THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.
Entered at the postoffice at Birmingham, Mich., as second class matter.

David J. Brewer,

Associate justice of the supreme court, was born in Smyrna, Asia Minor, in July 1837. His father being a missionary, he returned to the United States soon afterwards and settled in Connecticut, where young Brewer was educated in Hartford. In 1851 he entered Wesleyan university, but at the close of his junior year went to Yale college, where he was graduated in 1856. After he had passed one year as a law student in the office of his uncle, David Dudley Field, in New York city, he then went to the Law school at Albany, where he graduated in 1858. A year later he went to Kansas, and has filled many offices of public trust with honor to himself and his constituents.

Indecision is the rock upon which has been wrecked many lives. No man can fight vigorously and successfully if he is uncertain of his right to fight. The soldier who leaves behind him the open question of whether a thing ought to be done or not in nine cases out of ten will retreat along that line. The advance line is held only by the man who believes in the end that lies before him, and in his right to secure that end. Nothing blights faith in a purpose or saps the strength to carry it out like skepticism; the skepticism need not be very deep or very radical, for a very little of it will go a great way in destroying a man's working power. It is one of the mental and spiritual diseases of our day that so many men and women are uncertain whether the thing they are doing is worth while. They are fighting a losing battle, not because they have not the force or the equipment to go in and win, but because they can not quite make up their minds whether the battle ought to be fought or not. A half-hearted, undecided Stanley would be an absurdity. The man who is to cross Africa through the heart of its vast forests and deadly morasses, must be one who is firmly determined to make every exertion that he can make, and who believes that if his life goes into the work the sacrifice is well made. If Edison spent his nights in questioning whether his work by day was worth the doing, the wonderful developments of the practical uses of electricity which he has discovered would never have been made. Doubt is a healthy stage in the life of every thinking person, but it is only a stage, and sooner or later that person will leave doubt behind, and hand in hand with a clean, clear, triumphant faith, in some cause, or purpose, principle or aim, march resolutely on toward the success of the calling in which he has engaged.

The question of Mormon citizenship will soon be determined by the United States supreme court as a case is now before that tribunal which involves the points raised by the courts of Utah and Idaho. A few years ago the legislature of Idaho enacted a law practically disfranchising Mormons. Under this law several persons were convicted and sent to jail for attempting to register as voters and for alleged perjury in making oath that they were not members of an organization practising the doctrine of plural marriage. This is the ground covered by the recent decision of the lower court of Utah, which held that any alien member of the Mormon church who has taken the endowment house oath cannot become a citizen of the United States. The decision of the supreme court will have an important bearing on the political destinies of both territories.

Great changes have been brought about in the science of philology by modern thought and influence. The harsh and rugged words and phrases which, in not very remote generations, were employed by all classes, have been toned down, the sharp edges rounded and the picturesque and high-sounding substituted. Not many years ago people incautiously dubbed the man who be-rayed confidence and squandered funds entrusted to him as a "thief." The term jarred upon the tympanum of the modern philologist and was soon changed to a "deficiency in accounts," or a "defalcation." Silcott's raid on the congressional treasury for over seventy thousand dollars goes echoing down the corridor of history as a "shortage." Our grandfathers would have called him a "thief," but in the lexicon of our day there is no such word.

Robert G. Ingersoll, in his address over his brother's coffin, said: "In the dark night of death hope sees a star, and listening love may catch the rustling of a wing." He has lately made statements which have given rise to the report that he is becoming converted to christianity, but these statements are no stronger in that direction than the words we have quoted. There has always been a string tied to Ingersoll's atheism.

Michigan Matters.

Interesting Epitome of General News Gathered From All Quarters of the Peninsular State.

Better Use Milk in Tea.

GRAND RAPIDS, Dec. 21.—Dr. and Mrs. Best have had an unpleasant experience. At supper the other night they each took a second cup of tea, and an hour later were taken with severe vomiting from which they did not recover until the next morning. None of the other members of the family were affected. Upon investigation it was found that a couple of milk tickets had accidentally fallen into the teapot. The tickets were green, and arsenic had been used in the coloring matter. The first cups were but slightly impregnated with the arsenic, but by the time the second cups were filled the tickets had become pretty well steeped, and the tea was poisonous.

Nichols Still Missing.

COLDWATER, Dec. 23.—Although a week has passed since the departure of Dr. Nichols, absolutely no trace of him can be found. The register's office is constantly thronged with inquiring mortgagees, who suppose they are holding first mortgages on property passing through Nichols hands, only to discover their mortgages worthless. Most of the complaints, however, come from those by whom he was entrusted with money to discharge mortgages. He failed to do so. He was no respecter of persons, the wealthy suffering equally with the poor. The feeling is very bitter against the absent doctor.

Broke His Neck.

GRAND RAPIDS, Dec. 21.—John Bradley, a veteran of company I, 19th Michigan infantry, and an inmate of the soldiers' home, was instantly killed yesterday by breaking his neck. He returned to the home from the city and when the arrival of Commander-in-Chief R. A. Alger was announced, he ascended to his room on the third floor, and to better observe the proceedings, opened the window and fell to the ground, forty feet below. The tragedy had a bad effect upon the reception of Gen. Alger, who witnessed the accident, and all were greatly affected.

Three Lives Sacrificed.

ISHPEMING, Dec. 22.—There was a tail-end collision on the Duluth division of the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railrod this morning. One freight train ran into the rear end of another because of the failure of a brakeman on the first section to go out and flag.

Brakeman Ryan, who was asleep in the caboose of the first section was instantly killed, and his companion, T. Connors, was fatally injured, as was also Chattam, engineer of the second section.

Michigan's Share.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Speaker Reed has appointed his committtees. Michigan men have been given chairmanships as follows: Military affairs, Cutcheon; education, O'Donnell; levees and improvements on the Mississippi river, Burrows.

ITEMS IN BRIEF.

Lansing buys $110,000 worth of Toledo beer annually.

A felt boot factory will soon be in operation in Hastings.

Mrs. George Newell, wife of a prominent merchant of Coral, is dead.

The Jackson wheel company has been absorbed by the wheel trust.

F. W. Wheeler & Co. of Bay City have increased their capital stock to $500,000.

James H. Stone has been confirmed as collector for the first district of Michigan.

The Michigan engineering society will hold its annual convention in Detroit, Jan. 21.

The name of the postoffice at Floeter, Alger county, has been changed to Munising.

John Breen, a woodsman, was struck and killed by a train near Matchwood the other day.

Daniel Hubbell, who settled in Oakland county in 1830, died in Pontiac a few days ago.

