THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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VICTORIEN SARDOU's chirography is more uncipherable than the late Horace Greeley's.

BLANCHE ROOSEVELT is collaborating to play with Victorien Sardou, and is not afraid to own it.

THERE is, after all, mathematical consistency about Ignatius Donnelly's cipher, as it amounts to nought.

H. RIDER HAGGARD, in spite of his success as a novel-writer, considers the practice of law his chief occupation.

MRS. FRANKLIN, a well-known London society woman, mother of Lady de Trafford, is about to start in business as a milliner.

ALL this trouble in Morocco is over the case of a gentleman bearing the name of El Hamed Ben Jelali El Erisi Halshi El Hiki.

THE late Isaac Hinckley, President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, left an estate valued at $396,675.

NOLA TWIGG, a servant girl of Portland, Ore., has fallen heiress to a fortune of $200,000 in England. This Twigg will now be able to branch out for herself.

E. P. ROE, the writer whom a large number of readers call a novelist, has been visiting Washington. It may be that Mr. Roe will yet write a capital novel.

THE fact that Sarah Bernhardt has in her possession 800 unread plays illustrates one of the sad features of contemporary life. But perhaps Maurice Barrymore wrote all these plays. In that case the sadness referred to disappears.

JULIA WARD HOWE and Queen Victoria are exactly the came age. They both celebra ed their sixty-ninth birthday this month. The former achieved greatness; the latter had greatness thrust upon her.

HENRY JAMES recently wrote a story called "The Liar," and now James Payn has written a novel called "The Eavesdropper." There is still time for an energetic writer to seize upon the picturesque possibilities offered by "The Thief" or "The Murderer."

RICHARD W. THOMPSON, of Indiana, ex-Secretary of the Navy, has probably been longer in active public life than any man living. He was an able and popular Whig speaker over 50 years ago, and was elected to Congress about that time. Apparently there are still many years of active service in "Old Dick."

QUEEN VICTORIA is quite well posted on current literature. Every new book of any prominence is at once sent to her. If she is attracted by its title it is read to her by some maid of honor in waiting. During the morning the Queen always listens to several columns of the London *Times*. She has a great liking for newspapers.

IT is denied that the Emperor of Germany is impatiently longing for death. The story about his having asked the chaplain to pray for his release was the product of somebody's imagination. In fact, Emperor Frederick has not yet made up his mind to die, and places implicit trust in the ability of his physicians to baffle his disease.

IT is rumored in England that Lord Delaware's eldest son, Lord Cantelupe, is about to marry a Miss Joicey, an American heiress, said to have an income of $100,000 a year. If Cantelupe is not superior to many English aristocrats who have married American girls his engagement may well be considered a melon-choly affair from various points of view.

MAJ. E. A. BURKE, of New Orleans, one of the best known newspaper men in the South, expects, it is said to realize something like $10,000,000 from his land speculations in Bessemer, Ala. If he does, it will represent an enormorous profit on an investment he made there hardly two years ago, when a small frame hut was the chief building in town.

MISS MARIE HOWE, of Brattleboro, Vt., has made a remarkable and distinguished success in opera at Berlin. The critics rank Miss Howe far ahead of Nevada and VanZandt. She has a perfectly molded figure, soft velvet black eyes and a mass of blond hair. She was called out twelve times by the audience after the last act, and had to repeat many numbers.

SENATOR QUAY, of Pennsylvania, has been very quiet since he entered the Senate Chamber, but in a *sub rosa* way has accomplished a triumph of statesmanship. He has obtained the photographs and autographs of his seventy-five Senatorial colleagues. It took a good deal of diplomacy to do this, as certain Senators never give their pictures to any one. How Mr. Quay obtained some of the photographs is a mystery.

S. L. CLEMENS, better known as Mark Twain, of the publishing firm of Charles L. Webster & Co., gives the following interesting facts regarding Gen. Sheridan's Memoirs, soon to be given to the public: "Mr. Webster and I called on Gen. Sheridan at his office in the War Department a couple of years ago and made a contract with him for his autobiography, upon terms satisfactory to both parties. This was not long after we had published the second volume of general Grant's 'Personal Memoirs.' Gen. Sheridan was as reluctant to try the untried field of authorship as had been Gen. Grant before him, but the desire to secure a comfortable provision for their families prevailed with both. Gen. Sheridan's procedure after he had once made up his mind, was characteristic of him. He went at his task with all his might, and never called a halt until it was finished. One can see by his manuscript that he, like Gen. Grant, found authorship easy after he once got started. Authorship is always easy when one has something to say."

STATE NEWS

Edwardsburg's Disaster.

A destructive wind storm struck the town of Edwardsburg, about 1 o'clock the other night, creating sad havoc through the village. The town consists of about 700 inhabitants, and contains between 250 and 300 buildings. It is located on the Grand Trunk railway, 113 miles from Chicago, on the shores of Diamond lake. The wind struck the village with terrific force, overturning and carrying away many of the houses. There is not a business house in the place but what is damaged to a more or less extent, and the town is almost a complete wreck.

A large and handsome hotel that had just been completed and had not yet been furnished was moved about fifteen feet from its foundations and completely wrecked. Several dwelling houses were unroofed and a number of barns were destroyed, leaving the horses and cattle unhurt. No one was injured as far as known.

The little lake was turned into a veritable sea, and the pleasure boats that were upon it were lifted bodily out of the water and thrown up high and dry on the land.

Lake City in Ashes.

Fire was discovered back of M. Van Arsdale's saloon at Lake City about 2.30 the other morning. It soon spread to the surrounding buildings and, fanned by a brisk west wind, was quickly beyond control. The Cadillac fire company was summoned and arrived in one hour and a half, though the railroad engineer had to be found and the engine steamed up.

When the flames were brought under control almost the whole of the business portion of the city had been swept away, 19 stores and five dwelling houses having been destroyed. The new jail and court-house were saved after much hard fighting. Some ten or twelve families were rendered homeless by the conflagration. The losses will aggregate about $70,000. While the fire is a stunning blow to the thriving little town, the business men will rally and rebuild as soon as possible.

Michigan News Briefly Told.

The Beaufort iron mine at Michigamme, which has been closed for some time, is being worked again.

A man named Heller was drowned in the river at Jackson July 4. He was out in the boat with two others when the boat capsized. The others were rescued.

Several accidents happened at East Saginaw July 4. Eddie Germain, son of Louis Germain, received the contents of a toy cannon in his foot and may die. William Moriarity, while expressing his patriotism with a 22-caliber revolver, put a bullet through his leg, and a citizen of Bay City endeavored to climb on a moving train, but failed and, falling beneath a wheel, lost a leg. Shortly after the display commenced sparks fell on the platform and the next instant rockets and candles shot into the crowd, instantly killing a girl named Gladsworth, 14 years old, and injuring several others.

Saloons in Ishpeming and Negaunee were kept open on the 4th inst., in defiance of the state law. Test cases will be made, and the saloon-keepers' union will support the arrested parties.

The output of the Calumet and Hecla mine for June was 2,541 tons, 1,170 pounds.

At the races in Houghton July 4, one horse bolted and ran over Jerry Murphy of Hancock, killing him instantly.

A reunion of Co. C. of the Third Michigan Cavalry will be held in South Haven July 25-26.

