## PALMAGE'S **SERMON**

BRAGLE OF THE AX HEAD WHICH FLOATED AT ELISHA'S COMMAND.

hure's Laws Suspended Fower of God-Examples of Notable Conversions Strange as the Text "The From Did Swim."

(Copyright, 1902, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.) Washington, Jan. 19.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage makes practical use of an occurrence in the orient which has seldom attracted particular attention; text, II Kings, vi, 6, "The ison did swim."

A theological seminary in the valley of palms, near the river Jordan, had become so popular in the time Elisha, the prophet, that more accommodations were needed for the students. The classrooms and the dormitories must be enlarged or an entirely new building constructed. What will they do? Will they send up to Jerusalem and solicit contributions for this undertaking? Having raised the money, will they send for cedars of Lebanon and marble from the quarries where Ahab got the stone for the pillars and walls of his palace? No; the students propose to build it themselves. All they ask is that Elisha, their professor and prophet, go along with them to the woods and boss the job. They start for the work, Elisha and his students. Plent, of lumber in those regions along the Jordan.

The sycamores are attacked by Elisha's students, for they must have lumber for the new theological seminary. Crash goes one of the trees and another and another. But something now happens so wonderful that the occurrence will tax the credulity of the ages, so wonderful that many still think it never happened at all. One of the students, not able to own an ax, had borrowed one. You must remember that while the ax of the olden time was much like our modern ax, it differed in the fact that instead of the helve or handle being thrus into a socket in the fron head the head of the ax was fastened on the handle by a leathern thong, and so it might slip the helve. A student of the seminary was swinging his ax against one of those trees, and the ax head and the handle parted. Being near the riverside, the ax head dropped into the river and sank to the muddy bottom. Great was the student's dismay. If it had been his own ax, it would have been bad enough, but the ax did not belong to him. He had no means to buy another for the kind man who had loaned it to him, but God heips the helpless, and he generally helps through some good and sympathetic soul, and in this case it was Elisha. who was in the woods and on the river bank at the time. He did not see the ax head fly off, and so he asked the student where it dropped. He was shown the place where it went down into the river. Then Elisha broke off a branch of a tree and threw it into the water, and the ax head rose from the depths of the river and floated to the bank, so that the student had just to stoop down and take up the reproperty. Now you see meaning of my text, "The iron did awim."

Suppose a hundred years ago some one had told people that the time would come when hundreds of thouthe Atlantic and Pacific-iron ships from New York to Southampton, from London to Calcutta, from San Franelsee to Canton. The man making such a prophecy would have been sent to an asylum or carefully watched as incompetent to go alone. We have all in our day seen iron swim. Now, if man can make hundreds of tons of metal float, I am disposed to think that the Almighty could make an ax head float.

"What," says some one, "would be the use of such a miracle?" Of vast. of infinite, of eternal importance. Those students were preparing for the ministry. They had joined the theological seminary to get all its advantages. They needed to have their faith strengthened; they needed to be perana led that God can do everything; they needed to learn that God takes notice of little things; that there is no emergency of life where he is not willing to help.

I hear from different sources that there is a great deal of infidelity in some of the theological seminaries of our day. We think that most of the so-called miracles of the Old and the New Testaments were wrought by natural causes. When those infidels gradnate from the theological seminary and take the pulpits of America as expounders of the Holy Scriptures what advocates they will be of that gospel for the truth of which the martyra died! Would to God that some great revival of religion might sweep through all the theological seminaries of this land, confirming the faith of the coming expounders of an entire

Furthermore, in that scene of the text God sanctions borrowing and sets forth the importance of returning. There are times when we have not only a right to borrow, but it is a duty to borrow. There are times when we that would borrow of thee turn not Bible study and strengthened by thou away." It is right that one borrow the means of getting an education, as the young student of my text borrowed the ax. It is right to borrow | which in legislative hall or business means for the forwarding of commer- | circles or Sabbath class or pulpit is to

elai ends. s a return. For what we borrow a God we must pay back in hearty

in the shape of protection from good government we must pay back in patriotic devotion. For what we borrow from our parents in their good example and their hard work wrought for us in our journey from cradle to manhood or womanhood for all the ages to come we ought to be paying back. The hallelujahs of heaven will be returned for crucifixion agony.

