THE MIRROR

"OH, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US, TAE SEE OORSELS AS ITHERS SEE US."

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STANDS LIKE A ROCK.

REV. DR. TALMAGE OPPOSES BIBLE RECONSTRUCTION.

He Shows How Futile Are the Assaults Made Upon the Scriptures—The Bible as Compared to Other Books—Its Divine Protection.

NEW YORK, June 9.—In his sermon for to-day Rev. Dr. Talmage deals with a subject that is agitating the entire Christian church at the present moment—viz, "Expurgation of the Scriptures." The text chosen was, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans iii, 4).

The Bible needs reconstruction, according to some inside and outside the pulpit. It is no surprise that the world bombards the Scriptures, but it is amazing to find Christian ministers picking at this in the Bible and denying that, until many good people are left in the fog about what parts of the Bible they ought to believe and what parts reject. The heinousness of finding fault with the Bible at this time is most evident. In our day the Bible is assailed by scurrility, by misrepresentation, by infidel scientists, all the vice of earth and all the venom of perdition, and at this particular time even preachers of the gospel fall into line of criticism of the word of God. Why, it makes me think of a ship in a September equinox, the waves dashing to the top of the smokestack, and the hatches fastened down, and many prophesying the foundering of the steamer, and at that time some of the crew with axes and saws go down into the hold of the ship and they try to saw off some of the planks and pry out some of the timbers, because the timber did not come from the right forest. It does not seem to me a commendable business for the crew to be helping the winds and storms outside with their axes and saws inside. Now, this old gospel ship, what with the roaring of earth and hell around the stem and stern and mutiny on deck, is having a very rough voyage, but I have noticed that not one of the timbers has started, and the captain says he will see it through. And I have noticed that keelson and counter timber knee are built out of Lebanon cedar, and she is going to weather the gale, but no credit to those who make mutiny on deck.

When I see professed Christians in this partiular day finding fault with the Scriptures, it makes me think of a for tress terrifically bombarded, and the men on the ramparts, instead of swabbing out and loading the guns and helping fetch up the ammunition from the magazine, are trying with crowbars to pry out from the wall certain blocks of stone because they did not come from the right quarry. Oh, men of ramparts, better fight back and fight down the common enemy instead of trying to make breaches in the wall!

While I oppose this expurgation of the Scriptures I shall give you my reasons for such opposition. "What," say some of the theological evolutonists, whose brains have been addled by too long brooding over them by Darwin and Spencer, "you don't now really believe all the story of the Garden of Eden, do you?" Yes, as much as I believe there were roses in my garden last summer. "But," say they, "you don't really believe that the sun and moon stood still?" Yes, and if I had strength enough to create a sun and moon I could make them stand still, or cause the refraction of the sun's rays so it would appear to stand still. "But," they say, "you don't really believe that the whale swallowed Jonah?" Yes, and if I were strong enough to make a whlae, I could have made very easy ingress for the refractory prophet, leaving to evolution to eject him if he were an unworthy tenant. "But,' say they, "you don't really believe that' the water was turned into wine?" Yes, just as easily as water now is often turend into wine with an admixture of strychnine and logwood. "But," say they, "you don't really believe that Samson slew a thousand with the jawbone of an ass?" Yes, and I think that the man who in this day assaults the Bible is wielding the same weapon.

There is nothing in the Bible that staggers me. There are many things I do not understand, I do not pretend to understand, never shall in this world understand. But that would be a very poor God who could be fully understood by the human. That would be a very small Infinite that can be measured by the finite. You must not expect to weigh the thunderbolts of Omnipotence in an apothecary's balance. Starting with the idea that God can do anything and that he was present at the beginning and that he is present now, there is nothing in the holy Scriptures to arouse skepticism in my heart. Here I stand, a fossil of the ages, dug up from the tertiary formation, fallen off the shelf of the antiquarian, a man in the latter part of the glorious nineteenth century, believing in a whole Bible from lid to lid.

