

The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

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THE travelers' pocket fire escape is not, as popularly supposed, a testament.

OUR brick man-of-war at the World's Fair occupies a unique place among coast defenses.

RATS' heads are said to be the latest fashionable ornaments worn in London. This may justly rouse the ire of terriers.

THE Louisiana lottery cat, if killed in that state, promises to boil up in Arizona with the second or its nine lives.

MARY TWAIN and the Bey of Tunis were both ill at the same time with influenza. Time was when the humorist could not afford such swell associations.

REVOLUTIONIST GARZA is a very short man, which is the trouble with all revolutionists. They invariably need more money to carry on their revolution.

THERE seems to be a political banquet nearly nightly at this season. Banquets having crow for the piece de resistance will not begin until after November.

"SAM'L OF POSEN" CURTIS testified in his own behalf, that he had been acting twenty-five years and was never arrested before. Most marvelously!

IT is said, that Boston architects have been awarded the contract for designing the Public Library. The Athens of America appears to have a classic "scoop."

A MAN costumed as a steaming hot water bottle recently captured the grand prize for originality at a London masquerade. In all probability a woman suggested the idea.

A MAN in Massachusetts claims to have discovered a way of making artificial lightning. Presidential lightning that will always strike in the right place is more in demand.

MODESTY is a sweet and gentle virtue, yet in these days when you hear that a man hides his light under a bushel investigation generally shows that a thimble would have hid it just as well.

AN ACTOR named Beerbom is playing "Hamlet" in New York. Milwaukee does not naturally take to the Shakespearean drama, but he would draw big houses in that bear-booming city.

ONE-THIRD of the meat sold in Paris is the flesh of horses and mules. When the American hog gets fairly acquainted with the French capital he will reform present arrangements.

THE entire fire department of Rochester was called out to extinguish the aurora borealis. It may be seen from this how small the average New Yorker believes this world to be.

A YOUNG Canadian recently had enlargement of the brain, which caused imbecility. Dr. Hammond removed portions of the skull and the poor fellow is now recovering. We have heard of many causes for mental stupidity, but under growth of gray matter was not among them.

IF a stall-fed, haughty, self-satisfied donkey, accustomed to looking down on its fellow-donkeys, were suddenly gifted with the power of speech and no restraining influences were thrown around it, we imagine it would talk about as Ward McAllister talks.

WARD McALLISTER has cut down his estimate of New York's fashionable people from 400 to 150. Yet even this estimate is too liberal, and it is certain that only Mr. Allister's superabundant modesty prevents his uttering his inmost opinion that there is really only one person of the highest breeding in New York.

THE University of Wisconsin has a notable acquisition in Prof. Ely, who leaves the Johns Hopkins University for the Western college. Dr. Ely is a painstaking student of political science and an authority upon taxation and municipal government. The time seems to be at hand when the Eastern colleges will have the architecture and the Western colleges the men.

MANUFACTURERS of school furniture have organized a company with sufficient capital to control all the concerns engaged in business. These gentlemen protest that they have not formed a trust, but that they have come together for the purpose of reducing the cost of their goods and giving the people the benefit of their association. It is not a trust, but the capital of the company is \$2,000,000, and better profits are to be guaranteed to every stockholder.

A COLORED man—Granville Woods—has made a successful invention just now attracting large attention in the East. It is in the method of supplying electrical energy in moving cars and trains. The cars, by his new system, will be supplied with power through wire brushes which make connections with "heads" from underground conducting lines. There

will no exposed wires. A test made in New York was eminently successful. It is the first notable invention of a colored man in electrical engineering.

A HIGHLY valuable contribution to the literature of the labor question in Chicago is that of Inspector Schaack, who holds that most of the applicants for food and shelter at police stations are "professional tramps and bums." The evidence upon which he bases this opinion is that when he went into a room where eight of the homeless and hungry ones were congregated and told them that war had been declared against Chili and called for volunteers one man only responded. If the Inspector would discover how hasty he was drawing from this the generalization that his guests were tramps and "bums" he might submit the same proposition to eighty of his well-fed bluecoats and see how many volunteers would respond.

SERGEANT DUNN, who is in charge of the signal service station in New York, is authority for the statement that the climate of this country is gradually changing, the winters in the North becoming milder and those in the South colder. The mean temperature in New York has gradually become higher in the last few years, and this when the summers have been cooler than for many years. Sergeant Dunn's theory is that irrigation in the West has driven storms to the North, where they break across Canada and toward the St. Lawrence Gulf. This causes the air currents to come from the South to supply that displaced by the rush of the storm, and produces a milder climate in the Northern States. By the same reasoning he finds that these warm currents from the South leave a partial vacuum there which is supplied by the rush of cold air from the Northwest, carrying many storms into Kansas, Arkansas, and even Texas and the Southern States. However correct Mr. Dunn's theories may be, the facts are indisputable. There has been a gradual change in our climate.

