

A GAIN FOR MORALITY

WHAT THE PLATE COLLECTION CENSUS SHOWS.

Marked Increase in Contributions Shows That the Cause of Religion Has Shared Liberally in the Prosperity of the Period.

The results of the plate collection census instituted by the American Protective Tariff League show the extent to which the cause of religion and morality has shared in the great increase of prosperity which came to the people of the United States directly following the election in 1896 of William McKinley as President of the United States.

In the limited time allotted for the collection of these church statistics it is not surprising that no larger number than 123 reports were received from twenty-four states and territories in answer to the tariff league's inquiry as to the difference in the plate collections during the Wilson tariff year of 1895 and the Dingley tariff year of 1899.

From the returns received, embracing eleven different religious denominations, it appears that there was during the Dingley tariff year of 1899 a marked and substantial increase in the sum of money deposited on the plates and in the contribution boxes as contrasted with the 1895 low tariff period of poverty and depression.

The increase for 1899 amounted to 23.28 per cent. A very creditable showing for "McKinley and prosperity" in the churches, is it not?

The largest number of reports came from Ohio, where the increase was 65.55 per cent. In but four states out of the twenty-four reporting was a decrease shown—in one case of 25 per cent, in another 8 per cent, in another 4 per cent, and in the fourth 2 1/2 per cent. It would be unfair to name these states, as in each case the number of churches reporting was small, and it is certain that returns from a larger number would have produced a very different showing.

What Will They Do? Word comes from New York that Col. W. J. Bryan will in all probability be the Democratic presidential nominee.

Very Strange. A shoe manufacturer in Brockton, Mass., stated one day this week: "Tomorrow I shall open in London, on a principal street, one of the largest stores in that great city for men's shoes."

Snake Tolls. Consul Warner, at Leipzig, Germany, reports to the state department that a number of Saxony textile manufacturers declare that they cannot sell their goods in this country with the present competition here unless they remove their plants to Uncle Sam's domain.

PAPER, PULP AND TARIFF.

Doubtful Expediency of Removing All Protective Duties.

In moving for the removal of all tariff duties from paper and paper pulp imported into the United States, as a means of destroying the so-called monopoly in the domestic production of paper, certain claims are advanced by the publishers which, if based on a correct knowledge of all the facts and conditions, would seem to be unanswerable arguments in favor of the proposed change of tariff schedules.

The paper on which newspapers are printed is dutiable in the Dingley tariff at three-tenths of a cent per pound, or about 15 per cent of the present price of paper. This is a much lower rate of duty than that which is imposed on almost all other lines of manufactures.

In view of all these facts and conditions, it is not easy to see just how the manufacturers of paper are unreasonably protected under the Dingley law, nor is it any easier to see the wisdom of depriving of the advantages of protection a giant industry which has grown up as the result of protection, and which has demonstrated in a notable degree the advantage of the protective policy in constantly lowering the cost of the product to the consumer.

Wide Distribution of Benefits. Word comes from St. Paul that the lumber cut of dealers in that city is the greatest that has ever been in the city's history. This means not only prosperity for the lumbermen, but also for the carpenters, the stone masons, and all who are employed in the building trades.

Who Pays? The Medioplus News thinks the question of a tariff on free trade between the United States and Porto Rico "will probably give some of the friends of high protection an opportunity to learn whether or not the manufacturer or consumer pays the tariff."

A Benefit to the Human Race. The effect of protection is merely to limit the area of competition to a people subject to the same laws and governed by the same aspirations. But, as the creation of the greatest steel and iron industry in the world and the tremendous success of other manufacturing witnesses, the imposition of heavy protective duties has not worked to the contrary.

Reaping Their Reward. New mills are still going up as fast as labor can erect them and capital equip them. The Republic Iron and Steel company is building another new steel mill at Youngstown, Ohio, and is pushing the work on it as rapidly as possible.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SPEAKS ENCOURAGING WORDS TO WOMEN.

Text, Ecclesiastes IV, 1, "Behold the Tears of Such as Were Oppressed, and They Had no Comforter"—Faith and Trust in God.

(Copyrighted, 1900, by Louis Klopsch.) Very long ago the needle was busy. It was considered honorable for women to toil in olden times. Alexander the Great stood in his place showing garments made by his own mother.

The needle has slain more than the sword. When the sewing machine was invented, some thought that invention would alleviate woman's toil and put an end to the despotism of the needle. But no; while the sewing machine has been a great blessing to well to do families in many cases, it has added to the stab of the needle the crush of the wheel, and multitudes of women, notwithstanding the re-enforcement of the sewing machine, can only make, work hard as they will, between \$2 and \$3 a week.

