THE SUN-DIAL OF AHAZ.

ASERMON FULL OF BRIGHTNESS AND GOOD CHEER.

Bev. Dr. Talmage Sets Watches and Clocks Going for the New Year in Brightness-God's Control of the Dial Shadows-

BROOKLYN, N.Y., Jan. 10, 1892.—Dr. Talmage's sermon this morning was full of brightness and good cheer. His text was: II. Kings, 20: 11, "And Isaiah, the prophet, cried unto the Lord: and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward by which is

Here is the first clock or watch or chronometer or time-piece of which the world has any knowledge. But it was a watch that did not tick and a clock that did not strike. It was a sun-dial. Ahaz, the king, invented it. Between the hours given to statecraft and the cares of office he invented something by which he could tell the time of day. This sun-dial may have been a great column, and when the shadow of that column reached one point it was nine o'clock a.m., and when it reached another point it was three o'clock p.m., and all the hours and half-hours were so measured. Or it may have been a flight of stairs such as may now be found in Hindustan and other old countries, and when the shadow reached one step it was ten o'clock a.m., or another step it was four o'clock p.m., and likewise other hours may have been indi-

The clepsydra or water-clock followed the sun-dial, and the sand grass followed the clepsydra. Then came the candle clock of Alfred the Great and the candle was marked into three parts, and while the first part was burning he gave himself to religion and while the second part was burning he gave himself to politics, and while the third part was burning he gave himself to rest. After awhile came the wheel and weight clock, and Pope Sylvester the second was its most important inventor. And the skill of centuries of exquisite mechanism toiled at the time-pieces until the world had the Vick's clock of the fourteenth century and Huyghens, the inventor, swung the first pendulum, and Dr. Hooke contrived the recoil escapement. And the "endless chain" followed, and the "rachet and pinion lever" took its place; and the compensation balance and the stem winder followed, and now we have the buzz and clang of the great clock and watch factories of Switzerland and Germany and England and America turning out what seems to be the perfection of time-pieces. It took the world six thousand years to make the present chronometer. So with the measurement of longer spaces than minutes and hours. Time was calculated from new moon to new moon; then from harvest to harvest. Then the year was pronounced to be three hundred and fifty-four days, and then three hundred and sixty days, and, not until a long while after, three hundred and sixty-five days. Then events were calculated from the foundation of Rome, afterward from the Olympic games. Then the Babylonians had their measurement of the year and the Romans theirs and the Armenians theirs and the Hindoos theirs. Chronology was busy for enturies studying monuments, inscriptions, coins, mummies and astronomy, trying to lay a plan by which all questions of dates might be settled and events put in their right place in the procession of the ages. But the chronologists only heaped up a mountain of confusion and bewilderment, until in the sixth century Dionysius Exiguus, a Roman abbot, said, "Let every thing date from the birth at Bethlehem of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world." The abbot proposed to have things dated backward and forward from that great event. What a splendid thought for the world! What a mighty thing for Christianity! It would have been most natural to date everything from the creation of the world. But I am glad the chronologists could not too easily guess how old the world was in order to get the nations in the habit of dating from that occurrence in its documents and histories. Forever fixed is it that all history is to be dated with reference to the birth of Christ, and, this matter setled, Hales, the chief chronologist, declared that the world was made five thousand four hundred and eleven years before Christ, and the deluge came three thousand one hundred and fifty-five years before Christ, and all the illustrious events of the last nineteen centuries and all the great events of all time to come have been or shall be dated from the birth of Christ, These things I say that you may know what a watch is, what a clock is, what an almanas is, and learn to appreciate through what toils and hardships and perplexities the world came to its present conveniences and

