UP THE NILE.

Dr. Talmage Continues His Discourses on His Late Journey.

Journeying Up the Nile—The Great River and Its Influences—Fulfillment of a Prophecy—Historic Scenes Described—Truth of the Scriptures.

In continuation of his series of sermons at Brooklyn upon his late journey to the Holy Land, Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage in his second discourse took his text from Ezekiel xxix. 9, "The river is mine and I have made it." He said:

Aha! This is the river Nile. A brown, or yellow, or silver on which are hung more jewels of thrilling interest than on any river that has ever twisted in the sunshine. It ripples through the book of Ezekiel and flashes in the books of Deuteronomy, and Isaiah, and Zachariah, and Nahum, and on its banks stood the mighties of many ages. It was the crystal cradle of Moses, and on its banks, Mary, the refugee, carried the infant Jesus. To find the birth-place of this river was the fascination and defeat of expeditions without number. Not many years ago Bayard Taylor, our great American traveler, wrote: "Since Columbus first looked upon San Salvador, the earth has but one emotion of triumph left for her bestowal and that she reserves for him who shall first drink from the fountains of the White Nile under the snow fields of Kilimanjaro." But the discovery of the sources of the Nile by most people was considered an impossibility. The malarias, the wild beasts, the unclimbable steeps, the vast distances, stopped all the expeditions for ages.

But the work went on until Speke, and Grant, and Baker found the two lakes which are the source of what was called the White Nile, and baptized these two lakes with the names of Victoria and Albert. These two lakes, filled by great rainfalls and by accumulated snows from the mountains pour their waters, laden with agricultural wealth such as blesses no other river, on down over the cataracts for 4,000 miles and through a continent. But the White Nile would do little for Egypt if this were all. It would keep its banks and Egypt would remain a desert. But from Abyssinia there comes what is called the Blue Nile, which, though dry or nearly dry half the year, under tremendous rains about the middle of June rises to great momentum, and the Blue Nile dashes with sudden influx into the White Nile, which in consequence rises thirty feet, and their combined waters inundate Egypt with a rich soil which drops on all the fields and gardens as it is conducted by ditches and sluices, and canals every whither.

The greatest damage that ever came to Egypt came by the drying up of the river Nile, and the greatest blessing by its healthful and abundant flow. The famine in Joseph's time came from the lack of sufficient inundation from the Nile. Not enough Nile is drought, too much Nile is freshet and plague.

What happens to the Nile happens to Egypt. The nilometer was to me very suggestive as we went up and down its stone steps and saw the pillar marked with notches telling just how high or low are the waters of the Nile. When the Nile is rising, four criers every morning run through the city announcing how many feet the river has risen—ten feet, fifteen feet, twenty feet, twenty-four feet—and when the right height of water is reached the gates of the canals are flung open and the liquid and refreshing benediction is pronounced on all the land.

As we start where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean sea we behold a wonderful fulfillment of prophecy. The Nile in very ancient times used to have seven mouths. As the great river approached the sea it entered the sea at the seven different places. Isaiah prophesied: "The Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea and shall smite it in seven streams." The fact is they are all destroyed but two, and Herodotus said these two remaining are artificial. Up the Nile we shall go, part of the way by Egyptian rail train and then by boat, and we shall understand why the Bible gives such prominence to this river which is the largest river of all the earth, with one exception. But before we board the train we must take a look at Alexandria. It was founded by Alexander the Great, and was once the New York, the Paris, the London of the world. Temples, palaces, fountains, gardens, pillared and efflorescent with all architectural and Elenic grandeur and sweetness. Apollos, the eloquent, whom in New Testament times some people tried to make a rival to Paul, lived here. Here Mark, the author of the second book of the New Testament expired under Nero's anathema. From here the ship sailed that left Paul and the crew struggling in the breakers of Melita. Pompey's pillar is here.

This tower was built in honor of Diocletian for sparing the rebellious citizens. After having declared that he would make the blood run to his horse's knees and his horse fell with him into the blood and his knees reddened, the tyrant took it for granted that it was a sign he should stop the massacre and hence this commemorative pillar to his mercy. This is the city to which Omar came after building 1,400 mosques and destroying 4,000 temples and 35,000 villages and castles, yet riding in on a camel with a sack of corn, a sack of figs and a wooden plate, all that he had kept for himself, and the diet to which he had limited himself for most of the time was bread and water. Was there ever in any other man a commingling of elements so strange, so weird, so generous, so cruel, so mighty, so weak, so religious, so fanatical?

