TALMAGE TO THE SOLDIERS.

JOSHUA BEFORE AI HIS TEXT AT THE NEW YORK STATE CAMP.

A Large Congregation from the Surrounding Country -- How the Congregation Were Accommodated -- Synopsis of the Sermon.

(From the New York Star.)

When Mr. Caruthers, the gentlemanly and unbane superintendent of the Y. M. C. A. tent at the State Camp, Peekskill, retired last night, he first looked at the sky, taking note of the weather, and remarked to his assistant: "I hope it won't rain to-morrow, for if the weather is pleasant there will be a big crowd here to hear Talmage." No sooner had he made this remark than the rain drops began to patter on his tent, and soon the rain fell heavily. There was a sharp shower, which lasted for some time, and made things very moist for the members of the Thirteenth regiment and the Third battery.

The sun came out splendidly Sunday morning, and soon dried up the camp. Breakfast call found a hungry lot of men. They ate such a hearty breakfast that Louis Windholt had to get an extra supply of provisions. There was disappointment among some of the boys because there was no pie for breakfast. They were accustomed to having it. They were firmly but politely informed that the pie would not be produced till dinner.

At 8:15 the Third battery performed the guard mount. The movement was well executed. Just as the guards were ascertaining the exact weight of their muskets a gentle shower drenched them pleasantly. At 9:30 there was company instruction, and then the companies were reviewed by Col. Phisterer. The guard mount of the Thirteenth was well performed. Dinner hour found a hungry six hundred. The pies were there and each man had a whole one. One of the men remarked after dinner: "What surprised those fellows in the restaurant? They said we ate more pie than any other regiment that has ever been here. They call us the pie-eaters."

By far the most important event of the day was the religious service. It was known far and near that Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, the chaplain of the Thirteenth, was in camp and would preach. The hour for service was set at 3 o'clock, in the big Y. M. C. A. tent. Superintendent Caruthers wanted to trice it up in order that it would be more airy and permit people on the outside to see the popular preacher and hear his sermon. In order to effect this it was necessary to throw a lasso over the ridge pole. Mr. Caruthers failed in every attempt. Just as he was about give it up in despair a young cowboy happened along, fortunately. He grabbed up the rope, made some artistic loops in it, swung it around his head several times and then threw it. It described a graceful curve in the air and settled neatly around the desired place. Mr. Talmage did not know when he delivered his eloquent discourse later on, that if it had not been for this cowboy he would have been obliged to preach outside.

There were certainly 1,800 people seated under the big tent and around it on the smooth, green grass when services began. This included the members of the regiment and people from the surrounding country. Some put the number at 2,500. There were 213 carriages and three stages by actual count.

Harry Brown, the popular organist of the Tabernacle, who was overcome by the heat on Saturday, was entirely recovered and presided at the organ. At three o'clock the organ pealed out the notes of "Lord of All," and the audience arose and joined in the singing. Mr. Talmage then offered a prayer, after which he read the story of the Prodigal Son, interpolating remarks of his own which were intended to explain the chapter more fully to his hearers. In speaking of the Prodigal Son leaving his home, he said: "When we leave home, we leave God." He then alluded to the excellent arrangement made by the Y. M. C. A. for the services and thanked the managers. "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" was then sung, and the words never sounded better than they did when coming from that great assemblage of people. Among the audience were many pretty girls in gay costumes, who gazed admiringly at the soldier boys and carried the singing. One of them, a noticeably pretty young woman, with a stunning costume of terra cotta and black with hat and plume to match, had a fine soprano voice.

After the singing Mr. Talmage announced his text, from the eighth chapter of Joshua, part of the seventh verse: "Then shall ye arise up from the ambush and seize upon the city." The preacher told the story of Joshua and his men starting out to capture the ancient city of Ai. How Joshua divided his army up into two divisions, one of which he hid in ambush; the other he led in person.

