of growth which had dawned on the nation, a wanderer over the cannon-plowed slope of Cemetery Ridge found a broken drum, in which a swarm of bees were building their comb and storing honey gathered from the flowers growing on that soil so rich with Union and Confederate blood.

dered homeless. Contributions for the sufferers were taken in nearly all parts of the world, and over \$7,500,000 were raised. 2. During the same autumn, wide-spread conflagrations raged in the forests of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. Entire villages were consumed. One thousand five hundred people perished in Wisconsin alone. 3. An extensive fire occurred in Boston, November 9, 1872. It swept over sixty acres in the center of the wholesale trade of that city, and destroyed \$70,000,000 worth of property.

Foreign Affairs.—Treaty of Washington.—The refusal of the English government to pay for the damages to American commerce caused by the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers (p. 268), produced bitter feeling, and even threatened war. A high commission, composed of distinguished statesmen and jurists from both countries, met in Washington, and arranged the basis of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain, settling this and other causes of dispute (1871). According to its provisions, the claim for losses was submitted to a board of arbitrators, who, having convened at Geneva, Switzerland, awarded the United States \$15,500,000. The difficulty with regard to the North-western boundary between the United States and British America was submitted to the Emperor of Germany, and was decided in favor of the United States. Thus, happily, all danger of war was averted, and the great principle of the settlement of disputes by peaceful arbitration rather than by the sword was finally established.

*Proposed Annexation of San Domingo.**—This republic,

* The island of San Domingo is the new world's classic land. Here Columbus founded the first white colony on this side of the Atlantic, and, transporting hither animals, trees, shrubs, vines, and grains, grafted the old world upon the new. Hither, also, flocked the adventurous, ambitious Spanish multitude (p. 26). Great cities sprung up, rivaling the majestic proportions of Moorish capitals. Mag-

comprising a large part of the island of Hayti, applied for admission to the United States. A commission of eminent men, appointed by the President to visit the island and examine its condition, reported favorably. The measure, however, was rejected by Congress.

Political Parties.—The liberal republican party, consisting of republicans opposed to the administration, nominated Horace Greeley,* of New York, for the presidential term commencing 1873. The democratic party indorsed

nificent enterprises were set on foot and prospered. Here Ponce de Leon renewed his ambition, and set forth afresh on an expedition to Porto Rico, and thence to Florida, in search of the Fountain of Youth (p. 26). A century before Henry Hudson sailed up the noble river that perpetuates his name—more than a century before the Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock—the city of San Domingo was a rich and populous center of industry and trade.

* Horace Greeley was born at Amherst, N. H., 1811; died, 1872. At two years of age, he began to study the newspapers given him for amusement; and at four, could read any thing placed before him. At six, he was able to spell any word in the English language, was somewhat versed in geography and arithmetic, and had read the entire Bible. His passion for books increased with his years, and, at an early age, he determined to be a printer. At fifteen, he entered the office of the Northern Spectator, in East Poultney, Vt. His wages were forty dollars a year, the greater part of which was saved and sent to his father, then struggling in poverty upon a farm in Pennsylvania. The Spectator having failed, in 1831 Greeley went to New York. He landed with ten dollars and a scanty outfit tied in a handkerchief. Franklin-like, he traversed the streets in search of work,—a long, stooping, stockingless figure, in linen roundabout, short trousers, and drooping hat, with his out-grown cotton wristbands made to meet with twine. Diligence, integrity, and ability won him a ready rise when



HORACE GREELEY, FOUNDER OF THE TRIBUNE.

this nomination. The republicans renominated President Grant, who was elected.

Grant's Second Term—Domestic Affairs.—THE MODOC INDIANS having refused to stay upon their reservation in Oregon, troops were sent against them. The savages thereupon retreated to their fastnesses in the Lava Beds. The peace commissioners, hoping to arrange the difficulty, held a conference with the chiefs. In the midst of the council, the Indians treacherously slew General Canby and Rev. Dr. Thomas, and wounded Mr. Meachem. The Modocs were then bombarded in their stronghold, and finally forced to surrender.

