SCORES OF PROMISES.

And Hundreds and Thousands, and Every One Will be Kept.

[Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One, by Will. H. Bolip, of Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.]

A despatch from Washington says: —Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text: Joshua iii, 4, "Ye have not passed this way heretofore"

In December, 1889, I waded the river Jordan, and, although the current was strong, I was able to bear up against it, but in the time of spring freshet, when the snows on Mount Lebanon melt, nothing but a miracle would enable any one to cross the river. It was at the dangerous springtime that Joshua and the officers of his army uttered the words of my text to the people who were in a few hours to cross the Jordan. About that crossing we say but little, because on a previous occasion we discoursed concerning that piling up of the waters into crystal barricade. We only speak of the march to the brink of the river. No stranger thing has ever occurred in all history.

What was truthfully said of the ancient Israelites may be truthfully said of us. We are making our first and last journey through this world. It is possible, as some of my good friends believe, that this world will be corrected and improved and purified and moralized and sanpatized as to climate and soil and character until it shall become a heaven for the ransomed, but I do not think it. I have an idea that heaven is already built somewhere. Our departed friends could not wait until this world is fixed up for saintly and angelic residence. Having once gone out of the world, I do not think we will come back, except as ministering spirits to help those who remain in the earthly struggle or perhaps to look at the wondrous spectacle of

A BURNING PLANET.

The fact is, I blame no one for making lifetime mistakes. I pity them instead of blaming them. There are so many wrong roads, but only one right one. You cannot in middle life alter your course by experiments for wisdom, for midlife is so entirely different from youth. You cannot in old age draw upon midlife experiences for the two stages of existence are so different. What is wisdom for one man to do would be folly for another to undertake. A man of nerve and pluck is not qualified to advise a timid and shrinking. A man of achievement that would be easy for you might be impossible for me. Human advice is ordinarily of little value. People review their own successes or failures and then tell us what is best for us to do, not realizing that our circumstances are different, our temperaments different our physical and mental and moral capacities different. Most of the great mistakes that have been made have been made under human advisement.

Yes, our entire world is on a new pathway. It may be swinging in the same old orbit as when by the hand of the Almighty immensity was sprinkled with worlds, but it has been rocked with earthquakes and scarred with volcanic fires and wrought upon by climatic changes—cities sunk, and islands lifted, and mountains avalanched into valleys. So it is another world than that which was first started in the solar system. Yet it is all the time changing and will keep changing until the hour of its demolition. Of this beautiful world, this lustrous world, this glorious world, it may be said: "Ye have not passed this way before."

What is the practical use of this subject? Instead of putting so much stress upon human advice and instead of asking of the past what we ought to do, follow the divine leading as the men of Joshua followed the golden lidded chest of acacia, which was the symbol of

THE DIVINE PRESENCE.

Not human, but divine leadership. Joshua not consulting with his colonels and lieutenants, but consulting with God—the God of individuals, the God of nations, the God of worlds.

That three-quarters of a mile distance between the ark or sacred box and the front column of Joshua's troops mightily impressed them. It was a forceful way of teaching reverence for the Almighty. They needed to learn that lesson of reverence as we all need to learn it. Irreverence has cursed all nations, and none more than our own. Irreverence in the use of God's name. Hear you it not on the streets and in social groups, and is not a profane word sometimes thought necessary to point jocosity? Irreverence for the Scriptures, the phraseology of the Bible often introduced into the most frivolous conversation and made mirth provoking. Irreverence for the oath in courtroom or custom house or legislative hall by the conventional and mechanical mode of its administration. Irreverence for the holy Sabbath by the way it is broken in pleasure excursion and carousal. Irreverence on the part of children for their parents, insolence being substituted for obedience. Irreverence for rulers, which induces vile cartoons and assassination. Irreverence in church during prayer, measuring off song and sermon by cold, artistic, or literary criticism, and in prayer time neither bowing the head nor bending the knee nor standing as one does in the presence of an earthly ruler, thus showing more respect for a man than to the King of Kings. We ask not for genuflexions or circumlexions or prostrations, but when prayer is offered let us either bow the head or bend the knee or let us in some way prove that

WE ARE NOT INDIFFERENT.

In how many places have presumption and foolhardiness taken the place of reverence! That three-quarters of a mile between the chest of acacia covered with gold and mounted with wings—a symbol of the divine presence—and the marching regiments of Joshua suggest a reverence that is woefully lacking in social life, in legislative hall, and religious assemblage.

