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Dr. King (D.D.), of New York, says of Professor Ludlam: "He has not only science, taste and experience, but the enthusiasm, the voice and the physical strength requisite to render his work most effective. His readings are varied, telling and highly satisfactory." Hear him at Barnes' hall on New Years evening and help the school piano fund.

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E.F. Spence has arranged to have all of Silver Hill cleared of weeds and put into a presentable shape. There has nothing been done this summer that has added much to the general appearance of the city as this clearing up process. A good deal has been done but there is still more that needs to be done.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS

Many subscribers to the *Messenger* are in arrears and the date upon the label will show to what time the subscription is paid. Where persons were subscribers to both the *Planet* and the *Leader* the credit has been averaged in some instances being dated ahead and in other back. We trust that the sums due will be remitted at once. It is unnecessary; perhaps, to state that the publishers are in urgent need of the money represented by these many small accounts, for like the proverbial country editor they are hard up, with the accent on the hard. Make them happy by remitting for a year in advance.

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PROFESSOR LUDLAM READING

The Methodist church was well filled last Friday evening and the large audience was enthusiastic over Professor Ludlam's recitations. In voice, gesture and interpretation, his elocutionary work is of a very high order. "The Raven" was rendered with an artist's conception and "Uncle Daniel" and "How Ruby Played" put the house in such good humor that 'dull care' was certainly driven away for some time. We hope to hear Professor Ludlam again in Ontario. *Ontario Record.*

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NEW YEARS NIGHT PROGRAM

The following is the program for the school entertainment on New Years night:

- 1 – Piano Solo – “Rapsodie” (second)
Miss Marie L. Cobb
- 2 – Recitation – “Aunt Peggy and High Art”
Mrs. Henry Ludlam
- 3 – Vocal Solo – “Bel Raggio” (Semiramide)
Miss Julia O. Long
- 4 – Recitation – “The Chariot Race”
Henry Ludlam
- 5 – “Nocturne”
Miss Cobb
- 6 – Friar Phillip
Mrs. H. Ludlam
- 7 – “Spring Tide”
Miss Long
- 8 – Recitation
H. Ludlam

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M.S.U.

There will be a special meeting of the Monrovia Social Union at Barnes' hall tomorrow (Friday) night at which time the program arranged for last week will be rendered. The Union is growing in interest and some good unusual and literary talent is displayed.

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Professor Ludlam is a skillful reader and successful teacher of the science and art of elocution. He possesses great power and discriminating taste and has added to high natural endowments a broad and careful culture.

John W. Shoemaker, President national School of Elocution and Oratory.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The exercise at the public schools last Friday afternoon, were very pleasant, although no special effort had been made to give an elaborate program. A good number of citizens were present. There was excellent music by a chorus interspersed through the program. The exercises were quite long and we have not space to give a detailed report.

Among the interesting features were an instrumental duet by the Misses Chrissie Matthewson and Lora Lamport; "Dot Baby" by Herbert Bray; "A Bunch of Keys" by six little ones; a dialogue by Mamie Cate, Kirke Lawrence and Allen Nye, and a discussion on "Baseball", in which Charles Green took the affirmative and Warren Cook the negative; it was a negative victory. Two essays were especially commendable. One was on "Robert Fulton" by John Foley and the other on "Professor Morse and Electricity," by Grace Wardall. "The Mump – from the Sick and Well Points of View." By Freddie Slemons and Horace France took applaudingly. An essay, "Legend of St. Nicholas," by Lily Monroe; the "Three Trusty Blades," by four boys and "Christmas Pie," by Earl Strowbridge were good. Six little girls closed the program by an exercise in which they wrote 'Good By' on the board.

The schools are in an excellent condition and are making commendable progress. Professor Foshay and his able corps of assistants are giving a high standard of excellence to the Monrovia schools and their work is appreciated by their patrons

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The Christmas edition of the *Cactus* is a gorgeous and mammoth affair. The finest yet issued by that enterprising journal it contains some telling cartoons a large number of pictures of prominent men – The editor of this paper for example thought none would recognize it – and much rearing matter of general interest.