Over 2,000,000 of logs were destroyed by fire in Paris, Mecosta county, on the 3d inst.

The Grand Rapids brass company has been organized with a capital of $25,000.

Over 500 men are rushing the work of ballasting the new track of the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railroad from Nestoria west to Iron River, the junction with the Northern Pacific railroad. The men are working in four directions—west from Nestoria and east from Dogwood, and west from Dogwood and east from Iron River Junction. Three steam shovels are being worked night and day, and unless the mosquitoes kill the men the South Shore road will be ready for through traffic by August 1.

John Heatley of East Saginaw, fell off a barge at Bay City on the 4th and was drowned.

Port Huron saloons were wide open on the 4th in defiance of the law and police regulations.

Half rates will be given on all Michigan railroads to persons going to the Bay View summer resort, from July 16th to 25th inclusive, tickets good to August 17th. The Bay View Assembly opens July 25, closing August 15. The superb climate, brilliant assembly programs, splendid schools, choice society, and fine recreative pleasures at Bay View are making it one of the most popular resorts in this country. The hotel and boarding accommodations are ample and the prices only $5 and $10 a week. Over 100 cottages will be built this year. The finest talent that can be secured has been engaged for the Summer School for Teachers, Schools of Music, Art, Oratory, S. S. Normal Classes, Church Congress, &c. In the general program will be heard Bishops J. H. Vincent and W. X. Ninde, Rev. Drs. Geo. P. Hayes, P. S. Henson, Robert Nourse and Alfred A. Wright; J. DeWitt Miller, Miss Matilda H. Ross, H. H. Ragan, Boston Stars, Amphion Club, Frank Lincoln, Rev. Annie H. Shaw, Mrs. Bessie Starr Keefer of Toronto; Mrs. Lavyah Barakat of Syria; Benj. Clarke of England, Dennis Osborne of India, and twenty more of such celebreties; besides a long list of eminent musical talent, such as Walter Emerson, cornetist; Rudolph King, pianist; Medora Henson Emerson and Anna Rommeiss, soloists, &c. All band and orchestra members are invited to take their instruments, and join in pleasant daily rehearsals conducted by Mr. W. G. Bryant, the accomplished leader of the Flint City Band.

Jenkins' hotel at Iron Mountain, was destroyed by fire July 5.

Mrs. Sarah B. De Puy, wife of Judge Theodore J. De Puy, once a resident of St. Joseph, suicided at Los Angeles, because of alleged intemperate habits of her husband.

Gen. Alger and two other Michigan men have selected a location for the Michigan monument to be erected in September. It will be in an open field near Cemetery Ridge, where one of the greatest cavalry charges of the war was made.

Hon. D. L. Crossman, well known in legislative circles as a most skillful parliamentarian, and clerk of the house since 1873, is very ill at his home near Williamston.

A small boarding house in Sault Ste. Marie, kept by Charles Payne, burned the other night. Mrs. Payne was burned to death. Her husband and other inmates barely escaped with their lives.

The President has signed the bill pensioning Matthew S. Reynolds of the soldiers' home.

Mrs. John Sanders of Horton, Jackson county, hung herself in her room on the 6th inst. Insanity led to the act.

George Dobbs' farm house, about seven miles from Sault Ste Marie, was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 6th inst., and Mr. Dobbs, a young man named Merrifield and two little children were burned to death.

The Jonesville cotton mill has been shut down and the machinery is being taken out preparatory to removing to Des Moines, where the company will continue the business.

E. C. Somers, treasurer of Nestor township, Roscommon county, has been arrested charged with embezzling township funds to the extent of $200. Somers says his arrest is spite work on the part of the supervisors of his township. He says nothing to the charge.

The Columbiaville woollen mills have this season already bought something over 300,000 pounds of wool.

Hope College, Holland, is the recipient of $1,000, donated by a gentleman of Hackensack, N. J.

Fred. Anderson of Cadillac, an expert swimmer, was drowned while in bathing the other morning.

William Young is in jail at Bay City, charged with assault with intent to kill Patrick McLean.

The case of Pauline Missik against Rev. Jeremiah Payne of Cedar Springs has been revived afresh by the beginning of proceedings against William Dougherty for perjury. Dougherty testified for Payne, on the first trial, to seeing Polk Brahmin and Pauline Missik in a compromising position, but denied the testimony in his affidavit.

At the annual meeting of the conference of charities and corrections, held in Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Henry Hurd of Pontiac reported for the insane of this state. He said no changes had been made since last year. The care of the insane had been largely modeled after the system in New York. Of 2,000,000 population in Michigan there are 2,611 insane, a condition pronounced very favorable.

Gov. Luce has named Rev. A. R. Merriam of Grand Rapids to represent Michigan at the national prison congress, to be held at Boston.

William R. Graves of New Boston, Wayne county, was found dead in bed at his son's residence in Detroit, on the morning of July 5. Mr. Graves was a soldier in the war for the union, in Capt. Wm. A. Owen's company in the 24th Michigan.

The following appointments in Michigan are to be filled by Dr. John A. Brooks, the nominee for vice president on the prohibition ticket: Howell, July 14; Owosso, July 16th; Flint, July 17th; Big Rapids, July 18th; Albion, July 19th.

Walter Tabor, a 10-year old boy of Lawton, was hooked under the arm by a vicious cow and seriously, perhaps fatally, injured.

Sarah W. Lawrence of Michigan is promoted from a $900 to a $1,000 clerkship in the office of the commissioner of inland revenue.

The President has approved the following pension bills, introduced by Representative O'Donnell: Charles M. Dilley, Eaton county; Ellen M. Thiers, Battle Creek; Mary A. Howe, Marshall; Lewis C. Keck, Marengo.

James Etsey an ex-supervisor of Wheatfield Township, Ingham county, and his 16-year-old step-son, named Cole, were instantly killed at Meridian on the 7th inst. Their horse became frightened by Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railway east-bound passenger train and ran into the engine while the train was under full speed, dashing Etsey and Cole against the locomotive.

A Grand Trunk freight ran into a Michigan Central freight, near Cassopolis, utterly demolishing one engine and eight or ten cars loaded with perishable freight. No one was injured. The damages are estimated from $30,000 to $40,000.

A dam near Dowagiac burst the other morning. It did considerable damage to the mill race, overflowing the flats and carrying 350 feet of the bank of the race away. The dam of the State Roller Mills was almost carried away. Colby's loss is $2,500. Two bridges were swept away and the road to Cassopolis cut off. The water rose five feet at the railroad bridge and the dam at the Dowagiac Manufacturing company's mill was carried away; loss $500. Some of the buildings of the Manufacturing company would have been sweep away if the dam had not gone.

A suit has been brought in the Kent circuit court to annul railroad bonds issued by Cedar Springs.

G. A. Bergland has recently purchased 2,000,000 feet of pine in Lake county, for which it is reported he paid $10,000. Mr. Bergland will commence to cut the pine at once, and it will be manufactured in Cadillac.

It is rumored in Springfield that F. A. Montgomery of Eaton Rapids, has offered to erect a flouring mill having a capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day, provided that the citizens of that place will contribute $3,000 for that purpose.