In this city was the greatest female lecturer the world ever saw—Hypatia. But the lessons of virtue that she taught were obnoxious and so they dragged her, through the streets and scraped her flesh from her bones with sharp oyster shells and then burned the fragment of the massacred body. And here dwelt Cleopatra, pronounced to be the beauty of all time—although if her pictures are correct I have seen a thousand women in Brooklyn more attractive—and she was as bad as she was said to be handsome.

But Alexandria, fascinating for this or that thing, according to the taste of the visitor, was to me most entertaining because it had been the site of the greatest library the world ever saw, considering the fact that the art of printing had not been invented. Seven hundred thousand volumes and all the work of a slow pen. But down it all went under the torch of beseigers. Built again and destroyed again.

Built again but the Arabs came along for its final demolition and the 4,000 baths of the city were heated with those volumes, the fuel lasting six months, and were ever fires kindled at such fearful cost? What hol[illegible] the world's literature? Wha[illegible] dom of books? How many [illegible] have gone down under [illegible] of nations? Only one [illegible] been able to withsta[illegible] bombardment and that [illegible] through without smell of [illegible] its lids. No sword or spear [illegible] for its defense. An unarr[illegible] Testament. An unarmed O[illegible] ment. Yet invulnerable [illegible] umphant. There must be [illegible] supernatural about it. Cou[illegible] books! Monarch of books! All the books of all the ages in all the libraries outshone by this one book which you and I can carry to church in a pocket. So methought amid the ashes of Alexandrian libraries.

But all aboard the Egyptian rail train going up the banks of the Nile! Look out of the window and see those camels kneeling for the imposition of their load. And I think we might take from them a lesson, and instead of trying to stand upright in our own strength, become conscious of our weakness and need of divine help before we take upon us the heavy duties of the year or the week or the day, and so kneel for the burden.

About here, under the valiant Murad Bey, the Mamelukes, who are the finest horsemen in all the world, came like a hurricane upon Napoleon's army, but they were beaten back by the French in one of the fiercest battles of all time.

This ride along the Nile is one of the most solemn and impressive rides of all my lifetime, and our emotions deepen as the curtains of the night fall upon all surroundings. But we shall not be satisfied until we can take a ship and pass right out upon these wondrous waters and between the banks crowded with the story of empires.

The pyramids in sight, the remains of cities that are now only a name, the villages thronged with population. Both banks crowded with historical deeds of forty or sixty centuries. O, what a book the Bible is when read on the Nile! As we slowly move up the majestic river I see on each bank the wheels, the pumps, the buckets for irrigation, and see a man with his foot on the treadle of a wheel that fetches up the water for a garden, and then for the first time I understand that passage in Deuteronomy which says of the Israelites after they had got back from Egypt: "The land whither thou goest in to possess it is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot." Then I understood how the land could be watered with the foot. How do you suppose I felt when on the deck of that steamer on the Nile I looked off upon the canals and ditches and sluices through which the fields are irrigated by that river and then read in Isaiah: "The burden of Egypt; the river shall be wasted and dried up; and they shall be broken in their purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish."

While sailing on this river or stopping at one of the villages, we see people on the banks who verify the Bible description for they are now as they were in Bible times. Shoes are now taken off in reverence to sacred places. Children carried astride the mother's shoulder as in Hagar's time. Women with profusion of jewelry as when Rebecca was affianced. Lentils shelled into the pottage as when Esau sold his birthright to get such a dish. The same habits of salutation as when Joseph and his brethren fell on each other's neck. Courts of law held under big trees as in olden times. People making bricks without straw, compelled by circumstances to use stubble instead of straw. Flying over or standing on the banks as in Scripture days are flamingoes, ospreys, eagles, pelicans, herons, cuckoos and bullfinches. On all sides of this river sepulchres. Villages of sepulchres. Cities of sepulchres. Nations of sepulchres. And one is tempted to call it an empire of tombs. I never saw such a place as Egypt is for graves. And now we understand the complaining sarcasm of the Israelites when they were on the way from Egypt to Canaan: "Because there are no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

Here we disembark a little while for Memphis, off from the Nile to the right. Memphis, founded by the first king of Egypt and for a long while the capital. A city of marble and gold. Home of the Pharaohs. City nineteen miles in circumference. Vast colonnades through which imposing processions marched. Here stood the temple of the sun, itself in brilliance a sun shone on by another sun. Memphis in power over a thousand years, or nearly ten times as long as the United States have existed.

