THE NORTHWESTERN.

BENSCHOTER & GIBSON, Eds and Pubs.

LOUP CITY, · NEB.

The empire of Morocco is the most important state that is absolutely without a newspaper.

Within the last 95 years the population of Belgium has doubled itself, rising from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000.

Sound passes through air at the velocity of 1,142 feet per second; through water, 4,900 feet; through iron, 17,500 feet.

The queen's autograph fetches about £2; that of Blackmore, 12s; Mr. Gladstone, 10s; Lord Byron's cannot be bought as a rule for less than £5.

Moscow has the largest hospital in Europe, with 7,000 beds. There are ninety-six physicians and 900 nurses, and about 15,000 patients are cared for annually.

The famous clock "Les Trois Graces," now on view at the Paris exposition was once bought for $20,000. Fifty thousand pounds has now been offered for it.

In Java a small state exists which is entirely controlled by women, with the single exception of the sovereign, who is a man. He is, however, entirely dependent on the three women who form his state council.

An example of patient industry is the sorting of hogs' bristles as it is carried on at Tientsin, China. Each one of the bristles has to be picked out, measured and placed in the bundle of hairs of corresponding length.

The new Duke of Argyll made a statement at Oban recently to the effect that he was innocent of music, and could not tell the difference between "Pop Goes the Weasel" and "God Save the Queen."

A group of miners in Queensland, have clubbed together and presented Major General Baden-Powell with a cake of pure gold, on which is inscribed, "This is 24 carat, what the Croydon miners take you to be."

An effort is being made to induce the Prince of Wales to open the Glasgow exhibition next May, and it is expected his royal highness will accept. There is to be a corner in the exhibition devoted to matters pertaining exclusively to Scotland, showing what the country was like some centuries ago and what it is like at the present day.

Railroads have taken little interest in acetylene gas for car lighting and there have been many failures in this field. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway company are making experiments in the laboratory on a generator for lighting a car. One advantage of acetylene gas in that each car can be made a separate unit. There are to be service trials of the apparatus on the cars.

A curious coincidence is mentioned in the latest Melbourne papers. An Australian lady, who was just concluding her visit to London, left or lost her purse on the roof of a bus in the Strand. As it happened, the next passenger to take the seat she vacated was also an Australian and he found the purse. One of her visiting cards was inside, and the finder recognizing the name, communicated with the lady in Melbourne and the purse was restored intact.

A curious fact is related by the "Sydney Morning Herald" in connection with the realization of the estate of the late Mr. James Tyson, the Australian millionaire. It appears that on his private office at Felton being "tidied up," fixed deposit receipts for £30,000 in the Queensland National Bank, scrip for 97 shares in the same bank, and fixed deposit for £60,000 shares in the City Bank, and other scrip were found strewn about among a mass of valueless papers.

The English war office is experimenting with a new magazine rifle. It is the invention of an Australian and it possesses several advantages over the Lee-Metford arm, which is at present employed in the British army. The automatic feed of the cartridge from the magazine into the breech is a striking feature. It was tried at Bisley in the recent competitions and fired thirty shots in the minute, with 28 hits, of which 17 were bull's-eyes. The rifle is said to be vastly superior to either the Lee-Metford or the Mauser in strength, efficiency and simplicity of construction, while it is 35 per cent cheaper to manufacture and is one and one-fourth pounds lighter than the present Lee-Metford rifle. It has been strongly recommended by Lord Charles Beresford and there is little doubt that it will be introduced into the British army at the end of the South African campaign.

The famous Drum Lummon gold mine, which for years has been the chief gold producer of Montana, is virtually idle, only a small force of men being engaged in development work. This mine was sold by Thomas Cruse of Helena to the Rothschilds of London for five million dollars several years ago, since which time it has repaid its cost several times in dividends. Over five hundred stamps ceased to drop after a steady grind for years. The owners believe, however, that the mine still contains much hidden wealth.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

GOD'S JUDGMENTS ARE SWIFT AND SURE.

National Sins Are Punished by Keen Instruments — No Calamity Happens by Chance, but Is Directed by Divine Wisdom.

(Copyright, 1900, by Louis Klopsch.)

Dr. Talmage, in his journey westward, through Europe, has recently visited scenes of thrilling historic events. He sends this sermon, in which he shows that nations are judged in this world and that God rewards them for their virtues and punishes them for their crimes. The text is Isaiah vii, 20, "In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria."

