THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: MONDAY JULY 17 1881.

GROWTH IN GRACE.

Subject of Dr. McCosh's Discourse Yesterday.

Learned President of The **Princeton College**

Speaks in the First Presbyterian Church.

Notwithstanding the heat, the First Presbyterian church of this city was yesterday filled to its utmost capacity sessed of rank and authority to avow by a select audience, assembled to himself to be a follower of Jesus. greet Dr. McCosh, the famous divine and president of Princeton college. His theme was "Growth in Grace, II- among the higher as well as lustrated in the Life of Nicodemus."

His text was from John XIX, 39; "And there came also Nicodemus, (which at the first came to Jesus by night) and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight."

excellencies by which the four evan- most popular and influential of all the gelists were characterized, every human mind is much interested to notice the variety of human character, good which felt its self rightcousspirit most image of his power only seen in the the lowly Jesus, the son of Mary and

A WORLD'S SIN

Around, we see the apostles distinguished by almost every possible pected by the people to be diversity of character; some timid, others confident, each with a heart among the groups that hover around we see enemies irritated by the faiththem and plotting how they may be rid of him. At this place you notice a company of

SCOPPING SADDUCEES;

healed. This man fixing his eyes so eagerly on Jesus was lately blind; this other listening so intently was lately deaf; this other walking and leaping with such alacrity was, a short time ago, hopelessly lame; and this other, so full of life and joy, was, but a few days ago, prostrated on a bed of sickness, or shut up in

THE GLOOM OF THE SEPULCHRE. Galilee he would lose In the background of the scene we have the mass of the people vacillat-

of the work he came to perform in preparing the world, which ought to be his temple. From this time forward THE JEALOUS EYES of the hierarchy were fixed on him and narrowly watching his conduct. A wound had been inflicted, which continued to rankle in their breasts.

merchandise he proceeded to cleanse it by casting down the tables and re-

moving the money changers as a type

Nor did this enmity cease till, three years after, it succeeded in bring him to the cross and to the grave.

It was on this very turn that Nicodemus first came to Jesus. Nicodeand senators of the land. He belong-He said, "Among other and higher ed to the sect of the Pharisees, the parties into which the Jews were at the variety of human character, good and evil, brought before us. In the center or foreground of the paint-ing, (if painting it can be called), which is the simplest of all simple narratives) stands Jesus, the brightest image of his power only seen in the shadow; working miracles, relieving distress and teaching his disciples, under the pressure all the while of the mighty load of the while of the mighty load of the while of the might have led him to doubt whether one with so lowly an appearance could be the Messuah mentioned in such glow-

ing language by the prophets and ex-

A TEMPORAL PRINCE. who was to sit on the throne of David in which he moved. He felt as if he needed a teacher and a savior, and must have been a struggle in his Pharisees believed on him, but this that was slain." breast like that between

CHAOS AND ORDER at that place a party of scowling Phar- at creation, when the spirit moved on "This is a popular delusion; only

at that place a party of scowing Phar-isees. Scattered among these we find persons who had been relieved by grace of Him who went about contin-ually doing good, who had their bur-dens of care removed or their diseases one moment of espousing his cause. gain the mastery. When at length the good overcame a single ruler, who regards him with when at length the good overcame the evil, no doubt through the leading of the spirit of Jesus, it was accom-panied by an unworthy compromise of principle. He resolved to go to Jesus, but he had not the courage to dependent of dependent to go the sat there in the Council, a the sat there in the Council, a do so openly in the light of day. He time fitted to search him and was afraid that if he was seen in the to show to himself and others company of the new teacher from the innermost springs and motives of

his nature. He sees the passions of THE PAVORABLE OPINION brother councilors exasperated to the It Will Wash Faster, ing between two opinions; now strew-ing his path with branches of trees one acquainted with human nature is lifted in behalf of justice. Does

knows what he doeth?

this occasion we discern courage and

first we met with with him, he has

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

secution, owing to the suspicions raised against him by the part he had

taken. But his faith was now strong,

and he could bear the trial, and may

have been strengthened by it. The wind that might blow away the feeble

THE STRONGER FIRE

opportunities of meeting with him. This is certain; that he would often imathea, begs the lifeless body of Je sus, and Nicodemus joins him in preparing it for the sepulcher. Far above the fear, far above the in spiritual communion and the teach-

applause of men these two join in their becoming offices. It would be difficult to find in history a bravery superior to that of Nicodemus. There er who had come from God, and who had taught him the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom, would help him in

may be a nobler courage, than even that of the warrior in the battle or the find him next presented to our view sailor in the storm. When Luther defended himself before the great em-Jesus had come to Jerusalem at the peror of his age, and a council of princes and prelates

