TALMAGE'S SERMON.

FAULT FINDERS WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

The Alleged Uncleanness of the Bible Only the Uncleanness of the Hearts and Mind of the Would-Be Expurgators.

"Let God be true, but every man a liar." Romans 3: 4.

The Bible needs reconstruction according to some inside and outside the pulpit. It is no surprise that the world bombards the scriptures, but it is amazing to find Christian ministers picking at this in the Bible and denying that until many good people are left in the fog about what parts of the Bible they ought to believe, and what parts reject. The heinousness of finding fault with the Bible at this time is most evident. In our day the Bible is assailed by scurrility, by misrepresentation, by infidel scientists, by all the vice of earth and all the venom of perdition, and at this particular time even preachers of the gospel fall into line of criticism of the word of God. Why, it makes me think of a ship in a September equinox, the waves dashing to the top of the smokestack, and the hatches fastened down, and many phophesying the foundering of the steamer, and at that time some of the crew with axes and saws go down into the hold of the ship, and they try to saw off some of the planks and pry out some of the timbers because the timber did not come from the right forest! It does not seem to me a commendable business for the crew to be helping the winds and storms outside with their axes and saws inside. Now, this old gospel ship, what with the roaring of earth and hell around the stem and stern, and mutiny on deck, is having a very rough voyage, but I have noticed that not one of the timbers has started, and the captain says he will see it through. And I have noticed that keelson and counter-timber-knee are built of Lebanon cedar, and she is going to weather the gale, but no credit to those who make mutiny on deck.

When I see professed Christians in this particular day finding fault with the scriptures it makes me think of a fortress terrifically bombarded, and the men on the ramparts, instead of swabbing out and loading the guns, and helping fetch up the ammunition from the magazine, are trying with crowbars to pry out from the wall certain blocks of stone, because they did not come from the right quarry. Oh, men on the ramparts, better fight back, and fight down the common enemy, instead of trying to make breaches in the wall.

While I oppose this expurgation of the scriptures, I shall give you my reasons for such opposition. "What!" say some of the theological evolutionists, whose brains have been addled by too long brooding over them by Darwin and Spencer, "you don't now really believe all the story of the Garden of Eden, do you?" Yes, as much as I believe there were roses in my garden last summer. "But," say they, "you don't really believe that the sun and moon stood still?" Yes, and if I had strength enough to create a sun and moon I could make them stand still, or cause the refraction of the sun's rays so it would appear to stand still. "But," they say, "you don't believe that the whale swallowed Jonah?" Yes, and if I were strong enough to make a whale I could have made very easy ingress for the refractory prophet, leaving to evolution to eject him, if he were an unworthy tenant! "But," say they, "you don't really believe that the water was turned into wine?" Yes, just as easily as water now is often turned into wine with an admixture of strychnine and logwood! "But," they say, "you don't really believe that Samson slew a thousand with the jaw-bone of an ass?" Yes, and I think that the man who in this day assaults the Bible is wielding the same weapon!

I am opposed to the expurgation of the scriptures in the first place, because the Bible in its present shape has been so miraculously preserved. Fifteen hundred years after Herodotus wrote his history, there was only one manuscript copy of it. Twelve hundred years after Plato wrote his book, there was only one manuscript copy of it. God was so careful to have us have the Bible in just the right shape that we have fifty manuscript copies of the New Testament a thousand years old, and some of them fifteen hundred years old. This book handed down from the time of Christ, or just after the time of Christ, by the hand of such men as Origen in the second century, and Tertullian in the third century, and by men of different ages who died for their principles. The three best copies of the New Testament in manuscript in the possession of the three great churches—the Protestant church of England, the Greek church of St. Petersburg, and the Romish church of Italy.

It is a plain matter of history that Tischendorf went to a convent in the peninsula of Sinai and was by ropes lifted over the wall into the convent, that being the only mode of admission, and that he saw there in the waste basket for kindling the fires, a manuscript of the Holy Scriptures. That night he copied many of the passages of that Bible, but it was not until fifteen years had passed of earnest entreaty and prayer and coaxing and purchase on his part that that copy of the Holy Scriptures was put in the hand of the emperor of Russia—that one copy so marvelously protected.