Furthermore, let us admire these young men of Elisha's theological seminary for the fact that they were earning their own way. Those are the kind of men who know what education is worth and know how to use it.

Those students in the valley of palms by the Jordan had a physical strength and hardihood that would help them in their mental and spiritual achievements. We who are tolling for the world's betterment need brawn as well as brain, strong bodies as well as illumined minds and consecrated

Let all those who toil for their education remember they are especially favored, and if things go against them and the ax head should fly the helve that very hinderment may some time turn out advantageously, as the accident by the river Jordan, which seem ed to finish the young student's capacity to help build the new seminary. resulted in a splendid demonstration of the power of Elisha's God to help any one who helps himself. No ax that was ever wielded has wrought so well as that ax, the handle and head of which parted.

Notice, also, how God is superior to every law that he has made, even the strongest law of nature, the law of gravitation. What a rebuke to those who reject miracles on the ground that they are contrary to nature, as though the law were stronger than the God who made the law! Again and again in Bible times was that law revoked.

There Christ stood by his disciples on the Mount of Olives after his coming out of the sepulcher. No ladders let down for his ascension, but his feet lift from the hill, and he goes up until the curtain of cloud drops, and he is invisible. Law of gravitation again unharnessed. Enoch, Methuselah's father, escaping death, went up bodily and will have no need of resurrection. So will all the good who shall be still alive at the end of the world. They will not need wings. Every one of the millions of our planet who loved and served the Lord, if then alive, will "be caught up," as the Bible says, body as well as soul, the law of gravitation paralyzed. God mightler than any law he ever created. Oh, I like the miracles because they show God independent of everything.

Notice also the divine power in the backwoods. Wonderful things were done at the cities of Jericho and Jerusalem and Babyion and Nineveh, and the great cities of our time have seen the divine power, but this miracle of my text was in the backwoods, far away from the city, in the lumber districts, where the students had gone to cut timber for the new theological seminary. And if this sermon shall come, as it will come, like my other sermons for the last thirty years, without missing a week, let me say to those far away from the house of God and in the mountain districts that my text shows the divine power in the backwoods. The Lord by every stream as he certainly was by the Jordan, on every mountain as surely as he was on God who can lift the soul that has sands of tons of iron would float on Mount Zion, on every lake as on Ti- been deepest down. Here is a God who berias, oy every rock as by the one whose gushing waters slaked the thirst of the marching Israelites.

> Do not feel lonely because your nearest neighbor may be miles away, because the width of the continent may separate you from the place where your cradle was rocked and your father's grave was dug. Take your Bible out under the trees, if the weather will permit, and after you have lietened to the solo of a bird in the treetops or the long meter pealm of the thunder, read those words of the Bible. which must have been written out of doors: "The trees of the Lord are full of san, the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted, where the birds make their nests; as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats and the rocks for the conies. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of thy riches." How do you like that sublime pastoral?

My subject also reminds us of the importance of keeping our chief implement for work in good order. think that young theological student on the banks of Jordan was to blame for not examining the ax before lifted it that day against a tree. He could in a moment have found whether the helve and the head were firmly fastened. The simple fact was the ax was not in good order or the strongest stroke that sent the edge into the hard sycamore would not have left the implement headless. God has given every one of us an ax ought to lend, for Christ in his sermon | with which to hew. Let us keep it in on the mount declared, "From him good order, having been sharpened by

Your ax may be a pen or a type or a yardstick or a scales or a tongue speak for God and righteousness, but We borrow time; we will borrow the ax will not be worth much until ty and that constant borrowing it has been sharpened on the grind-

But I have come to the foot of the

les in all this theme how the impos bilities may be turned into possibilities. That ax head was sunken in the muddlest river that could be found. The alarmed student of Elisha may know where it went down and may dive for it, and perhaps fetch it up. but can the sunken ax head be lifted without a hand thrust deep into the mud at the bottom of the river? No, that is impossible. I admit, so far as human power is concerned, it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. After the tree branch was thrown upon the surface of Jordan "the iron did swim."