AN OLD GENERAL circumstances it must have required much courage on the part of one pos-lips. A number of the parale has and salvation which flowed from his normal of much courage on the part of one poslips. A number of the people be-lieved on him and avowed their con-never, after all, shown a valor equal himself to be a follower of sease. "Not many mighty, not many noble, are called. Yet God has had in every age witnesses for the truth from among the higher as well as for the truth from victions. The people were keenly in-terested, and their feelings were too was a higher order than that which

MEET WITH GOD

his devotion.

STUNG BY MALICE and jealousy, a hurried meeting of the great council of the nation was sides this, with all dilligence, add to called to determine what should be your faith virtue, and to virtue knowldone in the extraordinary circumedge, and to knowledge temperance stances in which they were placed. It was resolved to send officers to apand patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindprehend Jesus and drag him before before their tribunal. When the offi-ity, for if these things be given you and abound, they make that ye shall

duced to listen, and as they did so hind, he presseth forward to those they found themselves interested in that are before. He may not be per the discourse. Their attention became more and more rivited, they caught the feeling of admiration which that are before. He may not be per-fect but he is seeking to be perfect. Like a good soldier of Christ, he will not cease from the contest till he has not cease from the contest till he has HEAVED IN EVERY HEART. conquored those sins which are

They hesitated and delayed carrying Christ's enemies and are his own enetheir design into execution, and when mies. We are to continue the contest Jesus finished his discourse they were until we have slain the last of so awed that they became completely powerless, they allowed him to pass away undisturbed, and, at the risk of being terribly punished, they returned to those who had sent them out, with the same of others confident, each with a heart ungodly by nature but all, with one sad exception, coming under divine power, which is struggling with re-maining corruption within them. Farther off we get a glimpse of other disciples shrinking from the view; for though convinced that Jesus has come from God they have not the courage to arm themselves to be his followers. Here and there servants, and on hearing this unex-pected answer their passion could be restrained within no bound. Here which he hears in heaven is the song were their own dependents failing of triumph, "Blessing and honor and fulness of the holy one in the midst of them and plotting how they may be

> people who know not the law are cursed." It is as if they had said, A Renovating Remedy "This is a popular delusion; only the lowest and most ignorant of the people have been DECEIVED BY HIM; none of the learned have thought for one moment of encoursing bis sources. The best of the learned have thought for the lowest and most ignorant of the people have been DECEIVED BY HIM; none of the learned have thought for the lowest and most ignorant of the people have been DECEIVED BY HIM; none of the learned have thought for the lowest and most ignorant of the people have been DECEIVED BY HIM; none of the learned have thought for the lowest and most ignorant of the people have been DECEIVED BY HIM; none of the learned have thought for the lowest and the learned have thought for the learned have thought for the learned have thought for the lowest and the learned have thought for the learned have the learned have thought for the learned have thought for the learned have thought for the learned