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Mrs. Henry Ludlam is a reader of the very first class. In the tragic "The Sentimental and the Humorous" she is equally at home and in grace of action. She is unsurpassed. She never fails to delight her audience at Barnes' hall New Years evening.

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Everybody knows that Johnson & Parker are the busiest grocers in town.

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There was a Christmas tree at the residence of D.P. King on Christmas Eve besides the family there were present a number of friends recently from the east. The tree was well ladden with presents and a general good time was had.

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NEW YEARS CALLS

Mrs. J.H. Bartle assisted by Mrs. J.W. Harvey and Miss Bowerman will receive callers
New years Day from 2 to 6 p.m.

Mrs. T.V. Lamport and daughter Myrta assisted by Mrs. F.O. Miller, Mrs. B. Crews, Mrs.
J.H. Reider and Miss Jennie Pomerene will receive callers on New Years day at the home
of T.V. Lamport between the hours of 1 and 5p.m.

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Just remember citizens that Monrovia needs and must have ---

A public library

A public park

A boulevard to Pasadena by the most direct line.

A greater amount of attention given to ornamenting yards and clearing up lots.

A little less kicking and a little more readiness to advance the interests of the town in every possible way

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STEALING ORANGES

None seems to think it wrong to take as many oranges as he chooses whenever he finds them growing. If one will stop to think he must see that such actions can be styled by no other name than stealing. Oranges are valuable and the man who fills his buggy or a convenient sack has robbed the orchard of \$1 to \$3. Don't do it and don't blame the owner you have robbed if he should cause your arrest for so doing.

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TO RENT

Hotel Oakwood Arcadia

This fine brick hotel completely furnished will be rented to the right parties on reasonable terms. H.A. Unruh, Arcadia

Elegant rooms to rent rooms ensuite or single in the Nichols block at reasonable rates.
Hot and cold water, baths new and attractive. Call on the owner or inquire of the
Syndicate.

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SPECIAL OFFER

Twenty-seven shares of stock in the Beardslee Water Ditch Company at \$50 per share.
Inquire of W.N. Monroe, Real Estate Company

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FOR CASH

Hereafter we will sell coal, wood and hay solely and only for cash. Positively no credit so don't ask it. J.A. Baxter & Co.

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Send for 16 page descriptive catalogue and price list of fruit trees. Flowers and shrubs containing valuable hints for tree planting. R.H. Wilson Pioneer Nursery, Duarte, Cal.

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J.M. Hetrich of San Diego was at the Grand View Hotel, Tuesday.

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Mrs. Dr. Larue has moved to Los Angeles.

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J.J. Shriver went up through central California this week looking for an opening to establish a branch hardware house.

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George Smith of the Smith & Wesson Fire Arms Co. was in the city Monday looking after his property interests here which are quite extensive. He has quite an enthusiastic faith in Monrovia.

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Miss Frances M. Crawford has been spending the week in Alhambra but started today for her home in Cohoes New York. Her parents who expected to move here this winter have been unable to do so and have postponed their coming until next fall.

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Mr. Clark a capitalist from New York City was here last week looking up a location for a manufacturing enterprise he has gone north but said he would be back about the middle of January when he would meet other wealthy gentlemen from New York interested in the same enterprise.

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Clarence Murdock a wealthy Kansan spent Sunday with J.A. Case.

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A party of Pasadena young people held a picnic on Gold Hill Christmas day.

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New Year's is the 20th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. T.V. lampport.

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Christmas was a very pleasant day throughout being sunny and warm yet there were rainy days each side of it.

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George O. Monroe, Harry Miller, Will Lamport and Walter Monroe went down to Laguna this morning on a protracted duck hunt.

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The statement of the condition of the First National Bank of Monrovia appears in this issue and shows that institution to be in a very prosperous condition.

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The Yucca locomotive will come to Monrovia loaded with holiday goods. Cheap and attractive. Don't fail to see the grand display every Saturday evening at E.R. Brown's Jewellery store opposite Grand View Hotel.

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Some fellow who is a greater epicure than Christian stole 18 chickens from the Windsor Hotel people Monday night. The fowls were carried off in a wagon and will probably furnish certain Angelenos with Christmas dinner.

