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AROUND OUR OWN STATE

NEWS OF INTEREST TO MICHIGAN READERS.

The Cases of the Indicted State Officials Opened at Lansing—Fires at Dodge and Ithaca—Briefs.

Big Clare County Fire.

The plant and stock of the Lansing Lumber company at Dodge, Clare county, were completely destroyed by fire. The whole county will suffer the loss, as it was the principal manufacturing industry in the county usually employing over 200 men in the mills and woods. The loss is placed at $175,000, of which $100,000 is upon the mills and other buildings and the balance upon the stock in the yard, both lumber and shingles. Aid was summoned from Clare and Harrison. Both sent their fire departments, but nothing could be done except to hold back the flames from the company's store and other buildings. Nearly forty acres of lumber piles were burned, not a board being left. Three dwellings owned by the company were also burned. It is doubtful if the mills will be rebuilt. If so, it will be on a much smaller scale.

THEY WERE NOT READY.

Indicted State Officials Ask Continuance—Wanted the Indictments Quashed.

When the salaries amendment fraud cases came up in the Ingham county circuit court at Lansing before Judge Person there was a large crowd present. Only four of the defendants—Attorney-General Ellis, George H. Bussey, Marcus Petersen and Frank A. Potter—were present in person, the others being represented by counsel. The case against Ellis for forgery in connection with the [illegible] returns was the first to come up and a continuance was asked for. All the other defendants' attorneys asked for continuance or postponement on the plea that they were not ready.

$25,000 Blaze at Ithaca.

The stave and heading mill at Ithaca, owned by C. W. Althouse of St. Louis, was totally destroyed by fire. This was one of the best equipped mills of its kind in the state, having all the most improved machinery, and being lighted by its own electric light plant. It throws 60 men out of employment. There was such a strong wind that the firemen were unable to do anything but save adjoining buildings. At one time the village seemed doomed; but through the active work of the fire department no other buildings caught fire. The loss is $25,000, partially insured. Mr. Althouse will probably rebuild immediately.

Pontiac Business Man Suicides.

Richard Dawson, a member of the firm of Dawson Bros., of Pontiac, manufacturers of wheat flakes, and Democratic alderman, committed suicide. James Scott, an employe, found him hanging to an iron rod in his packing room. Temporary insanity, caused by financial difficulties, the probable cause. He was about 45 years old, and leaves a wife and two small children. He carried considerable life insurance.

Cremated in a Barn.

The barn of Charles Pierce, in Batavia township, Branch county, burned. Mr. Nixon, who ran the farm, perished in the flames. Four horses, 40 sheep, as well as a large quantity of hay, grain and tools, were also destroyed. It is supposed the fire started from a lantern overturned while Nixon was doing his chores.

MINOR MICHIGAN NEWS.

Peter Swan was found hanging by the neck in a deserted box factory at Bay City.

The second annual bench show of the City of the Straits Kennel club, at Detroit, was a big success.

Bennett Bros.' general merchandise store at Prattville was destroyed by fire. It was insured for $3,000.

Arthur Cronin, boarding at the Busch house at Utica, was found dead in his bed. He was addicted to the use of stimulants.

Lee Church and Clark Boon, Hudson boys of 16, were arrested charged with committing criminal assault upon Lottie Perkins, aged 14.

The body of a small baby was found wrapped in a paper in a creek at Burnham. A stone had been tied to it so as to weight the body down.

The Lake Superior Mining institute was in session at Houghton. All the prominent mining men of northern Michigan were in attendance.

Joseph Patchett, an Ogden farmer with a wife and several children, was arrested on a charge of criminal assault on Ettie Replogle, a 13-year-old girl of that township.

James Donovan escaped from the Ionia asylum for dangerous and criminal insane. He was employed in the kitchen and was a chronic criminal.

Will Valley, a student in telegraphy at Leverling, committed suicide at the Park house, Petoskey. He was out of work and money and was very despondent.

A. C. Vanerman and his son, Elvin, were felling a tree on the farm of Andrew Kelley near Bellevue when a limb struck Elvin and inflicted probably fatal injuries.

The Bay City Iron Hallers have $3,000 which they refuse to turn over to the receiver of the order. They feel if they send the money away they will never see it again.

A vote will soon be taken at Blissfield as to the advisability of lighting the village with twenty arc lights. A number of local capitalists have offered to do it for $900 a year.

Fifteen prisoners in Flint jail sang hymns as good as old-time Methodists. The noise was so great that their confederates almost succeeded in sawing off the bars and escaping.

John Chapman, of Scottville, 17 years of age, while trying to board a moving train on the F. & P. M., at Ludington, fell under the wheels and was killed, one leg and one hand being cut off.

The fourth annual state convention of the Epworth League of Michigan will be held at Saginaw, March 27, 28 and 29 at the Jefferson Avenue Methodist Episcopal church on the east side.

Iron Mountain special: "Snow has nearly all disappeared in the woods and men are coming to town in droves. The cut on the Menominee river this winter will not exceed 300,000,000 feet, which is 100,000,000 less than last year."

