

**THE OLD AND THE NEW CENTURY:
AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE
NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON
ITS NINETY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1900**

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The old and the new century: an address delivered before the New York Historical Society on its ninety-sixth anniversary, Tuesday, November 20, 1900 by Marvin R. Vincent

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MARVIN R. VINCENT

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BY

THE REV. MARVIN R. VINCENT, D.D.

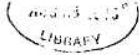


NEW YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

1900.

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—♦♦♦—
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* Died November 21, 1900.

At a meeting of the NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, held in its Hall, on Tuesday evening, November 20, 1900, to celebrate the Ninety-sixth Anniversary of the Founding of the Society :

The Anniversary Address was delivered by the Reverend MARVIN R. VINCENT, D.D., on "The Old and the New Century."

On its conclusion, Mr. A. V. W. Van Vechten, with remarks, submitted the following resolution which was adopted unanimously :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Reverend MARVIN R. VINCENT, D.D., for the learned, eloquent, and instructive address delivered before the Society this evening, and that a copy be requested for publication.

Extract from the minutes.

SYDNEY H. CARNEY, JR.,
Recording Secretary.

THE OLD AND THE NEW CENTURY

I MUST claim your indulgent sympathy this evening. In these days there is a general protest against too little liberty: my embarrassment comes of having too much. I am like the old Roman, standing at the golden milestone in the Forum, with the roads striking out in all directions, for Brundisium, Ancona, Cisalpine Gaul, Macedonia, and Byzantium, and doubtful which to take. The officers of your society, in their invitation to me, have prescribed no theme and have imposed no limitations. I am simply turned loose upon the outbranching highways of a century of history — a century more pregnant with great movements, great achievements, and great ideas than any that has preceded it, and the world is all before me where to choose. There lie ready to my hand the history of this Society, the history of our City, the history of our State, the history of the United States, and the history of the world; and what complicates the matter is, that a speaker can hardly deal with any one of these without stepping upon the lines of the others. I am reminded of Charles Lamb's remark on the occasion of his emancipation from the India House: "It was like