the Smallest of Them All, Was Selected as the Theatre For Sin and Sorrow as an Awiel Example to Others. row as an Awi at Example to Others. Worlds as fast as they could roll in and Text: "It is He that buildeth His stories that started an enthusiasm which this in the heaven."-Amos, ix., 6.

This is first-rate poetry from Amos, the herdsman. While guarding his flocks at night, he got watching the heavens. He saw stars above stars, and the universe seemed to him like a great mansion many stories high, silver room above silver room, silver pillars besides silver pillars, and win-dows of silver and doors of silver, and tur-rets and domes of silver rising into the immensities, and the prophet's sanctithe immensities, and the prophet's sancti-fied imagination walks through that great silver palace of the universe, through the first story, through the second story, through the third story, through the twen-tieth story, through the hundredth story, through the thousandth story, and realiz-ing that God is the architect and carpenter and mason of all that upheaved splendor, he cries out in the words of the text, "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven."

The fact is that we have all spent too much time on one story of the great man-sion of God's universe. We need occasion-ally to go upstairs or downstairs in this mansion; downstairs, and in the cellar study the rocks, or upstairs and see God in some of the higher stories, and learn the meaning of the text when it says: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven."

"Astronomy was born in Chaldea. Its mother was Astrology, or the science of foretelling events by juxtaposition of stars. The Orientals, living much out of doors and in a very clear atmosphere, through which the stars shone especially lustrous, got the habit of studying the night heavens. In the hot seasons caravans heavens. In the hot seasons caravans journeyed chiefly at night, and that gave travelers much opportunity of stellar information. On the first page of the Bible the sun and moon and stars roll in. The sun, a body nearly three million miles in circumference and more than twelve thousand times as large as our earth; the moon, more than two thousand miles in dismeter. sand times as large as our earth; the moon, more than two thousand miles in diameter. But God is used to doing things on such an omnipotent scale that he takes only one verse to tell of this solar and lunar manufacture. Yea, in three words all the other worlds are thrown in. The record says, "The stars also." It takes whole pages for a man to extol the making of a telescope or a man to extol the making of a telescope or a macroscope of a magnetic felegraph or a a man to exted the making of a telescope or microscope or a magnetic telegraph or a threshing machine, or to describe a fine painting or statue, but it was so easy for God to hang the celestial upholstery that the story is compassed in one verse: 'God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the hight. The stars also! Astronomers have been trying to call the roll of them ever since, and they have counted multitudes of them passing in review before the observatories built at vast expense, and the size and number of those heavenly bodies have taxed to the utmost the scientists of all

ages.
But God finishes all He has to say about "The stars also!" But God finishes all He has to say about them in three words, "The stars also!" That is Mars, with its more than fifty-five million square miles, and Venus, with its more than one hundred and ninety-one millione square miles, and Saturn, with its more than nineteen billion square miles, and Jupiter, with its more than twenty-four billion square miles, and all the planets of our system of more than seventy-eight billion square miles, and all the stars of the other systems, as a handful of sand and the night brevity, for ponderosity, at 5 million square miles, and the stars of the other systems, as a handful of sand and the night brevity, for ponderosity, at 5 million will take suggestiveness, for sub mixty lied on sublimity, these words e el all that numan speech everuttered or man imagination ever soared after. "The stars also!" It is put in as you write a postscript—something you thought of afterward—as hardly worth putting into the body of a letter. "The stars also!" Oh, what a God we have, and He is our Father!

Read on in your Bibles, and after rewith the Bible figshes with the survey.

Read on in your Bibles, and after awhile the Bible flashes with the aurora awhile the Bible flashes with the aurora borealis or northern lights, that strange illumination, as mysterious and undefined now as when, in the book of Job it was written: "Men see not the bright light which is in the clouds. Fair weather counth out of the north." While all the nations supposed that the earth was built on a foundation of some sort, and many supposed that it stood on a huge turtle, or some great marine creature, Job knew enough of astronomy to say it had no foundation, but was suspended on the invisible arm of the Almighty, declaring that "He hangeth the earth upon nothing." While all nations thought the earth was level, the sky spread over it like a tent over a flat surface, Isaiah declared the world to be globular, circular, saying of God: "He sitteth upon the circle of the earth." See them glitter in this scriptural sky-Arcturus, Orion, the Pleiades, and

he with her young."