"There were 30,000 swarthy warriors marching in silence and without lights. There was nothing to betray their presence, no clanking of armor nor clashing of arms. The people of Ai were totally unconscious of the presence of Joshua and his hosts. When the morning sun arose over Ai the inhabitants saw Joshua and his men on the plain without. The troops in Ai started forth to find Joshua. The entire population followed them, saying: 'Let us make short work of Joshua.' When Joshur saw the troops of Ai coming toward him, he led his own in retreat, followed by the foe. Those of his men in ambush watched this movement with breathless interest and awaited a signal from Joshua. Soon Joshua paused in his flight and, mountain a slight eminence, pointed his spear direct at the city of Ai. His men in ambush understood the signal, and, rushing into the empty city, put it to the torch. When Joshua's men saw the burning city there arose a great shout. They comprehended the great stratagem of their leader. Then Joshua pointed his burnished spear a second time at the burning city and shouted to his men: "Take it—take it now!"

The moral which Dr. Talmage drew from this text was that it is better to retreat when necessary to accomplish victory. He spoke of our Savior retreating from the throne of God to the manger in Bethlehem. From that to the cross, and thence to the grave, only to arise again in glory, and, pointing toward the great hosts of crime and wickedness, command the hosts from above and his converts from on earth to charge upon the foe and conquer it. He made use of many historical events to prove that many of the greatest victories had been accomplished by first retreating. He alluded to Washington's manœuvre of having camp fires lighted at night on the hilltops to deceive the British into the belief that a vast army was encamped up there, whereas there were but three men to attend the fires. He urged his hearers to retreat when tempted to do wrong.

He advised them not to read books that would shake their belief in Christianity. He said: "Man will give fifty cents to have his faith destroyed. I would give $100 to save it. A man is no better than the company he keeps, no better than the books he reads." He alluded to some of the well known religious skeptics and said that all of them would eventually be saved. A man standing chin deep in argument trying to prove there is no God, will be converted by a three-year-old child putting its arms around his neck and asking questions about God. He made an appeal to the members of the regiment: "Men of the Thirteenth Regiment, take aim for God. What we have great need of is practical Christianity."

Dr. Talmage was frequently applauded during his remarks. At one time he drew tears to his listeners' eyes by relating a story of a young man who went to get his dying mother's blessing. He accompanied his remarks with the usual dramatic gestures.

THE NEGRO IN POLITICS.

Peace Restored and Now the Utmost Harmony Prevails.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 25.—The Negro Democratic National Conference, called by J. Milton Turner and seventeen other colored men, convened in the rooms of the Hendricks Club in this city at 11 o'clock this morning. All the delegates who were admitted were required to present credentials to Dr. C. N. Metcalf, Secretary of the Indiana Board of Health. Some sixty-four delegates were present, besides thirty or forty negro spectors from the city and a dozen or two white men, members of the Hendricks Club.

J. Milton Turner called the Conference to order, and in his opening address stated that he had issued the call in compliance with instructions from the Chairman of the National Committee. He suggested that the Conference at once pass into executive session, excluding from the hall all persons, except reporters for the press, not holding credentials as delegates.

Some confusion arose over the ruling of the chairman that the National Committee had already provided for the temporary organization.

A motion to appoint a committee on temporary organization was tabled.

Turner then made a short address in which he proceeded to explain that the call for the Conference had been issued because he believed it was time for the negro voters to assert their understanding, at least of the primary principles of American sovereignty. The elevation of Cleveland to the Presidency, he said, had brought political emancipation which was felt by no one more than the negro, and they had honesty and courage to meet Grover Cleveland's administration half way. An Ohio delegate cried out: "Why not meet Thurman the other half?" which brought out prolonged cheers and the waving of bandannas.

At the close of Turner's address he introduced Charles H. Shelton, of Evansville, Ind., as temporary chairman.

Noah Plummer, of Massachusetts, was made temporary secretary.

A resolution endorsing Cleveland and Thurman was adopted by a unanimous viva voce vote.

The balance of the session was occupied in a noisy and heated wrangle, during which the chairman was unable to restore order, over the formation of the committee on permanent ornanization. Whe the confusion was at its worst, Prof. Clark, of Cincinnati, took the floor and succeeded in restoring order for a few minutes. In the midst of this confusion the chairman announced the appointment of the committee on permanent organization and then declared the Conference adjourned until 3 o'clock.

A letter was read from Geo. T. Downing, of Newport, R. I., in which he declares for the division of the colored vote.

The committee on permanent organization submitted a majority and a minority report. The majority suggested Prof. Peter H. Clark, of Ohio, for permanent chairman and Thomas Fortume, of New York, for permanent secretary and E. A. Payne, of Illinois, sergeant-at-arms. Joseph H. Ouser, of Illinois, presented the minority report, which named J. Milton Turner for permanent chairman.

