

A FAREWELL SERMON.

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.

Talmage Speaks of His Approaching Departure for Europe—He Advises His Congregation to Hold a Very High Model—Take Jesus Christ for a Pattern.

BROOKLYN, June 12.—Dr. Talmage preached his sermon this morning with statement to the effect that he would sail on Wednesday next for Europe, and might be able to be present at the distribution in the famine districts of Russia of the Christian Herald relief cargo.

There is in this text a great battle of life and helmets and swords. Soldiers are getting ready for battle. We have had recently in this church new members and I shall address myself to those in this and other churches who are putting on the armor of God, and who may feel themselves to be as yet only raw recruits.

It will decide whether you are to be a strong man in Christ Jesus, with gigantic blows striking the iron mail of darkness, or a bearded, whining, grumbling soldier that ought to be drummed out of the Lord's camp with the "Rogues' March."

My first word of counsel is that you be actively employed. I see a great many Christians with doubts and perplexities, and they seem to be proud of them. Their entire Christian life is made up of gloom, and they seem to cultivate that spiritual despondency, when I will undertake to say that in nine cases out of ten spiritual despondency is a judgment of God upon idleness.

Oh, no, you have just the same promises, just the same Christ, just the same Holy Ghost, just the same love, and just the same everlasting life, and if you fall short of what they were—aye, if you do not come up to the point which they reached and go beyond it—it is not because Christ has shut you out from any point of moral and spiritual elevation, but because you deliberately refused to take it.

I admit that man cannot become a Christian like that without a struggle, but what do you get without fighting for it? The fortresses of darkness are to be taken by storm. You may have a neat strategy flank the hosts of temptation, but there are temptations, there are evils, in the way that you will have to meet face to face, and it will be shot for shot, gun for gun, grip for grip, slaughter for slaughter.

When the war vessel of Christ's church comes into port, bringing its crew and its passengers, what are you like a North river yacht, beautifully painted and adorned, swinging into the boathouse after a pleasure excursion. Oh, no, it will be like a vessel coming with a heavy cargo from China or India, the marks of the wave and the hurricane upon it—sails rent, rigging spliced, pulleys all working to keep her aloft, bulwarks knocked away.

So I believe it will be when the Christian soul at last comes into the harbor of heaven. It will come bearing upon it the mark of a great stress of weather. You can see by the very looks of that soul as it comes into glory that it was driven by a storm and dashed in the hurricane, but by so much as the voyage is rough will the harbor be blessed.

My second word of counsel to those who have recently entered upon Christ-

ian life is, abstain from all pernicious associations, and take only those that are useful and beneficent. Stay out of all associations that would damage your Christian character. Take only those associations that will help you. A learned man said, "If I stay with that man Fenelon any longer I shall be a Christian in spite of myself."

Now, when a young Christian enters the church, God does not ask him to retire from the world. The anchorite that lives on acorns is no nearer heaven than the man who lives on partridge and wild duck. Isolation is not demanded by the Bible. A man may use the world with the restriction of not abusing it.

As God entered the aged to associate with the aged, talking over the past and walking staff in hand among the same paths they trod thirty, forty and fifty years ago, so I suppose he intended the young chiefly to associate with the young.

The grace of God does not demand that we be unnatural. I do not want you to take this caution I have given you as that of a growling misanthrope, hating hilarity. For you must have a spring bow if you want to make the arrow fly. But while this is so, I want you to be especially on guard in this matter and let the religion of Jesus Christ control you in all your associations.

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Here is a woodpile of summer insects. An axman goes into the wood to cut firewood. The insects do not bother him very much, and every stroke of the ax makes them fly away. But he is a man go and lie down there and he is bitten and mauled and thinks it is a horrible thing to stay in the wood. Why does he not take an ax and go to work? So there are thousands of Christians now in the church who go out amid great annoyances in life—they are busy, perplexed, they are all the time busy; while there are others who do nothing, and they are stung and stung and stung and covered from head to foot with blotches of indolence and inactivity and spiritual death.

The first thing, then, you have to do, O Christian young man, Christian young woman, is to go to work in the service of the Lord if you want to be a happy Christian. When an army goes out, there are always stragglers falling off, and there, some because they are faint and sick, but a great many because they are afraid to fight and too lazy to march. At the same time the men on the road hear the booming of the guns for hours, and they hear the shout of victory, and a man on horseback comes up and says, "We have won the day!" Then they hasten up. How brave they are after the battle is over. Poor at fighting, but grand at "huzzah!" So there are stragglers going after the Lord's host. There come days of darkness and battle. Where are they? We no answer, but afterwards there comes a day of triumph in the church, and they are all about, "Huzzah! huzzah! Didn't we give it to them?"

