REV. DR. TALMAGE.

THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUNDAY SERMON.

Subject: "Obscuration."

TEXT: *The sun shall be turned into darkness.*—Acts ii., 20.

Solar eclipse is here prophesied to take place about the time of the destruction of ancient Jerusalem. Josephus, the historian, says that the prophecy was literally fulfilled, and that about that time there were strange appearances in the heavens. The sun was not destroyed, but for a little while hidden.

Christianity is the rising sun of our time, and men have tried with the uprolling vapors of skepticism and the smoke of their blasphemy to turn the sun into darkness. Suppose the archangels of malice and horror should be let loose a little while and be allowed to extinguish and destroy the sun in the natural heavens. They would take the oceans from other worlds and pour them on this luminary of the planetary system, and the waters go hissing down amid the ravines and the caverns, and there is explosion after explosion until there are only a few peaks of fire left in the sun, and these are cooling down and going out until the vast continents of flame are reduced to a small acreage of fire, and that whitens and cools off until there are only a few coals left, and these are whitening and going out until there is not a spark left in all the mountains of ashes and the valleys of ashes and the chasms of ashes. An extinguished sun. A dead sun. A buried sun. Let all worlds wail at the stupendous obsequies.

Of course this withdrawal of the solar heat and light throws our earth into a universal chill, and the tropics become the temperate and the temperate becomes the Arctic, and there are frozen rivers and frozen lakes and frozen oceans. From Arctic and Antarctic regions the inhabitants gather in toward the center and find the equator as the poles. The slain forests are piled up into a great bonfire, and around them gather the shivering villages and cities. The wealth of the coal mines is hastily poured into the furnaces and stirred into rage of combustion, but soon the bonfires begin to lower and the furnaces begin to go out and the nations begin to die. Cotopaxi, Vesuvius, Etna, Stromboli, Californian geysers cease to smoke, and the ice of hail storms remains unmelted in their craters. All the flowers have breathed their last breath. Ships with sailors frozen at the mast and helmsmen frozen at the wheel, and passengers frozen in the cabin; all nations dying, first at the north and then at the south. Child frosted and dead in the cradle. Octogenarian frosted and dead at the hearth. Workmen with frozen hand on the hammer and frozen foot on the shuttle. Winter from sea to sea. All congealing winter. Perpetual winter. Globe of frigidity. Hemisphere shackled to hemisphere by chains of ice. Universal Nova Zembla. The earth an ice floe grinding against other ice floes. The archangels of malice and horror have done their work, and now they may take their thrones of glacier and look down upon the ruin they have wrought.

What the destruction of the sun in the natural heavens would be to our physical earth, the destruction of Christianity would be to the moral world. The sun turned into darkness; infidelity in our time is considered a great joke. There are people who rejoice to hear Christianity caricatured, and to hear Christ assailed with quibble and quirk and misrepresentation and badinage and harlequinade.

I propose this morning to take infidelity and atheism out of the realm of jocularity into one of tragedy, and show you what they propose, and what, if they are successful, they will accomplish. There are those in all our communities who would like to see the Christian religion overthrown, and who say the world would be better without it. I want to show you what is the end of this road, and what is the terminus of this crusade, and what this world will be when atheism and infidelity have triumphed over it, if they can. I say, if they can. I reiterate it, if they can.

In the first place, it will be the complete and unutterable degradation of womanhood. I will prove it by facts and arguments which no honest man will dispute. In all communities and cities and states and nations where the Christian religion has been dominant, woman's condition has been ameliorated and improved, and she is deferred to and honored in a thousand things, and every gentleman takes off his hat before her. If your associations have been good, you know that the name of wife, mother, daughter, suggest gracious surroundings. You know there are no better schools and seminaries in Brooklyn or in any city of this country than the schools and seminaries for young ladies. You know that while woman may suffer injustice in England and the United States, she has more of her rights in Christendom than she has anywhere else.

Now, compare this with woman's condition in lands where Christianity has made little or no advance—in China, in Barbary, in Borneo, in Tartary, in Egypt, in Hindostan. The Burmese sell their wives and daughters as so many sheep. The Hindoo Bible makes it disgraceful and an outrage for a woman to listen to music or look out of the window in the absence of her husband, and gives as a lawful ground for divorce a woman's beginning to eat before her husband has finished his meal. What mean those white bundles on the ponds and rivers in China in the morning? Infanticide following infanticide. Female children destroyed simply because they are female. Woman harnessed to a plow as an ox. Woman veiled and barricaded, and in all styles of cruel seclusion. Her birth a misfortune. Her life a torture. Her death a horror. The missionary of the cross to-day in heathen lands preaches generally to two groups—a group of men who do as they please and sit where they please; the other group—women hidden and carefully secluded in a side apartment, where they may hear the voice of the preacher but may not be seen. No refinement. No liberty. No hope for this life. No hope for the life to come. Ringed nose. Cramped foot. Disfigured face. Embruted soul. Now compare those two conditions. How far toward this latter condition that I speak of would woman go if Christian influences were withdrawn and Christianity were destroyed? It is only a question of dynamics. If an object be lifted to a certain point and not fastened there, and the lifting power be withdrawn, how long before that object will fall down to the point from which it started? It will fall down, and it will go still further than the point from which it started. Christianity has lifted woman up from the very depths of degradation almost to the skies. If that lifting power be withdrawn she falls clear back to the depth from which she was resurrected, not going any lower because there is no lower depth. And yet, notwithstanding the fact that the only salvation of woman from degradation and woe is the Christian religion, and the only influence that has ever lifted her in the social scale is Christianity—I have read that there are women who reject Christianity. I make no remark in regard to those persons. I make no remark in regard to them. In the silence of your own soul make your observations.

