

BRYAN HATES PROTECTION AS MUCH AS EVER.

Declares He Stands as He Stood Six Years. An Uncompromising Opponent of any Tariff for the Benefit of the American Sheep Grower.

Last week the wool market reported in the Commercial Bulletin contained the following paragraph:

The Salt Lake City correspondent of Herald, Liebmann & Co. of this city, writes that Mr. Wm. J. Bryan, in his recent visit to Utah, assured leading dealers and growers in private conversation that he had changed his mind on wool, and that though he would consent to a reduction of duties, they could rest assured that he never would sign a free-wool bill.

We desire to repeat the paragraph, and are perfectly prepared to furnish the names of the persons who were given the assurance that the wool tariff would not be an issue and that the protectionist who wished to vote for free silver might do so without fear that the beneficent duty would be removed from wool by Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan now makes this publication unnecessary, however, by a public pledge, which, of course, recalls all private or personal assurances as to his attitude on wool. In an interview accepted as authentic by the Boston Herald, he is quoted by that paper, among others, of Jan. 14 as follows:

"When asked regarding the report that he had changed his views on the matter of free wool importation, and had asserted that, in behalf of western wool growers and manufacturers, he would, if elected president, favor a tariff on wool, Mr. Bryan stated most emphatically that he had made no statement whatever to the effect that he had changed his former views on the question."

These are Mr. Bryan's "former views," as expressed on the floor of congress, March 16, 1892.

I, therefore, Mr. Chairman, denounce as fallacious, as unworthy of consideration, the only reason that can be given in support of a tariff on wool, as a protective tariff and for protective purposes.

And on Jan. 12, 1891:

"It is immaterial in my judgment whether the sheep grower receives any benefit from the tariff or not. Whether he does or does not, whether the wool manufacturer collects a compensatory duty from the consumer of woolen goods and pays it over to the wool grower, or collects, and keeps it himself, or doesn't collect it at all, and therefore doesn't need it, I am for free wool."

It is idle for Mr. Bryan's friends in Utah or the other Western states longer to seek the votes of wool growers, as they have been doing, on whispered assurances that the free trade plank of the Chicago platform is not an issue.

Free wool is an issue in 1896.

Mr. Bryan has made it so by his own public utterance at Columbia, Miss., Jan. 15, 1896. The private whisper in Salt Lake City is overridden by the public declaration again publicly endorsed: "I am for free wool."

A TRULY GREAT CHANGE.

Marked Improvement in the Grade of Coffins and Furniture Now Demanded.

Some queer facts regarding improved business conditions are set forth by the Canton (Ill.) Register in the shape of an interview with a traveling man who represents three factories, one that manufactures coffins, one that makes a specialty of tables, and another that produces a general assortment of furniture. Said this commercial traveler:

"The factories, though running night and day, are away behind their orders. Three of the largest houses on our custom list we have, for the present, quit taking orders from, simply because we can't fill them by the time desired. This being true, it looks as though my services as trade solicitor will have to be dispensed with."

"How do you account for this excessive demand?" was asked.

"Prosperity; everybody at work; good wages; plenty of money."

"Well, but ain't coffins as much in demand in hard as well as in good times?" interposed a Democrat.

"Yes, and perhaps more so, but in such times those of inferior quality are the most called for—the kind that can be more rapidly thrown together. In such times as we now have the best is required, and it takes longer to manufacture them."

"What is your experience with tables in good as compared with hard times, or in McKinley as compared with Cleveland times?" was asked.

"Now, that is something I would sooner talk about than to talk about coffins. I will tell you. The many who use store boxes and loose boards for tables in the Cleveland times are now, that they have plenty of work, good wages and good money, wanting good factory-made tables. And when it comes to furniture in general it is wonderful to note the increased demand in these McKinley times compared with the demand in the Cleveland-Wilson tariff era. People who could not afford sideboards, rocking and easy chairs then are now in a position to have and enjoy them. I confess, as I contemplate the situation, that I am somewhat troubled lest I be laid off until my houses can catch up with their orders."