There is a war in Muskegon's military company. Capt. Crosser appointed a man corporal against the wishes of the men and 17 of them left the armory in a huff, saying they would never drill again. The captain says they will drill, even if he has to take them by force.

A body of a male child was found under a sidewalk at Bay City. The body had been thrown under the walk without a wrapping of any kind and a large dent in the side of its head had apparently been made by some blunt instrument. From all appearance the child was not given the slightest care after its birth. No clue.

Peter Larson, an old man who has been at work in Long's cedar swamp, near Menominee, was found dead with a bullet hole in the roof of his mouth. He had been sick for days and it is thought became despondent and committed suicide.

Mrs. Arabella Hicks, who was the sole legatee of the will of the late Mrs. Parkes at Port Huron has petitioned Judge Black to set aside the will on a plea of the partial insanity. Mrs. Hicks says she would like to share the property with her sisters.

A committee has been appointed at Jackson, Prof. J. F. Sefer, president of the Michigan Music Teacher's association, to confer with similar committees from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois as to the advisability of holding interstate musical conventions.

Harry Bates, well known throughout the state as a horse trainer and dealer in fast horses, is dead at Saginaw, where he has amassed a fortune of $100,000. A peculiar circumstance in connection with his death is the fact that he has no known heir.

The Detroit, Bay City & Alpena railroad has already commenced work on its road to Cheboygan. It has agreed to have its connection in running order by Jan. 1, 1895. It will only be a short time before the company will have its own tracks into Detroit.

The state board of agriculture has appointed A. A. Crozier as assistant agriculturist in the experiment station at Agricultural College, to fill a vacancy left by Prof. C. C. Holden, who resigned last summer. He is a man of practical experience in both agriculture and botany.

Frank H. Flint, of the Sunfield News, and Miss Lizzie Lottschilte were married in St. Mark's chapel, Grand Rapids. Both are deaf mutes and the ceremony was performed by Rev. A. W. Mann, the deaf mute missionary. The service was unique and impressive, all in the sign language.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Woman's Hospital Association at Saginaw, Mrs. H. A. Forrest, president of the association, announced that the $3,000 mortgage which has worried the members so long, had been paid by Hon. Wellington R. Burt, leaving their property out of debt.

Henry Benson, one of the wealthiest farmers in Genesee county, who resides near Flint, has been arrested for cruelty to animals. His neighbors aver that two or three horses owned by Benson died within a short time of exposure, lack of food and water. The utmost indignation prevails at the man's inhumanity, and it is likely that the extreme penalty of the law will be imposed upon him.

Pension Suspensions Removed.

Washington special: "All suspensions of pensioners in cases where payment has not been already resumed or where the pensioner's name has not been stricken from the rolls will be removed by an order signed by Commissioner Lochren. The order, which was sent to the chief of the finance division, is as follows: 'In accordance with the provisions of the act of congress approved Dec. 21, 1893, you are hereby instructed to at once take such steps as may be necessary to remove suspension of pensions in all cases in which action of resumption of payment or dropping from the rolls has not been taken.'"

This action affects the cases of between 3,000 and 4,000 pensioners. The pension agents will be instructed to pay these pensioners their former rates until otherwise ordered by the bureau.

Confessed a Double Murder.

A confession of murder was made by convict Charles Morris, when he was dying from self-inflicted wounds at the Columbus, O., penitentiary. His victims were Jonathan Douthett and his wife, a wealthy and childless farmer near Xenia. Morris was employed by Douthett as a farm hand. The murder occurred on May 13, 1888. The Douthetts had a large sum of money and some valuable plate. This he secured, but buried all but $50, and never dared go back after it. He was arrested, but as the evidence against him was weak, he was released after lying nine months in jail. The murder of the Douthetts was always been regarded as a mystery.

Only the Hull of the Kearsarge Left.

The steamer Elliott arrived at Savannah, Ga., from Bluefields, passing the wreck of the United States corvette Kearsarge on Roncador reef. The captain of the Elliott says there is nothing left of her but the hull. The decks have been swept clean. The hull is in a very dangerous place, but so far as it is to be seen it shows no signs of going to pieces.

CURRENT CONDENSATIONS.

The Johnson, Pa., steel works have resumed operations giving employment to 2,000 men.

Three different families were chloroformed and their houses ransacked by burglars in one night at Jeffersonville, Ind. They secured considerable money.

Andrew Sauer, cashier of the defunct Defiance, O., Savings bank, and now deputy collector of internal revenue of that district, has been arrested charged with embezzling $37,000.

The chamber of commerce, of London, have sent a memorial to Lord Rosebery, the premier, requesting that he take steps to bring about the resumption of the Brussels monetary conference.

The last act in the Honduran revolution has been played, peace has been arranged upon terms satisfactory to all parties and the government has been turned over to Bonilla, the head of the revolutionary party.

Advices received from Corea say that a plot has been discovered to kill Prince Li Tchok, the heir to the throne, as well as all the ministers. A thousand arrests have been made in connection with the conspiracy.