A motion to substitute the minority for the majority report brought two-thirds of the delgeates to their feet and pandemonium reigned. After much confusion the roll was called and a tie was announced—32 to 32.

This announcement was the signal for an uprising that for a moment bid fair to overwhelm and trample in the dust the half dozen reporters at the press table. There was a wild rush toward Plummer, and cries of "Fraud!" "Fraud!" "Thief!" and "You're a liar!" were roared from all sides of the hall.

Finally W. T. Scott, the Cairo editor, who was conspicuously endeavoring to protect and defend Plummer, was struck in the face by some one. Scott drew a revolver from his pocket and selected Mail Agent Ogilvie, of Columbus, Ohio, as his victim. Mattars were now at white heat, and local spectators, both white and black, at the sight of the pistols, made a mad rush for the door and tumbled pell-mell down stairs.

Meanwhile Ogilvie and others had drawn their firearms and bloodshed seemed imminent, when a colored police officer rushed in, and, with assistance, shoved the struggling combatants into the directors' room in the rear, where they ineffectually tried to shoot one another.

Scott and Ogilvie were placed under arrest, but the officer was prevailed upon to release them, declaring that he did so chiefly because he was a colored Republican. Many delegates fled during the fracas.

Chairman Shelton finally secured order and announced that he knew Secretary Plummer's figures to be incorrect. The true vote was 32 for Clark and 30 for Turner, and he, therefore, declared Peter H. Clark, of Ohio, the permanent presiding officer of the Conference, which then adjourned, amidst confusion, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

A largely attended mass meeting was held in the basement of the court house tonight. Addresses were made by Peter H. Clark, J. Jordan Street of Boston, Ex-Minister Taylor, T. T. Fortune and several others.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 26 —The Democratic Negro National Conference reassembled this morning at 10.30, with Prof. Peter H. Clark, of Cincinnati, in the chair as permanent president.

The animosities engendered by yesterday's heated contest over the permanent organization had apparently been forgiven and forgotten during the night, for harmony and fairly good order prevailed at today's session until just prior to the final adjournment this evening when, the Conference, tired out with a long session, got into a wrangle over a motion to adjourn sine die, which finally prevailed.

In opening the Conference Chairman Clark called upon Elder J. R. McDaniels, delegate from Illinois, to offer prayer. Elder McDaniels was conspicuous in yesterday's session for the persistence with which he would maintain his ground in debate. When called on for prayer he insisted that the delegates should first join with him in singing a hymn. Objections were raised to this suggestion, whereupon the elder said: "If you won't sing, I won't pray," and he left the hall for a short time. The Rev. Mitchell, of Michigan, then offered a prayer.

J. Milton Turner and his supporters, who sustained defeat yesterday, made no effort to challenge the accuracy of the vote on the permanent organization.

Chairman Clark opened the proceedings with an address, giving his reasons why the negro should become a Democrat.

He said that a careful study of the principles set forth in the Democratic and Republican platforms will convince any man that the contest for the Presidency is to be carried on this year in lines of thought new to this generation. The Republicans declare in favor of a free ballot and a fair count, but they know full well that the evils of which they complain cannot be controlled by Federal action. The decisions of the Supreme Court have repeatedly shown that fact. One wonders why the Republicans do not follow the path so plainly pointed out by the events of the past twenty years and why they do not resort to State action, to State agitation, for the establishment of any rights that are now denied them. The truth is, few of the evils of which complaint is made are political in their nature, and not many can be cured by political action. The policy of denunciation and hate has been fully tried. Let us try the opposite course.

The chairman's address was frequently applauded.

Delegate Thomas Fortune, of New York, alluding to the reports that were in circulation about a lack of harmony, called upon J. Milton Turner to say how much truth there was in these reports.

Turner responded at length and said that he had been beaten in an open fighi and he accepted his defeat with the utmost satisfaction. [Applause.] Turner moved the appointment of a committee on resolutions and address, and the Chair appointed a committee of ten with Thomas Fortune, of New York, as chairman. Among the other members were Chas. H. J. Taylor of Kansas, J. Milton Turner of Missouri, W. T. Scott of Illinois, and J. Gordon Street of Massachusetts.

