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MICHIGAN MATTERS.

INTERESTING STATE NEWS OF ALL SORTS.

Six Lives Lost in the Burning of Kneenan & Jahn's Big Furniture Store in Detroit—Fire Firemen and One Spectator.

—Other Michigan News.

Fire destroyed Keenan & Jahn's big furniture store at 239-247 Woodward avenue, Detroit, and after the big four-story building was gutted the front and rear walls fell, killing six people, five of whom were firemen and injuring at least ten.

The fire was discovered in the shipping room in the basement at the back of the furniture store by Shipping Clerk James Hawley. An alarm was promptly turned in, but by the time the engines arrived the fire had gained considerable headway, having run up the elevator shaft, and the entire upper floor was a mass of smoke and flame when the first stream was thrown.

In less than three-quarters of an hour from the start the roof of the building was completely licked up by the flames. At this time the interior of the building was a raging furnace, the highly combustible material seeming to defy all efforts of the firemen. The flames licked up the solid streams of water almost in mid-air. The floors began to give way, taking the heating from the walls, but the firemen did not yield an inch. Suddenly, without a moment of warning, there was a shock and then a loud, thunderous crash the front of the building fell. Almost at the same instant the wall at the rear backed and fell into the alley burying a dozen men. Panic prevailed for a moment, and then help was immediately at hand. rescue and with bleeding and blistered hands dragged some of the unfortunate victims from a fiery death, and as carefully as possible lifted from the huge mass of debris the battered and mangled bodies of their unfortunate comrades. Both front and rear walls found their victims.

The dead are: Fred Bussey, died at Grace hospital; Michael H. Donoghue, lieutenant of chemical No. 1, was taken out dead; J. R. Daly, pipeman No. 9; John W. Pagel, pipeman No. 9; Julius Cummings, No. 5; Martin Ball.

There were about 65 people working in the furniture factory all of whom escaped alive by way of the front.

The loss on the stock is $60,000; building, $35,000; well insured.

Put Dynamite in the Stove, Too Dead.

John Ravell and an assistant were engaged in clearing a piece of land of stumps near Ironwood. Ravell started for the house to thaw out the powder, which consisted of 20 half pound sticks of giant powder.

The story told by his oldest daughter, Mabel, is that her father came into the house with the powder in a bag and put the 20 sticks in the stove. The explosion followed almost immediately. The father's head, arms, and one leg were blown from the body. The younger son, was literally perforated by fragments of the stove, dying instantly. Mrs. Ravell was severely burned. The latter is the least injured of the whole lot. Mabel was thrown 30 feet from the house. She was found under a pile of debris, but escaped with slight injuries.

The house, which was a large two-story structure, was wrecked from cellar to garret and fragments were scattered in all directions. Mr. Ravell's family came two weeks ago from Ishpeming, where they resided a number of years.

Sunday Blue Laws at Grand Haven.

The common council of Grand Haven ordered the city marshal to rigidly enforce the old state Sunday observance law and as a result drug and cigar stores were closed and all liver barns and restaurants were also ordered to do no business. A loaf of bread could not be procured in the city on Sunday who ventured out were to be arrested. In fact the marshal patrolled the city all day and every cellar and back log discovered doing any manual labor or loitering in public places he took their names. The action of the city authorities caused great excitement.

Increased Attendance at the University.

A conservative estimate places the increase in attendance in the various departments of the University at Ann Arbor as follows: Literary, 125; law, 100; medical, 40; pharmaceutical, 20. The attendance in the dental department promises to be about the same this year as last. According to these estimates the attendance for the coming year will be very nearly 3,000.

Embezzler Lindheim Brought Back.

Ex-Deputy Secretary of State Lindheim, who is charged with embezzling $7,000 of state funds, arrived at Lansing from Sweden in charge of Deputy Sheriff Wright and Chief of Police Sanford. The officers say that the only bit of excitement they encountered during the journey was the trouble with the Swedish authorities over Lindheim's release.

To the City's Shame, be it Said.