The greatest blessing that could have happened to our first parents was being turned out of Eden after they had done wrong. Adam and Eve in their perfect state might have glided along without work or only such slight employment as a perfect garden with no weeds in it demanded, but as soon as they had sinned the best thing for them was to be turned out where they would have to work.

There is no happiness in an idle woman. It may be with hand, it may be with brain, it may be with foot, but work she must or be wretched forever. The little girls of our families must be started with that idea. The curse of American society is that our young women are taught that the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth thing in their life is to get somebody to take care of them.

Mme. de Staël said, "It is not these writings that I am proud of, but the fact that I have facility in ten occupations in any one of which I could make a livelihood." You say you have a fortune to leave them. O man and woman! Have you not learned that, like vultures, like hawks, like eagles, riches have wings and fly away? Though you should be successful in leaving a competency behind you, the trickery of executors may swamp it in a night, or some officials in our churches may get up a mining company and induce your orphans to put their money into a hole in Colorado and if by the most skillful machinery the sunken money can be brought up again prove to them that it was eternally decreed that that was the way they were to lose it and that it went in the most orthodox and heavenly style.

There are women toiling in our cities for \$2 or \$3 a week who were the daughters of merchant princes. These suffering ones would now be glad to have the crumbs that once fell from their father's table. That worn-out, broken shoe that she wears is the lineal descendant of the \$12 gaiter in which her mother walked, and that torn and faded calico had ancestry of magnificent brocade that swept Pennsylvania avenue and Broadway clean without any expense to the street commissioners.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XII, MARCH 25—REVIEW OF THE QUARTER.

Golden Text—The Son of Man Came Not to Be Ministered Unto but to Minister—The Life of the Savior of Mankind.

One of the most important things in our study for this year is to gain a distinct and vivid idea of the life of Christ as a whole and to keep it ever in mind while we are engaged upon the details as furnished with each lesson. Matthew Arnold, in his epilogue to Lessing's Laocoon, writes:

"But ah! then comes his sorest toil Of toll—the most life's movement left! The thread which binds it all in one, And not its separate parts alone. "The movement he must feel of life, Its pain and pleasure, rest and strife, His eye must travel down at full The long, unpausing staircase."

For this purpose we should study the two charts of the life of Christ, and learn by heart the main epochs or divisions of his life, and the relation of each part to those which follow and to the whole. To make this as easy and simple as possible, the accompanying table is presented:

PREPARATIONS FOR HIS COMING. 1. Universal peace. 2. One empire. 3. One language generally known. 4. The Jews with the Scriptures in all lands. 5. A general awakening and unrest. CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH. 1. Home training. 2. Bible study. 3. Schooling. 4. Different languages. 5. Travel to Jerusalem. 6. First religious meetings. 7. Village life. 8. Work at a trade. 9. Knowledge of his country's history and home. 10. A perfect and beautiful character.

PREPARATIONS FOR HIS MINISTRY. 1. John the Baptist. 2. Baptism. 3. The Holy Spirit. 4. The voice from God. 5. Temptation. John's ministry of preparation began six months before Jesus began to preach, continued through the first year and three months into the second year.

PRINCESS AND SMUGGLER. "Whisker Bill" Life Brightened by the Gentle Princess of Wales. "Whisker Bill" is dead. He was the last notorious smuggler of the Isle of Wight, and for many years earned a living by fishing when contraband running had ceased. Yet, in the days of decadence he became the recipient of alms while lying by the wayside at Alum Bay. Says Pearson's Weekly in telling the story: "When in the prime of life there was no finer or more fearless man around our coasts than stow-away smuggler Bill, but the grasping which in his escapades once branded the oar with a grip of iron became palsied and the erect figure as bent as a bow. Times were rough indeed with Whisker Bill, as the old desperado was familiarly called at Freshwater, until, on that occasion of a royal visit, the Princess of Wales, learning of the former smuggler's career, addressed him with many words of kindly cheer and, graciously taking the poor old man's hand, did not release it until she had dropped a sovereign into the wretched palm. So delighted was the veteran that, finding new life in his limbs, he hobbled away to the village painter, and, with a part of the money given him by the Princess, paid for the incident to be recorded on a board for future exhibition. Nor were his hopes in vain, for visitors who read of so gracious an example and interest in the aged suppliant also gave a little of their store. Want was never again known by Whisker Bill after the fair Princess, daughter of the sea kings, had so graciously recognized the decrepit old fellow, who, upon the waters, had so oft evaded the Queen's revenue, thus proving that royal sympathy counts not the frailties of those who have fallen in life's battle. To the day of his death the once notorious smuggler declared that the dark hours of his life had been brightened by "the gentle Princess of Wales."

