THE

COUNTY UNION.

"PROVE ALL THINGS AND HOLD FAST TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD".

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AWFUL CYCLONE.

Appalling Loss of Life In and Around St. Louis.

HUNDREDS DEAD OR DYING.

A Whirling Cloud of Death and Destruction.

Great Tornadoes Sweep Out of the Northwest, Crossing Lower St. Louis, and Followed by Flood and Fire, Destroy Much of East St. Louis---The Eads Bridge Partially Wrecked---Block After Block of Houses Crushed by the Storm ---Hundreds of Families Made Homeless---School Children Killed---The Storm Sweeps Over Several States.

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 28.—St. Louis gasps in the shadow of a horror unspeakable. From end to end it is a city of wreck and ruin. From end to end it is a city of the dead. A tornado, terrible in its fury, immeasurable in its destructiveness, struck the city at 5.15 p. m. yesterday and for half an hour it rocked and trembled as if a giant earthquake were shaking the earth beneath it. It came from the south, where it scourged a vast extent of country and it wrought unprecedented havoc in this city.

Two tornadoes, one sweeping down from Moberly, Mo., toward the southeast and the other sweeping up from the southeast, met over the Mississippi River at St. Louis. The storms seemed to join forces and dealt death and destruction. East St. Louis, on the Illinois side of the river, fared the worse, a swath several blocks wide being cut through the heart of that city. The lower part of St. Louis, on the western bank of the river, was swept through and great buildings were levelled as though they were built of straw.

In East St. Louis there is little doubt that the number of dead was 200, in St. Louis it reached 150; 1500 were hurt in and near St. Louis.

In East St. Louis the loss of life was greatest. It is variously placed at from two hundred to three hundred. In St. Louis it is known that many were killed.

Latest reports compiled from the scene of destruction in the three States point to the loss of over 500 human lives. The disaster appears to be the greatest the country has known since the Johnstown flood.

There are reports that eighty school children were killed at Drake, Ill., and that forty perished at Rush Hill, Mo.

The property loss runs into millions. It is placed, from cyclone, fire and flood, in East St. Louis, Ill., at two millions and a half of dollars. In St. Louis it will be four million more.

The Liggett & Myers wreck buried twenty-three workmen under its debris. Only three deaths resulted from the City Hospital wreck. The Republican Convention Hall is injured but little. A week's work will repair it. Seven steamers were wrecked by the storm. The number of dead they carried down is not known.

Despite the flood of rain which followed the gyration of the winds, the electric light wires ignited the ruins everywhere and the destruction was increased. The streets were so littered with debris that the firemen were unable to render assistance in any direction, even if the water works had not already been destroyed by the cyclone.

The great Eads Bridge, spanning the Mississippi, was partially wrecked and is littered with the wrecks of trains and wagons, with killed or injured men and horses.

Hundreds of families are without homes and every article of household use was carried away by the storm.

The steamer D. H. Pike, with thirty passengers on board, bound for Peoria, was blown bottom side up in the middle of the river and a number of persons were killed.

The steamer Delaphin, with a crew of six and twenty lady passengers on board, was blown against a bridge pier and broke in two. The ladies and two of the crew clung to the bridge stonework, and were rescued.

The Laclede, Planters' and Lindell Hotels were damaged greatly. An express train on the Chicago and Alton was tipped over, and many passengers more or less injured on the bridge.

Ottened's furniture store, at Broadway and Soulard, was demolished and six men are reported killed. A saloon at 604 South Seventh street fell with nine men in the ruins.

St. Patrick's Church, at Sixth and Biddle streets, fell, and the debris fills the streets. The electric railway line is burned out, as well as electric plant.

Fourteen fire alarms were sounded within an hour, and three alarms were sent in from the poorhouse, which building has 1200 inmates. The roof of the poorhouse was blown off and the fatalities are great.

During the last race at the Fair Grounds the roof was blown off the grand stand. The crowd had gone to the open fields for safety, and only four men were killed. The armory at Seventeenth and Pine streets was used as a hospital.

At 7.30 p. m. the rain, which had ceased for a time, began afresh, and fell in torrents. At 8 o'clock the eastern sky was aflame with the light of fires in East St. Louis. The metal roof of the Merchants' Exchange was rolled up like a scroll and fell into the streets.