It will be noticed that in the difference between Cleveland's reform tariff times and McKinley's protective tariff times the change runs to quality as well as quantity of goods consumed. Coffins must be better than four years ago. Any old sort of burial box would do then; it had to do; but it will not do for people who are earning and



MR. BAILEY AND THE TARIFF.

The Texas Statesman Unthinkingly Tells Some Protection Truths.

If the factories sell less goods, then fewer goods must be produced, and fewer men are needed to produce them, and the sum of it all must be that thousands of industrious men will be denied employment. The wage earner will become an idle citizen, and thus in turn add to those who want but can not buy.—From the speech of Congressman Bailey of Texas on the Currency bill.

ACHIEVEMENT AND FAILURE.

Results of Republican and Democratic Policies Contrasted.

We have had three years of McKinley and Republican domination. Look at the practical results. During the free silver panic pending the election of 1896 every man owning a hundred dollars in currency, who could get into the treasury, got there demanding its substitution in gold, and the Republican leaders even predicted that McKinley, if elected, would be compelled to start out with a bond issue. But instead, confidence being restored even before his inauguration, the gold flowed back into the treasury in a steady stream, just as it came back from its hiding places in Europe to which it had been driven by the phantom of four-bit silver. Before the spring of '96 had waned the money supply of the country, resting upon a sound foundation, in circulation, in the banks and in the treasuries, had reached the high water mark of experience, and before the autumn had waxed every preceding record had been broken. This success was repeated in the unprecedented increase of our domestic and foreign trade, and for the first time in many years the balance of trade was registered at a high figure in favor of this country. Before January, 1899, more than a million of laborers driven into the streets by the Democracy had been restored to work at top-rate wages. At the beginning of the last named year every furnace was ablaze, every mill was pregnant, and every piece of machinery was instinct with life. Yet the record of 1898, surpassing all others in business achievements so far as to stand out as a conspicuous landmark in history, is dimmed and eclipsed by the achievements of the year just closed.

Wherein experiment has proved Democratic policies a miserable failure it has proved Republican policies an unparalleled success. Then where lies the path of patriotism and honor?—Webb City (Mo.) Inter-State Commoner.

A Fine Fiscal Record.

The January record of receipts and expenditures by the treasury department was an excellent one. Omitting consideration of anticipatory payments liquidating the public debt by bond purchases in advance of the maturity of the bonds, the net excess of receipts over expenditures for the month was more than \$6,000,000. The record of customs receipts was also an excellent one, showing more than \$20,000,000 of receipts from this source. The receipts from internal revenue were about \$22,000,000. It is a matter of surprise to public officials that the expenditures on account of the war department continue at such high figures, being less than half what they were during the Spanish war, notwithstanding the maintenance of large armies engaged in active campaigns in the Philippines.

A year ago the monthly expenditures exceeded the receipts by about \$10,000,000. As evidence, however, that existing tariff laws are not only proving efficient as protective measures, but also in bringing increased volumes of revenue to the treasury, the receipts from customs last month were more than \$2,000,000 in excess of those in January last year.

Need of New Adjectives.

One of the needs of today seems to be a new dictionary with a long and varied list of terms applicable to the unprecedented prosperity of the present. The newspapers seem to have quite exhausted their vocabularies even sometimes in a single issue, in their efforts to tell the story of the great and wonderful prosperity which the enactment of the Dingley Tariff law has brought to the country. The headings of "Good times in Ohio," or "Good times in the South," or "Good times" somewhere else, in common with all the other brief statements made to describe the industrial conditions existing throughout the country, are repeated over and over again until the reader would grow tired of seeing them, were it not for what they stand for. In fact, all the words in present use which are descriptive of prosperous times are very much over-worked—almost as much over-worked as are the mass of American laborers in the present rush of business in the country.

No Time for Tinkering.