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Frank S. Jones of Los Angeles is spending the week here.

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A carload of oranges will be shipped from the Hall and Newhall ranch next week.

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Robert Alexander a brother of Mrs. W.S. Smith came down yesterday from the northern part of the state.

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D. Nicholson is selling during the holiday hats; ties, shirts, silk handkerchiefs, underwear and everything in gent's furnishings regardless of cost just call and see if it is not the case.

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The Monrovia and Santa Anita Nines played a game of ball here Christmas resulting in a score of 18 to 12 in favor of the former.

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Mrs. Crandall and daughter of Souix City, Iowa arrived here Monday. Mr. Crandall is expected this week with a carload of household goods. They will occupy a cottage on Palm Avenue for the present.

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Robert F. Maehl and family returned Saturday from a summers sojourn in the north. Bob says he has taken in the whole coast but of all the places he has seen none can equal Monrovia and that he is back to stay.

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Almer I. Hall will make final proof today on a section of government land in the mountains north of the city. It is his intention to develop water on this land. There being a promising prospect for getting a fine flow.

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J.I. Case is expected to be here some time in January.

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Book for children pretty and instructive at Renaker's.

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There was a very heavy fall of rain Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

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Mrs. Sarah A. Lee of San Pedro spent Christmas with her grand daughter Mr. Frank Kasson.

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Miss Myrtle Monroe who is attending college in Oakland arrived home last Thursday to spend the holidays.

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C.E. Keller resigned his position at Pasadena and gone north. He contemplates locating at Seattle, Washington.

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E.J. Baldwin has included White Oak Avenue in the list of Avenues which he is having bordered with eucalyptus trees it is well

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A.C. Simpson and wife of Vincennes, Indiana friends of T.V. Lamport and family arrived a few days since and will spend the winter in Monrovia.

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S. Bowerman and family of San Pedro took Christmas dinner with the family of J.H. Bartle. Miss Jennie Bowerman will remain here a couple of weeks.

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Rev. Dr. A.P. Graves arrived Saturday from Texas where he is engaged in Evangelical work to spend Christmas with his wife and children in this city.

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Mrs. J.S. Keefer and son Sammy returned Friday from their visit to New York and Ohio. They were delighted to be back in the land of sunshine and flowers of course.

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The Santa Anita post office was visited by tramps with burglarious intents a few days ago. They demanded of the postmaster his ready cash but were greeted with a shotgun instead. The gun wasn't loaded but they disappeared in a hurry all the same.

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We failed to record last week the news of the death of Thomas A. Endicott at his home in Cynthiana, Kentucky. He will be remembered as having clerked in the post office here about a year ago. He was a most excellent young man his disease was consumption.

DUARTE SCHOOL REPORT

The Duarte school closed Friday the 21st for a two weeks' holiday vacation. The ninth year pupils have just finished reading that charming poem, "The lady of the Lake." After reading carefully each canto and abstracting the thought in the pupils' own language, with a final abstract of the whole, it is with reluctance that the "Harp of the North" is permitted to resume its silence on the Wizard Elm."

The eighth year pupils will spend a portion of their vacation in the woods, looking for that "Wood Nymph" that they failed to find during their recent examination in entomology, and also, not far away, will be found the boys measuring the height of trees in order to test the accuracy in measuring the heights of objects by means of an isosceles triangle, which they failed to test accurately at their recent examination in geometry.

On the whole the term so far has been an interesting one, at least to the teachers and judging from the "tokens of regard" in the shape of handsome napkin rings, cuff buttons, etc. that were left on the teachers' desks Friday and from other evidences, the teachers have reason to believe that their efforts are appreciated in a measure at least. If only the interest can be maintained to the end of the year, is all that the teachers can wish for.

The following are the names of pupils who have been neither tardy nor absent during the first three months:

Lettie Sandefur, Robert Bacon, Robert Neeley, Nellie Sandefur, Jessie Thomson, Grace Boden, Cliff Wardall, Josie Chick and Edith Baxter.

