

BLIND GUIDES.

Dr. Talmage Discourses on Hypocritical Pretenders.

The consciousness of those who make a great outcry against small sins and overlook greater ones—The Saviour's Rebuke of Such.

In a late sermon at Brooklyn Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage discoursed upon the tendency to formalism in religion and to hypocritical pretense in society. He made a vigorous onslaught upon it, basing his remarks on the text, Matthew xxiii. 24: "Ye blind guides, who strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." Dr. Talmage said:

A proverb is compact wisdom, knowledge in chunks, a library in a sentence, the electricity of many clouds discharged in one bolt, a river put through a mill race. When Christ quotes the proverb of the text, he means to set forth the ludicrous behavior of those who make a great blustering about small sins and have no appreciation of great ones.

In my text a small insect and a large quadruped are brought into comparison—a gnat and a camel. You have in museum or on the desert seen the latter, a great awkward, sprawling creature, with back two stories high, and stomach having a collection of reservoirs for desert travel, an animal forbidden to the Jews as food, and in many literatures entitled "the ship of the desert." The gnat spoken of in the text is the grub form. It is born in pool or pond, after a few weeks becomes a chrysalis, and then after a few days becomes the gnat as we recognize it. But the insect spoken of in the text is in its very smallest shape, and it yet inhabits the water—for my text is a misprint and ought to read, "strain out a gnat."

My text shows you the prince of inconsistencies. A man after long observation has formed the suspicion that in a cup of water he is about to drink, there is a grub or the grandparent of a gnat. He goes and gets a sieve or strainer. He takes the water and pours it through the sieve in the broad light. He says: "I would rather do anything almost than drink this water until this larva be extirpated." The water is brought under inspection. The experimenter is successful. The water rushes through the sieve and leaves against the side of the sieve the grub or gnat. Then the man carefully removes the insect and drinks the water in placidity. But going out one day, and hungry, he devours a "ship of the desert," the camel, which the Jews were forbidden to eat. The gastronome has no compunction of conscience. He suffers from no indigestion. He puts his lower jaw under the hump of the camel's back, and gives one swallow and the dromedary disappears forever. He strained out a gnat; he swallowed a camel.

While Christ's audience was yet smiling at the appositeness and wit of his illustration—for smile they did in church, unless they were too stupid to understand the parable—Christ practically said to them, "That is you." Punctilious about small things, reckless about affairs of great magnitude, no subject ever withered under a surgeon's knife more bitterly than did the Pharisees under Christ's scalpel of truth. As an anatomist will take a human body to pieces and put it under a microscope for examination, so Christ finds his way to the heart of the dead Pharisee and cuts it out and puts it under the glass of inspection for all generations to examine. Those Pharisees thought that Christ would flatter them and compliment them, and how they must have writhed under the red hot words as he said: "Ye fools, ye white eyed epulchres, ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

There are in our day a great many gnats strained out and a great many camels swallowed, and it is the object of this sermon to sketch a few persons who are extensively engaged in that business.

First, I remark, that all those ministers of the gospel are photographed in the text who are very scrupulous about the conventionalities of religion, but put no particular stress upon matters of vast importance. Church services ought to be grave and solemn. There is no room for frivolity in religious convocation. But there are illustrations, and there are hyperboles like that of Christ in the text that will irradiate with smiles any intelligent auditor. There are men like those blind guides of the text who advocate only those things in religious service which draw the corners of the mouth down and denounce all those things which have a tendency to draw the corners of the mouth up, and these men will go to installations and to presbyteries and to conferences and associations, their pockets full of fine sieves to strain out the gnats, while in their own churches at home every Sunday there are fifty people sound asleep. They make their churches a great dormitory, and their sermons are a cradle, and the drawled out hymns a lullaby, while some wakeful soul in a pew with her fan keeps the flies off unconscious persons approximate. Now, I say it is worse to sleep in church than to smile in church, for the latter implies at least attention, while the former implies the indifference of the hearers and the stupidity of the speaker. In old age, or from physical infirmity, or from long watching with the sick, drowsiness will sometimes overpower one. But when a minister of the gospel looks off upon an audience and finds healthy and intelligent people struggling with drowsiness, it is time for him to give out the doxology or pronounce the benediction.

