

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS ON TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Under this head will be printed from time to time noteworthy utterances on themes of current interest. They will be taken from public addresses, books, magazines, newspapers, in fact wherever we may find them. Sometimes these selections will accord with our views and the views of our readers, sometimes the opposite will be true. But by reason of the subject matter, the style, the authorship, or the views expressed, each will have an element of timely interest to make it a conspicuous utterance.

The Debit and Credit Sides of Life's Ledger.

John Trotwood Moore, in A Summer Hymnal. I believe life is so adjusted and balanced that a man pays to the debit of every false deed or thought a credit coined from the sweat and anguish of his soul.

Good Advice to the Young Preacher.

Stateville Landmark's report of ordination Rev. Clyde K. Turner. Rev. J. B. Boone delivered the charge to the candidate. His talk was on plain, practical, common sense matters in regard to the conduct of a minister who would succeed and be useful—his personal habits, his manner of dress, care for his health, etc. The candidate was advised not to dress poorly, so as to excite pity, nor ostentatiously, so as to excite comment. He was urged to avoid "spotted vests and streaked breeches." The speaker knew of a candidate who had been rejected for a pastorate because his breeches were too short. The young man was also enjoined to be careful of his diet, to avoid indulgence in over-eating, thus preserving his health, so as to avoid making a drug store of himself; and he was also enjoined to be careful about the selection of a wife. The preacher's wife is a very important personage and a mistake here may impair or ruin his usefulness. Avoid going in debt and avoid questionable money making schemes.

No Howl Now.

Richmond News-Leader. During Mr. Cleveland's first administration the treasury was "embarrassed" with a surplus from revenues and increased the deposits in the banks to about \$70,000,000. Thereupon, it will be remembered, the Republicans raised a tremendous howl, and this "Democratic pet bank policy," as they termed it, was vigorously denounced in the Republican national convention of 1888. Indeed the Republicans made it an issue in the campaign in which they elected Harrison. Now the available cash balance of the treasury is \$231,744,333, exclusive of the gold reserve, and the various trust funds, and of the aforesaid available balance \$155,738,307 is in the national bank depositories. There is \$76,000,000 of "free cash" remaining in the treasury itself, and of this \$40,000,000 has been credited to receipts other than those from customs. That 40,000,000 the secretary proposes to turn over to the banks on deposit, thus making the amount held by the banks nearly \$200,000,000, and considerably more than double what the banks were favored with by Mr. Cleveland's administration. But no appreciable Republican protest reads the circumambient atmosphere. What was all wrong during a Democratic administration is all right during a Republican administration, especially since it plays into the hands of those who are trying to convince the country that there is no need of banking and currency reform, and relief can be had without it. Wonderful it is truly how a party's point of view changes touching a policy according to where responsibility lies and the ends likely to be contributed to. On general principles we would say that it is better to have the surplus scattered in the banks, where it can be made available for business purposes, than to have it locked up in the treasury vaults. But this is apart from our purpose in presenting the above facts. We simply desire to keep straight the Republican record for consistency—save the mark—and give our readers a chance to appreciate the inspiration to consistency in this case, which they cannot fail to do when they recall the fact of the fight in the Republican ranks against banking and currency reform, and Republican talk about there being plenty of money.

Wonders of Bird Migration.

Saturday Evening Post. It is now announced that the hooded crow, ordinarily a sluggish bird, hurls itself, by some unaccountable law, through space during its spring migration at the enormous rate of 408 miles an hour, while the Northern blue-throat, which normally is a hopping, rather than a flying, bird, resorting to wing flight only when beset, performs the amazing feat during migration of flying 180 miles to the hour. Ornithologists who have not shared in these observations are amazed at the revelations. Doctor Gatzke's prominence as a member of the Zoological Society of London, the British Ornithological Union, the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, the Ornithological Society of Vienna, the Hungarian Ornithological Union and of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee, is attracting to his conclusions the serious attention of scientists the world over. In regard to the Northern blue-throat, he says there is conclusive evidence to show that in one unbroken nocturnal flight it passes from Central Africa to the German Sea, a distance of 1,600 miles, making the journey in nine hours. From its winter home in Africa observations have determined that it starts after sunset, arriving at its far Northern summer haunts before dawn of the next morning. Yet more wonderful than this flight of the Northern blue-throat is the migratory achievement of the Virginia plover (Charadrius virginicus) which leaves its Northern haunts in North America, east, and taking a course down the Atlantic, usually from 400 to 500 miles east of the Bermudas, reaches the coast of Brazil in one unbroken flight of fifteen hours, covering a distance of 3,200 miles at the rate of four miles a minute.

This seems incredible, but Doctor Gatzke says that many species ordinarily regarded as sluggish of wing pass—even at a manifest slackening of speed—from his observatory on Heligoland across that island to the oyster beds, 22,000 feet distant, in one minute. When the migratory flight is at its greatest speed, 200 miles an hour he regards as nothing extraordinary. All species, so far as known, just before embarking on their perilous journeys subject themselves to a careful diet and start with their stomachs empty. This singular preparation applies exclusively to the migration undertaken at great altitudes. Examinations of numbers of stomachs of birds baffled by sudden storms in their attempts to set out on these journeys have recently established this unique fast of a pre-migratory abstinence. Though they had started from regions abounding in their favorite diet, the birds had permitted their last meal wholly to digest and had stoically refrained from further food before setting out on their hemispheric voyage.

