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1864.
[We copy the following interesting summary of events during the past year from the Philadelphia Press.]
As this is the last opportunity we shall have of addressing our readers in the year 1864, we take occasion to present a complete summary of all the events that have marked its place in the world's history. To us it has been an eventful year, and in coming it will be remembered with pride. It marks an era in the history of the world, for we have passed through the ordeal of war to the accomplishment of a great social and moral problem. This has been done with the sword and fire; and now, as we are about to pass into another New Year of anxiety, and probation, and effort, nothing can be more profitable than a retrospect of the closing year, and by comparison with the progress of other nations to see how far we have advanced in our duty as a people. Has Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-four been duly employed? Have we done our part in the great work that belongs to us as a people just as much as works of charity, and benevolence, and truth belong to us as citizens? What have our neighbors been doing? How is it with the countries far away? With people of strange tongues and different opportunities? Above all, how shall we pass through the great humiliation to the great exaltation? This is the time for self-examination, and such is the main feature of our duty to-day.
Of course the subject that most interests us in this review is the progress of our armies in the suppression of the rebel rebellion. We should be rejoicing in this new year if we could convey the announcement that peace reigned over the Republic; but we can find a gratification almost as great in reviewing the campaigns that have taken place. The beginning of the year found our armies at rest. Gen. Rosecrans had failed to drive Johnston before Chattanooga, and the illustrious Grant was beginning to magnify the lethargic armies of the West by the influence of his own personal genius. The country was rejoicing over the victory of Lookout Mountain; and early in January we find Grant on a tour of inspection through the military departments of East Tennessee and Kentucky. Longstreet was menacing Knoxville, Lee held the life of the Rappahannock and threatened Washington and Pennsylvania, Sherman was busily driving the rebels out of the valley of the Yazoo, while the rebel armies of Texas and Arkansas were quietly concentrating against General Banks. Our armies were maneuvering for positions. We trace Smith's expedition on its way from Tennessee to Louisiana, and we find Sherman busily destroying the railroads and military depots in Mississippi. The first engagement of the year is a little affair between Forest and A. J. Smith, which furnishes no practical results. Grant's lieutenants having destroyed the rebel resources in the valley of the Mississippi, and prevented the army of Mobile from moving to the relief of Johnston, we find him taking up that march through Georgia which Sherman afterwards continued with such magnificent success. In the latter part of February the Army of the West moved from Ringgold towards Dalton, and Longstreet retired from East Tennessee. This was the end of the rebel occupation of that devoted country, and one of the most gratifying circumstances connected with the campaigns of 1864 is the fact that we have been able to hold patient, loyal, long suffering Tennessee against the whole rebel army. In Virginia, Kilpatrick started on his romantic expedition against Richmond, which achieved no practical result and cost us the life of the gallant young Dahlgren. Sherman was in New Orleans consulting with Banks as to his Red-river campaign, while all along the Southern coast the nation seemed to be at rest. In the beginning of March the gunboats of Porter, and a detachment of Sherman's army, concentrated on the Red river for the purpose of assisting Gen. Banks. Grant became commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States on the 12th of March when a Sherman taking command of the whole military division of the Mississippi. General A. J. Smith captured Fort De Russy, on the Red river, and Banks moved up through Louisiana to Alexandria. This unfortunate expedition was the only failure of our military year. Banks occupied Alexandria in force, and early in April concentrated at Grand Ecore. At a point called Wilson's Farm, about fifty miles from Natchitoches, a battle was fought between his army and that of the Confederates under the command of Maj.