I am opposed to the expurgation of the Scriptures in the first place because the Bible in its present shape has been so miraculously preserved. Fifteen hundred years after Herodotus wrote his history there was only one manuscript copy of it. Twelve hundred years after Plato wrote his book there was only one manuscript copy of it. God was so careful to have us have the Bible in just the right shape that we have 50 manuscript copies of the New Testament 1,000 years old and some of them 1,500 years old. This book handed down from the time of Christ, or just after the time of Christ, by the hand of such men as Origen in the second century and Tertullian in the third century and by men of different ages who died for their principles. The three best copies of the New Testament in manuscript in the possession of the three great churches—the Protestant church of England, the Greek Church of St. Petersburg and the Romish church of Italy.

It is a plain matter of history that Tischendorf went to a convent in the peninsula of Sinai and was by ropes lifted over the wall into the convent, that being the only mode of admission and that he saw there in the waste basket for kindling for the fires, a manuscript of the holy Scriptures. That night he copied many of the passages of that Bible, but it was not until 15 years had passed of earnest entreaty and prayer, and coaxing and purchase on his part that that copy of the holy Scriptures was put into the hand of the Emperor of Russia—that one copy so marvelously protected.

Do you not know that the catalogue of the books of the Old and New Testaments as we have it is the same catalogue that has been coming on down through the ages? Thirty-nine books of the Old Testament thousands of years ago. Thirty-nine now Twenty-seven books of the New Testament 1,600 years ago. Twenty-seven books of the New Testament now. Marcion, for wickedness, was turned out of the church in the second century and in his assault on the Bible and Christianity he incidentally gives a catalogue of the books of the Bible—that catalogue corresponding exactly with ours—testimony given by the enemy of the Bible and the enemy of Christianity. The catalogue now, just like the catalogue then. Assaulted and spit on and torn to pieces and burned, yet adhering. The book to day, in 300 languages, confronting, four-fifths of the human race in their own tongue. Four hundred millions copies of it in existence. Does not that look as if this book had been divinely pratected; as if God had guarded it all through centuries?

Is it not an argument plain enough to every honest man and every honest woman that a book divinely protected and in this shape is in the very shape that God wants it? It pleases God and ought to please us. The epidemics which have swept thousands of other books into the sepulcher of forgetfulness have only brightened the fame of this. There is not one book out of a thousand that lives five years. Any publisher will tell you that. There will not be more than one book out of 2,000, that will live a century. Yet here is a book much of it 1,600 years old, and much of it 4,000 years old, and with more rebound and resilience and strength in it that when the book was first put upon parchment or papyrus. This book saw the cradle of all other books, and it will see their graves. Would you not think that an old book like this, some of it 40 centuries old, would come along hobbling with age and on crutches? Instead of that, it is more potent than any other book of the time. More copies of it printed in the last ten years than of any other book, Walter Scott's Waverly novels, Macauley's "History of England," Disraeli's "Endymon," the works of Tennyson and Longfellow and all the popular books of our time having no such sale in the last ten years as this old, worn-out book. Do you know what a struggle a book has in order to get through one century or two centuries? Some old books during a fire in a seraglio of Constantinople were thrown into the street. A man without any education picked up one of those books, read it and did not see the value of it. A scholar looked over his shoulder and saw it was the first and second decades of Livy, and he offered the man a large reward if he would bring the books to his study, but in the excitement of the fire the two parted, and the first and second decades of Livy were forever lost. Pliny wrote 20 books of history. All lost. The most of Menander's writings lost. Of 130 comedies of Plautus, all gone but 20. Euripides wrote 100 dramas. All gone but 19. Æschylus wrote 100 dramas. All gone but seven. Varro wrote the laborious biographies of 700 Romans. Not a fragment left. Quintillian wrote his favorite book on the corruption of eloquence. All lost. Thirty books of Tacitus lost. Dion Cassius wrote 80 books. Only 20 remain. Berosius' history all lost.

Nearly all the old books are mummified and are lying in the tombs of old libraries, and perhaps once in 20 years some man comes along and picks up one of them and blows the dust and opens it and finds it the book he doesn't want. But this old book, much of it 40 centuries old, stands to-day more discussed than any other book, and it challenges the admiration of all the good, and the spite, and the venom, and the animosity and the hypercriticism of earth and hell. I appeal to your common sense if a book so divinely guarded and protected in its present shape must not be in just the way that Gods wants it to come to us, and if it pleases God, ought it not please us?