Some one asks me, "Did you ever see iron swim?" Yes, yes; many a time. I saw a soul hardened until nothing could make it harder. All styles of sin had plied that soul. It was petrified as to all fine feeling. I had been hardening for thirty years. It had gone into the deepest depths. It had been given up as lost. The father had given it up. The mother, the last to do so, had given it up. some prayer a branch of disfoliaged tree of Calvary was thrown into the dark and sullen stream, and the sunken soul responded to its power and rose into the light, and, to the astonishment of the church and the world, "the iron did swim." I have seen hundreds of cases like that. When the dying bandit on the cross beside Christ's cross was converted. When Jerry McAuley, a ruffian graduate of Sing Sing prison, was changed into a great evangelist so useful in reclamation of wandering men and women that the merchant princes of New York established for him the Water Street and Cremorne missions and mourned at his burial amid the lamentations of a city. When Newton, the blaspheming sailor, under the power of the truth was brought to Christ and became one of the mightiest preachers of the gospel that England ever saw. When John Bunyan, whose curses shocked even the profane of the fish market, was so changed in heart and life that he could write that wonderful dream, "The Pilgrim's Progress," in such a way that uncounted thousands have found through it the road from the "city of destruction" to the "celestial city." In all these cases I think from was made to swim. I worship the God who can do the impossible.

You have a wayward boy. Only God knows how you have cried over him. You have tried everything for his reformation. Where is he now-in this city, in the country, or has he crossed the sea?" "Oh," you say, "I do not know where he is. He went away in the sulks and did not say where he was going." You have about made up your mind that you will never hear from him again. Pretty hard pay he gives you for all your kindness and | 86. the nights you sat up with him when he was sick. Perhaps he struck you one day when you were trying to persuade him to do better. How different was the feeling of that hard flat against your face from his little hand in infancy patting your cheek! Father! Mother! That is an impossible that I would like to see God take hold of of the conversion of that boy, for he will never be anything but a boy to you, though you should live to see him fifty years of age. Did you say his heart is hard? How hard? Hard as stone? "Yes," you say, "harder than that. Hard as iron." can raise a soul out of the black est depths of sin and wretchedness Here is a God who can make iron awim, the God of Elisha, the God o the young student that stood in dismay on the banks of the Jordan at the time of the lost ax head. Lay hold of the Lord in a prayer that will take no

## STORY ABOUT THE WILLOW.

Hardiest Tree Known, and the Easter to Grow.

If you ask me to mention a tree most likely to live when planted by un skilled hands, says a writer in the Chautauquan Magazine, I would say a willow. I mean the most common kind to be found in the northern statesthe kind that stands beside and over shadows the roadside watering trough.

If you have driven or wheeled over country roads a picture of such a combination will readily come to your mind. The chances are that there is a local tradition connected with the origin of that tree. I have heard it in many different localities, with but slight variation.

The story usually runs something like this: "John Dee, one of the early settlers, was riding horseback along this road, then but a bridle path, and stopped at this spring to water his horse. He stuck his riding whip info the mud, it took root like a cutting, and the present patriarchal willow has been the outcome." The impression is common that willows will thrive only in wet places.

It is true a willow is very comfort able in places where many other trees will suffer from chilblains, yet it will give good results elsewhere.

Every One Needs a Hobby.