West Bay City's Salvation Army violated an ordinance which prohibits the use of the streets for crowds. Finally a climax was reached when the entire police force swooped down upon the army and bore away to jail Capt. Instrum and five of his men. The drum, cymbals, bass drum, cornet, and flag-bearer soldiers were locked up in the police station.

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS.

Newberry wants a gold cure asylum.

The American Express office at North Star was robbed and $100 and several other things were taken.

John R. Blakefield, of Plainwell township, Kent county, has left his wife and stepped with his mother-in-law. Mrs. Blakefield has secured a warrant to be issued for his arrest on the charge of non-support.

Adam Lindstrum, captain of the Salvation Army of West Bay City, who was fined $25 and costs for violating an ordinance prohibiting the marching of the army in the streets, was taken to the county jail at Bay City to serve 25 days.

The Michigan Sunday School association will hold its thirty-fourth annual convention at Grand Rapids, June 13, 14 and 15. Maj.-Gen. O. O. Howard will address the first meeting. Two thousand delegates are expected and free entertainment is promised.

Incendiaries fanned open the grocery store in the Stanewood business block in lower Plymouth, and after obtaining a quantity of kerosene, proceeded to build a bon-fire with the intention of burning up that part of the town. The fire was discovered and extinguished before any serious damage was done.

Walter B. Dixon, aged 45, married, was run down by a country huckster's wagon at Grand Rapids. To save himself he caught hold of the traces, when the horse plunged and collided with another wagon. The end of one of the shafts caught Dixon in the side and penetrated to the groin. He died an hour later.

The postoffice at Bellevue was broken into and robbed of $25.

Daniel Stines' sawmill was destroyed by fire at Lake Odessa. Loss $4,500.

Joseph Lamphere, from Nebraska, 1,800 miles, to visit his father at Milden City.

Even with the high rate of wages offered in the lumber woods of the upper peninsula this season the supply of men is not equal to the demand.

Edmund Hall is contemplating the building of a branch of the Flint & Pere Marquette railroad to his pine in Gilmore township, Isabella county, to start from Farwell.

The executive council of the Boston unions of clothing makers decided that their strike ended as nearly as any contractor had signed the union's nine-hour day agreement.

Hackley Park, Muskegon, will hereafter be the permanent home of the Chautauqua system in Michigan, displacing Hay View, where the assemblies have been held for years.

Allegan sporting men are creating a fund with which to buy wild rice seed to sow in the river bottom from Allegan to Lake Michigan, and attract ducks and there you are.

Pauline Schitz and her five children, who live near Grand Haven, have had black diphtheria in their home. Three children are already dead, and it is feared others will die.

Schoolcraft is the first regular session of the twenty-ninth biennial reunion of the Army of the Tennessee convened at Schoolcraft, Hon. Gen. Hedge presided and addressed the 110 delegates.

W. H. Thacker, the convicted wife poisoner in Jackson prison, relieves the monotony of prison life by teaching a Sunday school class of negroes with which he was familiar in former days.

Albert, the 13-year-old son of Michael Herbst, of Saginaw, fell 30 feet from an electric tower and struck upon his head, sustaining concussion of the spine and terrible bruises. He is in a critical condition.

When the saw mill of Hackley & Hume at Muskegon burned last week the fall the company's business will be needed so far as lumbering at this point is concerned, there is no more timber on Muskegon River.

By an explosion caused by the clogging of fire under the engine at Slagh & Smith's planing mill, Holland, Mr. Smith, of the firm, was badly burned about the head, losing all his hair and whiskers. He was otherwise

The Oakland county fair has sunk $600 further in debt, making $8,000 altogether. It is proposed to sell the fair ground and stock in the city, for $25,000, pay off debts and start anew in some other locality.

The creditors of the Lansing Iron and Engine company met at Holland, Mr. Hon. O. M. Barnes to foreclose the trust mortgage of $277,000 upon the property of the company. Mr. Barnes expressed his willingness to comply.

J. W. Simson, a Lake City hermit, has been missing for several days, and as his body was not found in the lake some fish and a trolling line came ashore it is thought that the man has been drowned. He gained his livelihood by fishing.