Without the use of telescope and without any observatory and without any astronomical calculation, I know that the other worlds are inhabited, because my Bible and my common sense tell me so. It has been estimated that in the worlds belonging to our solar system there is room for at least twenty-five trillion of population. And I believe it is all occupied, or will be occupied, by intelligent beings. God will not fill them with brutes. He would certainly put into those worlds beings intelligent enough to appreciate the architecture, the coloring, the grandeur, the beauty, the harmony of their surroundings. Yea, the inhabitants of those worlds have capacity of locomotion, for they would not have had such spacious opportunity for movement if they had not powers of motion. Yea, they have sight, else why the light, and hearing, else how get on with necessary language, and how clear themselves from advancing perils? Yea, as God made our human race in His own image, He probably made the inhabitants of other worlds in His own image; in room for at least twenty-five trillion of itants of other worlds in His own image; in other words, it is as near demonstration as I care to have it, that while the inhabitants of other worlds have adaptations of bodily structure to the particular climate in in which they dwell, there is yet similarity of mental and spiritual characteristics among all the inhabitants of the universe

of God, and made in His image they are made wonderfully alike.

Now what should be the practical result of this discussion founded on scripture and common sense? It is first of all, to enlarge our ideas of God and so intensify our admiration and worship. Under such consideration, how much more graphic the Bible question, which seems to roll back the sleeve of the Almighty and say: "Hast thou an arm like God?" The contemplation also encourages us with the thought that if God made all these worlds and populated them, it will not be very much of an undertaking for Him to make our little world over again and reconstruct the character of its populations as by grace they are to be recon-

What a monstrosity of ignorance that the majority of Christian people listen not to the voices of other worlds, although the Book says, "The heavens declare the glory of God," and, again, "The works of the Lord are great and to be sought out." How much have you sought them out? You have been satisfying yourself with some things about Christ, but have you noticed things about Christ, but have you noticed that Paul calls you to consider Christ as the Creator of other worlds. 'by whom also He made the worlds.' It is time you Christians start on a world hunt. That is the chief reason why God makes the night, that you may see other worlds. Go out to-night and look up at the great clock of the heavens. Listen to the silvery chime of the midnight sky. See that your children and grandchildren mount the heavens with telescope for alpenstock,

NOTED WASHINGTON DIVINE'S
SUNDAY DISCOURSE.

God Among the Stars—Our Own World,
the Swallest of Thom All Washs. for all mankind when, in 1839, Lord Rosse lifted on the lawn of his castle eighty miles from Dublin a telescope that revealed that started an enthusiasm which this moment concentrates the eyes of many of the most devout in all parts of the earth on celestial discovery. Thank God that we now know our own world is, bounded on all sides by realms of glory, instead of being where Hesiod in his poetry described it to be, namely half way between heaven and hell, an anvil hurled out of heaven taking ten days to strike the earth, and hurled out of earth, taking ten more days to strike perdition: to strike perdition:

From the high heaven a brazen anvil cast; Nine days and nights in rapid whirls would last; reach the earth the tenth; whence

strongly hurled,
The same the passage to th' infernal world. I thank God that we have found out that our world is not half way between heaven and hell, but is in a sisterhood of light, and that this sisterhood joins all the other sisterhoods of worlds, moving round some great homestead, which is no doubt heaven.

great homestead, which is no doubt heaven, where God is, and our departed Christian friends are, and we ourselves through pardoning mercy expect to become permanent residents. O, what a God we have, and He is our Father.

