

The business of the country has become so dependent upon politics, especially the manufacturing and importing interests, that there is again a lull in its activities...

Deafness Cannot be Cured by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies.

More than 200 car loads of oranges have been shipped from Los Angeles, Cal., to the East this season. It is stated that oranges have been shipped from Riverside, Cal., during every month of 1895.

The Most Simple and Safe Remedy for a Cough or "The Croup" is Dr. Williams' "Cough Cure". They possess real merit.

Mrs. Hester Curtis, of Lafayette, Ind., who was murdered a few days ago, was the mother of twenty-five children, including seven pairs of twins.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, &c., a bottle for 25 cents.

If afflicted with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell at 25¢ per bottle.

Hood's Sarsaparilla. Sarsaparilla has over and over again proved itself the best blood purifier medical science has ever produced.

Sarsaparilla. Is the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills. Are easy to take, mild, effective. All druggists, 25¢.

IMPERIAL GRANUM. Is Pure and unsweetened and can be retained by the weakest stomach. A safe, easily digested FOOD for DYSPEPTICS!

FERROTOR CO. does half the world's business, because it has reduced the cost of iron to 1/2 of what it was. It has many branches, and supplies its goods and repairs its tools.

DROPSY. Treated free. With Vegetable Remedies. Have cured many cases, and cases progressing slowly, and symptoms are removed.

Sarsaparilla Sense. Any sarsaparilla is sarsaparilla. True. So any tea is tea. So any flour is flour. But grades differ. You want the best. It's so with sarsaparilla.

Battle Between Sparrows and a Cat

C. V. Keel, an insurance agent of this city, occupies a third-story office in a building in the French quarter. His sign is a convex shield, braced against stout wooden bars, and is securely attached just outside his window.

Yesterday morning upon going to his office Keel was in time to witness a most singular battle taking place without his window, a big tomcat and the sparrows being the participants. Passing under the sign somewhat obliquely in its gradual descent is a tin gutter pipe, which reaches quite to the ground in the alley at the rear of the building.

Meanwhile the battle raged fast and furious. Fur and feathers flew in all directions, the cat striking and snapping and the sparrows chirping and pecking lustily. There were ten of the birds in all, and eventually they proved too much for Tom, who made a wild leap, escaping rather the worse for wear, but landing on his feet.

Capt. Carter of the burned ship Parthia was in Baltimore yesterday. He gave a description of Robinson Crusoe's Island, of Juan Fernandez, as it is today. It will be remembered that the Parthia was burned off the coast of Chili in September, and the Captain and crew were ten days in the small boats before they reached the island.

Stole Gilded Railings.

Numerous Parisian monuments are surrounded by rails of wrought iron, and these as a rule are gilded over. The quantity of the precious metal utilized is so infinitely small that one can hardly imagine that it would be worth anybody's while to take the trouble to smash and carry away these rails.

Still further, when Christ takes a soul into His love, He puts upon it a marriage ring. Now, that is not a matter of mine (Hosea 4, 19). "I will betroth thee unto Me, as a wife, and I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies."

SUNDAY'S SERMON.

ONE OF REV. DR. TALMAGE'S STERLING DISCOURSES.

Subject: "Return of the Prodigal Son."

TEXT: "Put a ring on his hand."—Luke xv, 22.

I will not rehearse the familiar story of the lost young man of the parable. You know what a splendid home he left. And you remember how, after the season of wages bondage and prodigality, he resolved to go and weep out his sorrows on the bosom of parental forgiveness. Well, there is great excitement one day in front of the door of the old farmhouse. The servants come rushing up and say: "What's the matter? What is the matter?" But before they quite arrive the old man cries out: "Put a ring on his hand."

I know that the impression is abroad among some people that religion benevolence and bellies a man; that it takes all the sparkle out of his soul; that he has to exchange a roistering independence for an ecclesiastical straitjacket. Not so. When a man becomes a Christian, he does not grow down. He starts upward. Religion multiplies one by ten thousand. Nay, the multiplier is in infinity. It is not blotting out; it is polishing; it is an arborescence; it is an efflorescence; it is an irradiation.

