

Mr. Spurgeon.

Thirty minutes in a hansom took us to the "Surrey side," to Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle.

We found the great body of the audience admitted by ticket before the opening of the doors to the crowd, which was not very large.

A few hundred waited, and all went in with a rush when the time came. By dint of good engineering we got an excellent seat in the body of the house.

The interior of the building is of an oval form; and two galleries, one above the other, run entirely around the curve. The preacher stands on an open platform, surrounded by a railing on a level with the first gallery. The choir occupies a circular gallery directly at the foot of the preacher's stand and a prodigious vocal leader therein leads off in the music. There is no organ or any instrumental music of any kind only the voices of the congregation, who all stand and unite in the singing as the verses are given out by the preacher, one at a time. It was a heavy, dose of Methodism, 5,000 strong, and in such a crowd it was not difficult to raise a glow which all good Methodists deeply enjoyed. I enjoyed it myself.

This church of Mr. Spurgeon holds six or seven thousand people and it was so full that some were standing in the aisles.

Spurgeon is a burly, animal looking man, with a large, gross face, biggest at the jaws and gradually tapering to the top of his head. Looked at from the front his head and face from a truncated cone. He looks scarcely over 30 and has a full shock of black hair. His body is large and he bids fair to be a very great man in circumference at least.

He looks like anything but an intellectual person, and no one would think of classing him under this head.

He impresses one as possessing even a more felicitous fluency than either Mr. Beecher or Mr. Chapin, and he has trained himself to very clear biblical expositions, or else he gives them without training.

He abounds in pictorial language which is his natural utterance. This exuberance of talk runs into excesses of expression and gesticulation which have made him famous.

The present sermon was quite free from them, though there was enough to mark the character of the man. Thus he spoke of "the depths of sin into which man falls but never so deep but that the long arm of God can reach down and draw him out." He referred to the Apostle's powerful language, and said: "See how he drives this nail, see how he rings this bell, till he tolls the knell of every doubt."

He called on his hearers to plunge into the ocean of the God-head," though they could never rejoice in sinless perfection till they got to heaven. He prayed for the Queen and court, and asked that "God would reform its members and given them grace, but at any rate take care of the poor."

He conducted the service in a colloquial manner giving copious commentaries upon the Scriptures which he read, and asking the audience to sing some verses to "the good old Scotch tune of Dundee."

He prayed that each individual might be delivered of his besetting sin and spoke particularly against sloth and indolence, in which I could fancy he might be thinking of himself. His growing obesity is likely some day to make him an inactive man, and be a clog on his fancy.

Speaking of the difference between a sinner and a saint he observed: "The sinner cared nothing about his sinning; but when a good man sinned he went about with sore bones for many a day."

"The good man never chewed the cud of his sin." Of Truth he remarked that "her best armor was her naked breasts," which observance had a strong Milesian flavor.

Spurgeon has a pleasant voice and that flexible and sonorous speaking tube that never requires lubricating. He talked the greater part of an hour and a half in full round tones without effort.

He flings out tropes and figures as a conjurer throws up balls, apparently trying to see how many he can keep in the air at one time.

He speaks like one who is on familiar terms with the Almighty, and has the entire to kingdom come. He is not cut off the same hardwinded Scotch web as Carlyle and Lord Brougham, but is excellent shoddy.

Do not wear impermeable and tight-fitting hats that constrict the blood-vessels of the scalp. Use Hall's Hair Renewer occasionally, and you will not be bald.

Pea Culture.

Cotton Plant.

I write you to let you know that I am done planting cotton, but I never get done planting corn and peas. When my land gets too wet to plant corn I pitch in to planting peas. Our trade agent came by the other day and said: "Brother, your land is too wet." "Yes," says I, "but I am going to plant peas here and dry the ground with manure." The land was a little too wet, but you know that oats and peas never get a fair showing and that is why they don't make any more than they do. Now, brethren, I want you all to plant one acre of peas just the way I planted mine and give the report of the profit to The Cotton Plant next fall. Break up your land twice with grabs. Lay off the same, only run two furrows in one, 3 1-2 feet apart, then put down 100 pounds of good guano and bed on it, then open your beds like for cotton, only you run twice, opening a good furrow, then drop your peas every 2 feet in the drill, dropping from 12 to 15 peas in the hill. Then take a good fertilizer and put 100 pounds in your pea drill, then cover with harrow, walking your horse in the middle of row. I cover two rows at the same time. Then cultivate same as cotton, only let all of your peas stand.

Now brethren, you can do this as late as the middle of June and they will do well. I have my patch planted and expect to gather more dollars off my pea acre than my cotton acre. Now, just think for one moment what 1,000 acres thoroughly prepared would make and I know that there are more of you than that. I expect to make 15 bushels of shelled peas, and be like the Indian, have my vines to boot. These vines will be good boot, either for your land or stock. Now I hope you will try the experiment this season, then you will not have to be told into it next season.

May God bless us with good and rich blessings.

W. R. HAYES.
Harmony, S. C.

A Geneva watchmaker has invented a talking clock that can be so adjusted that it will invite the courting young man to stay to breakfast.