It is encouraging to note that the man who always has a scheme to put away at the tariff is not conspicuous at the present session of congress. The tariff is doing very good work at present, and it seems to be accepted that this is no time for tinkering.—Topeka (Kan.) Capital.

Unless a woman is pretty in her tears she should do her crying in secret.

MOTHER WHO GRIEVES.

"Such is the sense of my text. The mother did not sleep much last night. Though she tries to look cheerful her eyes are very red. Every little while she disappears into the pantry or goes upstairs. She makes an excuse as though looking for something, but we know it is only to have a good cry. The father is giving his last instructions and handing the young traveler some letters of introduction to a prominent merchant with whom the son will lodge in the next town. There is a noise at the gate. The servants are bringing out the horses and strapping the baggage upon the pack mules. They talk in subdued whispers. Even they feel sorry. The young 'massa' was a happy, jolly, go-lucky boy, and always had a cheerful and kind word for the hostlers. The only creature who seems to be merry-making this morning is the yellow dog. He frisks about, barking and yelping, thinking he is to follow the sportsman on a week's hunt. But his hilarity is stopped when some one shies a stone at the brute and shouts: 'Go back to the barn!' Slowly he crawls back with tail and head lowered in abject woe. He stops now and then as if expecting to hear the familiar call. Perhaps he realizes for the first time he is taking a last farewell. I always did believe a bright dog was smarter than a stupid man. But the farewell words are now being said. The father has given his benediction. We must turn aside a little, while the mother has her last convulsive gasps. These are the snapping of heart strings. A mother can never realize the baby she once rocked in a cradle can grow to be a man.

People who have stood upon the wharf at Queenstown and heard the Irish peasant's moan when the young emigrant steps into the boat to take steam for America know what I mean. There is only one cry similar to it. That is, when a family draped in heavy black push back the veils to take a last lingering look at the silent form, sleeping in the casket, when the undertaker stands impatiently behind.

WAITING FOR DEFEAT.

How the Democrats Hope to Get Rid of Mr. Bryan.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, which is not Republican, but is bitterly hostile to the Republican administration, says: "The Bryan situation is strictly unique. The less his prospects of election the tighter grows his grip on the nomination. For the first time in our political history, a great party sits worshipfully at the feet of a man and does little or nothing to oppose a leadership which few believe can result in victory."

The foregoing is a fair statement of the situation by a paper which would delight to support any candidate who could make a half hopeful fight upon an anti-expansion platform. But its zeal for Aginaldo and its relentless hostility to the Republican party do not make the Springfield mugwump oblivious to the facts which are obvious to all except the blind followers of Mr. Bryan. There is but one explanation for the general acquiescence of the Democratic leaders in Mr. Bryan's candidacy. With the issue before the country they have no hopes of success next November. Whatever the platform may be or whomever the candidate may be, President McKinley, who has generally satisfied the country and whose administration has been attended by a marvelous prosperity, will be re-elected. This fact seems to be conceded by leading Democrats in most of the states. The anti-Bryan men who are prominent Democrats realize this fact, and realizing it, they see a sure way to get clear of Mr. Bryan, his silver and other heresies. They may make a little show of opposition, but they will acquiesce in Mr. Bryan's nomination. They do not "sit worshipfully at Mr. Bryan's feet," as the Massachusetts paper affirms, but they are waiting patiently to see Mr. Bryan rejected as the party dictator by another defeat. When he is again defeated they believe the Democracy will accept men of brains as leaders.—Indianapolis (Ind.) Journal.

"PRODIGAL SONS," THE LATEST SUBJECT DISCUSSED.

From Luke XV:13 as follows: "The Younger Son Gathered All Together and Took His Journey into a Far Country."

