

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

A PLEA TO CONGRESS BEFORE IT ADJOURNS.

"Let the Name of God Be Written in the Constitution" He Says—God Will Settle the Silver Question in His Own Time and Way.



SENATORS in this text stand for law-makers. Joseph was the Lord Treasurer of the Egyptian government, and among other great things which he did, according to my text, was to teach his senators wisdom; and if any men on earth ought to be endowed with wisdom, it is senators, whether they stand in congresses, parliaments, or reichstags, or assemblies, or legislatures. By their decisions nations go up or down. Law-makers are sometimes so tempted by prejudices, by sectional preferences, by opportunity of personal advancement, and sometimes what is best to do is so doubtful that they ought to be prayed for and encouraged in every possible way, instead of severely criticised and blamed and excoriated, as is much of the time the case. Our public men are so often the target to be shot at, merely because they obtain eminence which other men wanted but could not reach, that more injustices are hurled at our national legislature than the people of the United States can possibly imagine. The wholesale belying of our public men is simply damnable. By residence in Washington I have come to find out that many of our public men are persistently misrepresented, and some of the best of them, the purest in their lives and most faithful in the discharge of their duties, are the worst defamed. Some day I want to preach a sermon from the text in II. Peter: "They are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not." So constant and malignant is this depreciation and scandalization in regard to our public men that all over the land there are those who suppose that the city of Washington is the center of all corruption, while, what with its parks and its equestrian statuary, and its wide streets, and its architectural symmetries, and its lovely homes, it is not only the most beautiful city under the sun, but has the highest style of citizenship. I have seen but one intoxicated man in the more than six months of my residence, and I do not think any man can give similar testimony of any other city on the American continent.

The gavel of our two houses of national legislature will soon fall, and adjournment of two bodies of men as talented, as upright and as patriotic as ever graced the capitol, will take place. The two or three unfortunate outbreaks which you have noticed only make more conspicuous the dignity, the fraternity, the eloquence, the fidelity which have characterized those two bodies during all the long months of important and anxious deliberation. We put a halo around great men of the past because they were so rare in their time. Our senate and house of representatives have five such men where once they had one. But it will not be until after they are dead that they will get appreciated. The world finds it safer to praise the dead than the living, because the departed, having a heavy pile of marble above them, may not rise to become rivals. But, before the gavel of adjournment drop and the doors of Capitol Hill shut, there are one or two things that ought to be done, and let us pray God that they may be accomplished. More forcibly than ever before, congress has been implored to acknowledge God in our constitution. The Methodist church, a church that is always doing glorious things, has in its recent Wilmington conference requested our congress to amend the immortal document, which has been the foundation and wall and dome of our United States government, by inserting the words, "Trusting in Almighty God." If that amendment is made, it will not only please all the good people of the country, but will please the heavens. It was only an oversight or a mental accident that the fathers who made the constitution did not insert a divinely worshipful sentence. They all, so far as they amounted to anything, believed in "God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son." The constitution would have been a failure had it not been for the Divine interference. The members of the convention could agree on nothing until, in response to Benjamin Franklin's request that the meetings be opened by prayer, the Lord God was called on to interfere and help, and then the way was cleared, and the states signed a document; a historical fact that all the rat-terriers of modern infidelity cannot bark out of existence! I know that there was an exception to the fact that the prominent men of those good times were good men. Tom Paine, a libertine and a sot, did not believe in any thing good until he was dying, and then he shrieked out for God's mercy. And Ethan Allen, from one of whose descendants I have received within a few days a confirmation of the incident I mentioned in a recent sermon, as saying to his dying daughter that she had better take her mother's christian religion than his own infidelity. The article sent me says: "The story has been denied by some of the Allen family, but the Broad-