A fight occurred between strikers and U. S. deputy marshals at Mingo mines, Middleboro, Ky. One of the miners was seriously wounded. The strikers made a bold attempt to burn the tipple at the mine, but were driven off.

Rev. W. T. Helle, of Upper Sandusky, O., has been elected superintendent of the Wesley Orphan's Home, a joint Ohio and Indiana institution, at Richmond, Ind., succeeding Rev. John Dingledey, removed for cruel treatment to inmates.

A dynamite cartridge was exploded at Funte-Rebollo, province of Segovia, Old Castile, Spain, killing the alcalde, or local judge, and also killing the sacristan of the local church. The explosion is believed to have been the work of anarchists.

Ellauri has been elected by congress president of Uruguay in succession to Dr. Herrera Obes, whose term of office expired March 1. The vote in congress was so close and the situation became so critical that violence was feared. Dr. Ellauri declines to accept the office.

The following bulletin has been issued by Mr. Gladstone's physician: "Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a bronchial cough, due to catarrhal inflammation of the throat. His temperature, however, is only slightly above normal and his strength is good."

President Cleveland has returned to Washington after a nine days' outing trip through the North Carolina sounds. To some friends the president said he had never in his life had more enjoyment hunting trip. The hunting party killed 31 brant, 11 swan, eight ducks, [illegible]. Nobody will disclose the tally of the individual shooting.

REBELS ARE WHIPPED.

BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION IS PRACTICALLY AT AN END.

Admiral Da Gama Seeks an Asylum on Board a Portuguese Man-of-War—Will Surrender if Granted Immunity.

Washington special: Advices received at the state department from Minister Thompson at Rio de Janeiro indicate that the Brazilian rebellion is about ended. The dispatches contain the information that Admiral Da Gama has gone aboard the Portuguese war vessel Mindello now in the harbor at Rio, and has sent to President Peixoto by the Portuguese officer an offer of surrender on condition of full protection for himself and his followers. Secretary Gresham believes this marks the end of the Brazilian war. Two dispatches were received. They read as follows when translated:

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 13, 1894.
Gresham: Da Gama today, through the senior Portuguese naval commander, offered to surrender to the president if proper immunity provided he and his followers were guaranteed protection against punishment.
THOMPSON.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 13, 1894.
Gresham: Da Gama has gone aboard the Portuguese man-of-war for asylum.
THOMPSON.

"Notice of the intention of the Brazilian fleet to begin an active attack on the insurgent fleet had been given at noon Sunday. [illegible] forces in the harbor. The time was given 48 hours before the firing was to begin. Da Gama's offer of surrender was given 24 hours before an attack was to be expected. The offer of surrender, in fact, followed the first actual show of determined force on the part of the Brazilian government.

LATER.—Another dispatch was received by Secretary Gresham from Minister Thompson containing the additional information that Da Gama asks only that he and his officers be allowed to leave the country, and the lives of his private soldiers and sailors be spared. It is regarded by prominent officials as without question that the Brazilians will accept the surrender with the terms asked for by Da Gama.

DAN COUGHLIN NOT GUILTY.

The Famous Cronin Conspiracy Case Against Him Ends in Acquittal.

Dan Coughlin, the big ex-detective of the Chicago police force, who was tried once and convicted of being one of the conspirators who murdered Dr. P. H. Cronin, May 4, 1889, and sentenced to prison for life, has been much more fortunate in his new trial just ended. The case had been on continually for five weeks, and when all the evidence was in and the arguments for the judge's charge to the jury came the court room was crowded. The court in part said: "The jury is instructed that it is not claimed by the state that there is evidence tending to show that the defendant, Daniel Coughlin, directly took the life of Dr. Cronin. It is claimed that a conspiracy to kill Cronin existed and that this defendant and the other defendants and other persons designated in the indictment as 'unknown,' were parties to such conspiracy, actually accomplished on the night of May 4, 1889. The court further instructs you that, if there exists in this case any fair doubt of motive, or a sufficient motive on the part of the defendant to commit the crime, then this is a circumstance in favor of his innocence which the jury ought to consider in connection with all the other evidence in arriving at a verdict."

It was 4:30 in the afternoon when the jury returned. After the preliminaries the clerk read the verdict: "We, the jury, find the defendant, Daniel Coughlin, not guilty." Then there was a great demonstration of Coughlin's friends. His faithful wife, his little boy and girl and his father, pushed their way to the big fellow and the reunion of the family was very affecting. A few minutes later Coughlin left the court room once more to breathe free air.

BRITISHERS IN NICARAGUA.

Looks Like They Were Trying to Secure a Foothold About Nicaraguan Canal.

Washington special: The department of state has received the first official information of the operations of the British naval forces at Bluefields, near the mouth of the Nicaragua canal. It was a dispatch from United States Minister Baker at Managua. He says that the United States consul at San Juan del Norte, Mr. Braida, telegraphs him that soldiers from the British warship Cleopatra have been landed at Bluefields, and strongly urges that a United States naval vessel be sent there at once.