Kate Dassear, of Monroe, was confined in the Dearborn retreat. Her parents took her with thinking that she was all right. The next morning the girl caught up a knife and with a razor, nearly severed it at the throat, just missing the windpipe. So much blood was lost that it is doubtful if she can recover.

Harry Cottrell, a well-dressed young man, from Chicago, who has spent several months at Fort Huron made a desperate attempt at suicide. He took a horrible gash in his throat with an old jackknife and when discovered was unconscious and suffering from loss of blood. Despondency caused by a long spree is the cause.

Hon. E. S. Woodman, of Northville, died from heart failure. Deceased was 84 years old. Mr. Woodman was prominent in the state legislature that drafted the constitution of Michigan, and was a member of the legislature when the state was first organized. He was one of the originators of the Oakland County Pioneer association, and was a well-known philanthropist.

The work on buildings for the new Upper Peninsula insane asylum at Newberry is progressing finely, and they will be completed within the contract time. They will have to remain vacant until the next legislature appropriates money to furnish them, as the last legislature's appropriation was expended only the cost of the buildings and nothing for furnishing them.

While Joseph Wells and Miss Ivy were absent from their home near North Adams, a tramp entered and stole $100 in money. He then went to the Wells' put on young Wells' best suit, piled chairs, clothing and bedding on the floor, started the fire and left. The fire was discovered by neighbors and extinguished. Officers have since been named. McCabe in jail. McCabe had been working for Wells, and when captured had on a gray suit alleged to belong to young Wells.

Since the South Haven & Eastern railroad have moored their roundhouse and repair shops at Lawton, the village of Lawton, Paw Paw people have boycotted the road, and have ordered all goods consigned to them at Lawton reports put off at Lawton, and have put teams to work hauling their freight. R. H. Engelhard, general manager of the road, says he will erect a mail crane, and when no freight or passengers are aboard for Paw Paw will throw off and catch mail on the fly, thus making Paw Paw but a flag station.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Premier Gladstone's eyesight has been completely restored.

James Anthony Froude, the historian, is dying at his home in Devonshire.

Postmaster David S. Smythe, of East Palestine, O., was attacked by footpads and received injuries which will probably prove fatal.

Two passenger trains on Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling road collided at Lorain station, near Massillon, O., and several persons were injured.

The Camden, Pa., weavers have returned to work, having failed to secure the concessions for which they struck nine months ago.

Three men were buried by the cave-in of a sewer at Rochester, N. Y. Fernando Cortez, Frank Bell and H. Oldwall were killed. John Klick was rescued.

The monument erected to the memory of Maj. Stephenson, founder of the Chicago Home for the Friendless, dedicated at Petersburg, Ill., with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of 5,000 people. It is massive and brilliant.

Mr. W. S. Harsha, clerk of the U. S. circuit court of appeals at Cincinnati, has retired from that office by resignation. He retains his office of clerk of the U. S. circuit court. Mr. Frank O. Loveland, of Cincinnati, has been appointed to succeed him.

The decision of Judge Ricks, imposing a fine of $50 for contempt of court on Engineer James Lannon, of the Ann Arbor road, has been affirmed. When the A. R. U. strike was ordered Lannon left his engine on the main line and refused to bring it in.

Great excitement was caused at Elyria, O., by the discovery of a powerful nitro-glycerine bomb in the L. S. & M. S. elevator. A workman found the bomb with fuse attached and lighted. It exploded, but not with sufficient nitro-glycerine and dynamite to have wrecked the elevator and several large buildings adjoining.

NEWS OF ALL KINDS.

GLEANINGS FROM IMPORTANT PRESS DISPATCHES.

The Victorious Japanese Occupied the Capital of Manchuria—Seventy Warships in the Gulf of Pe Chi Li—Beloved Americans Author Dead.

Japs Occupy One Capital.

Shanghai: Telegrams from Moukden report that thousands of Chinese soldiers are fleeing northward in a city in wild retreat. The Japanese army is believed to have arrived there now, aided by 10,000 reinforcements.