Not only have all the attempts to detract from the book failed, but all the attempts to add to it. Many attempts were made to add the apochryphal books of the Old Testament. The council of Trent, the synod of Jerusalem, the bishops of Hippo, all decided that the apochryphal books must be added to the Old Testament. "They must stay in," said those learned men, but they staid out. There is not an intelligent Christian man to-day that will put the book of Maccabees or the book of Judith beside the book of Isaiah or Romans. Then a great man said, "We must have books, added to the new Testament," and there were epistles and gospels and apocalypses written and added to the New Testament, but they have all fallen out. You cannot add anything. You cannot subtract anything. Divinely protected book in the present shape! Let no man dare to lay his hands on it with the intention of detracting from the book or casting out any of these holy pages.

Besides that, I am opposed to this expurgation of the Scriptures because if the attempt were successful it would be the annihilation of the Bible. Infidel geologists would say, "Out with the book of Genesis." Infidel astronomers would say, "Out with the book of Joshua." People who do not believe in the atoning sacrifice would say, "Out with the book of Leviticus," People who do not believe in the miracles would say, "Out with all those wonderful stories in the Old and New Testaments," and some would say, "Out with the book of Revelation," and others would say, Out with the entire Pentateuch," and the work would go on until there would not be enough of the Bible left to be worth as much as last year's almanac. The expurgation of the Scriptures means their annihilation.

I am also opposed to this proposed expurgation of the Scriptures for the fact that in proportion as people became self sacrificing and good and holy and consecrated they like the book as it is. I have yet to find a man or woman distinguished for self sacrifice, for consecration to God, for holiness of life, who wants the Bible changed. Many of us have inherited family Bibles. Those Bibles were in use 20, 40, 50, perhaps 100 years in the generations. To-day take down those family Bibles, and find out if there are any chapters which have been erased by lead pencil or pen and if in any margins you can find the words, "This chapter not fit to read." There has been plenty of opportunity during the last half century privately to expurgate the Bible. Do you know any case of such expurgation? Did not your grandfather give it to your father, and did not your father give it to you?

Besides that, I am opposed to the expurgation of the Scriptures because the so called indelicacies and cruelties of the Bible have demonstrated no evil result. A cruel book will produce cruelty. An unclean book will produce uncleanness. Fetch me a victim. Out of all Christendom and out of all ages fetch me a victim whose heart has been hardened to cruelty or whose life has been made impure by this book. Show me one. One of the best families I ever knew of for 30 or 40 years morning and evening had all the members gathered together, and the servants of the household and the strangers that happened to be within the gates. Twice a day without leaving out a chapter or a verse they read this holy book, morning by morning, night by night. Not only the older children, but the little child who could just spell her way through the verse, while her mother helped her, the father beginning and reading one verse, and then all the members of the family in turn reading a verse. The father maintained his integrity, the mother maintained her integrity, the sons grew up and entered professions and commercial life, adorning every sphere in the life in which they lived, and the daughters went into families where Christ was honored, and all that was good and pure and righteous reigned perpetually. For 30 years that family endured the Scriptures. Not one of them ruined by them. Now, if you will tell me of a family where the Bible has been read twice a day for 30 years, and the children have been brought up in that habit, and the father went to ruin and the mother went to ruin, and the sons and daughters were destroyed by it—if you will tell me of one such incident, I will throw away my Bible, or I will doubt your veracity. I tell you if a man is shocked with what he calls the indelicacies of the word of God he is prurient in his taste and imagination. If a man cannot read Solomon's Song without impure suggestion, he is either in his heart or in his life a libertine.

The Old Testament description of wickedness, uncleanness of all sorts is purposely and righteously a disgusting account instead of the Byronic and the Parisian vernacular which makes sin attractive instead of appalling. When those old prophets point you to a lazaretto, you understand it is a lazaretto. When a man having begun to do right falls back into wickedness and gives up his integrity, the Bible does not say he was overcome by the facinations of the festive board, or that he surrendered to convivialities, or that he became a little fast in his habits. I will tell you what the Bible says. "The dog is turned to his own vomit again and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." No gilding of iniquity. No garlands on a death's head. No pounding away with a silver mallet at iniquity when it needs an iron sledge hammer.