son family, some of whom were with the dying girl, affirm that it is substantially true. In such a matter one confirmation is worth more than many denials." So says the article sent me. There is no doubt that Ethan Allen was the vulgar sort of an infidel, for, sitting in a Presbyterian church, his admirers say he struck the pew in front of him and swore out loud, so as to disturb the meeting, and no gentleman would do that. I do not wonder that some of his descendants are ashamed of him; but of course they could not help it, and are not to blame. But of all the decent men of the revolution believed in God, and our American congress, now assembled, will only echo the sentiments of the fathers when they enthroned the name of God in the constitution. We have now more reason for inserting that acknowledgement of divinity than our fathers had. Since then the continent has been peopled and great cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific built, and all in peace, showing that there must have been supernatural supervisal. Since then the war of 1812, and ours the victory! Since then great financial prostrations, out of which we came to greater prosperity than anything that preceded. Since then sanguinary 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865, and notwithstanding the fact that all the foreign despots were planning for our demolition, we are a united people and tomorrow you will find in both houses of congress the men who fought for the north and the south, now sitting side by side, armed with no weapon except the pen, with which they write home to their constituents who want to be appointed postmasters. The man who cannot see God in our American history is as blind of soul as he would be blind of body if he could not at 12 o'clock of an unclouded noon see the sun in the heavens. As a matter of gratitude to Almighty God, gentlemen of the American congress, be pleased to insert the four words suggested by the Methodist conference: Not only because of the kindness of God to this nation in the past should such a reverential insertion be made, but because of the fact that we are going to want Divine interposition still further in our national history. This gold and silver question will never be settled until God settles it. This question of tariff and free trade will never be settled until God settles it. This question between the east and west, which is getting hotter and hotter and looks toward a republic of the Pacific, will not be settled until God settles it. We needed God in the one hundred and twenty years of our past national life, and we will need Him still more in the next one hundred and twenty years. Lift up your heads ye everlasting gates of our glorious constitution, and let the King of Glory come in! Make one line of that immortal document radiant with Omnipotence! Spell at least one word with Thrones! At the beginning, or at the close, or in the center, recognize him from whom as a nation we have received all the blessing of the past and upon whom we are dependent for the future. Print that word "God," or "Lord," or "Eternal Father," or "Ruler of Nations," somewhere between the first word and the last. The Great Expounder of the constitution sleeps at Marshfield, Massachusetts, the Atlantic ocean still humming near his pillow of dust its prolonged lullaby but is there not some one now living, who, in the white marble palace of the nation on yonder hill, not ten minutes away, will become the irradiator of the constitution by causing to be added the most tremendous word of our English vocabulary; the name of that being before whom all nations must bow or go into defeat and annihilation—"God?"

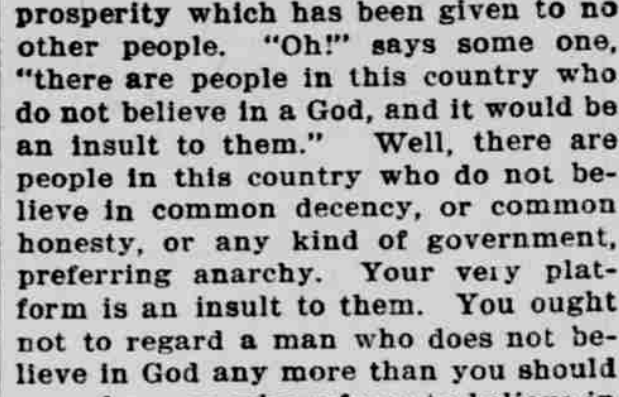
Again before the approaching adjournment of our American congress, it ought to be decided and forever settled that no appropriations be made to sectarian schools, and that courtship between church and state in this country be forever broken up. That question already seems temporarily settled. I wish it might be completely and forever settled. All schools and all institutions, as well as all denominations, should stand on the same level before American law. Emperor Alexander of Russia, at his Peterhof Palace, asked me how many denominations of religion there were in America, and I recited their names as well as I could. Then he asked me the difference between them, and there I broke down. But when I told him that no religious denomination in America had any privileges above the others, he could hardly understand it. The Greek church first in Russia. The Lutheran church first in Germany. The Episcopal church first in England. The Catholic church first in Rome. Mohammedanism first in Constantinople. The emperor wondered how it was possible that all the denominations in America could stand on the same platform. But so it is, and so let it ever be. Let there be no preference, no partiality, no attempt to help one sect an inch higher than another. Washington and Jefferson and all the early presidents, and all the great statesmen of the past, have lifted their voice against any such tendency. If a school or institution cannot stand without the prop of national appropriation, then let that school or that institution go down. On the other side of the sea the world has had plenty of illustration of church and state united. Let us have none of the hypocrisy and demoralization born of that relation on this side of the Atlantic. Let that denomination come out ahead that does the most for the cause of God and humanity. Men, institutions, and religions getting what they achieve by their own right arm of usefulness, and not by the favoritism of government. As you regard the welfare and perpetuity of our institutions, keep politics out of religion.

