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These pills are a specific for all diseases arising from disordered nerves, weak heart or watery blood. They cure palpitation, dizziness, swooning, faint and weak spells, shortness of breath, swelling of feet and ankles, nervousness, sleeplessness, anemia, hysteria, St. Vitus' dance, partial paralysis, brain fag, female complaints, general debility, and lack of vitality.

COLORS ARE GATHERING

The Rev. Dr. Talmage Speaks of the Christian Character.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text: "There was a rainbow round about the throne."

During the last snow-storm I preached to you from the text in Job, "Consider the treasures of the snow." This morning when I looked out of the window and saw the storm—the rain and the snow commingling—a light thread and a dark thread in the robe of the storm—I thought I would preach to you from the passage, "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth."

I notice that none but the people who were in the ark saw the rainbow. It cast its shadow clear down into the water where the dead faces were buried, and lighted up the dead faces with a strange radiance, but they could not see it. So only those who are at last found in Christ, the Ark, will see the over-arching glories of the throne.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT. I notice also that the chief glory of God comes after the rain. No shower, no rainbow; no trouble, no brightness of Christian consolation.

Your child asks you, "Father, what makes the rainbow?" "That is the sunlight through the raindrops." Therefore I wondered how there could be a rainbow in heaven, since there are no storms there; but then I concluded that that rainbow must be formed by the striking of heaven's sunlight through the falling tears of earthly sorrow.

I notice that the most beautiful things of this world are to be preserved in heaven. When you see the last colour fade out from the rainbow of earth, you need not feel sad, for you will see the rainbow round about the throne. That story about the world burning up has given me many a pang. But is it not a more melancholy thought that ruin is to come upon this great glory of the earth, in which the mountains are the chiselled sculptures, and upon the sky, in which the transfiguration of sunrise and sunset is hung with loops and tassels of fire.

THE WALL OF HEAVEN.

St. John announces the twelve foundations of this wall to be, the first, of jasper—yellow and red; the second, of sapphire—a deep blue; the third, a chalcodony—of varied beauty; the fourth, emerald—a bright green colour; the fifth, sardonyx—a bluish white; the sixth, chrysolite—a golden bluish tint; the twelfth, jacinth—fiery as the sunset; the thirteenth, amethyst. But these precious stones are only the foundation of the wall of heaven—the most inferior part of it.

lialt yellow and gorgeous crimson. Stupendous contrast of colour! Throne of splendour and sublimity! You see that the beautiful colours which are the robes of glory to earth are to be for ever preserved in this wall of heaven. Our skies of blue, which sometimes seem almost to drop with richness of colour, shall be glorified and eternalized in the deep everlasting blue of that fiery stone which forms the second foundation of the heavenly wall. The green that sleeps on the brook's bank, and rides on the sea-wave, and spreads its banners on the mountain top, shall be eternalized in the emerald that forms the fourth foundation of the heavenly wall. The fiery gush of the morning, the conflagration of the autumnal sunset, the electricity that shoots its forked tongue out of the thunder-cloud, the flame at whose breath Moscow fell and Aetna burn, shall be eternalized in the fiery jasper. It seems as if all earthly beauty were in one billow to be dashed up against that wall of heaven; so that the most beautiful things of earth will be kept either in the wall, on the foundation, or in the rainbow round about the throne.

I notice what must be the feeling of safety among the people of heaven. Have you ever seen a cloud burst? There have been days when it rained as if it would never stop. You knew, if it kept on in that way long, all the nations would be drowned; yet you had no apprehension, for you remembered

THE BOW OF PROMISE

painted on the cloud in Noah's time. So the glorified have but to look to the arch around the throne of the King to be reassured that the deluge of trial is for ever past.

On earth, the deluge of sin covers the tops of the highest mountains. I heard an Alpine guide, amid the most stupendous evidences of God's power, swear at his mule as he stumbled in the pass. Yes, the deluge of sin dashes over the top of the highest mountain ranges. Revenge, drunkenness, impiety falsehood, blasphemy, are but different waves of a flood that has whelmed nations. New York is drowned in it, London is drowned in it, St. Petersburg is drowned in it—two great hemispheres are drowned in it. But the redeemed, looking unto the "rainbow round about the throne," see the pledge that all this is ended for them for ever. They have committed their last sin, and combated their last temptation. No suicide leaps into those bright waters; no profanity befools that pure air; no villain's torch shall fire those temples; no murderer's hand shall strike down those sons of God. They know that for them the deluge of sin is assuaged, for "there is a rainbow round about the throne."

Now the world is covered with a deluge of blood. The nations are all the time either using, the sword or sharpening it. Now the earth is covered with the deluge of sorrow. Trouble! trouble! The very first utterance when we come into the world is a cry. Without any teaching we learn to weep. What has so wrinkled that man's face? What has so prematurely whitened his hair? What calls out that sigh? What starts that tear? Trouble! trouble! I find it in the cellar of poverty, and far up among the heights on the top of the crags; for this also hath gone over the tops of the highest mountains.