W. W. Wines, a prominent merchant, and a resident of Ann Arbor since 1845, is dead.

Gen. B. D. Pritchard of Allegan claims the credit for the capture of the late Jeff Davis.

Tom Vandensen of Elsie, was killed at Ann Arbor the other day while switching cars. He was married last Thanksgiving day.

The Belding casket factory is behind on orders and is compelled to run 13 hours a day.

Charles Y. Osborn has been appointed collector of customs for the district of Superior.

Prominent colored men of Detroit have organized a branch of the Afro-American league.

Edwin Hasking, a 19-year-old fellow of Cadillac, was drowned while skating a few days ago.

William Goodenough of Ionia, is charged with having three wives, and the sheriff is after him.

John Loomis was instantly killed by a train on the G. R. & I. road near Cadillac a few days ago.

Hon. Daniel Barber, for 50 years a resident of Vermontville, celebrated his 90th birthday recently.

Over 10,000 bushels of potatoes were shipped from Gaylord to eastern markets one day last week.

Gratiot county will have a pension board with its membership divided between Ithaca, Alma and St. Louis.

A lumber company, with plenty of capital, has been organized to operate in hard woods in Wexford county.

Michael Rathburn of Leslie says he was robbed of $945 in a Lansing house, but declines to make a complaint.

Phillip Humphrey of Benton Harbor, had one shoulder blade entirely removed to cure a cancer, and will survive.

Judge Peck has granted a change of venue in the libel suit of Col. George P. Sanford against the Lansing Journal.

Two miners were blown to atoms by a premature blast in the Osceola mine at Calumet the other day.

Charles Duffy, an inmate of the soldiers' home at Grand Rapids, was drowned in Grand River the other day.

Charles Sutcliffe of Chapin, Saginaw county, is under arrest charged with assaulting his 15-year old niece.

Harry Paul, a Buchanan butcher, and his brother, have fallen heirs to £8,000 by the death of an uncle in England.

Judge Cooley has been compelled to leave Washington because of ill-health, and is now at his home in Ann Arbor.

Benjamin Sayles of Unadilla, is dead, aged 85 years. He leaves a wife with whom he had lived happily for 62 years.

John Fitzpatrick was seriously, if not fatally, stabbed by a Frenchman named Marquette in a saloon in Alpena the other day.

Gold watches and other things to the amount of $400 were stolen from E. C. Wheeler's store in White Pigeon the other night.

Frank Withey stole a horse and buggy at Flint the other night. He was caught a few hours later while trying to trade horses.

The first train over the Indiana & Lake Michigan road came into St. Joseph on the 22d inst. Trains will be run regularly after Feb. 1.

At the request of the farmers of Gratiot county, Representative Bliss has introduced a bill prohibiting all selling of futures in farm products.

Grace Robbins of Benton Harbor, while banging her hair with some device that had to be heated, stuck the iron in her eye, and destroyed the sight.

Woodbury is the name of a new town at the intersection of the Kalamazoo, Hastings & Saginaw and the Detroit, Lansing & Northern railroads.

Charles Brearley, convicted of manslaughter for killing Dan Sinclair in Boone township, Kent county, has been sentenced to 12 years in Jackson.

Horace Conant of Monroe, was seriously burned by an explosion of nitrogen gas while experimenting in the high school laboratory the other day.

Frank Quilka, a quarrelsome fellow of Otsego Lake, has gone to jail for six months because he could not furnish $500 bonds to keep the peace.

Jefferson Chapman of Freeland has been sentenced to one year in the Detroit house of correction for making false affidavit before a pension examiner.

Carl Grabill of Greenville, has secured a position in the government printing office.

Representative Allen of the second congressional district, refuses to accept a clerk because his constituents would censure him for such extravagance.

Mike Lamorand, the Eagle Harbor boy, aged eleven years, who threw a stone and killed Ellen Smith, is to be brought back from Canada and tried for murder.

The collector of customs at New York has been instructed to return the duties levied by him upon certain microscopical instruments imported for the university of Michigan.

George M. Ayers forged the names of several Grand Rapids merchants to checks, which he negotiated. When caught he pleaded guilty and goes to Ionia for two years and a half.

Cyrenius P. Black has tendered his resignation as United States district attorney, and will resume the practice of law in Detroit. T. F. Shepherd, of Bay City, will succeed Mr. Black.

Rev. John Meyers, a Lansing preacher, recently drew $5,000 in a lottery. He has lost $3,000 of it however, through a sharper who sold him some land in Kentucky which existed only in the sharper's eye.

The Fargo shoe contract at Jackson prison has decided to remove its business from the inside to the outside of the prison walls and employ free labor. The company will build shops costing $125,000.

A coroner's jury at Cadillac says the engineer of the train which killed James Loomis is in no way responsible for the death. Loomis was quite deaf and had several times annoyed engineers by walking on the track.

At Berlamont, Van Buren county, a few nights ago, Harvey Cook, an old man, was assaulted in his house by two men, knocked down and robbed of $90. Harrison Leech and William Lett have been arrested for the offense.

Seven years ago Robert Burns of Macomb county, went to Dakota, taking with him $1,800 cash and a complete farming outfit. He now writes that he and his family are destitute, their crops for four years having been ruined by the drought.

Dr. P. P. Nichols, ex-mayor of Coldwater, and ex-county clerk of Branch county, is missing. It is said that his business methods have impoverished a number of persons, among others several needy widows. His debts are estimated at $30,000.

William Johnson who assaulted a woman in York township, Mecosta county, is confined in the county jail. A few days ago the other prisoners procured a rope, slipped it over Johnson's neck, strung him up, and would have hanged him if the rope had not broke.

Miss Minnie Upper of near Big Rapids, was fearfully burned the other day by the explosion of a bottle of iodine which she held too near the stove. Her hands, arms and head were so badly burned that the flesh peeled off in pieces, while one of her eyes was also blistered.

Cadillac has raised $5,000 to induce the Gaston lumber company to locate there. The concern manufactures wooden novelties, and will employ 75 men. Over 20,000,000 feet of hardwood have already been bought, and more will be taken as fast as it can be reached.

The Michigan Central says if the Toledo, Saginaw & Mackinaw will abandon the crossing at West Bay City recently granted it, it will allow the latter road to use its tracks at that point and give it a crossing at some other place. The danger to life is too great at the point selected.

In August last John Flynn, formerly of Flint, died in Gorton, Dakota, and his remains were brought to Flint for interment. It is rumored that the man was murdered, but his relatives in this state refuse to take any steps to investigate the matter unless the Dakota parties make the first move.