THE GONDOLA IS DOOMED.

Who ever thought of Venice without thinking of gondolas? Probably eight out of ten people could tell you nothing more of the picturesque city in Italy than that its inhabitants ride in gondolas rather than in cable cars. Nevertheless, like many other institutions beautiful to the eye and dear to sentiment, gondolas are disappearing. The substitute for these beautiful, swan-like boats is almost too shocking to appear in print. A "Steam Transportation company" has been organized, and is scattering the seeds of nervous prostrations among the Venetians by establishing a system of shrieking, puffing, noisily obtrusive little steamboats to run even on the smallest canals. Of course, there have been for many years boats running on the grand canal. Now the service is to be so extended as to embrace the entire city. "For the love of tradition," protest the Venetians, "for the love of beauty, for the love of quiet, leave us our gondolas and spare us this smoking, shrieking horror."

THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN. It is said if woman is given such opportunities she will occupy places that might be taken by men. I say if she have more skill and adaptiveness for any position than a man has, let her have it! She has as much right to her bread, to her apparel and to her home as men have. But it is said that her nature is so delicate that she is unfitted for exhausting toil. I ask in the name of all past history what toil on earth is more severe, exhausting and tremendous than that toil of the needle to which for ages she has been subjected? The battering ram, the sword, the carbine, the battleaxe, have made no such havoc as the needle. I would that these living sepulchres in which women have for ages been buried might be opened and that some resurrection trumpet might bring up these living corpses to the fresh air and sunlight.

Go with me and I will show you a woman who by hardest toil supports her children, her drunken husband, her old father and mother, pays her house rent, always has wholesome food on her table, and when she can get some neighbor on the Sabbath to come in and take care of her family appears in church with hat and cloak that are far from indicating the toil to which she is subjected. Such a woman as that has body and soul enough to fit her for any position. She could stand beside the majority of our salesmen and dispose of more goods. She could go into your wheelwright shops and beat one-half of your workmen at making carriages. We talk about women as though we had resigned to her all the light work and ourselves had shouldered the heavier. But the day of judgment, which will reveal the sufferings of the stake and inquisition, will marshal before the throne of God and the hierarchs of heaven the martyrs of washtub and needle. Now, I say, if there be any preference in occupation, let woman have it. God knows her trials are the severest. By her acuter sensitiveness to misfortune, by her hour of anguish, I demand that no one hedge up her pathway to a livelihood. Oh, the meanness, the despicability of men who begrudge a woman the right to work anywhere in any honorable calling!

THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH. Poets are fond of talking about man as an oak and woman the vine that climbs it, but I have seen many a tree fall that not only went down itself, but took all the vines with it. I can tell you of something stronger than an oak for an ivy to climb on, and that is the throne of the great Jehovah. Single or affianced, that woman is strong who leans on God and does her best. Many of you will go single handed through life, and you will have to choose between two characters. Young woman, I am sure you will turn your back upon the useless, giggling, irresponsibly nonentity which society ignominiously acknowledges to be a woman and ask God to make you a humble, active, earnest Christian. What will become of that womanly disciple of the world? She is more thoughtful of the attitude she strikes upon the car-

RAMS HORNS.

The Volunteers of America are in touch with 15,000 men in prisons.

The translation of the New Testament into the Korean language has been completed.

Of the 34,000,000 people in South America, it is estimated that 30,000,000 have never seen a Bible.

The Congregational churches of South Carolina composed of colored people have formed a state association.

Frank McDaniels, holder of the world's championship for the running broad jump on skates, 21 feet 7 inches, established a record for a standing jump at Loring park, in Minneapolis, the other day, making 6 feet 4 inches, says Kansas City Times. McDaniels' jump was measured from toe to heel of the skates, which were seventeen inches long.

To keep up with the push one must be ahead of it. To be ahead of the fashion is to be the head of the fashion. It is the people who need money like bread that spend it like water. The cynic scorns the sentimentalist, the sentimentalist shudders at the cynic, but they are only looking at the two sides of one medal. It isn't necessary to have the roof of all evil. No plant is easier to take slips from.—Judge.

Wall Paper. Wall paper does not hang, and yet the person whose business it is to paste it on is called a paper-hanger. The reason is simple. Long before the introduction of wall paper Arras, a town in France, was famous for its tapestries called "arras." These were used as wall coverings, and the men who were employed to put them up were called "hangers." When paper succeeded tapestry as a mural decoration the name "hangers" stuck to the men, though instead of being tapestry hangers, they were now paper hangers.—Boston Traveler.

THE LAD AND THE HATCHET.

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