Do you not know that the catalogue of the books of the Old and New Testaments as we have it, is the same catalogue that has been coming on down through the ages? Thirty-nine books of the Old Testament thousands of years ago. Thirty-nine now. Twenty-seven books of the New Testament 1,600 years ago. Twenty-seven books of the New Testament now. Marcion, for wickedness, was turned out of the church in the second century, and in his assault on the Bible and Christianity, he incidentally gives a catalogue of the books of the Bible—that catalogue corresponding exactly with ours—testimony given by the enemy of the Bible and the enemy of Christianity. The catalogue now just like the catalogue then. Assaulted and spit on and torn to pieces and burned, yet adhering. The book today, in 300 languages, confronting four-fifths of the human race in their own tongue. Four hundred million copies of it in existence. Does not that look as if this book had been divinely protected, as God had guarded it all through the centuries?

Nearly all the other old books are mumified and are lying in the tombs of old libraries, and perhaps once in twenty years some man comes along and picks up one of them and blows the dust off, and opens it and finds it the book he does not want. But this old book, much of it forty centuries old, stands today more discussed than any other book, and it challenges the admiration of all the good and the spite and venom and the animosity and the hyper-criticism of earth and hell. I appeal to your common sense, if a book so divinely guarded and protected in its present shape, must not be in just the way that God wants it to come to us, and if it pleases God, ought it not to please us?

Not only have all the attempts to detract from the book failed, but all the attempts to add to it. Many attempts were made to add the apochryphal books to the Old Testament. The council of Trent, the synod of Jerusalem, the bishops of Hippo, all decided that the apochryphal books must be added to the Old Testament. "They must stay in," said those learned men; but they stayed out. There is not an intelligent Christian man today that will put the Book of Maccabees or the Book of Judith beside the Book of Isaiah or Romans. Then a great many said: "We must have books added to the New Testament," and there were epistles and gospels and apocalypses written and added to the New Testament, but they have all fallen out. You cannot add anything. You cannot subtract anything to the divinely protected book in the present shape. Let no man dare to lay his hands on it with the intention of detracting from the book or casting out any of these holy pages.

I am also opposed to this proposed expurgation of the scriptures for the fact that in proportion as people become self-sacrificing and good and holy and consecrated, they like the book as it is. I have yet to find a man or woman distinguished for self-sacrifice, for consecration to God, for holiness of life, who wants the Bible changed. Many of us have inherited family Bibles. Those Bibles were in use twenty, forty, fifty, perhaps a hundred years in the generations. Today take down these family Bibles, and find out if there are any chapters which have been erased by lead pencil or pen, and if in any margins you can find the words: "This chapter is not fit to read." There has been plenty of opportunity during the last half century privately to expurgate the Bible. Do you know any case of such expurgation? Did not your grandfather give it to your father, and did not your father give it to you?

Beside that, I am opposed to the expurgation of the scriptures because the so-called indelicacies and cruelties of the Bible have demonstrated no evil result. A cruel book will always produce cruelty—an unclean book will produce uncleanness. Fetch me a victim. Out of all Christendom and out of all the ages, fetch me a victim whose heart has been hardened to cruelty, or whose life has been made impure by this book. Show me one. One of the best families I ever knew, for thirty or forty years, morning and evening, had all the members gathered together, and the servants of the household, and the strangers that happened to be within the gates—twice a day, without leaving out a chapter or a verse, they read this holy book, morning by morning, night by night. Not only the elder children, but the little child who could just spell her way through the verse while her mother helped her. The father beginning and reading one verse, then all the members of the family in turn reading a verse. The father maintained his integrity, the mother maintained her integrity, the sons grew up and entered professions and commercial life, adorning every sphere in the life in which they lived, and the daughters went into families where Christ was honored, and all that was good and pure and righteous reigned perpetually. For thirty years that family enduring the Scriptures. Not one of them ruined by them.

Now, if you will tell me of a family where the Bible has been read twice a day for thirty years, and the children have been brought up in that habit, and the father went to ruin, and the mother went to ruin, and the sons and daughters were destroyed by it—if you will tell me of one such incident, I will throw away my Bible, or I will doubt your veracity. I tell you, if a man is shocked with what he calls the indelicacies of the Word of God, he is prurient in his taste and imagination. If a man cannot read Solomon's Song without impure suggestion, he is either in his heart or in his life, a libertine.