No man can retain his bodily and mental health if he devotes himself exclusively to business. Bodily he will become inert and flabby; mentally inert and duil. First his power will diminish; then his grasp on practical problems will be relaxed; his capability will be weakened and in the end his capacity itself disappears. The heat results are found in varied interests. A hobby of some sort is neces sary. It has been the salvation of

It is always better to tell the frutl

## ILLINOIS ITEMS

Miss Lisle Mansfield of Peoria is candidate for the state regency Daughters of the American Revolu-

William B. Atwell has been appointed superintendent of the Illinois agri cultural exhibit at the St. Louis expo-

George Mitchell and Miss Millie Branch, of Sailor Springs, Ill., eloped to Louisville and were married at the Metropolitan hotel.

While at the breakfast table Dr. E

J. Blair of Charleston dropped frim his chair a corpse. Heart failure was as signed as the cause, though no previous symptoms or illness had oc-Thomas Brown, one of the oldest

lake captains in Chicago, died at his home. He was 85 years old, and since 1840 had made his home in Chicago. Death came suddenly to Mrs. Eunice

Brokaw, aged 87, wife of Abram Brokaw, millionaire, of Bloomington.

The auditor issued a permit for the organization of the Drovers' Savings & Trust Company of Chicago, with a capital of \$200,000. Ald. Edward C. Hoffmann of Alton

was arrested for threatening the life of a newspaper man and placed under bond to keep the peace.

Pupils of Carlinville schools and citizens are donating books to the new school library.

Rural free delivery will begin March

1 at Dietrich. Postoffices at Eberly Elliotstown and Winter Rowd to be supplied from Dietrich.

Thomas Lawrence, a farmer, was shot and dangerously wounded Thomas McLean, at Galesburg.

The remains of Andrew Gamble, a resident of Peoria, were found in the Illinois river.

A new bank, First National, was or ganized in Benton with a capital stock of \$25.000. The officers are: John T Chenault, president; W. W. McFall, vice president; Geo. C. Cantrell, cashler; directors, J. T. Chenault, W. W. McFall, J. F. Ammon, S. W. Swain and H. C. Vise.

L. E. Wood, aged 23 years, shot himself with a revolver at Quincy, the ball lodging near his heart. The wound is pronounced fatal.

Joseph Crego, a civil war veteran, i dead at his home at Bloomington, aged

Adjt.-Gen. Reece confirmed the election of Ezra C. Chacey to captain of E company, 5th infautry, I. N. G.

The biggest tree in the section of country about Jerseyville was cut on the farm of Robert McDow, in Mississippi township, Jersey county, by Tom Johnson. It was a cottonwood, measuring 28 feet in circumference, and it is estimated that it will produce forty cords of wood. The tree was over 100 years old.

By agreement, the suit of the village of Loami against the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis railway has been dismissed. An ordinance was passed by the village board requiring the railroad to piace a watchman at the Center street crossing. The railroad failed in the elopement story, and when the to comply, and the village sued damages in the sum of \$6,000. A compromise arrangement has now been

Representatives of a syndicate composed of eastern capitalists, having its headquarters in New York city, are endeavoring to purchase all of milk condensing establishments in the United States for the purpose of consolidation. The emissaries of the proposed combine are making strengous efforts to buy the plants of the Helve tia Milk Condensing Company at Highland.

Deputy Sheriff E. E. Reynolds re ports that a peculiarly disastrous malady is playing havoc among horses in the lower end of Rock Island county and the neighboring portions of Mercer county. The disease after its first appearance weakens the victims rapidly and is always fatal after two or three days.

The Chicago branch of the American Transvaal league has been incorporated in Illinois. The object is to raise funds for the relief of the Boers, and the incorporators are John C. Williams, Charles A. Klotz and John G. Vehe. Among the other important corporations licensed by the secretary of state are the following: The St. Louis and Big Muddy Coal company certified to a change in the location of its principal office from Pinckneyville to Carbondale. The Chicago Pneumatic Tool company of Jersey City, N. J., with a capital stock of \$7,500,000, is licensed to do business in Illinois, with a capital of \$10,000.

Rudolph Miller, a well-to-do farmer of northern McLean county, died Thursday from the effects of injuries received in a runaway accident Wednesday.