If infidelity triumph and Christianity be overthrown, it means the demoralization of society. The one idea in the Bible that atheists and infidels most hate, is the idea of retribution. Take away the idea of retribution and punishment from society, and it will begin very soon to disintegrate; and take away from the minds of men the fear of hell, and there are a great many of them who would very soon turn this world into a hell. The majority of those who are indignant against the Bible because of the idea of punishment are men whose lives are bad or whose hearts are impure, and who hate the Bible because of the idea of future punishment for the same reason that criminals hate the penitentiary. Oh, I have heard this brave talk about people fearing nothing of the consequences of sin in the next world, and I have made up my mind it is merely a coward's whistling to keep his courage up. I have seen men flaunt their immoralities in the face of the community, and I have heard them defy the judgment day and scoff at the idea of any future consequence of their sin; but when they came to die they shrieked until you could hear them for nearly two blocks, and in the summer night the neighbors got up to put the windows down because they could not endure the horror.

I would not want to see a rail train with five hundred Christian people on board go down through a drawbridge into a watery grave. I would not want to see five hundred Christian people go into such disaster, but I tell you plainly that I could more easily see that than I could for any protracted time stand and see an infidel die, though his pillow were of eider down and under a canopy of vermilion. I have never been able to brace up my nerves for such a spectacle. There is something at such a time so indescribable in the countenance. I just looked in upon it for a minute or two, but the clutch of his fist was so diabolic, and the strength of voice was so unnatural, I could not endure it. "There is no hell, there is no hell, there is no hell!" the man had said for sixty years; but that night when I looked in the dying room of my infidel neighbor, there was something on his countenance which seemed to say: "There is, there is, there is, there is."

The mightiest restraints to-day against theft, against immorality, against libertinism, against crime of all sorts—the mightiest restraints are the retributions of eternity. Men know that they can escape the law, but down in the offender's soul there is the realization of the fact that they cannot escape God. He stands at the end of the road of profligacy, and he will not clear the guilty. Take all idea of retribution and punishment out of the hearts and minds of men, and it would not be long before Brooklyn and New York and Boston and Charleston and Chicago became Sodoms. The only restraints against the evil passions of the world to-day are Bible restraints.

Suppose now these generals of atheism and infidelity got the victory, and suppose they marshaled a great army made up of the majority of the world. They are in companies, in regiments, in brigades—the whole army. Forward, march! ye hosts of infidels and atheists, banners flying before, banners flying behind, banners inscribed with the words: "No God! No Christ! No punishment! No restraints! Down with the Bible! Do as you please!" The sun turned into darkness.

Forward, march! ye great army of infidels and atheists! And first of all you will attack the churches. Away with those houses of worship! They have been standing there so long and deluding the people with consolation in their bereavements and sorrows. All those churches ought to be extirpated; they have done so much to relieve the lost and bring homes the wandering, and they have so long held up the idea of eternal rest after the paroxysm of this life is over. Turn the St. Peters and St. Pauls and the temples and tabernacles into club houses. Away with those churches!

Forward, march! ye great army of infidels and atheists, and next of all they scatter the Sabbath-schools—the Sabbath schools filled with bright eyed, bright cheeked little ones, who are singing songs on Sunday afternoon, and getting instruction when they ought to be on the street corners playing marbles or swearing on the common. Away with them! Forward, march! ye great army of infidels and atheists, and next of all they will attack Christian asylums—the institutions of mercy supported by Christian philanthropies. Never mind the blind eyes and the deaf ears and the crippled limbs and the weakened intellects. Let paralytic old age pick up its own food, and orphans fight their own way, and the half reformed go back to their evil habits. Forward, march! ye great army of infidels and atheists, and with your battle axes hew down the cross and split up the manger of Bethlehem.

