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W. G. BURKHEAD, Editor.

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Address all communications to THE TOBACCO PLANT, DURHAM, N. C.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.

Under a sparkling elms-tree,  
The village smithy stands;  
The smith, a mighty man he,  
With large and sinewy hands,  
And the anvil with his brow,  
Arms strong as iron bands.

ON TRIAL.

Dr. Talmage's Sermon, Preached Sunday Morning, Dec. 19th.

Standing in a court-room, you say to yourself, "At this bar crime has often been forgiven; at this witness stand the oath has often been taken; at this juror's bench the verdict has been pronounced; at this judge's desk sentence has been pronounced."

When a trial is called on, the first thing is to have

THE INDICTMENT read. Stand up, then, oh Christian man, and hear the indictment of the court of high heaven against thy soul. It is an indictment of ten counts, for thou hast directly or indirectly broken all the ten commandments.

Many a time did we promise to be the Lord's. We got down on our knees and said, "Lord, I am Thine, now and forever. Did you keep the promise? Have you stood to the contract? I go back to you first communion. You remember it as well as if it were yesterday. You know how the vision of the cross rose before you. You remember how from the head, and the hands, and the feet, there came bleeding forth these two words: "Remember me." You recall how the cup of communion trembled in your hand when you first took it; and as in a sea-shell you may hear, or think you hear, the roaring of the surf when after the shell has been taken from the beach, so you lifted the cup of communion, and you heard in it the surging of the great ocean of a Savior's agony; and you came forth from that communion-service with face shining as though you had been on the Mount of Transfiguration; and the very air seemed tremulous with the love of Jesus, and the woods and the leaves and the grass and the birds were brighter and sweeter-voiced than ever before, and you said down in the very depths of your soul, "Lord, Thon knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee."

Have you kept the bargain, oh Christian man? Have you not sometime filtered when you ought to have been true? Have you not been proud when you ought to have been humble? Have you not played the coward when you ought to have been the hero? I charge it upon you, and I charge it upon myself: we have broken the contract.

Still further, this lawsuit claims damages at your hands. The greatest slander on the Christian religion is an inconsistent profession. The Bible says religion is one thing; we by our

say religion is some other thing, and what is more deplorable about it is, that people can see faults in others which they cannot see in themselves. If you shall at any time

find some miserable old gossip, with imperfections from the crown of her head to the sole of her foot, a perfect blotch of sin herself she will go tating, tattling, tattling all the years of her life, about the inconsistencies of others, having no idea that she is inconsistent herself. God save the world from the gossip, female and male! I think the males are the worst! Now the character of Christ's salvation goes on through the world; but it is our inconsistencies, my brethren, that block up the wheels, while all along the line there ought to have been cast nothing but palm branches, and the shout should have been lifted "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Now you have heard the indictment read. Are you ready to plead guilty or not guilty? Perhaps you are not ready yet to plead. Then the trial will go on.

THE WITNESSES will be called, and we shall have the matter decided. In the name of God I now make proclamation: "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez! Whosoever hath anything to offer in this trial in which God is the plaintiff and the Christian soul the defendant, let him now step forth and give testimony in this solemn trial."

The first witness that I call upon the stand in behalf of the prosecution, is the Word—all critical and abstract of Christian character. You know that there are people around you who perpetually lament on the frailties of God's children. You may know, if you have lived in the country, that a crow caws for nothing so much as carrion. There are those who imagine that out of the faults of Christians they can make a bridge of boats across the stream of death, and they are going to try it; but, alas, for the mistake! When they get amid-stream away will go the bridge and down will go their soul to perdition. Oh World, of the greedy eye and the hard heart, come on the stand now and testify!

IN BEHALF OF THE PROSECUTION, against this Christian soul on trial, what do you know about this Christian? "Oh," says the World, "I know a great deal about him. He talks about putting his treasures in heaven, but he is the sharpest man in a trade I ever knew. He seems to want us to believe that he is a child of God, but he is just full of impurities. I do not know but he is a great deal better than he is now. Oftentimes he is very earthly, and he talks so little about Christ and so much about himself, I am very glad to testify that this is a bad man."