The great fault of church services to-day is not too much vivacity, but too much somnolence. The one is an irritating gnat that may be easily strained out, the other is a great, sprawling and sleepy-eyed camel of the dry desert. In our Sabbath schools, in all our Bible classes, in all our pulpits, we need to brighten up our religious messages with such Christ-like vivacity as we find in the text.

I take down from my library the biographies of ministers and writers of past ages, inspired and uninspired, who have done the most to bring souls to Jesus Christ, and I find that without a single exception they consecrated their wit and their humor to Christ. Elijah used it when he advised the Baalites, as they could not make their god respond; telling them to call louder, as their god might be sound asleep or gone a hunting. Job used it when he said to his self-conceited comforters, "Wisdom used it in his text, but when he ironically complimented the putrid Pharisees, saying: 'The whole need not a physician,' and when by one word he described the cursing of Herod, saying, 'Go ye and tell that fox.' Matthew Henry's commentaries from the first page to the last caroused with humor as summer clouds with heat lightning. John Bunyan's writings are as full of humor as they are of saying truth, and there is not an aged man here who has ever read 'Pilgrim's Progress' who does not remember that while reading it he smiled as often as he wept. Chrysostom, George Herbert, Robert South, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Jeremy Rowland Hill, Nettleton, George G. Finney and all the men of the past who greatly advanced the kingdom of God consecrated their wit and their humor to the cause of Christ. So it has been in all the ages, and I say to these young theological students, who cluster in these services Sabbath by Sabbath, sharpen your wits as keen as scimitars and then take them into this holy war. It is a very short bridge between a smile and a tear, a suspension bridge from eye to lip, and it is soon crossed over, and a smile is sometimes just as sacred as a tear. There is as much religion, and I think a little more, in a spring morning than in a starless midnight. Religious work without any humor or wit in it is a banquet with a side of beef, and that raw, and no condiments and no dessert succeeding. People will not sit down at such a banquet. By all means remove all frivolity and all paths and all lightness and all vulgarity—strain them out through the sieve of holy discrimination; but, on the other hand, beware of the monster which overshadows the Christian church today, conventionally coming up from the great Sahara desert of ecclesiasticism, having on its back a hump of sanctimonious gloom and vehemently refuse to swallow that camel.

O, how particular a great many people are about the infinitesimals, while they are quite reckless about the magnitudes. What did Christ say? Did He not exhort the people in His time who were so careful to wash their hands before a meal, but did not wash their hearts? It is a bad thing to have unclean hands; it is a worse thing to have an unclean heart. How many people there are in our time who are very anxious that after their death they shall be buried with their feet toward the east, and not at all anxious that during their whole life they should face in the right direction, so that they shall come up in the resurrection of the just whichever way they are buried. How many there are chiefly anxious that a minister of the gospel shall come in the line of apostolic succession, not caring so much whether he comes from Apostle Paul or Apostle Judas. They have a way of measuring a gnat until it is larger than a camel.

Again: My subject photographs all those who are abhorrent of small sins while they are reckless in regard to magnificent thefts. You will find many a merchant who, while he is so careful that he would not take a yard of cloth or a spool of cotton from the counter without paying for it, and who, if a bank cashier should make a mistake and send in a roll of bills \$5 too much, would dispatch a messenger in hot haste to return the surplus, yet who will go into a stock company in which after a while he gets control of the stock, and then waters the stock and makes \$100,000 appear like \$200,000. He only stole \$100,000 by the operation. Many of the men of fortune made their wealth in this way. One of those men, engaged in such unrighteous acts, that evening, the evening of the very day when he watered the stock, will find a wharf rat stealing an evening newspaper from the basement doorway, and will go out and catch the urchin by the collar, and twist the collar so tightly the poor fellow cannot say it was thirst for knowledge that led him to the dishonest act, but grip the collar tighter, saying: "I have been looking for you a long while; you stole my paper four or five times, haven't you? you miserable wretch." And then the old stock gambler, with a voice they can hear three blocks, will cry out: "Police, police!"