Ten Tsin: The Japanese are pursuing the campaign toward Moukden, and troops are pushing day and night. ing enterprises. Their cruisers are closely watching the Chinese fleet in the gulf of Pe Chi Li. Fighting near Ping Yang describe the Japanese tactics as most scientific while their marksmanship is perfect. On the other hand the Chinese operations are said to be conducted in an antiquated fashion, with no considerable disagreement among the Chinese generals. The Japanese are gaining the sympathy of the Koreans generally, paying for their supplies and maintaining strict discipline.

Pekin: The uncle of the emperor of China, who was recently called from retirement to take charge of the defenses of Pekin, has appointed Prince Ching Li Chang, Li Yamen and the presidency of the admiralty, and to whom was entrusted the conduct of the war with Japan, remains in Pekin, where he is superintending the provide defences for the capital. He is, however, in telephonic communication with Viceroy Li Hung Chang, who is at Tien Tsih.

Li Hung Chang has sent another body of 8,000 men well armed and passably well drilled to Pekin.

Japan has been at war with China for a month.

London: A dispatch from Shanghai says that the masters of several Chinese junks which arrived at the Foo-ro port having sighted a large fleet of Japanese transports escorted by warships. The Japanese fleet was then entering the gulf of Pe Chi Li. Many of the Japanese fleet, steamships described 70 ships. Their presence in the gulf of Pe Chi Li has caused the greatest excitement at Tien Tsin and Pekin where. In London it is believed that the Japanese fleet referred to as having been sighted is the expeditionary force consisting of 30,000 men, which left Hiroshima for Corea on September 25, according to official orders.

The Japanese government has instructed Field Marshal Yamaga to inform the diplomats at Seoul that he will not allow Japanese army to plunder Pekin in case that city is taken.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Dead.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, famous poet and author, died at his summer home, Beacon street, Boston, from a complication of diseases. Dr. Holmes has been in feeble health for a long time and although his iron constitution had kept him alive, death was at last shattered. The last hours of Dr. Holmes were passed quietly with his family by his bedside.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge Mass., in 1809. He graduated from Harvard in 1829. His reputation as a literateur was gained by publishing a lyrical poem, greatly admired, entitled "Old Ironsides" which appeared in the Boston Advertiser. For a year he studied law, but finally decided to adopt medicine as the profession of his life. He published his first volume of poems, which contained 21 pieces. In 1847 Holmes was made professor of anatomy and physiology at Dartmouth college. The chair of anatomy and physiology at Harvard was filled by him in 1847. He resigned the professorship to devote himself to dissertations upon medical subjects. From his college lectures emanated many scientific works by Holmes became one of the most contributors to the Atlantic Monthly. His first contributions were in the form of a series of conversations papers entitled, "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." Some of his finest poems appeared in this publication. Holmes' fame on the doctor was busy with his pen and between lectures he wrote the best of his works appeared. A series of genial papers from his pen appeared in the Atlantic Monthly during 1860. Dr. Holmes was a man of broad views and generous disposition. He was one of those rare intellectual giants that lived lasting friendship wherever he went. He was beloved by all with whom he came in contact and the news of his death will bring sorrow and regret into the hearts and households of his countless admirers.

The Wonders of Irrigation.

The eleventh census makes some startling revelations regarding the increase in value of irrigated lands in the west. Tracts which a few years ago were not worth the government price of $1.25 an acre, are now held at from $40 up from $100 to $300 an acre, and some command even higher figures. Immense fortunes have been realized by these seemingly extravagant prices. Though irrigation in the United States is still in its infancy, there are 3,631,754 acres of the irrigated areas, with their water rights, was about three-quarters that of all the gold and silver mines in the United States, with their railroads and other improvements.

The value of the sun recently contained a very interesting article on the great work of reclamation now going on in the west. Over the Pecos valley is a wonderful fruit country, such high authority as Parker Earle, president of the American Horticultural society, stating that its apples, in particular, surpass those grown anywhere else in the world. It is said that there can now be bought in the Pecos valley at first prices, sure to double and quadruple within a few years, and in the Stock Exchange building, in Chicago, is a display of fruits from the valley which is well worth going a long distance to see by any one interested in irrigation and its possibilities.

Prof. David Swing is Dead.

Prof. David Swing died at Chicago of acute blood poisoning brought on by an attack of jaundice.