The Louisville and Nashville east-bound local passenger train had just reached East St. Louis when the storm struck the city. The train was overturned, but miraculously only a few passengers were injured.

The Chicago and Alton east-bound local passenger train which left St. Louis at 5 o'clock was on the east span of the bridge, when the wind picked the cars up and turned them over on their sides. The iron spans and trusses held the cars from toppling into the river, 100 feet below. The passengers were thrown into a confused mass. The network of wires made rescue difficult and dangerous. The east span of the east bridge is so badly wrecked that it will take three days to allow trains to pass.

Lightning struck the Standard Oil Works and flames were soon pouring from a dozen buildings. The East St. Louis Fire Department was utterly powerless to cope with the fires, and it was feared that nearly the entire business and a great portion of the residence section would be destroyed by flames, if not already ruined by the wind. Among the principal buildings already in ruins are the National Hotel, the Standard Oil Works, East St. Louis Wire Nail Works, the Crescent Elevator, Hesel Elevator, all freight depots and stores and residences on St. Clair avenue.

The damage to the property in St. Louis is estimated at $1,000,000, and he loss in East St. Louis $3,000,000. There were really two tornadoes. One came from the northwest and the other from the direct east. Both met on the Illinois shore of the Mississippi River and joined in a whirling cloud of death and destruction. The list of dead in St. Louis is beyond present computation.

A large section of the city jail blew down. The two hundred prisoners were exercising at the time, but they were too frightened to attempt to escape. The poorhouse, several miles from St. Louis, was damaged by fire and many inmates burned. The East St. Louis Water Works were destroyed.

The levee was packed with people while the storm raged fiercest, groping through the darkness and eagerly imploring information from loved ones on the river.

The Annunciation Church at Sixth and Lasalle streets was totally destroyed. Father Read, the pastor, was fatally injured. Michael Dawes, a driver, was blown from his wagon in the vicinity and instantly killed. The middle span of the roadway above the railroad tracks on the Eads Bridge was blown completely away.

The Plant flour mills and the works of the St. Louis Iron and Steel Company were destroyed, and the big Cupples block of buildings was partially demolished.

The Waters-Pierce oil works were destroyed by fire, and buildings in several parts of the city burned all night.

The total number of families who are without homes, and whose every article of household effects was swept away by the storm, is variously estimated at from 500 to 800. It will be several days before a complete and trustworthy list can be made.

The Baltimore and Ohio and Vandalia roundhouses, the Standard Oil Works, East St. Louis and Crescent elevators, and a dozen freight houses were caught in the vortex of the cyclone and reduced to debris. Five hundred freight cars are said to have been blown into the river.

The great Eades bridge was twisted all out of shape and made an utter ruin. Freight cars were tossed to and fro, tumbled into ditches, driven sometimes into the fields many rods from where they stood. The great Vandalia freight house fell in a heap of utter ruin, and thirty-five men who had taken refuge in it were buried beneath the ruins and their lives crushed out. Some of the bodies have been got out, torn and mangled beyond the powers of description. Liggett and Meyer's big tobacco manufactory, the largest in the West, according to the latest report was wrecked totally and the loss of life there was great. Twenty dead bodies and many wounded have been recovered from this building.

The scene in the river opposite St. Louis was appalling. Steamboats moored at their landings were torn away, turned over and sunk, drowning all on board. Many people were seen clinging to floating wreckage and pitiously appealing for help.

ST. LOUIS AUDITORIUM.

(Built for the Republican National Convention which will be held June 16. Committeeman Kerens says the damage it has received will not interfere with the meeting.)

ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION BUILDING.

(The famous structure, where many National Conventions have met, badly damaged.)

OTHER PLACES STRICKEN.

The Wide Reach of the Storm and Some of the Fatalities.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., May 28.—Word reached the Chicago and Alton Railroad officials that a tornado had demolished the village of Rush Hill, Mo., twelve miles from Mexico, in Audrian County. The tornado struck the town a few minutes before 4 o'clock, and blew down the schoolhouse, crushing its inmates. The report was to the effect that fifty pupils had been killed and a number injured.

STURGEON, Mo., May 28.—A tornado passed five miles north of Sturgeon about 3 o'clock p. m. At Renick three men were seriously injured and a family of colored people were carried over a mile, two children being fatally hurt. Friendship Church, north of town, was demolished. The funnel-shaped cloud was seen by half the people of Sturgeon. Bridges and fences are torn up for miles.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 28.—Renick, Randolph County, Mo., was blown away this afternoon and several persons were killed. Labadie, Mo., was also destroyed. Ten persons were killed at the latter place.

