

**WORLD EDUCATION: A
DISCUSSION OF THE FAVORABLE
CONDITIONS FOR A WORLD
CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION**

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World Education: A Discussion of the Favorable Conditions for a World Campaign for
Education by W. Scott

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A WORLD CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION

BY

W. SCOTT

*Secretary of the New England Education League
and International Education Conference*

The successive generations of men, taken collectively, constitute one generation. — HORACE MANN.

I will bear in mind that the world is my native city. — SENECA.

Mine von der Menschheit fuer die Menschheit geschaffene, internationale, universelle und unvergaengliche Institution, mit der Bestimmung, das geistige Erbe von Generationen und Epochen, geachtet, geordnet und vermehrt, ohne Unterlass den Naechst-kommenden uebergeben. — FRANK KKKÉNY.

Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation, rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks; methinks I see her as an eagle, mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undimmed eyes at the full noonday beam, purging and unsealing her long abused sight at the fountain itself of heavenly radiance. — MILTON.

CAMBRIDGE

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1912

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE 19TH CENTURY	1
Its diffusive energy.—Growth of freedom.—Commerce, facilities of intercommunication, changes in governments, increase of national areas, literature, religious efforts, comparative religion, public education, a new era.	
CHAPTER II	
THE QUESTION STATED	10
Talleyrand's view of popular education.—The school and universal learning, the three R's interpreted, scope of education, the learner, adequate education a birthright.	
CHAPTER III	
OBSTACLES	16
The governing classes dictate scope and privilege of education, obstacles of race, sex, religion, poverty, tradition, locality, how overcome, the educational struggle and progress.	
CHAPTER IV	
PROGRESS MADE, VOLUNTARYISM	21
John Foster's essay on Popular Ignorance in 1819, great changes in educational opportunity, influences producing changes, voluntaryism, individual promoters, great teachers, religious bodies, various bodies, local, state, national, international.	
CHAPTER V	
PROGRESS MADE, GOVERNMENT	35
The town, city, state, nation, education under government control a vast enterprise, transition from national to international governmental action in education.	
CHAPTER VI	
REASONS FOR GOVERNMENT PROMOTION OF EDUCATION	47
The protective, constructive, economic, corporate ideas.	

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VII		PAGE
FAVORABLE CONDITIONS		51
The material conditions of society, "The Day of Roads," means of intercommunication, telegraph, telephone, transcontinental railways, ocean steamship lines, postal union, universal expositions, international coöperation, ideals of society, the economic and corporate ideas applied to human race, mankind a corporation.		
CHAPTER VIII		
LINES OF APPROACH, ILLUSTRATIONS		64
Effective nature of agencies cited, individual promoters of education in town, city, state, nation, branch of human race, the world, corporate action, manufacturing, transportation and other agencies, the printed page, the press, publications, books and libraries, government action, national and international.		
CHAPTER IX		
INTERNATIONAL PLANS		77
Kemény's Weltakademie, International Educational League, Federation of National Education Societies, World Federation of Universities, Federation of International Associations, World University (Religious, interdenominational), World Education Fund or Foundation, Joint Foundation for International Education, Inter-metropolitan Educational Alliance, International Union for Education (Governmental), The World Travel University, International Correspondence Schools, World Library and Museum.		
CHAPTER X		
STATISTICS		95
World educational statistics, international societies, congresses, etc., cities of 250,000 population and above.		
CHAPTER XI		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		103
APPENDIX		
PART I. GERMAN SYNOPSIS		107
PART II. FRENCH SYNOPSIS		116

WORLD EDUCATION

CHAPTER I

THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The history of liberty might be made the central thread of all history.
LORD ACTON.

THE nineteenth century made important additions to the sum of knowledge. It gave birth to new sciences. Vast accumulations of data were gathered, the relative prominence of departments of knowledge was modified, and there were remarkable movements in every area of action. But a survey of the century will probably show that its preëminent feature was its diffusive energy. This was favorable to the spread of knowledge and the general advantages of civilization.