THOMSON COMP'Y.

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THOMSON CO. The People's Store.

MAMMOTH IN GRAVE OF ICE.

Body of Prehistoric Monster Now Stands Complete in St. Petersburg Museum—Is Unique as a Specimen—Animal was Killed Thousands of Years ago—Nature Put him into Cold Storage.

Charleston Sunday News.

The huge body of the Siberian mammoth which was discovered in the summer of 1901 has now been erected in the museum of the Academy of Science at St. Petersburg. The unique interest of this discovery lies in the fact that, though many fossil remains of mammoths have been found and other preserved bodies of mammoths seen, no body so complete as this one has ever been brought home to civilization. The hide, hair, eyes, flesh and bones of the mammoth brought home by Dr. Otto Herz are all marvellously preserved by a set of circumstances similar to those which have given us the actual feathers of the extinct moa bird and the bony hide of the mylodon.

In this case, according to the London Sphere, which publishes the first accurate description and photographs of the mammoth, the perishable flesh has been preserved by means of almost perfect freezing and "cold storage" process. When first seen by the Cossack Jawiowsky the mammoth was nearly covered with ice and it was owing to a slight melting of the surface that a clear space enabled him to see the strange, hoary relic of a vanished age. The discovery was promptly announced to St. Petersburg by way of Yakutsk and Dr. Otto Herz, of the Imperial Museum, was immediately sent with a numerous party to procure, if possible, the body entire. To accomplish this he was given a company of Cossack troops commanded by a lieutenant and fifty horses for transport. A tremendous journey over trackless mountains and swamps was undertaken and the spot finally reached. To quote Dr. Herz's own words, he says: "We were at a loss to proceed further for the maps of the district are not detailed and we found ourselves in the midst of a vast number of exactly similar ice mounds. Finally, however,

my nostrils detected a strange odor and it occurred to me that it might be the flesh of the monster, which had become uncovered and was decomposing. By dint of walking in the direction whence the smell seemed to come, I finally located the grave. In my excitement I ran the last mile of the way, against the fast increasing stench. At the grave I found a faithful Cossack, who for fifty days had stood guard over the carcass at the command of his superior officer. He had covered it entirely over with a dry soil to a depth of three feet, but even through this protection the smell made its way."

Dr. Herz describes the long hair and thickness of the hide of the mammoth and how the stomach was found full of undigested food. The attitude in which he was found shows that he met his death by slipping on a slope, for his rear legs are bent up so that it would be impossible for him to raise himself. Dr. Herz writes:

"The impromptu grave into which the animal was plunged was made of sand and clay and his fall probably caused masses of neighboring soil to loosen and cover him completely. This happened in the late autumn or at the beginning of winter, to judge by the vegetable matter found in the stomach; at any rate, shortly afterward the grave became flooded, ice following. This completed the cold storage, still further augmented by vast accumulations of soil all round—a shell of ice hundreds of feet thick inclosed by yards upon yards of soil that remains frozen for the greater part of the year. Thus the enormous carcass was preserved for how long no one knows, through hundreds of centuries perhaps, until not so many years ago some movement of the earth spat forth the fossil mausoleum, leaving it exposed to sun and wind until gradually, very gradually, the ice crust wore off and revealed to the passing Cossack the long hidden treasure."

The mammoth, whose appearance in the flesh has been so wonderfully preserved appears to have died out completely before the advent of what are known as neolithic times. Thus his remains (teeth and bones) are found along with very old human remains of the early stone age,

and a life-like and unmistakable engraving of a mammoth has recently been discovered in the Grotto of Combarelles in France. How far early man assisted in the disappearance of the mammoths is just an easy matter accurately to determine. Baron Toll who has studied buried glaciers of the glacial period in Siberia, comes to the conclusion that the "mammoths and the other contemporary mammals lived on the spots where we find their relics. They died out, owing to a change in the physico-geographical conditions of the region. The bodies of these mammals which have not died in consequence of some sudden catastrophe were deposited in a cold region, partly on river terraces and partly on the shore of lakes and on the surface of glaciers, and there they were gradually buried in loam. They have been preserved in the same way as have been preserved the masses of ice underneath, owing to a permanent, perhaps increasing, cold."

A Great Truth.

Stateville Landmark.

In preaching an ordination sermon at the First Baptist church Sunday morning, Rev. Livingstone Johnson emphasized the importance of a preacher preaching the doctrines of the Bible—the great Scriptural truths which all Protestant churches recognize and believe; not the special doctrines of a denomination, which are right and proper on occasion, but the great doctrines of the Bible are the things the preacher should preach in season and out of season. Whenever, says Mr. Johnson, a preacher drops the Bible doctrines and goes to lecturing on politics, science, etc., right then the decadence of religion and the Church begins. This is a great truth and one that needs to be recognized. A case in point occurred in Raleigh last week, and is mentioned in the news columns of this paper. A preacher who had lived in Ohio, got the Northern idea in his mind and instead of preaching the Bible went to talking about the negro. As a consequence he has a hornet's nest about his ears. He will probably lose his pastorate; he has damaged the cause of religion and hopelessly impaired his influence.

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JAS. F. YEAGER.



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