Here Joseph was prime minister. Here Pharaoh received Jacob. All possible splendors were built up into this royal city. Hosea, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Isaiah speak of it as something wonderful. Never did I visit a city with such exalted anticipations and never did my anticipations drop so flat. Not a pillar stands. Not a wall is unbroken. Not a fountain tosses in the sun. Even the ruins have been ruined and all that remain are chips of marble, small pieces of fractured sculpture and splintered human bones. Here and there a letter of some elaborate inscription, a toe or ear of a statue that once stood in niche of palace wall. Ezekiel prophesied its blotting out and the prophecy has been fulfilled.

But back to the Nile and on and up till you reach Thebes, in scripture called the city of No. Hundred-gated Thebes. A quadrangular city four miles from limit to limit. Four great temples, two of them Karnac and Luxor, once mountains of exquisite sculpture and gorgeous dreams solidified in stone statue of Rameses II., 887 tons in weight and seventy-five feet high, but now fallen and scattered. Walls abloom with the battlefields of centuries. The surrounding hills of rock hollowed into sepulchres, on the wall of which are chiseled in picture and hieroglyphics the confirmation of Bible story in regard to the treatment of the Israelites in Egypt so that, as explorations go on with the work, the walls of these sepulchres become commentaries of the Bible, the Scriptures originally written upon parchment here cut into everlasting stone.

Thebes mighty and dominant 500 years. Then she went down in fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the city of No, which was another name for Thebes: "I will execute judgment in No. I will cut off the multitudes of No." Jeremiah also prophesied: "Thus saith the Lord, I will punish the multitudes of No." This city of Thebes and all the other dead cities of Egypt iterate and reiterate the veracity of the Scriptures, telling the same story which Moses and the prophets told.

Have you noticed how God kept back these archaeological confirmations of the Bible until our time, when the air is full of unbelief about the truthfulness of the dear old book? He waited until the printing press had been set up in its perfected shape and the submarine cable was laid and the world was intelligent enough to appreciate the testimony and then he resurrected the dead cities of the earth and commanded them, saying: "Open your long sealed lips and speak! [illegible] he Bible [illegible] nphis and [illegible] book of [illegible] responds [illegible] tine and [illegible] nt true?" [illegible] the way [illegible] nd from [illegible] t a mercy [illegible] ad cities [illegible] e Bible [illegible] his work [illegible] nd divin- [illegible] s certain to all sensible men and women as that two and two make four.

But the dead cities strung along the Nile not only demolish infidelity, but thunder down the absurdity of the modern doctrine of evolution which says the world started with nothing and then rose, and human nations began with nothing but evolved into splendid manhood and womanhood of itself. Nay; the sculpture of the world was more wonderful in the days of Memphis and Thebes and Carthage than in the days of Boston and New York.

Those blocks of stone weighing 300 tons high up in the wall at Karnac imply machinery equal to if not surpassing the machinery of the nineteenth century. How was that statue of Rameses, weighing eight hundred and eighty-seven tons, transported from the quarries two hundred miles away, and how was it lifted? Tell us, modern machinists. How were those galleries of rock, still standing at Thebes, filled with paintings surpassed by no artist's pencil of the present day? Tell us, artists of the nineteenth century. The dead cities of Egypt, so far as they have left enough pillars or statues or sepulchres of temple ruins to tell the story—Memphis, Migdol, Hierapolis, Zoan, Thebes, Goshen, Carthage—all of them developing downward instead of upward. They have evolved from magnificence to destruction. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only elevator of individual and social national character. Let all the living cities know that pomp and opulence and temporal prosperity are no security. These ancient cities lacked nothing but good morals. Dissipation and sin slew them, and unless dissipation and sin are halted, they will some day slay our modern cities, and leave our palaces of merchandise and our galleries of art and our city halls as flat in the dust as we found Memphis. And if the cities go down, the nation will go down. "O," you say, "that is impossible; we have stood so long—yea, over 100 years as a nation." Why, what of that? Thebes stood over 500 years; Memphis stood 1,000 years. God does not forget. One day with the Lord is as 1,000 years and 1,000 years as one day. Rum and debauchery and bad politics are more rapidly working the destruction of our American cities than sin of any kind, and all kinds worked for the destruction of the cities of Africa, once, so might and now so prostrate. But their gods were idols and could do nothing except for debasement.