"Today the old homestead is turned upside down. One of the boys, the younger, is about to leave the parental roof. The eagle is tired of being warmed by the wings of the old birds and with ruffled feathers stands upon the edge of the eyrie ready to fly off. It is a sad sight to see a home being broken up. When the children are about to say goodby to the families laugh, talk and joke up to the last moment, but they are only trying to keep the courage up. Even the wedding bells weep as well as chime. The guests may congratulate you upon having gained a son or a daughter, but you know that it is a mockery, though you do smile through your tears. From now on the daughter will never be the same again. She has gone to make her own home, to build her own nest, rear her own young and live her own life. Instead of belonging to you she is another's. Instead of you being first, now you are last.

"After the wedding of a very dear friend and the worn slipper and the rice had been thrown, and the bride and groom started, I followed the old gray-haired father down to the garden gate, and there we stood alone in the moonlight. 'Yes, Frank,' he said, 'I know she has married a good man, but she was my youngest, and it breaks the heart, it breaks the heart.' Children are born, grow up into young manhood and womanhood, and just when it seems the parents cannot get along without them, off they go. Death knocks at the door and carries away some. Love hovers about the spring flowers and breathes through the orange blossoms and wees others. Business calls and duty beckons until the old nursery is silent and there are rooms to let in the homestead which once resounded with the young people's voices.

"Such is the sense of my text. The mother did not sleep much last night. Though she tries to look cheerful her eyes are very red. Every little while she disappears into the pantry or goes upstairs. She makes an excuse as though looking for something, but we know it is only to have a good cry. The father is giving his last instructions and handing the young traveler some letters of introduction to a prominent merchant with whom the son will lodge in the next town. There is a noise at the gate. The servants are bringing out the horses and strapping the baggage upon the pack mules. They talk in subdued whispers. Even they feel sorry. The young 'massa' was a happy, jolly, go-lucky boy, and always had a cheerful and kind word for the hostlers. The only creature who seems to be merry-making this morning is the yellow dog. He frisks about, barking and yelping, thinking he is to follow the sportsman on a week's hunt. But his hilarity is stopped when some one shies a stone at the brute and shouts: 'Go back to the barn!' Slowly he crawls back with tail and head lowered in abject woe. He stops now and then as if expecting to hear the familiar call. Perhaps he realizes for the first time he is taking a last farewell. I always did believe a bright dog was smarter than a stupid man. But the farewell words are now being said. The father has given his benediction. We must turn aside a little, while the mother has her last convulsive gasps. These are the snapping of heart strings. A mother can never realize the baby she once rocked in a cradle can grow to be a man.

"People who have stood upon the wharf at Queenstown and heard the Irish peasant's moan when the young emigrant steps into the boat to take steam for America know what I mean. There is only one cry similar to it. That is, when a family draped in heavy black push back the veils to take a last lingering look at the silent form, sleeping in the casket, when the undertaker stands impatiently behind.

YOUTH RIDES AWAY.

"But suddenly the young man breaks away. He leaps into the saddle. The spurs cut deep. The parents shout their affectionate adieux to the horse-man dashing off. Then they wave and throw kisses. The old father now wipes his face vigorously with a handkerchief and scolds the servants and sends them off, because he does not want them to see him cry. As the horse disappears over the last hill the old mother buries her head on her husband's neck and sobs as if her heart would break. He tenderly puts his arm about her and draws her toward the house. Slowly they walk up the tree-arched path. They stop a moment on the first step to glance for the last time down the road. Slowly, with a sigh, the father opens the door. The men go back to the work, the women back to the kitchen, the domestic machinery is started and the neighbors say it is merely the natural order of things for the younger son to gather all together and take his journey into a far country.

"Lesson the first: This journey of the prodigal son into a far country is a divine protest against making sin attractive. The far country was evidently the land of sin. By this Jesus did not mean every young man who starts away from home is bad. But if we carefully study the parable we can read between the lines how the younger son was restless. Like a bird he felt his wings clipped by the control of the old folks. He could not be out with his friends as late as he thought he ought to be. Some of the entertainments he attended were questionable. He feared a meddling neighbor might report him. He was too old to be punished and yet not old enough to take care of himself. He decided to leave his old-fashioned father and mother and the strict rules of the homestead. These are the reasons of the departure.