That same man, the evening of the day in which he watered the stock, will kneel with his family in prayer and thank God for the prosperity of the day, then kiss his children good night with an air which seems to say: "I hope you will all grow to be as good as your father!" Prisons for sins insectile in size, but palaces for crime's dromedarian. No mercy for sins animalcule in proportion, but great leniency for mastodon iniquity.

It is time that we learn in America that sin is not excusable in proportion as it declares large dividends and has outriders in equipage. Many a man is riding to perdition position ahead and lacking behind. To steal a dollar is a gnat; to steal many thousand dollars is a camel. There is many a fruit dealer who would not consent to steal a basket of peaches from a neighbor's stall, but who would not scruple to depress the fruit market; and as long as I can remember we have heard every summer the peach crop of Maryland is a failure, and by the time the crop comes in the misrepresentation makes a difference of millions of dollars. A man who would not steal one peach basket steals fifty thousand peach baskets. Any summer go down into the mercantile library, in the reading rooms, and see the newspaper reports of the crops from all parts of the country, and their phraseology is very much the same, and the same men wrote them, methodically and infamously carrying out the huge

lying about the grain crop from year to year and for a score of years. After a while there is a "corner" in the wheat market, and men who had a contempt for a petty theft will burglarize the wheat bin of a nation and commit larceny upon the American corn crib. And men will sit in churches and in reformatory institutions trying to strain out the small gnats of scoundrelism, while in their grain elevators and in their storehouses they are fattening huge camels which they expect after a while to swallow. Society has to be entirely reconstructed on this subject. We are to find that a sin is inexcusable in proportion as it is great.

I know in our time the tendency is to charge religious frauds upon good men. They say: "O, what a class of frauds you have in the church of God in this day," and when an elder of a church, or a deacon, or a minister of the gospel, or a superintendent of a Sabbath school turns out a defaulter, what display heads there are in many of the newspapers. Great primer type. Five line pica. "Another Saint Absconded," "Clerical Scoundrelism," "Religion at a Discount," "Shame on the Churches," while there are a thousand scoundrels outside the church to where there is one inside the church, and the misbehavior of those who never see the inside of a church is so great it is enough to tempt a man to become a Christian to get out of their company. But in all circles, religious and irreligious, the tendency is to excuse sin in proportion as it is mammoth. Even John Milton in his "Paradise Lost," while he condemns Satan, gives such a grand description of him you have hard work to suppress your admiration. O, this straining out of small sins like gnats, and this gulping down great iniquities like camels.

This subject does not give the picture of one or two persons, but is a gallery in which thousands of people may see their likeness. For instance, all those people who, while they would not rob their neighbor of a farthing, appropriate the money and the treasure of the public. A man has a house to sell, and he tells his customer it is worth \$20,000. Next day the assessor comes around and the owner says it is worth \$15,000.

Described in the text are all those who are particular never to break the law of grammar and who want all their language an elegant specimen of syntax, straining out all the inaccuracies of speech with a fine sieve of literary criticism, while through their conversation go slander, and innuendo, and profanity, and falsehood larger than a whole caravan of camels.

Such persons are also described in the text who are very much alarmed about the small faults of others, and have no alarm about their own great transgressions. There are in every community and in every church watch dogs who feel called upon to keep their eyes on others and growl. They are full of suspicions. They wonder if that man is not dishonest, if that man is not unclean, if there is not something wrong about the other man. They are always the first to hear of anything wrong. Vultures are always the first to smell carrion. They are self-appointed detectives. I lay this down as a rule without any exception, that those people who have the most faults themselves are most merciless in their watching of others. From scarp of head to sole of foot they are full of jealousies and hypercriticisms. They spend their life in hunting for muskrats and mud turtles instead of hunting Rocky Mountain eagles, always for something mean instead of something grand. They look at their neighbors' imperfections through a microscope and look at their own imperfections through a telescope upside down. Twenty faults of their own do not hurt them half so much as one fault of somebody else. Their neighbors' imperfections are like gnats, and they strain them out; their own imperfections are like camels and they swallow them.