The Old Testament description of wickedness, uncleanliness of all sorts, is purposely and righteously a disgusting account, instead of the Byronic and the Parisian vernacular which makes sin attractive instead of appalling. When those old prophets point you to a lazaretto, you understand it is a lazaretto. When a man having begun to do right falls back into wickedness and gives up his integrity, the Bible does not say he was overcome by the fascinations of the festive board, or that he surrendered to convivialities, or that he became a little fast in his habits. I will tell you what the Bible says: "The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." No gilding of iniquity. No garlands on a death's-head. No pounding away with a silver mallet at iniquity when it needs an iron sledge hammer.

I can easily understand how people, brooding over the description of uncleanness in the Bible, may get morbid in mind until they are as full of it as the wings and beak and the nostril and the claw of a buzzard is full of the odors of a carcass; but what is wanted is not that the Bible be disinfected, but that you, the critic, have your mind and heart washed with carbolic acid!

I tell you at this point in my discourse that a man who does not like this book, and who is critical as to its contents, and who is shocked and outraged with its descriptions, has never been soundly converted. The laying on of the hands of Presbytery or Episcopacy does not always change a man's heart, and men sometimes get into the pulpit as well as into the pew, never having been changed radically by the sovereign grace of God. Get your heart right and the Bible will be right. The trouble is men's natures are not brought into harmony with the Word of God. Ah! my friends, expurgation of the heart is what is wanted.

You cannot make me believe that the Scriptures, which this moment lie on the table of the purest and best men and women of the age, and which were the dying solace of your kindred passed into the skies, have in them a taint which the strongest microscope of honest criticism could make visible. If men are uncontrollable in their indignation when the integrity of wife or child is assailed, and judges and jurors as far as possible excuse violence under such provocation, what ought to be the overwhelming and long resounding thunders of condemnation for any man who will stand in a Christian pulpit and assail the more than virgin purity of inspiration, the well beloved daughter of God?

Expurgate the Bible! You might as well go to the old picture galleries in Dresden and in Venice and in Rome and expurgate the old paintings. Perhaps you could find a foot of Michael Angelo's "Last Judgment" that might be improved. Perhaps you could throw more expression into Raphael's "Madonna." Perhaps you could put more pathos into Reubens' "Descent from the Cross." Perhaps you could change the crests of the waves in Turner's "Slave Ship." Perhaps you might go into the old galleries of sculpture and change the forms and the posture of the statues of Phidias and Praxiteles. Such an iconoclast would very soon find himself in the penitentiary. But it is worse vandalism when a man proposes to refashion these masterpieces of inspiration and to remodel the moral giants of this gallery of God.

A MENACING ASSURANCE.

But It Was Not Meant in the Way the Professor Understood It.

"I had a peculiar case in court the other day," said a lawyer. "An old Irishman named Callahan had got into a row with his landlord about some repairs and refused to pay his rent. The landlord was a fussy little ex-college professor, totally unversed in the ways of the world, and he was imprudent enough to send word that he would have the family evicted, and then called to discuss it personally. He emerged yelling 'Murder!' and said that he had first met Mrs. Callahan, who told him her husband would do him no harm, upon the strength of which he had waited for his return. When Callahan came in he promptly gave the visitor a beating. The old Irishman and his wife were both arrested, and I appeared for the defense. The ugly feature of the case was the alleged effort of the woman to lure her caller into a trap, but when put on the stand she denied the landlord's story in toto and swore point blank she had warned him that her husband proposed to punch his head. Both parties seemed perfectly sincere in their statements, and I was somewhat puzzled. I finally decided to cross-examine the ex-professor. 'Now, repeat to us,' I said, 'exactly what Mrs. Callahan told you in regard to her husband.' 'She assured me positively,' answered the landlord, 'that he had no intention whatever of molesting me.' 'But she didn't say it in those words,' I insisted. 'What I want is her exact language.' 'Well, sir,' said the witness, beginning to get flustered, 'she gave me to understand ——' 'Oh, never mind that,' interrupted the judge, 'give us her own words.' 'Very well, sir; very well, sir!' exclaimed the little landlord, desperately. 'She said, "When Mike comes home he won't do a thing to you!"' When the judge got through laughing he let the prisoners off with a reprimand."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Not the War He Thought.