But though Joshua's host observed the three-quarters of a mile command, they followed the ark and you will do well to follow the divine leading, as the path you tread now has not yet been trodden "Ye have not passed this way before." Many of you are suffering from just such annoyances as have not occurred in your history. There have been meannesses practised upon you or you have received slights or you are the subject of misinterpretations or you are in the midst of sore disappointments or there are demands made upon your strength and time more than you can meet or some physical ailment is laying siege to your castle of health or you are under embarrassments that you cannot mention even to nearest friends. You say: "Well, I never saw anything like this. I never expected such treatment as this. I never thought it possible to be placed in such circumstances." And when you say all that you are only transcribing the words of the text into your own phraseology. If you had suffered something like this before, you would have known what to do, but here is a flank movement for which you are not ready.

We talk about the great discoveries of the age, the electric power, the steam power, the telescopic and microscopic power, but do not say anything about the discoveries we all make year by year, and day by day. There are surprises all the time. It is a new road we are travelling. "Ye have not passed this way before."

But closely allied is the other fact which we hinted at in the opening—that we will not pass this way again. This is our only opportunity for doing certain things that

OUGHT TO BE DONE.

On all sides there are griefs that we ought to solace, hunger we ought to feed, cold that we ought to warm, kind words that we ought to speak, generous deeds that we ought to perform. All that you and I do toward making this world better, and happier we must do very soon or never do at all. Joshua and his troops never came back over the way they were marching toward the crossing of the Jordan. The impress of the sandal or the bare feet of each soldier showed in what direction he was going, but never did the impress of the sandal of any one of them show that he had returned. We are all facing eternity to come. There is no retreat. Affection and fidelity would be so important if we could truthfully say: "I will be back here again. The things I neglect now I will do the next time I come. I will be reincarnated, and I will resume my earthly obligations. Having then more knowledge than I have now, I will discharge my earthly duties better than I can now discharge them. I do not give solemn farewell to these obligations and opportunities, but a smiling and cheery good-bye until I see them again." No, we cannot say that. There will be no new and corrected edition of the volume of earthly life. After we make exit from the stage at the close of the fifth act we cannot re-enter.

At this point I ask you to notice the fact that my text does not call attention to the crossing of the Jordan, but to the way leading thereto. We all think much of our crossing of the Jordan when the march of our life is ended, but put too little emphasis on the way that

LEADS TO THE CROSSING.

What you and I need most to care about is the direction of the road we are travelling. We need have no fear of the crossing if we come to it in the right way. In other words, we need not care about death if our life has been what it ought to be. We will die right if we live right.

O hearer, stop bothering about your exit from sublunary scenes! lay the grace of God get your heart right, and then go ahead. If the Lord takes care of you clear on to the bank on this side of the river, I think you can trust Him to take you from bank to bank, from the willows on this side the stream to the palms on the other side, from the last kiss of sorrowing ones on this side to the welcome, saintly cherubic, seraphic, deific on the other side. Keep your eyes on the ark, and, whatever betides, you will go through all right.

One Easter morning Massena, the marshal of France, appeared with 18,000 armed men on the heights above the town of Feldkirch. There were no arms to defend the town, and the inhabitants were wild with terror. Then the old dean of the church cried out: "My brothers, this is Easter Day! We have been depending on our own strength and that fails. Let us turn to God. Ring the bells and have service as usual." Then the bells rang out sweetly and mightily from the church towers of Feldkirch, and the people thronged to the houses of prayer for worship. The sound of the bells made the enemy think that the Austrian army had come in to save the place, and Massena and his 18,000 soldiers retreated. By the time the bells had stopped ringing there was not one soldier in sight. So put your trust in God, and when hosts of troubles and temptations march for your overthrow ring all the bells of hope and faith and Christian triumph and the threatening perils of your life will fall back and your deliverance will be celebrated all up and down the skies. The God who led you through the way you never passed before will be with you at the crossings.

GREATER AMBITION.

An Englishman's Opinion of American Workmen.

Mr. Ebenezer Parkes, M. P., has just returned to Birmingham, England, from the United States, where he has been to enquire into the reason of the alleged manufacturing supremacy of the Americans. He was much struck by the great activity everywhere displayed. Whilst recognizing the numerous advantages which American manufacturers enjoy over their English competitors, he is not despondent as to the future. The American, he said, is free from the vested interests which so much hamper manufacturers in England, and what is equally, if not more important, is the freedom from trade union influences. The men, he believes, are glad to be thus unfettered, as they are at liberty to work as many hours as they please. There seemed to be a greater ambition to get on in the world than is seen among the English artisan class, and the conspicuous feature was the great desire evinced to master thoroughly all the technicalities of whatever branch a workman might be engaged in.

AMERICANS WORK HARDER.

Mr. Parkes expressed the opinion that both employers and operatives work harder in America than they do in England. The system of works management is marvellous; every department is so well organized that the manager is able at any time to ascertain what is being done, whether it pays or not, and also to appraise the value of a particular workman. In many respects Mr. Parkes has a higher opinion of the American workingmen he saw than of those in England, and he declared that he did not hear of a single complaint of an operative absenting himself because of drink.