The Augusta Evening Herald says: "Should Carolina run out of rope for damnable scoundrels who assault little school girls, our friends over the river can call on us for a supply."

"Don't be afraid of the bacon, Mr. Jenkins," said a boarding-house mistress to a boarder. "Not at all, madam. I've seen a piece twice as large, and it did not scare me a bit."

The two largest apple trees in the State of New York are both near the town of Wilson. The largest was planted in 1815, and 33 full barrels of apples were once picked from its branches in a single season. The other is on the farm of J. G. O. Brown, and yield 20 barrels of "choice" fruit and 5 barrels of "culls" in the season of 1891.

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The Press Claims Company devotes much attention to patents. It has handled thousands of applications for inventions, but it would like to handle thousands more. There is plenty of inventive talent at large in this country, needing nothing but encouragement to produce practical results. That encouragement the Press Claims Company proposes to give.

NOT SO HARD AS IT SEEMS.

A patent strikes most people as an appealingly formidable thing. The idea is that an inventor must be a natural genius, like Edison or Bell; that he must devote years to delving in complicated mechanical problems and that he must spend a fortune on delicate experiments before he can get a new device to a patentable degree of perfection. This delusion the company desires to dispel. It desires to get into the head of the public a clear comprehension of the fact that it is not the great, complex, and expensive inventions that bring the best returns to their authors, but the little, simple, and cheap ones—the things that seem so absurdly trivial that the average citizen would feel somewhat ashamed of bringing them to the attention of the Patent Office.

Edison says that the profits he has received from the patents on all his marvelous inventions have not been sufficient to pay the cost of his experiments. But the man who conceived the idea of fastening a bit of rubber cord to a child's ball, so that it would come back to the hand when thrown made a fortune out of his scheme. The modern sewing machine is a miracle of ingenuity—the product of the toil of hundreds of busy brains through a hundred and fifty years, but the whole brilliant result rests upon the simple device of putting the eye of the needle at the point instead of at the other end.

THE LITTLE THINGS THE MOST VALUABLE.

Comparatively few people regard themselves as inventors, but almost everybody has been struck, at one time or another, with ideas that seemed calculated to reduce some of the little frictions of life. Usually such ideas are dismissed without further thought.

"Why don't the railroad company make its car windows so that they can be slid up and down without breaking the passengers' backs?" exclaims the traveler. "If I were running the road I would make them in such a way."

"What was the man that made this saucenap thinking of?" grumbles the cook. "He never had to work over a stove, or he would have known how it ought to have been fixed."

"Hang such a collar button!" growls the man who is late for breakfast "If I were in the business I'd make buttons that wouldn't slip out, or break off, or gouge out the back of my neck."

And then the various sufferers forget about their grievances and begin to think of something else. If they would sit down at the next convenient opportunity, put their ideas about car windows, saucenaps, and collar buttons into practical shape, and then apply as independently wealthy as the man, who invented the iron umbrella ring or the one who patented the fifteen puzzle.

A TEMPTING OFFER.

To induce people to keep track of their bright ideas and see what there is in them, the Press Claims Company has resolved to offer a prize.

To the person who submits to it the simplest and most promising invention, from a commercial point of view, the company will give twenty-five hundred dollars in cash, addition to refunding the fees for securing the patent.

It will also advertise the invention free of charge.

This offer is subject to the following conditions:

Every competitor must obtain a patent for his invention through the company. He must first apply for a preliminary search, the cost of which will be five dollars. Should this search show his invention to be unpatentable he can withdraw without further expense. Otherwise he will be expected to complete his application and take out a patent in the regular way. The total expense, including Government and Bureau fees, will be seventy dollars. For this, whether he secures the prize or not, the inventor will have a patent that ought to be a valuable property to him. The prize will be awarded by a jury consisting of three reputable patent attorneys of Washington. Intending competitors should fill out the following blank, and forward it with their application:

1892.

"I submit the within described invention in competition for the Twenty-five hundred Dollar Prize offered by the Press Claims Company.

NO BLANKS IN THIS COMPETITION.

This is a competition of rather an unusual nature. It is common to offer prizes for the best story, or picture, or architectural plan, all the competitors risk the loss of their labor and the successful one merely selling his for the amount of the prize. But the Press Claims Company's offer is something entirely different. Each person is asked merely to help himself, and the one who helps himself to the best advantage is to be rewarded for doing it. The prize is only a stimulus to do something that would be well worth doing without it. The architect whose competitive plan for a club house or a certain corner is not accepted has spent his labor on something of very little use to him. But the person who patents a simple and useful device in the Press Claims Company's competition need not worry if he fails to secure the prize. He has a substantial result to show for his work—one that will command its value in the market at any time.

The plain man who uses any article in his daily work ought to know better how to improve it than the mechanical expert who studies it only from the theoretical point of view. Get rid of the idea that an improvement can be too simple to be worth patenting. The simpler the better. The person who best succeeds in combining simplicity and popularity, will get the Press Claims Company's twenty-five hundred dollars.

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