I give another word of counsel to give those who have just entered Christian life, and that is, be faithful in prayer. You might as well, business man, start out in the morning without food and expect to be strong all that day—the weak as well as abstain from food all the week as expect to be strong physically as to be strong without prayer. The only way to get strength into the soul is by prayer, and the only difference between that Christian that prays and that that does not pray and that the other does.

And the only difference between this Christian, who is getting along very fast in his life, and this, who is only praying more than the last. You can graduate a man's progress in religion by the amount of prayer; not by the number of hours, perhaps, but by the earnest supplication that he puts up to God. There is no exception to the rule. Show me a Christian man who neglects this kind of duty and I will show you one who is inconsistent. Show me a man who prays, and his strength and his power cannot be exaggerated. Why, just give to a man his power of prayer and you give him almost omnipotence.

Another word of counsel I have to give. Be faithful in Bible research. A great many good books are now coming out. We cannot read half of them. At every revolution of the printing press there are coming. They cover our parlor tables and are in our sitting rooms

and libraries. Glorious books they are. We thank God every day for the work of the Christian that has been done. But I have thought that perhaps the followers of Christ sometimes allow this religious literature to take their attention from God's word, and that there may not be as much Bible reading as there ought to be.

How is that with your own experience? Just calculate in your mind how much religious literature you have read during the year, and then how large a portion of the Word of God you have read, and then contrast the two and answer with your own soul whether you are giving more attention to the books that were written by the hand of man or that written by the hand of God. Now you go to the drug store and you get the mineral waters, but you have noticed that the waters are not so fresh or sparkling or healthful as when you get these very waters at Saratoga and Sharon—getting them right where they come from the rock. And I have noticed the same thing in regard to the Word of God; and there is a good deal of refreshment and health in the Gospel of God as it comes through good books. I find it is better when I come to the eternal rock of God's Word and drink from that fountain that bubbles up fresh and pure to the life and the refreshment and the health of the soul.

Read the Bible and it brings you into the association of the best people that ever lived. You stand beside Moses and learn his meekness, beside Job and learn his patience, beside Paul and catch something of his enthusiasm, beside Christ and you feel his love. And yet how strange it is that a great many who read the Bible, who live in the truth of the Bible, who have the Word of God in their hearts, do not understand it. Tom Paine worked against that book as though he received large wages, and was inspired by the very powers of darkness, confessing that all the time he was writing he did not have the Bible anywhere near him. How many powerful intellects have endeavored to destroy it. Hume, Bolingbroke, Voltaire have been after it. Ten thousand men now are warring against the truth of God's Word. What do you think of that? It is a great pity, and I will prove it. I will prove it in the meanest thing that has ever been done in all the centuries.

But I can think of a meaner thing than that, and that is an old man going through the mountains with a staff in one hand and a lantern in the other. Darkness has come on suddenly, and he is very old, just able to pick his way out amid the rocks and precipices, leaning on his staff with one hand and guiding himself with the light in the other. You come up and say, "Father, you seem to be lost." "Yes, you are a long way from home," he replies. "Yes," he replies, "and then you take him by the hand and lead him home. That is very kind of you. But suppose instead of that you should snatch the staff from his hands and hurl it over the rocks, and snatch the lantern and blow it out? That would be dastardly, contemptible until there is no depth of contempt beneath it. If you have a better staff, give it to him. If you have a better light, give it to him.

When God has put the staff of the Gospel in our hands and the lamp of God's word to light our feet, are we going to take from our only support and our only illumination? I love the sting of the wasp and the rattlesnake better than I do the man who wants to take the word of God from my grasp. There are people here who have been reading it a good while. It is a precious book to their souls. It has been so in time of darkness and trouble. There was a soldier who fell in battle, and after he had been laid in a feeble voice to his comrades, he said, "There is not a particle of water in my canteen." "Oh," he said, "didn't mean that. Look in my knapsack and you will find a Bible there. Get out that old Bible and just give me a drop of water." And his comrades found the Bible and gave him a few passages. The dying soldier said, "Oh, George, there is no living like this. This is the way for a dying soldier."

"Bring to your Bible! If this Bible should be destroyed, if all the Bibles that have ever been written were destroyed, we could make up a Bible right out of this audience. From that Christian man's experience I take one cluster of promises, and from that old Christian man's experience another. I put them all together, and I think I would see a Bible.