On, ye great army of infidels and atheists, and now they come to the graveyards and the cemeteries of the earth. Pull down the sculpture above Greenwood's gate, for it means the resurrection. Tear away at the entrance of Laurel Hill the figure of Old Mortality and the chisel. On, ye great army of infidels and atheists, into the graveyards and the cemeteries; and where you see "Asleep in Jesus," cut it away, and where you find a marble story of heaven, blast it, and where you find over a little child's grave: "Suffer little children to come unto me," substitute the words "delusion" and "sham," and where you find an angel in marble strike off the wings, and when you come to a family vault, chisel on the door: "Dead once, dead forever."

But on, ye great army of infidels and atheists, on! They will attempt to scale heaven. There are heights to be taken. Pile hill on hill and Pelion upon Ossa, and then they hoist the ladders against the walls of heaven. On and on until they blow up the foundations of jasper and the gates of pearl. They charge up the steep. Now they aim for the throne of him who liveth forever and ever. They would take down from their high place the Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost. "Down with them!" they say. "Down with them from the throne!" they say. "Down forever! Down out of sight! He is not God. He has no right to sit there. Down with him! Down with Christ!"

A world without a head, a universe without a king. Orphan constellations. Fatherless galaxies. Anarchy supreme. A dethroned Jehovah. An assassinated God. Parricide, regicide, deicide. That is what they mean. That is what they will have, if they can, if they can, if they can. Civilization carried back into semi-barbarism, and semi-barbarism driven back into Hottentot savagery. The wheel of progress turned the other way, and turned toward the dark ages. The clock of the centuries put back 2000 years. Go back, you Sandwich Islands, from your schools and from your colleges, and from your reformed condition, to what you were in 1820, when the missionaries first came. Call home the 500 missionaries from India and overthrow their 2000 schools where they are trying to educate the heathen, and scatter the 140,000 little children that they have gathered out of barbarism into civilization. Obliterate all the work of Dr. Duff in India, of David Abeel in China, of Dr. King in Greece, of Judson in Burmah, of David Brainard amid the American aborigines, and send home the three thousand missionaries of the cross who are toiling in foreign lands, toiling for Christ's sake, toiling themselves into the grave. Tell these three thousand men of God that they are of no use. Send home the medical missionaries who are doctoring the bodies as well as the souls of the nations. Go home, London missionary society. Go home, American board of foreign missions. Go home, ye Moravians, and relinquish back into darkness and squalor and filth and death the nations whom ye have begun to lift.

Oh, my friends, there has never been such a nefarious plot on earth as that which infidelity and atheism have planned. We were shocked a few years ago because of the attempt to blow up the parliament houses in London; but if infidelity and atheism succeed in their attempt they will dynamite a world. Let them have their full way and this world will be a habitation of three rooms—a habitation with just three rooms; the one a madhouse, another a lazaretto, the other a pandemonium. These infidel bands of music have only just begun their concert—yea, they have only been stringing their instruments. Up to-day put before you their whole programme from beginning unto close. In the theatre the tragedy comes first and the farce afterward; but in this infidel drama of death the farce comes first and the tragedy afterward. And in the former atheists and infidels laugh and mock, but in the latter God himself will laugh and mock. He says so: "I will laugh at their calamity and mock when their fear cometh."

From such a chasm of individual, national, world-wide ruin, stand back. Oh, young men, stand back from that chasm! You see the practical drift of my sermon. I want you to know where that road leads. Stand back from that chasm of ruin. The time is going to come (you and I may not live to see it, but it will come, just as certainly as there is a God, it will come) when the infidels and the atheists who openly and out and out and above board preach and practice infidelity and atheism will be considered as criminals against society, as they are now criminals against God. Society will push out the leper, and the wretch with soul gangrened and ichorous and vermin covered and rotting apart with his beastiality, will be left to die in the ditch and be denied decent burial, and men will come with spades and cover up the carcass, where it falls, that it poison not the air, and the only text in all the Bible appropriate for the funeral sermon will be Jeremiah xxii., 19: "He shall be buried with the burial of an ass."

A thousand voices come up to me this morning, saying: "Do you really think infidelity will succeed? Has Christianity received its death blow? and will the Bible become obsolete?" Yes, when the smoke of the city chimney arrests and destroys the noonday sun. Josephus says about the time of the destruction of Jerusalem the sun was turned into darkness; but only the clouds rolled between the sun and the earth. The sun went right on. It is the same sun, the same luminary as when at the beginning it shot out like an electric spark from God's finger, and to-day it is warming the nations, and to-day it is gilding the sea, and to-day it is filling the earth with light. The same old sun, not at all worn out, though its light steps one hundred and ninety million miles a second, though its pulsations are four hundred and fifty trillion undulations in a second. Same sun, with beautiful white light made up of the violet and the indigo and the blue and the green and the red and the yellow and the orange—the seven beautiful colors now just as when the solar spectrum first divided them.