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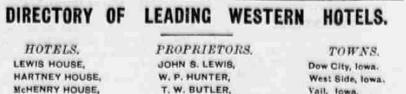
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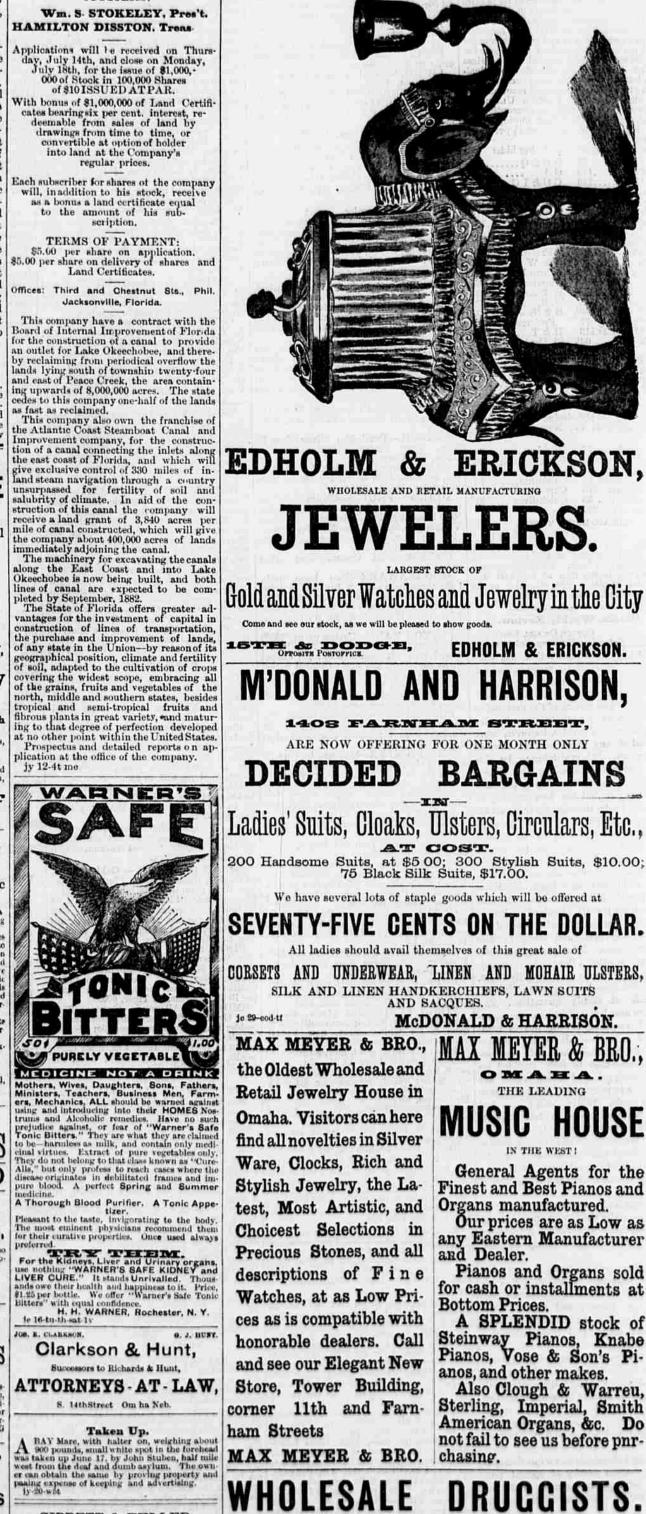
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Improvement company, for the construc-tion of a canal connecting the inlets along the east coast of Florida, and which will give exclusive control of 330 miles of ingive exclusive control of 330 miles of in-land steam navigation through a country unsurpassed for fertility of soil and salubrity of climate. In aid of the con-struction of this canal the company will receive a land grant of 3,840 acres per mile of canal constructed, which will give the company about 400,000 acres of lands immediately adjoining the canal. The machinery for excavating the canals along the East Coast and into Lake Okeechobee is now being built, and both lines of canal are expected to be com-

Okeechobee is now being built, and both lines of canal are expected to be com-pleted by September, 1882. The State of Florida offers greater ad-vantages for the investment of capital in construction of lines of transportation, the purchase and improvement of lands, of any state in the Union—by reasonof its geographical position, climate and fertility of soil, adapted to the cultivation of crops covering the widest scores embracing all



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and shouting Hosannah, and again knows that most men would rather Nicodemus seek at this time to conwith loud voice demanding his cruci- lose favor of those beneath them in ceal his faith in Jesus as he had done fixion. Where else will you meet rank, or even of those above them, on a former occasion? No though he such a variety of character, reaching from spotless excellence on the one hand and bloated lust and demoniacal malice and fury on the other. Heaven and earth and hell, God and but here is one ashamed of the wisest though he should thus bring down up man and devils, the flesh and resolution he had ever formed. If he on him the ire of all his associates the spirit, human nature and divine had been about to the spirit, human nature and divine grace, met and wrestle and struggle like we see the several properties of chosen the light of day, but so much are men dazzled by the each. By this mixture of light and shadow we are interested and allowed splendor of worldly station, and so the simple question, "Doth our law to pursue the path before us; and in little do they esteem spiritual exceldoing so we pick up most salutary in-struction. I believe it may be said lence, that he could come to him who was born King of the Jews only under that he who has thoroughly studied clouds of concealment. If the heralds

had announced that Tiberius, the Ro- faithfulness of the highest order. It THE GOSPEL HISTORY knows more of human nature in its man emperor, had arrived in Jerusa deeper characters and moods, especial- lem, we can conceive that Nicodemus stood it. He said enough and he said ly in its relation to God, the friend, would have selected the most public no more. It is evident that during and to God, the (supposed) foe, than day and the most public street to one who has read all the histories that wait upon him, in the midst of were ever written of all the people that have ever lived.