I can easily understand how people brooding over the description of uncleanness in the Bible, may get morbid in mind until they are as full of it as the wings, and the beak and the nostril, and the claw of a buzzard are full of the odors of a carcass, but what is wanted is not that the Bible be disinfected, but that you, the critic, have your mind and heart washed with carbolic acid.

I tell you at this point in my discourse that a man who does not like this book, and who is critical as to its contents, and who is shocked and outraged with its descriptions, has never been soundly converted. The laying on of the hands of presbyteryor episcopacy does not always change a man's heart, and men sometimes get into the pulpit as well as into the pew, never having been changed radically by the sovereign grace of God. Get your heart right, and the Bible will be right. The trouble is men's natures are not brought into harmony with the word of God. Ah, my friends, expurgation of the heart is what is wanted.

You cannot make me believe that the Scriptures, which this moment lie on the table of the purest and best men and women of the age, and which were the dying solace of your kindred passed into the skies, have in them a taint which the strongest microscope of honest criticism could make visible. If men are uncontrollable in their indignation when the integrity of wife or child is assailed, and judges and jurors as far as possible excuse violence under such provocation, what ought to be the overwhelming and long resounding thunders of condemnation for any man who will stand in a Christian pulpit and assail the more than virgin purity of inspiration, the well-beloved daughter of God.

Expurgate the Bible! You might as well go to the old picture galleries in Dresden and in Venice and in Rome, and expurgate the old paintings. Perhaps you could find a foot of Michael Angelo's "Last Judgment" that might be improved. Perhaps you could throw more expression into Raphel's "Madonna." Perhaps you could put more pathos into Rubens' "Descent From the Cross." Perhaps you could change the crests of the waves in Turner's "Slave Ship." Perhaps you might go into the old galleries of sculpture and change the forms and the posture of the statues of Phidias and Praxitcles. Such an iconoclast would very soon find himself in the penitentiary. But it is worse vandalism when a man proposes to refashion these masterpieces of inspiration and to remodel the moral giants of this gallery of God.

Now, let us divide off. Let those people who do not believe the Bible, and who are critical of this and that part of it, go clear over to the other side. Let them stand behind the devil's guns. There can be no compromise between infidelity and Christianity. Give us the out and out opposition of infidelity rather than the work of these hybrid theologians, these mongrel ecclesiastics, these half evoluted people, who believe the Bible and do not believe it, who accept the miracles and do not accept them, who believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures and do not believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures—trimming their belief on one side to suit the skepticism of the world, trimming their belief on the other side to suit the pride of their own heart and feeling that in order to demonstrate their courage they must make the Bible a target and shoot at God.

There is one thing that encourages me very much, and that is that the Lord made out to manage the universe before they were born and will probably be able to make out to manage the universe a little while after they are dead. While I demand that the antagonists of the Bible and the critics of the Bible go clear over where they belong, on the devils side, I ask that all the friends of this good book come out openly and above board in behalf of it. That book, which was the best inheritance you ever received from your ancestry, and which will be the best legacy you will leave to your children when you bid them good-by as you cross the ferry to the golden city.

Of all the works of Dore, the great artist, there was nothing so impressive as his illustrated Bible. What scene of Abrahamic faith, or Edenic beauty, of dominion Davidic or Solomonic, of miracle or parable, of nativity or of crucifixion, or of last judgement but the thought leaped from the great brain to the skillful pencil, and from the skillful pencil to canvas immortal. The Louvre, the Luxembourg, the National Gallery of London compressed within two volumes of Dore's illustrated Bible. But the Bible will come to better illustration than that, my friends, when all the deserts have become gardens, and all the armories, have become academies and all the lakes have become Gennesarets with Christ walking them, and all the cities have become Jerusalems, with hovering Shekinah and the two hemispheres shall be clapping cymbals of divine praise, and the round earth a footlight to Emanuel's throne—that to all ages, and all centuries and all cycles, will be the best specimen of Bible illustrated.

PRODUCTION OF MEERSCHAUM.

Where Rich Deposits are Found—Drying, Cleaning, Polishing and Packing.

Mr. Cumberbatch, British Consul at Angora, in his latest report, says that rich deposits of meerschaum are found twenty miles to the southeast of Eski Shehir, an important station of the Anatolian railway The Belgian Consul in Constantinople, who recently visited the place, states that it would be difficult to determine the exact arena in which the meerschaum is to be found. Judging from the number of pits at considerable distances from each other it must be extensive.