But now, that I am speaking of national affairs from a religious standpoint, I bethink myself of the fact that

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VIII., MAY 24—JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.

Golden Text: "The Stone Which the Builders Rejected, the Same Has Become the Head of the Corner"—Lk. 20:17.



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NOTE THAT WE are now entering upon the fourth and last division of the public ministry of Jesus. We have been with him in Judea, in Galilee, in Perea, and now we study the wonderful scenes of the last eventful week. Its importance can be seen from the fact that the room is given to the story of this one week in the Gospels than to any whole year of Jesus' ministry. This week occupies seven chapters of Matthew, five of Mark, five of Luke, and eight of John; in all, twenty-five chapters, against three for the first year, twenty for the second, and twenty-three for the third.

The events of this week should be learned by heart, and by drill and by blackboard they should be impressed on the memory in vivid pictures.

Their bearing on the work of Christ should be clearly pointed out. The first three days, which are included in to-day's lesson, were employed in one great and powerful effort, as in the H. V., another country. He went abroad. He left his tenants in charge with everything needful for their work, and thus by his absence tested their faithfulness, and gave them opportunity to develop the principle of their duties. This was "for a long time."

10. "And at the season," not any definite time, but every occasion when God had reason to expect the results. "He sent a servant." The prophets and all faithful men are sent. "The husbandmen beat him." The next one they not only beat, but entreated him shamefully. The fruit the Lord had a right to expect, the people did not give him. The nation as a whole were very disappointing. "My beloved," said to him as he went out. "This is said to show the greatness of God's love to man (John 3:16)."

14. "This is the heir." Christ is the heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). The Jewish nation should have been his to rule, while they obeyed him. The Messiah in love. "Let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours." This alludes to the Eastern custom, that if an owner was not to be found, and the occupier pays the taxes for six years, he can claim the property. The owner, in this case, was in a foreign country, and had sent servant after servant, but had not enforced his rights. When the legal heir appeared they were alarmed for their tenure, and hoped that by killing him, unless his father came in person, the estate would become absolutely their own.—Canon Tristram.

16. "He shall come and destroy these husbandmen." Since every possible method of saving them had been rejected, the tree that no culture will enable to bring forth fruit must be cut down. The wicked man whom nothing can make better must perish. In the summer of A. D. 70, forty years after this parable was spoken, Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was burned and laid in ruins by the Roman army under Titus, after the most terrible siege on record; 97,000 were taken prisoners, and 1,100,000 perished. Yet these Jews, if they had been faithful, might have been the leading nation in the world, waiting as kings and princes among men, the joy of the whole earth, shedding the light of God's truth and righteousness over the nations. But they would not; they rejected the Messiah and perished. "And shall give the vineyard to others." "The others" were the Christian church, the new kingdom of heaven, which took the place of the Jewish nation after the destruction of Jerusalem.

17. "This then that is written" in Psalm 118: 22-23, which the Jews applied to the Messiah. Peter twice applied it to him (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7). "The stone which the builders rejected." "In the primary meaning of the psalm the illustration seems to have been drawn from one of the stones quarried, hewn and marked, away from the site of the temple, which the builders, ignorant of the head architect's plans, or finding on it no mark (such as recent exploration at Jerusalem has shown) to have been placed on the stones of Solomon's temple in the place where they were quarried, to indicate their position in the future structure of the building, had put on one side." The stone rejected was Jesus the Messiah, the kingdom and its blessings which would come with him. "It became the head of the corner." The corner-stone on which the superstructure rests. "The most important stone in the building." The Messiah is to succeed and reign, his kingdom is to come, no matter who opposes.

18. "Whosoever shall fall upon that stone," stumbles at the humiliation of Jesus, and so does not accept his claims. "Shall be broken," shall suffer great injury, but may yet be saved by repentance and faith. "But on whomsoever it shall fall," in final judgment and punishment. "It will grind him to powder," in complete and irremediable destruction. This was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem, a type of the ruin of those who reject Christ's principles, atoning love and guidance.

19. "And the chief priests," seeing that the parable applied to them, thought to defeat the prophecy, and make the words to be impossible to be fulfilled, by destroying Jesus. But it was his death that wrought victory for him.

