Jan. 7, 1899.

Mr. J. S. Phillips,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Phillips,

I have not as yet given as much time to your new historical scheme as I would like to but I have done as you suggested made a rough outline of subjects. I should probably change these somewhat on reflection, but I throw them out simply as feelers.

My idea would be to allow two dominating ideas to control the selection of the subjects; that is, the idea of territorial expansion and the idea of freedom. This would give us a picture of the way the United States has grown to its present proportions, a subject , now of present interest, and it would give us too the most interesting matter in our history, the overthrow of slavery. You suggested that we should begin in 1789; I would like to go back two years further and begin in 1787, or rather to select a date I would make the first article:

One. April 7, 1788. The settlement of Marietta. This would take up the ordinance of 1787 of course as an introduction and it would give us a picture of the movement westward and combine finely I think my two dominating notions.

Two. April 30, 1789. Inauguration of the first president of the United States.

Three. September 30, 1800. Signing of the treaty with France. This would give a fine opportunity to show the difficulties between Federalists and Republicans and the way they struggled to unite on the one side with England and on the other side with France. This was the first treaty Bonaparte ever signed and the whole story is exceedingly interesting.

Four. 1803. First Inauguration at Washington The first election won by the Republicans; it was contested and threw into the House of Representatives and led to the Twelfth Amendment. The story of the inauguration itself is mighty good and a description of Washington at that time would be most interesting.

Five. Jefferson's purchase of Louisiana. I think the day selected should be the one when the treaty was made public in the United States. It raised a fearful row and there is no end of good material.

Six. August, 19, 1812. The constitution defeats the guerrier. Seven. January 8, 1815. Battle of New Orleans. Around the above we could group the whole story of the war of 1812. I would make this an opportunity for showing the material resources of the country, our commerce and our navy going into the first, our army and industries into the second.

Eight. December 15, 1814, The meeting of the Hartford Convention. Here we would get the first intelligent revolt against Federal authority and the beginning of the idea of secession.

Nine. February 14, 1821. The counting of the

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J. S. P. Rand.

electoral votes and the fight over the classing of Missouri as a state or not. This brings up the whole story of the Missouri Compromise and brings Henry Clay in as a pacificator. The scenes attending the counting of the vote was one of the most dramatic in the history of Congress.

Ten. 1819. I would select some event in connection with the cession of Florida.

Eleven. January, 1824. The Greek debate. This would bring in the Monroe Doctrine and big speeches by Clay and Webster, as well as the great outburst in the United States in favor of helping the Greek cause, a story whichhas something of a paralell in the recent outburst in the cause of Cuban freedom.

Twelve. December 10, 1832. The appearance of Jackson's proclamation against the nullifiers.

Thirteen. January 12 and 14, 1837. Clay and Benton's speeches on expunging the vote of censure against Jackson. There was a great night session at that time when this vote was carried; it really brings in the whole contest between Clay and Jackson and would make a stunning article.

Fourteen. May 10, 1837. The day the New York banks suspended specie payment, a fine chance to give a picture of the speculative frenzy in '34,5 and 6 and the panic of 1837.

Fifteen. 1840. I think for this I would select a typical campaign celebration and give the whole story of the election of Harrison.

Sixteen. September 14, 1847. General Scott enters the city of Mexico. This would give us the Mexican War. I feel a little dubious about this. I am not sure but that one of the debates in Congress on the Mexican War would be better.

Seventeen. March 7, 1850. Webster's speech.

Eighteen. Douglass' promulgation of popular sovreignty.

Nineteen. August 27, 1858. Douglass' and Lincoln's debate at Freeport.

Twenty. April 12, 1861. Firing on Sumpter.

Twenty-one. January 1, 1863. Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Do you want to go beyond the Civil War? I think that if I were in your place I would make it a "century talk" and take it up to '89. I hope this list will be of some use to you. I shall revise it as I have leisure. We can talk it over when I come up to New York, which probably will be some time next week.

Very sincerely yours,

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