The Bible is the boldest book ever written. There are no similitudes in Ossian of the Iliad or the Odyssey so daring. Its imagery sometimes seems on the verge of the reckless, but only seems so. The fact is that God would startle and arouse and propel men and nations. A tame and limping similitude would fail to accomplish the object. While there are times when he employs in the Bible the gentle dew and the morning cloud and the dove and the daybreak in the presentation of truth, we often find the iron chariot, the lightning, the earthquake, the spray, the sword, and, in my text, the razor. This keen-bladed instrument has advanced in usefulness with the ages. In Bible times and lands the beard remained uncut save in the seasons of mourning and humiliation, but the razor was always a suggestive symbol. David said of Doeg, his antagonist, "Thy tongue is a sharp razor working deceitfully"—that is, it pretends to clear the face, but is really used for deadly incision.

In this striking text this weapon of the toilet appears, under the following circumstances: Judea needed to have some of its properties cut off, and God sends against it three Assyrian kings—first Sennacherib, then Esarhaddon and afterward Nebuchadnezzar. These three sharp invasions that cut down the glory of Judea are compared to so many sweeps of the razor across the face of the land. And these devastations were called a hired razor because God took the kings of Assyria, with whom he had no sympathy, to do the work and paid them in palaces and spoils and annexations. These kings were hired to execute the divine behests. And now the text, which on its first reading may have seemed trivial or inapt, is charged with momentous import, "In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria."

Razors of Judgment.

Well, if God's judgments are razors, we had better be careful how we use them on other people. In careful sheath these domestic weapons are put away where no one by accident may touch them, and where the hands of children may not reach them. Such instruments must be carefully handled or not handled at all. But how recklessly some people wield the judgments of God! If a man meets with business misfortune, how many there are ready to cry out: "That is a judgment of God upon him because he was unscrupulous or arrogant or overreaching or miserly. I thought he would get cut down. What a clean sweep of everything! His city house and country house gone. His stables emptied of all the fine bays and sorrels and grays that used to prance by his door. All his resources overthrown and all that he prided himself on tumbled into demolition. Good for him!" Stop, my brother. Don't sling around so freely the judgments of God, for they are razors.

Some of the most wicked business men succeed, and they live and die in prosperity, and some of the most honest and conscientious are driven into bankruptcy. Perhaps the unsuccessful man's manner was unfortunate, and he was not really as proud as he looked to be. Some of those who carry their heads erect and look imperial are humble as a child, while many a man in seedy coat and slouch hat and unblacked shoes is as proud as Lucifer. You cannot tell by a man's look. Perhaps he was not unscrupulous in business, for there are two sides to every story, and everybody that accomplishes anything for himself or others gets industriously lied about. Perhaps his business misfortune was not a punishment, but the fatherly discipline to prepare him for heaven, and God may love him far more than he loves you, who can pay dollar for dollar and are put down in the commercial catalogues as A1. Whom the Lord loveth he gives $100,000 and lets die on embroidered pillows? No, whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth. Better keep your hand off the Lord's razors, lest they cut and wound people that do not deserve it. If you want to shave off some of the bristling pride of your own heart, do so, but be very careful how you put the sharp edge on others. How I do dislike the behavior of those persons who when people are unfortunate say, "I told you so—getting punished—served him right!" If those I-told-you-so's got their desert, they would long ago have been pitched over the battlements. The mote in their neighbor's eyes, so small that it takes a microscope to find it, gives them more trouble than the beam which obscures their own optics. With air sometimes supercilious and sometimes pharasaical and always blasphemous they take the razor of divine judgment and sharpen it on the hone of their own hard hearts and then go to work on men sprawled out at full length under disaster, cutting mercilessly. They begin by soft expressions of sympathy and pity and half praise and lather the victim all over before they put on the sharp edge.

Music of Kind Words.

Let us be careful how we shoot at others lest we take down the wrong one, remembering the servant of King William Rufus, who shot at a deer, but the arrow glanced at a tree and killed the king. Instead of going out with shafts to pierce and razors to cut we had better imitate the friend of Richard Coeur de Lion. Richard, in the war of the Crusades, was captured and imprisoned, but none of his friends knew where, so his loyal friend went around the land from stronghold to stronghold and sang at each window a snatch of song that Richard Coeur de Lion had taught him in other days. And one day, coming before a jail where he suspected his king might be incarcerated, he sang two lines of song, and immediately King Richard responded from his cell with the other two lines, and so his whereabouts were discovered, and a successful movement was at once made for his liberation. So let us go up and down the world with the music of kind words and sympathetic hearts, serenading the unfortunate, and trying to get out of trouble men who had noble natures, but by unforeseen circumstances have been incarcerated, thus liberating kings. More hymnbook and less razor.

