"HANDWRITING ON THE WALL" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

"When God Writes Anything on the Wall a Man Had Better Read It as It Is". The Opening and the Close of Sin's



Talmage's pulpit king's crimes.
experience has been Here is a n preaches been filled,

flowed into the adjoining streets to an sable. Similar scenes were enacted at 5: 30, "In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain."

Night was about to come down on dred and fifty towers began to lengthen. The Euphrates rolled on, touched by the flery splendors of the setting sun; tering, opened and shut like doors of same. The hanging gardens of Babylon, wet with the heavy dew, began to pour, from starlit flowers and dripping leaf, a fragrance for many miles around. The streets and squares were lighted for dance and frolic and promenade. The theaters and galleries of art invited the wealth, and pomp, and grandeur of the city to rare entertainments. Scenes of riot and wassail were mingled in every street; and godless mirth and outrageous excess and splendid wickedness came to the king's palace, to do their mightiest deeds of dark-

A royal feast to night at the king's palace! Rushing up to the gates are shariots, upholstered with precious cloths from Dedan, and drawn by fireeyed horses from Togarmah, that rear and neigh in the grasp of the charlot-eers, while a thousand lords dismount, and women, dressed in all the splendors of Syrian emerald, and the colorblending of agate, and the chasteness of coral, and the sombre glory of Tyrian purple, and princely embroideries, brought from afar by camels across the esert, and by ships of Tarshish across

Open wide the gates and let the guests come in. The chamberlains and cup-bearers are all ready. Hark to the rustle of the silks, and to the carol of the music! See the blaze of the jewels! Lift the banners. Fill the cups. Clap the cymbals. Blow the trumpets. Let the night go by with song, and dance, and ovation; and let that Babylonish tongue be palsied that will not say, "O, King Belshazzar, live forever."

What is that on the plastering of the wall? Is it a spirit? Is it a phantom? Is it God? The music stops. The goblets fall from the nerveless grasp. e is a thrill. There is a start. There is a thousand-voiced shrick of horror. Let Daniel be brought in to read that writing. He comes in. He reads it: "Weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Meanwhile the Medes, who for two years had been laying slege to that city, took advantage of that carousal and came in. I hear the feet of the conquerors on the palace stairs. Massacre rushes in with a thousand gleaming knives. Death bursts upon the scene; and I shut the door of that banqueting hall, for I do not want to look. There is nothing there but torn banners, and broken wreaths, and the slush of upset tankards, and the blood of murered women, and the kicked and tumbled carcass of a dead king. For "in that night was Belshazzar, the king of

the Chaldeans, slain." I go on to learn some lessons from all this. I learn that when God writes anything on the wall, a man had better read it as it is. Daniel did not misinterpret or modify the handwriting on the wall. It is all foolishness to expect a minister of the Gospel to preach the people choose. Young men of Washington, what shall I preach to you to-night? Shall I tell you of the digof the wonders that our race has accomplished? "Oh, no;" you say, "tell me the message that came from God." things; but that is the message, and so I declare it. Jesus never flattered those to whom he preached. He said vipers! ye whited sepulchres! how can the apostle preached before a man who was not ready to hear him preach. What subject did he take? Did he say, 'Oh! you are a good man, a very fine was unrighteous; of temperance to a man who was a victim of bad appetites; of the judgment to come to a man who was unfit for it. So we must always declare the message that happens to come to us. Daniel must read it as it is. A minister preached before James I. of England, who was James VI. of Scotland. What subject did he take? The king was noted all over the world for being unsettled and wavering in his ideas. What did the minister preach about to this man who was James I. of England and James VI.