LABOR NOTES.

Eight hundred Boston brewery workers have left the K. of L. and joined the A. F. of L.

The trades unionists of Los Angeles, Cal., are boycotting the Chinese and Japanese restaurants.

Switzerland, a pure democratic form of government, has had but 296 strikes in thirty-five years, and of these ten were lockouts.

The bindery girls employed at the Roller printing office, Canton, O., went on a strike the past week for eight hours, and after much arbitration the girls won.

When they affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, last August, the American Agents' association had a membership of 800; now they have 12,000.

The American Federation of Labor was organized in 1881, and now has a membership of nearly 700,000, which is far above the high water mark of the K. of L.

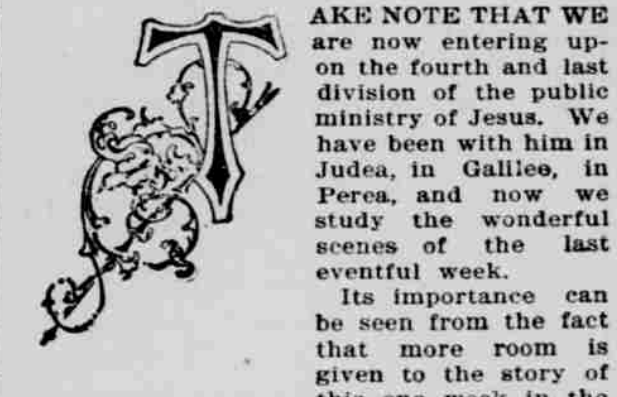
The Central Labor union of Fort Wayne, Ind., declared in favor of a municipal electric plant, and the effect was that the lighting firm which now has the contract compelled its machinists to withdraw from the union.

The Upholsters' union, Indianapolis, is only one month old and has 125 members, a majority of the trade in the city. The barbers, waiters, and harnessmakers are organizing, and the union movement is making rapid progress in that city.

For the twelve nights beginning Dec. 25 and ending on Jan. 6 (the English Twelfthnight and the French Fete des Rois, or Feast of the Kings), the ancestors of the Siegfrieds and the Lohengrins held their Yule festival in honor of the fiery wheel of the sun god. For the root of our word "wheel" and of the Scandinavian "yule" are one and the same.

Clever Young French Woman.

All France is talking of Mlle. Jeanne Benaben's extraordinary attainments. This exceedingly scholarly young woman received the college degree of bachelor of arts two years ago, when she was 16. She then became professor of philosophy in a woman's college at Lyons, and this year was a candidate at the Sorbonne for the important degree of licentiate in philosophy. The examiners, though prepared for a prodigy, were amazed at the extent of her erudition and her serene composure in dealing with the vexed problems of Descartes, Kant and Comte. She was third on the list of 200 candidates, all of them older than herself, and is now a lecturer on the science of the mind in the college of Rouen.



Cost of Destroying a Slum. London is spending nearly \$2,500,000 in cleansing and rebuilding one slum. American cities are just beginning to learn how serious is the cumulative evil of slum construction. They may with profit also learn how costly is the necessity of slum destruction. The object lesson offered by London may be studied with interest in our large cities, and especially in New York, where, through the efforts of the state tenement house commission, legislation has with much difficulty been secured which, if enforced, perpetuated and added to, will tend to prevent the growth of such conditions as London is now compelled to combat.—Century.

Two Sides to the Question. Maternal Ancestor (profoundly shocked)—Arabella, I accidentally saw you kiss young Mr. Peduncle in the hallway last night. Don't you know such a thing is highly reprehensible? Miss Arabella (flaring up)—No, I don't, mamma. I don't think it's half as bad as it is for you to kiss that deceitful Mrs. Bookins when you know you don't like to kiss her at all.—Chicago Tribune.

The Hare and the Tortoise. A hare was one day galloping across a field, when he met a tortoise who was a new candidate for office. The hare could not help smiling at the short feet and slow pace of the tortoise, who, being touchy on this point, promptly challenged him to a trial of speed. On the day appointed the beasts assembled. The hare, however, trusting to his natural swiftness, had not trained—had continued to smoke cigarettes, and on the night before the race sat up with a sick friend. He arrived at the course, accordingly, very late and with heavy, overhanging breath. Seeing that the plodding tortoise was about to cross the finish line, the hare promptly opened bottles for the crowd, bought up the umpire, and the flag went to him on a foul. Moral.—The race is not always to the slow.