There is no explanation in the minister's dispatch of the reason for the landing of British forces. The preceding reports of Consul Braida show that when the Nicaraguan government forces occupied Bluefields the reigning Mosquito chief appealed to the British consul at San Juan del Norte for protection and the question of interest at this stage of affairs is whether the British troops have been landed to afford the protection to the Mosquitos or whether the landing was made to protect British citizens only. Senator Morgan, of the foreign affairs committee, fears that the English government is making an effort to obtain a footing on the eastern coast of the isthmus in violation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Senator Morgan is especially jealous of any movement on the part of a foreign government which might effect the Nicaraguan canal, and probably nothing could happen to give him greater concern than foreigners to secure a foothold in those regions.

The Indiana a Success.

The new battleship Indiana made three trips over a distance of 9 65-100 knots. The first, under natural draft, was accomplished at a speed of 14 1-10 knots. The second, under half forced draft, is a trifle less than 15 knots, and the third, under forced draft, at 15 35-100 knots. The guaranteed speed of the Indiana is 15 knots. The engines, which behaved splendidly, reached a maximum velocity of 128 revolutions a minute, the average under forced draft being 122, with selected coal. There seems no doubt that the big battleship will average 16½ knots an hour when the official trial trip is made.

Three Killed by a Locomotive Explosion.

The boiler of a locomotive on the Lehigh Valley railroad exploded at Tannery, Pa., killing three men. P. Dugan, the engineer in charge, stopped his engine at Tannery and went into the telegraph office for orders. During his absence the locomotive was blown to pieces. The three men who were on the engine were killed. John Lennay, fireman; Edward Fox, brakeman; John Dolter, brakeman. All were new hands, having taken the places of Brotherhood men in the late strike. The cause of the explosion was low water in the boiler.

A New Constitution for Hawaii.

Washington special: The president sent to congress the last correspondence in relation to Hawaii, covering a period from Feb. 10 to Feb. 15, inclusive. The important feature of the correspondence is a statement that steps have been taken to provide for a new constitution and new form of government for Hawaii. The first letter is merely an acknowledgment of the receipt of dispatches.

Stephen Geer, a milkman 60 years old, was called to his door at Jeffersonville, Ind., at 3 a. m. and shot through the heart by an unknown assassin.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

SENATE.—Sixty-eighth day.—Senator Hill, of New York, created a surprise when he introduced the following resolution asking that it be referred to the committee on finance: "Whereas, the secretary of the treasury has announced a deficit of $78,000,000 for the current fiscal year; and whereas, House bill No. 4864, known as the Wilson bill, proposes to discard $76,000,000 revenue from present tariff taxation and to meet the double deficiency by new internal and direct taxation; therefore resolved, That the Senate finance committee frame amendments to the said bill, omitting the said internal and direct taxes newly proposed, and instead thereof make provision for sufficient revenue by tariffing other foreign imports, and otherwise revising the tariff without creating a deficiency." Senator Berry, of Arkansas, protested against the assertion of a New York paper which published an article giving names and portraits of senators whom it accused of having formed a ring to defeat the Wilson bill. Mr. Berry said that he was and always had favored the passage of the Wilson bill just as it had come from the House. Senators Faulkner, Call, McLaurin and Morgan also made explanations of the same effect. The question of referring the Bland seigniorage bill was discussed but no action taken. The Senate disagreed with the report of the conference committee on the urgent deficiency bill. HOUSE.—During the discussion of the pensions appropriations bill Gen. Sickles took occasion to criticise Commissioner Lochren. The resolution for the investigation of Judge Jenkins' writ of injunction against the Northern Pacific railway was passed. Quite a heated discussion was precipitated over a resolution instructing the secretary of the navy to appoint a naval cadet from the Fifth South Carolina district. It seemed that Mr. Strait, of Maryland, failed to appoint a cadet and the secretary of the navy appointed and charged to that district a young man from Alabama. It developed that in several cases the secretary had filled vacancies from districts with residents of other districts and there was a manifest disposition on the part of the members of the House to resent what they considered an infringement on their rights. The speaker ruled the discussion out of order. Mr. Linton, of Michigan, secured unanimous consent for the consideration of a resolution authorizing the secretary of the treasury to transfer a portion of the postoffice site in the city of Saginaw, Mich., to that city and it was passed.

SENATE.—Sixty-ninth day.—An exciting and interesting debate was precipitated by Mr. Harris' motion for the second reading of the seigniorage bill. This was opposed by Mr. Sherman, who moved its reference to the finance committee, and in the course of a strong speech in opposition to the bill said that its object was to divert a trust fund from its legitimate purpose—a thing which in Ohio would be a penitentiary offence. His motion was defeated, however, and the bill taken up as unfinished business, and almost before anyone was aware of what had happened it passed its third reading and was on the point of passing the Senate. Then its opponents recovered from their surprise and endeavored to prevent its passage, and on request of Senator Sherman it went over. Mr. Morgan introduced a resolution calling on the President for information as to the occupancy of Bluefields, Nicaragua, by the British. This was agreed to. The House bill appropriating $45,000 for saving the Kearsarge was also passed, as was a bill permitting Gen. O. O. Howard to accept from the French government the decoration of commander of the Legion of Honor. HOUSE.—After five days of debate the pension appropriation bill carrying $151,000,000 was passed without division. Throughout the debate there had been no criticism of the amount carried by the bill, debate being, on the one hand, confined to an assault on the manner in which the present commissioner of pensions had administered the office and his alleged unauthorized suspension of pensions, and, on the other, to a defense of the attempt of the commissioner to purge the rolls of those who were not entitled to a place upon them. All the amendments to the bill save one, that of Mr. Pickler, to make the reports of the examining surgeons open to the inspection of the applicant or his attorneys, were defeated. They all fell under points of order that they were not germane.