of Scotland? He took for his text

James first and sixth; "He that way-

ereth is like a wave of the sea driven

with the wind and tossed." Hugh Lat-

imer offended the king by a sermon be

preached; and the king said, "Hugh heard the call of the Gospel for ARM AND GARDEN. Latimer, come and apologize." "I will," a year, I invite him now to con said Hugh Latimer. So the day was appointed; and the king's chapel was the stronghold of the Gospel! MATTERS OF INTEREST TO full of lords, and dukes, and the the accepted time; now is the mighty men and women of the country, for Hugh Latimer was to apologize. He began his sermon by saying, 'Hugh Latimer, bethink thee! Thou art in the presence of thine earthly king, in the morning strong and well Horticulture, Viticulture and Fiort who can destroy thy body. But bethink oh! art thou a despiser of God? | culture. thee, Hugh Latimer, that thou art in thy last night on earth? Should ASHINGTON, D. the presence of the King of heaven C., Nov. 10.—Since and earth, who can destroy both body coming to and soul in hell fire." Then he preach-Washington, Dr. ed with appalling directness at the

Here is a man who begins to read a remarkable one. loose novels. "They are so charming," Not only has the he says; "I will go out and see for church in which he myself whether all these things are He opens the gate of a sinful but the audi- life. He goes in. A sinful sprite meets ences have over- him with her wand. She waves her wand, and it is all enchantment. Why, extent that has rendered them impas- it seems as if the angels of God had poured out phials of perfume in the to-day's services when the preacher atmosphere. As he walks on he finds took for his subject: "Handwriting on the hills becoming more radiant with the Wall," the text chosen being Dan. foliage, and the ravines more resonant with the falling water. Oh, what a charming landscape he sees! But that sinful sprite, with her wand, meets Babylon. The shadows of her two hun- him again; but now she reverses the wand, and all the enchantment is gone, The cup is full of poison. The fruit turns to ashes. All the leaves of the and gates of brase, burnished and glit- bower are forked tongues of hissing serpents. The flowing fountains fail back in a dead pool stenchful with corruption. The luring songs become curses and screams of demoniac laughter. Lost spirits gather about him and feel for his heart, and beckon him on with "Hail, brother, hail, blasted cannot be so to so that, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to s inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to s inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long. The lower oness to so inches long, bethat, I will give you a still shortcoming shorter above, the uppermost that you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat you may utter: "Lord, sa bract-like and shorter than the flower-oness to so inches long, bethat you a still short than the flower-oness than back in a dead pool stenchful with corruption. The luring songs become him on with "Hail, brother, hail, blasted spirit, hail!" He tries to get out. He comes to the front door where he entered and tries to push it back, but the door turns against him; and in the jar of that shutting door he hears these words: "This night is Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain." Sin may open bright as the morning. It ends dark as the night.

I learn further from this subject that death sometimes breaks in upon a of all kinds each and every day banquet. Why did he not go down to the prisons in Babylon? There were people there that would like to have died. I suppose there were men and women in torture in that city who would have welcomed death, but he comes to the palace; and just at the time when the mirth is dashing to the tiptop pitch, Death breaks in at the banquet. We have often seen the same thing illustrated. Here is a young man just come from college. He is kind. He is loving. He is enthusiastic. He is eloquent. By one spring he may bound to heights toward which many men have been struggling for years. A profession opens before him. He is established in the law. His friends cheer him. After awhile you may see him standing in the American senate, or moving a popular assemblage by his eloquence, as trees are moved in a whirlwind. Some night he retires early. A fever is on him. Delirium, like a reckless charioteer, seizes the reins of his intellect. Father and mother stand by and see the tides of his life going out to the great ocean. The banquet is coming to an end. The lights of thought, and mirth, and eloquence are being extinguished. The garlands are snatched from the brow. The vision is gone. Death at the banquet!

I have also to learn from the subject that the destruction of the vicious Della Fox can be distinctly traced and of those who despise God, will be very sudden. The wave of mirth had dashed to the highest point when the invading army broke through. It was unexpected. Suddenly, almost always, comes the doom of those who despise God, and defy the laws of men. How was it at the deluge? Do you suppose it came through a long northeast storm, so that people for days before were sure it was coming? No; I suppose the morning was bright; that calmness brooded on the waters; that beauty sat enthroned on the hills; when suddenains sank like anchors into the sea that utes after the first papers were filed, n each flower, are small, roundish and dashed clear over the Andes and the Himalayas.