Furthermore, I get now from all this an answer to the question which every intelligent man and woman since the earth has stood has asked and received no answer. Why did God let sin and sorrow come into Why did God let sin and sorrow come into the world when He could have prevented them from coming? I wish reverently to them from coming? I wish reverently to say I think I have found the reason. To keep the universe loyal to a Holy God, it was important in some world somewhere to demonstrate the gigantic disasters that would come upon any world that allowed sin to enter. Which world should it be? Well, the smaller the world the better, for less numbers would suffer. So our world was selected. The stage was plenty large enough for the enactment of the tragedy. Enter on the stage Sin, followed by Murder, Pain, Theft, Fraud, Impurity, Falseder, Pain, Theft, Fraud, Impurity, False-hood, Massacre, War and all the abominations and horrors and agonies of centuries. Although we know comparatively little about the other worlds, lest we become completely dissatisfied with our own, no doubt the other worlds have heard and are now hearing all about this world in the awful experiment of sin which the human

race has been making.

It is no longer to me a mystery why so small a world as ours was chosen for the tragedy. A chemist can demonstrate all the laws of earth and heaven in a small laboratory, ten feet by five, and our world was not too small to demonstrate to the universe the awful chemistry of unrightcousness, its explosive and riving and con-suming power. On the tower of Pharos, Egypt, a metallic mirror was raised which reflected all that occurred both on land sea for a distance of three hundred miles, sea for a distance of three hundred miles, and so Egypt was informed of the coming of her enemies long before their arrival. By what process I know not, but in some way this ship of a struggling earth, I think, is mirrored to distant worlds. Surely this one disastrous experiment of a world unloosing itself from God will be enough for all worlds and all eternities

all worlds and all eternities.

But notice that as other worlds rolled into the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesia, they also appear in the test book. of the lible, the Book of Revelation. They will take part in the scenes of that occa-

Bound Toad le was coming through the night from the tate, to his home, where he was so the tate, to his home, where there was sickness. I often heard him tell about it. It was the night of the 12th and the morning of the 13th of November, 1833. Suddenly the whole heavens became a scene never to be forgotten. From the constellation Lee meteors became to shoot constellation Leo meteors began to shoot in all directions. For the two hours bein all directions. For the two hours be-tween 4 and 6 in the morning, it was esti-mated that a thousand meteors a minute flashed and expired. It grew lighter than noonday. Arrows of fire. Balls of fire. Trails of fire. Showers of fire. Some of the appearances were larger than the full moon. All around the heavens explosion followed explosion. Sounds as well as sights. The air filled with uproar. All the luminaries of the sky seemed to have re-ceived marching orders. The heavens ceived marching orders. The heavens ribbed and interlaced and garlanded with meteoric display. From horizon everything in combustion and conflagration.

Many a brain that night gave way. It Many a brain that night gave way. It was an awful strain on strongest nerves. Millions of people fell on their knees in prayer. Was the world ending, or was there some great event for which all heaven was illuminated? For eight momentous hours the phenomenon lasted. East, west, north, south, it looked as though the heavens were in maniac disorder. Astronomers watching that night said that those meteors started from 2200 miles above the earth's surface and moved with ten times the speed of a cannon ball. The owner of a plantation in South Carolina says of that night scene. I was suddenly awakened by the most distressing cries that ever fell on my ears. Shrieks of horror and cries of mercy I could hear from most of the slaves on three plantations, amounting in all to about six or eight hundred. While earnestly listening for the cause I heard a faint voice near the door calling my name. I arose, and taking my sword, stood at the door. At this moment I heard the same voice still beseching me to rise, and saying: "Oh, my God! the world is on fire!" I then opened the door, and it is difficult to say which excited me most, the awfulness of the scene or the distressed cries of the Africans. Upwards of 100 lay prostrate on the ground; some speechless and some about six or eight hundred. While earnon the ground; some speechless and some uttering the bitterest cries, but most with their hands raised, imploring God to save the world and them. The scene was fruly awful, for never did rain fall much thicker than the meteors fell toward the earth.