There are a great many persons who pride themselves on their ancestry, and they glory over the royal blood that pours through their veins. But when the Lord, our Father, puts upon the ring of His adoption we become the children of the Ruler of all Nations. "Behold that manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." It matters not how poor our garments may be in this world, or how scant our bread, or how mean the hut we live in, if we have that ring of Christ's adoption on our hand, we are assured of eternal defense.

Adopted! Why, then, we are brothers and sisters to all the good of earth and heaven. We have the family name, the family dress, the family keys, the family wardrobe. The father looks after us, robes us, defends us, blesses us, and there are crowns in our line. If we are His children, then princes and princesses. It is only a question of time when we get our coronet. Adopted! Then we have the family secrets. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him. Then we have the family inheritance, and in the day when our Father shall divide the riches of heaven we shall take our share of the mansions and palaces and temples.

Oh, when, that day of my God, Shall I thy courts ascend, Where congregations ne'er break up And Sabbaths have no end?

I know there are some people who say they are Christians, who seem to get along without any help from other people, who are solitary piety. They do not want any ordinances, I do not belong to that class. They cannot get along without them. There are many things in this world that take my attention from God and Christ and heaven that I want all the help of the symbols and of all the Christian ordinances. And I want

comes back, and that came in it, the flesh of eyes that long ago ceased to weep. Oh, it is an amazing thing, when I think of that when Christ receives a soul into His keeping He puts on it a marriage ring.

There is no power on earth or hell to effect a divorce after Christ and the soul are united. Other kings have turned out their companions when they got weary of them and sent them adrift from the palace gate. Absalom was banished; Nabopolson for Ahasuerus; but Christ is the husband that is true forever. Having loved you once He loves you to the end. Did they not try to divorce Margaret, the Scotch girl, from Jesus? They said: "You must give up your religion. We can't give up our religion." And so they took her down to the beach of the sea, and they drove in a stake at low water mark, and they fastened her to it, expecting that as the tide came up her faith would fall. The tide began to rise, and came up higher and higher, and to the girdle, and to the lip, and in the last moment, just as the wave was washing her soul into glory, she shouted the praises of Jesus.

Oh, no, you cannot separate a soul from Christ! It is an everlasting marriage. Battle and storms and darkness cannot do it. It is too much exultation for a man, who is but dust and ashes like myself, to cry out this moment: "I am persuaded that neither height nor depth nor principalities nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor any other creature, shall separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord!" Glory be to God that when Christ and the soul are married they are bound by a chain—a golden chain—if I might say so—a chain with one link, and that one link the golden ring of God's everlasting love.

I go a step farther, and tell you that when Christ receives a soul into His love, He puts on him the ring of festivity. You know that it has been the custom in all ages to bestow rings on very happy occasions. There is nothing more appropriate for a birthday gift than a ring. You delight to bestow such a gift upon your children at such a time. It means joy, hilarity, festivity. Well, when this old man of the text wanted to tell how glad he was that his boy had got back, he expressed it in this way. He ordered sandals to be put on his bare feet; before he ordered the fatted calf to be killed to appease the boy's hunger, he commanded: "Put a ring on his hand."

Every day I find happy Christian people. I find a merry time when Christ and the soul are united. Joy of forgiveness! What a splendid thing it is to feel that all is right between my God and myself. What a glorious thing it is to have God just take up all the sins of my life and put them in one bundle, and bind them up, and hide the depths of the sea never to be seen again. Love, talked of again. Pollution all gone. Darkness all illumined. God reconciled. The prodigal home. "Put a ring on his hand."

Why, religion lightens all our burdens. It smooths all our way. It interposes all our sorrows. It changes the jar of earthly things into the rest of a festival bed. In front of the flaming furnace of our earthly affliction. Oh, how happy religion makes us! Did it make you gloomy and sad? Did you go with your head cast down? Do not think you got religion, my brother. That is a sign of no religion. True religion is a gladness of heart, a gladness of ways, a gladness of all her paths are peace.