THE growth of colleges in this country has been steady and so has been their patronage. In 1850 there were 8,837 students in the colleges of the country. In 1860 this number had been increased to 13,443; in 1870, to 16,339; in 1880, to 20,650, and in 1890 to 31,359. The number of college students per 100,000 population in 1890 was 115.7 in New England, 55.7 in the Middle States, 38 in the Southern States, 49.6 in the Central States, 31.4 in the Western States, and 44.2 in the Pacific States. These figures show that there is a higher average of college students in the Pacific States than in either the Southern or Western States, and that New England has an average almost double that of the Middle States, and three times that of the Western and Southern States. But New England has drawn heavily from all sections of the country because of the excellence of her educational institutions.

EZEKIEL in my text intimates that Christ is the cedar, and the people from all quarters are the birds that lodge among the branches. "It shall be a goodly cedar, and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing." As in Ezekiel's time so now—Christ is a goodly cedar, and to Him are flying all kinds of people, young and old, rich and poor, men high soaring as the eagle, those fierce as the raven, and those gentle as the dove. "All fowl of the air may come of the eight hundred and ninety-two years that have passed since Christ came, about sixteen hundred have been wasted by the god in misdirected efforts. Until Robert Balles came there was no organized effort for saving the young. We spend all our strength trying to bind old trees, when a little pressure would have been sufficient for the sapling. We let men go down to the very bottom of sin before we try to lift them up. It is a great deal easier to keep a man on the track than to get him on when it is off. The experienced reiner checks the fiery steed at the first jump, for when he gets in full swing, the swift hounds check fire from the pavement and bit between his teeth, his momentum is irresistible.

IT is said that the young must be allowed to sow their "wild oats." I have noticed that those who sow their wild oats seldom try to raise any other kind of crop. There are two opposite desires. If you are going to Heaven, you want to be better taken the straight road, and not try to go to Boston by the way of New Orleans. What is to be the history of this multitude of young people around me to day? I will take you by the hand and show you a glorious sunrise. I will not write about this thing, nor grieve about it, but come, young men and women, Jesus wants you. His hands is love, His voice is music. His smile is Heaven. Religion will put no handcuffs on your wrist, no hoppies on your feet, no chain on your forehead.

I went through the heaviest snow-storm I have ever known to see a dying girl. Her cheek on the pillow was white as the snow on the casement. Her large, round eye had not lost any of its luster. Loved ones stood all around the bed trying to hold her back. Her mother could not give her up, and one nearer to her than either father or mother was frantic with grief. I said, "Fairy, how do you feel?" "Oh!" she said, "happy, happy!" Mr. Talmage, tell all the young folks that religion will make them happy."

As I came out of the room, louder than all the sobs and wallings of grief, I heard the clear, sweet, glad voice of the dying girl. "Good-night; we shall meet again on the other side of the river." The next Sabbath we buried her. We brought white flowers and laid them on the coffin. There was in all that crowded church but one really happy and delighted face, and that was the face of Fanny. Oh, I wish that my Lord Jesus would go through this audience and take all these flowers of youth and garland them in his brow. The cedar is a fit refuge for birds, the brightest plumage and swiftest wing. See they fly? They fly! "All fowl of every wing."

Again, remark that the old may come.

Men with little money have good appetites as a rule. Rich men are apt to have stomachic complications that make life miserable. A wealthy man remarked recently: "When I was struggling for a footing on a very narrow and precarious salary, I could eat anything and eat it three or four times a day. Nothing was ever the matter with me. Now, when I have nothing to do, but indulge my tastes, I find I have no taste. I can't eat rich food—I dare not drink wine. I can't smoke. I live at the best hotels, but have to live more frugally than I did when I was a junior clerk, because I can't stand it. I follow the simplest kind of life. No, it isn't the want of physical exercise—I run around more now than I used to, and I'm not yet out of the prime of life. It is a curious thing that we are young, inexperienced, without sense and usually without money. When we are older, have made a fortune and a place, and have brains and knowledge we can't enjoy anything."

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DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

CHRISTIANITY OFFERS REFUGE TO ALL.

The Faith of Jesus is Likened to the Cedar of Lebanon, in the Shade of Whose Branches Fowl of Every Wing Shall Dwell.

The Tabernacle Pulpit.