The reward due the family of the late Sheriff Lynch of Alpena, who lost his life while endeavoring to capture the notorious Blinky Morgan, has not been paid, but the mayor of Cleveland is stirring in the matter, and says that he is going to see personally that Mrs. Lynch gets the money.

The state salt inspector's report shows the output for the year to have been 3,846,979 barrels, which have been inspected, and 1,039,927 remaining in the tanks. This is an increase of 91,623 barrels over last year. In Michigan $4,700,000 are invested in the salt industry, giving employment to 3,690 men.

Duncan J. McArthur, who shot and killed George Sousie at Black River Sept. 30 without malice or provocation, has been sent to the Northern Michigan asylum. After 20 minutes the jury found him insane. The physicians say his is an aggravated case with chances of complete recovery very slender.

Frederick A. White, the Michigan man who appealed to the inter-state commerce commission for relief from the Lake Shore and Michigan Central railroads, which always insist on taking five or ten pounds of wheat out of every load delivered to them, to cover shrinkage, has been told that his complaint was defective.

The jury in the Jackson circuit court in the case of Elizabeth Smith vs. Christian Frey, returned a verdict, after 24 hours' deliberation, giving Mrs. Smith $1,000 damages for assault alleged to have occurred last July. Defendant Fry is 84 years old and rich. Mrs. Smith's age is 35. The case will be appealed to the supreme court.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Holstein-Friesian breeders' association in Lansing elected the following officers: President, W. K. Sexton Howell; vice president, F. E. Mills Ann Arbor; secretary, Charles L. Seeley Lansing; treasurer, J. A. Miller Swartz Creek; directors, M. L. Sweet Grand Rapids; George M. Dayton, Lansing.

Arthur J. Tyron of Vicksburg was driving a spirited horse which became badly frightened at the approach of the Grand Trunk express train, and dashing upon the track ahead of the train was instantly killed, while the buggy was knocked into 1,000 splinters. Mr. Tyron was thrown out before the collision came and his life saved.

The Michigan Swine Breeders' Association, in session at Lansing, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, E. C. Rouse, Homer; vice president, L. W. Barnes, Byron; secretary, Quincey McBride, Burton; treasurer, A. True, Armada; members of the executive committee, C. E. Lockwood, Washington; and L. T. Conrad, Eagle.

Michael Fitzgerald of Bay City, who died in St. Mary's hospital in East Saginaw a few days ago puzzled the doctors. A log fell upon a peavy which he was holding, a month ago, injuring him badly, but he refused to have an operation performed, so that it was not known until after his death that he had lived 30 days with his neck dislocated.

The annual catalogue of Hillsdale college shows an actual attendance of 465, distributed in the various departments as follows: Academic 333, theological 63, music 125 and art 108. Some pupils attend more than one department, hence the apparent discrepancy between the added attendance by the departments, 629, and the actual attendance of 465 is explained.

Miss Jennie M. Swetland, who was convicted in the circuit court at Kalamazoo recently of uttering forged paper while abstractor of titles, and whose case was appealed to the supreme court, has pleaded guilty to the plea in the supreme court. This ends the consideration of the matter in the higher court. She has been sentenced to two years in the Detroit house of correction.

Arrangements have finally been completed with the F. & P. M. railroad by which steamers are to be built or subsized to cross Lake Michigan from Manitowoc to Ludington, the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul, the Grand Trunk, and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western roads put into operation and a great through route from St. Paul to the seaboard established. The distance by land and water will be shorter by 30 or 40 miles than any other.

West Michigan fruit growers have elected the following officers for the next year: Joseph Lannin of South Haven, president; G. H. LaFleur of Allegan, secretary; W. A. Smith of Benton Harbor, treasurer; H. D. Adams of Galesburg, W. H. Payne of South Haven, D. Falconer of Saugatuck, L. W. Rose of Ludington, and R. Morrill of Benton Harbor, executive committee. The next meeting will be held at Ludington the first week in June.

The following officers of the state merino breeders' association were elected at the annual meeting in Lansing: President, John T. Rich, Lapeer; vice-president, G. W. Stuart, Grand Blanc; secretary, E. N. Ball, Hamburg; treasurer, J. Evart Smith, Ypsilanti; directors, L. W. Barnes, Byron; A. A. Wood, Saline; S. C. Lombard, Addison; A. W. Waring, Mendon; W. J. G. Dean, Hanover; member pedigree committee, D. P. DeWey, Grand Blanc.

A stabbing affray, which may result fatally, occurred the other afternoon at the little village of Auburn, near Pontiac. Darius Perry, a well-to-do farmer, had words with a laborer named Smith, during which Smith struck him. Perry drew a knife and warned Smith off, but the latter continued his attack and Perry knifed him, inflicting a dangerous wound in the left side. Perry was arrested, and is now under bail. Perry is quite well advanced in years, and Smith is about 45.

To Keep Out Paupers

Immigration Laws at Present Do Not Do It—Secretary Windom Writing a Report Offering Suggestions.

Correspondence of this paper.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Bachellor and Solicitor of the Treasury Hepbuon, who have been in New York for some time investigating the affairs of the board of immigration, have returned and submitted their report to Secretary Windom, who is preparing a report to be submitted to congress, in which he will recommend the abolition of the present system, by which the states have control, and substitute instead federal control. In his message President Harrison recommended restriction of immigration, and this idea seems to meet the approval of all who have given the subject any consideration. The question which now confronts the officials "How shall this undesirable immigration be stopped?" and there comes but one answer, "Take the supervision of immigrants away from state governments, and especially the New York state government."

One of the chief arguments for federal control is the necessity of uniformity, as it is a well-known fact that immigrants are admitted at one port who would not be allowed to land at another, and that when they have been refused at one port and sent back, they take passage again for another port, and are admitted at some ports there is no protection at all against the entrance of the very worst specimens who proceed to beg their way to New York and other cities. This question is likely to be one of the most important before the present session.

There were introduced in the house one day the past week 1064 bills, and of this number Michigan members presented their quota, bills relating to every phase of the pension question largely predominating. Gen. Cutcheon presented several bills of importance in military affairs.

Secretary Rusk of the agricultural department has had prepared a bill to revise the present system of crop reports, so that they may be of more value to the farmers. Representative Whiting of Michigan will introduce the bill. Farmers complain that under the system at present in use the crop reports reach the speculators first, and in consequence, are financially detrimental to the farmer. It is even claimed that the agricultural department, through some of its agents, is in league with speculators, and that the state agents of the department have been prevented from getting the reports.