The meerschaum is extracted in the same way as coal. Pits from 25 to 120 feet deep are dug, and as soon as the vein is struck horizontal galleries, sometimes of considerable length, are made, but more than two galleries are seldom to be found in one pit. The stone as extracted is called "ham tash,' or rough block, and is soft enough to be easily cut with a knife. It is white with a yellowish tint, and is covered with a red, clayey soil of about 1 inch thick. In this state the blocks are purchased by dealers on the spot, not by weight or measurement, but according to approximate quantity, either per load, of three sacks or per cart load, the price varying from £5 to £30 per load according to quality. These blocks are dried and subjected to certain preparations before being conveyed to Eski Shehir. Some of them are as small as a walnut, while others attain the size of cubic foot. Those which combine regularity of surface and size are the best. The manipulation required before they are ready for exportation is long and costly. The clayey soil is removed and the meerschaum dried. In summer exposure for five or six days to the sun's rays suffices, but in winter a room heated to the required temperature is necessary, and the drying process takes eight or ten days.

When dried the blocks are all well cleaned and polished, then they are sorted into about twelve classes, each class being packed with great care in separate cases, and each block being wrapped in cotton wool. The bulk of the meerschaum is sent to Vienna, where it is worked, and dispersed all over the world. Most of the finest specimens are sent direct to Paris. Certain American dealers have visited Eski Shehir with the object of obtaining the raw material direct instead of through Vienna, thereby saving the highest custom house duty payable on the worked meerschaum. The quantity anually exported is put down at 8,000 to 10,000 cases. The various taxes levied by the Turkish Government amount to about 37 per cent. ad valorem.

DENSITY OF POPULATION IN CITIES.

New York Has 18 Residents to a House London 7, Paris 25, and Tokio Only 5.

In all the countries of Europe, in the United States, and the Dominion of Canada, there are, so far as recent and authentic figures show, 70,000,000 houses. There are 342,000 houses some of them unsubstantial affairs, in the city of Tokio, Japan, one for every five people, so that the Japanese metropolis does not suffer from overcrowding.

New York has 115,000 houses, averaging eighteen residents to each. London, the greatest accumulation of inhabitants in the world, has 600,000 houses, or seven residents in each on the average. London has increased in this respect very rapidly, for at the beginning of the present century the number of houses was only 130,000, little more than New York has at this time. The population of London at that time (1800) was 960,000. It is now 4,200,000. So it has increased nearly fivefold, but the number of houses has not increased in as large a ratio. Paris has 90,000 houses. At the close of the Franco-Prussian war it had 70,000. At the close of the Napoleonic wars it had 28,000. The area of the city has been extended meanwhile. The average number of residents in a house in Paris is twenty-five. The majority of public buildings in Paris are utilized for purposes of residence, especially upon the top floors.

In all computations of city population by houses Philadelphia ranks as a shining example of a big town which has plenty of elbow room to expand in. Philadelphia, with a population in excess of 1,000,000, has 187,000 houses. It is less densely populated than London but not much less so.

He Indulged.

Mrs. Brown—Have you an indulgen husband?

Mrs. Green—Oh, yes, indeed—he comes home intoxicated nearly every night.

Honey, by some sweet mystery of the dew, is born of air, in bosoms of the flowers. —Rucellai.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States and All Parts of the Globe. Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Treasurer Stock of Wentworth, has been asked to resign.

The Montreal Street Railway earned nearly $4,000 on Sunday.

The proposed grant to Lady Thompson has been voted by Parliament.

Belleville merchants have granted a Friday half-holiday to their employees.

Mr. W. E. Parker's jewellery store in Hamilton was robbed of $400 worth of goods.

The Windsor salmon cannery on the Skeena River, British Columbia, was burned.

The steamers Edna Brydges and Algoma collided near Rat Portage. The Algoma was badly damaged.

Two members of the Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association were fined $20 each at Hamilton for violating the insurance act.

Mr. Craig, the horticulturist at the Experimental farm, thinks that Canadian tomatoes could be placed with profit on the London market.

The Mackenzie tower on Parliament Hill was struck by lightning and several of the Public Works employees received severe shocks.