General Taylor. On the first day, owing to some mismanagement, the Federal army was routed, and, on the next day, having retreated to Pleasant Hill (a point about ten miles distant from the scene of the first day's engagement), Banks defeated the rebels, and insured his successful and uninterrupted retreat to Grand Ecore. There is no doubt that had it not been for the eccentric character of the waters of the Red River and the wildness of the country occupied by the Union army, General Banks would have succeeded in recovering from the disaster of Wilson's Farm, and taken Shreveport. But the waters of the Red river suddenly fell, and the great expedition of Porter was thus placed in a peril which it required the exertions of the army and navy to avoid. So our armies retreated back to New Orleans, and the territory of Louisiana, with the exception of those points held by our forces, was entirely abandoned to the rebel army. Now that we can speak of the Red river expedition with something of historical accuracy, we think it will be found that a great deal of the blame visited upon General Banks for his management of that campaign was unjust. It is known that he moved upon Shreveport against his own judgment; and when the secret details of that campaign are given to the world by the cold and impartial pen of the historian, it will be seen that ulterior influences in Banks' own army conspired to produce his overthrow. It was not for the Administration of Mr. Lincoln to investigate this; but Judge- ing Banks by the violent yet necessary test of success, General Canby superseded him, and was placed in command of all the divisions of the army lying west of the Mississippi river. Another expedition into Florida, under command of Gen. Seymour, which seems, also, to have been rashly managed, was defeated at Olustee with a severe loss. These two disasters ushered in the military year; and although in their material effect on the prospect of the war they were trifling, still they served to depress and dishearten the country. In the beginning of March we find the Lieutenant General of the army at Washington, assuming formally command of the armies of the United States. He had just left Sherman to complete the work which he himself began, and with the energy peculiar to his character, set immediately about the task of reorganizing the Army of the Potomac. Hancock, Sedgwick, and Warren were placed in command of the three principal corps, while Meade retained his old position. General Butler was assigned to the Department of Virginia, and, in addition to the defenses of Norfolk and the James, was charged with the operations of a co-operating army. The Lieutenant General took the field at Culpeper on the 24th of March, and, in the latter part of that month we find him reviewing his new command. While the country was smarting under our defeats in Arkansas and Louisiana, Grant was busily at work in Virginia. The Army of the Potomac was weeded out; half-hearted and timid generals were sent to distant and unimportant fields of service, and those who had served the country well were assigned to the important positions. The rebels seemed to have anticipated active operations in the Army of the Potomac, for we see them gradually concentrating their forces at Richmond. Beauregard joined Lee and a part of Longstreet's army returned from East Tennessee. About the beginning of May, the two armies began to move. Sherman, having made himself familiar with the details of his new department, marched upon Atlanta on the fourth of May, while Grant, on the second of the same month, began his advance on Richmond. On the fifth of May, Butler moved his co-operating column from Newport News to City Point. The beginning of May, therefore, found all of our armies, under Grant's strong will, moving simultaneously through Georgia and Virginia. From this time, one man governed the Union armies, and, in the summing up of the events of this year, it will be necessary to speak of our military operations hereafter as the work of one mind, and not, as has hitherto been, the operations of different and independent generals. On May the sixth, we find Sherman's whole army, under Thomas, McPherson, and Schofield, in Georgia, pressing Johnston, who had retired beyond Ringgold; Butler is advancing from Petersburg against Beauregard, while Grant is hurling his entire army against Lee and beginning the great battle of the Wilderness. Taking the results of this campaign, it may be said that the most terrific fighting of the war occurred during

these early days of May, when Grant engaged Lee in the neighborhood of Spottsylvania. The battle began on the 6th of May in the Wilderness, and on the 12th Hancock made his brilliant assault at Spottsylvania; Sheridan defeated Stuart at Yellow Tavern, killing that brilliant and erratic soldier and destroying the bridges over the Chickahominy, and joined Butler, who was investing Petersburg. On the sixteenth Butler made an attack upon the enemy at Drury's Bluff and was repulsed, while the effort of Beauregard to break our line was unsuccessful. A second attempt was made by Ewell, which failed; and on the twentieth General Grant succeeded in forcing Lee beyond the North Anna river. The movements of Grant during the month of May were for the purpose of forcing Lee back upon Richmond; and on the twenty-ninth of