CHICAGO, May 28.—The tornado passed through Southern Illinois and spread destruction over a large extent of territory. New Baden is reported to have been nearly destroyed, and several lives were lost. Seven persons are reported killed and thirty injured at New Madrid, southeast of Centralia.

The villages of Boles and Dix were partially destroyed, and several persons killed. It is estimated that fifty lives have been lost in Clinton, Washington and Jefferson Counties, and vast amount of farm property destroyed.

A dispatch from Centralia gives news of the tornado's deadly work at Pickneyville, which is south of the former city. The company's station and machine shops were blown to pieces, and several business buildings and houses torn down. The company's chief clerk there, who was in the station, was killed, and the cashier seriously injured.

The Coroner's Figures.

The thousands of men at work in the ruined district at St. Louis, Mo., are bringing order out of chaos and it will be but a few days before nearly every trace of the material wreckage caused by the tornado of Wednesday has been cleared away. The following is the figures as compiled by the coroner: Known dead in St. Louis 194; unknown dead in St. Louis 8.

Fatally injured in St. Louis 18; missing in St. Louis 56.

Known dead in East St. Louis 132; unknown dead in East St. Louis 3.

Fatally injured in St. Louis 1. Total fatalities 418.

TELEGRAPHIC TICKS.

Report says there are 600 A. P. A's in North Carolina.

Scott Jackson, the murderer of Pearl Bryan, has been sentenced by the court to hang June 29th.

The Northern Presbyterian General Assembly has fixed upon Winona, Ind., as the next place of meeting.

Chief Justice Snodgrass, of the Tennessee Supreme Court bench, has been fined $50 and costs for carrying concealed weapons.

Francis E. Shober, a member of the Forty-first and Forty-second Congress, and at one time Secretary of the United States Senate, died in Salisbury, N. C., Friday.

The next General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church will be held in Charlotte, N. C., in the First Church, the third Sunday in May, 1897.

A motion for a new trial for Scott Jackson, convicted of Pearl Bryan's murder at Cincinnati, O., was overruled by Judge Helm Friday, and June 30th set as the date of execution.

During a balloon ascension in Martensville, Va., Friday, an old colored man named Archie Brown was caught in the ropes and carried up a distance of 300 feet, when he fell. He was killed instantly.

The decision by the New York Court of Appeals as to the constitutionality of the Raines liquor law does not set at rest the legal controversy over the matter. It is now claimed that the law is in conflict with the United States constitution.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS

Practically Unchanged—Crop Prospects Improved.

Dun and Bradstreet, of New York, in their weekly review of trade, say: Failures for the week have been 239 in the United States against 215 last year, and 20 in Canada against 34 last year. The improvement in the trade situation is confined to the demand for hides, leather and shoes, the tendency of prices of same to advance, and an improvement in request for dry goods and hats and shoes from wholesalers at St. Paul, Kansas City, Omaha and Baltimore. The crop outlook in South Carolina and Kentucky is brighter because of rains, and a generally better feeling exists among sugar producers and handlers in Louisiana and Texas because of the recent sugar bounty decision.

General business continues quiet, and at large financial centres less commercial paper is making, even at lower rates.

The price movement is again downward, wheat corn and oats, as well as pork and lard, exhibiting unexpected shrinkages. Coffee, cotton and petroleum are likewise lower, and sales of pig iron and billets by middlemen have been made a shade under norminal figures. Wheat, flour, coal and cloths are practically unchanged, while refined sugar and tin plates report advances. Hides and leather are firm at recent advances and the tendency is upward.

The iron and steel markets are weak, with lower prices, because the demand for finished products is entirely inadequate, though prices of these are higher. Pig iron has fallen over 4 per cent. since April 1, but the average of finished products has been advanced 3 per cent. Lower quotations for Bessemer and grey forge and local coke at Chicago with stoppage of two-thirds of the furnaces in Virginia, some in Pennsylvania and others in the Mahoning and Shenandoah valleys result from inability of manufacturers to sell at prices which their combinations demand, Bessemer billets being undersold by open hearth, bars by steel bars and nails by new concerns, which are rapidly putting in machines. Plates weaken and there is no improvement in sheets or rods, but beam makers have raised the price $2 per ton, making a slight advance in the average of all prices for the week. It is possible that rebuilding after the disaster at St. Louis may affect iron and steel extensively.