"Christ does not enter into a disgusting description of what the young man did. He does not picture him among the gay aristocrats of the new

town, opening the best bottles of wine, driving the fastest horses, and living with evil companions whom he dare not introduce to his sisters. He does not describe him in some low den hall, intoxicated with fatty as much as with wine. He does not have a palace of Gipsies filled with princes and princesses, the walls pictured, the floors of mosaic, the banquet table groaning under the weight of gold and silver as well as fruits and viands.

"Parable Omits Details. "He does not trace him on and on, running into debt, having his friends leaving him one by one, as humming birds with their pretty wings will flutter away from a flower as soon as the honey is gone. He does not describe him at last so poor that he is begging alongside of the beggars whom he once cursed in the street. No, Jesus covers up the months of wastefulness, libertinism, and conviviality with the simple sentence of my text 'The younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country.' In Christ's parable it is only one step from the father's house to a swine's trough.

"The trouble with many so-called Christian teachers is that we put a halo over sin and talk too much about water nymphs, fairies, seamstals, denizens of the air, sybils, spirits and flaxen-haired goddesses. We picture Temptation as a dream of beauty seated upon the rim of a cloud. She holds in one hand a pack of cards and in the other a chalice of wine. The colors of her cheek, the flowers caught in the folds of the garment clinging about her limbs form make her look so innocent one can't help loving her, even though she may be bad.

"The great criticism against John Milton is that he introduces his Satan as a very respectable sort of a gentleman. Supposing tonight I should attack a certain infidel book or a vile French novel and mention the book by name and the author, and tell you under no condition to read it; that if you did you would blast your soul for time and eternity. What would be the result? Tomorrow morning fifty or one hundred of the young people sitting before me would arise early and take the first car down town and hurry to the publishers and buy that very book, merely because the preacher told you not to read it. That is human nature.

"What is the greatest damage a newspaper can do a man? Attack him? No! That always does an innocent public man good. The harder the newspaper denounces, the more prominent the man becomes. The worst insult the newspapers can give is to simply ignore a man. Never mention his name. Treat him as if he was not worth noticing. The most awful contempt you can hurl at an enemy is silence, complete silence, never-ending silence.

Not Satan's Bulletin Board.

"Refuse to allow your back to be Satan's bulletin board. Pose not before a community as a reformed drunkard, or an evangelized thief. If you once had a disease of tongue, please do not tell it. If you were once bedaubed with social filth, we do not want to know it. Talk not about the gilded saloons and bacchanalian feasts and the good times you used to have before you joined the church and married and gave up all fun. Throw not the coat of many colors over licentiousness and somber black over virtue. Leave evil advertisements alone. With one plunge jump from the highest mountain of inspiration into the lowest depths of despair with the simple sentence, 'And he went into a far country.'

"In the next place, learn that the prodigal of my text went into the far country because the father was too lenient, and divided unto him his living. Of course, we all know the great teaching of this parable was to show God's mercy; how, as a broken-hearted parent he is longing for the wayward child to come home. But there are many minor truths as well as the major one. All the gold taken from the mines is not poured into the same mold. The chisel of Michael Angelo can cut a curly-headed shepherd boy as well as the long, flowing beard and swarthy muscles of the Jewish lawgiver. The wheels in a factory should not be despised because they do not re-voive the one way.

"Mr. Moody said: 'This father ought to be censured. He could not have done a greater unkindness to the boy than to give the younger son his goods and money and let him go. A true father would have said to such a contemptible filial spirit, 'Go and earn your own portion by the sweat of your brow.' Yet hundreds of parents are making the same mistake every day. Try as hard as the loving heart may, we are very apt to be partial to the babies. When the young couple stand at the marriage altar, hope and poverty generally clasp hands. The first children who sleep in the cradle have to take their share of struggle for daily bread. But when the youngest babies are born the parents often have a foothold. Servants now clean the house and run the errands and care for the shoes. To use a worn-out figure, the younger son lies on a bed of roses.