The Red sea was divided. The Egyptians tried to cross it. There could be no danger. The Israelites had just gone through; where they had gone, always things that the people like, or why not the Egyptians? Oh, it was and sent to the chain gang for carry trounds and fields, principally in the such a beautiful walking place! A pavement of tinged shells and pearls, and on either side two great walls of nity of human nature? Shall I tell you water-solid. There can be no danger. Forward, great host of the Egyptians! Clap the cymbals and blow the trumpets of victory! After them! We I will. If there is any handwriting on will catch them yet, and they shall be the wall, it is this lesson: "Repent! destroyed. But the walls begin to her own way. Accept of Christ and be saved!" I tremble. They rock! They fall! The might talk of a great many other rushing waters! The shrick of drowning men! The swimming of the war horses in vain for the shore! The strewing of the great host on the bottom of to those who did wrong, and who were the sea, or pitched by the angry wave offensive in his sight, "Ye generation of on the beach-a battered, bruised, and loathsome wreck! Suddenly destrucye escape the damnation of hell?" Paul tion came. One half hour before they could not have believed it. Destroyed.

and without remedy. I am just setting forth a fact, which you have noticed as well as I. Annaman, a very noble man"? No; he nias comes to the apostle. The apospreached of righteousness to a man who tie says: "Did you sell the land for so much?" He says, "Yes," It was a lie. Dead! as quick as that. Sapphira, his wife, comes in. "Did you sell the land for so much?" "Yes." It was a lie, and quick as that she was dead. God's judgments are upon those who despise Him and defy Him. They come sud-

Skilled sportsmen do not like to shoot a bird standing on a sprig near by. If they are skilled, they pride themselves on taking it on the wing; and they sportsman; and he loves to take men A discharged Turkish soldier bass growth, irregular and extremel; unflying under the very sun. He loves ing of the outrages he had committee to he wing. Oh fire the outrages he had committee to he wing. Oh fire the outrages he had committee to he wing. to take them on the wing. Oh, flee to in Armenia recently in a cafe of Alexa very small. Frequently even the God this night! If there be one in this andria was invited to step out by the payer are dwarfed. Yet in time trees presence who has wandered far away Armenians present and was next from Christ, though he may not have strangled by them.

be saved. Flee from thy sin!

salvation.

you have rosy sleep, guarded b who never slumbers! May you be awakened in the night by thing, thou knowest not whe there be shadows floating in the and a handwriting on the wall, a feel that your last hour is com there be a fainting at the heart, tremor in the limb, and a catch the breath—then thy doom wo but an echo of the words of the

of the Chaldeans, slain." Oh! that my Lord Jesus woul saying: Just as I am, without one plea lye.

"In that night was Belshazzar, th

O Lamb of God, I come!

all. Just look and live!

## FLOATING FACTS.

Babylon, and comparative view sented.

The people of the United Stat on an average 12,000,000 postage s year, or a total of 4,380,000,000 p num.

The Greek year consists of months of twenty-nine and thirty alternately; three times in eight a month was added to make up t ficiency.

On her last trip the Lucania, der to save the tide at the Merse broke the record between Queen and Liverpool, making the 240 m ten hours.

A pipe line to convey the prod the Los Angeles oil wells to the board, either at San Pedro or Red is under the consideration of an ern capitalist

The "Era of the Martyrs," a fa era in use in the early church, memorates the tenth and last grea secution, by Diocletian, beginning h 23. 284 A. D.

The first cabbage grown in Ch Britain was raised on the grounda joining the Abbey of Arbroath, hair been produced from seeds obtain from Artois, in France,

Jabez Copps, who taught school Sangamon county, Ill., in 1819, is a alive.