At the present time the means of production are being increased in every direction, and before long English traders are likely to experience a competition more severe than anything they are acquainted with; the producing capacity is already exceeding the consumptive demand, and when this has become more marked the American will invade England and other countries in search of an outlet for his surplus goods, and he would make a heavy sacrifice to get it.

In the steel trade Mr. Parkes thinks England far behind America so far as mechanical appliances are concerned. As to trusts, he thinks the weakest point is over capitalization, and the difficulty of finding capable management. He is not prepared to say that English manufacturers will have to follow the example of the Americans in this respect, but he thinks it looks as though they will.

CHOOSING THE BEST.

Every merchant needs an assistant in whatever branch of his business he may be least capable of organizing that feature of his establishment. Sometimes the assistant need only be a trade publication. Sometimes it is of necessity a man at a high salary. It is the wise business man who knows in what way he can get the most value out of an investment for an assistant and who can see wherein he can make a trade publication do for him the work of a high salaried man. The man who thinks, reasons, and plans will have no difficulty in selecting from the volume of material about him that which he needs for the betterment of his own business.

NO ROW AT ALL.

"So you've been in a row?" said the policeman to the man with the pair of black and blue eyes who came stumbling along Smith Street. "No, there wasn't any row," was the reply. "But somebody has blacked your eyes." "Yes, but there was no row about it. I quietly observed to a man that he lied, and he quietly hit me, biff bang! and when I got up I quietly sauntered away and here I am. No, sir, I'm not the man to shout and yell and smash things and bring out the ambulance."

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JAN. 5.

Text of the Lesson, Acts i., 1-14. Golden Text, Acts i., 8.

1, 2. "All that Jesus began both to do and teach." Thus Luke speaks of the things which he, by the Spirit, had written in his gospel. This book gives an account of the things which Jesus continued to do and teach by His Spirit through His disciples, and He is still doing and teaching by the same Spirit through His willing ones. We could scarcely have a more appropriate or helpful lesson with which to begin the lesson for to-day, for in it we have the secret of power in His service, even the same power which wrought in Him in all His words and works and concerning which Paul wrote, "He that wrought effectually in Peter, the same was mighty in me" (Gal. ii, 8).

3. "Being seen of them 40 days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." At least 10 or 12 times between His resurrection from the dead and His visible ascension He appeared to individuals or companies of His disciples, and it would seem that He was always speaking about the things of the kingdom of God. Since this was the great topic of his preaching and conversation, can there be anything more important for us than to be sure of an entrance into the kingdom, to walk worthy of it while here and to live to hasten it? (John iii, 3, 5; I Thess. ii, 12; Math. vi, 33).

4, 5. "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Although they had been with Him almost constantly for two or three years, the greatest and best teacher that ever lived for "who teacheth like Him?" (Job xxxvi, 22) they were not qualified to go forth as His witnesses till specially endued, as it is written in Luke xxiv, 49, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Since our Lord Jesus Himself did not begin His public ministry till the Holy Spirit came specially upon Him (Math. iii, 16, 17; Acts x, 38) and these privileged men could not go forth without a special endowment, are we not wrong if we think we can serve Him without being filled with the Spirit? (Eph. v, 18.)

6-8. "Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" The kingdom which the God of heaven will set up (Dan. ii, 44), God being the author of all that heaven the character of it and therefore called in the gospels both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven, will be a kingdom under the whole earth (Dan. vii, 27), with Israel as a righteous nation in their own land as the center and the whole earth filled with the glory of the Lord (Isa. ix, 2; xi, 9; xxvii, 6; Rom. xi, 15). The Saviour did not call their expectation carnal or earthly, as many do to-day, and tell them that their thoughts of the kingdom were all wrong and that it was to be a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men, but He simply told them that it was not for them to know the time and their present business was with the power of the Spirit and in His power to be His witnesses unto the ends of the earth. His message to us is in this report, for I have redeemed thee. I not, for I have redeemed thee. I have called thee by thy name. Thou art Mine. Therefore ye are My witnesses saith the Lord, that I am God. This people have I formed for Myself. They shall show forth My praise" (Isa. xliii, 1, 10, 12, 21).

9. "And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Luke xxiv, 50, 51, it is written, "And He led them out as far as to Bethany and He lifted up His hands and blessed them, and it came to pass while He blessed them He was parted from them and carried up into Heaven." Among His parting words were the assurance that all power was given unto Him in heaven and in earth, that He would be with them all the days until the end of the age that they were to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, proclaiming repentance and remission of sins in His name (Math. xxviii, 18-20; Mark xvi, 15; Luke xxiv, 47). He was the first risen from the dead to be received up into heaven, and by virtue of His resurrection all His redeemed shall take part in the first resurrection (Rev. xx. 6). It is probable that those who rose from the dead after His resurrection (Math. xxvii, 52, 53), are with Him in glory, a first fruits of the first resurrection.