Our God made the heavens and sent His Son to redeem the nations. And our cities will not go down, and our nations will not perish because the gospel is going to triumph. Forward! all schools and colleges and churches! Forward! all the influences marshaled to bless the world. Let our modern European and American cities listen to the voice of those ancient cities resurrected, and by hammer and chisel and crowbar compelled to speak.

I notice the voice of those ancient cities is hoarse from the exposure of forty centuries, and they accentuate slowly with lips that were palsied for ages, but all together those cities along the Nile intone these words: "Hear us for we are very old, and it is hard for us to speak. We were wise long before Athens learned her first lesson. We sailed our ships while yet navigation was unborn. These obelisks, these pyramids, these fallen pillars, these wrecked temples, these colossi of black granite, these wrecked sarcophagi under the brow of the hills, tell you of what I was in grandeur and what I am coming down to be. We sinned and we fell. Our learning could not save us. See those half obliterated hieroglyphics on yonder wall. Our architecture could not save us. See the painted columns of Philæ and the shattered temple of Esneh. Our heroes could not save us. Witness Menes, Diodorus, Rameses and Ptolemy. Our gods Ammon and Osiris could not save us. See their fallen temples all along the 4,000 miles of Nile. Oh, ye modern cities, get some other God; a God who can help, a God who can pardon, a God who can save. Called up as we are for a little while to give testimony, again the sands of the desert will bury us. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!" And as these voices of porphyry and granite ceased, all the sarcophagi under the hills responded: "Ashes to ashes!" and the capital of a lofty column fell, grinding itself to powder among the rocks, and responded: "Dust to dust!"

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J. W. MALLET, Ph. D., F. R. S., [illegible]f. of Chemistry, University of Virginia.

IT WAS A SURE THING.

How a Snug Party Played a "Tip" and Paid Dearly For it.

There was a small party of four gentlemen. On the first day of the races at Point Breeze fortune smiled on them. They "struck" a winner and everything was lovely and the goose hung high. In the gloaming, or dim twilight of the evening, they dined sumptuously. The menu consisted of green turtle soup, low-neck clams, soft-shell crabs, boiled lobster, spring chicken on toast and porterhouse steak with champagne. They inhaled the rich perfume from Rosa Perfecto cigars. The waiter was "tipped" with a generous hand. It was a merry bout. No thoughts of the future interfered with the pleasures of the feast.

The scene changes. Late in the evening of the last day of the races the same quartet of gentlemen sneaked into a Ninth street restaurant. It was a quiet and solemn procession. Each man wore on his face a painful expression of misplaced confidence. In a listless manner they sank into rickety chairs. With sunken eyes they carefully scanned the solitary greasy menu card. In a confidential and low voice of melting tenderness each man ordered a plate of hash and a "Schuylkill punch." The mysterious hash was partaken of in a mysterious silence. There was no levity in the air.

It was a quiet, sober and temperate feast.

There were no songs, jests nor mirth over the "funeral-baked meats."

Grace and thanks were alike omitted.

The soul-inspiring fizzle of Montebello champagne was not heard. The bewildering clouds from Rosa Perfecto cigars were not seen.

The sad-eyed and double-dyed blonde waitress was not "tipped." The party, individually and collectively, were down to "hard pan."

In an evil hour they played a "sure tip" on Problem against Maud Muller, and this time they "struck" a loser.

Now they were ready to sing "Johnny, Get Your Gun."

They formed a syndicate, pooled their issues and consolidated their capital.

As the leader of the party paid the forty-cent hash check he incoherently muttered the following words from Whittier's poem of "Maud Muller:"

"Of all sad words of thought or pen
The saddest are these: It might have been."

—Philadelphia Item.

—An American who was on his first trip on an English railway, quite held his breath at the rapid running. When his nervousness rather overcame him, he approached the guard: "I say, guard," he ventured, "this is pretty fast traveling for safety, isn't it?" "Oh, no, sir," replied the guard; "we never run off the line here, sir." "But," said the Yankee quickly, resenting the patronage, "it is not the line—I'm afraid of running off your blanked little island."