The spectacle ceased not until the rising sun of the November morning eclipsed it, and the whole American nation sat down exhausted with the agitations of a night to be memorable until the earth itself shall become a falling star. The Bible closes with such a scene of falling lights, not only fidgety meteors, but grave old stars. St. John saw it in prospect, and wrote: "The stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind." What a time that will be when worlds drop. Rain of planets. Gravitation letting loose her grip on worlds. Constellations flying apart. Galaxies dissolved. The great orchard of the universe swept by the last hurricane letting down the stars like ripened fruit. Our old earth will go with the rest, and let it go, for it will have existed long enough to complete its tremendous experiment. But there will be enough worlds left to make a heaven of, if any more heaven needs to be built. That day finding us in Christ, our nature regene-rated, and our sins pardoned, and our hope rated, and our sins pardoned, and our hope triumphant, we will feel no more alarm than when in September, passing through an orchard, you hear the apples thump to the ground, or through a conservatory and you hear an untimely fig drop to the floor. You will only go upstairs into another story, a better iighted story, a better furnished story a better ventilated story a

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 21.

Lesson Text: "The Christian Armor," Ephesians vi., 10-20-Golden Text Ephesians vi., 10--Commentary on the

Lesson by the Rev. Dr. D. M. Stearns, Lesson by the Rev. Dr. D. M. Steams.

10. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." The first three chapters set forth our salvation, or rather Hissalvation, in all its fulness. Then we are taught in the following chapters what our walk in the Lord, or our daily life should be, and now in the verses of our lesson we are taught how to do it and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things (Titus ii., 10). My readers must be very familiar with Eph. ii., 10, but it only just comes to me now to associate with it Titus ii., 10. Thank the Lord ion the association. May the words grip us with power.

with power.
11. "Put on the whole armor of God, that 11. "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." There is a real personal devil, the enemy of God and man, at present the prince of the power of the air, the prince of this world, whose prison will soon be the bottomless pit and his final abode the lake of fire and brimstone (John xiv. 30. Enh. is 2. Personal 2010).

30; Eph. ii., 2; Rev. xx., 2, 3, 10).
12. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood." The demons who do the devil's work are not all visible in the form of me or women. The air is often full of then or women. The air is often full of them They come at us when we are weak an alone and fairly storm us with their evi thoughts and lies. They come at us in the house of God, and when we read His worth and even when on our knees in prairie. How shall we know them? They are the opposite of all that is of God. Righteonseness and peace and rest and quietness are all of God and His Spirit through Church. The opposite must be of the devil.

18. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand." One of the first and greatest things is to understand that a we are savedfreely by His grace (Eph ji.

we are saved freely by His grace (Eph. ii. Rom. iii., 24), so we stand continually the same grace (Rom. v., 1, 2) or unde served favor of God. Unless we see ede: ly that all our salvation from first to last wholly undeserved on our part, and is ours only in and through Jesus Christ and

wholly undeserved on our part. and is ours only in and through Jesus Christ and His finished work, satan will get many; advantage over us. We are not worth but Thou art worthy, O Lord. On that is us stand firmly and continually.

14. "Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness." Our Lord said, "I am the Truth," and He is also made unto us righteousness (John xiv. I Cor. i., 30; H Cor. v., 21), so that when we have learned to see no one but "Jesus only," to "run with patience looking unto Jesus," and ever to consider Him (Math. xvii., 8; Heb. xii., 2, 3), we have learned the secret of standing firmly.

15. "And your feot shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." The feet shod also takes us back to the Passower verse (Ex. xii., 11), for we can do nothfrow and are asked to do nothing till we am safe under the blood. We are also are minded by Isa. iii., 7, "How beauth in upon the mountains are the feet of in that bringeth good tid ngs, that publication peace." The first thir is to be madeshigh by the blood of Chris. "for He is our peace" (Eph. ii, 13, 14) Then have the mind staid on Him in perfect peace Isa. xxvi., 3). Then carry the tidings of peace through the blood of His cross (Cot. i. The carry treature is the shield of "Above all taking the shield of the corry treature."