William J. Waters of Utica, Mich., gave the secretary of agriculture a pointer, and acting upon it, that official conceived a plan whereby the distribution of the monthly or special crop reports shall be facilitated, and therefore, benefit the farmer. The bill to be introduced directs the secretary of agriculture to furnish copies of the advanced monthly or special reports to such newspapers as shall apply for them on the day the reports are prepared, and at the same time furnish copies to the chief signal officer of the army who will transmit the same by telegraph to signal service stations throughout the country. The observers will duplicate the reports and mail a copy to every postoffice in his district, and the postmaster is required to place the same in a conspicuous place. For this work the secretary of agriculture asks for $40,000.

A resolution has been adopted in the house authorizing the offer of a reward of $5,000 for the arrest of Silcott the absconding cashier.

A resolution has been offered in the senate recognizing the republic of Brazil.

Congress has adjourned until Jan. 6, 1890.

Death of Henry W. Grady.

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 23.—Henry W. Grady died early this morning.

Henry W. Grady was born at Athens, Ga., in 1851. His father, a rich business man, was killed in battle at Petersburg. At the age of 20 Henry left his post of editor of the Daily Commercial, at Rome, to publish the Herald, a bright paper, at Atlanta, Ga. The Herald failed, and Mr. Grady was soon afterwards employed by the New York Herald. For his first year's work, as traveling correspondent in the south, he received $5,000. In 1880 he bought a fourth interest in the Atlanta Constitution. Since then his prosperity has been unshaken. The weekly edition of his paper has increased its circulation from 5,000 to 100,000 in nine years.

Mr. Grady's newspaper ideas were Napoleonic. His report of the Charleston disaster secured by himself in four hours, covered eight columns in the Constitution. For election returns from two mountain districts in Georgia, on one important occasion, he paid $2,200; and afterwards looked on it as the best investment the paper ever made. He managed many political campaigns and was the most popular man in Georgia. He refused to be made congressman at large from the state. He could have had any office for the asking, but never asked.

Will Look Into the Matter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—At the annual meeting of the national civil service reform league in Philadelphia in October last the executive committee was authorized to take suitable steps looking to the improvement of the civil service.

Last night it was resolved that a committee of investigation, composed of Wm. W. Foulke of Indiana, chairman; Sherman S. Rodgers of Buffalo; Chas. J. Bonaparte of Baltimore; Richard H. Dana of New York, and Wayne McVeagh of Philadelphia, should make a thorough investigation of the civil service law under the present administration. They were authorized to open commodious offices in Washington at once.

The purposes of the investigation will be to ascertain, first, what has been the effect of the civil service law; second, to learn the extent and character of the changes which have occurred in the civil service since Mr. Harrison became president. They will find out what removals and what appointments have been made and will gather all the facts possible, showing the influences which have been at work to cause these removals and appointments; to what extent fitness or unfitness has had to do with them; whether the rights of the public are being maintained—in short, exactly what effect a change of administration has had upon the personnel of the public service.

Lyng Contests the Law.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Henry Lyng of Iron River, Iron county, Mich., has been acting as the agent of a brewery located across the state in Wisconsin, and the Michigan authorities, instead of asking him to pay the customary brewers' tax of $65, have been trying to collect a tax of $300 per year from him in every Michigan town where he wholesaled Wisconsin beer. He claims Michigan brewers have had to pay only $65, for wholesaling privileges, no matter how many towns they sold in, and that if the law compels an outsider to pay $300, or the full tax, for every town he sells in, it is a regulation of inter-state commerce forbidden by the United States constitution, and has appealed to the supreme court.

Pedro's Cash Withdrawn.

RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 23.—A executive degree promulgated fixed the date of the general election for Sept. 15, and the meeting of the constituent assembly Nov. 15.

By the same decree the ex-Emperor Dom Pedro is banished from Brazil, together with the members of the royal family, the Viscount de Ouro Preto and his brother, Carlos Alfonso, Senator Martino, governor of Rio Grande de Sul, charged with treason as the leader of the movement for the secession of that state, is condemned to transportation.

The decree recalls and cancels the grant of 5,000,000 milreis to Dom Pedro, and suspends his allowance in the civil list.

The Moors Didn't Like Him.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—William Reed Lewis, United States consul at Tangiers, Barbary States, north coast of Africa, has been recalled by the President. This action was taken at the request of the Moorish government, to whom Mr. Lewis was objectionable. Mr. Lewis was the subject of an official investigation by the state department, on charges preferred by the residents of Tangiers, of using his official position to extort money. Without receiving a vindication other than that the charges were not proven, he was sent back to Tangiers.

Portugal Getting Nervous.

LISBON, Dec. 21.—It is reported that the Portuguese government is anxious for Dom Pedro to leave Portugal. The calmness with which the people of Brazil accepted the overthrow of the empire and the establishment of the republic encourages the Radicals of Lisbon to believe that they will eventually achieve a quiet and bloodless revolution in Portugal.

Collision in the Channel.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The steamships Cleddy and Isle of Cyprus collided in the English channel, south of the Isle of Wight. The former sank, but several of her crew succeeded in reaching the shore. Thirteen others are missing.

FARCE IN THE PULPIT.

A Lawyer, Banker and Supreme Court Judge Participate.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 23.—Last evening Judge Noyes of the supreme court, J. V. Quarles, a well-known attorney and politician, and John Johnston, cashier and one of the owners of the Mitchell bank, with Pastor Titsworth preached at the Plymouth church. The speakers were liberally applauded. John Johnston preached something of a humorous sermon, interlarding his profound argument on the relations of ancient and modern science with catchy little anecdotes and sallies of wit.

Judge Noyes's text was "The Puritan Character," but he did not adhere strictly to the text. He was not wholly complimentary in referring to the Pilgrim fathers, which was not exactly what had been expected.

J. V. Quarles spoke eloquently and traced the history of the Puritans and how their ideas had been ingrated into the American people. At one stage in the proceedings he grew quite heated and thundered from the pulpit:

"Men may laugh and sneer at the Puritan all they please, but the character of the Puritan will stand despite the driveling sarcasm of spider-legged dudes, the excresences of our present civilization."

At this there was a burst of applause from the congregation and much laughter. All in all it was a wonderful church service, the like of which had never before been seen in Milwaukee. It was in keeping, however, with the pastor, Rev. John Titsworth, who maintains that churches must be made popular if they are to compete successfully with the modern attractions of the devil. The Rev. Mr. Titsworth did not preach last evening, but acted as master of ceremonies, and offered up the prayer and benediction.

DEFIES THE COURT.