THE SOUTH'S REVIVAL.

Material Evidence that She is Taking the Lead.

Special reports to the Manufacturer's Record, covering the business interests of the South for the week, show a considerably larger number of important matters than for the preceding week. The Watts Iron and Steel plant built several years ago at a cost of about $2,000,000 to roll ingots into slabs and billets. This company has had one of its furnaces in operation for five or six months making pig iron, and the starting up of this large steel plant promises to have a very material effect upon the question of steel making in the South.

Some contracts are being let for the equipment of the steel plant, to be built at Birmingham by the Birmingham Rolling Mill company.

Cotton mill enterprises include a $100,000 company at Hickory Grove, S. C., a $10,000 spindle mill at Clinton, the increase of capital stock of $75,000 at Chester for the purpose of adding 11,000 spindles; and a subscription of $50,000 for building a mill at Blacksburg, S. C.

Pennsylvania people have purchased 28,000 acres of timber land in Alabama for immediate development.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

WILLIAM IS GETTING TO BE SOMEWHAT SENTIMENTAL.

He Indites an Interesting Epistle on the Subject of Flowers.

I am not a linguist, but have been told there is no language but ours that has a word or expression signifying "home" in the sweet, sentimental meaning that we attach to it. There are words enough that mean a dwelling house, an abiding place, but home has a broader compass and includes all the emotional surroundings—the garden, the well, with its old oaken bucket, or the crystal spring at the foot of the hill—the vines over the door and on the lattice—the shade trees, the landscape view from the window, the cradle and the old arm chair; the clock on the mantle, the pictures on the walls, the faithful watch dog, the playful kitten, and ever the crickets' chirrup on the hearth. But more than all these are the loved ones who meet us and greet us at the threshold.

The wise man tells us of the time when man goeth to his long home and the mourners go about the streets. Our home here is very brief, we know, but it is the dearest spot on earth, and should be loved and cherished by every one who goes out from its sacred portals or returns within them to rest from the cares of a busy world. It is one of my constant regrets that there are so many good people in this great big world who have no home—not an acre on God's green earth they can call their own. If every family had a home the children would grow up better citizens, better patriots; the parents would hold up their heads and be thankful to God for his blessings. The good wife and daughters would treasure the vines they planted, and the flowers they grew in the front yard—flowers that are the smiles of God upon a sin-cursed world. The poet says:

"The world has nothing to bestow;
From our own selves our joys must flow,
And that dear place—'our home.'"

I was ruminating about these things as I sat in my verandah in the shadow of the vines—the Virginia creeper, the madiera and cinnamon vines that by day and by night are climbing higher and, enlarging and unfolding their tender leaves that will soon cover the trellice. I love to watch their daily progress. I built the framework for these vines and am proud of it, even though my wife did boss the job, and me, too. 'Twas she who made me set the posts out two feet from the edge of the verandah floor and brace them to the top of the columns. 'Twas she who suggested canes from the canebrake—long canes that were stuck in the ground and their tops cut even and fastened to the crossbar. These canes are just one foot apart and are interlaced with horizontal canes, also a foot apart, and the basket work keeps the whole fabric good and strong. Strong and vigorous vines have already climbed and twined around every cane, but she said there must be windows in the lattice, so that we could sit in our chairs and see the trains go by and the carriages and bicycles and funeral processions and picnic parties and the children going to school and look at our neighbors who live across the way. So there is a space of three feet where the vines cling close to the perpendicular poles, but are not allowed to send out any horizontal shoots. This gives us ample vision of the outer world, and I sit daily there in my big arm chair and rest my feet upon the railing and ruminate upon life with its blessings and am thankful that I live.

Just a word about that railing. It used to be about three feet high and studded with upright balusters, the top rail too high and the bottom one too low for a good foot rest. So when I bought the property the first thing I did was to reform the long verandah. It cost but a trifle to take out the upright pieces and lower the top rail and run a middle one and then put short square pieces between them and alternate them like a road to Jericho. This makes the cheapest and most comfortable railing in the world, and gives an old man choice of three elevations for his feet and gives a modest woman choice of two. I have already observed in my brief life that there are two classes of people who like to elevate their pedal extremities when in a state of innocuous desuetude—old men and lazy lawyers. Old age is excusable, for his legs are tired, especially when his corporosity increases with advancing years, or he is bossed around the flower garden by his loving wife; the average lawyer is excusable, too, I suppose, for it is the brain that quickens the flow of blood to the extremities, and if the brain has nothing to work on—no cases, no clients—the legs get sleepy and must have rest.