16. "Above all taking the shield of I wherewith ye shall be able to quench a flery darts of the wicked one "Many are yery flery but near the "soor

has not profiled by keep us but to be with us an it, even as but to be with us an it, even as but to be with us an it, even as but to be with us an it, even as is less friends (Isa Xliii., 2: Dan, it if He can be better seen in the fire with shall we not praise Him even for that it as to these flery darts of the devil when hurls at us, there is not one that need to us to harm us, for all may be quenched a quick and firm "I believe God" a xxvii., 25). Confidence in God and ance upon His word will do it every the 17. "And take the helmet of salvat and the sword of the Spirit, which is word of God." In I Thess. v., 8. It is y ten, "For an helmet, the hope of salvaten His coming, which is every day near the

This is the completion of our salvation His coming, which is every day nearly like when we believed (Rom. xiii. 11) blessed hope that purifies (I John in the for then we shall be like Him, even as our bodies, for we shall see Him, even as our bodies, for we shall see Him as He (Phii. iii., 21; Rom. viii., 23). From first last all the knowledge and comfort of the come to us through His word, which is ferever settled in heaven and true from the lighning (Ps. exix., 89, 160).

18. "Praying always with all prayer adsupplication in the Spirit, and watches thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Our Loads; whole nights in prayer. Daid and Daprayed many times a day (Ps. 1.17)

whole nights in prayer. David and Da prayed many times a day (Ps. 17, vi., 10). We should pray without ce (I Thess. v., 17). It is possible to in an attitude of prayer, constantly muning with Him about everything, who prays honestly will expect an and watch for them as truly as the who throws his ball into the air was for it to return to him.

for it to return to him.

19. "And for me that utterance n given unto me, that I may open my L boldly to make known the mystery gospel." He said to the Corinthians everything ye are enriched by Him, is utterance and in all knowledge (IC utterance and in all knowledge (16). And yet, recognizing his own wea and the reality of the wiles of the devasks prayer for himself that he may utterance and boldness for Christ, was very conscious of his own wear and often speke of it.

20. 'For which I am an ambassabonds; that therein (margin thereof) speak boldly as I ought to speak. Lord's messengers with the Lord's meare supposed to have no fear of mar of the face of man, yet many are ver and not many seem to declars, sout thought of man's frown or favor council of Cod. Many minis know little or nothing of the which God has just spoken, and offer unity in chapter iii., the mystery hid com the beginning of the world and spewhich God has just spoken, any there in chapter file, the mystery hid the beginning of the world and cially revealed to Paul; that during postponement of the kingdom God is ering from Jews and gentiles a book Christ, the church, which shall be the lim when Hashall come in Him when Hashall come i Him when He shall come in His gu take unto Him His great power and Many seem to think that instead of g Many seem to think ing out a body for Christ He is seeking the working and walking in much darknes.— Lesson Helper.

Old-Time Scotch Obituary. The following death notice appared in the Edinburgh Weekly Magazite of March 2, 1775: "Feb. 12-At New Reay, in the county of Caithness, much regretted, Francis Tait, parichial school master there, in the one hundred. and second year of his age; a manof an athletic form, of a saturnine complexion and his size about six feet. He lived chiefly upon vegetables, was a favorite of the muses and at times drank freely. He was no less distinguished for his plety than for the good order he observed in his school, for his easy method of teaching and for infus ing into his pupils a laudable spirif of emulation. He retained his senses to

THE SABBATH SCHOOL NORTH CAROLINA CULLINGS

Governor Daniel Russell's First Thanksgiving Proclamation.

A LARGE GRAPHITE MINE.

Life Certificates for Teachers—Second Grop of Green Pease--Winston to Have Another Tobacco Fair.

The following is Governor Russell's Thanksgiving proclamation:

The signal and abundant blessings of the Sovereign Ruler of Nations throughout the year now closing declare the liberty and impose the duty of setting apart a special day for praise and thanksgiving.

"In addition to His many mercies our State has been spared strikes, disasters, contagious and internal strifes; our people have been blessed with bountiful harvests, many of them with peaceful and happy homes, and they have been vouchsafed progress in the dromotion of education and the full reservation of their religious freedom, and, to some extent, the retention of their civil and political liberties, as citizens of the republic.