The Montreal Street Railway Co. will run a night service of refrigerator cars between the cattle markets, the abattoirs and the meat markets.

Mr. Hiram Walker, the big distiller, who is 78 years old, has retired from the business, which will henceforth be managed by his three sons.

Prices of hardware in Canada are generally advancing. Wire nails, horse nails and shot have advanced, and prices of oiled or annealed wire and iron pipe have been withdrawn.

The Champlain monument cost $40,000. It will be erected on a site granted by the Government of Quebec in Quebec City. Lieutenant-Governor Chapleau is a subscriber to the amount of $2,000.

The British exports to Canada increased four per cent. in May, and decreased seven per cent. for the five months. The imports into Great Britain from Canada increased seven and eight per cent. in the same periods.

Co-operative dairying is making great progress in Prince Edward Island. When the Cornwall factory opened on June 15, 1893, less than 700 pounds of milk were delivered, but on June 3, 1895, the delivery was 9,327 pounds.

A mulatto named William Jones, of St. Catharines, was picked up on the bank of the Niagara River, having apparently fallen over the precipice probably the day before he was found. He was delirious and badly injured.

In the Dominion House of Commons Mr. Ouimet stated that there were three state funerals given to Canadians. Sir George E. Cartier's cost ten thousand dollars. Sir John Macdonald's cost six thousand dollars, and it was expected that the expenses in connection with Sir John Thompson's funeral would not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Countess of Essex, nee Adele Grant, of New York, has given birth to a daughter.

Lady Wilde is said to be dying of a broken heart, and her friends in London predict she will never see her son again.

The passengers of the little British vessel Why Not, which was on fire and abandoned at sea by her crew, have arrived in Jersey.

Two unknown men succeeded on Monday in mutilating a portrait of Mr. Gladstone on exhibition in London, and escaping without arrest.

Prince Edward of York has made his first public appearance in London. He was driven through St. James' park in an open carriage, propped up by his two nurses, and was cheered as he went by.

The rumor has been revived that the Duke and Duchess of York will be the guests of Mme. Adelina Patti at Craig-y-Nos early this summer, and it is stated that preparations are already being made for the royal visit.

Sir Edward Grey, in the Imperial House of Commons said that the Government had been fully possessed of the views of the Canadian Government with regard to the Behring Sea, and in the bill before the House the Imperial Government had tried to meet these views in substance.

UNITED STATES.

In the colored Baptist church at Double Springs, Ala., on Sunday, while the Rev. Greenleaf Lee, a young man, was preaching on the torments of hell, he suddenly fell dead.

Henry Ledtke, a farm hand employed in Hyannis, Mass., in a fit of jealousy shot dead Lizzie Coleman, fourteen years of age to whom he had been paying attentions, and then committed suicide.

Since Senator Stanford's death not one dollar has come from his estate to the university he founded. To keep it running Mrs. Stanford has given on an average of $1,000 a day, half her private means.

A letter has been received in Boston from a reliable American citizen residing in Turkey, giving in detail some of the horrid cruelties inflicted by Kurds and Turkish officials on the unfortunate Armenians in prison.

GENERAL.

Russia is massing troops on her Armenian frontier.

The commercial treaty between Russia and Japan has been signed.

In the Town of Mereny, Hungary, three hundred houses were burned and several persons were killed.

One hundred and twelve persons lost their lives in the floods in the Wurtemberg district of Germany.

The statue of Martin Luther, which has been a long time in course of construction, was unveiled in Berlin.

The New South Wales Assembly has passed the Customs bill which abolishes the duties imposed in 1891, and virtually establishes free trade.

An explosion of fire-damp occurred in a mining pit near Antonienhutte, Prussia n Silesia, while five hundred men were at work in the mine. Only 40 were rescued.

The Spanish War Office announces that the reinforcement of ten battalions of infantry and other troops intended for the Island of Cuba will leave Spain next Monday.

It is reported that H. M. S. Mohawk was fired on by a Spanish vessel near the coast of Cuba. The Mohawk followed the Spaniard into port, where a full apology was tendered.

The Parisians are so vastly pleased with Paul Dubois' equestrian statue of Joan of Arc that they have started to take up a subscription with which to purchase the artist a memorial as a testimony of their admiration.

