

BIBLE ASTRONOMY.

Dr. Talmage Discourses Upon an Interesting Subject.

He Believes It Is Time to Widen Out and Heighten Religious Thought—Old Huts Should Be Avoided in Christian Work.

In a late sermon at Brooklyn Rev. T. De Witt Talmage took for his subject "The Astronomy of the Bible, or God Among the Stars," the text being from Amos, ix, 6: "It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven."

The heavens declare Thy glory, Lord In every star Thy wisdom shines. Dr. Talmage said: That is first rate poetry from Aras, the herdsman. While guarding his flocks at night he watched the heavens.

My hearers, it is time that we widened out and heightened our religious thoughts. In our pulpits and Sabbath classes and Christian work of all sorts we ring the changes on a few verses of Scripture until they excite no interest.

Astronomy was born in Chaldea. Its mother was astrology or the science of foretelling events by juxtaposition of stars. The orientals, living much out of doors and in a very clear atmosphere, through which the stars shone especially lustrous, got the habit of studying the night heavens.

Read on in your Bibles, and after awhile the Bible flashes with the aurora borealis or northern lights, that strange illumination, as mysterious and undefined now as when, in the book of Job, it was written: "Men see not the bright light which is in the clouds."

What a monstrosity of ignorance that the majority of Christian people listen not to the voices of other worlds, although the Book says: "The heavens declare the glory of God," and, again: "The works of the Lord are great and to be sought out."

plaint against the Scriptures when it finds fault with that cessation of stellar and lunar travel. Here is my watch. I could not make a watch if I tried, but I can stop and start it again.

O the stars! Those vestal fires kept burning on infinite altars. Those light-houses on the coast of eternity. The hands and weights and pendulum of the great clock of the universe. According to Herschel the so-called fixed stars are not fixed at all, but each one a sun with a mighty system of worlds rolling round it, and this whole system with all the other systems rolling on around some other great center.

But what gladdens me, and at the same time overwhelms me, is that those worlds are inhabited. The Bible says so, and what a small idea you must have of God and His dominion if you think it only extends across this chip of a world which you and I now inhabit.

Judging from the extent of the universe, do you think God would put all his family on such limits as this world makes? If a king have a palace of one hundred rooms, will he put all his princes and princesses in one comparatively small room?

What a time that will be when worlds drop. Rain of planets. Gravitation letting loose her grip on the world. Constellations flying apart. Galaxies dissolved. The great orchard of the universe swept by the last hurricane letting down the stars like ripened fruit.

Furthermore, I get now from all this and answer to the question which every intelligent man and woman since the earth has stood has asked and received no answer. Why did God let sin and sorrow come into the world when he could have prevented them from coming?

to demonstrate the gigantic disasters that would come upon any world that allowed sin to enter. Which world should it be? Well, the smaller the world the better, for less numbers would suffer, so our world was selected.

But notice that as other worlds rolled into the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis, they also appear in the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. They will take part in the scenes of that occasion which shall be the earth's winding up and a tremendous occasion for you and me personally.

The spectacle ceased not until the rising sun of the November morning eclipsed it, and the whole American nation sat down exhausted with the agitations of a night to be memorable until the earth itself shall become a falling star. The Bible closes with such a scene of falling lights, not only fidgety meteors, but grave old stars.

"What sort of a watch is this?" asked Duzenbury, picking up a curious old time-piece from a Harlem watchmaker's show case.

"That," replied the watchmaker, "is a real curiosity. It is a watch that belonged to Alexander the Great when he died on the barren island of St. Helena."

Mrs. Hayseed—Who are those gentlemen running into our barn to get out of 'th' rain? Daughter—They are a party of scientists who are staying at the hotel. They've been out on some expedition or other.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.

The Total Vote of the Country on the Three Leading Presidential Candidates. The returns from the various states at the late presidential election show a total vote of 11,823,066, not including the prohibition vote, which will swell the total to over 12,000,000 votes.

In the tabulated returns below Mr. Cleveland apparently had no supporters in Colorado, Kansas, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming, but this was the result of political maneuvering by which the democratic votes of those states were cast for the people's party ticket.

The popular vote in the election of 1888 was divided as follows: Cleveland, 5,538,233; Harrison, 5,440,216; Streeter (Union Labor), 249,907.