10, 11. "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner." It is just possible that the two men in white apparel were the same two who appeared with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration and spake of His decease which He was about to accomplish. The earnest, heavenward look of the disciples makes us think of Stephen and to declare that like him, we might be able to "look up steadfastly into heaven and see the glory of God and Jesus" (Acts vii, 55). The great truth in this passage is the one we have quoted, and we must not for a moment consider the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost nor the destruction of Jerusalem, nor any other event, nor death as the coming of Christ. When He comes, He will be "the same Jesus" and He will come "in like manner," and Zech. xiv, 4, says He will come to the same Mount of Olives on the east of Jerusalem. On His way His saints will meet Him in the air in glorified bodies (I. Cor. xv 51, 52; I. Thess. iv, 16-18) and then in due time return with Him in glory (I. Thess. iii, 13; Col. iii, 4; Rev. 11-14).

12-14. They returned to Jerusalem from Olivet with great joy and were continually praising and blessing God (Luke xxiv, 52, 53). They also continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. What a contrast to their feelings after His death when they, not looking for His resurrection, were filled with sorrow, and He had to rebuke them for their unbelief. It is His resurrection and His coming again that gives joy and peace. This is the last mention, I think, of His mother, Mary, and we find her with those who are engaged in prayer. How good to find His brethren also at this gathering for prayer, for there was a time when they did not believe in Him! (John vii, 5.) May we go on into this year if He still tarry, and continue us in these mortal bodies, filled with His Spirit, His faithful witnesses, ready for any manner of service and waiting for His return, praying without ceasing.

PORK LORE.

Scientific Observations of Experts on the Feeding of Pigs.

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has just concluded an extensive scientific inquiry into the feeding and raising of pigs with a view to discovering why much of the pork exported by the Dominion is rated as inferior on account of its lack of firmness.

The trade in pork has become an important branch of Canadian commerce, the business with England alone amounting to more than $12,000,000 in the last year; so the Agricultural Department has conducted the inquiry into the soft pork matter regardless of expense and labor. It results are summarized in a long pamphlet issued for the enlightenment of pig breeders.

They are, briefly: First, that the great controlling factor in securing pork of good quality is in the feeding of the pigs; second, that of all pig foods rations consisting of equal parts of oats, pease and barley gave the best and firmest pork, and if cooked, it matter whether the rations are served wet or dry; third, that of all pig foods beans and cornmeal give the softest and most inferior pork.

There are many tables and figures in decimals to point these conclusions. The scientific men of the Agricultural Department have also discovered that to feed young pigs up to the killing stage of fattening before they reach maturity does not conduce to providing firm and healthy pork, as many unscientific pig breeders and packers discovered for themselves long ago.

It is also laid down that skim mill fed to the pigs with grain produces a firmer and better fat than the same grain without skim milk; that a clover diet, save in conjunction with grain, isn't a first-rate pork producer; that "it is quite evident that the root crops—turnips, mangels and sugar beets—can be used with benefit and impunity, that the scientists "do not notice any softening effect due to the results of feeding rape, artichokes or pumpkins, cooked or raw."

Bean pork is the worst pork of all the foods, and the investigators cannot advise that beans be used as diet in any degree whatever. There is no hope for good pork from bean food.

But corn is rated higher. Cornmeal in moderation is recommended, especially when helped down by skim milk and varied with other rations. Shorts and middlings are more firm when increased the softer the pork. And particularly is it set forth that overfeeding is bad, even for pigs.

THE PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.

He had his little speech all written out for several days beforehand, and it ran like this:

"I have called, Mr. Wealthyman to tell you frankly that I love your daughter, and that I have her assurance that my affection is returned, and I hope you will give your consent for her to become my wife. I am not a rich man, but we are young and strong and are willing to fight the battle of life together, and —."

There was a great deal more of it, and he could say it all off pat before he left home. But when he stood in the presence of papa Wealthyman, he said:

"I—I—that I—I—Mr. Wealthyman—I tell you frankly that—that—I—your daughter loves me, and—and—I have called to—to—to—frankly ask you to—to be my wife—that is—I—we—she —no—we are willing to fight—that is —we—we are young and can fight—er —no—I hope you understand me."

AFTER THE HOLIDAY RUSH.

After the holidays there is sure to come a short period of depression in trade. Business almost stops—and does stop completely in some lines especially in smaller places. A coffee house people have spent all the money they had, but they'll soon have more, and they'll feel all the more like spending it because he have become used to spending money on the slightest provocation.