The Paris museum contains more than 20,000 stone implements, all of which were gathered in France.

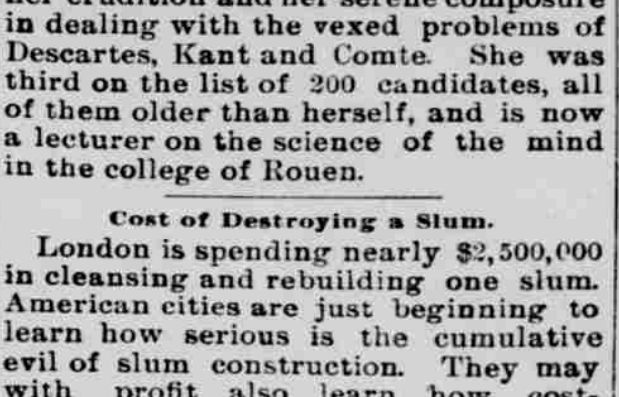
Great Britain pays the continent upwards of \$70,000,000 a year for sugar and makes not an ounce.

There are 13,000 school masters in Germany whose salaries fall below \$200 per annum.

Billiard table, second-hand, for sale cheap. Apply to or address, H. C. AKIN, 511 S. 12th St., Omaha, Neb.

Boils

It is often difficult to convince people their blood is impure, until dreadful carbuncles, abscesses, boils, scrofula or salt rheum, are painful proof of the fact. It is wisdom now, or when ever there is any indication of



blood, to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and prevent such eruptions and suffering. "I had a dreadful carbuncle abscess, red, fiery, fierce and sore. The doctor attended me over seven weeks. When the abscess broke, the pains were terrible, and I thought I should not live through it. I heard and read so much about Hood's Sarsaparilla, that I decided to take it, and my husband, who was suffering with boils, took it also. It soon purified our

Blood

built me up and restored my health so that, although the doctor said I would not be able to work hard, I have since done the work for 20 people. Hood's Sarsaparilla cured my husband of the boils and we regard it a wonderful medicine." MRS. ANNA PETERSON, Latimer, Kansas.

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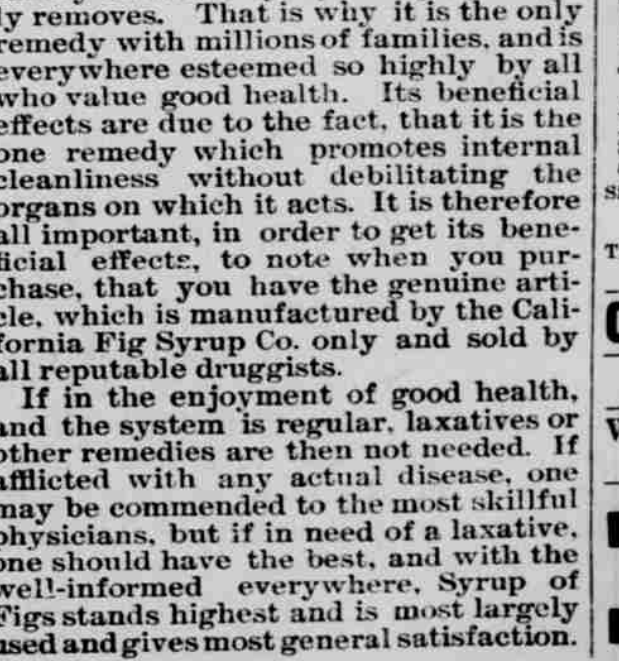
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Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, it may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.