Selfishness of Children.

"But some one says this prodigal son is the exception. Most children would not take selfish advantage of their parents in that way. Kindness always woos kindness and love love. We fear you are in error. Most of the children are just what the parents make them. Have you ever had a sister get married? No sooner is she engaged than she starts around the house laying claim to everything. If she has painted a pillow cushion or played upon a piano, they are all hers. She says, 'This is mine and that is mine and the other thing is mine.' When the bride leaves the old homestead the stout expressmen have hard work to shove down the lid of the bridal trunk to make the key turn in the lock. Every child's marriage strips the father's house.

"William Shakespeare was the most inspired writer who ever lived outside of Holy Writ. He seemed to know everything. When he soliloquized over a skull you could see the awful grinning teeth and empty eye sockets and the gloomy graveyard, even though you do not watch the tragedy in a theater. 'The Taming of the Shrew'

could teach many of our legislators that the whipping-post ought not to be obsolete in our treatment of social irritants. In the sins of Lady Macbeth all the evil deeds of life seem to make the very fingers soak the blood.

"When you think of the injustice toward the Jew in 'The Merchant of Venice,' we hear poor Shylock turn upon his persecutors and demand a pound of Antonio's flesh in revenge for stealing his daughter. What is William Shakespeare's testimony in reference to children who have been brought up by too lenient parents? When King Lear as king had the two daughters at his feet; when the two daughters were queens the poor old man was driven from house to house.

Advice to Parents.

"But sometimes the father's mistakes sharpen the poisonous fang. The best way to hold the affections of your children is to be independent of them. Never let them finger the purse strings; divide not unto them the living, not only for your own sake, but for theirs. The younger son will not find much fun in drinking a bottle of champagne at \$2.50 per bottle if he earns a salary of only \$7 a week. There is not much enjoyment in smoking 25-cent cigars if a poor clerk has to go without his dinner on account of the expense. There is not much poetry about 'the far country' if a young man has to tend the swine as soon as he enters it. If your children are bound to go to destruction, make them pay their own way.

"Lastly, learn when the young prodigal gathered all together and took his journey into the far country he left his mother as well as his father. Some preachers go so far as to suppose this boy did not have a mother. The parable mentions her not. Perhaps on account of the dissipation of the younger son the mother's hair prematurely silvered. Then, like the blossoming of the almond tree, became as white as snow. The long, deep wrinkles grew deeper; the eye sadder; the lip more ready to quiver. The doctor said she was worrying about something. One day the old trouble came. There was an awful cry, as the spasm of the heart clutched at her life, and she was dead. This interpretation may be true, but we do not think so, and you and I have just as much right to our opinion as others have to theirs.

"In the first place, the man is at the head of the house. By the eastern custom he alone is mentioned. The Bible tells us that Christ was to be born of Mary the Virgin. Yet in the two distinct genealogical tables of the New Testament, the one in Matthew and the other in Luke, only the genealogical table of Joseph is given; the one tracing the family history from God down to the manger, the other from the manger back to God.

Old Home Recalled.

"Shall I describe a scene which happened last night? No, it was not in Chicago. Not in that low saloon or cheap theater where you were playing billiards and gambling away your life. The scene was way back in the country. You remember the old farm, the white house, the pillared porch, the big barn in the rear, the wood pile to the left of the kitchen door. The hens are now running around begging for food because the earth is a frozen tomb in which the worms have gone to sleep for the winter. It is about evening, and an old woman, an old gray-haired woman, is looking over the kitchen stove. She looks thinner than when you saw her last. The neighbors say she is aging very rapidly and will not live long. An old man comes in and stamps the snow off his great boots. The woman, this gray-haired woman, looks up and says, 'Pa, have you a letter? Have you been to the postoffice? Is it not strange he has not written? Of course, we all know the great teaching of this parable was to show God's mercy; how, as a broken-hearted parent he is longing for the wayward child to come home. But there are many minor truths as well as the major one. All the gold taken from the mines is not poured into the same mold. The chisel of Michael Angelo can cut a curly-headed shepherd boy as well as the long, flowing beard and swarthy muscles of the Jewish lawgiver. The wheels in a factory should not be despised because they do not re-voive the one way.