Adulterated vinegar and flavoring extracts and imitation butter having been found in the Chicago market in large quantities; the Illinois state pure food commission has commenced civil actions against thirty-two dealers.

At Springfield the damage suits of Margaret Hall and Anna Ryan against the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis railway were compromised in the circuit court. Mrs. Hall received \$3,750 and Mrs. Ryan \$4,200 for the death of the nahanda, who were killed in a

Two years ago Hannah C. Sprinkle was divorced from her husband, Simon J. Sprinkle, at Moweaqua, and he gave her \$10,000. They remained separated three months and then remarried. This union lasted about a year when Mrs. Sprinkle again appeared in the Circuit Court of Christian county and asked for another divorce and alimony, alleging extreme cruelty. Judge Dwight granted the decree Thursday. awarding Mrs. Sprinkle \$5,000 ali-

H. M. Welshimer, cashier of Cumberland County National bank at Neoga, and Miss Mabel Varis of Stewardson, were married Thursday at the home of the bride's parents in Stewardson. They left for Danville to visit for a few days, and will then go to Chicago to spend their honeymoon,

Rev. B. Hollock, walking home late at night, discovered that the big bridge on the Clover Leaf Road, west of Ramsey, was on fire. By quick action he managed to spread the alarm in time to stop the Commercial Traveler fast express. The bridge is one of the most costly on the system and the entire bridge force is at work repairing the damage. Until it is again in ser- 635,319 tons, exceeding by 1,481,290 vice the Clover Leaf traffic will be carried over the Pennsylvania lines.

Edward L. Hereford, the druggist convicted of perjury a month ago and who has since been confined in the Peorla jail, was released on \$5,000 bail Thursday by a supersedeas from the Supreme Court, pending a hearing of the case next month. Hereford perjured himself in attempting to obtain a divorce from his wife that he might marry Cora Strubel. The Strubel woman was also indicted for perjury, but has not yet been tried.

The executive committee of the Il linois Laundry Manufacturers association, President Searle, W. E. Fitch of La Salle, and George Simmonds, of Peoria, held a meeting at Peoria and selected March 17 and 18 as the time for holding their next annual convention, and Peorla as the place. The arrangement of the programme was turned over to the local laundrymen, who subsequently organized by the election of M. G. Plank as chairman and W. H. Cushing as secretary. It is certain between 100 and 125 visiting laundrymen' will be present, and it is the intention to give them a big reception.

Miss Farley, a young woman of Riv erton and one of the belles of that village, suffered the humiliation of being taken in charge by a police officer at the Wabash depot in Springfield Wednesday night. In the sore distress of an ignominy she could not understand, the young lady passed a distracting two hours at the police headquarters. Then she learned that her arrest was the result of a mistake on the part of her overprudent and too discerning father. The young woman's father caused her arrest on the supposition that she had eloped from Riverton with a young man, to which he had the strongest objections, on account of the age of the girl, she being about 16 years old. There was nothing | now a prominent candidate for Unit father made his appearance at the police headquarters he was made aware of the fact in a torrent of feminine indignation that simply overwhelmed him.

Over 100,000 signatures have been attached at Chicago to the referendum league's petition, it is announced by officials of the organization, and the prediction is made confidently that before long the number will be increased sufficiently so that the requirements of the new referendum law will be met. If the league succeeds, the questions of municipal ownership and direct nominations at primaries will be submitted to the people for a vote at the spring election.

Violinist Kubelik visited the Chicago stock yards, where he was interested observer of the work in the killing pens. Given a box of soap.

The interests which promise the unon of all the glucose and starch factories into one great organization have made a flattering offer for the purchase of the plant of the Illinois Sugar Refining compnay, at Pekin, and there seems strong likelihood that it will be

March 4 has been definitely decided upon by the Illinois commission to the Charleston exposition as Illinois day at the exposition. Gov. Ystes and his military staff will be present, and also several Chicago clubs.

The company which has been leasing oil lands about Danville for several months, has shot its first well. The well proved to be a gusher and much excitement prevails in the vicinity.