planted in my text. We are told that Hezekiah, the king, was dying of a boil. It must have been one of the worst kind of carbuncles, a boil without any central core, and sometimes deathful. A fig was put upon it as a poultice. Hezekiah did not want to die then. His son who was to take the kingdom had not yet been born, and Hezekiah's death would have been the death of the nation. So he prays for recovery and is told he will get well. But he wants some miracuous sign to make him sure of it. He has the choice of having the shadow on the sandial of Ahaz advance or retreat. He replied it would not be so wonderful to have the sun go down, for it always does go down sooner or later. He asks that it go backward. In other words, let the day, instead of going on toward sundown, turn and go toward sunrise. I see the invalid king, bolstered up and wrapped in blankets, looking out of the window upon the sun dial in the courtyard. While he watches the shadow on the dial the shadow begins to retreat. Instead of going on toward six c'clock in the evening it goes back toward six o'c ock in the morning. The fig poultice had been drawing for some time, and, sure enough, the boil broke and Hezekiah got well. Now I expect you will come on with your higher criticism and try to explain this away and say it was an optical delusion of Hezekiah, and the shadow only seemed to go back, or a cloud came over and it was uncertain which way the shadow did go, and as Hezekiah expected it to go back he took the action of his own mind for the retrograde movement. No; the shadow went back on all the dials of that land and other lands. Turn to II. Chron., 32:31, and find that away off in Babylon the mighty men of the palace noticed the same phenomenon. And if you do not like Bible authority, turn over your copy of Herodetus and find that away off in Egypt the people noticed that there was something the matter with the sun? The fact is, that the whole universe waits upon God, and suns and moons and stars are not very big things to Him, and He can with his finger turn back an entire world as easily as you would set back the hour-hand or minute-hand of your cleck or

comforts, and to help you to more respect-

ful consideration of that sun-dial of Ahaz

At the opening of a new year people are moralizing on the flight of time. You all feel that you are moving on toward sundown and many of you are under a conseaptent depression. I propose this morning to set the hands on your watches and

clocks to going the other way. I prepose to show you how you may make the shadow of your dial like the shadow on the dial of Ahaz, to stop going forward and make it go backward. You think I have

a big undertaking on hand, but it can be done if the same Lord who reversed the shadow in Hezekiah's courtyard moves shadow in Hezekiah's courtyard moves upon us. While looking at the sun-dial of Hezekiah and we find the shadow retreating, we ought to learn that God controls the shadows. We are all ready to acknowledge His management of the sunshine. We stand in the glow of a bright morning and we say in our feelings if not wish se many words, "This life is from God, this warmth is from God." Or, we have a rush of prosperity and have a rush of prosperity and we say,
"These successes are from God. What
a providential thing it was I bought that
lot just before the rise of real estate! How grateful to God I am that I made that investment! Why, they have declared ten-per cent. dividend! What a mercy it was that I sold out my shares before that collapse!" Oh, yes; we acknowledge God in the sunshine of a bright day or the sunshine of a great prosperity. But suppose the day is dark? You have to light the gas at noon. The sun does not show himself all day long. There is nothing but shadow. How slow we are to realize that the storm is from God and the darkness from God and the chill from God. Or, we buy the day before the market's retreat; or we make an investment that never pays; or we purchase goods that we can not dispose of; or a crop of grain we sowed is ruined by drought or freshet; or when we took account of stock on the first of January we found ourselves thousands of dollars worse off than we expected. Who under such circumstacces says, "This loss is from God, I must have been allowed to go into that unfortunate enterprise for some good reason; God controls the east wind as well as the west wind?"

My friends, 1 cannot look for one moment on that retrograde shadow on Ahaz's dial without learning that God controls the shadows and that lesson we need all to learn. That He controls the sunshine is not so necessary a lesson, for anybody can be happy when things go right. When you sleep eight hours a night and rise with an appetite that cannot easily wait for breakfast and you go over to the store and open your mail to read more orders than you can fill, and in the next letter you find a dividend far larger than you have been promised, and your neighbor comes in to tell you some flattering thing he has just heard said about you, and you find that all the styles of goods in which you deal have advanced fifteen per cent. in value, and on your way home you meet your children in full romp, and there are roses on the center of the tea-table and roses of health in cheeks all round the table, what more do you want of consolation? I don't pity you a bit. You feel as if you could boss the world. But for those in just opposite circumstance my text comes in with an omnipotence of meaning. The shadow! Oh, the shadow! Shadow of bereavement! Shadow of sickness! Shadow of bankruptcy! Shadow of mental de-pression! Shadow of persecution! Shadow of death! Speak out, O, sun-dial of Ahaz, and tell all the people that God manages the shadow! As Hezekiah sat in his palace window wrapped in invalidism and surrounded by anodynes and cataplasms and looked out upon the black hand of the only clock known at that time and saw it move back ten degrees, he learned a lesson that a majority of the human race need this hour to learn,—that the best friend a man ever had controls the shadow. The set-backs are sometimes the best things that can happen. The great German author Schiller could not work unless he had in his room the scent of rotton apples, and the decay of the fruits of earthly prosperity may become an inspiration instead of a depression. Robert Chambers' lame feet shut him up from other work, and he became the world renowned publisher, and helped fashion the best literature of the ages. The painful disorder like that of Ezekiah called a carbuncle is spelled exactly the same as the precious stone called the carbuncle, and the pang of suffering may become the jewel of immortal value. Your set-back like that of Ahaza's sun-dial may be recovery and triumph. I never had a set-back but it turned out to be a set forward. You never would have become Christian if you had not had a set-back. The highest thrones in heaven are for the set-backs. In 1861 the shadow of the sun-dial of this nation was set back, and all things seemed going to ruin, and it was set back further in 1862, and further in 1863 and still further in 1865, but there is not an intelligent and well-balanced man, North or South, East or