"The old man says nothing, but goes to the door and looks down the road. He shades his eyes as if he could see a great way off. Then he turns and says, 'Mother, that is a fine calf we have there in the barnyard. She is getting fatter each day. We must kill her soon. Perhaps we can have a big feast if our boy ever comes home.'

"They sit by the fire a little while after the dishes are wiped. Their evening talk is soon ended. They are so tired they cannot stay up late. They are too tired to sleep. Then they take the old Bible and the mother says, 'Pa, won't you read that story of the prodigal son? Somehow I never can hear it enough. You read it last night. It is in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. About the younger son that went away and starved and was too proud to come home.' When home to a parental heart without the boy was even a more desolate place than the pig pen was where her boy was starving.

"Then they kneel. As they prayed the little candle-light began to flicker in sympathy. The tears trickled down through the four withered hands. Thus the two tottering old folks staid upon their knees pleading with God until an angel in heaven could hear their grief no longer, and he fluttered away and whispered to me the secret that I am now telling you. Boy, will you not go home? Before they are dead go home and leave this far country of sin, even this wicked, selfish city, where we now live."

Discovery of Steam as a Motive Power.

In 1543 a mechanic, who for many years puzzled and experimented on the subject, brought to the attention of Emperor Charles Fifth, of Austria, an invention by means of which ships could be propelled by steam. The monarch was greatly impressed and would no doubt have become the patron of this great invention, but one of his prime ministers, evidently jealous of the attention the inventor was receiving, so worked upon the mind of the emperor that his interest in the invention was quite destroyed. In 1641 a man was put into a mad house because he persistently followed some of the great men of his country about, declaring that he had discovered a new motive power that would revolutionize the machinery of the age. Many countries and people have claimed to be the discoverers of steam as a motive power, but these accounts, which are well authenticated, seem to settle the question finally.

LESSON X, MARCH 11—MARK II: 1-12—THE HEALED.

Golden Text—"The Son of Man Hath Power on Earth to Forgive Sins"—Mark II:10—How Performance of Miracles Aided Christ in His Work.

1. "After some days." Some days after the healing of the leper (Mark I: 40-45) and when the excitement concerning that miracle had quieted down, it is noted that the leper returned. "That he was in the house." Either the house which he occupied with his mother and his brethren (Matt. 4:13) or possibly that of St. Peter.—Cambridge Bible for Schools.

2. "Many were gathered together," including Pharisees and doctors of the law from all parts of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem, and learned of the great miracles which he wrought. "And he preached." Jesus, speaking of himself, said, "The word of God had sent by him; the good news of salvation." 3. "And they came." While Jesus was preaching, "Bringing one sick of the palsy." He was full grown, for it took four to carry him. He was young, for Jesus calls him "son." Palsy is a contraction of the word "paralysis."

4. "And when they could not crowd nigh unto him for the press," or crowd, which filled not only the room, but the court and the narrow street on which the gate was, "They raised the roof where he was." Over the house, or over the veranda, they uncovered the roof. "They let down the net." A rude pulley or mat, held at the corners, and requiring cords to let it down. They could easily reach the roof by the steps on the outside, as the roof was not high, and have gone into an adjoining house and passed along the roofs.

5. "When Jesus saw their faith." The faith of the sick man and of the friends who brought him. "Son," expressing sympathy and a kindly feeling. Matthew adds, "He says to him, 'Son, be not afraid; thy sins are forgiven thee.' And he recovered back again to your Heavenly Father's favor and love, as the prodigal son to his father's home."