The following were neither tardy nor absent during the first two months:

Lenord Wilson, Maggie Thompson, Fannie Charters, Eliza Bacon, Grace Frost, Elsie Thomson, Charlie Hilands, Jerome Dunne, Amy Chappelow, Mac Hilands, Jennie Biggins, Nellie Dunne, Eddie Tuggle, Clarence Baxter, Frank Leath, Charlie Frost, Jennie Bigelow, Laura Helsey.

RAPID TRANSIT

A force of about fifty men were put to work Christmas morning on this end of the line and by night the road was graded and the track laid from the depot to Myrtle Avenue, from which point trains will start hereafter. The work was rapidly done and was a surprise, as it was not known that such a move was anticipated. The change will be in every way satisfactory as it brings the road several blocks nearer the center of the city and also affords connection with the Myrtle Avenue street railway. The depot will not be moved at present, however, but a platform has been arranged at the new terminus. This will tend to centralize the business part of the city and will therefore be an advantage. When will it be extended to Duarte is a question that is frequently heard.

The graders are making good progress on the Los Angeles end of the line.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The Congregational chapel was well filled on Christmas Eve and an enjoyable evening was spent. A short program was opened with an organ voluntary, which was followed by "Antioch," sung by the congregation. Then came recitations by little ones and big ones, interspersed with Christmas hymns and carols. "Three Little Toadstools" was exceedingly funny and "The Wreck" by Charles Taylor was finely rendered. The tree was then lighted and was found well stocked with a variety of fruit, guarded by owls, which were perched on it, at all possible inquisitive angles. All the classes were called forward to receive their presents, Mr. Taylor's class vieing with the little ones in joy at receiving a bag of candy and a card. After the tree had yielded its stores a box of cake and bon bons was presented to each one in the room and a general and real social good time closed the merry Christmas Eve.

An unusually good time was spent at the Methodist church on the eve of Christmas. The children, with parents and friends, gathered in the main body of the church and listened to a choral and responsive service by scholars and choir, interspersed with songs and recitations. After this service the children proceeded to the east room, where the Christmas tree was located. It was brilliantly lighted with wax candles and contained a present for each and all scholars, besides candies and oranges. These were distributed and the young people afterward went home. Not one was forgotten by Santa Claus.

At the Baptist church a large tree had been provided for the delectation of the pupils of the Sunday school. The choir furnished excellent music, appropriate to the occasion and a program of Christmas selections was rendered in an attractive manner. After the program was over the tree was lighted with wax candles and Santa Claus put in an appearance, arrayed in furs and frost. W.C. Badeau then "Chatted" with the pastor and closed his remarks by presenting him on behalf of W.N. Monroe, C.O. Monroe and J.M. Thomas, a deed to an acre of land on Primrose Avenue. Mr. Badeau also chatted with Mrs. Rieman, giving her a plethoric bundle on behalf of the ladies. The pastor, for the choir, presented Miss Myrta Lamport with a seal token. The evergreen tree was then plucked of its fruit, which consisted of packages of candy, cards, etc., every member of the school receiving a present.

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The public schools here have a fine piano, a thing which the pupils enjoy and which adds much to the schools. A series of entertainments was given last winter and the proceeds applied to the purchase of this instrument. The money raised, however, was not quite sufficient to pay for the piano and the entertainment New Years night is for the same object and it is hoped the sum raised will be sufficient to liquidate the remaining indebtedness. Those who attend (and the hall should be crowded) will be spending their money for a worthy object and will as well get more than their money's worth in return, for the entertainment will certainly be the finest ever given in this city.

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The Monrovia baseball nine played the Santa Anita ranch nine Sunday, with a score of 11 to 4 in favor of the latter. Two weeks ago the Monrovia boys won, but this time the Santa Anita club had a pitcher from San Francisco, who was hard to hit.

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A good amount of work has been done on the streets the past week by those who were given the option of paying their road poll tax with labor. The result is marked, as loose cobblestones have disappeared, ruts have been filled, portions of streets have been graded and a general improvement has been made.

The young ladies of Monrovia will embrace the feminine privilege afforded by this leap year of grace, by giving a grand party at the Grand View Hotel to their gentlemen friends. There will be dancing, feasting and fun, ad libitum. None but the fair deserve the brave, and this is an instance where the brave may be had for the asking.