The bark Carrie E. Long was struck by lightning off the Bahamas. The vessel was loaded with petroleum and other inflammable material, and burst into flames. The crew had a terrible experience in the shark-infested waters.

A special despatch from Shanghai says that a remnant of the famous black flags is entrenched at Chung-Wa, island of Formosa, and are expected to make a determined stand against the Japanese, who are taking possession of the island.

The Autorite, of Paris, in demanding the publication of the text of the treaty between France and Russia, says the French Government does not dare to publish it because its first clause binds France to accept the European situation, meaning acquiescence in the loss of Alsace and Lorraine.

Great regret is felt in Rome at the death of a German—Baron Huffner—who has done more for the city in recent years than almost any native. He was formerly Prussian Consul in Paris, and a grand seigneur in the true sense of the words. He presented the square in Piazze Cairoli to the city, and gave much of his wealth to beautify Rome.

THAT REMEDIAL ORDER.

HOW IT IS REPLIED TO BY THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT.

Text of the Memorial—Grave Difficulties of the Case—The Order Issued Without Full Information—Introduced as a Notice of Motion.

A despatch from Winnipeg, Man., says:—The Manitoba Legislature assembled on Thursday afternoon. The first business was the consideration of the Remedial Order of the Dominion Government, calling upon Manitoba to restore Separate schools. The Government submitted a resolution to he House which takes the form of a memorial to the Governor-General-in-Council. The memorial recited the clauses of the remedial order, and summed up their effect on the Province if the pernicious system of Separate schools, as they existed prior to 1890, was restored, and pointed out that the present system or national system, was adopted after a careful examination of the results of the Separate system. The schools were found to be inefficient. The old Separate schools have never been defended on their merits. After these arguments the memorial says:

"We are therefore compelled to respectfully state to your Excellency in council that we cannot accept the responsibility of carrying into effect the terms of the remedial order, and the disadvantages under which the province would labour if the old system were restored."

The memorial says: "We labour under great difficulties in maintaining an efficient system of primary education. School taxes bear heavily upon our people. A large amount of land, which is free from school taxes, and the great extent of country over which our small population is scattered present obstacles to efficiency and progress. The reforms effected in 1890 have given strong impetus to educational work, but the difficulties which are inherent in our circumstances have constantly to be met. It will be obvious that the establishment of a set of Roman Catholic schools, followed by a set of Anglican schools, and possibly Mennonite and Icelandic schools would so emasculate our present system that any approach to even our present general standard of efficiency would be quite impossible. We contemplate the inauguration of such a state of affairs with very grave apprehension. We have no hesitation in saying that there cannot be suggested any measure which, to orr minds, would more seriously imperil the development of our province."

Salt Treated Electrically.

It is well known by chemists that caustic soda can be produced by passing a current of electricity through common table salt The salt, which is chloride of sodium, separates under the action of the current into soda and chlorine, either of which by itself is much more valuable than the salt from which it is produced. The process is a simple one, and not expensive. The salt is dissolved in water and a current from a dynamo is passed through the solution. Metal plates are placed in the salt water and attached to the dynamo wires. Chlorine is set free at one pole and caustic soda at the other. The great difficulty, however, is that chlorine dissolved in water is one of the most powerful solvents known. Almost all metals are dissolved by it. Even carbon, one of the most unsoluble of substances, is rapidly attacked by chlorine and wears away quickly. This peculiarity of chlorine interferes with the commercial practicability of the process. No substance has yet been discovered for the electric terminals which will stand the strain and yet be cheap enough for manufacturing purposes.

He—"I've been watching for a chance to kiss you for the last ten minutes." She—"You must be near-sighted."

DAVID SCOLLIE'S DEATH.

STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OTONABEE TRAGEDY.

Thos. Gray and His Wife Charged With the Murder of the Old Man—Evidence in the Extradition Proceedings Begun—History of the Fire and Death of Scollie—Ugly Rumours Circulated—Damaging Evidence Given by Mrs. Gray Sister.