Stop, oh World, with the greedy eye and the hard heart. I fear you are

TOO MUCH INTERESTED in this trial to give impartial evidence. Let all those who hear the testimony of this witness know that there is an old family quarrel between two parties. There always has been a variance between the World and the Church, and while the World on the witnessstand to-day has told a great deal of truth about this Christian man, you must take it all with some allowance, remembering that they still keep the old grudge good. Oh World, of the greedy eye and the hard heart, that will do. You may sit down.

The second witness I call in this case is

CONSCIENCE. Who art thou, oh Conscience? What is your business? Where were you born? What are you doing here? "Oh," says Conscience, "I was born in heaven! I came down to befriend this man. I have lived with him. I have instructed him. I have warned him. I have shed him the light of truth. I have advised him to right and to eschew the other. I have kindled a great light in his soul. With a whip of scorpions I have scourged his wickedness; and I have tried to cheer him when doing right; and yet I am compelled to testify on the stand to-day that he has sometimes rejected my mission. Oh, how many cups of life I have pressed to his lips and he dashed down, and how many times I have lifted his hand from the bleeding heart of the Son of God! It pains me very much that I have to testify against this Christian man, and yet I must, in behalf of Him who will in no wise clear the guilty, say that this Christian man has done wrong. He has been worldly. He has been neglectful. He has done a thousand things he ought not to have done, and left undone a thousand things he ought to have done. That will do, Conscience. You can sit down."

The third witness I call in the case is

AN ANGEL of God, Bright and Shining One, what doest thou here? What hast thou to say against this man on trial? "Oh," says the angel, "I have been a messenger to him! I have guarded him. I have watched him. With this wing I have defended him, and oftentimes when he knew it not I led him into the green pastures and beside the still waters. I snatched from him the poisoned chalice. When bad spirits came upon him to destroy him I fought them back with infinite fierceness; and yet I have to testify to-day that he has rejected my mission. He has not done as he ought to have done. Though I came from the sky he drove me back. Though with this wing I defended him, and though with this voice I wooed him, I have to announce his multiplied imperfections. I dare not keep back the testimony, for then I should not dare to appear again among the sinners once before the great white throne."

There is only one more witness to be called on behalf of the prosecution, and that is the great, the holy, the august,

THE OMNIPOTENT SPIRIT of God. We bow down before Him, Holy Spirit, knowest Thou this man? "Oh, yes," says the Holy One, "I know him. I have striven with him ten thousand times, and though sometimes he did seem to repent, he fell back again as often from his first estate. Ten thousand times ten thousand he has grieved Me, although the Bible warned him, saying 'grieve not the Holy Ghost, whom ye have received, which is the earnest of your inheritance, the down-payment of the Spirit, which is held in trust for you, until the redemption be brought you, that ye may have no fault before Him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also save us from every unrighteousness which we have done.'"

Count all the drops of My tears. Count all the throes of My blood. By the humiliation of Bethlehem, by the sweat of Gethsemane, by the sufferings of the cross, I demand that he go free. On this man he hath leaned; on this heart he hath flown; in My tears he hath washed; on My righteousness he hath depended. Let him go free.

I AM THE MAN-SOUL. Let him escape the lash, I took the scourging. Let the cup pass from him, I drank it to the dregs. Put on him the crown of life; for I have worn the crown of thorns. Over against my cross of shame set his throne of triumph."

Well, the counsel on both sides have spoken, and there is only one more thing now remaining, and that is the awarding of the judgment. If you have ever been in a court-room you know the silence and the solemnity when the verdict is about to be rendered, or the judgment about to be given. About this soul on trial, shall it be saved or shall it be lost? Attention! above, around, beneath. All the universe cries: "Hear! Hear!"

THE JUDGE rises and gives His decision, never to be changed, never to be revoked. "There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for aid, I will not, I will not, desert its foe; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to slay, I'll never, never, never forsake!"