"Speaking of the Transvaal reminds me of a funny thing that occurred recently at my home," said a visitor from Milwaukee. "I was sitting in my office the day before Oom Paul's ultimatum when a telegram was handed me from a friend who lives at Mineral Point, a town in the southwest corner of the state. It read: 'What is the latest news from the Boer war?' I was greatly surprised, but on reflection remembered that my friend's wife was an English lady, and concluded that she must be anxious about some relative in the army. I wired back: 'War regarded as absolutely certain.' Next week I was surprised to meet my friend on the street. He looked black as thunder. 'Well,' he said, 'your tip was no good. The war hasn't come off.' 'The dickens it hasn't!' I replied. 'They are fighting right now.' 'Where?' he asked incredulously. 'In Africa,' said I. 'Africa!' he exclaimed. 'Who the mischief asked you anything about Africa?' 'You did,' I retorted. 'Didn't you telegraph, "What's the latest news from the Boer war?"' 'No!' he roared, 'I telegraphed, "What's the latest news from the beer war?"' You see he had some brewery stock, from which he had received an offer, and wanted to ascertain whether a prospective price-cutting row was apt to occur. He sold on the strength of my message."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Scares Them to Death.

An ingenious gentleman has devised an instrument which he thinks will be of great assistance to white soldiers in their combats with native tribes. It is a big wooden tube, with a piece of perforated raw hide stretched over the opening; when blown it makes a noise which can be compared with nothing on earth, and is calculated to make the savage anxious to depart for the happy hunting ground, or whatever may be his idea of a future existence, without further delay.

One Worse Thing.

Dolly—Could any one be worse than a man who will be spooney in spite of all you can do? Polly—Yes—one who won't.—Life.

GAINS OF THE NATION

New Year's Commencement a Convenient Time for Taking Stock.

ADDITIONS TO OUR ORIGINAL AREA

Under What Party the Great Bulk of Our Possessions Come — Facts on Which Anti-Expansionists Rely for Vindication—The Spanish Acquisions Discussed

The first day of the yera is a convenient time to "take stock." It would be impossible for this nation to make an inventory of all its wealth, real and personal, for the latest data of that kind are now nine years old. The gain since 1890 is known to be immense, despite the crash of 1893 and the weary years that ensued. We cannot even set down the approximate value of the real estate in the United States and their outlying possessions; and perhaps it will never be practicable to get within many millions of the stupendous total. But we can ascertain how many square miles have been added to the comparatively small area of the original thirteen states since expansion began about a century ago. Without taking the trouble to verify the figures by examination of official documents, The Post reproduces from the Chicago Times-Herald the following table showing the various additions that have been made to the original area of 809,378 square miles in the thirteen colonies:

	Sq. miles.
In 1798, Mississippi tract	99,000
In 1803, Louisiana tract	1,235,450
In 1821, Florida tract	58,680
In 1845, Texas tract	265,780
In 1848, California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico tracts	589,639
In 1853, Gadsden purchase	45,535
In 1867, Alaska tract	531,410
In 1899, Hawaii Territory	6,740
In 1899, Porto Rico	3,600
In 1899, Philippines	143,000
In 1899, Sulus and Guam	50
Total expansion	2,977,879

The Philadelphia Record, an anti-silver democratic paper, copies those interesting data in a recent issue, and comments thereon in this way:

"Of this accretion to our territory 2,293,975 square miles were added by Democratic administrations, in spite of the active protests of opposition parties. The remaining 673,900 square miles were acquired without the active dissent of the Democratic party, though under Republican auspices. It is rather late in the day for the Democracy, under the lead of Bryan, to run counter to a policy established by Jefferson and so acted upon by his democratic successors as to have trebled the original area of the republic before the purchase of Alaska in 1867."

The Record ignores the great fact on which anti-expansionists rely for vindication. They contend that is a new departure to go beyond seas and hoist our flag over provinces in the old world. They declare, as all Americans did a few years ago, that our republic has no business with lands inhabited by peoples who are not capable of self-government; that we cannot consistently exercise sovereignty over provinces that cannot ultimately be erected into states of our Union.