The weather crop bulletin of the Michigan weather service says that the weather for the week ending July 7 has been very favorable for making hay and the crop is nearly all secured. Quality good, but some sections report the quantity light. Wheat is ripening rapidly, but unevenly, and the wheat harvest will probably begin the first of the week. Corn, oats and potatoes are doing finely, but more rain is needed. The potato crop promises to be a large one. More rain is needed in the central and eastern portions, as the crops are liable to suffer from the lack of rain and excess of temperature.

Hon. George L. Yaple denies that he is ill in Dakota, but says that he is at home in Mendon, and quite well.

Rev. George Duffield, died in Bloomfield, N. J. on the 8th inst. He had held pastorates in Adrian, Saginaw and Lansing. He was of revolutionary stock, his great grandfather, who bore the same name, being a fighting chaplain during the struggle for American independence and a contemporary of Bishop William White, who was chaplain of the first continental congress. His grandfather, also George Duffield, was a leading merchant of Philadelphia, to whom important public trusts were given in his native state. His father, third in this distinguished line, was for 30 years pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Detroit.

Thomas Alcock, a plumber of Staverton, near Daventry, Northamptonshire, Eng., wants information of the whereabouts of Charles Alcock, who sailed from England in the ship Monarch, on Good Friday, 1883. He was last heard of at Stern's Siding, Ster's Camp, Mich. Any person who knows of his whereabouts or of his death will be rewarded by sending the information to the above address.

"Major General" Canfield of the Lansing Salvation Army, has invented a diabolical bsnjo composed entirely of tin and wire strings, and which the inventor has poetically named the campaign kaiser. He will apply for a patent.

There will be more peaches in Michigan this year than at any previous time in eight years.

About 150 of the leading farmers of Genesee county have organized under the name of the Genesee county co-operative creamery company, and with a paid-up capital of $3,500 will commence the manufacture of butter on an extensive scale as soon as the necessary buildings can be put up.

The famous suit for breach of promise of Mrs. H. F. Houck against Dr. James W. Long of Coldwater, for $10,000, has been satisfactorily settled by the doctor paying her a nominal sum.

Richter, a taxidermist of East Saginaw, has sent to the Prince of Wales a handsome deer's head with antlers.

Asa Ingersoll, an elderly and highly respected farmer living near Elk Rapids, was run over by a loaded lumber car and almost instantly killed on the dock the other morning. He stepped aside to avoid a dray and the car struck him at that moment and ran over his chest. He had a little child in his arms who was unhurt.

Col. Samuel Wells of Grand Rapids has been appointed an aide on the staff of Brig. Gen. I. C. Smith, commanding the brigade of the Michigan state troops.

Myron D. Jones, for many years master of transportation on the Michigan division of the Lake Shore railroad, has resigned, after 35 years of service for that company.

The Flint & Pere Marquette railroad company will make a big effort to capture a good share of the western grain trade this fall.

A Mrs. Strong of near Dentonville died a few days ago from gangrene, brought about by an endeavor to cure her troublesome corns.

Barnum's anaconda shed its skin at East Saginaw.

Johnson Bros. of Greenville had a mare valued at $1,000 stolen from their barn the other night.

DETROIT MARKETS.

WHEAT, White	$ 89	@	91
" Red	85	@	87
CORN, per bu	50	@	51
OATS, " "	39	@	39½
BARLEY	1 58	@	1 60
MALT	95	@	1 00
TIMOTHY SEED	2 50	@	2 55
CLOVER SEED, per bag	4 20	@	4 60
FEED, per cwt	11 50	@	12 00
FLOUR—Michigan patent	4 95	@	5 05
Michigan roller	4 50	@	4 60
Minnesota patent	5 10	@	5 20
Minnesota bakers'	4 50	@	4 60
Rye per bu	60	@	70
APPLES, per bbl	3 50	@	4 50
BEANS, picked	2 40	@	2 45
" unpicked	1 75	@	2 00
BEESWAX	25	@	26
BUTTER	14	@	15
CHEESE, per lb	8	@	9
DRIED APPLES, per lb	8	@	9
EGGS, per doz	15	@	15½
HONEY, per lb	14	@	15
HOPS per lb	5	@	10
HAY, per ton, clover	12 00	@	13 00
" " timothy	14 00	@	14 50
MALT, per bu	90	@	1 05
ONIONS, per bbl	3 50	@	3 60
POTATOES, per bu	70	@	75
CHERRIES, per bu	2 50	@	2 75
STRAWBERRIES	4 00	@	5 00
BLACKBERRIES	3 00	@	3 50
GOOSEBERRIES, per bu	1 50	@	2 00
RASPBERRIES	3 25	@	3 50
CURRANTS, per bu	2 00	@	2 25
CHERRIES	2 50	@	3 50
PEACHES	3 75	@	4 05
POULTRY—Chickens, live	8	@	8½
Geese	6	@	7
Turkeys	8	@	9
Ducks per lb	7	@	8
PROVISIONS—Mess Pork	14 25	@	14 50
Family	15 50	@	15 75
Extra mess beef	6 75	@	7 00
Lard	7	@	8
Dressed hogs	6 00	@	6 25
" Beef	4	@	6
" Calves	6	@	7
" Sheep	4	@	8½
" Lambs	5	@	9
Hams	11	@	12
Shoulders	7	@	7½
Bacon	10	@	10½
Tallow, per lb	3	@	3½
HIDES—Green City per lb	5		
Country	5½		
Green Calf	6½		
Cured	6½		
Salted			
Sheep skins, wool	50	@	1 00

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—The general market opened firmer, but natives closed 10c lower; choice to extra beeves, $5 90@6 35; common to choice $4 40@5 95; stockers and feeders, $3 50@4 00; cows, bulls and mixed, $1 50@3 30; Texan cattle, firm, $1 50@3 75.

HOGS—Market active, 5c higher; mixed, $5 70@5 90; heavy, $5 80@6 05; light, $5 70@5 0.

SHEEP—Market steady and firm; natives, $3 25@5; Westerns $3 25@3 80; Texans, $2 50@3 35; lambs, $4 10@5 50 per cwt.

WOOL.

Fleeces—Fine, 10@21c; medium, 24@25c; coarse, 22@25c; unwashed, unmerchantable, cotted and black, ⅓ off; bucks, ⅓ off.

GENERAL NEWS.

Several members of the brotherhood of locomotive engineers were arrested on a train near Chicago the other morning, with a quantity of dynamite in their possession. It is claimed that they were on their way to Chicago for the purpose of committing crime and that a number of prominent officials are implicated.

Crops in Iowa and Illinois were greatly injured by the storm which passed over those states on the 5th inst. Railroad and telegraphic service was seriously retarded for many hours.

A cyclone passed over northern Iowa July 5, doing great damage to crops.

Arkansas prohibitionists elected a national electoral ticket, but the majority refused to put up a state ticket.

Louisiana democrats are preparing evidence to forward to congress to refute statements that the votes cast in certain parishes are in excess of the registration.

The business portion of Maumee, Ohio, was destroyed by fire the other morning.

In the case of Joseph M. Chase, Senator Cullom's coachman, indicted for manslaughter in causing the death of Prof. E. A. Paul in Washington on March 31 last, by recklessly driving into him and his bicycle, the jury returned a verdict of guilty. Notice of motion for a new trial was given.

A construction train on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern road was wrecked near Joliet by obstructions placed on the track. Three Italian laborers were instantly killed and Engineer Knight was fatally scalded.