But let any might think they escape the scrutiny of the text, I have to tell you that we all come under the divine satire when we make the questions of time more prominent than the questions of eternity. Come now, let us all go into the confessional. Are not all tempted to make the question: "Where shall I live now?" greater than the question: "Where shall I live forever?" "How shall I get more dollars here?" greater than the question: "How shall I lay up treasures in Heaven?" the question, How shall I pay my debts to man? greater than the question, How shall I meet my obligations to God? the question, How shall I gain the world? greater than the question, What if I lose my soul? the question, Why did God let sin come into the world? greater than the question, How shall I get it extirpated from my nature? the question, What shall I do with the twenty or forty or seventy years of my sublunary existence? greater than the question, What shall I do with the millions of cycles of post-triennial existence? Time, how small it is! Eternity, how vast it is! The former more insignificant in comparison with the latter than a gnat is insignificant when compared with a camel. We dodged the text. We said, "That doesn't mean me, and that doesn't mean me."

But let us all surrender to the charge. What an ado about things here. What poor preparation for a great eternity. As though a minnow were larger than a behemoth, as though a swallow took wider circuit than an albatross, as though a nettle were taller than a Lebanon cedar, as though a gnat were greater than a camel, as though a minute were longer than a century, as though time were higher, deeper, broader than eternity. So the text which flashed with lightning of wit, as Christ uttered it, is followed by the crashing thunders of awful catastrophe to those who make the questions of time greater than the questions of the future, the oncoming, overshadowing future. O, Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

—Uncertain as a Peach Crop.—Tom —"My prospects are in the bud." Jack—"Of course, but what if her parents won't consent?"—Truth.

POLITICAL POINTERS.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Organizes—Senator Cullom Withdraws From the Presidential Race—Honors to Mills—Other Political Items.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—At a meeting of the democratic congressional campaign committee John T. Mitchell, of Wisconsin, was elected chairman; Lawrence Gardner, of the District of Columbia, secretary and J. T. Norris, of the District of Columbia, treasurer. The chairman was authorized to appoint the executive committee.

The following are the names of the state members of the committee as far as they have been furnished: Alabama, John H. Bankhead; Arkansas, Thomas C. McRae; California, Thomas J. Geary; Colorado, A. B. McKinley; Florida, Stephen R. Mallory; Georgia, Charles T. Moses; Idaho, Joseph S. Straughter; Illinois, William S. Forman; Indiana, Charles O. McLeelan; Iowa, Thomas Bowman; Kansas, S. F. Neely; Kentucky, James B. McCreary; Louisiana, Samuel L. Robertson; Michigan, Justin R. Whiting; Minnesota, —Mississippi, T. B. Stockdale; Missouri, Seth W. Cobb; Montana, W. W. Dixon; Nebraska, W. J. Bryan; Nevada, George W. Cassiday; North Dakota, William E. McCogwell; Ohio, John G. Warwick; Pennsylvania, William M. Mitchell; South Dakota, S. G. Johnson; Tennessee, Benton McMillin; Texas, Joseph W. Bailey; Virginia, William A. Jones; Washington, Hugh J. Wallace; West Virginia, John D. Alderson; Wisconsin, J. T. Mitchell; Wyoming, James C. Baird; Arizona, Marcus A. Smith; New Mexico, Antonio J. Bush; Utah, John T. Caine; Oklahoma, Dudley B. Madden; District of Columbia, James T. Norris.