Nothing Ever "Happens."

Again, when I read in my text that the Lord shaves with the hired razor of Assyria the land of Julea I think myself of the precision of God's providence. A razor swung the tenth part of an inch out of the right line means either failure or laceration, but God's dealings never slip, and they do not miss by the thousandth part of an inch the right direction. People talk as though things in this world were at loose ends. Cholera sweeps across Marseilles and Madrid and Palermo, and we watch anxiously. Will the epidemic sweep Europe and America? People say, "That will entirely depend on whether the inoculation is a successful experiment; that will depend entirely on quarantine regulations; that will depend on the early or late appearance of frost. That epidemic is pitched into the world, and it goes blundering across the continents, and it is all guess-work and an appalling "perhaps." I think, perhaps, that God had something to do with it and that his mercy may have in some way protected us; that he may have done as much for us as the quarantine and the health officers. It was right and a necessity that all caution should be used, but there have come enough macaroni from Italy, and enough grapes from the south of France, and enough rags from tatterdemalions, and hidden in these articles of transportation enough cholera germs to have left by this time all the cities mourning in the cemeteries. I thank all the doctors and quarantines, but more than all, and first of all, and last of all, and all the time, I thank God. In all the 6,000 years of the world's existence there has not one thing merely "happened so." God is not an anarchist, but a King, a Father.

National Sins Punished.

Further, my text tells us that God sometimes shaves nations, "In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired." With one sharp sweep he went across Judea, and down went its pride and power. In 1861 God shaved the American nation. We had allowed to grow Sabbath desecration and oppression and blasphemy and fraud and impurity and all sorts of turpitide. The south had its sins, and the north its sins, and the east its sins, and the west its sins. We had been warned again and again, and we did not heed. At length the word of war cut from the St. Lawrence to the gulf and from the Atlantic seaboard to Pacific seaboard. The pride of the land, not the cowards, but the heroes, on both sides went down. And that which we took for the sword of war was the Lord's razor. In 1862 again it went across the land; in 1863 again; in 1864 again. Then the sharp instrument was incased and put away.

Never in the history of the ages was any land more thoroughly shaved than during those four years of civil combat, and, my brethren, if we do not quit some of our individual and national sins the Lord will again take us in hand. He has other razors within reach besides war—epidemics, droughts, deluges, plagues—grasshopper and locust—or our overtowering success may so far excite the jealousy of other lands that under some pretext the great nations may combine to put us down. Our nation, so easily approached on north and south and from both oceans, might have on hand at once more hostilities than were ever arrayed against any one power. I hope no such combination against us will ever be formnd, but I want to show that, as Assyria was the hired razor against Judea, and Cyrus, the hired razor against Babylon, and the Huns the hired razor against the Goths, there are now many razors that the Lord could hire if, because of our national sins, he should undertake to shave us. In 1870 Germany was the razor with which the Lord shaved France. Japan was the razor with which he shaved China and America the razor with which he shaved arrogant, oppressive and Bible hating Spain. But nations are to repent in a day. May a speedy and worldwide coming to God hinder on both sides the sea, all national calamity. But do not let us as a nation either by unrighteous law at Washington or bad lives among ourselves defy the Almighty.

Breadth of Divine Love.

King Henry II. of England crowned his son as king and on the day of coronation put on a servant's garb, and waited, he, the king, at the son's table, to the astonishment of all the princes. But we know of a more wondrous scene—the King of heaven and earth offering to put on you, his child, the crown of life, and in the form of a servant waiting on you with blessing. Extol that love, all painting, all sculpture, all music, all architecture, all worship! In Dresdenian gallery let Raphael hold him up as a child, and in Antwerp cathedral let Rubens hand him down from the cross as a martyr, and Handel make all his oratorio vibrate around that one chord—"He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities." But not until all the redeemed get home, and from the countenances in all the galleries of the ransomed shall be revealed the wonders of redemption, shall either man or seraph or archangel know the height and depth and length and breadth of the love of God.

At our national capital a monument in honor of him who did more than any one to achieve our American independence was for scores of years in building, and most of us were discouraged and said it would never be completed. And how glad we all were when in the presence of the highest officials of the nation the work was done! But will the monument to him who died for the eternal liberation of the human race ever be completed? For ages the work has been going up. Evangelists and apostles and martyrs have been adding to the heavenly pile, and every one of the millions of redeemed going up from earth has made to it contribution of gladness, and weight of glory is swung to the top of other weight of glory, higher and higher as the centuries go by, higher and higher as the whole millenniums roll, sapphire on the top of jasper, sardonyx on the top of chalcedony and chrysoprasus above topaz, until far beneath shall be the walls and towers and domes of our earthly capitol, a monument forever and forever, rising and yet never done, "Unto him who hath loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and made us kings and priests forever." Alleluia, amen.