"Therefore I, Daniel L. Russell, Severnor of the State of North Carolina, in conformity to a time-honored

ina, in conformity to a time-honored custom, do designate and appoint Thursday, the 25th day of November, 1897, as a day of public thanksgiving, and I do exhort all good citizens to assemble on that day around their firedes or at their usual place of worship and there remember the 'Giver of every god and perfect gift,' and render unto lim their praise and gratitude for 'His codness and mercy,' which 'endureth crewer.' and beseech of Him an overight and guidance that will enable us be more worthy of the manifold llessings already enjoyed and of those which, through His loving kindness He ath in store for us; not forgetting the peer and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, and those who may be oppressed or deprived of equal opportunities by such of their fellow-men as may in possession of privileges and prerogatives that are not consistent with the fundamental principles of free government, and are sanctioned by the

Done at our city of Raleigh, on this 9th day of November, in the year of Lord one thousand eight hundred id ninety-seven, and in the one hun-ed and twenty-seventh year of our Prican independence "Daniel L. Russell.

aws of God.

By the Governor: "JOE E. ALEXANDER, "Private Secretary."

n next fall. This was the au-

o air Association at its meeting. was considered and it was I that next year's fair should de-Thine that. An election of officers as gone into, resulting in the unanineus 're-election of the following:
Pres Jent, Col. A. B. Gorrell; secretary,
Col. G. E. Webb; treasurer, T. L.
Yaprhn; executive committee: G. A.
Folia, chairman; F. A. Coleman, W.
G. arter, W. U. Reynolds, M. D.
Falley. The executive committee was
emarged to seven and S. E. Allen and
M. Fries were elected to complete

The North Carolina State board of upon the following form for life certificates for teachers:

has passed the examination prescribed by this board and in testi-mony thereof this first grade life cerentitled, without further examination to teach in the public schools in any county in accordance with section 3, chapter 108, laws of 1897." (Signed by the State Superintendent and State board of examiners.)

There is to be quite a change in the uniforms of the State guard; the trousers to be dark blue, like the coat; the dress coat to be done away with and the bleuse lengthened two inches to replace it; all-metal buttons to be no longer used, but buttons of horn, covered by a flap, to take their place; the helmet to be abolished and the present forage cap, stiffened and with a pompon, to be ed for full dress occasions. The new drill regulations for the manual of arms will be issued the State guard December 1st.

The Asheville Gazette says that a fine The Asheville Gazette says that a fine graphite mine has been discovered in McDowell county which contains 10,000,000 tons easily accessible. Twenty million pounds of graphite is used in the United States annually, over 19,100,000 being imported. 190,000 being imported. A company will soon develop it Themine is within tive miles of the Western North Carolina Railroad.

The trucking section immediately round Newbern is a remarkably fine Last spring it missed the freeze. Now the truckers are shipping the second crop of green pease. There is a fine second crop of Irish potatoes. It is expected that about 9,000 barrels of these will be shipped and prices are high. Shipments of green pease have, strange to say, continued for three

W. H. Deaver, of Asheville, who was convicted of embezzlement as a magistrate, gets a position as a gauger in the revenue service.

There are now 430 patients in the insane asylum in Raleigh. The percentage of Cares to admission is as large as ever in the history of the asylum. Much progress in all lines is being made. The grounds were never so attractive. They are being reseeded in grass. This year 20,000 barrels of pork will be put up, or four-fifths of all required for twelve months. The farm and garden have yielded heavily. A very large crop of oats is sown.

On December 1st the Raleigh News and Observer will begin publication of its evening edition.

THRILLING INCIDENTS AND DARING DEEDS ON LAND AND SEA.

A Thrilling Experience of the New York Fire Patrol at a Cellar Fire-Narrow Escape From Plunging Over a High Precipice-Fight With a Big Eagle.