If that argument were addressed to a future contingency, it would have serious weight. Brought to bear against the accomplishment of a feat already accomplished, against the doing of a thing already done, it is utterly futile.

Whether for good or evil, for better or worse, this nation is as indissolubly bound to each and all of the possessions transferred by Spain to our sovereignty as it is to any other part of the expansion recorded in the above table. Whether we are glad or sorry, exultant or despondent, over the acquisition of the Philippines, the Sulus, and Guam, they are ours, and all talk of anti-expansion is as idle as the chatter of magpies. Sovereignty is not a thing that can be taken on and laid off like hat, coat, or trousers. It involves responsibilities and duties. All the plans submitted by the opponents of expansion—by the men who are fighting against the doing of that which was irrevocably done by the adoption of the Paris treaty—only to illustrate the pitiful weakness of their cause. Had Mr. Bryan stood with Senators Hoar and Hale in opposition to the treaty, and advised his friends in the senate to vote against it, he might have been defeated, but he would not now be fighting his own work—a position in which, so far as we can remember the story of Jefferson's life and times, the ideal of Mr. Bryan never found himself.—Washington Post (Ind.)

Share in Chinese Trade.

One of the most important factors in the coming era of prosperity will be the guarantee of the open door in China, made possible through the efforts of the United States. It is expected that a special message from the president to congress will convey full information of the effect of the agreement which the administration will secure with the powers to maintain commercial freedom in China. The supporters in congress of the administration's Philippine policy point to this case as an argument for retaining control of the archipelago. It was urged at the outset of the negotiations for the Philippines that their supreme commercial value to the United States would be as a base in the far east for the expansion of American commerce in all the orient. Farseeing statesmen foretold the coming division of Chinese commerce among the powers of the earth, and were insistent that the United States should have its share.

"Pressing Down the Crown."

As a New Year's present the woolen mills of New England granted their 40,000 hands an increase of 10 per cent in wages. The yard mills took similar action.

Alexander Carnegie gave his employes a raise of 7.14 per cent on January 1st. It affected 10,000 men, and made a total of 25 per cent increase since the advent of republican prosperity. And still Mr. Carnegie is able to give away immense sums for the building of libraries. Business "expansion" under republican rule has been a great thing for him as well as for the country at large.

Business Failures Decreasing.

In 1857 the number of failures of manufacturers and traders in the United States was 4,932, with liabilities amounting to $292,000,000. This was in "good old democratic times." In 1867 the liabilities aggregated $97,000,000; in 1877 they were $191,000,000; in 1887 the were $168,000,000; in 1897 they were $154,000,000, and in 1899 only $89,000,000, being the lowest of any year since 1881.

Mrs. Russell Sage believes she has a right to one boast, and that is her housekeeping.

A Plea for Patriotism

Patriotism, as usually estimated is one of the cardinal virtues. Some of the most stirring strains of poetry have been written in exemplification of it. The most unselfish heart beats that ever animated mankind have been caused by the appreciation of its disinterested character. If there is anything that the young people of America should be taught, it is the cultivation of this imperial virtue. And yet the length to which devotion to party politics will drag people has been demonstrated several times in the history of our nation by fierce attacks upon the constituted authorities, by unjust criticism, and far fetched surmises as to dire results to happen in the future, simply for the purpose of securing party advantage.

At the time of the Civil war, this was partly excusable for the reason that the lifelong habits and education of the people, founded upon what they called their property rights, were strongly antagonistic, but it is a marvel that in this day when the administration has been forced into a war by the clamor of the same individuals who have since been severely criticising it, in this day when there are no diverse interests among the people to be considered except the question as to who shall hold the offices, in this day when the administration has been so wise and so prudent in its actions and not even in a skirmish have we been defeated in the war with Spain, it is surprising that men for the sake of party advantage shall array themselves against all the plain interests of the government, with really at the bottom no excuse except that they wish to create a sentiment against the party in power for the purpose of endeavoring to build up the success of their own party. Some, it may be, who are encrusted with the old fogyism of the past, cannot realize that the United States in making its grand growth and material prosperity, and in the development of intelligence of its citizens has responsibilities to assume, but are so fixed in their reverence for the ages that are past that they deliberately turn their backs upon progress and all that it means, but to the ordinary American citizen there should be nothing but rejoicing that the sphere of the United States has been so immeasurably enlarged. He should be glad that the flag floats everywhere and is received with respect; should be proud that the inventive genius of America is sending forth products which control the commerce of the world; should be glad that a divinely appointed opportunity came to our land to place itself in the position of wielding more influence in the world's affairs, the position to which it is entitled by the development of its ideas.