But I promised to show you how the shadows might be turned back. First, by going much among the young people. In most family circles there are grand-children. By this divine arrangement most of the people who have passed the meridian of life can compass themselves by juvenility. It is a bad thing for an old man or old woman to sit looking at the vivacity of their grandchildren shouting "Stop that racket!"
Better join the fun. Let the eighty yearsold grandfather join the eight-years-young grandson or granddaughter. My father and mother lived to see over eighty children and grandchildren and greatgrandchildren and a more boisterous crew were never turned out on this sublunary sphere, and they all seemed to cry to the old folks, "Keep young," and they did keep young. Don't walk with a cane unless you have to, or only as defence in a city afflieted with too many canines. Don't wear glasses stronger than necessary, putting on number tens when eighteens will do as well. Don't go into the company of those who are always talking about rheumatism and lumbago and shortness of breath and the brevity of human life. It is too much for my gravity to hear an octogenarian talking about the shortness of human life. From all I can find out he has always been here, and from present prospects he is always going to stay. Remain young. Hang up your stockings in Christmas time. Help the boys fly the kite. Teach the girls how to dress their dells. Better than arnica for your stiff joints and catnip ten for your sleepless nights, will be a large dose of

West, but feels it was set back towards the

youthful companionship.
Set back the clock of human life. Make
the shadow of the sun-dial of Ahaz retreat ten degrees. People make themselves old by always talking about being old and wishing for the good old days, which were never as good as these days. From all I can hear the grandchildren are not half as bad as the grandparents were. Matters have been hushed up. But if you have ever been in a room adjoining a room where some very eld people a little deaf were talking over old times you will find that this age does not monopolize all the young rascals. It may now be hard to get young people up early enough in the morning, but their grandparents always had to be pulled out of bed. It is wrong now to play mischievous tricks on the unsuspecting, but eighty years ago at school that now venerable man sat down on a crocked pin not accidentally placed there, and purposely drove the sleigh-riding party too near the edge of the embankment that he might see how they would look when tumbled into the snow. And that man who as so little patience with childish exuber-

ance was in olden times up to pranks, onehalf of which if practised by the eight-year-old of to-day, would set grandfather and grandmother crazy. Revive your remembrance of what you were between five and ten years of age, and with patience capable ten years of age, and with patience capable of everything join with the young. Put back the shadow of the dial not ten degrees, but fifty and sixty and seventy degrees.

Let me say to those in the afterneon of life—Don't be putting off the harness; when God wants it off He will take it off.

Don't be frightened out of life by the grip as many are. At the first sneeze of an influenza many give up all as lost. No new terror has come on the earth. The microbes as the cause of disease were described in the Talmud seventeen hundred years ago as "invisible legions of dangerous ones."

Don't be scared out of life by all this talk about heart failure. That trouble has always been in the world. That is, what all the scale that are asset out of this life. the people that ever passed out of this life have died of—heart failure. Adam had it and all his descendants have had it or will

have it. Do not be watching for symptoms, or you will have symptoms of everything. Some of you will die of symptoms. Symptoms are often only what we some-times see in the country, a dead owl nailed on a barn door to save living owls. Put your trust in God, go to bed at ten o'clock, have the window open six inches to let in fresh air, sleep on your right side and fear nothing. The old maxim was right:

"Get thy spindle and distaff ready, and God will send thee flax." But while looking at this sun-dial of Ahaz and I see the shadow of it move, I notice that it went back toward the sun-rise in-

stead of forward toward the sunset-toward

the morning instead of toward the night. That thing the world is willing now to do, and in many cases has done. There have a great many things been written and spoken about the sunset of lite. I have said some of them myself. But my text suggests a better idea. The Lord who turned back that day from going toward sundown and started it toward sunrise is willing to do the same thing for all of us. The theologians who stick to the old religious technicalities until they become soporities would not call it anything but conversion. I call it a change from going toward sundown to going toward sun-The man who never tries to unbuckle the clasp of evil habits and who keeps all the sins of the past and the present freighting him and who ignores the one redemption made by the only One who could redeem, if that man will examine the sun dial he will find that the shadow is going forward and he is on the way to sundown. His day is on the road to-night. All the watches that tick, all the clocks that strike, all the sand glasses that empty themselves, all the shadows that move on all the sun-dials indicate the approach of darkness. But now, in answer to prayer, as in my text the change was in answer to prayer, the pardoning Lord reverses things and the man starts toward sunrise instead of sunset. He turns the other way. The Captain of Salvation gives him the military command, "Attention! Right about face!" He was march. ing toward indifference, marching toward hardness of heart, marching toward prayerlessness, marching toward sin, marching toward gloom, marching toward death. Now he turns and marches toward peace, marches toward light and marches toward comfort

down to going toward sunrise, what is it? I have seen day break over Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, over the heights of Lebanon, over Mount Washington, over the Sierra Nevadas, and mid-Atlantic, the morning after a departed storm when the billows were liquid Alps and liquid Sierra Nevadas, but the sunrise of the soul is more effulgent and more transporting. It bathes all the heights of the soul and illumines all the depths of the soul and whelms all the faculties, all the aspirations, all the ambitions, all the hopes with a light that sickness cannot efface or death extinguish, or eternity, or anything but augment and magnify. I preach the suurise. As I look at that retrograde movement of the shadow on Ahaz's dial, I remember that it was a sign that Hezekiah was going to get well, and he got well. So I have to tell all you who are by the grace of God having your day turned from decline toward night to ascend toward morning, that you are going to get well, well of all your sins, well of all your sorrows, well of all your earthly dis-

and marches toward high hope and marches toward a triumph stupendous and ever-

lasting, toward hosannas that ever hoist and hallelujahs that ever roll. Now if that is not the turning of the shadow on

the dial of Ahaz from going toward sun-

LINE UPON LINE.

Fish are always sold alive in Japan. A ton of coal yields nearly 10,000 feet of

St. Petersburg is the coldest capital in Mr. Gladstone's library contain 20,000

Queen Victoria's chief cook receives \$3,500 a year. The average marrying age of a French man is 30 years.

To every 1000 males in London there are 1123 females. The value of property in London has trebled since 1856.

The world's press is stated to include 37,000 newspapers. The theatres in London regularly employ

over 12,000 people. Alexandria possesses the largest artificial harbor in the world. The Italian Government raises \$15,000,-900 yearly by holding lotteries.

The total income of the Church of land is about \$1,000,000 a week. The population of the United States creases by 1,000,000 persons yearly. Two and a half million parcels are sent monthly by British parcel post.

The smallest parish in England is Wilcot. Oxon. It contains 7 persons. A London cabman was recently fined for carrying fourteen persons in his cab at one

Twenty million copies of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern," have been sold since

In proportion to its size, England has eight times as many miles of railway as the United States.

Forty-five per cent. of the water consumed or drawn for domestic purposes in London is wasted. Within the last 53 years 160,000 couples have, we are told, been united at Manches-

ter Cathedral. All petitions to the British House of Commons must be in handwriting, and may not be printed.

In proportion to population, exactly three times as much spirits are drunk in Scotland as in England. A London money-lender recently sued for repayment of a loan on which he received

600 per cent. interest.

Poison and Antidote.

A firm of chemists in Birmingham place upon all poisons sold by directions as to the antidote which should be applied in cases where the poisons are taken accidentally or intentionally by human beings.

The New Year, With blood upon my fingers and upon my brow a frown, wiped my knife and took my way to old Damascus town.

The saints of God in terror beneath my feet went down,

All hell came forth applauding as I went marching down,
To crucify and persecute in old Damascus

I fell! and God stood o'er me, His hand had put me down; To-night they'll wait in vain for

THEBOYTHAILS

RUSSELL SAGE, THE FINA DICATES THE GENUS

He Answers the Question, "How Can Boy Succeed?"-Work, Neatness, Thrift, Good Health Make Up the Ideal Boy-Fifty Years Experience Compressed.