A Little Girl Refused to Leave Her Grandparents.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 23.—Lewis B Miller, of Oxford, O., has had a remarkable experience during the last few days. Ten years ago he ran away with and married the daughter of Thomas F. Burrus, a farmer by whom he was employed. A girl baby named Evaline was born. When the babe was 7 months old her mother died, and she has since lived with Mr. and Mrs. Burrus, her grandparents, who reside in Nemaha county, Neb. Miller in the meantime married again, and a year ago began proceedings in the federal court to get possession of the child. Burrus fought the case desperately, but after an appeal the custody of the little girl was awarded to the father. When Miller, however, attempted to take her in court, the scene was so pathetic that the spectators interfered, and the grandparents promised to accompany the child to the depot.

There the scene was repeated. The little girl ran to a bystander for protection, and he was roundly cheered when he threatened to knock the father down if he touched her. The father, the child and the grandparents returned to a hotel, and yesterday another attempt was made to get away. Miller tried to take the child again and the grandparents accompanied him across the river. At Council Bluffs the crowd, numbering nearly 1,000 people, became so demonstrative that Miller sought refuge in a passenger coach on the Rock Island train. The crowd in the meantime hurried the child and the grandparents on a train on another road, the conductor pulled out ten minutes ahead of time, and the child is now supposed to be safe in Nemaha county.

AN ENTIRE FAMILY KILLED.

A Man Murders His Wife, Three Children and Himself.

NILES, O., Dec. 22.—This community was startled this evening by the discovery of one of the most wholesale and bloody butcheries that has ever occurred in this section of the state. The victims, five in number, are Charles Shelar and his wife and three children, and the crime is supposed to have taked place at an early hour this morning. When the inhuman deed was discovered at about 5 o'clock this evening all five bodies were stiff and cold in death, with their throats cut from ear to ear. Shelar and his wife were lying together across the foot of the bed, and the three children were on the floor in different parts of the house.

Shelar was a mill man and had steady employment but of late drank heavily, and it is said that he and his wife did not live happily together. The theory advanced is that Shelar, in a fit of madness, cut the throats of his wife and children and then his own. The weapon used was a razor, and was purchased by Shelar of a hardware dealer Saturday evening.

Patients in Peril.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—During a fire in the Presbyterian hospital, a wall on the Madison-ave. side of the building fell, and four firemen were caught in the debris and badly burned and bruised.

There were 80 patients in the hospital. They were much alarmed, but the nurses succeeded in keeping order and caring properly for all with the prompt and efficient aid of firemen and police. The sick were carried out on mattresses and taken across the street to another building belonging to the hospital. Some were also taken to private houses in the vicinity and some into the several club houses in the neighborhood. The last patient was taken out of the upper story just before the wall and ceiling fell, by which the firemen were injured.

The fire was confined to the fifth floor, on which it started, but the whole interior of the building was badly damaged by water. The damage will probably reach $100,000.

The California Floods.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—The storm king reigns supreme over California, and his tyranny bids fair to culminate in the ruin of thousands of cultivated fields, bridges and levees costing great sums of money to say nothing of death in the rushing waters. News comes that the Santa Anna river has worked over its banks southwest of the city of Santa Anna, flooding and ruining several magnificent orchards. Great fears are entertained lest the stream will work down toward the Newport district.

Bought by Britishers.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 24.—It is given out that the deal for the purchase, by an English syndicate, of the C. C. Washburn flouring mills has been closed. If the deal has been consummated the syndicate now controls the flour production and the storage capacity of the northwest. A. M. Bailey, secretary and manager of the company is now in Philadelphia engaged in the business attendant upon the transfer of the stock, a majority of which is held by the Fidelity trust company of Philadelphia.

Schaack's Standing Secure.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Capt. Michael J. Schaack has been placed on the pension list of the police department on half pay. Schaack acquired world-wide fame in connection with the trial of the anarchists. He was suspended June 5 of this year for his inaction in the Cronin case. Subsequently he was stricken with paralysis in the right arm. The certificaet granting Capt. Schaack his pension declares that he was retired because of disability.

Colored People in Earnest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A call has been issued for a national convention of colored people to be held in this city the first Monday in February for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps to secure the political and civil rights and privileges guaranteed them under the constitution and to take some action to remedy the existing wrongs perpetrated against their race. The plan is endorsed by the leading colored men of the country.

General Grant's Monument.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Col. E. F. Shepard has added $10,000 to the Grant monument fund. Mrs. Grant says the general's tomb is permanently located at Riverside park. This is the beginning of a new effort to complete the fund and erect the National Grant memorial before 1892, so, that the nations assisting at the world's fair wherever held, may see how America appreciates a great soldier. The fund now amounts to $140,000.

Non-Partisan W. C. T. U's.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 23.—The provisional committee of the non-partisan W. C. T. U., has issued a manifesto declaring that the political policy of the W. C. T. U. is wrong in principle, and announcing that Christian temperance work is above and beyond all temperance work. On or about Feb. 22, a convention will be held here to formally organize in the Christian warfare against rum.

Failed for Millions.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The firms of J. Q. Preble & Co., manufactures of blank books and envelopes, and J. H. Sheffield & Son, manufacturers of paper and general stationery have failed. In addition to these two firms, the Wabash manufacturing company, of Chicago, is involved. The liabilities of the two companies will exceed $2,000,000.

PARNELL'S SPEECH.

Erin Must be Built Up by Irishmen.

Parnell delivered a speech in Nottingham a few days ago, in reply to the address of Lord Salisbury.

He declared that there had never been a movement of such magnitude in the country, which was so comparatively free from crime, as the land league movement. The object of the home rule movement, he said, was to regenerate Ireland, especially with regard to her industrial condition.

Continuing, Mr. Parnell said that manufactures might be developed to such an extent as to take the strain off the land and enable the people to look to other means than farming for gaining a living, but the idea was not tenable that Ireland could be governed by England promoting her industries. Irishmen themselves must promote Irish industries, by building harbors, cleaning out the channels of rivers and reclaiming waste lands, not at the expense of the English exchequer, but of the Irish exchequer, or, best of all, through the efforts of local and individual enterprise and with private capital. Mr. Balfour's plan of making railways through impoverished districts was a vain expenditure of money. Home rule aimed at National re-generation, and this implied the re-generation of industries and the industrial and commercial spirit of the people. If home rule were granted it would not discourage the rich people of England from promoting industrial developments, but the money would be judiciously and advantageously employed instead of being wasted, as now, to maintain in power a government of fraud and trickery. Expenditure of that sort would enable Ireland to get and keep her head above water and to so exercise and develop the qualities of her people that she would be no longer an exhibition for the wonder and scorn of the nations of the world.