God forgive the little Americans. God bless the patriots and inspire larger patriotism in America.

They Tell the Story.

A great truth was spoken when the Kansas City Journal exclaimed: "Nebraska is as prosperous as Iowa, but her people are too much blinded by Bryanism to admit the fact at the polls." The records of mortgages filed and released each year in Nebraska during the past seven years ought to be sufficient in itself to demonstrate to the people of that state that it is under republicanism that they prosper. The record is as follows:

	Filed.	Released.
1892	$38,847,633	$31,912,276
1893	34,601,318	26,178,745
1894	31,690,054	26,438,050
1895	25,753,364	22,648,917
1896	16,474,606	18,213,382
1897	15,630,721	22,215,759
1898	21,303,855	27,488,070

The Nebraska business man, farmer or professional man who could look upon such a record and then vote for Bryan is indeed blind. The figures speak for themselves, and it is very plain that the return of prosperity has struck the people of Nebraska. It has enabled them to materially reduce their indebtedness during the past few years, and it is putting them on their feet again for a fresh start. Before 1896 the record shows that the aggregate amount of the mortgages filed each year was much greater than the aggregate of releases, clearly demonstrating that in those days of hard times the people of Nebraska were slipping deeper and deeper into the swamp of debt, while beginning with McKinley's election the tide turned. With the coming of McKinley the people of Nebraska began to not only make a good living for themselves, but they commenced to lay something by and soon they began paying off their debts.

America Supplies Australia.

The United States is fast encroaching on European trade so far as Australia is concerned, and the increase in business is more rapid since the occupation of the Philippines. The figures showing where New South Wales gets her boots and shoes are interesting:

Country.	1897.	1898.
United Kingdom	$856,435	$826,968
United States	219,220	346,273
Germany	107,530	82,360
France	9,168	8,882
Austria	6,471	12,965

These figures show the energetic manner in which American manufacturers are pushing their goods in the Australian market. The American supplies of machinery show a slight increase, chiefly in agricultural implements. In printing paper, the imports from America are increasing and those from Great Britin are decreasing, the figures being:

Country.	1897.	1898.
United Kingdom	$385,436	$316,412
United States	290,427	377,931
Germany	46,479	26,619

With the retention of the Philippines and the early building of the Nicaragua canal, who can foresee the vast opportunities for American commerce in eastern waters?

Demand an Explanation.

The school apportionment of Nebraska, which under 25 years of republican control, even counting the disastrous years of the Bartley-Holcomb regime, averaged $1.01 per pupil The fusionists have allowed the amount to drop down to 78 cents. The people should demand an immediate explanation from the great "money savers."

Cuban Bussness.

The total receipts of the Island of Cuba for the ten months ending with the month of November make a remarkable showing. The receipts from all sources were $12,108,665.30, the average per month being $1,210,866.53. They were made up from the following items: Customs, $11,229,853.69; internal revenue, $637,205.51; postal, $58,000; miscellaneous, $173,601.10. It indicates a great expansion of business.

It is not his past that worries the average literary man. It is generally his repast.

A TREMENDOUS TOTAL

TWO BILLIONS OF MONEY NOW IN CIRCULATION.

Increase of Five Hundred Millions in the Past Two Years of the Amount of Sound Currency in the Hands of the People.

There has been a gain of about $500,000,000 in the amount of money in circulation in the United States in the past two years of restored protection and prosperity. The figures of this gigantic increase of material wealth and of money in the hands of the people have a suggestiveness that is startling. They show what the country escaped when in 1896 it chose between William McKinley and William J. Bryan. They are also peculiarly suggestive in connection with the presidential contest next year.