Mr. Swing was born in Cincinnati, August 23, 1830. At the age of 15 he entered Miami university, Oxford, O., and graduated in 1850. He accepted the pastorate of the Westminster Presbyterian church of Chicago, which was later united with the Fourth Presbyterian church, forming the Fourth Presbyterian church. One of the most prominent institutions of its kind in Chicago. Shortly after the present event in the great minister's career he left the church and became pastor of a church of heresy preferred by Rev. Dr. Swing, and the independent church college. These changes were not successful, and Dr. Swing's health was so broken that Prof. Swing brought matters to a close by resigning his pastorate. Again he took a friend's going with him and forming the Central Music hall movement, which has since labored with great success. For two years Mr. Swing's health has been failing, and Dr. Oldwall was summoned from Europe to attend him, some being then secured in Central Music hall.

200 People Drowned in Cuba.

The steamer Saratoga, from Tampico and Havana, has arrived at New York. Capt. Boyle says that at Havana it was reported that the little village of Regla, a few miles to the eastward, had been almost entirely demolished and that 200 souls had perished.

The report was very meager, and no estimate of the damages done by the storm could be ascertained. Of the reported destruction of more than half of the town of San Domingo, Capt. Boyle said he had heard nothing.

The Whole Train Burned.

Train No. 3 from New York on the Southern express ran off the track about three miles south of Lake Tenn. The engine fell across the track and the express and mail cars jumped over it, and falling on their sides, were soon a prey to the flames which consumed all of the train except the coaches—with the exception of the last Pullman, which was cut loose and backed from the train. Several persons were injured, but all miraculously escaped with their lives.

D. L. Palmer, of Charlevoix, has been missing since September 29.

MORE WAR TALK.

England to Send Troops to China.—The Situation Becoming Complicated.

London: Six thousand troops will be send from India by England to Port Arthur or other ports of China. The first rifle brigade will leave Calcutta on Oct. 16 for Hong Kong. It is stated the second-class cruiser Aeolus, from the Mediterranean squadron, and the gunboats Red Breast and Pigeon, from the East Indies station, have been ordered to join Admiral Fremantle's squadron in Chinese waters. The British consuls at Hankow and Ningpo sent alarming dispatches to the government reporting disturbances in those places and stating that the lives of the European residents were in peril.

Washington: In Japanese official circles here the calm reports that China has asked England, France and Russia to send troops and vessels to China to protect their respective interests, are construed to be a public confession on China's part of the panic and demoralization of her people, and her inability to afford the protection to foreigners. Secretary Herbert has been forehanded in taking steps for the protection of the lives and property of American residents in China. He believes now to be endangered by rebellious and unrestrained soldiery. These are now five United States warships in the Asiatic, the Charleston, Baltimore, Monocacy, Concord and Petrel, and this force will be increased to eight vessels by the addition of the Detroit, Machias and Yorktown as soon as they can be made ready. And Secretary Herbert will co-operate with the warships of the other powers to mutually protect foreigners.

Yokohoma: The applications for the Japanese war bonds will amount to 70,000,000 yen, more than double the amount called for. The Japanese government has decided to forbid the export of coal from the empire. The British man-of-war Isac-Kang, captured by the Japanese, has been added to the mikado's navy and is to be known as the Toyoshima, the name of the island off which she was taken. The standing committee of the six political parties in opposition to the Japanese government, have passed resolutions that during the war the ministry shall be cordially supported, without regard to domestic differences of opinion.

Pennsylvania's War Governor Dead.

Ex-Governor Andrew G. Curtin died at his home at Bellefonte, Pa. His end was peaceful, he having been unconscious during the last few hours of his life. Death was caused by old age—the ex-governor being in his eighty-fifth year—combined with nervous trouble.

Andrew Gregg Curtin was born in Bellefonte, Centre county, April 22, 1815. He was admitted to the bar in 1839. After serving his state in various capacities he was elected governor and his administration and interest in the war made him a national figure. He advocated the forcible suppression of secession, and was one of the most prominent and earnest in the support of the national administration. Governor Curtin was active in his efforts for the comfort of the soldiers, and originated the system of state care for orphans of the children of those slain in battle, making the institution of the state "Soldiers' Friend." In 1860 he was appointed minister to Russia, and his three terms in congress—1881 to 1887—marked his political career, as his health was failing.