Mr. Parnell would not say that it would be impossible to govern Ireland by coercion, but Balfour's mixture of coercion and constitutionality would never succeed. Mr. Balfour had made several mistakes; among them was that he had neglected to provide for the arrears of rent and the restitution of evicted tenants. This had led to the formation of a new agrarian movement which would sweep Balfour and his props away as chaff is swept before the whirlwind.

If the government had nothing to be ashamed of in its connection with the Times doubtless it would gratify curiosity by making known the truth about that matter. The country wanted to know how far the government had gone in a course so mean and so thoroughly contrary to the English spirit as to attack men from ambush and by the use of such disreputable instruments. He knew the letters were forgeries, but he would rather have died than have accepted the vindication the government offered him. The Parnell commission, instead of trying the personal indictment had tried the Irish nation and the movement of the Irish party.

Mr. Parnell declares that all talk about a Protestant minority being animated by a spirit of hostility to an Irish parliament and opposing it, or Catholics oppressing Protestants is fallacious. He further declares that the modified home rule, as proposed by Mr. Gladstone, is preferable to Grattan's scheme, which contained several elements of friction.

Want Prohibition.

BISMARCK, N. D., Dec. 21.—The prohibition bill, after a bitter fight, passed the senate by a vote of 23 to 8. It was hurried to the house, where the amendments were concurred in and the bill passed. Before it could pass the senate it was necessary to strike out the emergency clause putting it in effect May 1. It now takes the regular course, and will go into effect July 1.

Exploding Cartridges.

BAKU, Dec. 21.—The artillery magazine at this place was destroyed to-day by the explosion of a shell. Four persons were killed outright and four others were seriously injured. The noise of the exploding shells and rockets with which the magazine was stored is described as resembling a bombardment. One hundred thousand cartridges were destroyed.

"30" Sent In.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Alfred Cowles, business manager of the Chicago Tribune, and known in newspaper circles throughout the country, was stricken with paralysis at the Calumet club last night and died this morning.

Indicted On 112 Counts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Craven E. Silcott, the defaulting cashier, was indicted by the grand jury to-day for forging the names of congressmen to promissory notes. There are 112 counts in the indictment.

THE MARKETS.

New York Grain Markets.

Wheat	85½	@ 86⅛
Corn	42	@ 43
Oats	29	@ 29½

Chicago Grain Market.

Wheat	77	@ 77⅜
Corn	31	@ 32¾
Oats	20	@ 20⅝

Toledo Grain Market.

Wheat	81	@ 81¼
Corn	33	@ 34
Oats	21	@ 22

Detroit Markets.

Wheat, No. 2 Red	81	@ 81½
" " 3 "	73	@ 73½
" " 1 White	78	@ 79
Buckwheat, per cwt.	2.25	@ 2.50
Clover seed	3.45	@ 3.60
Oats	24	@ 24¼
Corn	29	@ 30
Apples, per bbl	1.75	@ 2.00
Quinces, ℔ bu,	1.50	@ 2.00
Butter	16	@ 18
Beans, hand picked, per bu	1.65	@ 1.75
Cheese	11	@ 12
Beef, dressed	3½	@ 6
Veal "	6½	@ 9
Mutton "	4½	@ 8
Lamb "	12	@ 12
Eggs	21	@ 22
Timothy, per ton	11.50	@ 13.00
Clover "	9.00	@ 11.00
Timothy straw, per ton	4.50	@ 5.50
Clover straw, "	5.00	@ 5.50
Hides, No. 1 Green	4	@ 4½
" " Cured	4½	@ 5
" " Calfskin	4	@ 4
" " Veal kip		4
Sheep pelts	.75	@ 2.00
Onions, ℔ bbl	1.75	@ 2.00
Potatoes, ℔ bu.	.35	@ 38
Chickens	5	@ 7
Ducks	10	@ 11
Turkeys	10	@ 11
Tallow, ℔ lb	3½	@ 4
Wool, ℔ lb	.29	@ .30

LIVE STOCK.

Cattle—Extra steers for export, $4.40@4.70; choice do, $4.15@4.25; good do, $3.75@4.10; choice heavy butchers, $3.40@3.90; mediums, $3.25@3.60; light handys, $3.15@3.40; Michigan stockers, $2.50@2.90; Michigan feeders, 2.50@3.10; veals, $6@5.50.

Sheep and Lambs—Sheep in good demand, and fat lambs firm and higher; choice to extra sheep, $5.60@5.75; good to choice, $5.25@5.50; common to good, $4.75@5.15; choice to extra lambs, $6.60@6.86; good to choice, $6.40@6.60; common to good, $6@6.30; Canadas, $6@7.

Hogs—Mediums and heavy, $3.70; Yorkers, $3.75@4.80; pigs, $3,60.

Trifling Injuries.—Football Player (feebly)—"Did we win?" Sympathizing Comrade—"We did, old fellow." Football Player (excitedly)—"Never mind that dislocated thigh, doctor. Take these broken teeth out of my mouth so I can holler!"

Mrs. Gullible—"Do you know, dear, John is as boyish in his feelings as ever?" Mrs. Kawler—"Indeed?" Mrs. Gullible—"Yes. Why, it was only last night I heard him talking in his sleep about seeing the elephant. The dear fellow had doubtless been to the circus."

Between the Acts—Young wife—"Yes, dear, I am worried! George seems to have acquired such a bad habit. When we attend the theater he always goes out between all the acts." Friend—"Oh, my dear, you look at it in entirely the wrong way. You ought to be thankful that he comes in between all the drinks."

Late at the observatory.—"Please tell me where I am to go. I was invited to see the transit of Venus." "I am extremely sorry, madam, but you are too late. The transit was over fifteen minutes ago." "Oh, that's no matter. The superintendent is a friend of mine and I am sure he will have it done again for me."

"No, my son, I do not think it best for you to join the football team of your class. I would like you to preserve your physical anatomy as long as possible." "But you see the boys are determined, and I am the best man our fellows can furnish to the rush line." "It makes no difference, young man. You must have something left of yourself to meet the ordinary railroad accidents of life."

TALMAGE IN CANA.

He Talks to Christians Near the Gates of Galilee.

The Famous Brooklyn Preacher Draws a Lesson from the "Marriage Feast," where Our Lord Performed His First Miracle—The Sympathies of the Savior.