The combined democratic and populist vote—6,570,735—is 1,457,437 larger than that of 1890, while the total republican vote is 964,116 larger than for congressmen two years ago.

The votes of the various states for the three candidates who names will figure in the electoral college are as follows:

Table with columns: STATE, CLEVELAND, HARRISON, STREETER. Lists states from Alabama to Wyoming with corresponding vote counts.

Cleveland's plurality over Harrison, 296,157. Combined opposition majority over the republican vote, 1,316,297. Combined opposition majority over the democratic vote, 746,073.

MONTANA CONTESTS.

Leech, Republican, Wins in the Supreme Court on the Buxelder Precedent Case. HELENA, Mont., Dec. 16.—The supreme court yesterday handed down its second decision in the Buxelder precedent case, involving the control of the next legislature.

A Farmer Squares Himself. LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 16.—The Union Pacific Railroad Co. was sued in the district court for \$3,800 in an unique suit. The statutes provide a penalty of \$50 for each failure to whistle before a locomotive reaches a crossing.

Great Drive of Sheep. BOISE CITY, Idaho, Dec. 16.—Early in May Frank Fordyce, a young stock baron of Idaho will attempt to drive from the center of this state to Ogallala, Neb., a flock of 45,000 sheep.

Senator Gibson Dead. HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 16.—After a lingering, but apparently painless, illness Senator R. L. Gibson died at 3:15 yesterday afternoon. At the time of his death he was surrounded by the members of his family and several close friends.

THE GOLD RESERVE.

The Secretary of the Treasury Determined That It Shall Not Be Impaired.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Secretary of the Treasury Foster, has expressed himself freely to a reporter for the United Press. He said he looked upon the situation not simply as a spectator.

"I am secretary of the treasury," said he, "and will be until relieved on March 4 next. My duty will be performed in the interest of the public welfare as vigorously as if my term was not soon to end. Every resource at my command will be availed of to preserve the parity of gold and silver."

"Will the gold reserve be maintained?" "It will be." This was stated with the utmost emphasis. "I firmly believe that with the resources at the command of the department I shall not be seriously embarrassed in maintaining it."

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

A Freight Dashes Into a Work Train in Minnesota—Sleeping Men Crushed and Burned.

ALEXANDRIA, Minn., Dec. 19.—A wreck occurred on the Great Northern at Nelson, about six miles east of here at 1 o'clock this morning. The wreckers stationed at this place were clearing up a small wreck that occurred the night before, and after finishing the work about 9 o'clock, the men went into the caboose and soon fell asleep.

About 1 o'clock an eastbound freight came down the long grade west of Nelson and ran into the rear end of the wrecker at almost full speed. All the men in the caboose were killed except two who jumped through the window before the train caught fire.

It is pretty hard to lay the blame on any one person in this case, as the conductor had orders to run in on the side track at Nelson and the engineer claims he tried to slack up so they could open the switch, but there was not a brakeman on a car and being loaded and coming down a grade it was impossible for him to do so.

PANAMA CANAL AFFAIRS.

De Lesseps Very Sick—An Effort to Save the Enterprise.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—Ferdinand de Lesseps's Chateau Laucheyne will be formally sold on January 1 in order to establish the usufruct of the estate which will accrue to his wife after his death. It transpires that despite the fact that he was confined to his bed De Lesseps was summoned to appear before a magistrate.

There is a strong sentiment among certain financiers, headed by Christopher Lee, governor of the credit foncier, that the government should make another attempt to save the canal enterprise.

Gerrymander Overthrown.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 19.—The Indiana supreme court to-day decided unconstitutional the apportionment act passed by the democratic legislature two years ago, under the provisions of which the legislature, which will meet next month, was chosen. The finding is that the apportionment laws of 1891, 1885 and 1879 are all unconstitutional by reason of the matters alleged in the complaint, but the court also finds that there is a de facto legislature elected, qualified to enact a law which may take the place of the law set aside.

Typhus Fever in Mexico.

GALVESTON, TEX., Dec. 19.—A respectable gentleman who arrived yesterday from the interior of Mexico reports an epidemic of typhus fever prevailing in several Mexican cities including Aguas, Calientes, Zacatecas and the City of Mexico. At Zacatecas the ravages of the disease have been terrible, and while he could not learn the number of deaths which had occurred it was ascertained that seven physicians had succumbed to the epidemic, which is attributed to the poverty and destitution caused by the drought.