Dr. Talmage's subject was the refuge offered by the Christian religion to people of all ages and every variety of character. His text was Ezekiel xvi, 23.

"A goodly cedar, and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing."

The cedar of Lebanon is a royal tree. It stands 6,000 feet above the level of the sea. A missionary counted the concentric circles and found one tree 3,500 years old—long rooted, broad branched all the year in luxuriant foliage. The same branches that bent in the hurricane can sweep over Lebanon rock to over the head of the American traveler. This monarch of the forest, with its leafy fingers, plucks the honors of a thousand years, and sprinkles them upon its own uplifted brow, as though some great herald of Heaven had been planted upon Lebanon and it were rising up with all its long armed strength to take hold of the hills whence it came.

Oh, what a fine place for birds to nest in! In hot days they come thither—the eagle, the dove, the swallow, the sparrow and the raven. There is to man a complete fascination in the structure and habits of birds. They seem not more of earth than Heaven—ever quivering between the two. No wonder that Audubon, with his gun, tramped through all the American forests in search of new specimens. Geologists have spent years in finding the track of a bird's claw in the new red sandstone. There enough of God's architecture in a snake's bill or a grouse's foot to cover all the universities. Musicians have, with clefs and bars, tried to catch the sound of the nightingale and robin. Among the first thing that a child notices is a swallow at the eaves, and grandfather goes out with a handful of crumbs to feed the snowbirds.

The Bible is full of ornithological allusions. The birds of the Bible are not dead and stupefied, like those of the sun, but living birds, with fluttering wings and plumage. "Behold the fowls of the air," says Christ. "Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, then will I bring thee down," exclaims Ovid.

"Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacock?" says Job. David describes his desolation by saying: "I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I wade and am a sparrow alone upon the house-top."

"Yea, the stock in Heaven knoweth thy appointed time; and the tare, and the crane, and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord!"—so says Jeremiah.

Ezekiel in my text intimates that Christ is the cedar, and the people from all quarters are the birds that lodge among the branches. "It shall be a goodly cedar, and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing." As in Ezekiel's time so now—Christ is a goodly cedar, and to Him are flying all kinds of people, young and old, rich and poor, men high soaring as the eagle, those fierce as the raven, and those gentle as the dove. "All fowl of every wing,"

Again, the very bad, the outrageously sinful, may come. Men talk of the grace of God as though it were so many yards long and so many yards deep. People point to the dying thief as an encouragement to the sinner. How much better it would be to point to our own case and say, "If God saved us He can save anybody." There may be some here who never had one earnest word said to them about their souls. Consider me as putting my hand on your shoulder and looking in your eye. God has been good to you. You ask, "How do you know that? He has been very hard on me." "Where did you come from?" "Home." "Then you have a home. Have you ever thanked God for your home? Have you children?" "Yes." "Have you ever thanked God for your children? Who keeps them safe? Were you ever sick?" "Yes." "Who made you well? Have you been fed every day? Who feed you? Put your hand on your pulse. Who makes it throb? Listen to the respiration of your lungs. Who helps you breathe? Have you a Bible in the house, spreading before you the future life? Who gave you that Bible?"

Oh, it has been a story of goodness, and mercy all the way through. And he has been one of God's pet children. Who fondled you and caressed you and loved you? And when you went astray and wanted to come back, did he ever refuse? I know of a father who, after his son came back the fourth time, said, "No! I forgive you three times, but I will never forgive you again." And the son went off and died. But God takes back His children, the thousandth time as cheerfully as the first. As easily as with my handkerchief I strike the dust off a book, God will wipe out all your sins.

There are hospitals for "incurables." When men are hopelessly sick, they are sent there. Thank God! there is no hospital for spiritual incurables. Though you had the worst leprosy that ever struck a soul, your flesh shall come again like the flesh of a little child. Oh, this news of God! I am told it is an ocean. Then I place on it four swallows, craft, with compass and charts and maps, ring and skillful navigators, and I tell them to launch away and discover for me the extent of this ocean.

First, the young may come of the eight hundred and ninety-two years that have passed since Christ came, about sixteen hundred have been wasted by the god in misdirected efforts. Until Robert Balles came there was no organized effort for saving the young. We spend all our strength trying to bind old trees, when a little pressure would have been sufficient for the sapling. We let men go down to the very bottom of sin before we try to lift them up. It is a great deal easier to keep a man on the track than to get him on when it is off. The experienced reiner checks the fiery steed at the first jump, for when he gets in full swing, the swift hounds check fire from the pavement and bit between his teeth, his momentum is irresistible.

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