In Honor to Parnell's Memory.

The procession held in Dublin in commemoration of the death of Charles Stewart Parnell was the largest ever seen there. In the line were political societies from all parts of the country, every county in Ireland being represented. Over 50 bands were in the line and the streets were so crowded with spectators that it was difficult for the procession to move. After marching through the principal streets the route was taken to Glasnevin cemetery where the paraders deposited hundreds of beautiful wreaths on Parnell's grave.

Sir Joseph Renels, the senior alderman representing the Aldersgate ward, has been elected lord mayor of London.

Russ Harrison says that his father wouldn't decline a third term nomination if he was urged strongly to accept.

THE MARKETS.

New York.		
Cattle—Natives	$ 4 10	@ $ 5 00
Hogs	5 30	@ 5 50
Sheep—Good to choice	4 00	@ 4 50
Lambs	5 00	@ 6 00
Wheat—No. 2 red	73	@ 73½
Corn—No. 2	57	@ 57½
Oats—No. 2 white	36	@ 36½
Toledo.		
Wheat—No 2 spot	71	@ 71½
No. 2 December	73	@ 73½
Corn—No. 2 mixed	50	@ 50½
Oats—No. 2 mixed	31	@ 31½
Buffalo—Live Stock.		
Cattle—Mixed shipments	3 00	@ 4 25
Sheep	3 25	@ 4 25
Lambs	3 00	@ 4 10
Hogs—Choice weights	5 00	@ 5 10
Common and rough	5 00	@ 5 05
Cleveland.		
Cattle—Best	4 25	@ 5 25
Good to choice	3 75	@ 4 25
Hogs	4 25	@ 5 00
Wheat—No 2 red	70	@ 70½
Corn—No 2	56	@ 56½
Oats—No 2 white	35	@ 35½
Pittsburg.		
Cattle—Good to prime	4 00	@ 4 85
Lower grades	3 00	@ 3 75
Hogs	5 00	@ 5 25
Sheep and lambs	4 15	@ 5 25
Wheat—No 2 red	74	@ 74½
Corn—No 2 mixed	51	@ 51½
Oats—No 2 white	34	@ 34½
Chicago.		
Cattle—Best steers	4 50	@ 5 20
Common	3 75	@ 4 25
Sheep	3 00	@ 3 90
Lambs	4 50	@ 5 00
Hogs—Mixed	4 90	@ 5 05
Wheat—No 2 red spot	71	@ 71½
No 1 white	64½	@ 65
Corn—No 2 white	54	@ 54½
Oats—No 2 white	32½	@ 33
No 2 mixed	30	@ 30½
Potatoes, per bu	50	@ 60
Butter—Choice	18	@ 20
Creamery	25	@ 28
Eggs—Fresh	18	@ 19
Live Poultry—Chickens	7½	@ 8
Fowls	7	@ 7
Ducks	8	@ 8
Turkeys	8	@ 8

WEEKLY REVIEW OF TRADE.

New York.—Dun's weekly review says: While the movement of money crops of the south sinking in value, it is not strange that the purchasing power of manufacturers is smaller than was expected. Wheat has touched the lowest point ever known for spring wheat and cotton the lowest ever known in any form when the present classified list was first formulated. Cessation of stocks in both products is discouraging to purchasers for ad advance. Producers are compelled to sell at prices below the cost of raising them and the fact that many western states there is also a lamentable failure of the corn crop. Under the circumstances it would be very strange if the demand for manufactured products should be found as large as in other years. Wheat suffers most severely, declining 4 cents in a week, while corn is 2 cents lower. Cotton is 1-16 lower. Oats are far beyond what is usually expected for the season and the exports in September were unusually small. Corn receipts at the west may exceed only a third as large as they were last year, with exports amounting to nothing, but the price is not further declined after the heavy fall during the previous fortnight. Pork products are weak in tone. The condition of the industries is in some respects more satisfactory than a month ago. Failures for the week have been 219 in the United States, against 230 last year, and 21 in Canada, against 31 last year.