WICHITA'S SCANDAL.

An Affidavit That Created a Sensation—How a Paving Contractor Put His Money Where It Would Do the Most Good.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 15.—In the United States district court the deposition of John V. Moffitt, formerly of Wichita and a politician of state repute, now territorial agent of the Rock Island Land Co. in the jasperite paving case was filed and created a profound sensation.

Moffitt testifies that Robert F. Wilson, of Chicago, the jasperite contractor, asked his aid to secure the contract for paving Douglas avenue. He told Wilson that it would cost him about \$10,000. Wilson said he would see those connected with him, and while he was away in Chicago doing this Moffitt should see some of the conciliators and find out the lowest price for which the contract could be secured.

When Wilson returned Moffitt swears that he informed him that he thought he could get the contract through for an attorney's fee of \$4,000 and \$4,000 for seven conciliators and Wilson authorized him to say that he would pay that amount. Moffitt then told Downing that the amount agreed on would be paid to the different members of the council in the office of Wilson's attorney on the evening of March 10, before the council met to let the contract, and Downing replied that that would be satisfactory.

March 9 Moffitt swears that he told Downing that the money was ready, and they went together to the attorney's office and Downing got his money. The money for Conciliator Fritz Schnitzler and John Herrig was also there, the other four having already taken theirs. About the same period Moffitt was in the Carey house when Conciliator William Johnson appeared, and then Moffitt went out for about ten minutes. When he returned Wilson told him Johnson would vote for jasperite, that he had paid him his price. Wilson afterwards told him that the jasperite contract had cost him \$10,000 in attorney fees, beside to conciliators and drinks.

On cross examination, Moffitt deposed that he had seen Conciliator Fritz Schnitzler come out of the attorney's office with one of the envelopes containing money left there for the conciliator by L. C. Jackson, who aided Wilson to secure the contract, and that Schnitzler had opened the package and counted out a roll of greenbacks in his presence.

ENGLISH COLLIERY HORROR.

The Bodies of Twenty Dead Miners Recovered—Horrible Scenes in the Pit.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Great efforts were made to rescue the eighty miners imprisoned by an explosion in a colliery at Wigan.

Despite the efforts to extinguish the fire, the flames spread to the engine house at the tunnel. This stopped the pumping of air into the mine and added greatly to the peril of those who were in the pit. The fire was not subdued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Some little time after the bodies of twenty of the miners, who had been suffocated by the noxious gasses generated in the mine after the explosion, were brought to the surface by the rescuing party. The rescuing parties report horrible scenes in the mine. In the main roads the bodies lie in twos and threes, as the men fell, face downward and heads toward the entrance of the shaft. Large sections of roof and galleries have collapsed. Amid the ruins were found mangled bodies and half burned limbs. The ruins have blocked many parts of the mine and therefore the men searching for bodies are unable to give any definite idea of the number lost.

Several miners who were just alive when found died on the way to the surface or shortly after being taken from the car.

THE INTER-STATE LAW.

Another Effort to Make Something Out of It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Another turn was taken at the inter-state commerce law in a bill introduced in the senate by Mr. McMillan, of Michigan, in which it is sought to amend the law by making it unlawful for any common carrier subject to the provision of the existing law to enter into any contract, agreement, etc., with any other carrier for the division of the freight of the different competing roads, or to divide between them the aggregate or net proceeds of the earnings, except as provided in the bill. Each day of the continuance of such agreement is deemed a separate offense. Agreements such as are prohibited above may, however, be made, provided they are in writing, duly executed, and shall not conflict with any other provision of the law. They may become operative only after having been filed with the inter-state commerce commission and approved by it. After such approval each party is required to deposit sufficient security to guarantee that the terms of the agreement will be carried out. The other section of the bill deals with the claims of the method of conviction and punishment.

One Appropriation Not Passed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In the house today Mr. Cobb, of Missouri, reported on the committee on war claims for reference to the private calendar a bill for the relief of the heirs of Mary Ann Randolph Curtis Lee, of Virginia, the amount involved being \$317,000. After several minor bills had been passed in the morning hour the army appropriation bill was taken up in committee of the whole, when Mr. Anthony, of Texas, offered an amendment that no person mentioned by the government should be permitted to receive any pay under the pending act. It was rejected and the bill passed.