Now people say that a picture the moon. Doctors now say that the dang

from appendicitis have been great exaggerated. There are at least fifteen women

Chicago who make a living by put and filling teeth.

A Pinkerton patrolman at Chicarrolla about an inch long, which is

A couple named Hatfield, at Wich lant has a handsome appearance. The Kan., were divorced just fifty-four mutlets, of which there are about four

A Binghampton factory girl befrie ough, with a peculiar appearance, ed an old man, and as a consequentich has been likened to a viper's was left \$45,000 when he died a flead. days ago.

fined one cent for beating a womeralized along roadsides, in waste

a pistol. The Chicago Telephone company b issued an order which prohibits e ployes wearing bloomers during bu

ness hours. A California millionaire who died i cently left his wife penniless, becau

## NOTES OF THE DAY.

A garter show that has been we ed to London.

last summer.

late. In Whatcom county, Washing

owing to the low prices. rope receives its supply of eleomata

ine from New York and Chicagoin the importation is always exclusic berry and red elm. through Rotterdam. A strange hog disease has within the banks of stream or three weeks swept away thousand the form to be a sure if

ACRICULTURISTS.

Good night, my young friendiome Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof-



HE illustration on this page is of Echium vulgare, commonly known as Blue-weed, blue-Thistle, or Bugloss. Bugloss is formed from two Greek words equivalent to bous (ox) and glossa (tongue) which combines

make Himself so attractive to nto bugloss (ox-tongue). This plant is a souls that you cannot resist Highember of the borage family, known if you have never prayed before, cotanically as Borraginaceae (hairynot prayed since those days whicaved). Gray describes this family as knelt down at your mother's 'a rather large family of innocent muthen that to-night you might illaginous, and slightly bitter plants; he root of some species yielding a red

But that thy blood was shed for Echium is from echie (Greek for vi-And that thou bidst me come ther) and is distinguished in the family by having the carolla funnel-form, un-But if you cannot think of so equally 5-lobed, and with stamens proprayer as that, I will give you a ruding. The stem is from two to three er prayer that you can say: "Geet high, rough, hairy and leafy. The merciful to me, a sinner!" Or, jeaves vary from lanceolate to linear, cannot think of so long a prathe lower ones 5 to 8 inches long, beupper part of the stem, sometimes for

more than half its length, bears numerous short, axillary spikes or racemes From the time of Solomon the two inches long, and are coiled backnology of the Hebrews may beward in bud, but straighten out as they nected with that of Egypt, Assyriexpand. The flowers are rather crowd-

The development of the branches seems to keep pace with the development of the roots in the soil. Where the soft is rich and soft the roots force their way easily, and the growth of the tree above the ground is smooth and rapid. The limbs are long between joints and everything bespeaks a luxuriant ex-

The Magney.

The cactus family are remarkable for their power of withstanding drought, growing as they do in a climate that is for a great part of the year almost destitute of water, and being found as they are on arid solis and bare rocks some of them are, notwithstanding all this, represented as containing a store of wholesome juice of which both men and cattle avail themselves. But perhaps the most remarkable of all is a plant not properly a cactus, but in some respects similar, called the Agave or American Aloe; and another species, the Mexican variety, or Maguey plant, being the same as cultivated in our conservatories under the name of Century plant. The Mexican variety grows to an enormous size, and is cultivated in that country as a hedge plant. The fibres of the leaves are under the name of Maguey used for the manufacture of thread, twine, ropes, etc., but its principal value is for the juice, which yields sugar, and which, when diluted with water and subjected to four or five days' fermentation, becomes an agreeable but intoxicating drink called Pulque, which is the national beverage of the Mexicans. This liquor is obtained by cutting or scooping out a basin in the very heart of the plant, into which a juice called honey-water flows at the rate of from four to eight quarts a day, according to the size of the plant, and continues to flow, according to our account, for a period of three months whether the weather be wet or dry. Humboldt describes it as flowing for a year to a year and a half, but let which will be the correct account there is something not easily explained in the



walks thirty-nine miles every nigurplish at first, but changing to a and has the longest beat in the cityight blue. When in full flower the

This plant is a native of Europe and At Charlesville, Tenn., a man wasia, but has become extensively nat-

iddle Atlantic States.