6. "But there were certain of the scribes." The scribes, or rabbis, were the leaders of the nation, the theologians, the learned of the day, the authorities of Israel.—Gekke, Referred to as "from Luke 5:17." "Reasoning." "The word 'dialogue' is derived from the original of this word, and the meaning literally is that they held a dialogue with themselves."—M. R. Vincent, "In their hearts." "Not speaking it openly."

7. "This man thus speak blasphemies." To blaspheme is to speak "blasphemy," evil, impiously, of God. In this case it was arrogating to himself what belonged only to God. "Thus making God like a mere man." Blasphemy is practically a matter of treason against God. "Who can forgive sins but God only?" "Sins are against God, and therefore only God can forgive them." "As the nature of things only he against whom the offense has been committed can forgive."

8. "Why reason ye." Matthew says, "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts, and put an evil construction on my words?"

9. "Whether it is easier to say," etc. "In our mind the argument it must be carefully noted that he does not ask which is easier, to forgive sins or to raise a sick man; for it could not be affirmed that that would be easier than this of healing; but that, to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' or to say, 'Arise and walk.' It is easier to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' than to raise a man equally ignorant of the French and Chinese languages to claim to know the last than the first. Not that the language itself is easier, but that in the one case multitudines could disprove his claim, while the other, hardly a scholar or two in the land."—Trench, Saying, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." "Thy sins be forgiven thee," and therefore only God can forgive them." "As the nature of things only he against whom the offense has been committed can forgive."

10. "Whether they will say," etc. "In our mind the argument it must be carefully noted that he does not ask which is easier, to forgive sins or to raise a sick man; for it could not be affirmed that that would be easier than this of healing; but that, to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' or to say, 'Arise and walk.' It is easier to say, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee,' than to raise a man equally ignorant of the French and Chinese languages to claim to know the last than the first. Not that the language itself is easier, but that in the one case multitudines could disprove his claim, while the other, hardly a scholar or two in the land."—Trench, Saying, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." "Thy sins be forgiven thee," and therefore only God can forgive them." "As the nature of things only he against whom the offense has been committed can forgive."

11. "Whom he desired to raise." "Arise, and walk." This would show the completeness of the cure on the spot, which would be impossible if the cure were a medical result.

12. "He arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all." A living witness to Jesus' unimpeachable, and making the cure a visible illustration of the work which Jesus came to do. "Inasmuch that they were all amazed," Luke adds, "They were filled with fear." "The miracle awakened a religious awe in their minds, such as men ever feel in the presence of a great and mysterious power. Here was one who could read their hearts, and who would not be afraid if every secret thought were about to be brought to light. Here was one who had unlimited power; what might he not do to them? But they also were afraid of God's children, for he had love; his readiness to help; and this, too, for the sinful and helpless. This was the most amazing thing of all. 'And glorified and adored the name of Jesus.' We have seen strange things to-day. They ascribed the honor and glory to God, as the source of this beneficent power. The good deeds of God's children honor God, and lead the souls of men toward him (Matt. 5:16).

Tin Trade of Pre-Historic Days.

Recent investigation of the old problem of the diffusion of tin over eastern Europe and Asia Minor in prehistoric times leads to the conclusion that about 1,000 years before Christ the tin of the British isles were carried overseas to the Aegean sea. The invention of the anchor led about 2,700 years ago to the opening of a marine route between England and then the Phrygians controlled the tin trade with their ships. The short summer nights of north Britain were among the wonders that Greeks talked of in the days of Homer.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The healthiest troops in the world are those of the German army.

The sewing women of Berlin get only 20 cents a dozen for making fine shirts.

The young man of Samoa, when in love, has the name of his sweetheart tattooed upon his forehead.

Nearly all of the Egyptian farmers use the same kind of plow that was used 5,000 years ago.

In Wales, up to the year 1850, it was customary for people attending church to smoke during divine service.

American cotton is preferred by the Japanese manufacturers, because it has a longer staple than that of any other country.