MASSACRES ALTER HISTORY.

Assassinations Have Changed Records of the World.

Massacres have profoundly affected the history of the United States, aside from the way in which it was affected, by the influx of Huguenots as a consequence of the St. Bartholomew and kindred crimes in France. The murders of the French protestants, under Ribault, in Florida, by the Spaniard Menendez in 1565, sent the French to Canada instead of to the South Atlantic coast of the present United States, gave the latter to Spain, and thus made Florida far easier to win by the United States after this country's independence was gained. Devastation along the northern border of New England by the French and Indians in the various intercolonial wars, which ended with 1763, incited the resistance on the part of England and its dependencies which drove France out of Canada and the Mississippi Valley in that year and hastened the revolution, which, a dozen years later, expelled England from the thirteen colonies, says Leslie's Weekly. Onslaughts on the French in Santo Domingo by the negroes in 1801 and 1802, that island being then a French colony, prevented Bonaparte from sending an army to take possession of New Orleans, which had been retroceded to France by Spain, and was one of the causes of the cession of Louisiana by France to the United States in 1803, which was the first and greatest expansion ever made in this country, and which made all subsequent expansions—Florida, Texas, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines—inevitable. Disraeli's assertion in the case of Lincoln, that "assassination has never changed the history of the world," needs to be modified when the assassinations affect a race, or a large element of a people, especially when incited by religion or politics.

Foolish Election Bets.

This is the time of the foolish election bets. One man in Coldwater, Mich., has wagered that if Bryan is elected, he promises to support his contestant's mother-in-law for life. In Indianapolis a real estate firm announces that a 240-acre farm, a cottage and five lots have been placed in its hands to be sold on the following conditions: The deeds to all the property are to be made out and deposited by the owners with the cash paid for them. If Bryan is elected the ownership of the property passes to the parties putting up the cash and the money goes to the owners of the property. If McKinley is elected both the deeds and the cash are passed over to the person or persons who put up the money. Thus the property is sold at what is claimed to be its fair cash value if Bryan is elected, and given away is McKinley wins.

Longest Beard in World.

Probably the longest beard in the world is that of a metal worker in Marseilles, France. The man is seventy-four years old. When fourteen years of age he had a beard six inches long. It grew from year to year, and now his hirsute attachment, when unrolled, reaches the respectable length of ten feet ten inches. When this man goes out walking he carries his beard rolled up in a big skein under his arm. Since he is rather small in size, measuring about five feet three inches, the beard is more than twice the man's height.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XIV., SEPTEMBER 30—A QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Golden Text: Be Ye Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only, Deceiving Your Own Selves.—Jas. 1: 22.—The Clock Review.

1. There should be a brief review of the life of Christ from the beginning up to the close of the third years of his ministry.

2. This quarter's lessons extend over a period of about eight months, from April to December, A. D. 29. They all belong to the third years of the ministry of Jesus, the year of development, a large part of the teachings, being the enforcement and enlargement of those that had been uttered to some extent before.

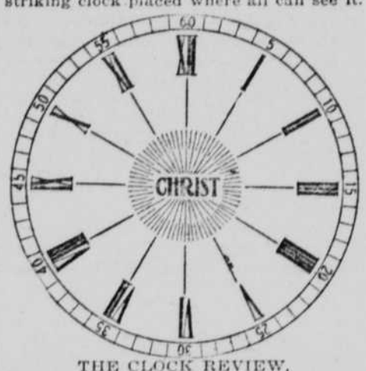
3. As to places, the events belong to the last part of the Galilean ministry and the earlier part of the Perean ministry, with excursions east to Decapolis, north to Cesarea Philippi, and west to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

The Trumpet Call presents the following plan for a review by Professor Hamill:

"Note to Leader. About three weeks before Review Sunday give each scholar a diagram of a clock face with the name CHRIST in center as below, and say, 'I wish each of you to make a Review Lesson Clock in this way. On the line from the word Christ to No. 1, write one thing which you learned about him in the first lesson. On the next line write one thing learned about Christ from Lesson II., and so for each lesson of the quarter.'

"Tell the scholars that for Review Sunday you will have a large clock face on the board. Tell them to bring their completed diagrams to you on the third Sunday in March and you will use the best one as a copy for filling out your large diagram.