THE MARKETS

Prices of Grain, Cattle, etc in Trade Centres.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Wheat—The demand for wheat was limited to-day, and prices unchanged. White and red winter quoted at 76½c middle freights and No. 2 goose at 68c middle freight. Manitoba wheat firm; No. 1 hard sold at 89c all rail, via Sarnia; No. 1 Northern at 85c, and No. 2 Northern at 81c, all rail, via Sarnia. Prices are 1c lower via North Bay.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. There were sales locally at 43½c, but for export No. 2 are quoted at 43c low freight.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 85c middle freights, and at 84c west.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices easier. Canadian yellow sold at 62c west.

Barley—Market is steady. No. 1 quoted at 57c, and No. 2 53 to 54c; No. 3 extra at 52c, and No. 3 at 51c middle freight.

Rye—The market is steady at 56 to 56½c middle freights.

Buckwheat—Market quiet, with prices steady at 53½c middle freight.

Flour—The market is steady. Ninety per cents., in buyers' bags, quoted at $2.90 middle freights. Locally and for Lower Province trade choice straight rollers in wood, are $3.30 to $3.40. Manitoba flours steady, with Hungarians $4.10 to $4.30, and strong bakers', at $3.80, Toronto freight.

Oatmeal—Market unchanged. Car lots on track, $5.35 in bags, and $5.50 in wood. Broken lots, 25c per bbl extra.

Millfeed—Bran very scarce, and prices firm at $19 to $19.50. Shorts, $21 to $22 outside. Manitoba bran, $20, and shorts, $22, Toronto freights, including sacks.

PRODUCE.

Potatoes—The market is steady. Cars are quoted at 70c per bag, on track here, and the jobbing price, 85c.

Dried Apples—Market is steady, with demand slow. Prices are 4½ to 5c per lb. Evaporated sell at 9 to 10c.

Hops—Business quiet, with prices steady at 13c; yearlings, 8c.

Honey—The market is unchanged at 10 to 10½c for strained. Combs, $1.50 to $2.50 per doz.

Beans—The market is steady; unpicked are jobbing at $1.40 to $1.45, and handpicked at $1.55 to $1.60.

Cranberries—Market unchanged, with Cape Cod at $8 to $9 per bbl. Canadian, $6.50 to $7.

Hay, baled—The market is firm, with good demand. Timothy sold at $9.50 to $10 on track for No. 1, and at $8.50 to $9 for No. 2.

Straw—The market is quiet and firm. Car lots on track sold at $6.

Poultry—The market is firm, with good demand. Turkeys, 9 to 10c per lb; frozen, scalded and half-fatted stock sold from 7 to 8c. Geese—Dry picked, 6 to 7c. Ducks—50 to 75c. Chickens, spring, 50 to 65c; old, 35 to 40c. Rabbits, 25c per pair.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. The supply of poor stuff is too liberal, and sales are difficult to make. We quote:—Selected dairy tubs, 18 to 17c; choice dairy rolls, 16½ to 17c; finest 1-lb rolls, 18 to 19c; packages showing feed, 1 to 2c less than above quotations; creamery prints, 21 to 22c; solids, 19½ to 21c.

Eggs—The market is firmer, with receipts light. Strictly fresh gearce, selling at 25 to 26c; cold storage, 19 to 20c, as to quality; limed, 17 to 18c.

Cheese—Market firm. We quote:—Finest Septembers, 10½ to 10¾c; seconds, 9½ to 9¾c.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs unchanged at $8 in car lots, with offerings fair. Hog products steady. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, sells at 10½c in ton and case lots; mess pork, $20 to $20.50; do, short cut, $21.50 to $22.

Smoked meats—Hams, 13c; breakfast bacon, 14c; rolls, 11c; backs, 14c, and shoulders, 10½c.

Lard—Market is unchanged, with fair demand. We quote:—Tierces, 11c; tubs, 11¼c; pails, 11¼c to 11¾c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 31. — Grain—New crop No. 2 oats, locally at 48c; No. 2 barley, 50½ to 57c; No. 3 extra barley, 53½c; buckwheat, 53c east freight; peas, 82c, high freight. Flour—Manitoba patents, $4.10 to $4.20; strong bakers', $5; straight rollers, $3.45 to $3.60; in bags, $1.70 to $1.80; Ontario patents, $3.70 to $4. Feed—Manitoba bran, $20 to $21; shorts, $22 to $23, bags included; Ontario bran in bulk, $20.50 to $21.50; shorts, in bulk, $22.50 to $25.50. Rolled oats—Millers' prices to jobbers, $2.75 in bags, and $5.50 to $5.65 per bbl. Cheese—Ontario Septembers and Octobers, 10 to 10½c; Eastern counties, 9¾ to 10c; Quebec, 9¾c. Butter—Choice creamery, current receipts 20½c; seconds, 19 to 19½c; Western dairy, 16 to 16½c; rolls, 16c. Eggs—Selected cold storage, 17c; Montreal limed, 17 to 18c; best selected candled, 22 to 24c. Provisions—Heavy Canada short cut pork, $21.50; selected, $22.50; compound refined lard, 8¾ to 9c; pure Canadian lard, 11½ to 12¼c; finest lard, 12½ to 13¼c; hams, 13 to 14c; bacon, 12½ to 15c. Poultry—Turkeys, fresh killed, 10c; frozen, 7c to 8c; ducks, 8c to 9c; geese, 5 to 6½c; chickens, 6 to 7c; old fowls, 4 to 5c per lb for dry-picked birds, and scalded stock from 1 to 2c less.