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Beautiful heaven, where all is light; Beautiful angels, clothed in white; Beautiful strains that never tire; Beautiful hosts that never weary; There shall I join the choral choir; Worshipping at the Saviour's feet.

I know there are some people who say they are Christians, who seem to get along without any help from other people, who are solitary piety. They do not want any ordinances, I do not belong to that class. They cannot get along without them. There are many things in this world that take my attention from God and Christ and heaven that I want all the help of the symbols and of all the Christian ordinances. And I want

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The San Francisco Call says that there is no State in the Union—save California—that can celebrate her Christmas holidays with an ice-cream festival in one place and a picnic and blossoms in another.

Baptism does not amount to anything great for many people, but the Lord Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Putting baptism and the Great Head of the church, thinking of this subject year after year. You found out that this world is a poor thing. You want to be Christians. You want to be Christians.

Reports from Alaska show that many finds are being made in the northern gold fields by small miners. As a result many of the miners will winter here in order to begin prospecting in the spring. Many have hitherto been determined to keep them alive, but they are determined to brave all the chance of making a fortune.

THE WEEK IN CONGRESS

Senate Talking Finance—No Programme in the House. Washington, Jan. 6.—The present week in the senate will depend upon the progress made by the finance committee. If the ideas held by the members of that committee prevail, it is probable that there will be no adjournments for two or three days.

The bounding West is pushing along toward fame. "Owney," the postal carrier's pet dog, is a four-legged advertisement of the enterprise of Tammany. The distance between this city and the "metropolis" of the State of Washington is all that remains to be completed of his journey around the world. It is possible that the citizens of that pushing village by the Pacific will reach the senate with the acting clause stricken out and a free coinage bill substituted. The debate on the free coinage bill may extend over a fortnight, although some of the republicans profess to believe that they can bring both the coinage and the tariff measures to a vote within the time.

Tariff Bill Not To Be Changed.

The present intention of the finance committee appears to be to report the tariff bill as it came from the house, although pressure is being brought to bear upon the committee to increase all the schedules from the 15 per cent increase fixed by the house to 20 or 25 per cent. It is not probable that a caucus of republican senators will be held on the bill, but there have been numerous conferences between the rank and file and the leaders, having for their purpose the concentration of the whole strength of the republican vote against any and all amendments that may be offered. The unfinished business before the senate is the resolution of Mr. Elkins declaring it to be the sense of the senate that hereafter bonds shall be sold without advertising for bids, and the amendment thereof by Mr. Butler prohibiting the sale of bonds in any manner. The business will come up again during the morning hour to-morrow.

House of Representatives.

The house of representatives will probably settle down to the transaction of business according to the usual routine this week. At present there is no programme prepared, but several matters will be read in a day or two for consideration and action. The first thing to be presented, doubtless will be the report of the committee of rules. This may come in to-day's session, but the probabilities are that it will not be ready before to-morrow at the earliest. Should the rules be disposed of to-morrow the committee on appropriations will submit the general pension bill on Wednesday for action by the house.

Kruger Thanks the Kaiser.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—President Kruger has, in reply to Emperor William's message, cabled the following from Pretoria: "I testify to your majesty my very deep and heartfelt thanks for your majesty's sincere congratulations. With God's help we hope to do everything possible for holding our dearly bought independence and the stability of our beloved republic."

A Suggestion from France.

Paris, Jan. 6.—The Temps and other Great Britain to immediately and absolutely revoke the charter of the British South Africa company, and continuing says: "France has no idea of humbling Great Britain, with whom she entertains friendly relations, nor of falling in line behind Emperor William. But Great Britain ought to recognize that there is a Europe even in Africa."

May Strengthen Her Forces.

London, Jan. 6.—The People says that the weekly edition of the Globe which is in touch with the government says there is reason to believe that Primo Minister Salisbury and his colleagues, owing to the hostile attitude of Germany, will consider the expediency of immediately strengthening British forces in those parts of the world that are exposed to attack.

Notes and comments from various sources, including reports on the San Francisco Call, Alaska gold finds, and congressional news.