The boiler in Groetsinger's tannery in Allegheny City, Pa., exploded the other morning, wrecking several buildings and injuring six persons, three of whom will die.

A dispatcher's mistake caused two passenger trains to collide near Nanticoke, Pa., the other day. Several passengers were seriously injured.

Mrs. Wm. Ewell of East Liverpool, O., was taking her son home from a saloon the other evening when a train struck them, killing both.

A terrible hail storm did much damage in the east on the 6th inst. Parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania report heavy damage to crops, and in some cases destruction of buildings. At Ashbury Park, N. J., an uncompleted Catholic church was blown down. In the Lackawanna valley, Pa., the fruit trees were stripped of leaves and garden crops completely destroyed.

The Washington Capital, assuming that President Cleveland will be re-elected, and that Messrs. Whitney and Garland will retire from the cabinet at the expiration of their terms, names Col. Lamont for secretary of war and says that "the country will be well prepared, if the President should have these vacancies to fill, to see Col. Daniel S. Lamont made a member of the cabinet."

The United States steamers Atlanta and Yantic, now at the New York navy yard, are to be fitted out for foreign cruisers. It is thought that the first-named vessel will join the Pacific squadron and that the latter will go to the West Indies.

While a party of two ladies and four children were crossing a bridge on the way from Weirs to Governor's Island, Lake Winnepiscogee, near Laconia, N. H., the horse became frightened and backed the carriage into the lake. Two children, Carrie and Arthur Brocklebalk of Lynn, Mass., were drowned.

Another strike, which will tie up all of the western lines, is threatened by the radical factions of the two brotherhoods.

A terrific wind storm passed over Minnesota and Dakota on the 8th inst. A strip of country 20 miles wide was completely destroyed, and all crops ruined.

Progressive paralysis has taken hold of the poet Walt Whitman, and his friends fear that he will not recover from the illness.

Warrants have been issued by the secretary for the payment of $13,767,089 on account of pensions.

Judge Walter Q. Gresham sailed for Europe on the 9th inst.

Haverhill, Mass., had a $100,000 fire on the 8th inst.

One of the three large boilers of the Adelaide silk mills at Allendale, Pa., exploded the other morning, killing three men and wounding several others.

Conditions are favorable for good crops through all the agricultural regions east of the Rocky Mountains. Wheat, corn and cotton in the central valleys have improved.

A petition has been filed in the district court at Omaha by Frances C. Cleveland, Benj. Folsom, N. R. Folsom and ten other heirs, for partition of their interests in 50 lots in that city owned by the late John B. Folsom.

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway has commenced suit in the supreme court of Kansas to eject about 200 settlers of Allen county from farms which they have occupied 12 or 15 years. The claim includes about 30,000 acres said to have been a congressional land grant to the company in 1882.

A large section of Kansas City was inundated on the 9th inst., by a heavy rain. Two houses were totally destroyed, and six people were only rescued by the work of the fire department. The loss to property is over $20,000.

The floor in one of the stores in Meyer's opera house in El Paso, Texas, gave way the other night and brought down into the cellar several iron pillars that supported the proscenium and the octagon dome. A portion of the stage came down with the rest. Fortunately there were few people in the opera house at the time and no one was injured. The floor was broken down by a pile of about 15 tons of beans in sacks. The building cost $80,000 and will probably be a total loss. The damage to stocks of goods in the building is at least $15,000.

FOREIGN NEWS.

O'Donnell's libel suit against the London Times resulted in a verdict for the defendant.

The locust plague is devastating Algeria. Sixty thousand laborers, and 2,000 soldiers are powerless, and it is feared that famine and pestilence will prevail.

An arrangement by which a large Panama canal loan will be realized has been made, the money to go into the redemption fund and be available in case of failure of the scheme.

For giving the French information relative to German military matters, Herr Dietz and wife and an official named Appell (all Alsatians) have been sentenced to imprisonment and disfranchisement.

Mr. Parnell will move for a committee of inquiry on the charges made against himself and other members of parliament by Attorney-General Webster.

The sultan fears Austrian concessions to Russia restoring Pan-Slavist interests in the Ottoman empire, and is negotiating for an extraordinary reserve fund of $10,000,000.

It Leads All Others.

It cannot truthfully be denied that the Burlington Route, C., B. & Q. R. R., is doing an extensive business, both passenger and freight. Of the first named branch of its service the Chicago Herald recently said, in speaking of the occasion of the National Republican Convention: "The Burlington Road probably brought in more people than any other. Altogether it is estimated that from June 16 to 19, the period of the excursion rates, over 12,000 strangers came to Chicago over the Burlington." This was exclusive of suburban passengers and mostly in addition to its heavy regular passenger traffic. In receipts of Live Stock, the Union Stock Yards Reports show the Burlington to be far in the lead. The average number of cars brought in by it during the first six months of the years 1886, 1887 and 1888 is 26,140; and the number for the first half of the year 1888, notwithstanding the temporary depression caused by the recent great strike on its lines, was 24,425, or but little below the average. The latter figure also represents about 24 per cent of the total number of cars, 102,413, brought to the Yards for the last half year, being more than six per cent in excess of the receipts by any other road.

Take Your Choice.

Democratic party: President—Grover Cleveland of New York. Vice-president—Allen G. Thurman of Ohio.

Republican party: President—Benjamin Harrison of Indiana. Vice-president—Levi P. Morton of New York.

Prohibition party: President Clinton B. Fisk of New Jersey. Vice-president—John A. Brooks of Missouri.

Union Labor party: President—A. J. Streeter of Illinois. Vice-president—Chas. E. Cunningham of Arkansas.

United Labor party: President—Robert H. Cowdrey of Illinois. Vice-president—W. H. T. Wakefield of Kansas.

Industrial Reform party: President—Albert E. Redstone of California. Vice-president—John Colvin of Kansas.

Woman Suffragists: President—Belva A. Lockwood of Washington. Vice-president—Alfred H. Love of Pennsylvania.

The Exposition Opened.

The centennial exposition in Cincinnati was opened on the 4th inst. Gov. Foraker delivered the opening address, and from her home in Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Polk, the widow of President Polk, started the machinery. A number of distinguished guests from other states were present.

THE LAND GRANT BILL.

The Vote Non-Partisan and all Parties Suited.

Epitome of Washington News.

The house has passed the land grant forfeiture bill by a large non-partisan vote—177 ayes to 8 nays. The unanimity with which the members voted for it is due to the fact that all the factions interested in the bill desired to get it into the conference committee where all the conflicting claims can be adjusted. The bill, as passed, bears no resemblance to the one that was adopted in the senate a few weeks ago after a long and hard fight. The only Michigan claims conferred are those of the bona fide homesteaders, both the cash entry men and the canal company's titles being ignored altogether. All the Michigan men voted for the bill. They did not like its present form, but were compelled to take it, as best they could get, in order to settle in the best manner possible the upper peninsula land titles which have been a matter of contest for years.

Before passing the bill, which is known as the "Holman substitute," the house voted down Payson's measure, which was substantially that as originally passed by the senate. The fight made there over the Michigan cases will be continued at close quarters in the conference committee.

The state department has been informed of the assassination of an American named Stephen Zekany, at his mill near Ahome, Mexico, by a well-known bandit. The authorities are active in his pursuit.

It is thought that a vote will be taken on the tariff bill about July 15.