Charles T. Hill, who has been writing a series of articles on the New York Fire Department for St. Nicholas, brings the series to an end with a paper on "The Fire Patrol." Mr. Hill tells the following story:
An incident that occurred at a severe

years ago will give an idea of what the members of these protective departsave property. The fire broke out about midnight in the basement of an immense fireproof building on Greene street, extending a whole block from West Fourth street to Washington place. When the firemen arrived, half the basement, or practically half the block, was in flames, but on account of the fireproof construction of the building the fire was confined to the basement windows were almost red hot and the dead-lights over the sidewalk were so heated that the tar around the glass was bubbling and running in streams across the walk to the gutter. The construction of the building was very substantial, and it was almost impossible for the firemen to make an entrance; indeed, the windows and dead-lights had to be broken in before they could secure access to the building and get to work.

straw-hat manufacturer, and the captain of No. 2 Fire Patrol (one of the first companies to arrive) felt sure there must be a sub-cellar stored with a most perishable stock. How to reach it before the firemen began to throw water upon the fire was the question. It seemed well nigh impossible to get into the basement through the regular entrances, and to venture in while the fire was raging as it was seemed almost foolbardy, but he determined to reach the cellar at any cost and find out what it contained. After considerable effort he succeeded in making an entrance on the north side of the building (the main body of fire was on the south end), and graping his way through the smoke and darkness, lantern in hand, he found himself in the basement. The heat was intense and the air stifling. Ahead of him in the corner of the basement he could see the flames rolling about, anything that looked like the entrance to the cellar, but finally he spied a noon was metty of agged out, as door at way in the basement was rise do an steel was warm and the spied of the substitution of t and get into the cellar and back again

thought to before the fire cuts me off?" He made up his mind at least to make the effort. So he walked cautiously across the basement floor toward the door, keeping his eye on the fire all the time. It grew hotter and hotter as he advanced, and the perspiration was pouring from his face in great beads, and he was al-most suffocated when his hand finally the heated atmosphere of the basement to the cool air of the cellar was like stepping out of a red-hot oven into an

He descended the cellar stairs rapidly, and holding his lantern aloft, looked about him. It was as he had suspected. The cellar was filled with immense cases of straw hats, and, although, owing to the fire-proof floor, the fire probably could not descend, when the many streams got to work the damage by water would be enor-

He hastily ascended; peering cautiously out of the door, he found the fire had not advanced any further. He then made his way quickly through the dense smoke to the street.

He reported to the Superintendent of the Patrol, who had arrived by this time, the fact that he had been in the basement and his discovery in the cellar, and told him he could do a great deal of good if he could only take the men down, and cover up the stock. The superintendent was at first loth to let him go, for the situation looked too dangerous, but finally he gave permission and the captain gathered his patrolmen about him, and armed with covers they followed him to the subcellar to "cover-up."

By this time the companies that had esponded to the second and third alarms sent out were at work, as well as the companies that had been ordered into the basement; and the air in the cellar was not as pleasant as when the captain had first descended. The fire had begun to "settle," and the sub-cellar was filled with a thick, murky smoke, while a constant, scalding drip was falling from the ceiling.

In this dim, stifling atmosphere the patrolmen went to work with a will, spreading their waterproof covers over case after case of valuable stock, while overhead they could hear the roaring and crackling of the flames, the splashing of the many streams as they were dashed about, and now and then a dull crash as some heavy piece of masonry was crumbled away by the heat. These were conditions under which few men would care to labor, and yet the members of the Patrol were working energetically, scarcely giving a thought to the danger that hung above them.

At any moment the fire raging in the basement over their heads might get

FIELDS OF ADVENTURE, all means of escape, or the steel and iron structure of the building, warped and twisted by the dreadful heat it was being subjected to, might give way and send floor after floor loaded with heavy merchandise crashing down upon them. This and a hundred other possibilities menaced them while they labored in the murky cellar; and when the work was done 101 covers had been spread and property valued at over a hundred thousand dollars had been saved from destruction.

When No. 2 Patrol returned to quarters the next morning (for it was neary morning before they were through), there was scarcely a member whose fire in a big business house some two neck, hands and wrists were not scalded and blistered to a painful degree, for they had worked during nine ments have to face at times in order to hours in a veritable shower bath of boiling water, from which there was no escape.

Escaped a Dreadful Death.