BUFFALO GRAIN MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 31. — Flour firm. Wheat, spring easier; No. 1 Northern, 85½c; winter, No. 2 red, 90½ to 91c. Corn easier; No. 2 yellow, 71½c to 71¾c; No. 3 do., 71c; No. 2 corn, 70½c; No. 3 do, 69¾c. Oats, fairly firm; No. 2 white, 51½c; No. 3 do, 51 to 51½c; No. 2 mixed, 49½c; No. 3 do, 48½c. Barley, 67 to 70c. Rye, No. 2, 70½c.

ONLY FOUR WERE LEFT.

Boers Gained Kopje First, But Were Driven Off.

A despatch from London says:—Lord Kitchener, in a despatch from Johannesburg, sends reports of sharp fighting in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal Colony. The engagements occurred at points widely apart. The casualties, so far as known, aggregate about 150, equally divided; but, heavy British losses, the totals of which have not yet been reported, have occurred in the Transvaal. In this last-mentioned fighting, two hundred mounted infantry, in the neighborhood of Begnaderyn, were divided into parties, and were searching farms when they were attacked by three hundred Boers and forty armed natives, under Commandant Britz. The Boers charged determinedly in overwhelming numbers. The British casualties were severe, but no details have been received.

Lord Kitchener also reports that during General De Wet's attack on the British force commanded by Generals Dartnell and Campbell, at Langberg, the Boers charged bravely and

FOUGHT DESPERATELY

for several hours. De Wet was driven off with a loss of twenty men. There were twelve casualties on the side of the British.

M. Botha, with eight hundred Boers, surprised Colonel Damant's advance guard at Tarfel Kop, Orange River Colony. The Boers rushed a kopje commanding the main body and the guns, but Damant rallied his men and drove the Boers from the kopje. The British casualties were heavy. Damant was dangerously wounded, two officers and twenty men were killed, and three officers and several men were wounded.

The Boers left six dead on the field and dispersed. The British pursued the enemy and captured a number of prisoners, including Commandant Keyter. Later, the Boers, under a flag of truce, asked permission to remove their dead. They admitted having buried twenty-seven men.

FOUGHT TO THE DEATH.

In the fight at Tarfel Kop the Boers, dressed as British Yeomanry, engaged in a splendid race with the British in an attempt to be first in gaining the kopje. The Boers gained the summit first, and opened a heavy fire on the single troop of Damant's Horse which took part in the race for the kopje. These troopers took advantage of all the small amount of cover available immediately below the Boers, and fought until all but four of them were killed or wounded. By that time reinforcements of Damant's Horse came up and charged and captured the kopje.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

Story That it Had Been Abandoned Is Incorrect.

A despatch from Belfast says:—The Lord Mayor has received a letter from Earl Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, saying that he is unable to make a positive statement regarding the precise date of the Royal visit, but that he had been directed to give the fullest publicity to whatever arrangements might ultimately be made.

RELIGIONS IN MANITOBA.

Statement Issued by Census Department.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—A statement of the religions of the people of Manitoba prepared by the Census Department is as follows:—Presbyterians, 65,322; Methodists, 44,874; Roman Catholics, 35,659; Liberals, 16,477; Mennonites, 15,222; Baptists, 9,118. The total population of the Province is placed at 254,945.

TO CHECK THE DISEASE.

Compulsory Vaccination By-law Passed in Montreal.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Compulsory vaccination will soon be vaccinated in Montreal in order to stay the ravages of smallpox. At a meeting of the City Council this afternoon a by-law was introduced providing for the compulsory vaccination of all employes of shops and factories, under the penalty of a fine and imprisonment.

DE WET'S SWOOP.

Boers Climbed Precipice and Caught British Napping.