NO ESCAPE FROM IT.

You go into the store, and it meets you at your counting-desk; you go into the street, and it meets you at the corner; you go into the house, and it meets you at the door. Tears of poverty! tears of persecution! tears of bereavement!—a deluge of tears! Gathered together from all the earth, they could float an ark larger than Noah's. But the glorified, looking up to the bow that spans the throne, shall see that the deluge is over. No shivering wretch on the palace-step; no blind man at the gate of the heavenly temple, asking for alms; no grinding of the screw-driver on coffin-lid. They look up at the rainbow, and read, in lines of yellow and red, and green, and blue, and orange and indigo, and violet, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Thank God for the glory spanning the throne!

Oh that our eyes may all look upon this bow of promise, lifted by Christ's own hand! We shall trace the separate lines of beauty across the firmament. In the line of red I shall see the blood of my Lord; in the blue, the bruises that coloured his cheek; in the green, the freshness of his grace; in the violet, his humility; in all that colour

of beauty, the bend of his right arm of love swung over all the redeemed. But mind what I told you at the beginning, and what I tell you at the close—that none but Noah's family in the ark, saw the rainbow, and that only those who are at last in Christ shall discover it amid the glories of heaven. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

THE DATE OF THE FLOOD.

Bible Facts on Which the Southern Bishop Based His Question.

Some people have had fun lately over the reported rejection of eight candidates for the African Methodist ministry in the South by the examining Bishop because they could not tell the date of the flood. Nevertheless, the Bishop who asked the question knew what he was doing. It may not have been a fair question, but there is a concise answer to it in the Bible, and he no doubt thought that the eight candidates, if they were well versed in the Old Testament, would answer it at once.

The date of the flood was 1,656 years after the birth of Adam, in the second month and the seventeenth day. It began then and continued for forty days and nights. This is how it is figured; The third verse of the fifth chapter of Genesis reads thus; "And Adam lived 130 years and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image, and called his name Seth." Then, in the sixth verse, it is told that Seth lived 105 years and begat Enos. Adam, says the fourth verse, lived 800 years, after the birth of Seth, and the latter after the birth of Enos lived 807 years. So it goes on, Enos begat Cainan when he was 90; Cainan begat Mahalaleel when he was 75; Mahalaleel begat Jared when he was 65; Jared begat Enoch when he was 182, Methuselah was born to Enoch when the latter was 65, and when Methuselah was 187 he begat Lamech, and Lamech's son, Noah, came into the world when the father was 182. This brings us down to the birth of Noah, which, according to the added ages of the several patriarchs at the time their sons were born, occurred 1,656 years after the birth of Adam.

In the seventh chapter of Genesis the eleventh verse reads as follows; "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up and all the windows of heaven were opened." This was the flood, and it came to pass in the year 1656 after the birth of Adam.

RUSSIA AFTER THE POLE.

A Ship That Will Cut Her Way Through the Frozen Fields.

An entirely new departure in Arctic exploration will be made next summer, says a London letter. Russia will send north her wonderful ice ship, the Yermak, with instructions to try to cut her way through to the pole. The performance of this vessel in cutting and tearing her way at three or four miles an hour through the immense ice fields of the Baltic Sea and other Russian waters has excited amazement among all who have witnessed it. She is now being equipped and improved for the greatest of all tasks.

The Armstrongs at Elswick have just completed a new bow which is especially designed to encounter the field of ice in the Arctic Sea, which is heavier and thicker than any which the Yermak has yet attacked. The original bow was easily capable of dealing with any of the enormous ice fields which Russia produces. She went to a high latitude on an experimental trip last summer and accomplished all that could be expected of her in her assault, upon the external ice which she then encountered. The alterations now being made were suggested by this experience. Admiral Makaroff, who is superintending the changes, has the greatest confidence that the ship will cut her way without delay straight to the pole and will return safely in the same season. Every precaution has been taken to fit her out for a long stay in case of accident or blockade.

Admiral Makaroff was refused to give out details of the plans or even to admit that the expedition will be undertaken, but there is no doubt on this point. No information is yet available as to the route to be taken or how the coal problem will be solved. There will be supplies at one or two points in Arctic Russia and probably a collier will carry an additional supply as far as the ice will permit.

SWEET POTATO CROQUETTES.

Bake sweet potatoes until they are tender; then scoop out the centres and put them through a vegetable press. To each two cups of mashed potatoes allow a tablespoonful of butter, a level teaspoonful of salt, a tablespoonful of sugar and a half salt-spoonful of white pepper; mix thoroughly. Form into cylinders, dip in egg, then in bread-crumbs and fry in smoking-hot fat.

How to Give the Presents

THE WIFE'S CHRISTMAS.