Harry Hamilton, the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hamilton, was drowned at Alton while akating on the pond at the tanks of the New England Water Company.

The death at Chicago of William Marshall Scribner, widely known the author of penmanship copy books, was announced Wednesday, Mr. Scribner took an active part in educational tempted to kill he work in the west, and it is said his name as author has appeared on 50,the past forty years. The d was born in Waterboro, Me., in I

Judge Dwight, in the Chi ty Circuit court at Taylorsy receivership case of the company of Chicago against the Modern Electric Light ed the appeal of the the company to remove the ceiver, who is the alleged agent Royal Trust company, and to I N. C. Shumway of Taylorville ed receiver.

Plans for the erection woman's building at the grounds at Springfield are being pared.

Capt. Benjamin F. Slaten died his home near Elsah, aged SI Capt. Slaten was county attorney Jersey county in the early histor the county and captain of company

97th Illinois volunteer infantry. The annual report on the coal indi try in the state of Illinois is now i course of preparation by the state reau of labor statistics at Sprin The figures will show the prod of the last fiscal year to exceed the of any corresponding period in the mining history of the state. The total output of all mines last year was 20 tons the production of the next pr ceding year, which was by far the large est single year's production up to the present time. The ingrease is the more notable because of the shortening by two hours of the work day in every mine in the state.

John Howard Bryant, only surviving brother of William Cullen Bryan and himself a poet of some pronence, died at Princeton, Ill., Tuesday at the advanced age of 95. He was one of the pioneers of that section o Illinois, going there from Massach setts in 183! when 24 years old. H became justice of the peace in Pi nam county in 1834, and three years later was elected as first recorder deeds in the newly organized o of Bureau. He was twice a member the legislature, frequently served the board of supervisors and was afteen years on the board of tion. He was collector of inters revenue for this district under Pre dents Lincoln and Grant. He was de voted to agricultural pursuits, and u til he was 60 worked his farm with h

Two hundred girls employed in the overall factory of J. N. Ward & Co. at Peoria went on strike Thurs morning. The girls organized a union of the United Garment Wednesday night, Mr. Ward the demands of the girls to re their union and they marched out the factory and through the principal streets of the city.

George W. Brown, aged 21 years, a Woodford county, a prisoner con in the Peoria jail on a charge of he stealing, and Miss Lucinda Bells For ters, also of Woodford county, was married at the fail by County Jude Lovett. After the ceremony the pri oner was locked up in a cell and the

bride went on her way. Congressman A. J. Hopkins, who States senator, accompanied by Robert Burke, sheriff, and L. A. Constant editor of the Daily Express, all of Am rora, spent Tuesday in Virginia, Ill. in the interest of Congressman Hop kine' candidacy.

Andrew Ponder of Mount Carms was killed by a south-bound Chicago and Eastern Illinois train south of Mount Vernon.

Sheriff Ed Houser arrived at Olney from New York city, having in charge Wick Higgins, ex-sheriff and ex-bank director. He was placed in jail on charge of embezzling county funds while sheriff ten years ago. Higgins was not expecting arrest when the of ficers accompanied his 16-year-old daughter down the gangway to a white Star liner which was to leave for England, and on which he acted as as sistant steward. He had sent for his daughter to meet him there and go to England. Higgins says he is penn

The annual meeting of the Central Illinois Teachers' association will be held at Peorla March 21 and 22.

The magnificent new Cottage h tal was thrown open to the public at Peorla Thursday. The building wa made possible by the generosity of John C. Proctor.

The Peoria pottery, which has been idle for the past two years, has b leased to a syndicate headed by Wells of Evansville, and a force men has been set at work getting ready for operation two weeks

George W. Cox, a ploneer Maco county resident, and a prominent ness man of Virden for the past two ty-seven years, died of heart tr aged 67 years.

The Edgar county farmers 1 closed a successful meeting at P electing Charles W. Curl pr

William Henry, who was last a sentenced in the Pike county twenty-one years in the for the murder of Chan.