THE VALPARAISO AFFAIR.

Text of the President's Order and Instructions Sent to Minister Egan—An Inquiry to Be Instituted.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—The following is a copy of the telegram which, by the president's order, was sent to Chili on the 23d inst.

To Egan, American Minister, Santiago, Chili:

Immediately upon receipt of information of the assaults made on the 16th inst., in the streets of Valparaiso upon a number of American sailors belonging to the United States man-of-war Baltimore, now in that harbor, the commander of that vessel, Capt. W. S. Schley, was directed to cause an immediate and thorough inquiry to be made into the origin and incidents of that tragic affair and communicate the results simultaneously to this government and to you. His report under date of yesterday has just been transmitted to this department by the secretary of the navy which advises me that a copy of the report was forwarded by Capt. Schley to you.

You will observe that the board of officers selected by Capt. Schley to investigate this affair reports that our sailors were unarmed and gave no provocation; that the assaults upon them were by armed men, greatly superior in numbers, and, as we must conclude, animated in their bloody work by hostility to these men as sailors of the United States.

You will also notice that the character of some of the wounds indicates that the public police, or some of them, took part in the attack, and will also observe that other American sailors were, without any apparent fault, arrested and for some time held by the authorities. The friendly efforts of a few of the public officers to give succor to our men furnishes the only redeeming incident of this affair. This work so injurious to the United States, took place on the 16th inst., and yet no expression of regret or of a purpose to make a searching inquiry with a view to the institution of proper proceedings for the punishment of the guilty parties has been, so far as I am advised, offered to this government.

You will at once bring to the attention of the government of Chili the facts as reported to you by Capt. Schley, and will inquire whether there are any qualifying facts in the possession of that government, or any explanation to be offered of an event that has very deeply pained the people of the United States, not only by the reason of the resulting death of one of our sailors and the pitiless wounding of others, but even more as an apparent expression of an unfriendliness towards this government, which might put in peril the maintenance of amicable relations between the two countries. If the facts are as reported by Capt. Schley this government cannot doubt the government of Chili will offer prompt and full reparation. You will furnish the foreign office with a full paraphrase of this dispatch and report promptly to this government.

WHARTON.

TILDEN'S WILL BROKEN.

The Will of Samuel J. Tilden, That Was Considered to Be Invulnerable, Decided to Be Invalid.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 28.—The court of appeals this morning rendered a decision in the Tilden will case in favor of the heirs of the late Samuel J. Tilden. The costs are payable out of the estate. This renders the Tilden trust void.

Samuel J. Tilden died August 4, 1886, at Greystone, his country seat at Yonkers, on the Hudson. Mr. Tilden was a public spirited man and made a generous will. The family legacies were numerous and he stipulated that in all cases in which special trusts were given for the benefit of any female the income should be kept free from the control or interference of her husband, should she have one, such income being intended to be sacredly devoted to the separate personal use of the heiress and not to be pledged or incumbered or anticipated by her.

The will provided for a free library and reading room at New Lebanon at an expense of from $65,000 to $90,000, and for a similar institution at Yonkers at a cost of from $50,000 to $100,000. A part of these sums was to be set aside as a fund, the income of which was to support the libraries. The balance of the estate, after the special bequests have been paid, was to be applied to the establishment and maintenance in the city of New York of an institution to be known as the "Tilden Trust" with capacity to establish and maintain a free library and reading room in the city of New York and to promote such scientific and educational objects as the executors and trustees should more particularly designate; "such corporations not to have less than five trustees, with power to fill vacancies in their number, and in case said institution shall be incorporated in a form and manner satisfactory to said executors."

Samuel J. Tilden carefully prepared his will and inserted a clause barring any person or legatee attempting to contest it from receiving any benefits. It was considered ironclad and astonishment was felt when the heirs first announced that they would contest it.

The decision this morning breaks the will of one of America's foremost lawyers, deprives New York, New Lebanon and Yonkers of their libraries and the public from receiving any benefit from the great statesman's large and generous bequests.

To Prevent Collisions.

