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“The Message of the Old Year 1905 to the New Year 1906,”  
1905 December 31.

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Sunday, December 31, 1905.

THE MESSAGE OF THE OLD YEAR 1905 to THE NEW YEAR 1906.

1905 has been a good year for America. America has prospered in material well-being. Throughout the year there has been a wonderful commercial, industrial and agricultural development. 1906 is born under most favorable conditions.

There has been a mighty movement toward financial honesty. The discovery of dishonesty in places low and in the highest places, seems a National disgrace. How pitiable the name once honored should be so sullied and so stained - dishonored. If 1906 hears the message of 1905, if the discovery of dishonesty leads to purification as concerns men and methods, the seeming National disgrace will become a National honor. The opening of the year bespeaks a moral awakening - the public conscience has awakened from its long sleep. Financial organizations, insurance associations, banks and trust companies, are feeling as never before, the searching eye and the mighty force of public opinion.

1905 witnessed a mighty movement toward political honesty. The revelation of corruption and boodling - of almost universal misrule and bossism everywhere, - the shame of cities and the shame of states, seemed a National disgrace. If 1906 will hear the message of 1905, if the revelation of corruption and misrule will lead to purification as concerns men and measures and parties, the National disgrace will be turned into a National honor. Political independence is the cry of the hour and of the coming years. It has been sounded as a trumpet call, and the people have answered the call. There can be but one interpretation of the recent elections in Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. The people are determined to rule - the people will rule.

1905 speaks to 1906 the message of democracy. Noteworthy the announcement of the Roosevelt doctrine, an advance upon the old Monroe Doctrine - no territorial aggrandizement in the Western Hemisphere, and friendly relations with the countries of South America, in order to establish and to maintain the peace of the Western World

Worthy of remembrance is the declaration of Secretary Taft, speaking to the Philippines in behalf of President Roosevelt, that the United States will maintain its sovereignty in the Islands, "As an endorsement of the greater education and elevation of the whole of the Philippines to a self-governing community."

Europe feels the spirit and the power of democracy. Norway by referendum secedes from Sweden, and by a vote of the people makes a choice of her king: In Austria-Hungary is heard the plea for the right of self-government and independence, and Russia, this very hour, is in the throes of the revolution, which sooner or later will bring the downfall of the Autocracy.

1905 speaks to 1906 the message of peace. England and France, historic enemies, have entered into friendly treaty relationship. England and France and the United States together are destined to establish the peace of the world.

The great event of 1905 was the Treaty of Portsmouth. Noteworthy the part played by America and by President Roosevelt. The appeal of the President addressed to the Sovereigns of Russia and Japan, demanding mutual concessions, compelled the end of the war.

I cannot rid myself of the glaring contradictions between Czar Nicholas, the apostle of peace, and the Czar of all the Russias, the scourge of war. Russia and the Czar are unworthy the distinction of calling the Peace Conference. To President Roosevelt and to America belong the honor and the glory. America is the real peace-maker among nations.

The Peace Treaty of Portsmouth will have the mightiest influence, not only upon Japan and Russia, but upon the whole world. It marks an epoch upon the development of the nations - it is destined to change the history of mankind.

As has been said, the world will never again be as narrow as it was before the rise of Japan. "A pagan people have surpassed Christian nations as concerns humanity in war". Never again will anyone define Christianity as civilization, and civilization as Christianity.

The 19th Century was a century of emancipation. Everywhere the people fought for freedom. To the 20th Century it brings the message, "On with the fight until the people are free". It is the great world work which remains yet to be accomplished.

The 20th century, which in the year 1905 witnessed the most destructive war of history, seems destined to be an age of peace.

Glorious is life in the years of the 20th Century. Blessed are we who are privileged to live in this happy time. Let us live understanding the obligations of life - our feet firmly standing upon the historic past - our faces turned happily to the future. Let us live worthy the men and women of the 20th Century.