At the beginning God said: "Let there be light," and light was, and light is, and light shall be. So Christianity is rolling on, and it is going to warm all nations, and all nations are to bask in its light. Men may shut the window blinds so they cannot see it, or they may smoke the pipe of speculation until they are shaded under their own vaporing; but the Lord God is a sun! This white light of the Gospel made up of all the beautiful colors of earth and heaven, violet plucked from amid the spring grass, and the indigo of the southern jungles and the blue of the skies, and the green of the foliage, and the yellow of the autumnal woods, and the orange of the southern groves, and the red of the sunsets. All the beauties of earth and heaven brought out by this spiritual spectrum. Great Britain is going to take all Europe for God. The United States are going to take all America for God. Both of them together will take all Asia for God. All three of them will take Africa for God. "Who art thou, oh great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Hallelujah, amen!

MANY ACRES FLOODED.

The Mississippi's Overflow—A Missouri Town Inundated.

At eleven o'clock Saturday morning the levee south of Alexander, Mo., broke in several places, and a vast volume of water began pouring into the town, which was completely inundated. A spasmodic attempt was made to check the irresistable flood, but within a few minutes the laborers quit, and accepted the inevitable. It required less than an hour to inundate the entire town, which is covered with water from two to eight feet, submerging almost every foot of ground. Water having reached half of the houses, their occupants have sought refuge in the upper stories of buildings, where they will be imprisoned until the subsidence of the flood. In the main streets the water is fully three feet deep, circumscribing the movements of the population, and rendering transportation from one point to another possible only by means of skiffs or rudely constructed rafts. Sidewalks are overflowed and skiffs are landed in the doorways of private residences. Business is entirely suspended. There has been no loss of life nor great damage to property within the town. At this point the Mississippi is fully seven miles wide, and within the range of vision one vast expanse of water greets the eye. The area of farming land in the Missouri bottoms that is submerged is estimated at 75,000 acres, and a continuance of the flood will result in an approximated loss to the farming community of that region of at least $300,000. A high wind prevailed Sunday, which caused the waves to wash openings in the Warsaw levee, which affords protection to some 60,000 acres of fertile Illinois land.

Advices from the Red river country report that damage done to the inhabitants of the Red river valley during the past few days is beyond computation, and the overflow is the largest since 1843. Most of the plantations near the river have been covered with water four to six feet deep, and many miles of fencing, cribs and barns have been washed down and carried away. Many of the people have lost their household furniture, provisions and corn. In several places the river water extended from the hills of Arkansas to the hills of Texas, a distance of ten to fourteen miles. At West Norwood, a negro was drowned trying to swim from the overflow. Two white men were drowned in Mill Creek, and quite a number of other deaths are reported, but names not given. Planting in the bottoms will all have to be done over again.

LAND FORFEITURE BILL.

It is Passed by the Senate With Amendments, but may be Reconsidered.

The Senate passed the Railroad Land Forfeiture bill without division.

The first section declares forfeited to the United States all lands heretofore granted to any State or any corporation to aid in the construction of a railroad opposite to and coterminus with the portion of any such railroad not now completed and in operation for the construction or benefit of which lands have heretofore been granted, and all such lands are declared to be a part of the public domain. The act is not to be construed as forfeiting the right of way or depot grounds of any railroad company heretofore granted nor as limiting the rights granted to purchasers and settlers. Nor is it to exempt the lands of the Ontonagon and Marquette Railroad Company, fifty miles west of Lansing.

The second section authorizes persons in possession of any such lands (prior to January 1, 1888) to purchase them (within two years) from the United States in quantities not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres, at the rate of $2.50 per acre. The section is not to apply to lands in town on which any person has made a pre-empted or homestead settlement.

The third section refers to lands of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company heretofore forfeited and gives persons in possession of them (prior to July 1, 1885) the like right, and confirms to the city of Portland, Ore., rights of way and a riparian rights for a water pipe line.

The fourth section reserves the right to forfeit other railroad grant lands for any failure past or future, to comply with the stipulated conditions.

The sixth section fixes the price of the even numbered sections of land within the limits of all forfeited land grants at $1.25 an acre.

FATAL CASUALTIES.

Adolph Hedegan, a well known lawyer of Milwaukee, was drowned at Phillips, Wis., while fishing.

A three-year-old child of Mr. John Cochnower, of Cincinnati, in trying to slide down the banisters fell twenty feet and was killed.

Mr. Ezra Finn, a prominent lumber dealer of Scranton, Pa., was run over by a train on the Delaware and Hudson Canal railroad and instantly killed.

While walking on the tracks of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad W. C. Smith, a well-known mine boss of Wilkesbarre, Pa., aged 50 years, was instantly killed.

George H. Swing was found dead in his stable at Fairville, N. Y., having been choked by a portion of harness caught around his neck, as is supposed by accident.

Two children, aged two and six months respectively, were left alone near Lima, Ohio. The house took fire from brush burning outside and both were burned to death.

The body of J. B. Cotton, of St. Louis was found in the Tennessee River, near Chattanooga. It is thought he fell from a train into the river four weeks ago, while on his way home from Florida.