MUNCIE, Ind., Oct. 28.—Superintendent A. G. Wells, of the Cleveland and Indianapolis division of the Big Four, has issued a bulletin requiring that the engineer and conductor must sign their own train orders, and that the receiving operator must read the order to them and then they must read it to each other. Any conductor signing for his engine man will be discharged and the engineer and any operator failing to read the train orders will be dismissed. A few days since a conductor on a passenger train signed for his engineer, and mistook the order in such a manner that his train and the Southwestern limited express met on the main track near Ansonia, O., and a collision was only averted in a miraculous manner. Hence the bulletin.

Train Robber Found Guilty.

FORT SMITH, Oct. 28.—Alex Lewis, who has been on trial in the federal court here for a week, charged with the murder of R. C. Travis, a Texas cattleman, was found guilty late last evening. On the night of June 15, 1888, Lewis, with four confederates, held up a passenger train on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway near Gibson station, I. T., and robbed the express car. Three shots were fired, one of them striking Travis and killing him. When Lewis was arrested one of his pals testified against him.

Three Tramps Crushed.

JOLIET, Ill., Oct. 28.—About midnight last night an extra westbound train on the Rock Island road, in charge of Conductor Burns, consisting of some twenty-five or thirty cars of dead freight, was wrecked two miles east of this city by the truck on a car of salt, about in the middle of the train, breaking and letting the car down on the track. Some eight or ten cars were ditched. Three tramps—Mike Foley, James O'Hearn and Lawrence Smith—who were stealing a ride in one of the wrecked cars, were seriously injured. The wreck was soon cleared.

Caught in the Stirrup.

GAINESVILLE, Tex., Oct. 28.—While out riding yesterday afternoon John Dudley, a young man of this city was dangerously hurt. His horse got frightened and began to plunge. Dudley was thrown and in falling his foot caught in the stirrup. This frightened the horse more, and he went down the street in a run, dragging Dudley. The latter's foot became loosened, but not until he was fearfully cut and bruised about the head and face. When picked up he was unconscious, and his injuries, it is feared, are very serious.

CHILI'S REPLY.

Text of the Chilian Government's Reply to the Demand of the United States For Reparation For the Valparaiso Affair.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—A cipher cablegram from Minister Egan was received by the state department yesterday morning but it was nearly noon before it could be laid before the president.

An hour afterward messengers were dispatched to Secretary Blaine and Secretary Tracy requesting their presence at the White house. The secretaries promptly responded, Mr. Blaine from his house and Secretary Tracy from the navy department.

Soon after 6 o'clock an official statement of the contents of Minister Egan's dispatch was made public as follows:

"The department of state received this morning a telegram from Minister Egan, dated Santiago, October 28, in which he gives the following as the reply of the Chilian government to the

MINISTER PATRICK EGAN.

president's telegram of October 23, asking reparation for the recent murder of American sailors in the streets of Valparaiso: 'The minister of foreign affairs replies that the government of the United States formulates demands and advances threats that, without being cast back with acrimony, are not acceptable, nor could they be accepted in the present case or in any other of like nature. He does not doubt the sincerity, rectitude or expertness of the investigation on board the Baltimore, but will recognize only the jurisdiction and authority of his own country to judge and punish the guilty in Chilian territory. He says the administrative and judicial authorities have been investigating affairs; that judicial investigation under Chilian law is secret and the time is not yet arrived to make known the result; when that time does arrive he will communicate the result, although he does not recognize any other authority competent to judge criminal cases than that established by the Chilian people. Until the time arrives to disclose the result of the investigation he can not admit that the disorders in Valparaiso or the silence of his department should appear as an expression of unfriendliness toward the government of the United States which might put in peril the friendly relations between the two countries.'"

RIVER DISASTER.

The Steamer Oliver Bierne Burned on the Lower Mississippi—Probably Twenty Lives Lost.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Oct. 30.—The handsome steamer Oliver Bierne was burned to the water's edge at 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning near Milliken's landing, twelve miles below Vicksburg. Twenty persons at the least calculation are believed to have perished.

The Oliver Bierne was a new and handsome passenger boat and was built in Jeffersonville, Ind., four years ago. She has been used in the excursion business on the Mississippi for the past two summers and during the winter season has plied between local points at the lower end of the river. The boat was valued at $50,000 and owned by the Planters' & Merchants' Packing Co., of New Orleans. She left this city last Wednesday with over 100 deck passengers and carried fifteen cabin passengers. This list was increased by additional passengers taken on board at Cairo, Memphis and other landings.