Ah, how can you speak so cross, Charlie? It isn't kind or right; You wouldn't have talked a year ago, As you have done to-night, When you didn't know I wanted a gift. Nor think about the day But I'm not like a baby, Charlie, Crying for something fine, Only a loving woman pained, Could shed such tears as mine.

For every Christmas time till now— And that is why I grieve— It was you that wanted to give, Charlie, More than I to receive. And I would not have cared to-night, Charlie, How poor the gift, or small, Had you only brought me something, To show that you thought of me at all.

The merest tinkle of any kind, That I could keep or wear, A flimsy bit of lace for my neck, Or a ribbon for my hair.

A pretty story of lovers true, Or a book of pleasant rhyme; A flower or a holly-branch to mark The blessed Christmas-time.

But to be forgotten, Charlie! 'Tis that that brings the tear, And just to think that I have been Your wife but a single year.

A CARD OF ST. NICHOLAS.

Say, Santa Claus, you dear, old boy, I've passed the stocking stage, I feel no more that childish joy Since I have come of age; And yet I hold your memory dear, As witness what I write— I ask a precious gift this year From you on Christmas night.

Through you—that is to say, you know, Of course, 'twill come from Kate, I'll catch her 'neath the mistletoe, And bid her tell my fate; And do exercise your art To move the maiden sweet and fair To give to me her heart.

CHRISTMAS SNOWBALLS.

This is a pretty way to bring gifts. The snowball can be made any size by putting hoops together, strengthened by a few straight pieces of wood in the proper places. This is covered with stout muslin drawn over the frame, and cotton is sewed on it to give it the proper snowy look. The gifts are put inside, wrapped and labelled, and the opening closed and concealed. Finally it is sprinkled with frosting powder, and rolled into the room, makes a novel and charming entertainment.

CHRISTMAS TREE FAIRIES.

Dancing Christmas fairies always enhance the children's delight in the Christmas tree, and once made can be used year after year. Buy up a dozen or more of five and ten-cent dolls, and to add to the variety have among the number some Japanese and colored dolls. Dress these to represent fairies in bright hues of spangled gauze tarlatan or tissue paper, and liberally sprinkle their hair and garments with diamond-dust powder. Each doll should be provided with a dainty pair of fairy wings made from spangled tissue paper and fastened to the body by means of concealed wires. These wires should be coiled to obtain motion in the wings, and nothing better can be used than the fine spiral coil that comes out of worn-out brooms. The least motion will set this spiral to quivering, causing the wings to move as if in flight. In like manner use the spiral wire to attach the dolls in hovering positions over and around the tree. The effect is magical; every footstep causes jar enough to start the dolls dancing and circling above and around the tree, as if the invisible fairies of the air had come down to join the Christmas glee.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

What delightful times we have had planning for Christmas day, in preparing gifts suitable for our friends and loved ones. Little tokens of our regard and kindly feelings toward them, for it is not the money value of the gift that makes it appreciated so much as the loving thoughts that have prompted the giving. Try to remember this if there be one among your friends who may perhaps give you some valuable present and for whom you may have only some little trifle in return. Your circumstances may be different from those of your friend, but the remembrance will be none the less prized if the true friend-ship is there. God pity the poor lonely mother on Christmas eve who has no precious little ones to awaken in the morning; who, perhaps, has known the clinging touch of baby fingers but who is now alone in her sorrow. How this night brings back to her memory Christmas eves that have passed when she, too, had tiny stockings hanging near the chimney corner. Thus it ever is, what brings pleasure and happiness to some brings sorrow and pain to others. Let us keep this thought in mind, and out of the fullness and gladness of our own joyous Christmas, let us try to help those around us who are not so blessed.

OUR SHIP IS IN.

Here is a suggestion for those who are looking for a change in the plan of giving out the presents: A large packing box, somewhat oblong in shape was secured and was set upon end. The top part was cut out so as to form a sort of puppet stage such as is used in a Punch and Judy show. The front and sides were covered with curtains of Turkey red calico and were prettily draped with holly. On the stage was a gallant ship made out of pasteboard, only one side, that next to the audience, being necessary. Only a little ingenuity will be required to arrange the masts, spars and riggings. A captain and cabin boy are placed upon the deck. These are also cut from pasteboard and are made to move by some person standing behind. The captain is supposed to call his boy and tell him to go below and bring up the treasures with which Santa Claus has laden the boat and with much merriment these are then distributed to the ones for whom they are intended.

THE CHRISTMAS FISHERMAN.

The Christmas tree, perhaps, comes first in the minds of children, but for the tired mother, looking forward to Christmas with both dread and pleasure the following account is given of a very successful plan of distributing presents: Some of the simpler ones were placed in their stockings, for they could not quite relinquish that dear old-fashioned way of searching for Christmas treasures, but most were kept for the "fishing game," which comes later on. After the dinner was over, the family was invited to the sitting room, and a certain was hung across the open doorway, at a sufficient height to prevent a sight of what was taking place on the other side. 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