The President was compelled to decline the invitation to attend the Gettysburg reunion because of a press of public business.

Among the orders issued recently at the war department is the following: Col. Henry Black, Twenty-third infantry, will proceed to Mackinac island, Michigan, and attend the encampment of the Michigan state troops, to be held at that place from the 12th to the 23d of July, 1888, for the purpose of inspecting the troops taking part therein, under such instructions as he may receive from the adjutant-general of the army, and, on the completion of this duty will return to his proper station. The travel enjoined is necessary for the public service.

F. B. Brogan has been appointed third assistant keeper of the light station at Spectacle Reef, Michigan.

President Cleveland says the pension list should be a roll of honor and not a matter of indiscriminate alms-giving.

The president could not attend the Tammany Fourth celebration (the hundredth time the society has celebrated the day), but he wrote a letter in which he commended the members for their patriotism. He also took occasion to say something about taxation and the surplus.

The president has vetoed another batch of private pension bills.

Gen. Cutcheon's health is somewhat improved but he says that he is not yet well. He finds the heat of Washington quite trying, but hopes by careful watching to remain until congress adjourns.

Senator Stockbridge has proposed an amendment to the sundry civil bill to appropriate $100,000, for the erection of a public building at Bay City.

Senator Voorhees has introduced a bill directing the secretary of the treasury to pay upwards of $10,000 to Dr. D. Willard Bliss, formerly of Grand Rapids, which sum is an unexpended balance of $57,500 appropriated six years ago to pay for the services of physicians, servants and the funeral expenses of President Garfield. Over $50,000 was distributed among physicians and others in attendance on President Garfield, and each person so remunerated was required to sign a receipt in full, but most of the attendants have since been applicants for additional pay, and now Dr. Bliss comes in with a bill to scoop the last cent of the unexpended balance.

During the last fiscal year the number of postoffices established was 3,364; number discontinued, 1,642; number of fourth-class postmasters resigned and successors appointed, 6,139; number removed, 1,224; whole number appointed during the year, 11,852; number of presidential postmasters resigned and successors appointed, 382; number removed, 20; whole number of presidential postmasters appointed during the year, 436.

Patents to agricultural lands entered under the various public land laws have been issued by the general land office during the fiscal year: Cash entries, 29,692; homestead, 15,592; timber culture, 1,343; desert land, 30; scrip, 528; total, 47,180. There were also issued during the year 1,034 patents to mineral lands, 114 patents to coal lands and 56 patents to private lands under grants. Patents during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1887, were issued as follows: Agricultural lands, 24,588; mineral, 1,489; coal, 53; private lands, 260. Total for last year, 26,340.

A bill to make the manufacture, preparation or sale of adulterated articles of food, drink or medicine a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, has been introduced in the senate by Senator Wilson of Iowa. The bill provides that an article which has been corrupted, debased or changed in its composition or strength by the introduction of any foreign substance, shall consist of an adulteration, whether the article shall have been rendered unhealthful or not.

The President has made an order directing all consular officers of the government to hereafter authenticate all the vouchers and other papers necessary for drawing pensions by United States pensioners without fees.

Congressman Springer says he will call up his bill admitting Dakota, Montana, Washington and New Mexico to the Union as soon as the tariff bill is disposed of. He expects little delay in its consideration.

Efforts are being made to induce congress to embody in one of its appropriation bills an amendment providing for the expense of the elevator in the Washington monument. The machinery is all ready and waits only for fuel and men to run it. The estimated cost is $10,000 per year. An appropriation of that sum would give pleasure to 300,000 citizens of the nation during the fiscal year. The nation has paid more than $1,000,000 to erect the greatest monument of the world to its greatest man, and the people who visit the capital in increasing throngs are certainly entitled to the proper facilities for viewing the structure for the construction of which they paid their money. It is thought the matter will be properly adjusted during this session.

A syndicate has been formed in Washington to search for the treasure which went down in the British sloop-of-war Braak in Delaware Bay, May 25, 1798.

Silk culture is again to be taken under the patronage of the United States government. A bill appropriating $150,000 for the encouragement of silk culture has been introduced in the senate. It creates a bureau of silk culture in the department of agriculture, and authorizes the establishment of experimental silk culture stations throughout the country. It provides for the free distribution to farmers and others of mulberry seed and silk-worm eggs. Something like the old morus multicaulis excitement may again arise.

The bill amending the inter state commerce law has passed the senate.

George H. Mitchell of Birmingham has been admitted to practice before the interior department.

The President has sent to the senate the nomination of Charles H. Berry of Winona, Minn., to be associate justice of the supreme court of Idaho Territory. This is the position which was assigned to Congressman Maybury by some of the political quidnunc.

The proposition to submit to the people of the several states a constitutional amendment to prohibit the liquor traffic in the United States has been favorably reported to the senate from the committee on education.

The following nominations have been sent to the senate: Elliott Standford of New York to be chief justice of the supreme court of the territory of Utah; John W. Judd of Tennessee to be associate justice of the supreme court of the territory of Utah; Hugh H. Wier of Pennsylvania to be chief justice, and Charles H. Berry of Minnesota to be associate justice of the supreme court of the territory of Idaho; Roderick Ross of Dakota to be associate justice of the supreme court of the territory of Dakota; Col. John H. Keatley of Iowa to be United States judge for the district of Alaska.

The republicans are preparing a new tariff bill to offset the Mills bill.

The committee of the whole of the house has rejected—37 to 108—Mr. Cannon's amendment placing on the free list sugars not above the 16 Dutch Standard, reducing the rates on other grades and granting a bounty to the producers of sugar.

HAPPY HARRISON.

He is Told of His Nomination an is Grateful Therefor.

The notification committee appointed : the late republican national convention t notify Gen. Harrison of his nomination pe formed that pleasant duty at the General home in Indianapolis on the 4th inst.

The address to Gen. Harrison havi been duly signed, the visiting committ were conducted to the Harrison residen by the local committee. They were receiv by the Gen. and Mrs. Harrison and a par of ladies who were the guests of Mrs. Ha rison.

As the ladies took their positions besi Gen. Harrison, Chairman Estee stepp forward and in a splendid voice and emph sis said:

Gen. Harrison, we are commissioned t the national republican convention to oi cially notify you of your nomination as tl republican candidate for president of tl United States. We may be permitted t remind you that your selection met tl hearty approval of the whole convention, left no embittered feeling or lukewar supporters, and its action voiced the ave age and the best judgment of the conve tion.

It is true distinguished gentlemen we known to the people, who were experience in public affairs, illustrious in characte and worthy of the people's confidence ar support, were before the convention as ca didates, and yet you were chosen.

Nor was your nomination due to accide or the result of hasty or inconsiderate deli eration. It indicated rather that you po sessed in a more eminent degree those pec liar qualities, which commended you to tl people's favor. In the hour of our country peril you cheerfully accepted a humble p sition in the army, went where your countr most needed you, and by long and faithfu service rose to higher commands and as sumed graver responsibilities.