SENATOR CULLOM WITHDRAWS.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Senator Cullom has sent the following self-explanatory letter to ex-Mayor Roche, of Chicago:

UNITED STATES SENATE, WASHINGTON, March 28, 1892.—Hon. John A. Roche, Chicago—My Dear Friend: Your favor of the 25th, in which you inquire concerning my wishes in reference to the selection of a delegation to be chosen by the republicans in the several congressional districts and by our state conventions, to represent the party in the national convention to be held at Minneapolis in June next, has been received, and I take pleasure in answering you frankly as to my position:

I have said to republicans who have written to me and to the gentlemen representing the press who have interviewed me that I would esteem it a high honor to have the support of the Illinois delegation in the national republican convention for president of the United States, and would be pleased to have such delegation do all that honorably could be done to secure for me the nomination.

To the people of the state of Illinois, who have honored me repeatedly with their consideration and whom I am grateful, I desire, however, that my name shall not be longer used as a candidate for the office of president. The people seem to favor the renomination of President Harrison, whose administration has been able, clean, courageous and patriotic.

With respect, I am very truly yours,
S. M. CULLOM.

HONORS TO MILLS.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The scene was remarkable in the senate when Roger Q. Mills was sworn in. The space on the democratic side of the senate chamber was packed with members from the house, nearly all those who had so enthusiastically supported Mr. Mills for speaker being present. Mr. Mills sat at the desk formerly occupied by Senator Chilton, which was covered with several beautiful floral offerings. There was also a large crowd in the galleries, composed of some of the admirers of the Texas statesman.

Senator Mills was escorted to the vice-president's desk by Senator Coke and the oath administered to him.

When he had returned to his seat his old colleagues of the house, headed by Gen. Charles H. Mansur, of Missouri, formed in line, and as they passed by the seat of the distinguished Texan they stopped one by one and extended their congratulations.

Young Sherman Hoar and Gen. Tracy, of New York, were particularly enthusiastic and their affection for the Texan was very manifest. After the members of the house had taken their departure most of the senators on each side of the chamber extended their congratulations.

KANSAS PEOPLE'S PARTY.

TOPEKA, Kan., March 31.—There will be but one people's party state convention in Kansas this year and that will be held at Wichita June 15.

The state central committee met here last night and decided upon this after a long and heated discussion.

The convention will nominate a full state ticket, elect delegates to the national convention which meets at Omaha July 4, nominate a congressman at large and ten presidential electors.

One delegate is allowed for each 250 votes. On this basis the convention will number about 560 delegates.

MISSOURI PEOPLE'S CONVENTION.

CHILICOTHE, Mo., March 31.—The state convention of the people's party of Missouri will be held at Sedalia, Mo., June 21 and 22 for the purpose of nominating a full state ticket and electing eight delegates from the state at large and four from each congressional district to attend the national convention at Omaha, July 4.

Instructed For Cleveland.

NEWTON, Kan., March 31.—At the democratic county convention of Harvey county held yesterday delegates were elected to attend the state convention at Salina and were instructed to vote for only Cleveland men for delegates to the national convention. This county is practically unanimous in favor of Cleveland's nomination.

Instructed for Blaine.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 31.—At a caucus in this congressional district delegates were elected and instructed to vote for national delegates who favor Blaine.

BALLOONS IN WAR.

Russians Much Disturbed Over the Use of Balloons by the Germans—The Part These Air Ships May Play in Future Wars.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 31.—The presence of balloons over the forts and encampments in Poland is becoming more frequent than ever, and this fact is causing much indignation among army officers, who are helpless to prevent military secrets from becoming known to the German officers who are known to be taking observations from a height that places them beyond the reach of any bullets aimed at them. One of these balloons from the German frontier recently appeared at Kovno.

It hovered above the fortress there until the officer in command became so greatly exasperated that he ordered some of the soldiers to fire at the balloon and if possible to bring it to the ground. Had the soldiers been able to hit the silken bag floating so high in the air and make a hole in it, it would have meant a horrible death for its occupants, but the range was too great and the powder burned in the attempt was useless. The Germans continued their observations, in no way bothered by the firing, and when they concluded they returned whence they came.