Trees, Exponents of Soils.

Soils may be indicated quite accurtely by the trees that grow naturally pon them, since the native growth is he one that has appeared there after he said she always insisted on havi enturies of contest for the "survival the fittest." Other trees would grow here if planted, tended and protected, ut the native tree is the proprietor by atural selection.

The common beach flourishes on patronized in Paris is to be transported fairly moist and naturally clayey. Pines and chestnuts choose a lighter There were 3,108 students in attenind often a sandy soil. Oak, hickory ance at the seven Swiss universiting poplar choose naturally a soil that, when cleared, is very appropriate for York county, Maine, farmers are te wheat. Soils that produce beach and ing of a snow white deer that has be maple will also produce corn, potatoes seen in that region several time and barley. White oak chooses a moderately rich soil. Post oak grows well on a soil that is dry and gravelly. this year, there are only three he with it are found also Spanish oak, raisers who are picking their oppblack oak, scarlet oak, and dogwood.

Black walnut requires rich fairly dry Nearly the entire continent off; soil, such soil as will produce also honey locust, red mulberry, shellbark hickory, black sugar maple, hack-

White maple seems to thrive best on the banks of streams, where pure wa-

of fat porkers in McLean and adjoint There seems to be a sure index of the counties in Illinois, and threatensti character of soil in the manner of the n such soil attain an extensive develpment. We instance the scrub oak. others swift and reckless,

along the frontier line between Rusd, and consist of a five-lobed or cleft and British territory.

along the frontier line between Rusd, and consist of a five-lobed or cleft rocks in a dry climate, producing from alyx, and a somewhat bell-shaped rocks in a dry climate, producing from rocks in a dry climate, producing from If this be as stated, it appears to me that teetotallers may preach up temperance and the people may sign pledges if they choose, but when liquor can be extracted from every hedge plant in such liberal quantities I should suppose there would be considerable difficulty in carrying out effectually any law prohibiting the use, or the abuse, or the manufacture of liquor.-A. Hood.

Exhaustive Pollen Production.

I am glad to note that we are beginning to look at things in a different way. We must look upon plant life as living animals, conscious of all surroundings and appreciative of generous care; male and female brought into existence by the same immutable law that brings the mammal into life; that the exhaustive effort of procreation in the male animal when left to unbridled excess, produces the same disastrous effect upon the male plant and brings on the same degree of impotency. What grower has meditated and thought for a moment when his orchard was unfolding that magnificent but excessive bloom in the spring, every twig and limb loaded with beautiful flowers shedding the golden dust from the anthers which surround the pistils, that the whole life of the tree was being sapped and undermined. and when in the years following, he found his orchard dwarfed and its fruit a mass of undeveloped hulks and culls? In the animal he would have well understood the cause that made the offspring of even a thoroughbred a scrub; but when seeking the cause of decline in his orchard, he spends his time in depreciating the unfavorable seasons, the drouths, frosts and storms, forgetting that under proper restriction the vigor of the tree and potency of its pollen, and healthfulness of its pistils would be equal to these emergencies.-R. M. Kellegg.

Yachtwomen.-Over one thousand catboats and yachts are owned and sailed by young women on the coast of Maine and Massachusetta, They vary as much as men in their management. some toing slow and cautious and

Bee-Keeping in Switzerland.

A. S. Rosenroll, writing from Switzerland to American Bee Journal, says: If the degree of civilization of a nation could be measured by its attention to bee-keeping, then Switzerland cetainly would take a foremest position in the ranks of civilized nations. The destiny and welfare of the bee-keeping industry are directed and watched over by not less than four bee papers (the property of the various bee-keepers' associations) of which two are published in the German, and one each in the French and Italian languages. Besides, most of the local newspapers, especially those treating on agricultural matters, give numerous articles and hints on bee

The country is well stocked with bees, and according to a former census there were in Switzerland 180,000 colonies of bees, or one colony to every fifteen inhabitants.