But my friends, there is coming a day of trial in which not only the saint, but the sinner must appear. That day of trial will come very suddenly. The farmer will be at the plough, the merchant will be in the counting-room, the woodman will be ringing his axe on the hickories, the weaver will have his foot on the treadle, the manufacturer will be walking amid the buzz of looms and the clank of flying machinery, the counsel will be standing at the bar pleading the law, the minister may be in the pulpit pleading the Gospel, and the drunkard may be reeling amid his cups, and the blasphemer with the oath caught between his teeth.

LO! THE SIX HIDES. Night comes down at mid-night. A wave of darkness rolls over the earth. The stars appear at noon-day. The earth shudders and throbs. There an earthquake opens and a city sinks as crocodile would crunch a child. Mountains roll in their sockets and send down their granite cliffs in an avalanche of rock. Rivers part in their chase for the sea, and ocean, uprearing, cries to flying Alps and Himalayas. Beasts bellow and moan, and snuff up the darkness. Great thunders beat and boom and burst. Stars shoot and fall. The Almighty, rising on His throne, declares that time shall be no longer, and the angels of Spirit is against you, and the Lord God Almighty is against you? Better this day secure an Advocate.

NEEDS OF THE HISSANE. The State Treasurer reports that there was paid in 1885 and 1886 for the support of the penitentiary, \$121,900; the institution for the deaf, dumb and the blind, \$36,000; the North Carolina insane asylum (at Raleigh), \$51,000; the Western North Carolina insane asylum, \$46,500; and the Eastern North Carolina insane asylum, \$25,000; total \$280,400. The asylum at Raleigh asks now for \$56,000; the western asylum for \$80,000; and the institution for the deaf, dumb and the blind for \$40,000. The treasurer's estimates are: for the North Carolina insane asylum, Raleigh, \$51,000; western insane asylum, \$80,000; eastern insane asylum, \$25,000; institution for the deaf, dumb and the blind, \$36,000; penitentiary, \$121,900; total, \$213,900. These estimates are based on previous appropriations, the increased appropriation recommended for the western asylum being on account of the doubled capacity in that case and the increased number of patients.

BUTLER AND THE PEOPLE. Ben Butler denounces civil service reform as antagonistic to the service of our people. Ben is suspected of being antagonistic to that same genius.

WASHINGTON WRIT.

Latest from the National Capital - Funeral of Senator Logan - Tariff Talk - The Surplus Will Produce - The Tobacco Tax Will Not Be Abolished - Representative Reid - The Plant's Position Endorsed.

(Special to THE PLANT.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—The funeral of the late Senator Logan, which occurred in the Senate chamber on last Friday, was a most impressive ceremony, and many of the leading men from all sections of the country were present to testify their respect for the deceased. The body was temporarily placed in a receiving vault at Rock Creek cemetery, near this city, where it will be removed to Illinois for permanent burial.

LORE FOR MRS. LOGAN. A subscription for the widow of General Logan was started last week, and contributions have since been pouring in from all over the country. Some fifteen or twenty gentlemen have subscribed \$1,000 each, and it is estimated that before the books are closed at least \$200,000 will be contributed. In addition to this, it is believed that Congress will vote her a handsome pension this week. General Logan died comparatively poor man, but his widow will soon be a wealthy woman. Mrs. Logan is one of the most brilliant and accomplished ladies in the country, and much of the assembly with which the public is striving its sympathy is so substantial a member is directly due to her own individual popularity.

REMOVAL OF THE TARIFF BILL. Congress resumes its session tomorrow (Tuesday), but both houses will probably adjourn out of respect to the memory of Senator Logan, without transacting any business of importance. A renewal of the tariff fight in the House will be precipitated in a few days, however, and the outlook is more encouraging than it has been for some legislation on the subject. It is felt that it will be a compromise measure, which will include a reduction of both customs duties and internal taxes. A Congressman, well qualified to speak on the subject, told THE PLANT representative to-day that there were two items which would undoubtedly be included in the bill: The internal revenue tax on home-killed fruit brands will be reduced to nominal sum, which will enable thousands of North Carolina farmers to utilize their "surplus" stock of orchard products. The tax will not be entirely removed because it is deemed advisable to continue governmental supervision of the distillation of fruit, but it will be reduced to the minimum amount—a mere trifle. The other "item" includes the counter grades of wool, such as is used in the manufacture of rough clothing, wooden hats and blankets. The "Oligo-protectionists" will agree to this with the understanding that the duty on the finer grades of wool shall be continued.