Sidney Peterson and R. G. Treas were probably fatally hurt at Benton, Ky., by the breaking of a wool carding machine running at high speed, the pieces being thrown in all directions.

George W. Heard and his wife were driving near Erie, Pa., when the team became frightened and uncontrollable. Mr. Heard was thrown from the vehicle and killed and Mrs. Heard received fatal injuries.

The house of Enoch McMahon, a rich old farmer of Anderson, Ind., was burned down on Wednesday night, and the ruins were found the bodies of Mr. McMahon and Geo. Stroup, a farm hand, the only occupants. It is believed they were murdered and the house set on fire.

MARKETS.

BALTIMORE—Flour—City Mills, extra, $3.25 a$3.75; Wheat—Southern Fultz, 98a100c.; Corn—Southern White, 66a67cts, Yellow 66a67 cts.; Oats—Southern and Pennsylvania 40a44cts.; Rye—Maryland and Pennsylvania 82a83cts.; Hay—Maryland and Pennsylvania 1650a$1700; Straw-Wheat, 10a$11.00; Butter, Eastern Creamery, 23a25cts.; near-by receipts 20a22cts; Cheese—Eastern Fancy Cream, 12¼a12cts.; Western, 11¼a11¾ cts; Eggs—13a13½; Cattle—$3.75a4.75; Swine—6¼a6¾cts.; Sheep and Lamb—3a3½ cts; Tobacco—Leaf—Inferior, 1a$2.50; Good to common, $3.50a$4.50, Mid lins, 5a$7.00 Good to fine red, 7a$1 Fancy, 10a$12.

NEW YORK—Flour—Southern Common to fair extra, 3.40a$4.00; Wheat—No. 1 White, 96a97cts.; Rye—State, 54a56; Corn—Southern Yellow, 57a58cts.; Oats—White State, 37a38 cts.; Butter—State, 23a27 cts.; Cheese—State, 11a13¾cts.; Eggs—13a13½ cts.

PHILADELPHIA—Flour—Pennsylvania, fancy, 3.50a$4; Wheat—Pennsylvania and Southern Red, 96a97 cts; Rye—Pennsylvania 57a58cts.; Corn—Southern Yellow, 57a58 cts, Oats—11a13 cts.; Butter—State, 23a27 cts.; Cheese—N. Y. Factory, 11a13 cts.; Eggs—State, 12a13 cts.

A CATHEDRAL IN ASHES.

Great Havoc Created By Natural Gas.

An Explosion Followed by Fire Destroys Buffalo's Stately Edifice—Narrow Escape of Invalids.

Alarm and excitement reigned in Buffalo, N. Y., Thursday, owing to two explosions of natural gas at very short intervals, the second one destroying one of Buffalo's finest houses of worship.

At nine o'clock occurred the first explosion, in the kitchen of Dr. R. V. Pierce's Invalid's Hotel, at No. 663 Main street. The inmates were hurriedly and safely got out and the gas turned off, while the blaze which it had generated was extinguished, damage having been done only to the extent of $150. Another explosion followed just as the firemen entered the hotel, seriously injuring Michael Brummer, of Hook and Ladder No. 1, and Foreman John Moest, H. J. Duffy and Walter Mahoney, of Engine No. 9.

Hardly had the people of Buffalo the time to congratulate themselves on this narrow escape from what might have been the forerunner of a disastrous conflagration, when, at twenty minutes past nine, nature's gas, protesting, as it were, against over pressure, burst from the furnace in the basement of the magnificent St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, situated between Eagle, Pearl and Main streets, sending forth flames through its fine stained glass windows, while the whole of the interior was at once in the embrace of a mass of fire, the force of the explosion being such as to blow out the heavy doors on the Erie and Pearl street sides. The Fire Department responded quickly, but in vain, to the call, as far as saving the interior of the stately edifice was concerned, nothing being left of the structure but its walls and spire. Mr. W. H. Walker, one of the wardens, and the Rev. Dr. Brown, the rector, were witnesses of the destruction.

Robert Wilkinson, the sexton, was in the building twenty minutes before the fire broke out. He was just returning from the Guild House when he heard a roaring noise, and simultaneously the huge doors were blown off their hinges. Mr. A. E. Perrin, who happened to be looking directly at the Cathedral, witnessed the same thing.

The walls and the steeple are practically intact and will not have to be taken down. The Shelton memorial windows were among the costliest in the country, but the insurance will probably be enough to replace them. Just at half-past twelve P. M. the chimes rang out a merry peal, thus evidencing that they are not in the least damaged. The fire had burned itself out at a quarter to twelve A. M.