May Grant crossed the Pamunkey river and occupied the old camps of the army of General McClellan. On the third of June he made an assault upon the rebels near Cold Harbor, and on the ninth of June General Butler began the siege of Petersburg. An attempt was made by General Kautz to carry the rebel works, which failed; and on June the fourteenth the advance of the Army of the Potomac crossed the James river at Wilcox's Landing. The operations around Petersburg were very active during these summer months, and many assaults were made upon that city, but without success. On the twenty-third, General Warren cut the Weldon Railroad, but our force was not strong enough to hold it. Efforts were made by our cavalry to break up the rebel communications, but they seem to have been uniformly unsuccessful, and General Wilson returned from his raid to Bermuda Hundred after losing nearly a thousand men. Lee, having escaped annihilation, took advantage of a breathing pause in the early part of July to make a demonstration upon the city of Washington; and so, upon the sixth of that month, we see General Early concentrating his forces at Harper's Ferry, and General McCausland occupying Hagerstown. General Wallace, on the ninth, made an attempt to drive Early out of Maryland, and was defeated at Monocacy and compelled to retreat towards Baltimore. A raiding party under Gilmer cuts the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, and on the twelfth General Breckinridge invested Washington City, but was repulsed in an attack upon Fort Stevens, and on the thirtieth of July took possession of Chambersburg, which was burned by General McCausland, amid circumstances of extraordinary perfidy and barbarity. The operations of the Army of the Potomac since the investment of Petersburg have not been of a character to materially affect the final results of the war. In the summer General Grant began slowly to invest that city. In the latter part of August a detachment takes possession of the Weldon Railroad, destroying that line of communication. A continued assault was made upon the rebel works on the 25th of August, which failed, and Grant, having taken up his position, and held Lee in his trenches, sent Sheridan into the valley of the Shenandoah for the purpose of destroying the rebel power in that important part of the enemy's dominions. It certainly must have been with some trepidation that General Sheridan took command of a department which was only noted in our history as the scene of mistakes and failures; but the history of the year reflects honor on that gallant commander, entirely justifying the confidence of Grant by his energy and genius. On the 19th of September, Sheridan attacked Early, capturing five thousand prisoners and fifteen battle-flags, and killing Generals Rhodes and Gordon. The rebels, presuming upon the successful impunity with which they had invaded Maryland, massed their army under Early for the purpose of a prolonged invasion of Pennsylvania. Sheridan's victory ended this dream, and we see that general on the 20th in hot pursuit after the ambitious rebel. On the twenty-second of February he again attacked Early at Fishers Hill, and drove him with great confusion, capturing twenty-one guns. On the 26th he occupied Staunton, and, inspired by his success, General Grant made another movement upon Petersburg, which did not alter the position of affairs. In order to prevent it from being a nest and a refuge

for rebel armies, General Sheridan took advantage of his victories to destroy all the grain, railroads, the means of subsistence and of communication on the line of his march; and on the seventh of October he arrived at Woodstock, having completed this terrible but just military measure. On the ninth of October he again attacked the rebels, capturing eleven guns; and on the nineteenth of October he achieved his last and greatest victory. Early, having been reinforced from Richmond, made an attack upon Sheridan, and succeeded in driving the army a couple of miles. Later in the day, however, the tide turned, and the rebels were completely routed, losing fifty guns, two thousand prisoners, and a great part of their camp equipage. After thus finishing his work, Sheridan returned to Winchester, in the early part of November, with the intention, we presume, of entering into winter quarters. The results of Sheridan's campaign may be appreciated when we remember the magnitude of the danger which the Middle States have been incurring with the valley of the Shenandoah a constant avenue, as it were, for the invading rebel army. Lee has entered this State on two occasions and subsisted his army upon our fertile territory; and as long as Grant was busy with the enemy before Richmond there was a constant danger of Pennsylvania and Maryland being devastated by the rebel forces. Therefore we can attribute to General Grant this first great result; while holding Lee at bay at Richmond he has saved our Northern homes from devastation. Let us go back to the West. In the month of March we find General Grant moving his army from Chattanooga against Johnston, when he is recalled to Washington, and his great lieutenant, Sherman, takes his command. Before Grant went to Washington he had succeeded in driving Longstreet out of East Tennessee, and the weeks spent by him in reorganizing the Army of the Potomac