THE TOBACCO TAX. It is not likely to be either abolished or materially reduced. There appears to be no good reason why it should be done, while so many of the necessities of life are so heavily taxed. The tobacco manufacturers of North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky, in a joint effort, have secured one-half of the crop grown and manufactured into a state for consumption, do not ask it, and as the tobacco would not be affected a single centime either way, they do not care anything about it. The consumers, the chewing and smoking public, pay the tax, and they will probably continue to do so for many years to come. The Virginia and North Carolina Congressmen are committed to the repeal of the internal revenue, but the balance of the southern members, all the eastern and western tariff reformers, and not a few Republicans, will oppose the repeal or reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco, and any proposition looking to that end will be voted down by a majority of thirty or forty yeas to some. The Virginia and North Carolina Congressmen are committed to the repeal of the tax on fruit brands will be the only subject of internal taxes affected by legislation during the present session of Congress.

CHEAPER CLOTHING. The removal of the customs duties on wool is one of the principle things the tariff reformers have been striving for. They will not get all they want, but half a loaf is much better than no bread at all, and if the tax on low-grade wool is taken off, the clothing of workmen will be reduced more than thirty per cent, their hats will cost but little more than half what they now pay for them, and the blankets on their beds will be reduced about fifty per cent of their present cost. That is something.

REPRESENTATIVE REID. Hon. James W. Reid has not yet made his appearance in Washington and the other North Carolina Congressmen are not informed of his whereabouts. Indeed, no one here seems to know where he is. Mr. Turner Reid, his brother and private secretary, receives his mail, but he does not say when the Congressman is expected to resume his seat. The continued and unexplained absence of this gentleman is having a bad effect on his friends who have heretofore steadfastly refused to believe the stories set afloat about him, and unless he appears in his seat this week, they will not know what to think. Some of the North Carolina newspapers, I see, have "served notice on his family that unless he resumes his duties very soon some one else

will be elected in his place." Will, as the House of Representatives is the sole judge of its members, and as no other power, save his own resignation, can declare his seat vacant, it will be interesting to learn how these unscrupulous editors propose to elect the "new Congressman."

THE PLANT'S POSITION. "Lewexam," the Washington correspondent of the Norfolk Daily Virginian, having prosecuted enquiries into the subject, telegraphs that paper to the tobacco manufacturers and a large per centage of tobacco growers of Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky are opposed to the repeal of the internal tax on tobacco. Writing of Durham, "Lewexam" publishes the following in last Thursday's Virginia:

"The town of Durham, N. C., is emphatically a tobacco town. The manufacture of tobacco is its staple industry, and the Durham tobacco has a worldwide reputation. The Virginia correspondent has learned through interviews and correspondence that the Durham manufacturers are opposed to the repeal of the internal tax on tobacco, but it is a surprise to some of our readers, but if they will take the trouble to present their enquiries throughout the State to the Virginia farmers, they will find a similar state of opinion among not only the manufacturers, but with the growers as well. The Durham manufacturers say that the abolition of the tax would not affect them, because they do not pay the tax. It comes out of the pockets of the consumers, and the tax is not compulsory on the grower, but on the consumer, and until the customs duty is removed from the necessities of life they are opposed to the removal of the internal tax on anything necessary to the life of the community. This tax, all agree, should be abolished. The last issue of THE TOBACCO PLANT, the leading paper of Durham, comes out flat-footed in opposition to the repeal of any of the present internal taxes, except that on fruit brands. THE PLANT acknowledges that the Democratic party in North Carolina is opposed to the repeal of the internal revenue laws, but it doubts the wisdom of such a move, and says it is not alone in holding these views. It characterizes Mr. Reid as a man who is not to be trusted, and says that he is not to be trusted, and that he is not to be trusted, and that he is not to be trusted. This tax, all agree, should be abolished. The last issue of THE TOBACCO PLANT, the leading paper of Durham, comes out flat-footed in opposition to the repeal of any of the present internal taxes, except that on fruit brands. 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