"The above plan may be adopted either for single class or entire school. If a General Exercise is desired, conduct the review as follows: Select the twelve scholars who have shown most interest in this work; assign one lesson to each, and have each prepared to make a brief statement of that lesson. Have a real striking clock placed where all can see it.



THE CLOCK REVIEW.

When all is ready, turn the hands to one o'clock; as the clock strikes one, let first scholar tell of Lesson I. in his own words. Then turn the hands to two o'clock, and as the clock strikes two, have next scholar give statement of Lesson II. Follow this plan with all the lessons. Intersperse with songs."

We look at the life of Christ from another point of view, and it gains reality and vividness if we trace out the movements of Jesus upon the map. Like the Greek scholar in Tom Brown at Oxford, who traced on a map by means of colored pins the famous retreat of the ten thousand under Xenophon, we may trace in the same way the journeys of Jesus referred to in the lessons for this quarter. At each place we may call for a brief description of the town, and for the chief events which cluster around it, but especially those connected with the life of Christ. If we have a large map we may use pins with flyers on them marking the name of each place as we come to it.

Alliance of Marriageable Girls.

The Mutual Protection Alliance society is the name adopted by an association of women in Plymouth county, Mass. To be eligible for membership one must be between 17 and 30 years old, and must agree to let the society examine into the qualifications of any suitor for a member's hand. The method of looking into the character of a young man is simple. The society holds one of its stated meetings, and each young woman who has a swain of whom she is at all doubtful gives his name and as many particulars as she deems desirable to the club. All is held in strict secrecy. A committee is appointed from among those present, and then there commences an investigation. Woe to the young man who has been engaged and broken it off without good cause, to him who runs off to Boston and puts poison into his mouth to steal away his brains, or to him who is mixed up in any matrimonial entanglement. By the time the committee has got through with its inquiries there is not much left to find out about the victim. If the report is unfavorable the young man soon finds himself ostracised, and it is said that already several have left the county without making good explanations.

Cobwebs Destroy Telegraph Wires.

A peculiar but very serious difficulty besets the operation of telegraph lines in the Argentine Republic. The small spider, of the variety that spins a long cobweb and floats it in the air, is so plentiful there that the floating webs settle on the wires in enormous quantities. As soon as dew falls or a shower of rain comes up every microscopic thread becomes wet and establishes a minute leak. The effect of thousands and millions of such leaks is practically to stop the operation of the lines, and the government telegraph department, especially in Buenos Ayres, has ben put to vast inconvenience by the cobwebs. A number of expedients have been tried, but to no avail.

Collects Tiny Dolls.

A well-known leader of fashion in Philadelphia is making a quaint little collection of tiny dressed dolls that are models of the frocks she wears herself. When the dressmaker sends home a new garment she duplicates it by a tiny model on a doll. Everything must be perfect, even down to the real lace and solid silver or gold buttons and diamond buckles. The dolls are ranged in a glass case in their owner's dressing room, with the date of their creation underneath.

Lord Russel's Soldier Boy.

The youngest son of the late Lord Russell sailed for South Africa early in the year as a lieutenant in the Royal artillery. The occasion was marked by one of those intimate touches of family affection which excite universal sympathy. As the great troopship swung slowly from her mooring the lord chief justice, standing on the quay, failed to descry his son among the crowd of faces that lined the bullmarks. At last he gave a shrill whistle, using his fingers in a manner well known to schoolboys, and the evidently familiar call quickly brought young Russell to the side of the ship to wave farewell: The touch of nature evoked a hearty cheer from all who witnessed it.

Shirt Waist Euchre Party.

At a Bath beach progressive euchre party the women wore white shirt waists and black skirts, the men white duck trousers and shirt waists of rainbow hues No one was admitted in other than shirt wast attre.

Diana's Disfigured Leg.

During the thunderstorm in Philadelphia a few evenings ago lightning struck a marble state of Diana at an entrance to Fairmount park. Immediately afterward the left leg of the statute turned brown. Next morning all the coloring had disappeared except one large spot, which has so far resisted persistent scrubbing and the application of powerful acids.

Boer Girl at Chautauqua.

A typical Beer young woman of the wealthier class is a student at Chautauqua, N. Y: She is Miss Carrie Rousseau, of Kenilworth, a suburb of Cape Colony, and is the daughter of a cousin of President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, and a grandniece of General Botha. She and her mother left South Africa at the outbreak of the war and have been traveling in this country since.

It is a noteworthy fact that in the state of Utah there is not one Irish Mormon.

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