SENATE.—Seventieth day.—The bill for the sale of unsold portions of the Umatilla reservation in Oregon was passed. The Bland seigniorage bill was laid before the Senate as unfinished business. Mr. Sherman bitterly opposed the pending bill and expressed the hope that the motion to reconsider would prevail, as he wanted the bill open to amendments. The bill went over without action. HOUSE.—The conference report on the urgent deficiency bill was presented and agreed to. Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, from the joint commission on expenditures in the executive departments, called up the bill to reform the method of accounting and auditing in the customs department of the treasury. The bill abolishes the office of commissioner and assistant commissioner of customs. The bill was passed. The House then went into committee of the whole for the consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill.

SENATE.—Seventy-first day.—Senator Peffer offered a resolution providing for a committee to examine charges in various newspapers that certain senators had utilized knowledge gained officially for dealing in sugar stocks, and had made large gains. It was tabled temporarily. Mr. Vest called up the House bill authorizing a bridge over the East river, between New York and Long Island. The bill passed without objection. The Bland seigniorage bill came up as unfinished business. The 15th inst. was decided upon as the day for taking a vote. HOUSE.—The District of Columbia appropriation bill in committee of the whole and individual pension bills occupied the day and evening sessions.

ROAST FROM ROSEBERY.

The New Premier of England Attacks the House of Lords.

London cable: At a great meeting of Liberals the new prime minister, Lord Rosebery, presided, and made the principal address. He alluded with considerable feeling to the retirement of Mr. Gladstone, saying that they "would greatly miss that sublime and pathetic figure, which enriched and enobled not merely the treasury bench but the house itself."

Continuing, Lord Rosebery said: "It was thought that in the high office to which I have been called there should be a declaration of policy. This is not necessary, as we stand where we did (Cheers.) The same measures remain as they are, the program of the Liberal party and it is not intended to recede from any one of them. The Welsh church question will be pressed to a definite and successful conclusion. In regard to the Irish question, we are bound to it by ties of honor and affection. The policy of home rule will not be less definitely pursued.

"The conviction has long been forcing itself upon me that with the democratic suffrage which we now enjoy, a second chamber, constituted like the house of lords, is an anomaly. This conviction has been strengthened by the unhappy chapter of accidents which has turned the house of lords from a body of hereditary law-givers more or less equally divided, into one great Tory organization entirely at the beck and call of a single party leader. (Cheers.) When the Tories were in office the power of veto was not exercised, but when the Liberals are in power, the veto is exercised at the dictates of the Tory leader. That is a danger to the constitution to which the Liberal government is not blind, and they will not lose sight of any measure which is constitutionally presented to this country, in this great anomaly peril to which it is exposed. (Cheers.)

"I will not go so far as some of my friends. I do not think that the peers should be treated as pariahs. I do not think that the fact that a man was born in a particular position should debar him from the higher opportunities of serving the state. I am not one of those who think that the peerage should be considered a stigma and a bar. But, while I remain premier, you may be assured that no liberal in the ranks will endeavor more steadfastly to do his duty to the party." (Loud cheering.)

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer, followed. He said that the enemy flattered themselves that the liberal party was going to drop home rule. But the language of the premier and the presence of the Rt. Hon. John Morley, as chief secretary for Ireland, was the best answer they could give to this supposition.

Amick Vindicated Everywhere.

Judgment was rendered at St. Louis, Mo., in favor of Dr. Amick, of Cincinnati, against the St. Louis Clinique. This medical journal questioned the merits of his treatment for consumption which many physicians there say is the only cure for this disease. Amick keeps his formula to himself and sends free medicines, proving to the consumptive he can be cured. All this is against the medical code, hence the attack and vindication.

Counterfeiters at Cleveland.

United States Marshal Haskell and other officers at Cleveland arrested Tom Cain, Saginaw street; Charles Beier, who runs a saloon on Kinsman street, and James O'Brien, who lives near Beier. In O'Brien's house was found a number of frames for moulds, a ladle and a large quantity of metal resembling silver. Some sensational developments are looked for in connection with the case.

The German government, newspapers and steamship lines are advising prospective emigrants not to go to America, at present at least.

STORY OF DAMASCUS.

A BRILLIANT PAGE FROM ITS EARLY HISTORY.

Dr. Talmage Preaches in Mobile, Ala.—About Paul and the Spread of Christianity Among the Pagan Nations of the East.

