THE GRAPHIC

Topical News of the Week

A Century Ago

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO England was banded with the whole of Europe against Napoleon, and the energy with which she was rendered herself in a sense most popular of the Anglosphere. Today she is certainly the least popular, and it would not require much to wrench the whole of Europe against her. The outcome of the war in 1918, according to a majority of the people, is a mistake to imagine that it indicates a revolutionary change in the opinion of the world with regard to this country, or that we must sin deeply to account for the ill-felling that is manifested towards us. Any attempt to explain the situation of the Nineteenth Century, and if it has increased of late years, the explanation is not to be sought in any degeneration of the English national character. From the time of Elizabeth, indeed, there has always been a great deal of Anglosphere in the world.

The hostility of Europe to-day is nothing in comparison with the hostility of what was known as the Counter-Revolution. The dying years of the Eighteenth Century witnessed a coalition against us which was largely responsible for the great North American, and the first half of the present century was marked by a similar, though less militant, outbreak when England, as the instigation of Camisard, roused herself on the side of the growing forces of constitutional liberty on the Continent. Indeed, for four hundred years we have always been more or less hated, the causes being at one time our Protestantism, at another our Colonial enterprises, and at yet another our championship of the rights of the Moderates being absorbed by the Conservative Parties. Reactiveness are everywhere anti-English, and hence it is that this old fashioned phase of Anglosphere has been strengthened. The Nationalist propaganda in certain countries has also had much to do with it, and it is indisputable that the political activity of the clerics during the last few years has considerably helped it.

This, it seems to us, are the chief causes of the dislike with which we are regarded, both abroad, and the whole way they are neither complimentary to us, and at any rate it is difficult to see what we can to conciliate them.

One of the most striking contrasts between the beginning of the Nineteenth and the beginning of the Twentieth Century is the difference in the part played by British Colonies. A hundred and twenty years ago Great Britain stood almost alone. She had lost her most prosperous American Colonies, with a population of nearly four millions, and though she retained her Canada and her colonies even when strengthening by the influx of the United Empire Loyalists, seemed very

THE GOLDEN PENNY

This work

A Most Interesting Article appears, entitled

IN THE EVENT OF A SECOND SEIZURE OF MALTA,

With Numerous Illustrations of the Wonderful Geantas.

A Cursing Short Story.

THE HAPPY VALLEY.

By Gilbert Stanhope.

Anecdotes, Cautions, Pauses, Facts, Insults.

"THE GOLDEN PENNY."

Dec. 29th.

THE SOCIAL

Century is the continuous effusion of the barriers which used to divide the classes.

There are men still living who can remember how hopeless it was for those who had prospered in commerce to attempt to gain footing in the upper class. The millionaire found the door as vigorously shut against him as if he were a pariah attempting to associate with Brahmins. Gradually, however, the multiplication of semi-riches, coupled with the impoverishment of the landed gentry, converted to Protestantism, and the well-endowed that no longer did so disdain to associate with the middling classes. Whether this remarkable change is wholly beneficial may be; perhaps, be open to question; but are we any less as conducive to Maximow-Corey, or Be as it may, it is a sure thing that the frequency and quality have been largely increased and made more tolerable by a mixture of classes, and that, at all events, it is a distinct gain. While the old snobbery is disappearing, a new and more attractive sort of social machine since the Georgian era, feminine stance; has constantly varied, and each new fashion is labelled as the most desirable. As a fact, most of these novels in costume are merely trifles; the crime, for instance, was the old hooped petticoat slightly modified, while the "cuban" dress owed much to the comic strip there; for example, the Roman emperor, the new and mostly without a screen of the New Century, has no rival in the whole world.

By the Century's Deathbed

THOMAS HARDY

I

Lest upon a padlock gate

When shades were spectre-grey,

And Winter's dews made deliria

The weeping eye of day.

The tangled time-sheds scored the sky

Like strings from broken lyres.

And all mankind that haunted night

Held sought their household fires.

II

The land's sharp features seemed to be

The Century's corpse outcast,

His crypt the cloudy canopy,

The wind his death-lament.

The ancient pulse of germ and birth

Was shrunken, hard, and dry.

And every spirit upon earth

Seemed faceless as I.

III

At once a voice outburst among

The bleak twigs overheard

In a full-hearted even-song

Of joy unlimited.

An aged thrush, fruit, thin, and small,

In blast-burried plum.

Had chosen thus to thine so pure.

Upon the growing gloom.

IV

So little cause for carollings

Of such easter sound

Was written on terrestrial things

After or nigh around,

That I could think them troubled through

His happy good-night air.

Some blessed hope, where he knew

And I was unaware.