

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

DEWEY THE SUBJECT FOR LAST SUNDAY.

From Text, James, Chapter 3, Verse 4, as follows: "Behold also the ships"—A Review of Our Naval Heroes and Those of Other Nations.

If this exclamation was appropriate about eighteen hundred and seventy-two years ago, when it was written concerning the crude fishing smacks that sailed Lake Galilee, how much more appropriate in an age which has launched from the dry docks for purposes of peace the Oceanic of the White Star line, the Luceania of the Cunard line, the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse of the North German Lloyd line, the Augusta Victoria of the Hamburg-American line; and in an age which for purposes of war has launched the screw-sloops like the Idaho, the Shenandoah, the Caspian, and our ironclads like the Kalamazoo, the Ronoke and the Dunderberg, and those which have already been buried in the deep, like the Monitor, the Housatonic and the Weehawken, the tempests ever since sounding a volley over their watery sepulchres; and the Oregon, and the Brooklyn, and the Texas, and the Olympia, the Iowa, the Massachusetts, the Indiana, the New York, the Marietta of the last war, and the scarred veterans of war shipping, like the Constitution, or the Alliance, or the Constellation that have swung into the naval yards to spend their last days, their decks now all silent of the feet that trod them, their rigging all silent of the hands that clung to them, their portholes silent of the brazen throats that once thundered out of them. If in the first century, when war vessels were dependent on the oars that paddled at the side of them for propulsion, my text was suggestive, with how much more emphasis and meaning and overwhelming reminiscence we can cry out, as we see the Kearsarge lay across the bows of the Alabama and sink it, teaching foreign nations they had better keep their hands off our American flag, or as we see the ram Albatross of the Confederates running out and in the Roanoke, and up and down the coast, throwing everything into confusion as no other craft ever did, pursued by the Miami, the Ceres, the Southfield, the Sassauss, the Mattabesett, the Whitehead, the Commodore Hull, the Louisiana, the Minnesota and other armed vessels, all trying in vain to catch her, until Capt. Cushing, 21 years of age, and his men blew her up, himself and only one other escaping; and as I see the flagship Hartford, and the Richmond, and the Monongahela, with other gunboats, sweep past the batteries of Fort Hudson, and the Mississippi flows forever free to all northern and southern craft, and under the fire of Dewey and his men the Spanish ships at Manila burn or sink, and the fleet rushing out of Santiago harbor are demolished by our guns, and the brave Cervera surrenders, I cry out with a patriotic emotion that I cannot suppress if I would, and would not if I could, "Behold also the ships."

hold also the ships." As we will never know what our national prosperity is worth until we realize what it cost, I recall the uncorrected fact that the men of the navy in all our wars ran especial risks. They had not only the human weaponry to contend with, but the tides, the fog, the storm. Not like other ships could they run into harbor at the approach of an equinox, or a cyclone or a hurricane, because the harbors were hostile. A miscalculation of a tide might leave them on a bar, and a fog might overthrow all the plans of the wisest commodore and admiral, and accident might leave them not on the land ready for an ambulance, but at the bottom of the sea, as when in our civil war the torpedo blew up the Tecumseh in Mobile bay, and nearly all on board perished. They were at the mercy of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which have no mercy. Such tempests as wrecked the Spanish Armada might any day swoop upon the squadron. No hiding behind the earthworks. No digging in of cavalry spurs at the sound of retreat. Mightier than all the fortresses on all the coasts is the ocean when it bombards a flotilla.

fine. The sea was not rough. But Admiral Dahlgren, from the deck of the flag steamer Philadelphia, saw her gradually sinking, and finally she struck the ground, but the flag still floated above the wave in sight of the shipping. It was afterward found that she sank from weakness through injuries in previous service. Her plates had been knocked loose in previous times. So you have in nerve, and muscle, and bone, and dimmed eyesight, and difficult hearing, and shortness of breath, many intimations that you are gradually going down. It is the service of many years ago that is telling on you. Be of good cheer. We owe you just as much as though your life blood had gurgled through the scuppers of the ship in the Red river expedition, or as though you had gone down with the Melville off Hatteras. Only keep your flag flying, as did the illustrious Weehawken. Good cheer, my boys! The memory of man is poor, and all that talk about the country never forgetting those who fought for it is an untruth. It does forget. Witness how the veterans sometimes had to turn the hand organs on the street to get their families a living. Witness how ruthlessly some of them were turned out of office that some bloot of a politician might take their place. Witness the fact that there is not a man or woman now under forty-five years of age who has any full appreciation of the four years' martyrdom of 1861 to 1865, inclusive. But white men may forget, God never forgets. He remembers the swinging hammock. He remembers the forecabin. He remembers the frozen ropes of that January tempest. He remembers the amputation without sufficient ether. He remembers the horrors of that defenestration when forts from both sides belched on you their fury, and the heavens glowed with ascending and descending missiles of death, and your ship quaked under the recoil of the one hundred pounder, while all the gunners, according to command, stood on tiptoe, with mouth wide open, lest the concussion shatter hearing or brain. He remembers it all better than you remember it, and in some shape reward will be given. God is the best of all paymasters, and for those who do their whole duty to him and the world, the pension awarded is an everlasting heaven.