MOBILE, Ala., March 11.—Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D., who is now visiting the south, has selected as the subject of to-day's sermon, "Unappreciated Services." The text being taken from 2 Cor. 11: xxxiii, "Through a window, in a basket, was I let down by the wall."

Damascus is a city of white and glistening architecture sometimes called "the eye of the east," sometimes called "a pearl surrounded by emeralds," at one time distinguished for such swords as no other city could make, and for that particular style of [illegible] fabric called damask. A horseman by the name of Paul, riding toward this city, had been thrown from the saddle. The horse had dropped under a flash from the sky, which at the same time was so bright it blinded the rider for many days, and I think so permanently injured his eyesight that this defect of vision became the thorn in the flesh he afterward speaks of. He started for Damascus to butcher Christians, but after that hard fall from his horse he was a changed man and preached Christ in Damascus till the city was shaken to its foundation. The mayor gives authority for his arrest, and the popular cry is, "Kill him! Kill him!" The city is surrounded by a high wall, and the gates are watched by the police lest the Cilician preacher escape. Many of the houses are built on the wall, and their balconies projected clear over and hovered above the gardens outside. It was customary to lower baskets out of these balconies and pull up fruits and flowers from the gardens. To this day visitors at the monastery of Mount Sinai are lifted and let down in baskets. Detectives prowled around from house to house looking for Paul, but his friends hid him now in one place, now in another. He is no coward, as fifty incidents in his life demonstrate. But he feels his work is not done yet, and so he evades assassination. "Is that preacher here?" "Is that fanatic here?" the police shout at one house door. Sometimes on the street incognito he passes through a crowd of clenched fists, and sometimes he secretes himself on the house-top. At last the infuriated populace get on sure track of him. They have positive evidence that he is in the house of one of the Christians, the balcony of whose home reaches over the wall. "Here he is! Here he is!" The vociferation and blasphemy and howling of the pursuers are at the front door. They break in. "Fetch out that gospelizer, and let us hang his head on the city gate. Where is he?" The emergency was terrible. Providentially there was a good stout basket in the house. Paul's friends fasten a rope to the basket. Paul steps into it. The basket is lifted to the edge of the balcony on the wall, and then while Paul holds on to the rope with both hands his friends lower away, carefully and cautiously, slowly but surely, further down and further down, until the basket strikes the earth and the apostle steps out and afoot and alone starts on that famous missionary tour, the story of which has astonished earth and heaven. Appropriate entry in Paul's diary of travels: "Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall."

Observe, first, on what a slender tenure great results hang. The rope-maker who twisted that cord fastened to that lowering basket never knew how much would depend on the strength of it. How if it had been broken and the apostle's life had been dashed out! What would have become of the Christian church? All that magnificent missionary work in Pamphylia, Cappadocia, Galatia, Macedonia, would never have been accomplished. All his writings that make up so indispensable and enchanting a part of the New Testament would never have been written. The story of resurrection would never have been so gloriously told as he told it. That example of heroic and triumphant endurance at Philippi, in the Mediterranean euroclydon, under flagellation and at his beheading would not have kindled the courage of ten thousand martyrdoms. But the rope holding that basket, how much depended on it! So again and again great results have hung on what seemed slender circumstances.

Did ever a ship of many thousand tons crossing the sea, have such important passenger as had once a boat of leaves, from tafrail to stern only three or four feet, the vessel made waterproof by a coat of bitumen and floating on the Nile with the infant lawgiver of the Jews on board? What if some crocodile should crush it! What if some of the cattle wading in for a drink should sink it? Vessels of war sometimes carry forty guns looking through the portholes, ready to open battle. But that tiny craft on the Nile seems to be armed with all the guns of thunder that bombarded Sinai at the law-giving. On how fragile craft sailed how much of historical importance!

The parsonage at Epworth, England, is on fire in the night, and the father rushed through the hallway for the rescue of his children. Seven children are out and safe on the ground, but one remains in the consuming building. That one wakes, and finding his bed on fire and the building crumbling, comes to the window, and two peasants make a ladder of their bodies, one peasant standing on the shoulder of the other, and down the human ladder the boy descends—John Wesley. If you would know how much depended on that ladder of peasants ask the millions of Methodists on both sides of the sea. Ask their mission stations all round the world. Ask the hundreds of thousands already ascended to join their founder, who would have perished but for the living stair of peasants' shoulders.

An English ship stopped at Pitcairn Island, and right in the midst of surrounding cannibalism and squalor, the passengers discovered a Christian colony of churches and schools and beautiful homes and highest style of religion and civilization. For fifty years no missionary and no Christian influence had landed there. Why this oasis of light amid a desert of heathendom? Sixty years before, a ship had met disaster, and one of the sailors, unable to save anything else, went to his trunk and took out a Bible which his mother had placed there, and swam ashore, the Bible held in his teeth. The book was read on all sides until the rough and vicious population were evangelized, and a church was started, and an enlightened commonwealth established, and the world's history has no more brilliant page than that which tells of the transformation of a nation by one book. It did not seem of much importance whether the sailor continued to hold the book in his teeth or let it fall in the breakers, but upon what small circumstance depended what mighty results!