The Bierne, after getting to the Mississippi river, accepted freight on her way down and when she reached Milliken's bend she had aboard several hundred bales of cotton in addition to a quantity of miscellaneous freight. She reached Milliken's bend at night and landed there, intending to resume her trip down the river in the morning at daybreak. The passengers and crew were asleep when at 3:30 o'clock an alarm of fire was suddenly sounded and almost before anyone was awake the boat was in flames.

The vessel had about eighty deck and about twenty cabin passengers. It is difficult to ascertain the loss of lives, the several reports differing as to the exact number, but conservative estimates are that twenty were lost. The following are known to have been among those who perished:

Mrs. Waddell, an elderly lady of New Orleans; Sam Entricken, son of the clerk; two daughters of Dr. Worrell, of Baton Rouge; a chambermaid; a daughter of Mrs. Adams, of Omaha.

Mrs. Grandson Jones and her daughter were both drowned. Their bodies, with those of four colored men, were recovered. Capt. Thorwegen had drag hooks made and used every possible means to recover the bodies of the lost passengers.

Jackson Fletcher Escapes.

CADDO, I. T., Oct. 30.—News has reached this place to the effect that Jackson Fletcher, the Choctaw who was to be shot to-day for the murder of Eli Frazier, near Boggy depot, last spring, made his escape last night while the sheriff who had him in charge was at supper. It is supposed he is making his way toward Paris, Tex., as he said he was going to Paris to give up. A bond is held against him at that place for his appearance at the term of court which is now in session, where he is charged with the murder of old man Stapleman in the summer.

Polk on Politics.

NORFOLK, Va., Oct. 30.—Col. L. L. Polk, president of the Farmers' Alliance, in speaking at Elizabeth City, said in part:

"They talk about politics. The alliance is as full of politics as an egg is full of meat. Yes, sir, we are into politics and there to stay. They talk about party; what is party? It is a nice little collar with a chain. I don't care who is nominated. I will vote as I please."

Polk then spoke of the sub-treasury bill, and said that there were eighteen states pledged to stand by this scheme.

Pushed Into the Rear End.

DAYTON, O., Oct. 30.—The observation car of a party of Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railway officials on a tour of inspection of the recently purchased Dayton and Ironton division was wrecked by being pushed into the rear end of a freight train. The party consisted of President M. D. Woodford, Superintendent C. Neilson and fourteen others. Some of the party jumped to the steep rocky side of the cut, while the others crowded into the back end of the car. No one was seriously hurt, but great damage was done to the trains.

STOCK ITEMS.

When prices are low is a good time to purchase improved stock for breeding.

Having stock to eat the coarse fodder on the farm is one of the best ways to care.

Good clover hay is one of the best rough feeds for growing animals during winter.

A very little feed when it is needed will often make the difference between profit and loss.

Scrubs eat as much as well bred animals and do not make as good returns for their keeping.

In addition to being pedigreed, breeding animals should be well developed and evenly proportioned.

As with other stock it is quite an item to supply milch cows with a good variety. Clover hay with bran and corn meal, make one of the very best rations that can be supplied to milch cows. Bran alone tends to increase the quantity but lowers the quality of the milk, and either corn or oil meal, or both, should be used in connection with it.

A watchful care to prevent costiveness in the pregnant sow should be constantly observed, the bowels should be loose and regular. This condition prevents fever which operates disastrously on the milk secretion. The proper condition can be maintained through the food, and nothing is finer nor acts better as a regulator and stimulator of liberal milk flow than the moderate use of oil meal.

Dr. H. J. Detmers, the Ohio state veterinarian, announces in the ninth annual report of the Ohio experiment station, that he has succeeded in finding a method of inoculation for hog cholera which he believes, from actual experimentation, will afford protection from that disease, and will be able in the near future to furnish material to skilled veterinarians, with the method to be followed.

A bunch of steers that are all about the same size and color catch the eye of a dealer much more readily than if the animals are of all sizes and colors, besides they are much more apt to get finished at the same time, and, therefore, none need be kept after they are ready for market, waiting for the rest to catch up, nor the lot split and shipped at different times. With sheep and pigs the very same principles apply.