were employed by Sherman in strengthening the Army of the West. While Grant was thundering at the columns of Lee in the celebrated Wilderness, Sherman was moving steadily upon Johnston. The policy of Johnston seems to have been to slowly retreat before Sherman, for the purpose of drawing him into the interior of Georgia, and then destroying his army. Events, we think, have shown that this would have been the true rebel policy. But it did not meet the favor of the rebel Government, and evidences of dissatisfaction began to appear in all parts of the Confederacy. On the eighteenth of May Sherman had taken Kingston. On the twenty-eighth he approached Dallas, when Johnston, being pressed probably too earnestly, or it may be yielding to the wishes of the rebel Government, gave battle to Sherman, and was defeated with great loss. After the battle at Dallas, Johnston continued his retreat, and on June first, having taken a position at Alatoona, he was compelled by Sherman to abandon it, and to occupy a strong point in the Kennesaw mountains, near Marietta, which he held for several weeks. Finally, he was flanked by McPherson, and retreated precipitately, crossing the Chattahoochee river on the third day of July, and falling back to the city of Atlanta. Sherman now was complete master of Northern Georgia, and in the middle of July crossed the Chattahoochee and invested Atlanta. Johnston was disposed to continue his policy of retreating, but the rebels would no longer submit to this, and accordingly, on the seventeenth of July, he was relieved from command, and superseded by General Hood. This indicated a termination on the part of the rebels to fight for Atlanta, and Sherman gave them a speedy opportunity. On the twenty-second of July a fierce battle was fought for the possession of the city, which resulted in the defeat of the rebel forces, though the victory was not decisive enough to compel them to leave their camps. Sherman, however, closely invested the city gradually, forced Hood back upon the town, cutting the Macon Railroad by a flank movement directed by Kilpatrick, destroying the West Point Railroad, thwarting Wheeler's attempts to cut his communications with Nashville, defeating Hood on the thirty-first of August in another attempt to raise the siege, and finally, having surrounded Atlanta, compelled its commander to suddenly abandon the town. Sherman drove him thirty miles and then returned to his conquered city to reorganize and refresh his army. Having thus taken Atlanta, which for a long time had been the vaunted Seatopol of the South-west, Sherman

destroyed that place so far as its military usefulness was concerned, banished its inhabitants, and began preparations for the second step of his great campaign. The early part of September was then occupied in the depopulation of Atlanta and an attempt of Hood to sever Sherman's communications with Nashville. So terribly was the loss of this place felt, that Davis himself went out to the headquarters of Hood's army and directed in person the new campaign. Beauregard was placed in command of the military department. The rebel army was set in motion with the published intention of advancing into Tennessee, and so destroying Sherman's communications that he would be compelled to retreat, destroying his army in the fastnesses of Georgia, finally invading Ohio. Sherman was not a man to be daunted by any such threat, and we find him very quickly, during the early fall months, strengthening his army, repairing the railroad between Atlanta and Alatoona, and making ready for a movement through Georgia. During the early part of October, Hood marched round Atlanta and attacked Dalton. Retreating from this point, the rebels abandoned the whole road from Tilton to Atlanta, which they had occupied in the hope of destroying Sherman, and are closely pursued by that commander into Alabama, who makes this feat for the purpose of deceiving the rebels as to his intentions. The month of October is spent in manoeuvres, and Sherman returns to Kingston, where he issues the order for his grand march. Directing Thomas to remain at Nashville with one portion of the army, and Schofield to remain in Tennessee, covering East Tennessee, with the other portion, he takes the 14th, 17th, and 20th Corps, and on the twelfth of November begins his march through Georgia, his army progressing in two columns, one commanded by General Howard, and the other by General Slocum. On the tenth, the town of Rome was burned. On the fifteenth, he reached Atlanta, having destroyed all the bridges, railways, and everything in the rear that could be of service. On the seventeenth, the left wing passed through Conyers, and crossed the Yellow river. On the twentieth, Milledgeville was taken, and the Governor's house, Capitol, and penitentiary burned. On the twenty-fifth, the army left Milledgeville, moving along the line of the Georgia Central Railroad towards Millen, and thoroughly destroying it. While one portion of the army made a feint upon Augusta, by way of the Glasborrough road, the right wing, under Howard, took possession of Millen, and moved towards Savannah river, taking possession of the town of Jacksonville, and marching rapidly to a point fifteen miles from Savannah, while, at the same time, the other wing cut the canal connecting the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers, and