The committee reported resolutions revising the political conditions affecting the negro, and reviewing the promises made by President Cleveland touching the full enjoyments of their rights; endorsing the position taken by the St. Louis Convention upon the tariff question, and pledging the best efforts of the colored American citizens towards the success of the Democratic party.

The report was adopted by a rousing vote, Stinson of Pennsylvania being the only objector.

At the afternoon session a National Committee was announced.

The Conference adjourned sine die.

The National Committee held its first meeting tonight, and elected William T. Scott, of Cairo, Ill., chairman. The following Executive Committee was chosen: J. Milton Turner of Missouri chairman, H. J. Lewis of Michigan, Frank Boyd of Kansas, C. H. Plummer of Massachusetts, and R. B. Robinson of the District of Columbia. F. S. Anderson of Pennsylvania was elected secretary.

A Remarkable Scotchman.

There was a remarkable old gentleman among the immigrants who were quartered in Castle Garden yesterday. He is Roderick Morrison, a Scotchman, 94 years old, and he has had some strange experiences.

Fifty years ago he came to this continent and settled in St. Johns, Canada. He was the first man on this side to engage in smoking herring, and from this business he managed to acquire a fortune of over $100,000. The great fire in St. Johns some years ago destroyed all his property and almost ruined him.

With the little money that he had left he journeyed to Glasgow to visit his son. He remained there a short time, and just as he was about to board the steamer Circassia for this country he was knocked down and robbed of everything but his passage ticket and $6 in money. The old gentleman did not have time to go back to his son for more money, so he was compelled to sail as he was.

Yesterday he said that he had a little money coming to him from the insurance companies, and if he could manage to get back to St. Johns he would go into business again. The clerks made up the old man's fare and he dashed off for the railroad depot more like a young colt than a man of 94.—N. Y. Star, July 26.

The Chicago Assassins.

CHICAGO, July 26.—It is stated today that since the arrest of Hronek, the chief would-be assassin of Judges Gary and Grinnell and Inspector Bonfield, the police have made an important discovery by working upon the fears of Hronek. Surprisingly little dynamite was found at Hronek's house at the time of his arrest. The bulk of the contraband goods consisted of bombs in various stages of completion. The police were convinced that he had access to plenty of dynamite, and when the subject was properly presented to Mrs Hronek she led the way to the basement of the building in which Sevic's shop is, and to the delight of the officers who allowed her to do the searching, she returned to the open air with a market basket full of half-pound sticks of stuff. There were fully ten pounds of it, enough to have blown the whole neighborhood skyward.

It is said that the testimony before the grand jury shows that Sevic, as well as Hronek, knew where the dynamite was concealed.

A Brute of a Husband.

JACKSON, Miss., July 26.—On Monday last Roderick Lowrey, nephew of Governor Lowrey, went to the residence of Mayor Henry, where his wife had gone for protection. He gained access to his wife's room, and on his wife refusing to listen to the proposals for reconciliation made by Lowrey, he seized her by the throat and choked and bit her in a most tigerish manner. He then seized a water pitcher which he baoke over her head, and continued striking her in a most savage manner as long as a fragment of the pitcher remained. He then seized a quart bottle and broke that also on her face. This was supplemented by savage kicks as the woman was lying on the floor. Leaving her for dead, Lowrey fled to the swamps. A posse of forty men have so far failed to arrest the fugitive. Mrs. Lowrey's condition today is somewhat improved.

Mrs. Lowrey is described as a fair young girl, who has been married scarcely four months.

Honoring American Authors.

LONDON, July 25.—Professor James Bryce, M. P., presided at the banquet given here this evening in honor of American authors. In proposing a toast to "Her Majesty the Queen and President Cleveland," Professor Bryce said that all felt pleasure in coupling these names as typical of the unity of sentiment existent between the two great branches of the English race. Consul General Waller, responding to the toast, mentioned that President Cleveland favored the adoption of a copyright law, believing that every man was entitled to the fruits of his own labor.

Professor Bryce, in proposing "Literature," expressed the hope that the present gathering would be the first of a series of similar gatherings.

James Russell Lowell, who had sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to be able to attend the banquet, was received with the greatest enthusiasm upon rising to speak. In the course of his remarks he said that if there was anything in his life to which he looked back with satisfaction it was the fact that he himself had in some degree contributed to the good feeling existing between England and America.