New York.—Bradstreet's review says: While no radical change has appeared there is a distinct tone of the situation which has continued progress in the direction of improvement. This is true of the industrial situation. The price movement has been irregular, but on the whole and quite have advanced slightly from previous lowest levels. Some varieties of lumber, naval stores, tin plate and other staples have remained steady in price, while structural material is lower for September or may not be similar to those governing in other lines. Concessions in prices have also been made for pig iron, steel billets, lumber, hard, coffee, cotton print cloths and live hogs.

The Baacke's Wire Nail company, of Cleveland, the largest concern of the kind in the world, has closed down for an indefinite period.

TABERNACLE PULPIT.

HADASSAH, THE LOVELY JEWESS OF SRUSHAN.

The Most Beautiful Character in the History of Religion—She Cared Nothing for Earthly Joys and Met Martyrdom With Gentle Firmness.

BROOKLYN, Oct. —, 1894.—Rev. Dr. Talmage, who is still absent on his round the world tour, has selected as the subject of to-day's sermon, through the press: "Hadassah," the text chosen being Esther ii: 7: "And he brought up Hadassah."

A beautiful child was born in the capital of Persia. She was an orphan and a captive, her parents having been stolen from their Israelitish home and carried to Shushan, and had died, leaving their daughter poor and in a strange land. But an Israelite who had been carried into the same captivity was attracted by the case of the orphan. He educated her in his holy religion, and under the roof of that good man this child grew up in all the loveliness and sweetness and excellence of character if ever equalled, certainly never surpassed. Beautiful Hadassah! Could that adopted father ever part with her from his household? Her artlessness; her girlish sports; her innocence; her orphanage, had wound themselves thoroughly about the heart of the old man around each parent's heart among us there are cords of all sizes, binding together with golden drills climbing, and fastening and blossoming, and growing stronger. I expect to see Hadassah, the orphan girl loved up at home—wondering sometimes—if sickness will come, and death, and bereavement. Alas! More than anything that the father expects happens to the child. Ahasuerus, a princely scoundrel, demadils that Hadassah, the fairest one in all the kingdom, become his wife. Worse than death was parting with such a monster of iniquity! How great the change when this young woman left the home where God was worshipped and the Scriptures read, to enter a palace devoted to pride, idolatry and sensuality! "As a lamb to the slaughter!"

Ahasuerus knew not that his wife was a Jewess. At the instigation of the infamous prime minister the king decreed that all the Jews in the land should be slain. Hadassah pleads the cause of her people, breaking through the rules of the court, and presenting herself in the very face of death. Oh, it was a sad time among that enslaved people! They had all heard the decree concerning their death. Sorrow covered every family, sat in thousands of households, and mothers wildly pressed their infants to their breasts as the days of massacre hastened on, saying that the same sword stroke which slew the mother might also slay the child, rend and bud perishing in the same blast.

The day of execution dawned. Government officials, armed and drilled, crowed before the battle shout of the oppressed people. The cry of defeat rang back to the palaces, but above every other sound, above the crushed and mangled corpses sounded the triumph of the delivered Jews, and their enthusiasm was taken to Odessa and Bucharest, came to the relief of Lucknow; the English army which stood in the very jaws of death, at the sudden hope that reinforcements had come, shout above belching cannon and the death-groan of hosts, crying, "We are saved! We are saved!"

My subject gives me opportunity of illustrating what Christian character may be under the greatest disadvantages. There is no Christian now exactly what there was to be. Your standard is much higher than any thing you have attained unto. If there be any man so puffed up as to be thoroughly satisfied with the amount of excellency he has already attained, I have nothing to say to such a one. But to those who are toiling with past attainments, who are looking with pain upon that which are keeping them from being what they ought to be, I have a message from God. You each of you labor under disabilities, which are hindrances in your temperament; in your worldly circumstances; in your calling, that stirs powerfully against you. Admitting all this, I introduce you to Hadassah of the text, a noble Christian, notwithstanding the most gigantic difficulties. She whom you might have supposed the victim of the worst of women, is one of the best.

In the first place, our subject is an illustration of