sent a messenger to communicate the tidings of its safety to the Union gunboats that awaited its approach in O-sabaw Sound. On the sixteenth, Fort McAllister was captured by assault, and Sherman marched directly upon Savannah, formally demanding the surrender of that place. On the 20th preparations were made for an attack, but during the night Hardee evacuated the town, and Savannah was ours. In the meantime, General Hood, seeing that Sherman had ceased the pursuit and turned off into Georgia, marched into Tennessee with the avowed purpose of overpowering Thomas and invading the North. On the eighteenth of November an attempt was made to take Knoxville, but was repulsed. Thomas withdrew from Pulaski to Columbia, Tennessee, Hood closely following him. His army occupied Corinth, Alabama, and Florence, Mississippi, and was under Beauregard's personal command. On the twenty-eighth, Hood took Shelbyville. On the twenty-ninth Spring Hill was captured, and on the thirtieth Thomas made a stand at Franklin. Hood attacked him and compelled our army to retreat to Nashville. On the fifteenth of December, Hood having closely invested Nashville, Thomas attacked his left wing, inflicting him so severely that he withdrew during the night. The next day Thomas attacked his second position, and completely routed the whole rebel force, pursuing it as far as Duck river, and when last heard from there was a fair probability that the whole command might be captured. There are other movements in the military campaign of a minor character, but we have sketched as fully as necessary the great military combinations of the year. General Price made an attempt to invade Missouri, in September or October, and was driven out

of the State. General Breckinridge endeavored to imitate Morgan's great raid into Kentucky, and forced his way to the Ohio river and through West Virginia, but as the year closes we hear intelligence of his utter ruin at Saltville. Every one of our expeditions throughout the year has been a success, with the exception of the campaigns in Florida and Louisiana, which were lost through the mismanagement of those in command, and the recent attempt at Wilmington, which seems to have been a drawn battle. The year 1864 has developed military genius of the highest order in our armies. It has placed Sherman in the first rank of generals. It has shown Sheridan and Thomas to be possessors of the finest qualities of the warrior, and, above all, it redounds to the honor of General Grant for having had the sagacity to gather around him these gallant and gifted men. When this year began our progress in rebel subjugation was limited and disheartening. During the year we have entered every Southern State; our armies have marched and counter-marched through the very heart of the Confederacy. We have held thousands of miles of coast. Farragut, in his gallant attack upon Mobile, has made a name that will live by the side of Nelson. And the new year opens with a prospect that, unless Almighty God should visit us with some signal disaster, we may hope to see the whole Southern country in the possession of the Union army before the months of spring.

While the Republic of America has been the scene of these devastating wars, Europe narrowly escaped a general conflagration. The beginning of the year found Poland in a condition of insurrection, almost hopeless in the beginning, but stimulated by the hope that England and France would interfere and secure its independence. This interference did not go beyond the writing of diplomatic notes, in which Count Gortschakoff found an opportunity to severely snub Earl Russell and Monsieur Drouyn de L'Huys. So Poland was left to its fate. Russia, with appalling severity, completely crushed the rebellion that the power of Czar may be regarded as Supreme. In Circassia the Russian Government, by an act of unexampled rigor, succeeded in restoring tranquillity. The whole country of Circassia was depopulated. Thousands of Circassians, including the bravest and the best of that romantic and singular race, were driven from their homes to the cold and inhospitable dominions that border on the Black and Caspian Seas, to find, under the rule of the Turk and the Tartar, the comfort which they had failed to obtain from the Czar. In Italy the work of reconstructing a kingdom from the remnants of Neapolitan and Austrian misrule has been slowly progressing; and, although the hopes of the friends of freedom have been uplifted by the singular and sudden change of the Italian provinces to Italian unity, the discussions of that people have, thus far, prevented any permanent establishment of law and order. Italy severely feels the loss of the great Count Cavour. He alone could match the wily Emperor of France. We now find the people of that delicious country bleeding from the old ranking wounds of brigands, internecine quarrels, local jealousies, and broils between friends of Victor Emmanuel and Garibaldi. King Victor sits in Turin while Garibaldi lives a petulant life in his Island of Capri. King Victor is the personification of conservatism and order, and wishes to unite Italy at any cost, while Garibaldi clamors for instant and exterminating war to drive the French out of Rome and the Austrians out of Venice. While our sympathies are with the rugged, glorious nature of Garibaldi, our