Elected to the American senate your en lightened and conservative statesmanshi commanded the respect and inspired th confidence of the American people. Adde to this the purity of your past life and you exalted private virtues is an earnest tha as a candidate for president the honor o the republican party and the glory of ou country will be safe in your keeping. Th platform adopted by the national republi can convention, marks out with clearnes and precision the creed of the party. Th American system of protection to Ameri can labor and American products in Ameri can markets, the sacredness and purity o the ballot, the protection of American citi zens, native and adopted, at home an abroad, on land and sea, the prohibition o Chinese immigration, the building up o our navy, the erection of coast defens and the care of old soldiers and sailors o the republic are questions which occup conspicuous places in our platform. Thes and other subjects referred to in the plat form will doubtless receive your carefu consideration. In conclusion we beg t express our personal satisfaction at you nomination, and we indulge the belief tha your election is already assured.

After a moment's silence, Gen. Harriso said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Com mittee—The official notice which you hav brought of the nomination conferred upo me by the republican national convention recently in session at Chicago, excite emotions of a profound though of a some what conflicting character. That after fu deliberation and free consultation, the rep resentatives of the republican party of th United States should have concluded tha the great principles enunciated in the plat form adopted by the convention could be i some measure safely confided to my care, is an honor of which I am deeply sensible, and for which I am very grateful. I do not assume or believe that this choice implies that the convention found in me any preeminent fitness or exceptional fidelity to the principles of government to which we are mutually pledged.

My satisfaction with the result would be altogether spoiled if that result had been reached by unworthy methods, or by a disparagement of the more eminent men who divided with me the suffrages of the convention.

I accept the nomination with so deep a sense of the dignity of the office, and of the gravity of its duties and responsibilities as altogether to exclude any feeling of exultation or pride. The principles of government and the practices in administration upo which issues are now fortunately so clearl made, are so important in their relations t the national and to individual prosperit that we may expect an unusual popular in terest in the campaign. Relying wholl upon the considerate judgment of our fel low-citizens and the gracious favor of God we will confidently submit our cause to th arbitrament of a free ballot.

The day you have chosen for this visi suggests no thoughts that are not in har mony with the occasion. The republica party has walked in the light of the Declar ation of Independence. It has lifted th shaft of patriotism upon the foundation lai at Bunker Hill. It has made the more per fect union secure by making all men free Washington and Lincoln, Yorktown and Appomattox, the Declaration of Indepen dence and the proclamation of emancipa tion, are naturally and worthily associated in our thoughts to-day.

As soon as may be possible, I shall by letter communicate to your chairman a more formal acceptance of the nomination, but it may be proper to say that I have already examined the platform with some care, and that it's declarations, to some of which your chairman has alluded, are in harmony with my views.

It gives me pleasure, gentlemen, to receive you in my home and to thank you for the cordial manner in which you have conveyed your official message.

After a general handshaking, refreshments were served and the General and his family were left in quiet until nearly evening, when the Tippecanoe club of Marion county, composed entirely of veterans of the William Henry Harrison campaigns of 1836 and 1840, marched to the residence of General Harrison, accompanied by hundreds of citizens of Indianapolis. The veterans were presented to the General and Mrs. Harrison, and after each veteran had told Gen. Harrison something about his grandfather and the campaign in which he figured so conspicuously, a formal address of congratulation was presented, to which Gen. Harrison feelingly responded.

MORTON ACCEPTS.

He is Notified and the Usual Speech-Making Occurs.

The notification committee appointed by the national republican convention, waited upon the Hon. Levi P. Morton at his residence in the quiet little village of Rhinebeck, N. Y., on the 7th inst. A committee of citizens went to the station with carriages to escort the visitor over the hills to the Morton mansion.

At the station a modest demonstration was made, and the procession was met at the top of the hill by the Rhinebeck band. Mr. Morton received the visitors at the porch and led the way to the drawing room. Here Mr. Estee, the chairman of the committee on notification, delivered his address as follows:

Mr. Morton: The national convention of the republican party, recently assembled in Chicago, nominated as the candidate for president Gen. Harrison and with equal unanimity selected you as its nominee for vice-president. By order of that convention we were appointed a committee to notify its nominees of their selection. This pleasant duty has been in part performed in giving Gen. Harrison, your associate upon the ticket, that notification. It only remains for us to discharge the further duty conferred upon us by the official notice to you. The country has already passed judgment upon your selection, and it has met with such universal approval that it is only left for this committee to add its own expression of their high appreciation of your personal qualities, as well as their confidence in your eminent fitness for the position to which the deliberate judgment of the convention assigned you. In conclusion, we believe that this notification to you will not be a meaningless formality, but that your nomination will result in triumphant election.

Mr. Morton responded in the following words:

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee—I am profoundly sensible of the high honor which has been conferred upon me by the national convention recently in session at Chicago, and thank you, gentlemen, for the courteous and complimentary terms in which you have officially announced my nomination as the candidate of the republican party for the vice presidency. I am also deeply sensible of the honor conferred upon the state of New York in the selection of a citizen of this state as one of the standard-bearers in the approaching peaceful conflict of the two great political parties of the country for supremacy in governmental control. New York represents to a large degree the business interests of all those ever-growing and wider spreading communities of varied interests and industries which it is the mission of the republican party to foster and protect. The platform so wisely adopted at Chicago has this mission bodly in view, and by its enunciation of these principles makes the issue clear and distinct. I accept the position tendered by the convention, of which you are the honored representatives, and will in due time address to you, Mr. Chairman, an official communication to that effect.

Introductions and lunch followed, and the visitors were invited to drive over to Mr. Morton's country seat, Ellerslie.

United States Marshall Thomas E. Kelley died at Virginia City, Nevada, July 2.

TALMAGE AT CRETE.

A GREAT OUTDOOR ASSEMBLAGE.

The Brooklyn Divine Orates at a Chautauqua Meeting.

He Portrayes in His Usual Eloquent Style Our Great Lack of Faith, the Hinge on Which Eternity Turns—Christ Came Down to Save the World, But There Are People So Warped by Mercenary Affairs That They Are Soon Lost in the Meshes of Sin, Not Having the Faith to Let Go and Cling to the Promise of Our Saviour on the Cross.

CRETE, NEB., July 1.—To-day there is a great outdoor meeting at this place—a Chautauqua meeting—and people from all parts are present. A sermon by the Rev. T. De-Witt Talmage, D. D., is the principal feature of the occasion. The reverend gentleman's subject was: "None Like Jesus." He took for his text: "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious." I. Peter, Ch. 2, v. 7. Following is the sermon:

We had for many years in this country commercial depression. What was the matter with the stores? With the harvest? With the people? Lack of faith. Money enough, goods enough, skillful brains enough, industrious hands enough, but no faith. Now what damages the commercial world, damages the spiritual. Our great lack is faith. That is the hinge on which eternity turns. The Bible says we are saved by faith. "O," says some one in the audience, "I have faith, I believe that Christ came down to save the world." I reply that in worldly matters when you have faith you always act upon it. For instance, if I could show you a business operation by which you could make five thousand dollars, you would immediately go into it. You would prove your faith in what I tell you by your prompt and immediate action. Now, if what you call faith in Christ has led you to surrender your entire nature to Jesus and to corresponding action in your life, it is genuine faith, and if it has not, it is not faith at all.