Minor explosions took place during the forenoon, the meters in station houses Nos. 9 and 10 being blown out and others in the residences of Mrs. Judge Sheldon, on Main street, and of Harry Hamlin, Lawyer Perkins, George J. Sicard and Mr. Goodyear, on North street, doing little damage and not injuring anybody. The Westminster Presbyterian church, on Delaware avenue, nearly met with the same fate as St. Paul's but for the presence of mind of the sexton, who turned the gas off on its exploding just as he was about to light it. The supply of natural gas has been entirely shut off for the present.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

A fire at Georgetown, S. C., burned six brick stores, with adjoining warehouses. Loss $30,000.

A fire occurred in the lumber yard of J. H. Pierson, in Chicago. A quantity of lumber, four dry kilns and a planing mill were destroyed. Loss, $50,000.

The residence of Enoch McMahon, near Summitville, Ind., was burned on Wednesday night, and McMahon and his farm hand, a man named Treat, perished in the flames.

The works of the St. John coal mine and salt works at Du Quoin, Ill., were destroyed by fire. Five hundred men will be thrown out of employment. Loss $75,000.

Fire destroyed eight buildings in the business portion of the town of Henry grove, Tex., only the Opera House being saved. Ed Burnell, an occupant of one of the buildings, was burned to death.

Fire destroyed the county bridge over Lycoming creek, in the western part of Williamsport, Pa., the wagon and blacksmith shop of Yeskel & McCowell, the barn of H. Barnhart and the slaughter-house of Samuel Lusk, causing a loss of ten thousand dollars.

The schooner Ridgewood was burned to the water's edge in the river below Jacksonville, Fla. Forty thousand feet of lumber owned by Wilson & Hunting, of Baltimore, and valued at $8,000, was destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown. The vessel and cargo were uninsured.

NAVIGATION OF THE AIR.

Mr. De Bauset Can Have $150,000 if His Plan is Practicable.

The House Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics instructed its chairman, Mr. Landes, to report to the House a bill appropriating $150,000, to be paid as a bounty to Mr. A. De Bauset when he shall have completed and successfully demonstrated the practicability of his invention of an airship. The ship is to consist essentially of a metallic compartment vessel, so constructed that when sufficiently exhausted it will rise in the air and carry a burden. The airship is to be provided with air pumps and revolving blades or propellers for moving and steering, with electric storage batteries to supply power and with means for transporting passengers and freight. The whole vessel is to constitute a rapid conveyance for overland or transoceanic passage and for general purposes of exploration, commerce, etc.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

Many slight accidents are reported from Chicago as a result of the severe storm of Tuesday afternoon, and one, fatally, by lightning stroke. James Mulligan was instantly killed while walking on the street in Hyde Park. Two stone masons named Joseph Kempfer and John Sherrick were at work repairing a house in West Fourteenth street. The two men were directly under a broken lightning rod when the storm burst upon them. Before they could seek shelter a bolt of lightning passed down the rod and struck them. One is fatally injured and the left side of the other is paralyzed. Two school children were prostrated in the West division, and one may not recover.

AVENGING HIS DAUGHTER.

Amos H. Tyler, of Bath-on-the-Hudson, a salesman, shot and fatally wounded Dr. W. F. Gilroy, a dentist. Taylor went to Gilroy's house, and upon the latter's appearance began shooting at him. Three balls entered Gilroy's body, and although badly wounded, he started and ran. Tyler followed, but was caught and arrested. He claimed that Gilroy, who was married only a few weeks ago, is the father of an illegitimate child of his seventeen-year-old daughter. His daughter, on what will be her dying bed, told him to shoot Gilroy, and he did so. Gilroy is a society man, and his newly-wedded wife is highly connected.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Miss Annie Harrington, aged thirty years, residing three miles from Milford, Del., was burned to death. The family were awakened about eleven o'clock by agonizing screams, and saw Miss Harrington enveloped in flames running from the house to the orchard and back again, when she fell dying. All her clothing was burned off and her body charred from head to foot. How the accident happened is a mystery to the family.

A VIRGINIA SENSATION.

The Extraordinary Experience of a Prominent Richmonder.

Richmond (Va.) State.

A. A. Arnold, of the "Valley Virginian," Staunton, Va., writes the following remarkable letter, the truth of which is attested by many prominent Staunton citizens.

Mr. Crawford, however, is so well known in Richmond that no affidavits are necessary in his case. His remarkable experience is well worth perusal to the end:

"I was teaching school at Scherando; on the morning of the early part of February, 1879, as I passed the village tavern the hired boy informed me that there was a gentleman at the house dying and that he had sent for me several times.

"He said that his physician had told him he had Bright's Disease. Shortly after midnight his convulsions were so severe and in such rapid succession the nurse had expected him to die every hour, and he was at this moment sinking rapidly.

"How any being could suffer as he did and live is and always will be a mystery to me. His groans could be heard at a great distance. Thanks to a kind Providence a change came, and after a few days he was able to be removed to his home at Summerdean. For many months he was looked upon as no better than a dead man.