Rev. T. De Witt Talmage preached at Cana, in the Holy Land, last Sunday on "A Marriage Feast," taking for his text John ii, 10: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now." He said:

Standing not far off from the demolished town of what was once called Cana of Galilee, I bethink myself of our Lord's first manhood miracle, which has been the astonishment of the ages. My visit last week to that place makes vivid in my mind that beautiful occurrence in Christ's ministry. My text brings us to a wedding in that village. It is a wedding in common life, two plain people having pledged each other, hand and heart, and their friends having come in for congratulation. The joy is not the less because there is no pretension. In each other they find all the future they want. The daisy in the cup on the table may mean as much as a score of artistic garlands fresh from the hothouse. When a daughter goes off from home with nothing but a plain father's blessing and a plain mother's love, she is missed as much as though she were a princess. It seems hard, after the parents have sheltered her for eighteen years, that in a few short months her affections should have been carried off by another; but mother remembers how it was in her own case when she was young, and so she braces up until the wedding has passed, and the banqueters are gone, and she has a good cry all alone.

Well, we are to-day at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus and his mother have been invited. It is evident that there are more people than there were expected. Either some people have come who were not invited or more invitations have been sent out than it was supposed would be accepted. Of course there is not enough supply of wine. You know that there is nothing more embarrassing to a housekeeper than a scant supply. Jesus sees the embarrassment, and he comes up immediately to relieve it. He sees standing six water pots. He orders the servants to fill them with water, then waves his hand over the water, and immediately it is wine—real wine. Taste of it, and see for yourselves; no logwood in it, no strychnine in it, but first rate wine. I will not now be diverted to the question so often discussed in my own country whether it is right to drink wine. I am describing the scene as it was. When God makes wine he makes the very best wine; and one hundred and thirty gallons of it standing around in these water pots—wine so good that the ruler of the feast tastes it and says: "Why, this is really better than anything we have had! Thou hast kept the good wine until now." Beautiful miracle! A prize was offered to the person who should write the best essay about the miracle in Cana. Long manuscripts were presented in the competition, but a poet won the prize by just this one line descriptive of the miracle:

The conscious water saw its God, and blushed.

We learn from this miracle, in the first place, that Christ has sympathy with housekeepers. You might have thought that Jesus would have said, "I cannot be bothered with this household deficiency of wine. It is not for me, Lord of heaven, of earth, to become caterer to this feast. I have vaster things than this to attend to." Not so said Jesus. The wine gave out, and Jesus, by miraculous power, came to the rescue. Does there ever come a scant supply in your household? Have you to make a very close calculation? Is it hard work for you to carry on things decently and respectably? If so, don't sit down and cry. Don't go out and fret; but go to him who stood in the house in Cana of Galilee. Pray in the parlor! Pray in the kitchen! Let there be no room in all your house unconsecrated by the voice of prayer. If you have a microscope, put under it one drop of water, and see the insects floating about; and when you see that God makes them, and cares for them, and feeds them, come to the conclusion that he will take care of you and feed you, oh, ye of little faith!

A boy asked if he might sweep the snow from the steps of a house. The lady of the household said: "Yes; you seem very poor." He says: "I am very poor." She says: "Don't you sometimes get discouraged, and feel that God is going to let you starve?" The lad looked up in the woman's face and said: "Do you think God will let me starve when I trust him, and then do the best I can?" Enough theology for older people! Trust in God and do the best you can. Amidst all the worriments of housekeeping, go to him; he will help you control your temper, and supervise your domestics, and entertain your guests, and manage your home economies. There are hundreds of women weak, and nervous, and exhausted with the cares of housekeeping. I commend you to the Lord Jesus Christ as the best adviser and the most efficient aid—the Lord Jesus who performed his first miracle to relieve a housekeeper.

I learn also from this miracle that Christ does things in abundance. I think a small supply of wine would have made up for the deficiency. I think certainly they must have had enough for half of the guests. One gallon of wine will do; certainly five gallons will be enough; certainly ten. But Jesus goes on, and he gives them thirty gallons, and forty gallons, and fifty gallons, and seventy gallons, and one hundred gallons, and one hundred and thirty gallons of the very best wine.

It is just like him, doing everything on the largest and most generous scale. Does Christ, our creator, go forth to make leaves? He makes them by the whole forest full; notched like the fern, or silvered like the aspen, or broad like the palm; thickets in the tropics, Oregon forests. Does he go forth to make flowers? He makes plenty of them; they flame from the hedge, they hang from the top of the grapevine in blossoms, they roll in the blue wave of the violets, they toss their white surf into the spirea—enough for every child's hand a flower, enough to make for every brow a chaplet, enough with beauty to cover up the ghastliness of all the graves. Does he go forth to create water? He pours it out, not by the cupful, but by a river full, a lake full, an ocean full, pouring it out until all the earth has enough to drink and enough with which to wash.

Does Jesus, our Lord, provide redemption? It is not a little salvation for this one, a little for that, and a little for the other; but enough for all—"Whosoever will, let him come." Each man an ocean full for himself. Promises for the young, promises for the old, promises for the lowly, promises for the blind, for the halt, for the outcast, for the abandoned. Pardon for all, comfort for all, mercy for all, heaven for all; not merely a cupful of Gospel supply, but one hundred and thirty gallons. Ay, the tears of godly repentance are all gathered up into God's bottle, and some day, standing before the throne, we will lift our cup of delight and ask that it be fulfilled with the wine of heaven; and Jesus, from that bottle of tears, will begin to pour in the cup, and we will cry: "Stop, Jesus, we do not want to drink our own tears!" and Jesus will say: "Know ye not that the tears of earth are the wine of heaven?" Sorrow may endure, but joy cometh in the morning.

I remark further, Jesus does not shadow the joys of others with his own griefs. He might have sat down in that wedding and said: "I have so much trouble, so much poverty, so much persecution, and the cross is coming; I shall not rejoice, and the gloom of my face and of my sorrows shall be cast over all this group." So said not Jesus. He said to himself: "Here are two persons starting out in married life. Let it be a joyful occasion. I will hide my own griefs. I will kindle their joy." There are many not so wise as that. I know a household where there are many little children, where for two years the musical instrument has been kept shut because there has been trouble in the house. Alas for the folly! Parents saying: "We will have no Christmas tree this coming holiday because there has been trouble in the house. Hush that laughing up stairs! How can there be any joy when there has been so much trouble! And so they make everything consistently doleful, and send their sons and daughters to ruin with the gloom they throw around them.

Oh, my dear friends, do you not know those children will have trouble enough of their own after a while! Be glad they cannot appreciate all yours. Keep back the cup of bitterness from your daughter's lips. When your head is down in the grass of the tomb, poverty may come to her, betrayal to her, bereavement to her. Keep back the sorrows as long as you can. Do you not know that son may, after a while, have his heart broken! Stand between him and all harm. You may not fight his battles long; fight them while you may. Throw not the chill of your own despondency over his soul; rather be like Jesus, who came to the wedding hiding his own grief and kindling the joys of others. So I have seen the sun, on a dark day, struggling amidst clouds, black, ragged and portentious, but after a while the sun, with golden pry, heaved back the blackness; and the sun laughed to the lake, and the lake laughed to the sun, and from horizon to horizon, under the saffron sky, the water was all turned into wine.