You see, my friends, I have not tried to hide the fact that I have large expectations of you who have entered the Christian life. Do not be discouraged. Press on toward the prize. God beside you and Heaven before you. Keep your eyes on the prize. Look in thirty years from now upon the other man who is in the pulpit. Other faces in the pew. Another man leading the song. Others carrying around the alms boxes of the church. All changed. Thirty years have gone, and I look into the faces of the people, and I say, "Why, it seems to me I have seen these people somewhere, but I cannot exactly say where. Oh, yes, now I begin to think. These were the converts in 1892 and 1890. Why, how you have changed!"

"Oh, yes," they say, "of course we have changed. Thirty years make a great change." "I see," I say, "my wrinkles there are in your faces!" "Yes," they say, "thirty years make a great many wrinkles." "Have you kept the faith?" "Yes, we have kept the faith." "Where are those people who used to sit in the pew with you?" "All gone." "Then are you lonely?" "Come, let us sing one of the old hymns we use to sing thirty years ago, in 1892, on communion day. Any one of you know the old tune? Some of them. Yes, that's it, that's it. Now, although, let us sing, just as we did in 1892."

"There is a fountain filled with blood, Draw from Immannus' veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains. 'Tis the dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away."

Russell and His Gang. MINNEAPOLIS, June 9.—Russell and his crowd of Independents are feeling very sore to-night. The committee on credentials has not only decided in favor of the Russells, but they refused to give the Russells a hearing before the committee. Naturally the Russells are very indignant and declare they will carry their contest to the floor of the Convention. Clayton, a Russellite, says such a thing is dishonorable to the Russells, and that the way here from South Carolina to receive such shabby treatment from the Republican leaders. The Russells hoped that their declaration in favor of Blaine would secure them recognition. They jumped too soon and Russell, Clayton, Nichols and Hunter, who are the Russells' under the present Administration, stand in a sad plight. They not only declared against Harrison, but they were refused recognition as legitimate Republicans. They, and Harrison's friends will demand their official seals immediately. News and Courier.

BOB SMALLS HAPPY.

HE REJOICES OVER HARRISON'S VICTORY OVER BLAINE.

Brayton and His Crowd very Much Cast Down—How the Different States Voted—A Republican Who Thinks Harrison Will Be Eaten.

CHARLESTON, S. C., June 13.—A dispatch from Minneapolis to the News and Courier says: "Bob Smalls and his administration crowd from South Carolina are rejoicing tonight over Harrison's victory over Blaine and his friends are correspondingly depressed. Just after Harrison's nomination was assured I met Brayton. He said he was not particularly fond of Blaine or McKinley, but he was anxious to defeat Harrison.

Among the delegates from South Carolina it is considered that Dr. Crum has a sure grasp on the Charleston postmaster in payment for his loyalty to Harrison. Crum was subjected to great temptation to join the anti-Harrison forces, but Smalls, Webster and Miller, who were in the confidence of the Harrison managers, convinced him that his personal interests were with Harrison. It is understood that he was shrewd enough to exact a written promise authorized by Harrison and Wamaker that he should succeed Post Master Harrison immediately on returning home. He will probably stay at Washington and take his appointment to Charleston in his inside pocket.

This has been a bad day for the republican bosses of the Platt, Quay and Clarkson stripe. They go thundering down to political perdition, carrying with them some small fry bosses who have outlived their usefulness in the party. If they keep up the threats they are making tonight Harrison has a very hard road to travel in the coming campaign. It is generally conceded that Cleveland or Gorman can defeat him. In addition to the hostility he aroused in his own party, there are thousands of republicans who are opposed to a second term. Today's proceeding showed that Harrison can not arouse much enthusiasm, but he and his friends are shrewd managers, and it will not do for the democrats to underestimate his strength.

HARRISON WILL BE EATEN. The following private dispatch was received last night from a well known South Carolina republican now in New York: "New York republicans are utterly disgusted with the nomination, and say the North is abashed. Hill or anyone can wipe up the State with Harrison. Don't use my name."