There is an impression that the rulers of Germany and Russia held their recent meeting to divide the world between them. If this is the case the two will find that they have a big job on hand.

The electric arc lights in the United States now number nearly two hundred thousand, and the incandescents number over one million.

WISHED TO KILL HER.

A Wisconsin Farmer Accuses an Old Woman of Sorcery.

[From the New York Sun.]

DARTFORD, Wis., July 26.—William Roberts is a well-to-do farmer of Princeton, a small village near here. He cultivates something over 105 acres of land and has a wife and four children. Across the road from his farm lives a wrinkled old German woman named Albright. Her home is a little old cottage, and though a resident of the place for many years she is unable to speak or understand a word of English. Since last Christmas Mr. Roberts asserts that his family and his house have been bewitched, and he swears to any number of astonishing occurrences, which cannot be well accounted for by ordinary means. His entire family corroborates him in a series of most surprising statements

Gradually the man came to a belief that the witch who was exerting such occult influences was his little old German neighbor. He gave her on two separate occasions due warning that she must cease casting her evil eye over him. The manifestations did not stop, and so the other day he took his gun and started out to kill her. He announced his intention to some of his neighbors, and they induced him to postpone the slaughter. He insisted that her death alone could dispel the evil charm, and vowed before an awe-stricken throng that he would become her executioner, saying that even were it his own father who had so tormented his family he would kill him. It became evident that Mr. Roberts should be placed in custody lest he murder the supposed witch. He was therefore arrested and placed on trial, and thus the witchcraft disclosures came about.

A book on the Occult lay at 'Squire McConnell's elbow yesterday, and it was evident that the 'squire had been preparing himself for the novel trial of consulting the authorities on witchcraft. When called for the defense, Mr. Roberts went to the witness stand. He swore that as long ago as last Christmas things at his home began to act very queerly. The first he noticed was a spot of blood on the sheets of his bed. He slept alone, and it frightened him. The sheets were changed continually, but in a short time the bloody spot would appear. One morning about 11 30 he lay down on the outside of the bed to await the call for dinner. When he arose there was a large pool of blood beneath him. He was terribly frightened, and took of his coat and shirt to see if there was any blood on his back or garment, but there was none.

Mrs. Robertson said that many a time she has put the meals on the table and stepped to the front door to call the rest of the family to dinner, and when she turned again she found the table nearly stripped of its contents. The bread and meat had disappeared, and plates, knives, forks and saltcellars had absolutely vanished as if by magic. Sometimes they would be found in an out-of-the-way place, under the wagon house, in the corn crib, out in the garden, and often they were never discovered. These queer demonstrations and many others were sworn to by Mr. Roberts and his wife in the most honest and solemn manner, and no amount of cross-questioning could divert them from their straightforward story. The wife testified that many times when the dishes disappeared there was positively no one else in the house. Roberts averred that he was kept busy most of the time searching for missing articles which had disappeared almost under his eyes.

He was using a hammer on one occasion and laid it down at his feet. He turned his eyes away for a moment and then reached down for it, when lo! it was gone. His jackknife, hoe, shovel, and innumerable other things all acted in the same peculiar way.

Both the children, Anna and John, were placed on the stand, and they told, in a frank and artless manner, the same and many other equally astonishing occurrences. A ring had suddenly disappeared from Anna's finger. She had seen dishes come sailing out of the cupboard when no one was near, and settle softly down on the floor without breaking. Both she and the boy had seen the clothing thrown off the beds, and coats and dresses pulled from the walls and hurled across the room. A married brother, named Edward Albright, and his wife, who were here on a few weeks' visit, were called to testify. They both had similar unaccountable tales to relate. On the witness stand the family told how they had summoned the parish priest and asked him to dissolve the charm, and he had confessed to them that it seemed as if supernatural agencies were at work, and he would have to consult the bishop in order to obtain the interposition of the church in the afflicted family's behalf.

The evidence was concluded on Friday, and, thoroughly at a loss what to do, the justice continued the case for three weeks. It is the all-absorbing topic for miles around, not only among the country folk, but among the guests in the summer hotel. During the three weeks intervening a diligent effort will be made by physicians, county officers, and a number of prominent people, who have become interested in the case, to arrive at some intelligent conclusion.

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