A despatch from Peterborough, says:—The latest developments in the investigation which Provincial Detective Murray has been making into the death of the old man David Scollie promise to make the fire which destroyed the dwelling-house of Thomas Gray, in Otonabee, early in the morning of the 23rd February, 1894, the centre of one of the most sensational criminal trials which has ever been held in this country, and one which will be notable for the detail and investigation it involves. As the result of Detective Murray's investigation and the evidence which he has accumulated, three informations have been sworn out here before County Police Magistrate Edmison, one charging Thos. T. Gray and his wife, Hessie Gray, with the murder of David Scollie on February 23rd, another charging Hessie Gray with setting fire to the Gray dwelling-house on February 23rd, and the third charging that Thos. T. Gray did on February 20th incite, move, procure, and counsel Hessie Gray to commit arson with intent to defraud the Mercantile Fire Insurance Company of Waterloo. Three warrants in accordance with these informations have been issued, and the taking of evidence in connection with extradition proceedings has been commenced. It will be well to recall the occurrences of Friday morning, February 23rd, as they are connected with this case.

THE TRAGEDY RECALLED.

Thos. T. Gray, his wife and family, and David Scollie, a man aged 67 years, lived on a small farm in Otonabee township, about two miles from town. The farm was owned by Scollie, who had entered into an agreement that the property was to go to the Grays upon his (Scollie's) death, and the old man was to be given a home and board while he lived. On the house was an insurance of $300, and on the contents a policy for $200. The old man led a quiet life, and no particular complaints were heard from him. It was early on the morning of Friday, February 23rd, that the Gray dwelling was burned. At the time the occupants were Mrs. Gray and her five children and David Scollie. Mr. Gray was said to be away at the time, Mrs. Gray stating after the fire that he was at Madoc or Belleville. The mother and five children slept downstairs, and the ill-fated man occupied a room in the second storey. The first intimation of the fire carried to anyone out of the occupants of the house was given to Mr. W. J. McGregor, a brother-in-law of the Grays, who lived a short distance away, and who was awakened by Mrs. Gray. When he arrived the children were all out, but Mrs. Gray said she had been unable to rouse Scollie, and McGregor was unable to reach him. The remains were discovered in the ruins in the morning, and their condition was remarked upon as peculiar. The head had completely disappeared, while the body was still covered by the blanket, and was not badly burned.

UGLY RUMOURS.

At the time an inquest was not considered necessary, but ugly rumours began to be circulated, and an inquest was held on March 7th. The evidence heard did not bring out anything to support the rumours, although the jurymen laid great stress in their questions on the body falling from the second storey, where Mrs. Gray said the old man slept, to the floor beneath, and then being found in a sleeping posture with the blanket still wrapped around it. The total disappearance of the head was also remarked upon, but the verdict was one of "purely accidental death." After the inquest Gray rebuilt on the property and sold out and with his family went to the United States to reside, and is there yet. Rumours in regard to Scollie's death did not cease entirely after the inquest, and finally resulted in the Attorney-General's Department putting Detective Murray on the case to investigate, and the result was indicated in the startling developments given above.

STARTLING EVIDENCE.

The most startling evidence was given by Mrs. McGregor, the sister of Mrs. Gray. Mrs. McGregor deposed she had heard her sister, Mrs. Gray, threaten that she would do away with Scollie, and would do it so that Tom (her husband) would not get into it. The witness also said that later Mrs. Gray, evidently alarmed at some reference to the case in the newspapers, had come to her, and asked not to tell what she had said or give evidence that would injure her. Another point brought out by a witness was that Gray, at a time subsequent to the fire, had boasted that he had one of the smartest little women in the world, who could do away with the old man while he (Gray) was away, and get the insurance. This is new evidence, and it is said that this has leaked out little by little as time passed, and was traced up by the detective.

Her Conundrum.

It is often hard to determine hit from "good wit" in the cases of children, and some of their flashes of precocity seem not to be unconscious, but rather the fragment of some remembered knowledge.

A little maid of five, who had been listening quietly to the puzzles and conundrums of the older children, seemed at last to divine the method of their construction and, after some thought, asked:

"What could you get on a very high, steep mountain?"

The answers were ice, snow, rocks, eagles' nests and the like, to all of which the little one persistently shook her head. When asked to tell the answer she triumphantly cried, "Nothing!"

"But why?" asked the others, in a breath.

"Because you couldn't get up there after it," was the demure reply.