Cows kept in a good, dry, comfortable shelter, will need much less food to maintain heat than one that is wintered with little or no shelter, and it is always good economy to provide good shelter, and especially when it is an item to secure as large a flow of milk as possible. Cows need but little exercise, hence they can be confined the greater part of the time during the winter. Plenty of bedding should be provided to keep them clean, as it will also add to their comfort.

FARM NOTES.

Manures, consisting largely of animal droppings, should be applied as soon as possible.

Before cold weather sets in, whatever necessary repairing is needed about the buildings should be done.

It is a variety of food rather than large quantity that fowls require. More care is necessary in this respect when they are confined than when given a good range.

By keeping the fowls in a good, thrifty condition during the summer all kinds of poultry can be fattened very readily in the fall, or, in fact, at any time it is desired to market.

Many western farmers could secure higher price and realize more profit by butchering and curing their hogs and selling as cured meat in the spring and summer, rather than sell on foot now.

While there is not a large amount of available plant food in dried stalks, weeds and grasses, yet by plowing them under the mechanical effect produced is beneficial and everything should be turned under that is possible.

Before killing, poultry should never be stuffed nor starved; feed moderately, so that the crop is not distended. It is evident that when killed after being heavily fed, the undigested food in the crop is apt to spoil, and thus lessen the market value. All kinds of poultry should be moderately fed, so that they may retain their vitality.

Whenever the farmer feeds his corn oats and hay he becomes to some extent a manufacturer and his profit depends on the wisdom he displays in transforming these raw and bulky products into condensed and valuable ones. Many farmers fall far short of the profit they might get because their animals are ill bred.

One point in which farmers fail is in not providing sufficient store room for grain where it will be safe. Either they must sell their wheat as soon as threshed, or put it where the fowls waste it, or it gets scattered and dirty. Nearly every season the grain market is depressed by the rush of farmers to market grain because they have no safe place to store it.

The ideal farmer prizes his dwelling and out buildings and appreciates the comforts and contents these give to him and his family and his domestic animals. Therefore he keeps them in good repair, treats them to a good coat of paint every two years, and makes everything about him so pleasant and cheerful that when his boys return from school, or his daughters from the seminary, the first thing after a hearty greeting father and mother hears is: "There is no place like home."

Notes.

Every farmer should manage to have a fresh cow to begin the winter with. One good fresh cow is better than three ordinary cows. With a real good cow the farmer is sure of a good living, and one cow where one makes no pretensions to dairying is better than two, as she will have better care and more feed.

As an egg promoter there is no element that equals raw crushed bone, fed as a balancing food with other rations. For growing chicks it furnishes both a rich, nutritious food and a good grinding element.

A tablespoonful of crude carbolic acid thoroughly mixed with a quart of buttermilk is a good remedy for lice. Apply with a brush.

Regular feeding twice a day will give better results than irregular feeding three times a day. In determining the number of times to feed the farm work must be considered. If the other work will not interfere with the feeding, it is usually best to feed three times, but it must be done regularly.

Apply all manures on a plowed surface.

Better have half the pasture and have it good.

Be sure and not sell all of the live hogs now at three and four cents a pound, and buy them back next spring at ten and twelve cents.

Poultry of any kind intended to be dressed before sending to market should be kept from food for twenty-four hours before killing.

While it is an item to keep all of the stock the farm will carry, over-stocking should be avoided.

Fattening hogs should be pushed now as rapidly as possible. All things considered now is the best time for fattening; after the weather gets cold and stormy more food will be required.

"A Yard of Roses."

One of the popular paintings at the New York Academy of Design was a yard long panel of Roses. A crowd was always before it. One art critic exclaimed: "Such a bit of nature should belong to all the people. It is too beautiful for one man to hide away."

The Youth's Companion, of Boston, seized the idea and spent twenty thousand dollars to reproduce the painting. The result has been a triumph of artistic design and color.

The Companion makes this copy of the painting an autumn gift to each of its five hundred thousand subscribers. Any who may subscribe now for the first time and requests it, will receive "The Yard of Roses" without extra charge while the edition lasts.

Besides the gift of this beautiful picture all new subscribers will receive the Companion free from the time the subscription is received till January first, including the Thanksgiving and Christmas Double Numbers, and for a full year from that date. The price of the Companion is $1.75 a year.

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