I can tell a town loafer's age pretty well by his posture when seated. An old, confirmed loafer wants two chairs, one to rest his feet upon. If he is a lawyer he prefers a table.

But I am off the subject again. I was thinking about the flowers—the new and beautiful flowers that Mrs. Arp got from Mr. Berckman—these cannas that are so gorgeously lovely and are now blooming into beauty. We had some yellow ones before, but now have other colors that are brilliant and attractive. I decorated my vegetable garden last year with sun flowers, but I don't think my wife fancied them. She said they made her eyes tired, but she is delighted with the crimson and orange and variegated cannas and her Mareschal Neil roses and carnation pinks. She wants only $2 or $3 worth of new flowers every spring, and up to this time she has had it, thank the good Lord for His mercies. The weather has been awful hot, but I have had to dig and fork up the ground and haul fertilizer in the wheel barrow and lay off a new flower bed and change plants from the old ones and tote water and sprinkle and rake around till me nether garments were moist and as salty as Lot's wife.

It hasn't rained a drop in three weeks, notwithstanding my rheumatic pains and my wife's corns and the rooster's crowing in the night, and so I have everything to water every evening. We have had no man servant but me for a long time, and my wife says I look exceeding well, considering age and infirmity, and the girls smile around on the sly to see how a little uxorial taffy spurs me on.

Had a letter yesterday from a suffering benedict, who says his girls wanted him to stop chopping cotton and sowing peas and send some help to take up the carpets and whitewash the palings and the trees and the pig pen and clean up things generally, for some town kinfolks were threatening to visit them. He said he was about to outdo the girls, but his wife re-enforced them and said they dident ask such favors but twice a year and were the best daughters in the world, and she thought he might spare a hand for a day or two, and now he writes to me for advice. Must he surrender and take a hand from the field or not? No, of course not. The way to do is to do all these little household jobs yourself. You can take up a carpet and hang it on the paling and beat the dust out of it as well as anybody, and whitewashing is nothing but good fun. You can hang a window curtain or put in a pane of glass or mend a baby carriage or repaint the mantel piece. My girls papered every room in our house. Their mother trained us to do all these things, and it saves a lot of money. My friend, that whitewashing must be done if the world comes to an end. Let the cotton suffer for a day. I expect you have too much planted, anyhow. Everybody around here has. The good wife and daughters have to stay in the house or about it nearly all their time, and it should be made as pleasant and inviting as possible. Yours in sympathetic bonds.—BILL ARP, in Atlanta Constitution.

SOUTHERN CONDITION.

Reports of Industrial and Business Affairs.

The following report of the South's industrial progress is taken from the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Tradesman for the past week:

General business is active and increasing. The spring has been favorable for small fruits and early vegetables, and a large amount of ready money has been disbursed. Fertilizers and agricultural implements are in great demand and sales are twice those of last year. The new cotton mills for the week are the Landrum cotton mill of Dandrum, S. C., capital $100,000; the Atlanta Textile Manufacturing company of Atlanta, Ga., with $20,000 capital and others at Oxford, Miss., and Lebanon, Tenn.

New industries established or incorporated in the Southern States during the past week include: The Chieftain Cypress company, of Ocala, Fla., capital $150,000; the American Brewing and Ice company, of Central City, W. Va., with $75,000 capital, and the Richmond Woodworking company, of Richmond, Va., capitalized at $50,000. The E. A. Franklin Churn and Implement company, capital $50,000, has been chartered at Austin, Texas; the R. W. Coffee Manufacturing company, at Richmond, Va., with $25,000 capital, and a $25,000 shoe factory is to be built in Charleston, S. C. The Groesbeck Cotton Oil, Gin and Compress company has been chartered at Groesbeck, Tex., with $20,000 capital; the Jacksonville Fertilizer company, capital $10,000, at South Jacksonville, Fla., the Athens Coal and Manufacturing company, capital $10,000, of Athens, Tex., and the Southern Lumber company, also with $10,000 capital, at Charleston S. C.