The impression grows stronger daily that the Germans have at last solved the long studied problem of aerial navigation. These balloons that have appeared over various parts of Poland are under perfect control. They move in any desired direction and the wind currents have no perceptible effect on them. In fact in at least one instance, it is known that the balloon sailed directly against a strong wind. Some of the observers accounted for this on the ground that the upper current in which the balloon was moving was in an opposite direction from the current nearer the earth.

This argument was rendered fallacious in a very short time by the balloon stopping over the military camp at Donbrovicio and then maneuvering to obtain positions from which the camp could be studied in detail. The motive power employed and the means adopted for steering are utterly unknown, but all the facts in connection with the appearance of these balloons go to show that they are under absolute control. The possibilities of a perfect system of aerial navigation are thoroughly understood by Russian officers, but they are absolutely helpless to guard against them. It is the fact of their utter helplessness that renders their indignation more deep and bitter.

A BOSTON FIRE.

Clark's Hotel Burned—One Person Killed and Narrow Escape of Many Other Guests.

BOSTON, March 31.—Clark's hotel on Washington street was badly damaged by fire which broke out at 4 o'clock. The guests awakened to find themselves enveloped in smoke, became panic-stricken and three of them were injured. They are:

Ernest W. Perry, of Leominster, Mass., broken ribs, internal injuries, scalp wound and badly burned; fatally injured.

Thomas W. Southard, of Cambridgeport, both legs broken.

J. Stockwell, of Lacomia, N. H., one leg broken.

A number of other guests were bruised.

So rapidly did the flames spread that it was impossible for the guests to save anything, some of them barely having enough time to dress. In the attics were six chambermaids, who were with some difficulty rescued by the firemen and assisted down the ladders to the street.

In the Adams house, adjoining the burning building, nearly 500 guests were asleep at the time of the breaking out of the fire. They were promptly aroused and every preparation was made for saving their effects in the event of the fire penetrating the heavy partition wall.

The loss on the burned building, which is owned by Edward Bangs, is estimated at \$25,000. The lessee, Marcus C. Clark, suffers a loss of \$20,000, insured. Charles Green & Co., tailors, 385 Washington street, lose from \$5,000 to \$10,000 by smoke and water, partly insured.

AFFECTING THE UNION PACIFIC.

United States Circuit Court Renders an Important Decision in Favor of the Government.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court, sitting as a judge for the circuit court embracing the district of Nebraska, to-day rendered a decision in the suit brought by the United States against the Western Union Telegraph Co. and the Union Pacific Railway Co. to have declared illegal and annulled the contract between the Western Union and the Union Pacific by which the former operates the telegraph line along the line of the railroad. The decision is in favor of the United States, sets aside the contract of 1881 between the two companies and directs the Union Pacific henceforth to operate its own telegraph line by its own agents and not through the instrumentality of the Western Union.

Must Employ Americans.

CHICAGO, March 31.—United States Immigration Agent Stitch received notice that the treasury department has decided Canadian seamen can no longer be employed on lake vessels flying the United States flag, but must make way for American seamen. The decision results from the arrest of Capt. E. Rabshaw here last summer for violation of the contract labor law.

Died From Eating Hail-Stones.

COLUMBUS, Ind., March 31.—Miss Delia Whitwood, of Scottsburg, died yesterday evening. She was aged 20. Last Saturday she ate freely of hail which had fallen during a storm, and it is supposed to have been the cause of death, as she took ill soon after eating the hail-stones.

A Lunatic's Work.

BREITEN, March 31.—A lunatic named Hartjen, who had escaped from an asylum in Bremen, crept into his wife's house, cut the woman's throat, threw the body on the bed, set fire to the bed clothing and escaped.

NO FREE SILVER.

Probability That the Free Coinage Bill is Dead—No Closure Rule Will Be Reported.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Unless Mr. Bland should be able to get the signatures of the majority of the democrats of the house to a petition asking the committee on rules to report a closure resolution the Bland bill will be laid on the shelf. He will not be able to secure the required number of signatures.

The silver men have understood that a special order bringing in a closure rule would be reported to the house tomorrow and telegraphed to all their men to be in the house tomorrow. This morning Speaker Crisp informed them that no special order would be brought in unless a majority of the democratic members of the house signed a petition that a closure rule be brought in.