One more financial month like November will bring the total of money in circulation in the United States past the two billion dollar line. On Nov. 1 the total money in circulation was $1,963,716,148, and on Dec. 1, $1,985,930,964, an increase of $22,214,816 in the month. A gain of even two-thirds this amount in the present month would bring the total money in circulation in the United States past the two billion dollar line for the first time in our history.

The steady and rapid growth in the circulation of money in the United States, both gold and total of all kinds of money, is indicated in a compilation made by the treasury bureau of statistics from data supplied in the annual and monthly statements of the bureau of loans and currency of the treasury department, showing the amount of gold and total money in circulation in the United States at annual periods during the past twenty years. It shows an increase in that length of time from $138,641,410 of gold and gold certificates to $778,385,303, and of total circulation from $816,266,721 to $1,985,930,964, with the prospect, as already indicated, that the two billion dollar line will shortly be crossed. While the general growth in that time has been remarkable, that of the past three years is especially marked. On July 1, 1896, the total money in circulation in the United States was $1,509,725,200, and on Dec. 1, 1899, $1,985,930,964, an increase during three and a half years of $476,205,764, or 31½ per cent; while the gold coin and certificates increased from $498,449,242 to $778,388,303, an increase of $279,939,061, or 56 per cent.

The following table shows the total gold coin and certificates, and the total money of all kinds, in circulation on Jan. 1 of each year from 1879 to 1899:

Jan. 1—	Gold coin and certificates.	Total money.
1879	$138,641,410	$816,266,721
1880	201,942,207	942,452,459
1881	292,515,754	1,083,552,382
1882	359,585,540	1,193,205,955
1883	432,195,814	1,237,388,040
1884	474,263,726	1,262,769,127
1885	527,717,488	1,291,265,205
1886	469,989,147	1,287,818,483
1887	469,505,864	1,314,386,297
1888	496,095,200	1,383,842,809
1889	500,722,960	1,406,248,107
1890	498,891,811	1,430,270,909
1891	555,127,876	1,528,736,268
1892	556,105,299	1,588,781,729
1893	530,064,099	1,610,683,874
1894	586,014,990	1,729,018,266
1895	538,863,276	1,626,568,622
1896	534,664,986	1,579,206,724
1897	555,630,668	1,650,223,400
1898	584,126,049	1,721,100,640
1899	702,996,838	1,897,301,412
1899 (Dec. 1)	778,388,303	1,985,930,964

DO NOT ABANDON PROTECTION

A Bridge That Has Served So Well Is a Good Bridge to Swear By.

Notwithstanding all the object lessons that have been administered by the protective tariff, there are those who still preach free trade, for which there is no justification beyond the philanthropic idea of helping the foreign laborer.

It is every man's duty to help his brother, but in order to accomplish this it does not occur to the average mind that it is incumbent to lower oneself to the level of the brother.

Level up, and not down, is the true principle upon which humanity should act.

When the foreign laborer makes an attempt to better his own condition it will be time enough for the American laborer to lend him a helping hand.

Under free trade labor in this country played second fiddle to that of Europe; under protection it has always manipulated the first violin. Is there any reason why it should now voluntarily relegate itself once more to second place?

The argument of the free trader is that inasmuch as America can undersell Europe in her own markets it is time to eliminate protection.

If this argument is good, then the American manufacturer should discard his improved machinery, reduce the pay of skilled labor to the level of that allowed the roustabout, and generally impress upon his employes that their sole duty is to put in so many hours a day.

The fact of the matter is that protection afforded American manufacturers the opportunity to advance their own interests, while at the same time enabling them to better the condition of their employes. That they did this is infinitely to their credit.

Protection is the bridge that enables American industries to reach their present high efficiency, and it would be a crime to abandon it so long as there is the shadow of danger of any other nation successfully invading our home markets.—St. Louis Star.

The Real Lace Stage.