Practical inference: There are no insignificant things in our lives. The minutest thing is part of a magnitude. Infinity is made up of infinitesimals. Great things an aggregation of small things. Bethlehem manger pulling on a star in the eastern sky. One book in a drenched sailor's mouth the evangelization of a multitude. One pitcher of papyrus on the Nile freighted with events for all ages. The fate of Christendom in a basket let down from a window on the wall. What you do, do well. If you make a rope make it strong and true, for you know not how much may depend on your workmanship. If you fashion a boat let it be waterproof, for you know not who may sail in it. If you put a Bible in the trunk of your boy as he goes from home, let it be heard in your prayers, for it may have a mission as far-reaching as the book which the sailor carried in his teeth to the Pitcairn beach. The plainest man's life is an island between two eternities—eternity past rippling against his shoulders, eternity to come touching his brow. The casual, the accidental, that which merely happened so, are parts of a great plan, and the rope that lets the fugitive apostle from the Damascus wall is the cable that holds to its mooring the ship of the church in the northeast storm of the centuries.

Again, notice unrecognized and unrecorded services. Who spun that rope? Who tied it to the basket? Who steadied the illustrious preacher as he stepped into it? Who relaxed not a muscle of the arm or dismissed an anxious look from his face until the basket touched the ground and discharged its magnificent cargo? Not one of their names has come to us, but there was no work done that day in Damascus or in all the earth compared with the importance of their work. What if they had in their agitation tied a knot that could slip? What if the sound of the mob at the door had led them to say: "Paul must take care of himself, and we will take care of ourselves." No, no! They held the rope, and in doing so did more for the Christian church than any thousand of us will ever accomplish. But God knows and has made eternal record of their undertaking. And they know. How exultant they must have felt when they read his letters to the Romans, to the Corinthians, to the Ephesians, to the Philippians, to the Colossians, to the Thessalonians, to Timothy, to Titus, to Philemon, to the Hebrews, and when they heard how he walked out of prison with the earthquake unlocking the door for him, and took command of the Alexandrian corn ship when the sailors were nearly scared to death, and preached a sermon that nearly shook Felix off his judgment seat. I hear the men and women who helped him down through the window and over the wall talking in private over the matter and saying: "How glad I am that we effected that rescue! In coming times they may get the glory of Paul's work, but no one shall rob us of the satisfaction of knowing that we held the rope."

There are said to be about 69,000 ministers of religion in this country. About 50,000 I warrant came from early homes which had to struggle for the necessaries of life. The sons of rich bankers and merchants generally become bankers and merchants. The most of those who become ministers are the sons of those who had terrific struggles to get their everyday bread. The collegiate and theological education of that son took every luxury from the parental table for eight years. The other children were more scantily appareled. The son, at college every little while got a bundle from home. It was the socks that mother had knit, sitting up late at night, her sight not as good as once it was. And there also were some delicacies from sister's hand for the voracious appetite of a hungry student. The years go by, and the son has been ordained and is preaching the glorious gospel, and a great revival comes, and souls by scores and hundreds accept the gospel from the lips of that young preacher, and father and mother, quite old now, are visiting the son at the village parsonage, and at the close of a Sabbath of mighty blessing, father and mother retire to their room, the son lighting the way and asking them if he can do anything to make them more comfortable, saying if they want anything in the night just to knock on the wall. And then all alone father and mother talk over the gracious influences of the day, and say: "Well, it was worth all we went through to educate that boy! It was a hard pull, but we held on till the work was done. The world may not know it, but mother, we held the rope, didn't we?" And the voice, tremulous with joyful emotion, responds: "Yes, father, we held the rope. I feel my work is done. Now, Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." "Pshaw!" says the father. "I never felt so much like living in my life as now. I want to see what that fellow is going on to do, he has begun so well."

O, men and women here assembled, you brag sometimes how you have fought your way in the world, but I think there have been helpful influences that you have never fully acknowledged. Has there not been some influence in your early or present home or in that village, [illegible], from among the New England hills, or from western prairies, or from southern plantation, or from English or Scottish or Irish home, a cord of influence that has kept you right when you would have gone astray, and which, after you had made a crooked track, recalled you? The rope may have been thirty years or 500 miles long, or 3,000 miles long, but hands that went out of mortal sight long ago still hold the rope. You want a very swift horse, and you need rowel him with sharpest spurs and to let the reins lie loose upon the neck, and to give a shout to a racer, if you are going to ride out of reach of your mother's prayers. Why, a ship crossing the Atlantic in seven days can't sail away from that. A sailor finds them on the lookout as he takes his place, and finds them on the mast as he climbs the ratlines to disentangle a rope in the tempest, and finds them swinging on the hammock when he turns in. Why not be frank and acknowledge it—the most of us would long ago have been dashed to pieces had not gracious and loving hands steadied us lovingly and mightily held the rope?