THE BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT. The following was the ballot on the 9th of June for president: Alaska—Harrison 2. Alabama—Harrison 15, McKinley 7. Arkansas—Harrison 15, McKinley 11. California—Harrison 8, Blaine 9, McKinley 1. Colorado—Blaine 8. Connecticut—Harrison 4, McKinley 8. Delaware—Harrison 4, Blaine 1, McKinley 1. Florida—Harrison 8. Georgia—Harrison 26. Idaho—Blaine 6. Illinois—Harrison 34, Blaine 14. Indiana—Harrison 30. Maine—Blaine 12. Iowa—Harrison 20, Blaine 5, McKinley 1. Kentucky—Harrison 22, Blaine 2, McKinley 1. Kansas—Harrison 11, McKinley 9. Louisiana—Harrison 8, Blaine 8. Maryland—Harrison 16, Blaine 2. Michigan—McKinley 19, Harrison 7, Blaine 2. Missouri—Harrison 28, Blaine 4, McKinley 2. Massachusetts—Harrison 18, Blaine 1, McKinley 11. Minnesota—Harrison 8, Blaine 9, McKinley 1. Mississippi—Harrison 13, Blaine 41. Texas—Harrison 22, Blaine 6, Reed 2. Vermont—Harrison 8. Virginia—Harrison 9, Blaine 13, McKinley 2. West Virginia—Harrison 12. Wisconsin—Harrison 19, Blaine 2, McKinley 3. North Dakota—Harrison 8. South Dakota—Harrison 2, Blaine 4. Montana—Harrison 5, Blaine 1. Washington—Harrison 1, Blaine 6. Ohio—Harrison 1, McKinley 45. Oregon—Harrison 1, McKinley 7. Pennsylvania—Harrison 19, Blaine 3, McKinley 42. Rhode Islands—Harrison 5, Blaine 1, McKinley 1, Reed 1. South Carolina—Harrison 13, Blaine 3, McKinley 2. Tennessee—Harrison 17, Blaine 4, McKinley 3. Mississippi—Harrison 28, Blaine 4, McKinley 2. Nebraska—Harrison 15, McKinley 1. Nevada—Harrison 6. New Hampshire—Harrison 1, Blaine 2. New Jersey—Harrison 18, Blaine 2. New York—Harrison 27, Blaine 35, McKinley 10. North Carolina—Harrison 18, Blaine 23, McKinley 1. Wyoming—Harrison 4, Blaine 1. Arizona—Harrison 1, Blaine 1. New Mexico—Harrison 2. Oklahoma—Harrison 2. District of Columbia—Blaine 2. Utah—Harrison 2. Indian Territory—Harrison 1, Blaine 1.

Total 904, Harrison 534, Blaine 182, McKinley 182, Reed 4, Lincoln 1. Necessary to a choice 453. "I am Not Guilty." CHARLOTTE, N. C., June 10.—Several negro Alex. Whitley and D. B. Tucker, natives of Stanly County, went West and settled at Arkadelphia, Ark. In a gambling dispute Whitley brutally murdered Tucker. Whitley came back to his old home and last week was captured and put in jail at Albemarle. Early yesterday morning a mob of 100, all wearing red shirts, went to the jail, and after a long struggle, they broke in and hanged him to a tree. James H. Abraham, Sheriff of Clark County, Arkansas, arrived at Albemarle for Whitley two hours after the lynching, his intention being to take the prisoner back to Arkansas for trial. Whitley's lawyer, who had been waiting, sprung up, "I am not guilty." It was of a prominent family in Stanly, as was also Tucker.

Healing the Breach. BATON ROUGE, La., June 15.—Two conference committees of the divided Louisiana Democrats have reached a mutually satisfactory agreement providing for the re-organization and sending of a single Democratic delegation, instructed to Chicago. The Foster faction has been recognized as the head of the party in the State. Uninstructed delegates at large to the Chicago convention were elected.

Lightning Strikes Two Churches. MADRID, June 13.—A terrific thunder storm prevailed in various parts of Spain yesterday and heavy loss of life and property by lightning are reported. At Madrid in the province of Bressas, a parish church was struck, while worshippers were attending mass. Ten were killed and twenty-eight seriously injured. At Mucedas, in the province of Valladolid, a church was struck and five killed and ten injured.

"GIVE ME A DRINK."

Were George Williams' Last Words—He Turned and Fell Dead.

ATLANTA, June 12.—People passing along Piedmont avenue near the railroad culvert yesterday morning about 8:30 o'clock saw the trembling form of a man walking southward along the avenue suddenly reel and fall tottering to the sidewalk. The man lay quite still, uttering no sound, and a big crowd rushed to his side. Some men lifted the man up and carried him into Howland's undertaking establishment, just a few steps away, and bent over him to see if he was in any danger of dying. The man was dead. His heart and pulse were still and his wide open, glassy eyes were staring vacantly above him.