BUSTLING CROWDS;

made decided progress in but now, when he who is the Prince We mean at this time to single out of Peace, foretold by prophets for for special contemplation, a single per-soa from the multitudes that pass be-brated by angels and his power at-He who, at the first, could come to Jesus only by night, now stands by him in the open day, and in the face of the most formidable opposition, before us. That individual is Nicodetested by miracles, and he himself the king of kings and lord of lords. came mus. He is presented to view in to Jerusalem he could not come to fore which the courage of the strongthree different positions. In the passage immediately before us, as en-gaged with Joseph of Aremathea, in committing the body of Jesus to the place of sepulture. But the evangel-But it is well when we come to

But it is well when we come to defense of a good cause. Christ has Jesus at all. We will be received if a kingdom and a cause in the world, ist in mentioning this circumstance, so much to his credit, refers to an-other passage in the bible not so com-mendable. "Then came Nicodemus, we have but faith as a mustard seed. in which there is evil opposing th Virtue will come out of him to make good.

us whole if we but touch the hem of Again the curtain drops and months which at the first came to Jesus by elapse before we hear any more of the his garment. If Nicodemus had come night." On turning back to chapter to an earthly prince at this unseasona-Jewish councilor. During this time ble hour he would have been scornfulhe may have suffored not a little per-

III, we read of Nicodemus giving NOBLE TESTIMONY ly rejected, but he came to the Prince in different circumstances in behalf of of Peace and he received a welcome. justice and of Christ, but in that pas-He did not discourage him by a sin-

the men and

sage the same humbling clause is added, "he that came to Jesus by night." Among other distinguish-ing qualities, the scriptures are ever faithful in recording the infirmities added, the recording the infirmities in the grand doctrine of the nespark may only kindle also of those whose excellencies are cessity of being born again by the held forth to cur admiration. Spirit of God While the great prophinto a flame. Everything now indicated that the earthly course of the held forth to cur admiration. Spirit of God while the great proph-et of the church taught him by his spirit. It success adds that he was once a per-secutor, a blasphemer, and claims, "Not I but the grace of God in me." In like manner when the faithfulness of Nicodemus is recorded it is added that at first he was so ashamed of Jesus that he could not come to him with his mind enlightened. He came prophet who had appeared was draw-ing to a close. He had fulfilled the time appointed in the councils of heaven and his work was about to be finished. The council of the nation, headed by the high priest, condemns him. Pontius Pilate, the Roman Jesus that he could not come to him except at dead of night We are thus taught in reading the lives of the enveloped nim, but he came to the son saints to distinguish the sinfulnes of of righteoushess, to Him who is the light of the world, and he retired un-TEE POWER FROM ABOVE.

der the light of the morning, which shineth more and more unto the per-"Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be praise." Let us fect day.

unto thy name be praise. consider Nicodemus under the three aspects in which he is presented. the first, ruler. We do not read how he passed ultra the first. aspects in which he is presented. "Nicodemus who, at the first, came to Jesus by Night." This that any personal communication with in the Sanhedrin. At that time if he was opposed by the rulers of the land he had at least the people to support him. Now, he stood almost alone. had any personal communication with carries us back three years in the history. Jesus at that time was just

THE GREAT TEACHER

tory. Jesus at that time was just commencing his public ministry. He had come to Jerusalem for the first time since he began to teach and to work miracles. His life had hitherto been obscure till lately in Galilee, and now in Jerusalem, he wrought signs and wonders, which proved that he was a teacher come from God. But from his first appearance in Jerusa-lem the prejudices of the priests and rulers were armed against him. Find-ing the temple, which was his Fath-er's house, profaned by unseemly

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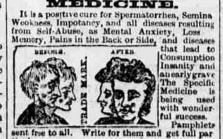
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to assail him in his dying ago-The laws of trade, legal forms, how to trans-et business, valuable tables, social etiquette, aritamentary usage, how to conduct public busi-ess; in fact it is a complete Guide to Success for nies, when the vilest malefactors have often had sympathy expressed in their favor. The circumstances are all more trying than those in which Nicodemus had formerly been placed