A despatch from London says:—At the Battle of Zeefontein, which it now seems, was fought early on Christmas morning, the British suffered a severe defeat. This much is made quite clear by the information contained in Lord Kitchener's long despatch from Johannesburg, published on Sunday. The first official list of casualties shows six officers and fifty men killed, eight officers wounded, four officers missing, and the number of wounded and captive non-commissioned officers and men not yet known, but it is feared that the complete casualty list will be a very long one. Lord Kitchener states that about half the men of Firman's column are prisoners; so it is evident that De Wet scored a bigger success than the officials of the War Department had at first imagined. The Boer victory was due to De Wet's daring plan of attack. The British column occupied an exceptionally strong position on the slope of a solitary kopje. The southern side was almost precipitous, and Major Williams, who was in charge of the column in the absence of Colonel Firman, apparently never dreamed of the possibility of the Boers climbing the kopje from that side. But this is exactly what they succeeded in doing. The picket on outpost duty was taken completely by surprise, and before the men in camp could get clear of their tents the Boers rushed through, shooting them down as they came out. There was no panic and a resolute defence was offered, but the attacking force, which was estimated to number a thousand men, proved too strong, and soon had the column at its mercy.

Lord Kitchener, in his first message mentioned that the column had two guns. In his detailed account he only speaks of a 15-pounder, which fired two rounds and then jammed. It is noteworthy that the British commander-in-chief specially refers to the good behavior of the victorious Boers to the British wounded.

LOSS BY STORMS.

Canneries Damaged and Demolished in British Columbia.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says:—It is estimated that nearly a million dollars' worth of damage has been done by storms along the Fraser River, Sea and Lulu Islands and other farm lands, and are bordered by canneries. The violence of the wind and waves broke the dykes, and the water rushed over the islands, covering them with four feet of water. Houses were swept into the raging flood, and those that remained standing were flooded to the top windows in many cases. Boats have to be used entirely.

The North Arm, Alliance, and Labrador Canneries were demolished, and every cannery on the River Fraser was more or less damaged. Stacked crops were destroyed over a wide area, and the Clove Canning Company's station, a very large concern, with a cold storage plant adjoining, was swept away.

All wires being down the news is coming in meagrely, but the total loss by the storm on the Canadian Pacific coast to shipping, buildings, crops, and dykes is said to be fully a million dollars.

So fierce was the storm that British Columbia was cut off from the United States to the south for two days, and will be cut off from Victoria for one week, as the cable is torn up at both ends.

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—Furious gales swept the coast of Newfoundland Thursday night, and brought much destruction among the shipping and fishing properties at Bay of Islands, Newfoundland, where several American vessels were seeking cargoes of herring.

At Placentia, on the west coast, the fishing boats suffered great damage, and the wharves and waterfront buildings were destroyed. It feared that the sea will inundate the entire hamlet. Both the breakwater and the railroad pier have been partly demolished.

WOMEN FARMERS.

The Russian Government Will Educate Them.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—Long continued agitation has induced the Government to authorize the Moscow Polytechnic Museum to open a course in agriculture for women. This step is regarded as a victory for women in their struggle for higher scientific education. It has been won largely by the capacity women have shown in the medical profession and in certain departments of officialdom, especially as famine inspectors.

The frequent famines of the last fifteen years have impressed the Government with the necessity for raising the national standard of agriculture. The number of Russian men of fairly high education is comparatively small.

Agriculture has no brilliant future in store for such as these, and most of them naturally prefer other occupations, and in consequence the movement started to permit women to engage in agriculture has at length been endorsed by the Government.

Shocking outrages are described in private letters as being perpetrated by the Russian Cossacks on the defenceless citizens of Manchuria.

SULTAN NEARING HIS END

FRANCE AND RUSSIA INTEND TO FORCE REFORMS.

Conditions in Armenia and Macedonia Are Regarded as a Menace to Peace.

There are increasing signs that the great powers of Europe are concentrating definite plans for action towards Turkey.

Early this week the Russian Ambassador in Constantinople informed Said Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, that the condition of Armenia and Macedonia was regarded by Europe as a disgrace to the Ottoman Government and peril to universal peace.

This significant announcement was followed almost immediately by a presentation of notes by all the Ambassadors with reference to the amazing attitude adopted by the Porte in the matter of the mining regulations.

UNDERSTANDING IS SOUGHT.

France and Russia are the leaders in this last attempt to set the European steam roller in motion to make smooth the rough places of Turkey. What they are trying to reach is the basis of "an understanding for making representations to the Porte and for eventually taking action in order to oblige the Sultan not only to carry out the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin relating to both Macedonia and Armenia, but to give guarantees for the execution of these and further reforms and for the settlement of the numerous questions pending." So run the terms of what is undoubtedly a semi-official communication from Paris.

Russia, it is said, is discussing the question with Germany, the co-operation of Austria-Hungary and Italy can be taken for granted, and there is no doubt that Lord Lansdowne, the British Foreign Secretary, will combine in any genuine scheme to effect the objects which Lord Salisbury vainly endeavored to obtain some years ago.

NECESSITY OF UNITY.

There has never been the least question that the powers could speedily solve the problem of the Near East if they would speak with one voice and were animated by one fairly disinterested motive. But right here is the hitch.