But there must come a time when we shall find out who these Damascenes were who lowered Paul in the basket, and greet them and all those who have rendered to God and the world unrecognized and unrecorded services. That is going to be one of the glad excitements of heaven—the hunting up and picking out of those who did great work on earth and got no credit for it. Here the church has been going on nineteen centuries, and this is probably the first sermon ever recognizing the services of the people in that Damascus balcony. Charles G. Finney said to a dying Christian, "Give my love to St. Paul when you meet him." When you and I meet him, as we will, I shall ask him to introduce me to those people who got him out of the Damascene peril.

Once for thirty-six hours we expected every moment to go to the bottom of the ocean. The waves struck through the skylights and rushed down into the hold of the ship and hissed against the boilers. It was an awful time; but by the blessing of God and the faithfulness of the men in charge we came out of the cyclone and we arrived at home. Each one before leaving the ship thanked Capt. Andrews. I do not think there was a man or woman that went off that ship without thanking Capt. Andrews, and when years after, I heard of his death, I was impelled to write a letter of condolence to his family in Liverpool. Everybody recognized the goodness, the courage, the kindness of Captain Andrews, but it occurs to me now that we never thanked the engineer. He stood away down in the darkness amid the hissing furnaces doing his whole duty. Nobody thanked the engineer, but God recognized his heroism and his continuance and his fidelity, and there will be just as high reward for the engineer who worked out of sight as the captain who stood on the bridge of the ship in the midst of the howling tempest.

A Christian woman was seen going along the edge of a wood every evening, and the neighbors in the country did not understand how a mother with so many cares and anxieties should waste so much time as to be idly sauntering out evening by evening. It was found out afterward that she went there to pray for her household, and while there one evening she wrote that beautiful hymn, famous in all ages for cheering Christian hearts:

> I love to steal awhile away
> From every cumbering care,
> And spend the hours of setting day
> In humble, grateful prayer.

Shall there be no reward for such unpretending yet everlasting service? We go into long sermon to prove that we will be able to recognize people in heaven, when there is one reason we fail to present, and that is better than all—God will introduce us. We shall have them all pointed out. You would not be guilty of the impoliteness of having friends in your parlor not introduced, and celestial politeness will demand that we be made acquainted with all the heavenly household. What rehearsal of old times and recital of stirring reminiscences. If others fail to give introduction, God will take us through, and before our first twenty-four hours in heaven—if it were calculated by earthly timepieces—have passed, we shall meet and talk with more heavenly celebrities than in our entire mortal state we met with earthly celebrities. Many who made great noise of usefulness will sit on the last seat by the front door of the heavenly temple, while right up within arm's reach of the heavenly throne will be many who, though they could not preach themselves or do great exploits for God, nevertheless held the rope.

Come, let us go right up and accost those on this circle of heavenly thrones. Surely they must have killed in battle a million men. Surely they must have been buried with all the cathedrals sounding a dirge and all the towers of all the cities tolling the national grief. Who art thou, mighty one of heaven? "I lived by choice the unmarried daughter in a humble home that I might take care of my parents in their old age, and I endured without complaints all their querulousness and ministered to all their wants for twenty years."

But who art thou, the mighty one of heaven, on this other throne? "In time of bitter persecution I owned a house in Damascus, a house on the wall. A man who preached Christ was hounded from street to street, and I hid him from the assassins, and when I found them breaking in my house and I could no longer keep him safely I advised him to flee for his life, and a basket was let down over the wall with the maltreated man in it, and I was one who helped hold the rope." And I said: "Is that all?" and he answered: "That is all." And while I was lost in amazement I heard a strong voice that sounded as though it might once have been hoarse from many exposures and triumphant as though it might have belonged to one of the martyrs, and it said: "Not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things which are, that no flesh should glory in his presence." And I looked to see from whence the voice came, and lo! it was the very one who had said: "Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall."

Henceforth think of nothing as insignificant. A little thing may decide your all. A Cunarder put out from England for New York. It was well equipped, but in putting up a stove in the pilot box a nail was driven too near the compass. You know how that nail would affect the compass. The ship's officer, deceived by that distracted compass, put the ship 200 miles out of her right course, and suddenly the man on the lookout cried, "Land, ho!" and the ship was halted within a few yards of her demolition on Nantucket shoals. A six-penny nail came near wrecking a Cunarder. Small ropes hold mighty destinies.

A minister seated in Boston at his table, lacking a word puts his hand behind his head and tilts back his chair to think, and the ceiling falls and crushes the table and would have crushed him. A minister in Jamaica at night by the light of an insect called the candle-fly is kept from stepping over a precipice a hundred feet. F. W. Robertson, the celebrated English clergyman, said that he entered the ministry from a train of circumstances started by the barking of a dog. Had the wind blown one way on a certain day, the Spanish Inquisition would have been established in England; but it blew the other way, and that dropped the accursed institution with 75,000 tons of shipping to the bottom of the sea, or flung the splintered logs on the rocks.

Nothing unimportant in your life or mine. Three ciphers placed on the right side of the figure one make a thousand, and six ciphers on the right side of the figure one, a million, and our nothingness placed on the right side might be my augmentation illimitable. All the ages of time and eternity affected by the basket let down from a Damascus balcony!

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