A trade paper says: "It is remarkable what a large amount of real lace is being taken for the holidays. Scarfs, handkerchiefs and yard goods are selling briskly." It is facts such as this which enable us to keep track of our national prosperity. The first effects of the Dingley law were seen in the larger buying of what we commonly call the necessities of life and in the disappearance of free soup kitchens and other such products of tariff reform. The next step in prosperity was evidenced by the more active buying of the so-called comforts of life. Then came the paying off of debts and the satisfaction of mortgages. After that came the time when the trade in those things which properly come under the head of luxuries showed large gains. The purchase of the more common and inexpensive luxuries naturally came first, but, as the Dingley law grows older, the people proceed step by step to the purchase of more and more expensive luxuries.

It appears from the trade movement noted in the report above quoted that we have now reached the real lace stage, and as every one who has ever paid for a piece of real lace knows, that is a pretty advanced stage, as represented by the amount of money which changes hands. People supply themselves with almost everything else wished for before they buy real lace. The remarkable activity along this line is merely the trade method of saying that these are unprecedentedly prosperous times.

THEY TELL THE STORY.

Record Mortgages in Nebraska Show Exceptional Prosperity.

A great truth was spoken when the Kansas City Journal exclaimed: "Nebraska is as prosperous as Iowa, but her people are too much blinded by Bryanism to admit the fact at the polls." The records of mortgages filed and released each year in Nebraska during the past seven years ought to be sufficient in itself to demonstrate to the people of that state that it is under Republicanism that they prosper. The record is as follows:

	Filed.	Released.
1892	$38,847,633	$31,912,276
1893	34,601,318	26,178,745
1894	31,690,054	26,438,050
1895	25,753,364	22,648,917
1896	16,474,606	18,213,382
1897	15,630,721	22,215,759
1898	21,303,855	27,488,070

The Nebraska business man, farmer or professional man who could look upon such a record and then vote for Bryan is indeed blind. The figures speak for themselves, and it is very plain that the return of prosperity has struck the people of Nebraska. It has enabled them to materially reduce their indebtedness during the past few years, and it is putting them on their feet again for a fresh start. Before 1896 the record shows that the aggregate amount of the mortgages filed each year was much greater than the aggregate of releases, clearly demonstrating that in those days of hard times the people of Nebraska were slipping deeper and deeper into the swamp of debt, while beginning with McKinley's election the tide turned. With the coming of McKinley the people of Nebraska began to not only make a good living for themselves, but they commenced to lay something by and soon they began paying off their debts. The people of Nebraska have, indeed, had their eyes closed by Bryan when they will permit him to make them believe that the paying off of their debts and the burning up of their mortgages has been an injury to them!—Des Moines (Iowa) State Register.

PROTECTION AND CURRENCY.

The Tariff Being Right the Money Question Will Take Care of Itself.

The great blunder made by Cleveland and the Democratic party in 1893 was in trying to maintain the gold standard while throwing wide open the trade doors of the American Union to foreigners. The consequences asserted themselves almost instantaneously. As the foreign goods poured into the country gold flowed out, and in a short time we were suffering all the ills which manifest themselves whenever apprehension concerning the sufficiency of the supply of basic money exists.

This state of affairs continued until after the election of McKinley gave the country assurance that the tariff would be so adjusted that the wants of the country would be satisfied with the products of American workshops. The easing up was at once noticeable, but the full effect of the benefit was not experienced until exports largely exceeded imports. Then a sense of security took the place of distrust, and the people ceased to concern themselves about the gold question. This state of mind will continue so long as the Republican party is true to its traditions and adheres steadfastly to protection, the great trade regulator. As long as we impose our tariffs judiciously we need not fear an adverse trade balance, and while it is in our favor there will always be plenty of gold in the country to meet all currency requirements. The lesson of the situation ought to impress itself on our legislators. It is a very simple one. It is: Stick to protection and favorable trade balances and the money question will take care of itself.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Her Happy Brood.

Children Settled Divorce Case.

The divorce suit of William Miller, a prominent oil producer of Toledo, Ohio, came to an unexpected ending in court. Miller had filed sensational charges against his wife. Alimony had been arranged and the two children, a little boy and little girl, were left to choose with which parent each would go. The little ones pleaded so earnestly for both that the parents became reconciled and the case was dropped.

Two Kinds of Misrule.

Land in the little island of Guam, that was worth only $15 an acre under Spanish rule, is now selling for $100 an acre. There is a striking similarity between Spanish rule and Democratic rule.—Springfield (Mo.) Republican.