France started the world by her independent course at Mitylene. Papers now assert in Paris that French action was not merely dramatic simply because the whole fabric of Ottoman administration is so rotten that a heavy blow might pulverize it. If this be so, all the more reason is due to Mr. Balfour's patience for forbearance. The Turkish flag waves over many millions of human beings, and the horrors that would follow the overthrow of the regime of Abdul Hamid until such time as an efficient substitute was ready can be more easily imagined than described.

What would be the attitude of the Sultan should the powers come to an understanding that would leave him no room to question their earnestness? No one can predict with certainty the course of this most remarkable and miserable of potentates, but the opinion in London is that, so long as the dread word "partition" remained unspoken, Abdul Hamid would offer nothing more than a conventional opposition to the demands of Europe.

He is getting on in years. By degrees he has drawn into his own hands all the threads of administration throughout his vast dominions. The Sultan is one of the hardest workers in the world, but no physique is capable of indefinitely sustaining the strain he imposes on both body and mind.

As a natural result intervals of abject lethargy have overtake him, and the accumulated work, which he will allow no one else to touch, has fallen appallingly into arrears.

ALIENATES HIS SUBJECTS.

Moreover, Abdul Hamid trusts no one. He has alienated the whole Mussulman population of the capital. Individual freedom no longer exists in the capital, even for the faithful. Secret arrests and sudden disappearances increase. Within a fortnight seventy Turks, including several prominent men, have been denounced by spies and banished to Arabia. The troops are unpaid. If an Arabi appeared to-morrow the Yildiz would be sacrificed.

All this is known and fully appreciated by the Sultan. It all predisposes him to yield to the powers. The question resolves itself into one of method, and the plan which finds most favor among the advocates of Turkish reforms is the opening of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to all the fleets of the world. Truly a simple remedy, but its very simplicity is the most formidable obstacle to its adoption.

SMALLPOX IN LONDON.

Spread of the Disease Raises Apprehension.

A despatch from London says:—The epidemic of smallpox in London is increasing steadily, and there are now 637 cases under treatment. The latest cases reported include two in the Probate Department in Somerset House. These are attracting considerable attention, owing to the danger involved to officers who handle wills and others who examine them, as these documents are often signed in sick-rooms.

NEWS ITEMS.

Telegraphic Briefs From All Over the Globe.

CANADA.

Winnipeg has eight cases of small pox.

The new directory in London Ontario, makes the population 45,937.

Oscar Taylor of East Hamilton was fined $25 and costs for running a turkey raffle.

The McClarey Mfg. Co., of London, have secured control of the Copp Co's Stove Works at Hamilton.

Montreal Harbor Commissioners are laying plans for the erection of a million-bushel fire-proof elevator.

The new contrivance for preventing the canal locks being carried away by the boats was tested with great satisfaction on Tuesday, at Port Dalhousie, on the Welland Canal.

Recorder Weir of Montreal was on Tuesday presented with a pair of white gloves in memory of the first day in eighteen years in which there were no prisoners for him to try.

Mr. George Dawson, Inspector of Penitentiaries, reports that the number of prisoners confined in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary has dropped from 446 to 393; and the skilled mechanic is so rare that there is a difficulty in carrying on certain departments of the work.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A great newspaper trust may be formed in England.

The English Government is preparing a new Irish land bill.

Lady Lyndhurst, wife of a former Lord Chancellor of England, is dead.

Electric signalling is to be used along the North-western Railway, England.

Wm. Waldorf Astor has given £10,000 for the National Rifle Association, England.

The coronation festivities will include a magnificent naval review at Spithead.

Cecil Rhodes has just bought the Dalham Hall estate, near Newmarket, for $500,000.

The law hitherto in England, prohibiting men with false teeth from joining the regular army, has been repealed.

The North-Eastern Railway Company of Great Britain is about to establish automatic block signaling on its line.

The levees at St. James' Palace and the dressing-rooms at Buckingham Palace will in future be held in the evenings, instead of in the afternoon, as in the Victorian regime.

UNITED STATES.

Gas in San Francisco is to be furnished at 38½c.

The Government has decided to use wireless telegraphy in the navy.

The Wabash railway is building a $1,000,000 bridge over the Ohio at Mingo.

James Potter, 12 years old, was dragged to death by a cow at Englishtown, N. J.

Wire-rope rigging for Emperor William's yacht is being made at Wilkesbarre, Pa.

Leslie M. Shaw, Governor of Iowa, will succeed Lyman Gage as Secretary of the Treasury.

In Chicago Alex. Sullivan was fined $2,000 for trying to keep an indicted jury-briber away from the city.

The rural free delivery service is the most popular feature of the postal service.

Mrs. Clara Boss of Bernardsville, N. J., is dead from hydrophobia, the result of a bite from a strange dog she sheltered.

W. S. Carter, a Broo