Mr. Bland was very downcast over the news that he might not be able to force to a vote the measure he has worked for so long. He admitted that the report that the silver bill had met with another set back and one which practically meant its death without a final vote was well founded, but said that the matter was not absolutely settled.

Mr. Pierce was a little more confident, but he and Mr. Bland said they would have nothing to do with the circulation of any more petitions. One of the other silver men, however, attempted to get signers to a petition of the nature suggested by the speaker, but met with poor success. For, as already stated, thirty-five of the men who have heretofore voted for the silver bill refused to sign it. Among the number were Mr. Compton, of Maryland, who not only declined to sign the petition, but gave notice that if any closure resolution is brought in he will vote against it. The anti-silver men are exultant over the change in the situation, but the pronounced silver advocates are exceedingly irritated and angry and do not hesitate to indignantly protest against the treatment they have received.

ALL SERENE.

The Troubled Behring Sea Waters Apparently Calmed—Lord Salisbury Pours on the Oil and the President and His Cabinet Greatly Pleasured.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—It is said on good authority that the president and his cabinet are well pleased with the conciliatory tone of Lord Salisbury's note of the 26th inst., especially as it is held to concede the point that has been the principal cause of contention, viz: A renewal of the modus vivendi of the last year for the protection of the seal fisheries. This alleged concession is believed to be implied in his proposition to agree to a modus in case the treaty of arbitration is ratified, under the condition that the United States government shall guarantee the other for damages in causing suspension of sealing operations.

The official, who has been consulted by the president in regard to the negotiations, said he was especially pleased with Lord Salisbury's admission that Great Britain would hold itself liable for damages resulting to the United States because of the modus vivendi in the event that the verdict of the arbitration is adverse to the contention. It is said that taken all together Lord Salisbury's note is satisfactory, as indicating a good prospect for an amicable settlement of the questions at issue.

Lord Salisbury's last communication to the president stating the grounds on which he would consent to renew the modus vivendi was laid before the senate soon after it went into executive session. In transmitting the paper to the senate the president added to the formal letter the statement that Lord Salisbury's reply was satisfactory to this government and he was preparing a suitable response.

POSSIBLY BY JUNE 1.

It is Thought That Congress May Adjourn By That Date.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The Springer free wool bill will be brought to a vote April 22 or 23 unless there should be a hitch in the present programme. The binding twine and cotton bagging bills will then be pushed to a vote as soon as possible to be followed perhaps by other specific bills attacking separate items of the McKinley law. With these measures disposed of in the house and the appropriation bills in excellent shape so far as the house is concerned, the democratic majority of the ways and means committee believe that an early adjournment of congress is possible, and accordingly discussed the adjournment question to some extent yesterday. No conclusion was reached, but the sentiment was favorable to June 1 as the date of final adjournment. This is an unusually early date for adjournment and there are many persons who believe final adjournment will be delayed many weeks after the date named, but still the sentiment expressed by the majority members of the ways and means committee is significant as showing what they believe is possible.

Reduction of Tin Plate Duty.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The ways and means committee to-day decided to report favorably to the house the Bunting bill, which reduces the duty on tin plate from 2 3/4 to 1 per cent. per pound. The bill also provides for the payment of a rebate equal to the difference between the present and the proposed duty on unbroke packages of plate held by importers or consumers October next, when the act would go into effect. A further provision makes tin plate duty free after October 1, 1894.

Annoying Jay Gould's Family.

NEW YORK, March 29.—John Lindemann, the crank, who on December 28 last demanded the brains of Cornelius Vanderbilt and who was committed as to his sanity, is again in trouble. For a week he has been annoying the family of Jay Gould by ringing the bell and demanding to see Helen, the eldest daughter of the financier, whose lover he declared himself to be. Yesterday he was arrested as he was entering Mr. Gould's residence and was committed. In court he was very violent and was bound in a straight jacket before he could be removed.