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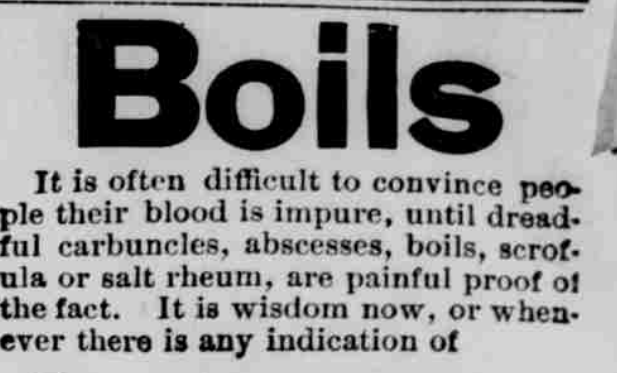
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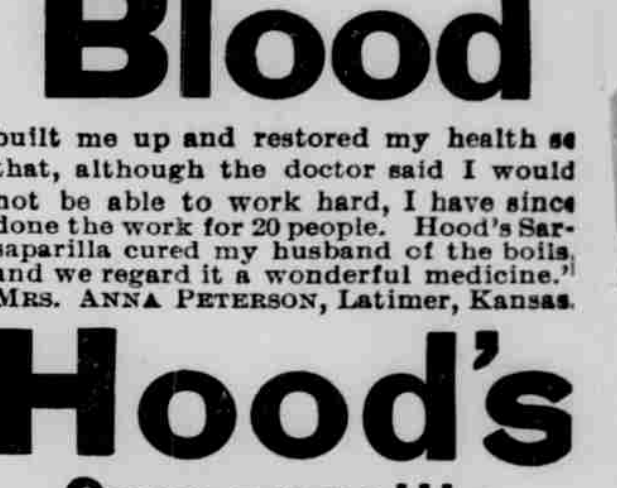
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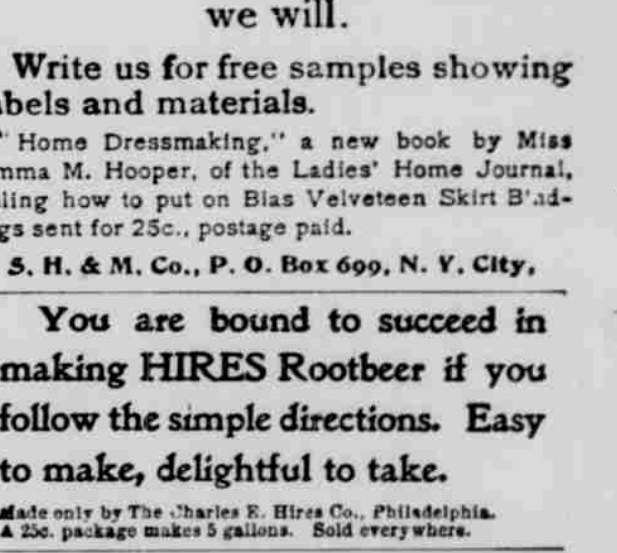
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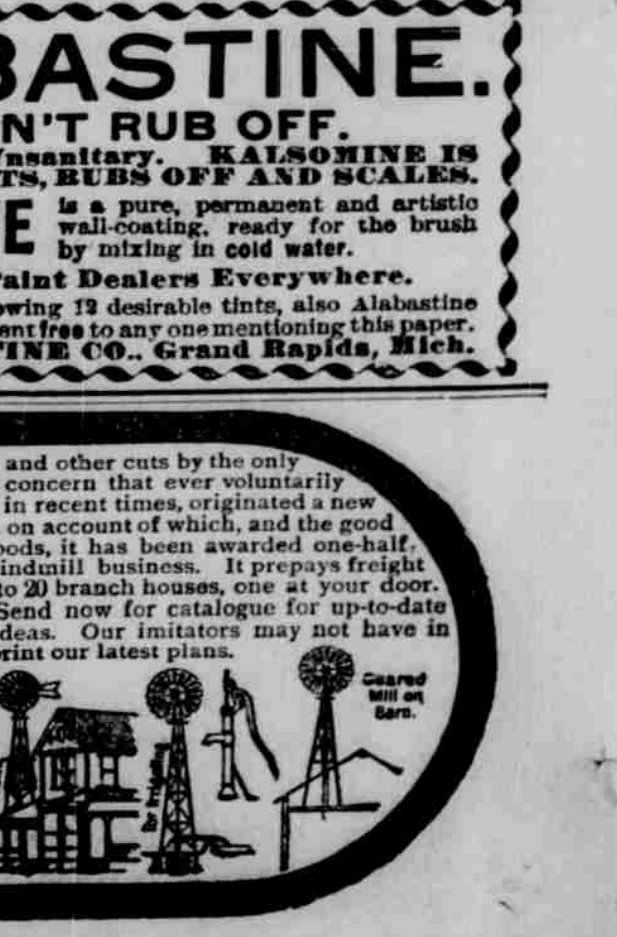
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