There are also reported canning factories at Avon Park and Linton, Fla.; a marble quarry to be opened at Knoxville, Tenn.; nailworks at Middlesboro, Ky.; a pottery and tile plant at Oxford, Ala., and a tobacco factory at Ocala, Fla. The new woodworking plants include a barrel factory at Cedar Springs, Va.; a planing mill at Fairford, Ala., and a sawmill at Gulfport, Miss. The Florence mills at Forest City, N. C., are to add $50,000 to their capital; machine shops at Portsmouth, Va., are to be enlarged, and also a sugar refinery at Abbeville, La.

The new buildings of the week include business houses at Savannah, Ga., and Brevard, N. C.; a $50,00 board of trade building at Tampa, Fla.; a $50,000 courthouse at Charlotte, N. C.; a $10,000 jail at Laredo, Tex.; a $20,000 opera house at Somerset, Ky.; a $20,000 school building at Laredo, Tex.; a $16,000 residence at New Orleans, La., and a $15,000 warehouse at Mobile, Ala.

AGAINST SUNDAY TRAINS.

The Presbyterian Assembly Resolves to Petition Congress to Stop Them.

The Southern Presbyterian assembly, in session at Memphis, Tenn, struck a big question Friday. An overture from the synod of Texas advocating a mammoth petition to congress and the State legislatures favoring the enactment of Sabbath legislation. The committee recommended a negative answer. This brought some of the finest debating of the assembly. Hon. W. W. Cox, of Corinth, Miss., made a strong speech pleading for the petition. He said: "It is the inalienable right of each member of the Presbyterian Church to petition the civil power. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the State governments have rights to pass laws forbidding the running of trains, interstate or otherwise, on the Sabbath. The great corporations are doing what the State and National governments dare not do. They deny to a large body of citizens the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. Let us do all in our power for the protection of these and other employes who are forced to labor on the Sabbath."

Dr. Wodrow took the ground that this is not a Christian government and the church has no right to ask its aid for religion. The Jews have a right to be heard.

Several fine speeches were made and the assembly decided in favor of the petition.

The First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N. C., was selected unanimously for the place of next meeting. A paper was introduced by Dr. J. P. Smith, of Richmond, Va., expressing sympathy with the people of Armenia, which was adopted by a rising vote.

A resolution of thanks was introduced and adopted by a rising vote. Dr. Mallard, the moderator, made some very feeling remarks. The assembly arose and sang "Blest be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love." The moderator then dissolved the assembly with prayer, calling another to meet in the First Church, Charlotte, N. C., the third Tuesday in May, 1897.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR JUNE 7.

Lesson Text: "Warning to the Disciples," Luke xxii., 24-37—Golden Text: Phil. iv., 5—Commentary.

24. "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest." It was the last night before Golgotha. It was the night of Gethsemane and only a few hours before that conflict. He had eaten the passover with them and had instituted the Lord's supper. He had washed their feet and taught them how to humble themselves. He was about to humble Himself unto death for them, and they were talking of who should have the highest place. How alone He was! How little they knew Him!

25, 26. "He that is greatest among you let him be as the younger, and he that is chief as he that doth serve." Let gentiles who think much of earthly power, and to whom it is for the present given, let them talk of Lordship and ruling, but let the redeemed of the Lord, who with Him wait for the kingdom, not think of reigning without Him, but rather let us think of renouncing self and of how we can best make it manifest that we are His. It is well enough for the gentiles, who live only for this world, to give special attention to what they shall eat and drink and wear, but those who are heirs of the kingdom are to seek first the kingdom in all its interests, sure that our Heavenly Father, who knoweth our need, will see to all these things for us (Math. vi., 31-33).

27. "I am among you as He that serveth." The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many (Math. xx., 28). He lived not to please Himself nor to seek His own will or glory (Rom. xv., 3; John vi., 38; viii., 50). He did not stand up for His rights, as we say, but ever did well, and oft suffered for it, and always took it patiently, leaving us an example that we should follow His steps (1 Pet. ii., 20, 21).

28. "Ye are they which have continued with Me in my temptations." How kind it was of Him to say so. He must have taken the will for the deed. He has a way of magnifying what we would like to do for Him and of giving us credit beyond what we might think we deserve. He cannot possibly say or do wrong or over state a matter, but He reads the heart and judges according to motive and desire. Let us have more kindly judgment for others.