Personal liberty during this period was marvellously advanced. Serfdom fell in France in the revolution of 1789, in Germany in the first half of the century, in Russia in 1861, in Poland in 1864. The foreign slave trade was abolished by Austria in 1782, United States and Great Britain in 1807, Spain in 1817 and Brazil in 1826. Slavery flourished longer but the century has witnessed revolutions in human society resulting in the emancipation

WORLD EDUCATION

of millions of slaves. Slavery ceased in the British colonies in 1835, and in the United States in 1863, and Brazil in 1889. The march of freedom has been incessant. A just and humane spirit has wrought these changes and tends to produce a better social condition everywhere.

The progress of commerce is one of the noteworthy facts of the century. To the commercial activity of the times the inventions and discoveries, made or more fully applied during the period, contributed. The steam engine is chiefly associated with the name of James Watt who died in 1815. The names of Fulton, Stephenson, Morse, Henry, Edison, Bell and others, men of scientific genius, are associated with steam-boat, steam-railway, telegraph and applications of electric power. The first steam locomotive ran in 1804, a steamboat made a successful trip in 1807, in 1819 the steamer Savannah crossed the Atlantic. The first Atlantic telegraph landed in 1858 and 1866. It has been followed by a telegraphic system which brings the business centres in touch with all parts of the globe. Important and numerous electric inventions and discoveries mark the closing years of the century, and make intercommunication easy the world over. These conditions have been further changed during the first decade of this century by the good roads movement, the automobile, wireless telegraphy and aerial navigation.

The march of commerce was facilitated by great public works, commercial treaties, national or inter-

CHARACTERISTICS

national expositions of industry, and various enterprises tending to make mankind familiar with the work and products of all peoples. The Erie canal in 1824, the Suez canal in 1869, the Union Pacific railroad uniting in 1869 the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the London exhibition of works of industry of all nations in 1851, the numerous treaties and conferences for international commerce, the penny post of 1840, the international postal union now established, the Siberian, Pan-American, Cape to Cairo and Australian railroads, constructed or projected, are among the facts which have promoted business intercourse among nations. They suggest the commercial union of mankind.

The changes in government were striking and extensive. These changes were brought about chiefly by popular agitation and legislation, but wars were not wanting. Two of the most destructive wars of history redden the century's pages, the Napoleonic wars from 1798 to 1815 in the old world, and the American civil war from 1861 to 1865 in the new. These tremendous conflicts have had deep influence on civilized government.

The United States in 1800 held no possession west of the Mississippi, and Florida and Louisiana belonged to European powers. By cession and purchase its area increased 4.8 times, exclusive of its latest territory. The growth of the British Empire also was remarkable. The unification of Italy occurred in 1870 and the reestablishment of the German Empire in 1871. Russia, with immense

WORLD EDUCATION

stretches of territory and population, rose to an authoritative place in the old world, and Japan appears as an ancient nation taking a new and strong hold on the world's life. A fresh impulse stirred races, quickened race ambitions and introduced new and powerful forces among mankind. The rise of the people by industry, education, a larger share in government was a widespread and pervasive influence. Governments are working to a greater harmony by diplomacy and international law. A pacific and humane spirit is supplanting militarism and the time may not be remote when disarmament shall prevail among nations. Questions of government are handled and discussed as never before, and the demand for better and more equal government is universal. While great evils exist, the general and gradual improvement of government is beyond doubt.

Whether the century was relatively a productive period in literature is a question upon which differences of opinion exist, but famous names appear among its writers in every department. The diffusion of literature in books was facilitated by improved processes of printing. Extraordinary activity is apparent in forms of popular literature which treat of themes and events in a brief and readable way. It was an age of review, magazine and newspaper beyond all former times. A group of reviews started near the beginning of the century in Great Britain. The Edinburgh Review in 1802, the organ of the Whigs; the Quarterly Review in