Railroad Panic.—In the autumn of 1873, Jay Cooke & Co., bankers of Philadelphia, having engaged too extensively in railroad schemes, failed. A financial crisis ensued, and hundreds of prominent firms all over the Union were involved in ruin. A settled stringency of the money market and a stagnation of business followed.

Centennial Anniversaries.—The year 1875, being the hundredth anniversary of the first year of the Revolutionary War, was marked by various centennial observances. April 19, the battles of Lexington and Concord were celebrated with patriotic pride. May 20, the citi-

employment was at last secured. Ten years later, he founded the New York Tribune. He served in Congress in 1848-'49, where he was known for his opposition to the abuses of the mileage system. When civil war seemed imminent, he advocated a peaceable division of the country; but after it opened, he urged a vigorous prosecution of hostilities. At the close of the war, he pleaded for immediate conciliation, and was a signer of the bail-bond which restored Jefferson Davis to liberty after two years' imprisonment in Fort Monroe. Horace Greeley was pure, simple, and conscientious in character. He had a peculiar disregard for dress, and neglected many of the courtesies of society; but he was a true gentleman at heart, and possessed rare gifts in conversation. He was fond of agriculture, and spent his leisure days on his farm at Chappaqua. Just before the close of the presidential canvass, his wife died, and this, together with the desertion of friends and the excitement of the contest, unsettled his mind. He was carried to a private asylum, where he died (1872).

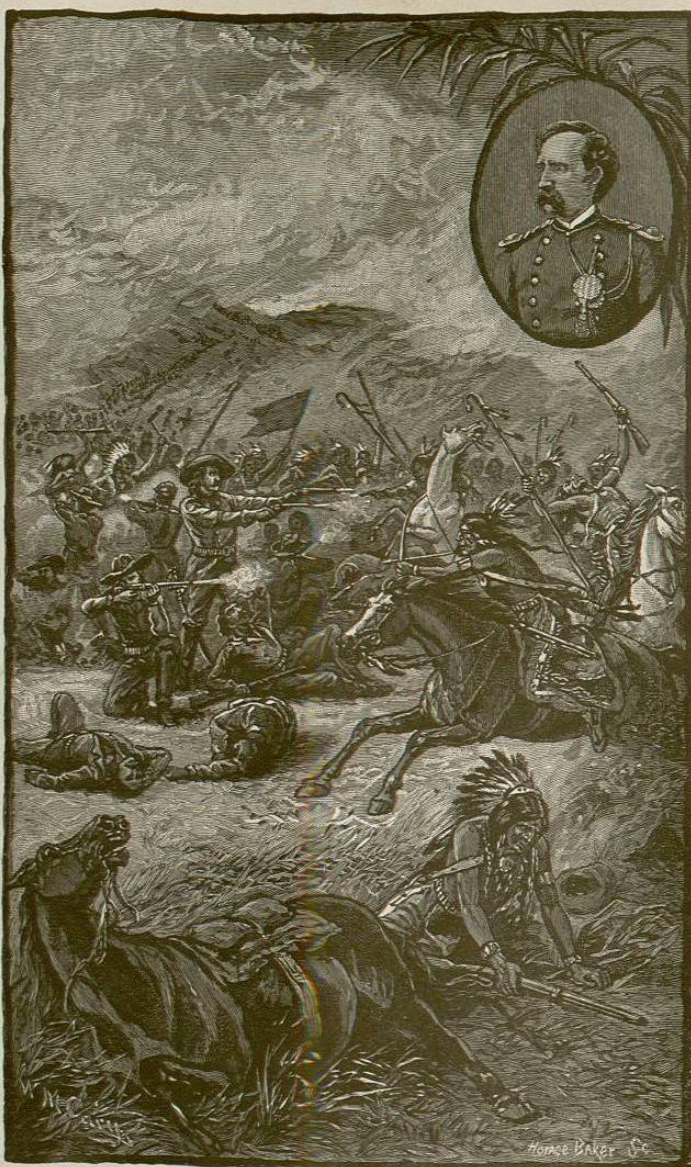
zens of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, honored the memory of those who, at Charlotte, signed a Declaration of Independence only ten days after the capture of Ticonderoga. June 17 witnessed, at Bunker Hill, an unprecedented gathering from all parts of the country, Northern and Southern soldiers vying in devotion to the flag of the Union.