Russell Sage, the financier whose life was attempted by a bomb-thrower in New York because he refused to give the latter \$1,250,000 on demand, thus writes of "The Boy that is Wanted" in the current issue of the Ladies' Home Journal: How can a boy succeed ?- I am often ask-

ed. Is it true, as many people contend, that all walks of life are overcrowded and there is no place for the younger generation? I think not. I have in mind the sort of a boy that can succeed, and I say to all boys now, there is fame and fortune for them if they are made of the right sort of stuff.

The boy who is wanted in the office, the shop, the store, the banking-house, in fact in any branch of mercantile and pro-fessional life, is the boy who is not afraid to work, who is educated, gentlemanly, polite, neat in dress, honest, trustful, and self-respecting. Such lads are in demand everywhere. They are sought for with eagerness, and, when found, employers delight in pushing them forward, in opening to them new fields of enterprise and usefulness, in making them their confidants, and finally taking them into partnership. Boys who are slovenly in attire, who are atupid, uncivil, and who cannot be trusted, are to be had, but they are not likely to keep a position for any length of time. Employers do not want them.

The boy who is wanted must be educated.

If his parents cannot afford to give him a

high-school or college education, he must learn to study without the aid of a teacher, in the early morning before business begins, and in the evenings after business hours. It can no longer be truthfully said that an education is out of any one's reach. Our splendid school system, where one can study by day or in the evening, has put the priceless treasure of an education within the reach of all. The main thing in the beginning, that I would impress upon boys is one of thegreat commandments, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." The boy who respects his father and mother, who treats his sisters and brothers with loving-kindness, has laid a good foundation for a successful career. You will do as your parents tell you, and that certainly will be to study. Don't be in a hurry to get away from your school books. The cares and responsibilities of the cares and responsibilities of the cares and responsibilities of the care and responsibilities of busines life will come soon enough. Go to school as long as you can, and, remember, every hour spent in study in your youth will be worth money to you in after life. Read good books-the Bible, above all. Make yourself acquainted with history. Study the progress of nations and the careers of men who have made nations great. If you have no library of your own, join one of the numerous associations to be found in all cities, where good, healthful books may be turns up now an' den amungs de sinners definition. time in reading trashy books. If you de not know how to select books ask your dey is."—Boston Courier. father or mother, your minister, your school teacher, or your employer, to do it for you. Drink deep from the well of knowledge. The boy that is wanted in business to-day must be well educated, and if he is not, and fails in business life, he can blame no one but himself. A good education is half the battle. It is within

the reach of all. Be honest. Honesty is the only road to success. Dishonesty, sharp practices, and tricks may succeed for a brief season, but that is all. No permanent success has ever been built on dishonesty. The prisons are filled with men and boys who have tried it and failed. The men who are respected among men are those who can be relied upon, who are truthful, whose word, indeed, is as good as their bond. There never was a time or occasion when dishonesty was justifiable. If your employer, your business associates, and your friends know you to be honest, they will respect you, and they will gladly do business with you. If they know you to be dishonest, they will shun you. Dishonesty is the first downward step in many a boy's career. Never take anything that does not belong to you, no matter how in-

significant. Be polite. It is an evidence of good breeding, and reflects credit upon your father and mother. The gentlemanly boy, the lad who is not gruff or surly, one who does not use profane or indecent language, has a much better chance of obtaining employment, and keeping his place than one who is rough, ill-mannered, prefane and disrespectful. Be courteeus under all circumstances; agreeable, manly, straightforwardin your conversation. Cultivate a sunny disposition, and you will find your days pass more agreeably and your society will be more sought after. Remember under all circumstances to respect age. No matter what the condition, you cannot afford to be disrespectful to your

Don't be afraid to work. It is the only road to success. Work incessantly. Whatever you do, do as well as you know how. Don't be afraid of soiling your hands. Work is kenorable, no matter how lowly. You cannot get on in the world unless you work. Try and give your employer one hundred and fifty per cent for every dollar you receive from him. Do not shirk anything. Do not be in a hurry to get away at the exact stroke of the clock. Be patient. Tomerrow will be another day. If you are faithful, painstaking and watchful of your employer's interests, have no fear that he will not know of it, for boys who observe this rule are rare, and promotion will surely come if you but work and wait. Patience and work are the handmaidens of

Why not learn a trade? The master of a good trade is better equipped for the struggle of life than the young man who is too proud to soil his hands by handling tools. All boys should be made to learn trades. It was the custom of kings, once upon a time, to see to it that not only their sons by t their daughters also, were taught trades or some useful occupation. One of the necessities of the times is for better facilities for industrial education. By all means learn a trade, boys. It will be of service to you in after life. I could name scores of successful men to-day, who were printers, engravers, telegraph operators or members of some other useful craft. Be neat in your apparel. Men de net like boys who are slovenly in their attire.