I learn from this miracle that Christ is not impatient with the luxuries of life. It was not necessary that they should have that wine. Hundreds of people have been married without any wine. We do not read that any of the other provisions fell short. When Christ made the wine it was not a necessity, but a positive luxury. I do not believe that he wants us to eat hard bread and sleep on hard mattresses, unless we like them the best. I think, if circumstances will allow, we have a right to the luxuries of dress, the luxuries of diet and the luxuries of residence. There is no more religion in an old coat than in a new one. We can serve God drawn by golden plated harness as certainly as when we go afoot. Jesus Christ will dwell with us under a fine ceiling as well as under a thatched roof; and when you can get wine made out of water, drink as much of it as you can.

What is the difference between a Chinese mud hovel and an American home? What is the difference between the rough bear skins of the Russian boor and the outfit of an American gentleman? No difference, except that which the Gospel of Christ, directly or indirectly, has caused. When Christ shall have vanquished all the world, I suppose every house will be a mansion, and every garment a robe, and every horse an arch-necked courser, and every carriage a glittering vehicle, and every man a king, and every woman a queen, and the whole earth a paradise; the glories of the natural world harmonizing with the glories of the material world, until the very bells of the horses shall jingle the praises of the Lord.

I learn, further, from this miracle, that Christ has no impatience with festal joy, otherwise he would not have accepted the invitation to that wedding. He certainly would not have done that which increased the hilarity. There may have been many in that room who were happy, but there was not one of them that did so much for the joy of the wedding party as Christ himself. He was the chief of the banqueters. When the wine gave out, he supplied it; and so, I take it, he will not deny us the joys that are positively festal.

I think the children of God have more right to laugh than any other people, and to clap their hands as loudly. There is not a single joy denied them that is given to any other people. Christianity does not clip the wings of the soul. Religion does not frost the flowers. What is Christianity? I take it to be simply a proclamation from the throne of God of emancipation for all the enslaved; and if a man accept the terms of that proclamation, and becomes free, has he not a right to be merry? Suppose a father has an elegant mansion and large grounds. To whom will he give the first privilege of these grounds? Will he say: "My children, you must not walk through these paths, or sit down under these trees, or pluck this fruit. These are for outsiders. They may walk in them." No father would say anything like that. He would say: "The first privileges in all the grounds, and all of my house, shall be for my own children." And yet men try to make us believe that God's children are on the limits, and the chief refreshments and enjoyments of life are for outsiders, and not for his own children. It is stark atheism. There is no innocent beverage too rich for God's child to drink; there is no robe too costly for him to wear; there is no hilarity too great for him to indulge in, and no house too splendid for him to live in. He has a right to the joys of earth; he shall have a right to the joys of heaven. Though tribulation, and trial, and hardship may come unto him, let him rejoice. "Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous, and again I say, rejoice."

I remark again that Christ comes to us in the hour of our extremity. He knew the wine was giving out before there was any embarrassment or mortification. Why did he not preform the miracle sooner? Why wait until it was all gone, and no help could come from any source, and then come in and perform the miricle? This is Chirst's way; and when he did come in, at the hour of extremity, he made first rate wine, so that they cried out: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now." Jesus in the hour of extrimety! He seems to perfer that hour.

You mourned over your sins. You could not find the way out. You sat down and said: "God will not be merciful. He has cast me off;" but in that, the darkest hour of your history, light broke from the throne, and Jesus said: "O wanderer, come home. I have seen all my sorrows. In this, the hour of thy extremity, I offer thee pardon and everlasting life!"

Trouble came. You were almost torn to pieces by that trouble. You braced yourself up against it. You said: "I will be a stoic, and will not care;" but before you had got through making the resolution, it broke down under you. You felt that all your resources were gone, and, when Jesus came. "In the fourth watch of the night," the Bible says, "Jesus came walking on the sea." Why did he not come in the first watch? or in the second watch? or in the third watch? I do not know. He came in the fourth, and gave deliverance to his disciples. Jesus in the last extremity!

I wonder if it will be so in our very last extremity. We shall fall suddenly sick, and doctors will come, but in vain. We will try the anodynes and the stimulants and the bathings, but all in vain. Something will say: "You must go." No one to hold us back, but the hands of eternity stretched out to pull us on. What then? Jesus will come to us, and as we say, "Lord Jesus, I am afraid of that water; I cannot wade through to the other side," he will say, "Take hold of my arm;" and we will take hold of his arm, and then he will put his foot in the surf of the wave, taking us on down deeper, deeper, deeper, and our soul will cry: "All thy waves and billows have gone over me." They cover the feet, come to the knee, pass the girdle and come to the head, and our soul cries out: "Lord Jesus Christ, I cannot hold thine arm any longer." Then Jesus will turn around, throw both his arms about us, and set us on the beach, far beyond the tossing of the billows. Jesus is the last extremity.

That wedding scene is gone now. The wedding ring has been lost, the tankards have been broken, the house is down; but Jesus invites us to a grander wedding. You know the Bible says that the Church is the Lamb's wife and the Lord will after awhile come to fetch her home. There will be gleaming of torches in the sky, and the trumpets of God will ravish the air with their music; and Jesus will stretch out his hand, and the church, robed in white, will put aside her veil, and look up into the face of her Lord the king, and the bridegroom will say to the bride: "Thou hast been faithful through all these years! The mansion is ready! Come home! Thou art fair, my love!" and then he shall put upon her brow the crown of dominion, and the table will be spread, and it will reach across the skies, and the mighty ones of heaven will come in, garlanded with beauty and striking their cymbals; and the bridegroom and bride will stand at the head of the table, and the banqueters, looking up, will wonder and admire, and say: "That is Jesus the bridegroom! But the scar on his brow is covered with the coronet, and the stab in his side is covered with a robe!" and "That is the bride! The weariness of her earthly woe lost in the flush of this wedding triumph!"

There will be wine enough at that wedding; not coming up from the poisoned vats of earth, but the vineyards of God will press their ripest clusters, and the cups and the tankards will blush to the brim with the heavenly vintage, and then all the banqueters will drink standing. Esther having come up from the bacchanalian revelry of Ahasuerus, where a thousand lords feasted, will be there. And the queen of Sheba from the banquet of Solomon, will be there. And the mother of Jesus, from the wedding in Cana, will be there. And they all will agree that the earthly feasting was poor compared with that. Then, lifting their chalices in that holy light, they shall cry to the Lord of the feast: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now."