HE KICKS

Ed. *Messenger*: -- I do not wish to be fresh, but would like to mention a few irregular things I have seen in and about town:

One of the first eyesores is the miserable condition of the streets -- not miserable from quantity or depth of mud, but from lack of a little grading and of keeping the streetcar tracks in decent order. As they now are it is destructive to a carriage to drive over them at any pace faster than walk. A very few days work would make them "all right."

Another villainous practice, which is indulged in by some otherwise good citizens, is that of staking out cattle on other people's lots where they can destroy fruit and ornamental trees. This is a common practice by some.

Then the owners of horses and mules turn them loose on the streets at night, with the result that lawns, shrubbery, etc. are destroyed by them.

These things are not pleasant, and a kick is in order,

Citizen

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The roads between Monrovia and Pasadena are being improved for the first time in their history. The rearrangement of the road districts placed all that section along the foothills in one district and Dr. Murray was elected overseer. The result id that there will be much better roads. Trees are also being set out along the highways.

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A petition has been circulated here and Arcadia, praying the board of supervisors to have a bridge over the Santa Anita river on Falling Leaf Avenue. The ford there is next to impassable and one is compelled to go north of White Oak to find a safe crossing place, which more than doubles the distance between towns. There can be no question about the necessity of the bridge.

1888

The year 1888 will have become a point in history before another issue of the *Messenger*. What has it been to Southern California and to the citizens therefore? Perhaps not all that was anticipated at the time when the year was new yet as surely not less than there was reason to expect. As a whole the year has not been characterized by the feverish activity and excitement that marked the two previous years, still there has been inaugurated an era of more desirable prosperity, a settling down to legitimate business enterprises and an eradication of the false ideas that the spirit of speculation had forced upon the people. There have been no brass-band auction sales of land, no purchases of property at inflated values under the alluring promise of disposing of the same at a still more expanded price, nor have buildings been erected in inauspicious places in order to convince the unwary that every town in Southern California was to rival London in area and population. The people have begun to learn the lesson that the wonderfully fertile soil of this section has to great a value to be cumbered with corner lot stakes that could mark not more then the vanished hope of fortune that lured some too confiding devotee of chance. They have begun to learn that a town cannot aspire to an enduring prosperity unless there exists in and around it some wealth creating influence. These lessons have been put to some practical use, and the idle acres are being converted from idle wastes into gardens and fruit groves. Trees are being planted, farms are springing into existence and the wealth that is stored within the soil will reward the honest toiler with the necessities and luxuries of life. And not alone this, but manufacturing enterprises of various kinds are being instituted to give employment to labor and to provide a profitable investment for capital.

The writer has no fault to find with the “boom.” It was a blessing to this site in that it brought about a liberality of development that would have required years to encompass under other conditions. California never has been less in the richness of its soil and the perfection of its climate than it now is; yet it was neglected and largely unoccupied for more than a century after its first settlement. The push and progress of the last decade has changed all this, and this fair land is now the home of thousands of contented and prosperous people, who enjoyed blessings such as no other part of our country affords. Surely a “boom” that could bring about such a change was not less than a blessing, even though individuals have suffered because of it. It has served its purpose, however, and passed away. It has spread aboard the fame of this region that the years may not diminish; it has brought a population of progressive people who will be the means of continuing the work that has been so well begun and it has verified the superiority of this land.

Who will say that the present year that marks the beginning of the substantial progress of Southern California has not been a successful one? The transition from an era that was good to one that will be better, like the change from the chrysalis to the butterfly may seem to indicate a state of inanition, but such is really not the case – there is a wonderful

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transformation being made possible thereby. The future of this coast none can question. Every hillside will be converted into homes and orchards, every valley into farms and vineyards, and over all will rest the beautifying effects of the golden sunshine and the soft south winds and culture and happiness will go hand in hand with the beauty and healthfulness of this fairest of all fair lands. None need be impatient; the change is in progress and will require time. A few years will make a marvelous improvement and twenty years – who can say what may be accomplished in that time