William H. Hill, of Ossawatomie, Kansas, has had an adventure in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone which deserves to take high rank in the annals of narrow escapes. He had descended the canyon to Red Rock, below Point Lookout. He was basement part. The fire was burning so fiercely that the shutters of the great chasm. Below him an almost great chasm. Below him an almost precipitous slope ran down hundreds of feet to the top of an absolutely perpendicular wall about twice as high as the Masonic Temple.

Mr. Hill lost his footing and plunged downward along the steep slope. He knew what was below him. The speed with which he approached destruction was rapidly accelerating and a growing avalanche was accompanying him. With a desparate effort he flung him-The basement was occupied by a and elbows into the earth. It seemed self upon his back and dug his heels to him that he slid for miles, but he was not going as fast as at the beginning. Stones that he had started raced on ahead of him; he dug his heels and his elbows in harder. And at last he stopped with something that felt like solid rock under his feet.

For some minutes he lay perfectly still, not daring to move. Then slowly he raised his head.

He was on the brink of the precipice, 600 feet high. The little ledge under his feet was actually projecting over the edge.

A rescue party, almost an hour later, found him sitting there. He was practically unhurt. - Chicago News.

Fight With a Big Eagle.

Taylor Hoffman, of Jersey City, came down to the pine woods at Atlantic County on a gunning expedition a few days ago. He has had tolerably crackling and roaring as they devoured good luck; but ran plump into an excase after case of goods. Peering perience yesterday which paid him for through the thick atmosphere it was some time before he could discover Hoffman had put in a hard day of tramping, and by the end of the after-

n fen a a doze, but -a. fierce commotion, in which canine howls were uttermost. As he jumped up he beheld his dog in fierce combat with an immense bald eagle, and the beast was getting the worst of it. Hoffman was afraid to use his gun because of the chances of killing his dog, so he got a club and sailed in.

The bird of freedom quickly turned upon its new foe and fought as only rested on the knob of the door. He upon its new foe and fought as only opened it and stepped inside. What eagles can fight. Hoffman found hima relief! The tranformation was alself in a sorry predicament, for he was most marvelous, for the change from no match for the big bird. So close was the fighting that he could not use the club to advantage, and the eagle had the sagacity to fly high enough to escape the dog, all the while using its great ugly talons and beak with fierce strength. At length Höffman fell exhausted, and his dog, with renewed strength, returned to the encounter. Weakened by the contest, the eagle took itself off and disappeared. Hoffman was cut and bruised in many places, but was not seriously injured. -Philadelphia Record.

Saved by an Explosion.

James Horan, a rancher living on the Cœur d'Alene reservation in Idaho. met with a little accident recently which nearly resulted in the loss of his hfe. The story is told by Mr. Horan, whose veracity cannot be questioned, as follows:

"My house is a small building, ten by twelve, and nine feet high, with a wing kitchen coming down to seven feet at the eaves. I had just started a fire to get my dinner, and had gone for a bucket of water, some 300 yards from the house, when upon my return I saw the roof of the kitchen enveloped. in a sheet of flame. I attempted to save the house by getting upon the roof of the kitchen with an ax, for the purpose of cutting the kitchen roof from the roof of the main building. I stepped by the storepipe and fell through to my armpits, and was unable to move up or down, with that flame of fire and smoke about me. In a few seconds it would have 'fixed' me had it not been at that instant that a five-pound can of powder had ignited and puffed me out onto a soft garden bed I had made the day before. The fire burned my overalls off me and one of my shoes, but the fall from the top of the building to the garden bed did not hurt me at all."-Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Floating Islands.

Floating islands are not so rare as may be generally supposed. They are largely a matter of locality, and the one sighted three times in 1892 in the North Atlantic Ocean was not only an unusual occurrence butalso of peculiar scientific interest. On the three instances the island was seen it was moving toward the Azores at the rate of about a mile an hour. Its extent was nearly 800 feet each way, and it beyond the control of the firemen bat- contained much forest growtn, many tling with it, and, spreading, cut off of the trees being thirty feet high.