"Imagine my surprise then when a few months ago I met him in Staunton looking in better health than ever. I imagined he was 'patched up,' but I was mistaken, for you might meet 200 healthy men and not find one in the lot who presents more the appearance of a perfectly healthy man than he. He gives me the following additional particulars:

"'After reaching my home I took my bed and the outlook was that when I left it it would be for a march to the tomb.

"'Convulsion followed convulsion; in my agony my clenched hands drove the nails of my fingers into the flesh of my palms.

"'Every physician of note in the neighborhood and several from Staunton were summoned, but for Bright's disease they could give no relief, much less a cure.

"'Two eminent physicians were called from Philadelphia; after examining me one asked: 'I wonder why he sent for us! Why, he's a dead man now!!!'

"'Thus I lay suffering. All was gloom. At last some kind angel suggested that I use Warner's safe cure.

"'It was administered to me and the fourth bottle had not been exhausted before some good effects showed themselves. While I thus lay between two worlds I chanced to read in one of Warner's advertisements: 'Some constitutions are liable to constipation. When this is the case take Warner's safe pills.' My wife sent for some and I took a dose, and soon thereafter I seemed a new creature in a new world. I felt and knew I was cured, and so I was, for now after a lapse of many years I am sound as a dollar, with no symptoms of my old trouble, and have only Warner's safe cure and Warner's safe pills to thank for my health, which, under God's providence, I have regained, and I take great pleasure in adding my testimony to that of others as to its efficacy. I owe my life to the use of those most excellent medicines."

(Dec. 9th, 1887.) W. T. CRAWFORD.

Mr. Crawford, senior partner of Crawford & Lailey, of the St. Charles Hotel, is a man whose word is pre-eminent for probity all over the South.

When the above thrilling story was sent us by Messrs. Warner & Co. they authorized us to offer $5000 to any person who will prove that any testimonial used by them is not strictly true so far as they know. They also say that wonderful as is the above, they can produce many thousands of similarly striking proofs of permanent cure when all other agencies failed.

Out of Season.

No crowd turns out to see him come; no bugles drown the echoing drum; no plaudits fall in vocal showers; no maidens strew his way with flowers; no police sergeant's phalanx stood to hold in check the multitude; no delegation came to meet; alone he hoofed it down the street; alone before the clerk he stands and pens his name with trembling hands. Awe-struck he hears that magnate say: "Front! Nine ought forty, right away!" Alone he climbs the distant stairs, and no one knows and no one cares to what lost room he has to climb—the base-ball man in winter time.—*Bob Burdette.*

THE French and English military authorities have determined to prohibit all telegraphic correspondence from the field during the next campaign.

CHEATS were punished in England in early times by pillory imprisonment and fines, and a vigorous statute was enacted against them in 1542.

TO SMILE at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast, is to become a principal in the mischief.

Remarkable Surgery.

The science of surgery has made such wonderful progress in modern times, that the most intricate and delicate operations are now undertaken and carried to a successful issue. There are now several well authenticated cases of what is known as pneumotomy, that is to say, the removal of diseased portions of the lungs in cases of consumption. While, however, this delicate operation has sometimes been successfully performed, the risks attending it are so great, and the chances of recovery so light, that it is seldom resorted to. The safest plan in consumptive cases is to use Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. This will always cure the disease in its earlier stages, thoroughly arresting the ravages of the terrible malady, by removing its cause and healing the lungs.

A passenger on a Missouri train was shot at by a desperado, and was saved by a plug of tobacco, which stopped the bullet.

Why We Win

Because Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best spring medicine and blood purifier.

Because it is a concentrated extract of the best alterative and blood purifying remedies of the vegetable kingdom.

Because, by a peculiar combination, proportion and preparation, it possesses curative power peculiar to itself.

Because it is the only medicine of which can truly be said "100 doses one dollar," an unanswerable argument as to

Strength and Economy

Because it effects remarkable cures where other preparations totally fail.

Because there is nothing equal to it for curing dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache, indigestion.

Because every article entering into it is carefully scanned, none but the best is used, and all the roots and herbs are ground in our own drug mill—which makes impossible the use of anything impure or deleterious.

Because Hood's Sarsaparilla is an

Honest Medicine

and every purchaser receives a fair equivalent for the money.

Because when given a faithful trial it is reasonably certain to effect the desired result.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

"10-HE" ELECTRO-MAGNETIC OIL. The greatest remedial agent the world ever knew. Natural as the sun. Safe, certain and efficient. Reaches all abnormal conditions. Kills pain by removing causes. Send 2c. stamp for pamphlets. H. B. JONES, Burton, Wash. Co., Texas.

MEN AND BOYS! Do you want to learn all about a Horse? How to Pick Out a Good One? How to Know Imperfections and so Guard against Fraud? How to Detect Disease, and effect a cure when cure is possible? How to Tell the Age by the Teeth? What to call the Different Parts of the Animal? How to Shoe Horse Properly? All this, and other Valuable Information relating to the Equine Species can be obtained by reading our 100-PAGE ILLUSTRATED HORSE BOOK, which we will forward, postpaid, on receipt of 25 CTS. IN STAMPS. HORSE BOOK CO., 124 Leonard St., N. Y.