A good personal appearance is much in a boy's favor. Be thrifty. Save some portion of each day's earnings. No matter how small your

may de Let me advise you strongly to keep out a debt. Thousands of great commercial mouses have been wrecked by getting into debt. Begin by putting some money in the bank early in life, and add to it whenever you can. When opportunity offers invest it securely. Do not borrow or lend. Both are vices to be shanned.

Keep good company. Avoid companions who may lead you into temptation. Set your standard of morality and fellowship high. You will find the world peopled with strange beings, and although you may know a great many persons you will not be able to make many friends—true, generous, helpful, faithful to the end.

A word about your health. If your body is not sound, your mind will not be. Take plenty of exercise. Keep out in the open air and God's pure sunlight as much as you can. Then you will become vigorous in body, and by work and study you will become strong in mind.

Have I made clear to you the boy that is wanted? There is much more that could be said on the subject, but I shall leave that to others who are abler than I am.

My ideal is not an impossible one. I know some boys who fulfill all the qualifications I have named. They will be heard from in the future. They are the hope of the world, and I know many men who have built great fortunes and honored names upon just such a foundation. Why name them? To do so would fill a large book. Let me ask you to try to realize the boy that I have tried to depict. What a future is open to such an one! There is no honor,

or gift of men, that may not be his. I have pressed into this crude recital fifty years of everyday experience among men. I believe it is the best way to get on. Follow these suggestions and you will not be

Household Suggestions. To remove paper labels from old bottles wet the face of the label with water and

hold it for an instant over any convenient flame. The steam penetrates the label at once and softens the paste. The French telegraph officials have recently made some successful experiments

with a system which permits the simul-

taneous transmission of telegraph and telephone messages over the same wire. Most vegetables are better cooked fast, excepting potatoes, beans, peas, cauliflower and others which contain starch. Cabbage should be boiled rapidly in plenty of water, so should onions, young beets and turnips.

A new application of electric moters is for supplying by means of fans draughts for chimneys where very high buildings are

Geraniums are well known, good winter blooming plants when they get plenty of sunlight. Unless the plants are of a stalky nature now, cut them back to make them so, as nothing looks worse in a window than

built adjoining low ones. Such an arrangement is in successful operation in

Too Healthy. Mr. Johnson—I am very much pleased with the country about here; I think it is a

wenderfully healthy climate. Parson Limberlip—It am dat, sah! It's jus' gormed wid helt ter dat exstent dat I t'ink it'd be a good t'ing ef we wuz ter, loze a leetle on it, sah! "Why parson, I don't see how a place

obtained. Study religion, science, state- gits de notion dey's gwine lib forebber an' craft, and history. Learn to read intelligently, so that you may turn to practical use in after life the readings of your youth. dey's ap'ter jus' natchaily ooze wid wickedness. Hit's b'en my speunce dat hit do a flock good ter sorter weed hit out now an' Be sure you begin right. Do not waste den, ande Lawd knows dars members er dis



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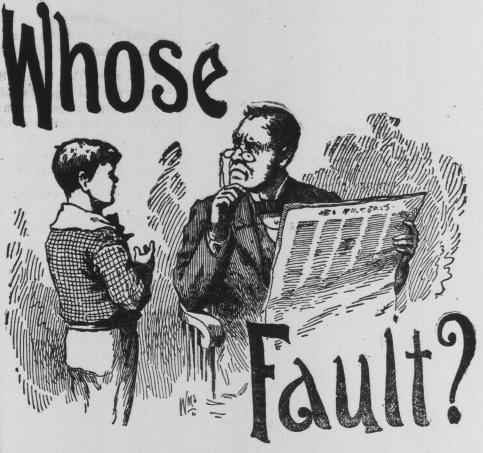
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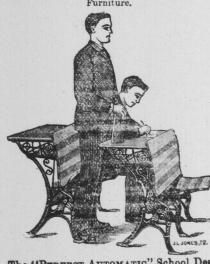
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