HOLCOMB'S PART IN IT

Some Leaves From the Record of Testimony in the Bartley Case.

IT IS THAT OF THE EX-GOVERNOR

A Great Loss to the State That Might Have Been Avoided—Filing of Appeal in the Case of the State Against the Bartley Bondsman Recalls Some Interesting Facts.

The filing of the appeal in the supreme court a few days ago, says a Lincoln correspondent, of the case of the state of Nebraska against the bondsmen of ex-State Treasurer Joseph Bartley has revived public interest in the transactions in the defaulting state treasurer and has caused many people to inquire into the early history of the case. Some rather important and peculiar testimony was given by Governor Holcomb in the first trial of the case in Douglas county which, for some reason, was not repeated at the subsequent trial of the case, notwithstanding the governor testified at each. The failure of Governor Holcomb to make a proper settlement with Bartley and his acceptance of a worthless bond, whereby the state lost half a million dollars, is a matter of record. Holcomb was elected governor in the fall of 1894. Joseph Bartley had then served two years as treasurer and there was a suspicion in the minds of some that his accounts were in bad shape. The governor-elect was warned that the treasurer was a defaulter and that very careful accounting should be made to protect the state from possible loss through a careless settlement. In spite of this warning and in spite of the law, the new governor, apparently by his own carelessness, allowed Bartley to defraud the state. After a long and private consultation with the state treasurer, he accepted a new bond upon which most of the old and already accountable bondsmen qualified for fabulous sums. According to Holcomb's sworn testimony no attempt was made to examine into the real worth of the bond. On the witness stand Holcomb admitted that he knew very little of the transaction and could not even tell the date of the acceptance of the bond. One of the bondsmen was the president of a bank which held over \$200,000 of the state money. The bank was not a depository and therefore the deposit was unauthorized and illegal. Governor Holcomb accepted this bank president as bondsman, who qualified in the sum of \$200,000 over and above all debts and liabilities. The worst part of the deal was the pretended settlement with the treasurer. The transcript of Holcomb's evidence in the Omaha trial is the best proof and it is accessible to the public. According to this testimony Holcomb first held a private consultation with Bartley and then they both entered the treasurer's office, where they remained about two hours. The governor testified that he looked over a ledger, or some such book, in which there were some accounts. Then Bartley produced a cigar box containing some slips of paper, representing what should have been about \$460,000 in cash. He also produced \$50,000 in cash. The law required it to be all cash, but according to Holcomb's testimony the law was a farce and a sham. This testimony is a matter of record. The governor did not examine the slips of paper closely. He admitted on the witness stand that he did not know positively whether they were genuine or not. He knew that the bank which was not a legal depository was represented in the cigar box by a slip calling for over \$200,000. The story of the settlement is best told in the exact words of the record. The case was tried before Judge Clinton N. Powell and a jury in Omaha during the month of February, 1898. The following extract from Governor Holcomb's sworn testimony is from pages 617 to 623 of the certified record, bill of exceptions, filed with the appeal of the case in the supreme court last year, testimony being given on cross-examination by J. C. Cowlin: Q.—I ask what he was chargeable with? A.—\$956,000 or \$958,000, if I remember rightly; that included the money in suspended banks. Q.—I understand. There was about \$47,000 only in cash? A.—In the treasury vaults; either that or \$57,000. Q.—There was about \$241,000 that was tied up in suspended banks, was there not? A.—Yes, sir; I think so. Q.—That would leave about \$713,000 loose money? A.—In that neighborhood; I was thinking it was about \$15,000; I may not have the exact figures. Q.—I will ask you again, what it was so brought these paper that you call certificates of deposit on in? A.—Well, as I remember it was a little box. Q.—Cigar box? A.—Something of that shape. I could not say it was a cigar box, but something—it was similar in size, the general shape. Q.—Of the balance of this, outside of the \$47,000 he produced, none of it in cash, or if it was \$57,000 you may say it may be? A.—No, sir; no different from what I said. Holcomb had testified to on a former occasion and the examination continued. Q.—He opened this box that was like a cigar box, did he show you these papers he had? A.—I do not remember that it had any cover. Q.—And then took out papers that he called checks and certificates of deposit did he? A.—He took out mostly certificates of deposit. There may have been a few checks. Q.—Have you a list of these? A.—No, sir. Q.—You kept an memorandum of them, did you? A.—No, sir; I did not. Q.—Now—was it the only time you ever saw these, was it not? You never saw them afterwards? A.—Well, as to my knowledge.