The bee-keepers' associations here are not only trade unions, or protective associations, but rather patriotic benevolent societies, whose object is to encourage bee-keeping among the country people in order to raise the national prosperity and create a pleasant and ennobling pastime and home industry for the professional man, the artisan and laborer, and their families, in their leisure hours. Many of the country schools are supplied with bee houses and bives for the use of the teachers, and where the scholars are also given practical instructions in the art of hand-

ling and managing bees. Some of the railway companies are also assisting their employes, station officers and linemen to keep bees at suitable points along their lines, in order to increase their home comforts. and are supplying hives, building sheds and paying premiums to them.

Migratory bee-keeping receives considerable attention in many parts of the country, the bees being moved in the summer after the hay season, from the lower plains to the Alpine heights, where myriads of Alpine roses and other flowers offer them a rich and delicious pasture.

Like most other countries, Switzerland has in times past had its craze for Italianizing, and not wisely but extensively supplanted the native black bee by the Italian, so that in many parts of the country the bees are gradually getting mongretized, and are becoming vicious and savage brutes. But beekeepers are beginning to find out the error they have made, and are often. at considerable expense, returning to the indigenous bees, or Carniolan, a

variety of the black bee. It is generally admitted here by all experienced and disinterested beekeepers, that the pure Germans or Carniolans are the gentlest, the hardiest, and most industrious bees known. Their habitation—the north of Europe with its long and severe winters, its cold winds and storm season-would naturally, in the course of ages, evolve a hardy and industrious race, fit to survive such conditions. That they are better geometricians and build nicer, straighter and more regular combs-in fact, almost faultless-is beyond dispute. Sometimes we hear from a beekeeper that his black bees are vicious, but if he were to examine them closely he would find that they are not pure black, but have become mongrenzed gomehow.

A Statement Corrected.

"During the past two months or more there have appeared in the various newspapers east and west statements purporting to give the present corn crop of Kansas anywhere from 300,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels, and in numerous instances these statements have been made as emanating from the office of the state board of agriculture. As a fact, however, this board has made no estimates and does not yet know, nor does anybody else know, what the yield will be. It is a matter that cannot be arrived at until a considerable portion of the crop is husked,

"At the proper time in the near future we shall be at much pains to learn from every neighborhood and make public the actual output; until then any figures given will be simply random guessing, which is no part of our work.

"Kansas has a tremendous cropenough and millions for the cornless elsewhere, but personally, in view of the weather conditions of the past six weeks, I regard the talk of 400,000,000 or even 300,000,000 bushels as uncalled for and harmful buncombe."-F. D. Coburn, Secretary Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

Mulches-Mulches are applied in winter to assist in keeping out frost, and to prevent snow from being blown off: they are continued in spring to prevent the surface soil from alternately thawing and freezing, and by retaining the frost about the roots prevent too early a development of buds and blossoms; but their principal use is perhaps to prevent a too rapid evaporation in hot weather and during drought, and thereby preserve for the use of trees, plants and vegetables the moisture that is in the soil, and to retain for a longer period than is otherwise possible such as falls from the clouds; incidentally they may to a certain extent prevent the growth of weeds, and thus save labor in hoeing - Ex.

Practice vs. Science-"Science," says Mr. Snyder, "tells us how much casein, sugar and albumen there is in milk, but it is hard to tell the exact feeding value, and it seems as if hogs can get more out of it than the scientific man can." Just so; and as we have lately shown, scientific men begin to admit that the 90 per cent, or whatever it is, of water in the root crop is a very different thing, as regards the animals' food, to the water we draw from our wells .- Journal of

An exchange truly says that the cheapest food for hogs that we can raise is clover or grass, and in corn we have the best food for fattening that can be found.