The crowd gazed pityingly on the dead man's upturned face, bloated and wearing the marks of excessive dissipation. Some one in the crowd recognized the dead man as George Williams, a brick man, who boarded 228 Market street. Up to Saturday night Williams had a good position, paying him about three dollars and a half a day. He did not return to work Monday, his old enemy, whisky getting in his work on him and rendering him unfit for work. His drunk was pronounced for Tuesday and Wednesday. Wednesday morning Officer Shepard found Williams on Decatur street staggering about drunk and arrested him. He was tried before Recorder Calhoun Wednesday afternoon and fined \$25. He was committed to the city jail. After being liberated from the police station Williams again resumed his drunk, and Wednesday night he was soaked in liquor. Early yesterday morning, before the bar near the culvert on Decatur street and Piedmont avenue opened, Williams was standing at the door. He was in a pitiable condition. His face was bloated and his eyes were blood-shot. His hands were trembling and he seemed to be suffering terrible agony. The awful thirst for whisky was gnawing at him and he was suffering all the agonies of hell. Soon after the bar opened a workman entered with a basket on his arm and called for a glass of beer. Williams walked up to him and said: "Pardner, for God's sake give me a drink. I'm dead broke, and I'm dying for a drink."

The man paid for Williams a drink, which he gulped down eagerly. Williams walked out and was gone for some time. He returned about 8 o'clock and stood about the place, his hands trembling and his face showing the excruciating pain he was suffering. A negro passed by him and he begged the man to buy a drink. The negro passed heedlessly on and Williams walked up Piedmont avenue toward the railroad. When near the culvert he reeled and fell—dead.

Coroner Davis held an inquest over the death of the man about 9:30 o'clock. The verdict of the jury was that Williams' death was caused by failure of the heart brought on by excessive drinking. Williams has a family near Tallapoosa Ga., but he has not lived with them for over two years. He came originally from Fairburn, Ga.

Took the Money and Fleed. SAN FRANCISCO, June 11.—John Gilson, secretary of the Jucum Manufacturing Company drew \$17,000 in gold and silver coin from the Bank of British Columbia this morning and took the Oakland ferry boat to cross the bay and pay off the three hundred employees of the company at the factory and rolling mills at Emoryville, a station between Oakland and Berkeley. Leaving the ferry boat he took the Berkeley train. When the train stopped at B street station two men sprang aboard and hastened to Gilson's seat. The first of the men drew a revolver, and compelled Gilson to give up the two sacks containing the coin. The men then jumped from the slowly moving train and entered a buggy which it was subsequently ascertained had been hidden at the foot of B street for some time during the morning and drove away.

Gilson fired five shots from the platform of the train and one of the men who had his face blackened returned the shots, but none of them took effect. The passengers on the train were mostly men, and they were taken to a picnic and were dumfounded at the scene rapidly enacted before them.

Word was hastily sent to Oakland and guards were established on the ferry boats and on the roads leading into the country, but nothing has been seen of the men who fled from the man who had his face blackened. He is described as wearing blue overalls and jumper, while the other wore blue trousers and a linen duster. It is supposed that the men were discharged employees, familiar with Secretary Gilson's methods.

The Cotton Crop. WASHINGTON, June 10.—Returns of the statistical correspondents of the Department of Agriculture report cotton planting late, germination retarded by low temperature, and slow development of plant. In the entire cotton belt temperature of the past three months is reported below normal, in some districts two to three degrees below. The rainfall has also been reported below normal on the Atlantic coast, while generally in excess in the Mississippi valley, both conditions co-operating with the low temperature to retard growth. Many correspondents report a scanty section report a poor stand. The average condition of cotton in the consolidation of the reports is 85.9. This is the lowest average, with one exception, since 1874.

Late average are as follows: Virginia, 79; North Carolina, 88; South Carolina, 87; Georgia, 87; Florida, 80; Alabama, 91; Mississippi, 91; Louisiana, 82; Texas, 81; Tennessee, 80; Arkansas, 75. The reduction of area from floods resulting from river overflows especially of the Mississippi and its tributaries, has been heavy. The acreage of cotton has been materially reduced. On the 1st of May, while planting was progressing, our correspondents reported the intention to reduce the acreage 18 1/2 per cent. State percentage of area in comparison with the actual acreage of last year are as follows: Virginia, 73; North Carolina, 76; South Carolina, 75; Georgia, 81; Florida, 81; Alabama, 84; Mississippi, 85; Louisiana, 80; Texas, 85; Arkansas, 82; Tennessee, 83; average, 83 1/2.