29. "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me." Hear Him in His prayer a little later on that same evening, "The glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them" (John xvii., 22). Hear Him in His last message to the church on earth, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with My Father on His throne" (Rev. iii., 21).

30. "That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Compare Math. xix., 28. We may therefore expect to see the twelve apostles (the right one taking Judas's place) in the kingdom ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel. Some day we shall see clearly and understand, as we cannot now, the relationship of the twelve apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel to the New Jerusalem, the Lamb's wife, of Rev. xxi.

31. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold satan hath desired you, that he may sift you as wheat." The R. V. says that satan asked for him. If He had been satan's property, like Judas, He would not have needed to ask for him. It is a comfort that satan cannot touch a child of God without first obtaining permission. He had to confess that God had made a fence about Job, and He could not lay a finger upon Him until God permitted Him.

32. "But I have prayed for Thee that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted (or turned again) strengthen thy brethren." Peter was one of those of whom He said, "Ye are clean," and "He that is washed is clean every whit" (John xiii., 10); therefore we have the Lord's own testimony that Simon Peter was a saved man, and a truly saved man can never be an unsaved man (John x., 27, 28), but he may wander and stumble as Simon was about to do. Then he must turn again to the Lord and be forgiven these wanderings and walk more humbly with God. How very thankful we should be that our High Priest ever liveth to make intercession for us.

33. "And he said unto Him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison and to death." Poor, self confident Simon! How little he knew himself. We are to have no confidence in ourselves, but rely wholly upon the Lord. The only safe place is, "Not I, but Christ," "Not I, but the grace of God" (Gal. ii., 20; I Cor. xv., 10; Phil. iii., 3). Self confidence led to the following afar off, and that to denial of his Lord. Rather let us "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Mic. vi., 8).

34. "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day before thou shalt thrice deny thou knowest Me." He knew what was in Peter (John ii., 25); knew it from the beginning, yet loved him all the way through. I have often been glad that He has never found out anything new about me; that He knew me thoroughly from the start and loved me when I was dead in sin.

35. "When I sent you, without purse or scrip or shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing." That was because He sent them. When we go on His business, sent by Him, He will see to all the supply.

36. "But now, he that hath a purse let him take it and likewise his scrip, and he that hath no sword let him sell his garment and buy one." This at first sight looks difficult, but in the light of verse 38 I think it is easy. Had He actually intended each to have a sword He could not have said that two swords were enough for eleven men. What, then, did He mean? When He sent them, He took care of them, and they lacked nothing, but now, although He still sends them, He will not be with them as formerly. Can they trust Him as formerly? If not, let them take purse and scrip and sword and take care of themselves on the principle that God helps those who help themselves. As Peter blundered with his sword, so will all blunder who trust themselves rather than Him.

37. "The things concerning Me have an end." All would now soon be fulfilled, and on the morrow He would be crucified as a malefactor. What, then, would these poor sheep do? Could they trust their Heavenly Father, or would all their hopes be dashed to the ground when He whom they had followed had been crucified? Had they only believed all His words, and that He would rise again, how strong they might have been.—Lesson Helper.

Prohibition Candidates.

The Prohibitionists, in session at Pittsburg, Pa., have nominated Joshua Levering, of Baltimore, Md., for President; Hale Johnson, of Illinois, for Vice-President. The gold element predominated, and the silver, or broad-guage element left the convention and organized a rump convention. A free-suffrage plank was adopted. Mr. Levering is a prominent citizen of Baltimore. He has for a long time been engaged in temperance and church work.

Paying the Sugar Bounty.

The United States Treasury Department has begun the payment of the sugar bounty under the recent decision of the Supreme Court. The claims now being paid are under the $238,000 appropriation of accrued bounty due at the time the bounty law was repealed. There are 4,500 of this class of claims.

Thus far the discovery of the north pole has conferred no practical benefit. Cordwood, in fact, is slightly higher in price than it was before.

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

Towns in Iowa and Illinois Almost Wiped Out.