Ely's Cream Balm is worth $1000 to any Man, Woman or Child suffering from CATARRH. Apply Balm into each nostril. ELY BROS., 235 Greenwich St., N. Y.

"Yes; I shall break the engagement," she said, folding her arms and looking defiant; "it is really too much trouble to converse with him; he's as deaf as a post, and talks like he had a mouthful of mush. Besides, the way he hawks and spits is disgusting." "Don't break the engagement for that; tell him to take Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It will cure him completely." "Well, I'll tell him." I do hate to break it off, for in all other respects he's quite too charming." Of course, it cured his catarrh.

Spiders roasted are a sort of desert with the New Caledonians.

In General Debility, Emaciation, Consumption, and Wasting in Children,

SCOTT'S EMULSION of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites is a most valuable food and medicine. It creates an appetite for food, strengthens the nervous system, and builds up the body. Please read: "I tried Scott's Emulsion on a young man whom Physicians at times gave up hope. Since he began using the Emulsion his Cough has ceased, gained flesh and strength, and from all appearances his life will be prolonged many years."—JOHN SULLIVAN, Hospital Steward, Morganza, Pa.

Small stuffed alligators are now used as umbrella stands.

The New Prize Story

Is eagerly sought for, read with pleasure or disappointment, is then tossed aside and forgotten. But ladies who read of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, read it again, for they discover in it something to prize—a messenger of joy to those suffering from functional derangements or any of the painful disorders or weaknesses peculiar to their sex. Periodical pains, internal inflammation and ulceration, readily yield to its wonderful curative and healing powers. It is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, *under a positive guarantee* from the manufacturers that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

A truss for straightening crooked noses is among the novelties in surgical instruments.

NERVES! NERVES!!

What terrible visions this little word brings before the eyes of the nervous.

Headache, Neuralgia, Indigestion, Sleeplessness, Nervous Prostration.

All stare them in the face. Yet all these nervous troubles can be cured by using

Paine's Celery Compound

For The Nervous
The Debilitated
The Aged.

THIS GREAT NERVE TONIC

Also contains the best remedies for diseased conditions of the Kidneys, Liver, and Blood, which always accompany nerve troubles.

It is a Nerve Tonic, an Alterative, a Laxative, and a Diuretic. That is why it

CURES WHEN OTHERS FAIL.

$1.00 a Bottle. Send for full particulars.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & CO., Proprietors, BURLINGTON, VT.

Silk and Satin Ribbons FREE!

LADIES, THIS IS FOR YOU

A rare gift for the ladies. Saves much money and secures the best! Every lady knows and appreciates the privilege of having few remnants of ribbon, handy for the thousand and one odd and useful purposes for which such goods are used, and which they, the ladies, use so handsomely. To purchase what is wanted at the usual prices such goods are sold for, would create a large bill of expense, and therefore debarr a great many from indulging their tastes. In this direction, Holding that there are thousands upon thousands of remnants of ribbons among the large importing houses of America which they would be willing to dispose of in bulk, for a small fraction of their cost, to any one capable of purchasing largely, we instituted search, resulting in our obtaining the entire work of Silk and Satin Ribbon Remnants of several of the largest of these houses, who imported the finest goods. These goods may be depended upon as superior to anything to be found, except in the very best stores of America. Yet they are given away free; nothing like it ever known. A grand benefit for all the ladies; beautiful, elegant, choice goods absolutely free. We have expended thousands of dollars in this direction, and can offer an immensely varied, and most complete assortment of ribbons, in every conceivable shade and width, and all of excellent quality, adapted for neck-wear, bonnet strings, hat trimmings, bows, sashes, dress trimmings, silk-quilt work, etc., etc. Some of these remnants range three yards and upwards in length. Though remnants, all the patterns are of late styles, and may be depended on as beautiful, tasteful, fashionable and elegant. How to get a box containing a Complete Assortment of these elegant goods free: The Practical Housekeeper and Ladies' Fireside Companion, published monthly by us, is acknowledged, by those competent to judge, to be the best periodical of the kind in the world. Very large and handsomely illustrated; yearly subscription price, ten cents; but if $1.25 cents we will send it to you for a trial year, and will also send free a box of the ribbons; 32 subscriptions and 2 boxes, $3; 64 subscriptions and 4 boxes, $6. One-cent postage stamps may be sent for less than $1. Get 3 friends to join you thereby getting 4 subscriptions and 4 boxes for only $1; can do it in a few minutes. The above offer is based on this fact—those who receive the periodical refused to, for one year, want it thereafter, and pay on the full price for it; it is for other years, and now now that we make money. We make this great offer in order to at once secure 250,000 new