There are some things which I believe with the head. And there are other things which I believe with the heart. And then there are other things which I believe both with the head and heart. I believe, for instance, that Cromwell lived. That is a matter of the head. Then there are other things which I believe with the heart and not with the head. That is, I have no especial reason for believing them, and yet I want to believe them, and the wish is the father to the expectation. But there is a very great difference between that which we believe about ourselves, and that which we believe about others. For instance, you remember not a great while ago there was a disaster in Pennsylvania, amid the mines; there was an explosion amid the damps, and many lives were lost. In the morning you picked up your newspaper, and saw there had been a great disaster in Pennsylvania. You said: "Ah, what a sad thing this is; how many lives lost! O, what sorrow!" Then you read a little further on. There had been an almost miraculous effort to get those men out, and a few had been saved. "O," you said, "what a brave thing, what a grand thing that was! How well it was done!" Then you folded the paper up, and sat down to your morning repast. Your appetite had not been interfered with, and during that day, perhaps, you thought only two or three times of the disaster. But suppose you and I had been in the mine, and the dying had been all around us, and we had heard the pickaxes just above us as they were trying to work their way down, and after a while we saw the light, and the life-bucket let down through the shaft, and suffocated and half dead, we had just strength enough to throw ourselves over into it, and had been hauled out into the light. Then what an appreciation we would have had of the agony and the darkness beneath, and the joy of deliverance. That is the difference between believing a thing about others and believing it about ourselves.

We take up the Bible and read that Christ came to save the world. "That was beautiful," you say, "a fine specimen of self-denial. That was very grand indeed." But suppose it is found that we ourselves were down in the mine of sin and in the darkness, and Christ stretched down His arm of mercy through the gloom and lifted us out of the pit, and set our feet on the Rock of Ages, and put a new song into our mouth. O, then it is a matter of handclapping; it is a matter of congratulation; it is a matter of deep emotions. Which kind of faith have you, my brother?

It is faith that makes a Christian, and it is the proportion of faith that makes the difference between Christians. What was it that lifted Paul, and Luther, and Payson, and Doddridge above the ordinary level of Christian character? It was the simplicity, the brilliancy, the power, and the splendor of their faith. O, that we had more of it! God give us more faith to preach and more faith to hear. "Lord! we believe, help Thou our unbelief!" "To you which believe He is precious."

First: I remark Christ is precious to the believer, as a Saviour from sin. A man says: "To whom are you talking? I am one of the most respectable men in this neighborhood; do you call me a sinner?" Yes! "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." You say: "How do you know anything about my heart?" I know that about it, for God announces it in His word; and what God says is always right. When a man becomes a Christian, people say: "That man sets himself above us." O, no! Instead of setting himself up, he throws himself down. He cries out: "I was lost once, but now I am found. "I was blind once, but now I see. I prostrate myself at the foot of the cross of the Saviour's mercy."

What a grand thing it is to feel that all the bad words I have ever uttered, and all the bad deeds I have ever done, and all the bad thoughts that have gone through my mind, are as though they had never been, for the sake of what Christ has done. You know there is a difference in stains. Some can be washed out by water, but others require a chemical preparation. The sin of the heart is so black and indelible a mark that no human application can cleanse it, while the blood of Jesus Christ can wash it out forever. O, the infinite, the omnipotent chemistry of the Gospel! Some man says: "I believe all that. I believe God has forgiven the most of my sins, but there is one sin I cannot forget." What is it? I do not want to know what it is, but I take the responsibility of saying that God will forgive it as willingly as any other sin.

> "O'er sins like mountains for their size,
> The seas of sovereign grace expand,
> The seas of sovereign grace arise."

There was a very good man, about seventy-five years of age, that once said: "I believe God has forgiven me, but there was one sin which I committed when I was about twenty years of age that I never forgave myself for, and I can't feel happy when I think of it." He said that one sin sometimes came over his heart, and blotted out all his hope of heaven. Why, he lacked in faith. The grace that can forgive a small sin can forgive a large sin. Mighty to save. Mighty to save. Who is the God like unto our God, that pardoneth iniquity? O, what Jesus is to the soul that believes in Him! The soul looks up into Christ's face, and says: "To what extent wilt thou forgive me?" And Jesus looks back into his face, and says: "To the uttermost." The soul says: "Will it ever be brought up again in Judgment Day?" "Never," says Christ. "Won't it be brought up again in Judgment Day?" "No," says Christ, "never in the Judgment Day." What bread is to the hungry, what harbor is to the bestormed, what light is to the blind, what liberty is to the captive, that, and more than that, is Christ to the man who trusts Him.

Just try to get Christ away from that Christian. Put on that man the thumb-screw. Twist it until the bones crack. Put that foot into the iron boot of persecution until it is mashed to a pulp. Stretch that man on the rack of the Inquisition, and louder than all the uproar of the persecutors, you will hear his voice like the voice of Alexander Le Croix, above the crackling faggots as he cried out: "O, Jesus! O, my blessed Jesus! O, divine Jesus! who would not die for Thee!"

Again: I remark that Christ is precious to the believer, as a friend. You have commercial friends and you have family friends. To the commercial friend you go when you have business troubles. You can look back to some day—when, if you had not had that friend, you would have been entirely overthrown in business. But I want to tell you this morning of Jesus, the best business friend a man ever had. He can pull you out of the worst perplexities. There are people in this audience who have got in the habit of putting down all their worldly troubles at the feet of Jesus. Why, Christ meets the business men on the street and says: "O, business man, I know all thy troubles. I will be with thee. I will see thee through." Look out how you try to corner or trample on a man who is backed up by the Lord God Almighty. Look out how you trample on him. O, there is a financier that many of our business men have not found out. Christ owns all the boards of trade, all the insurance companies, and all the banking houses. They say that the Vanderbilts own the railroads; but Christ owns the Vanderbilts and the railroads, and all the plottings of stock gamblers shall be put to confusion, and God with His little finger shall wipe out their infamous projects. How often it has been that we have seen men gather up riches by fraud, in a pyramid of strength and beauty, and the Lord came and blew on it and it was gone; while there are those here to-day who, if they could speak out in this assemblage, or dared to speak out, would say: "The best friend I had in 1837; the best friend I had in 1857; the best friend I had at the opening of the war; the best friend I ever had has been the Lord Jesus Christ. I would rather give up all other friends than this one."