The Centennial Exhibition.—To commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, an exhibition of the arts and industries of all nations was held at Philadelphia, during the summer of 1876. The beautiful grounds of Fairmount Park were the scene of this imposing display. The lower floor of the Main Exhibition Building, exclusive of the annexes, covered 20.02 acres. There were more than two hundred smaller structures scattered over the extensive grounds.* The exhibition lasted six months. The total number of visitors was 9,910,966.

War with the Sioux (1876).†—The Sioux Indians having refused to go upon the reservation assigned them by treaty, a force of regular troops was sent against them. General Custer led the advance with the Seventh Cavalry, while General Terry moved up the Big Horn to attack them in the rear. On the 25th of June, General Custer suddenly came upon the enemy. Without waiting for support, he detached Colonel Reno with three companies to fall upon the back of the Indian village, while he charged the savages in front. A desperate conflict ensued. General Custer, his two brothers, his nephew, and every one

* See Barnes' *Hundred Years of American Independence*, a chapter of which is devoted to the Centennial Exhibition.

† A conference at Fort Laramie, June, 1866, could not prevail upon the Indian chiefs present to cede a wagon route to Montana, but troops, under Colonel Carrington, of the 18th Infantry, established military posts on the line. Red Cloud and others at once began war. The massacre of Fetterman's party of 81 officers and men, December 21, 1866, which was as tragic as that of General Custer's command, closed the first of a series of hostilities which lasted for twelve years thereafter.



Battle of the Big Horn.—Death of Custer.

of his men were killed. Colonel Reno was surrounded, but held his ground on the bluffs until reinforcements arrived. The Indians were soon beaten on every hand.

Political Parties.—The republican party nominated Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio, for President, and Wm. A. Wheeler, of New York, for Vice-President. The democratic party chose Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana. The independent greenback party selected Peter Cooper, of New York, and Samuel F. Cary, of Ohio. This presidential campaign was so hotly contested between the republicans and the democrats, and such irregularities were charged against the elections in Oregon, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, that both these parties claimed the victory. In order to settle the dispute, Congress agreed to refer the contested election returns to a JOINT ELECTORAL COMMISSION, composed of five senators, five representatives, and five judges of the Supreme Court. This body decided that 185 electoral votes had been cast for Hayes and Wheeler, and 184 for Tilden and Hendricks. The republican candidates were therefore declared to be elected.*

* The principal political questions which agitated the country during this campaign were the Southern policy of the government, and the civil service reform. (1.) It was held on one side that negroes and republicans at the South were intimidated by force and prevented from voting, and that the presence of the United States troops was necessary to the preservation of the rights of the citizens, free discussion, a free ballot, and an enforcement of the laws. It was asserted, on the other side, that the use of the troops for such purposes was unconstitutional; that the intimidation was only imaginary, or could be readily controlled by the local authorities; and that the presence of the military provoked violence, and was a constant insult and menace to the States. (2.) President Jackson, as we have seen (p. 175), introduced into our politics the principle of "rotation in office". This policy steadily gained favor until Marcy's maxim, "To the victors belong the spoils", became the commonly-accepted view; and, after every important election, the successful party was accustomed to fill even the menial offices of government with its favorites. Under such a system, the qualification of the applicant was of much less importance than the service he had done the party. Hayes promised to make "no dismissal except for cause, and no promotion except for merit".