Here followed some questions covering the same ground, and the examination continued as follows: Q.—And then he brought out a box that looked like a cigar box, from which he took a lot of papers that he called certificates of deposit, amounting from \$440,000 to \$449,000? A.—I do not know whether he called them certificates of deposit or not; they were certificates of deposit mostly. There may have been some bank checks. Q.—He showed you the papers? A.—He showed me the certificates of deposit. Q.—You looked them over and took no list of them? A.—No, sir; I took no list of them. A.—He had a list of them. Q.—You took no memorandum of them? A.—No, I took no memorandum of them. Q.—And you turned them back to him and he put them back in the cigar box and went off with them—is that right? A.—He put them in the vault. Q.—Did you see him put them in the vault? A.—I will not say positively that I did. Q.—And that was the end of the examination? A.—Yes, that was the end of it. Can He Delude the People. Omaha Bee: One of the claims put forward in behalf of Silas A. Holcomb's candidacy for supreme judge in the recent address of the populist state committee rests upon his "conservatism and eminent fairness in his every act, both public and private." As a matter of fact no person occupying the executive office of Nebraska ever displayed such rank partisanship and manifest unfairness as did Governor Holcomb, especially from the time he secured the support of an administration of his own political faith. In no case could he see further the lines of his own party or recognize such a thing as fairness to political opponents. The most glaring examples of his sordid subterfuge to the unscrupulous political machine in control of his party organization is to be found in his cowardly inaction when the pictorial ballot bill was presented to him or his approval and he allowed it to become a law by lapse of time without his signature. After having denounced the pictorial ballot in vigorous language in his message to the legislature, and having advocated the retention of the law as it then existed with a few modifications, Governor Holcomb silenced his own convictions at the behest of the state house gang and helped put on the statute book a law designed as a fraud upon the people in the interest of the tripartite political alliance. So partial and so partisan was this law that legislature Governor Holcomb's populist successor saw no other course than to join the republicans in wiping it out of existence and substituting for it a measure fair to all. The same blind partisanship was clearly demonstrated in almost all of Governor Holcomb's official acts. In his appointment to office where the law required the recognition of different political parties he persisted in selecting men who voted the same ticket under the flimsy pretext that they satisfied the conditions of the law by masquerading under different party labels. Not once, but repeatedly, was the law thus evaded upon such technicalities with the palpable purpose of promoting partisan ends and manufacturing party capital. Can a man who as governor has shown himself so partisan and unfair be expected on the bench to be non-partisan and impartial? Can a man who in the executive chair has played the willing tool of the state house sham reformers be expected as supreme judge to be independent of the machine's pressure? How then can he hope to delude Nebraska voters with promises of doing better if they will only give him a vindication by electing him again to another office? Omnious Popocratic Words. Lincoln Journal: "Very long will be the way, very hard the hills to climb with Slippery St. Holcomb weighing down the popocratic band wagon in Nebraska." These prophetic words from a part of an editorial that appeared in the Papillion Times shortly before the late convention of the allied forces of reform. They were the spontaneous utterances of a man who has long been recognized as one of the foremost fighters in the serried ranks of popocracy. They were spoken before the party lash had been swung by the bosses over the heads of those who would dissent from ring rule. Howard is silent now, because Bryan demands it. But, is Silas Holcomb any less slippery than when those lines were written? If he was dishonest then, is it likely that he is honest now, or will he be by act by?

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON IV, OCTOBER 22—EZRA 8: 21-32.

Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem—"The Hand of God is on All of Them for Good That Seek Him"—Ezra VIII: 22.—The Work of Ezra. 21. "At the river Ahava." The place is unknown, but it was probably one of the canals near Babylon, flowing into the Euphrates. "Then I proclaimed a fast." Fasting, as a religious expression, is so deep and intense that all desire for food is taken away. (2) In the aid to devotion furnished by a body unburdened with food, so as to leave the mind and heart in their most active and free condition. (3) It is the natural expression of deep sorrow for sin. It is not enough for the heart to feel deeply; it needs to express its feelings, though the proof that the fasting is sincere lies in forsaking the sin repented of and doing deeds of righteousness. The object was (1) that we might afflict ourselves before our God. It was an expression of repentance for sin, of casting out all obstacles from wrong motives or disobedient hearts which would render it impossible for God to give them success in their journey. It meant submission, consecration and repentance. (2) "To seek of him a right way." The fasting was accompanied by prayer (v. 23) and was used "as the means of intensifying religious fervor in prayer through the restraint laid upon physical necessities."—Professor Davidson. It was also the natural means of clarifying their own minds so that they could receive and recognize the wisdom God would bestow upon them. 22. "For I was ashamed to require of the king." etc. There were many dangers on that four months' journey, particularly from "the robbers and belougers of the desert, who might easily inflict damage upon a large caravan by robbing stragglers and harassing the line of march."—Davidson. For they had a large amount of treasure with them, and told the king that God was with his people, and against their enemies; and, therefore, to ask a guard of soldiers might seem to the king to contradict his assertions, and bring disgrace on God's cause. 23. "And he was entreated of us." Ezra had the assurance that his prayer had been heard. The Treasure. 24. "I separated twelve," etc. He committed the treasure into the hands of twenty-two persons, twelve chief priests and ten Levites, of whom the first two are named. These men would take special charge and be responsible for the safe keeping of the treasure. Besides, it would relieve Ezra of all possible scandal in regard to it. 25. "And I weighed unto them the silver," etc. We may gather from this that the silver and gold were in bars or ingots, and not in coined money. The Persians had coined money at this time, but the treasury kept the bulk of its stores in bars (Hierod., III, 56).—Pulpit Com. The weighing implied accurate accounting, such as should always be secured for public money. 26. "Six hundred and fifty talents of silver." A talent of silver was about 75-80 lbs. of gold a hundred talents. Gold is usually worth about sixteen times as much as silver. The whole treasure was worth \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. 27. "Drams." Draries, worth about an English sovereign, or \$5.00. 28. "A freewill offering unto the Lord God." The money was for religious purposes, and would be a great help to the people at Jerusalem as well as smooth the way of Ezra to the needed reforms. 29. "The chambers of the house of the Lord" are the rooms placed on either side of the main building (see I Kings 6), partly as chambers for the priests, partly as store rooms (see Neh. 13: 5). The Journey. 31. "Departed . . . on the twelfth day of the first month." Nissan, about the time of the Passover, on our Easter, in March or April. "The hand of our God." His power; his care. 32. "And we came to Jerusalem." On the first day of the fifth month (7: 9) in July. The Work of Ezra.—(1) He brought the Book of the Law into prominence. He reinforced the ritual of the temple and the order of the priests. (2) The chief reform of Ezra was the abolishment of mixed marriages with the surrounding heathen. After fasting and prayer, at a public solemn meeting, the nobles, the priests, and the people put away their heathen wives. It was a very solemn and a very sad occasion. For this Ezra has been called a stern, narrow Puritan, "bitterly intolerant," marked with a spirit of exclusive patriotism, "a total absence of human tenderness," a "pitiless legalism."

A Lesson in Perseverance. From the Lincoln (Neb.) News: It seems like an extravagant tale to tell, but it is a fact that can be proved. A flock of English sparrows actually worked at the large stone chimney on the north side of C. M. Wyong's residence until they picked it to pieces. A portion of it had to be torn down and rebuilt. The chimney was made of a soft sandstone, and the birds used the pickings for digestive purposes, and little by little picked the large pieces of stonework literally to pieces, destroying the chimney for the purposes for which it was built. At times the entire flock of birds would be at work on the chimney.

Retort from the Witness Stand. A certain doctor had occasion, when only a beginner in the medical profession, to attend a trial as a witness. The opposing counsel, in cross-examining the young physician, made several sarcastic remarks, doubting the ability of so young a man to understand his business. Finally he asked: "Do you know the symptoms of concussion of the brain?" "I do," replied the doctor. "Well," continued the attorney, "suppose my learned friend, Mr. Bagin, and myself were to bang our heads together, should we get concussion of the brain?" "Your learned friend, Mr. Bagin, might," said the doctor.

Not Unreasonable. Teacher—What makes you think women will hereafter fight for the flag with greater devotion than men? Young Woman Suffragist—The fact that jewelers are now making it of sapphires, rubies and diamonds.

The Special Rate. Hotelkeeper—My rates for rooms are \$2 up. Actor—But how much for the "profess"? I am Hamfatter Hamlet, the tragedian. Hotelkeeper—Oh, in your case it will have to be \$1 down.—Judge.