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DAVE SHAW IS NOT DEAD.

GREENVILLE, S. C., June 9.—It now appears that Dave Shaw, the Laurent negro whose fate has been a mystery for nearly two weeks, is alive and "still in the ring, although somewhat disfigured."

J. M. Terry, who lives below Piedmont, was in the city yesterday afternoon and reported to "The Dill" that Shaw has turned up and that he is at Thomas Sullivan's, nine miles below where he was supposed to have been lynched. Shaw says that the crowd gave him an unmerciful whipping and showed him to present effect that he was, quite fearing that an end would be put to his life. All the facts in the alleged lynching showed it to have been an outrageous affair, and the treatment of the negro has been condemned by the press and people of the State. Mr. Dill said yesterday afternoon that he has known Shaw a number of years and that he does not know a more honest or straightforward negro. He says that he has loaned Shaw money to make his crop every year for a number of years and that he has been repaid promptly. Shaw at present owes him over \$125, and he has no doubt, but that he will get it. He also says that when Shaw was arrested he had money, as he (Mr. Dill) had loaned it to him a few days before. Shaw, if alive, and the report to that effect is authentic, will probably make trouble for the party that took the law into their own hands. The negro's statement of the affair, when he makes it, will be of interest all over the State.—News.

The Alliance in Morning. WASHINGTON, June 11.—Col. L. L. Polk, president of the Farmers' Alliance, died at Garfield Hospital at 11:15 this morning. Col. Polk was a relative of President Shaw at present owes him over \$125, and he has no doubt, but that he will get it. He also says that when Shaw was arrested he had money, as he (Mr. Dill) had loaned it to him a few days before. Shaw, if alive, and the report to that effect is authentic, will probably make trouble for the party that took the law into their own hands. The negro's statement of the affair, when he makes it, will be of interest all over the State.—News.

Col. Polk's home was at Raleigh, N. C. He leaves a wife and three children. The 11 o'clock train over the Richmond and Danville Railroad to-night carried the remains of Colonel Polk to Raleigh, N. C. for interment. The funeral services will be held at Raleigh at 4 p. m. to-morrow. The remains were accompanied by a party of about twenty-five, who were his friends, among whom were Congressmen O. C. of Kansas, Moses of Georgia, Kem of Minnesota, McKeighan of Nebraska, Shackhouse of South Carolina and Simpson of Kansas, the latter being accompanied by Mrs. Simpson.

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V. C. BADHAM, GENERAL AGENT, COLUMBIA, S. C. Feb 10-1v. TYPEWRITERS BOUGHT, SOLD, EXCHANGED.

WASHINGTON, June 10.—Returns of the statistical correspondents of the Department of Agriculture report cotton planting late, germination retarded by low temperature, and slow development of plant. In the entire cotton belt temperature of the past three months is reported below normal, in some districts two to three degrees below. The rainfall has also been reported below normal on the Atlantic coast, while generally in excess in the Mississippi valley, both conditions co-operating with the low temperature to retard growth. Many correspondents report a scanty section report a poor stand. The average condition of cotton in the consolidation of the reports is 85.9. This is the lowest average, with one exception, since 1874.

Late average are as follows: Virginia, 79; North Carolina, 88; South Carolina, 87; Georgia, 87; Florida, 80; Alabama, 91; Mississippi, 91; Louisiana, 82; Texas, 81; Tennessee, 80; Arkansas, 75. The reduction of area from floods resulting from river overflows especially of the Mississippi and its tributaries, has been heavy. The acreage of cotton has been materially reduced. On the 1st of May, while planting was progressing, our correspondents reported the intention to reduce the acreage 18 1/2 per cent. State percentage of area in comparison with the actual acreage of last year are as follows: Virginia, 73; North Carolina, 76; South Carolina, 75; Georgia, 81; Florida, 81; Alabama, 84; Mississippi, 85; Louisiana, 80; Texas, 85; Arkansas, 82; Tennessee, 83; average, 83 1/2.

Lightning Strikes Two Churches. MADRID, June 13.—A terrific thunder storm prevailed in various parts of Spain yesterday and heavy loss of life and property by lightning are reported. At Madrid in the province of Bressas, a parish church was struck, while worshippers were attending mass. Ten were killed and twenty-eight seriously injured. At Mucedas, in the province of Valladolid, a church was struck and five killed and ten injured.

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