But we have also family friends. They come in when we have sickness in the household. Perhaps they say nothing; but they sit down and they weep as the light goes out from the bright eyes, and the white petals of the lily are scattered in the blast of death. They watch through the long night by the dying couch, and then, when the spirit has gone, soothe you with great comfort. They say: "Don't cry. Jesus pities you. All is well. You will meet the lost one again." Then, when your son went off, breaking your heart, did they not come and put the story in the very best shape, and prophesy the return of the prodigal? Were they not in your house when the birth angel flapped its wings over your dwelling? And they have been there at the baptisms and at the weddings. Family friends! But I have to tell you that Christ is the best family friend. O, blessed is that cradle over which Jesus bends. Blessed is that nursery where Jesus walks. Blessed is that sick brow from which Jesus wipes the dampness. Blessed is that table where Jesus breaks the bread. Blessed is that grave where Jesus stands with His sacred feet on the upturned sod, saying: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Have you a babe in the house? put it into the arms of the great Child-lover. Is there a sick one in the house? think of Him who said: "Damsel, arise." Are you afraid you will come to want? think of him who fed the five thousand. Is there a little one in your house that you are afraid will be blind, or deaf, or lame? think of Him who touched the blinded eye and snatched back the boy from epileptic convulsion. Oh, He is the best friend. Look over your family friends to-day and find another that can be compared to Him. When we want our friends, they are sometimes out of town. Christ is always in town. We find that some will stick to us in prosperity who will not in adversity. But Christ comes through darkest night, and amid ghastliest sorrow, and across roughest sea, to comfort you. There are men and women here who would have been dead twenty years ago but for Jesus. They have gone through trial enough to exhaust ten times their physical strength. Their property went, their health went, their families were scattered. God only knows what they suffered. They are an amazement to themselves that they have been able to stand it. They look at their once happy home, surrounded by all comfort. Gone! They think of the time when they used to rise strong in the morning, and walk vigorously down the street, and experienced a health they thought inexhaustible. Gone! Everything gone but Jesus. He has pitied them. His eyes has watched them. His omnipotence has defended them. Yes. He has been with them. They have gone through disaster, and He was a pillar of fire by night. They have gone across stormy Galilee, but Christ had His foot on the neck of the storm. They felt the waves of trouble coming up around them gradually, and they began to climb into the strong rock of God's defense, and then they sang, as they looked over the waters: "God is our refuge and strength, and ever present help in time of trouble; therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed, though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah." The other day there was a sailor who came into the Bethel in New York, and said: "My lads (he was standing among sailors), I don't know what's the matter with me. I used to hear a good deal about religion and about Jesus Christ. I don't know that I have any religion, or that I know anything much about Christ; but when I was in mid-Atlantic I looked up one day through the rigging, and there seemed to come light through my soul. I have felt different ever since, and I love those that I once hated, and I feel a joy I can't tell you. I really don't know what is the matter of me." A rough sailor got up and said: "My lad, I know what's the matter of you. You have found Jesus. It is enough to make any man happy."

> "His worth if all the nations knew,
> Sure the whole earth would love Him too."

I remark again: Christ is precious to the believer, as a final deliverer. You and I must after a while get out of this world. Here and there, one perhaps may come on to eighty, to ninety years of age, but your common sense tells you that the next twenty-five years will land the majority of this audience in eternity. The next ten years will thin out a great many of these family circles. This day may do the work for some of us. Now why do I say this? To scare you? No; but just as I would stand in your office, if I were a business man and you were a business man, and talk over risks. You do not consider it cowardly to talk in your store over temporal risks. Is it base in us this morning to talk a little while over the risks of the soul, that are for eternity? In every congregation death has the last year been doing a great deal of work. Where is your father? Where is your mother? Your child? Your brother? Your sister? O, how cruel does death seem to be! Will he pluck every flower? Will he poison every fountain? Will he put black on every door-knob? Will he snap every heart-string? Can I keep nothing? Are there no charmed weapons with which to go out and contend against him? Give me some keen sword, sharpened in God's armory, with which I may stab him through. Give me some battle-axe that I may clutch it, and hew him from helmet to sandal. Thank God, thank God, that he that rideth on the pale horse hath more than a match in Him who rideth on the white horse. St. John heard the contest, the pawing of the steeds, the rush, the battle-cry, the onset, until the pale horse came down on his haunches, and his rider bit the dust, while Christ, the conqueror, with uplifted voice declared it: "O death, I will be thy pleague; O grave, I will be thy destruction."

The sepulchre is a lighted castle on the shore of heavenly seas, and sentinel angels walk up and down at the door to guard it. The dust and the dampness of the grave are only the spray of the white surf of celestial seas, and the long breathing of the dying Christian, that you call his gasping, in only 'the long inhalation of the air of heaven.' O, bless God for what Christ is to the Christian soul, here and hereafter!

There may be some here who have come hardly knowing why they come. Perhaps it was as in Paul's time—you have come to hear what this babbler sayeth; but I am glad to meet you face to face, and to strike hands with you in one earnest talk about your deathless spirit. Do you know, my friend, that this world is not good enough for you? It cheats. I fades. It dies. You are immortal. I see it in the deathless spirit looking out from your eye. It is a mighty spirit. It is an immortal spirit. It beats against the window of the cage. I come out to feed it. During the past week the world has been trying to feed it with husks. I come out this morning to feed it with that bread of which if a man eat he will never hunger. What has the world done for you? Has it not bruised you? Has it not betrayed you? Has it not maltreated you! Look me in the eye, immoral man, and tell me if that is not so. And yet, will you trust it? O, I wish that you could forget me, the weak and sinful man—that I might vanish from your sight this morning, and that Jesus might come in. Aye, He comes here this morning to plead for your soul—come in all covered with the wounds of Calvary. He says: "O, immortal man! I died for thee. I pity thee. I come to save thee. With these hands, all torn and crushed I, will lift thee up into pleasures that never die." Who will reject—who will drive Him back? When Christ was slain on the cross, they had a cross, and they had nails, and they had hammers. You crucify by your sins, O, impenitent soul! the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is a cross; but where are the nails? Where are the hammers? "Ah," says some one rejecting Christ—some one standing a long way off: "I will furnish the nails. I don't believe in that Jesus. I will furnish the nails." Now we have the nails; who will furnish the hammers? "Ah," says some hard heart, "I will furnish the hammers." Now we have the nails and the hammers. We have no spears; who will furnish the spears? "Ah," says some one long in the habit of sin and rejection of Christ's mercy; "I will furnish them." Now we have all the instruments: the cross, the nails, the hammers, the spears; and the crucifixion goes on. O, the darkness! O, the pang! O, the tears! O, the death! "Behold the Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world."

Lord Jesus, help that man. He sits far back to-day. He does not like to come forward. He feels strange in a religious assemblage. He thinks perhaps we do not want him. O, Jesus, take that trembling hand. Put thine ear to that agitated heart and hear how it beats. O, lift the iron gate of that prison-house and let that man go free.

Lord Jesus, help that woman. She is a wanderer. No tears can she weep. See, Lord Jesus, that polluted soul, that blistered foot. No church for her. No good cheer for her. No hope for her. Lord Jesus, go to that soul. Thou wilt not stone her. Let the red-hot chain, that burns to the bone till the bloody ichor hisses in the heat, snap at Thy touch. O, have mercy on Mary Magdalene.

Lord Jesus, help that young man. He took money out of his employer's till. Didst Thou see it? The clerks were all gone. The lights were down. The shutters were up. Didst Thou see it? O, let him not fall into the pit. Rememberest Thou not his mother's prayers? She can pray for him no more. Lord Jesus, touch him on the shoulder. Touch him on the heart. Lord, save that young man. There are many young men here. I got a letter from one of them who is probably here to-day, and I shall have no other opportunity of answering that letter. You say you believe in me. O, do you believe in Jesus? I cannot save you, my dear brother. Christ can. He wants and waits to save you, and He comes to-day to save you. Will you have Him? I do not know what our young men do without Christ—how they get along amid all the temptations and trials to which they are subjected. O, young man, come to Christ to-day, and put your soul and your interest for this life and for the next into His keeping. In olden times, you know, a cup-bearer would bring wine or water to the king, who would drink it, first tasting it himself, showing that there was no poison in it. It has never done me any harm. O, drink it, and live for ever. And let that aged man put his head down on the staff, and let that poor widowed soul bury her worried face in her handkerchief, and these little children fold their hands in prayer, while we commend you to Him who was wounded for our transgressions, and buried for our iniquities; for to you which believe He is precious.