Monday the villages of Valeria, Mingo and Santiago, Iowa, on the Chicago and Great Western Railroad, was nearly wiped from the face of the earth by a cyclone, and adjacent counties were laid waste with considerable loss of life and great destruction of railway and other property. The storm occurred between 9 and 10 o'clock, accompanied by a deafening roar, a deluge of rain and hail. Its track was several miles in length and from a quarter to a half a mile in width. Reports say fourteen were killed at Valeria, and five at Mingo. At Santiago, Mr. and Mrs. Ballenbaugh and grandchild was killed. The following buildings were wrecked in Valeria: Chicago and Great Western depot, one drug store, three general stores, post-office, Catholic church, one creamery, two blacksmith shops, and twenty-five dwellings.

In Valeria, seven members of a family named Failous, father, mother and five children, were found dead among the wreckage in one room. Two children named Aikens, two ladies named Dickey and Mrs. Osborn, were also killed outright. The property loss is estimated at over $100,000. A great amount of live stock was killed and the crops in the path of the storm utterly destroyed.

The list of killed stands as follows: Jasper County, Ia., 10; Polk County, Ia., 9; Rockford, Ill., 4; Elgin, Ill., 1; North McGregor, Ia., 12; Durango, Ia., 5; Fort Scott, Kan., 2.

The storm wrought its greatest havoc in Iowa, where the counties of Polk and Jasper were devastated by two tornadoes.

At Chicago basements were flooded and considerable damage done. Two inches of rain fell. At Elgin, John Keough, engineer of the State Insane Asylum, was killed by a falling chimney. The Elgin Sewing Machine and Bicycle factory was blown down. At Rockford four killed and many injured, a number of them fatally, is the result of the cyclone, besides great loss to property and the complete destruction of crops.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

Cotton and Corn Generally Good, But Cereals are Below the Average.

The weekly weather and crop bulletin of the department of agriculture at Washington contains the following reports of crop conditions throughout the South:

Virginia—Richmond—Droughty conditions which have been prevailing were broken by the rain of last week; general improvement all crops noticeable; winter wheat heading short; rosebugs threaten destruction of grape crop in Rockingham county; potato bugs doing some damage.

North Carolina—Raleigh—Temperatures above normal, and excess of precipitation in central portion very favorable; drought still continues in West and along Southeast coast; minor damage by hail 17 counties; wheat ripening, short but with good heads; oats a failure; cotton and corn in excellent condition.

South Carolina—Columbia—Unevenly distributed showers except over southeastern portion, where drought continues; corn improving, is healthy, clean and earliest ready to lay by; cotton within exception well cultivated, clean and healthy, chopping nearly finished, squares forming plentifully; fruit and minor field crop generally poor.

Georgia—Atlanta—Another very hot week, but crop conditions slightly improved by local showers; crops clean and well cultivated, and cotton standing drought well; corn needs rain badly; fruit continues to shed; gardens and pastures drying up rapidly.

Tennessee—Nashville—Good rains generally over the State; great improved condition of growing and matring crops; too much rain in western section; crops getting grassy; wheat ripening and in fairly good condition; corn and cotton growing well; tobacco area mostly set and plants doing well.

CLOUD BURST IN MISSOURI.

Several People Drowned and Much Property Destroyed.

Two cloudbursts occurred in Newton county, Kansas, at an early hour Saturday morning, one at Kansas City and the other at Seneca. One life was lost at Kansas City and twenty-seven at Seneca. At Sylvesto, two were drowned by the overturning of a boat while being taken from the flood. The condition of Seneca is pitiable. It is a town of 1,200 inhabitants, sixteen miles west of here, and is situated in a valley. The water was from four to six feet deep in every business house. Many buildings were washed away.

At Seneca nine bodies have been recovered, but the names could not be ascertained. Indications now point to another storm, in which even the damage to life and property will be greater. The damage to Seneca property will reach $150,000.

The office of the Seneca Dispatch was washed away, together with the Methodist church and half of the buildings on Main street. The property damage is estimated at $50,000.

A DEVASTATING CYCLONE.

Kansas Again Visited by a Destructive Storm.

A tornado passed through the western part of Neodesha county early Sunday morning. La Fontaine, a village of 200 souls, was almost destroyed. Two business houses, the Missouri Pacific depot and the Christian church was wrecked and almost every house in the village was damaged. A score of farm houses north, east and west were destroyed. Aaron Edwards, a farmer, was fatally injured and many others severely hurt. The aggregate loss on buildings and property is $25,000. Hail and rain accompanied the wind and destroyed every vestige of vegetation. The damage to crops is incalculable. The area of the damaged district is about 75 square miles.

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