reason leads us to regard the course of King Victor as the true one, and that, whether Italy will ever succeed in being regenerated or not, it certainly never can become a kingdom by entering into a war with the Emperor Napoleon. In Greece, the Danish boy-king has a sad time of it with the descendants of Pindar and Pericles. We can almost realize the days of the Oligarchy in reading the squabbles of the new king and his new subjects. The great event in Europe, an politics has been the Danish and German war. The Schleswig-Holstein question has been a trouble to the diplomatists of Europe, and after the hostilities of 1848 it was regarded as an adjourned question by the Germans. The provinces of Schleswig and Holstein border upon those of Denmark, and have always been considered, by virtue of some almost forgotten tradition, to be a part of the Germanic Confederation. The King of Denmark governs them, by virtue of subsequent treaties, but the fact that Schleswig and Holstein border upon the North Sea, and gave Denmark commercial power—an importance that Germany has constantly longed for—made it a part of the German policy to withdraw them from under the rule of the Danes. By a treaty signed at London, in 1852, the great Powers of Europe guaranteed the integrity of the Danish Kingdom, and declared that it was necessary to that integrity that the King of Denmark should govern Schleswig and Holstein; but upon the death of the recent King, Germany again put forward its claims, and demanded the evacuation of the two provinces. Relying upon England and France, and the probable support of Sweden, and Norway, Denmark resisted this demand, whereupon the Austrians and Prussians marched into the Danish country, occupied the disputed provinces, and marched into Jutland, thus holding with their armed men the greater portion of the Danish country. Although England and France, by every moral consideration, were bound to redeem their pledge to Denmark, yet, when the time came for assisting the Danes with material force, those Governments withdrew; hence, there could be no doubt as to the result. Poor little Denmark, even including the disputed provinces, not half the size of Pennsylvania, had no resources but to submit. The German Powers used their victory harshly; for, after making the Danes pay the expenses of the army, they compelled a complete abandonment of both Schleswig and Holstein. Peace, however, has returned to Europe, and the close of the year finds every kingdom of that continent at peace. The Emperor of France continues his work of centralization, and sternly represses every effort at liberty or enterprise. According to the present system of government, France is the State, and the State is Napoleon. We find the Emperor busy with the great and small details of life, not only dictating diplomacy to kingdoms and controlling ambitious newspapers, but regulating the price of bread, improving the breed of cattle, and establishing libraries for the poor. England has been growing rich out of the American war, and has made enormous money from our commerce; to feed Lancashire and develop new fields of cotton in the East Indies. In New Zealand the Colonial Government has been engaged in an irritating war with a tribe called the Maoris, the only result of which has been, thus far, to keep New Zealand in a condition of uproar, and make John Bull grumble at the condition of his tax bill. In China, the lingering Tartar rebellion seems to have been almost crushed, and the established Emperor finds his ingenuity taxed to invent new means of torture for his rebellious subjects. In Cochinchina, the French have been establishing their power and pushing new conquests into Cambodia. England, France and America have been knocking at the doors of Japan. Thus far, that country is a sealed book, and nothing but measures as severe as those visited upon China when the English broke open the palace of Peking, will enable Eastern traders to visit and enjoy this strange, mysterious land. A new light has dawned upon Africa, and it has fallen to the lot of the geographers of 1864 to trace, for the first time, the sources of the Nile. The Republic of Liberia is progressing rapidly in the arts of civilization. The Algerian provinces are rapidly becoming enlightened, and we should not be surprised if the enterprise of France and England would open to us a country in the interior of Africa rivaling in fertility and wealth Australia, Colorado, or California.

In our own country the events of the war have been so closely allied to those of peace that in giving a summary of the various campaigns we have almost insensibly presented to the reader an idea of our material and political progress. 1864 has been a year of trial for the American people. The leaders of the rebellion had fought three bloody years without success. They based their hopes of the recognition of the Confederacy upon the triumph of what is called the Democratic party of the North. They were led to this by the fact that some of our States, impatient and exacting with their Administration, and perhaps irritated by the sufferings of war, had elected candidates to office who were opposed to Mr. Lincoln. Stimulated by this hope, the friends of the rebellion, and their sympathizers in England and in the North made a tremendous effort to accomplish the election of General