

A KING EATING GRASS.

REV. DR. TALMAGE ON THE DESECRATION OF SACRED THINGS.

Two Styles of Character to Illustrate God's Word—One is Like a Lighthouse and the Other is Like a Black Buoy—A Weird Scene.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Dr. Talmage in his sermon uses a weird and strange scene of ancient times to illustrate the behavior of modern people who desecrate sacred buildings and for the sake of a few dollars get a bad name. His subject was "A King Eating Grass" and the text Daniel iv, 32. "The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar, and he was driven from men and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws."

WORK OF THE HOUSE.

PENSION CHANGES AND MAGISTRATES DISCUSSED.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 20.—When the House met Saturday morning Mr. Lofson's shad and sturgeon bill which had been so fully and exhaustively discussed the preceding day, was then called up. Mr. Pratt moved to recommit the bill. Mr. Stevenson thought it should either pass or kill the bill without further delay. Mr. Henderson then amended the bill so as to make it apply only to the coast counties of the State and it was thereupon ordered to a third reading. The clincher was put on the final vote by Dr. Stark.

SLASHING AT SALARIES.

INTERESTING FIGURES.

COLUMBIA, Feb. 20.—The committee to examine the offices of the State Treasurer, Sinking Fund and Dispensary, made the following report: To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives: We, the undersigned joint committee, appointed to examine the offices of the State Treasurer, Comptroller General, Sinking Fund Commission and Dispensary receipts and disbursements as shown by the State Treasurer's office, beg leave to respectfully submit the following report: Our examination of the above departments of the State government were made during the months of December and January, and for a period of fourteen months, beginning the first day of November, 1895, and ending the 31st day of December, 1896. In the Treasurer's office, we have carefully scrutinized all the cash receipts and expenditures, examined the vouchers for every disbursement, also verifying the accuracy of the same. The State Treasurer has collected for the above named period the following amounts: General taxes, \$1,136,226 61; Phosphate royalty to general account, 4,158 92; Phosphate royalty to Sinking Fund for reduction, 58,623 04; Insurance license fees, 10,625 35; Railroad interest, 7,109 10; Fees, office Secretary of State, 4,349 32; Privilege fertilizer tax, 54,524 37; Morrill fund, 22,000 00; Clemson bequest cash, 258 79; State permanent fund, 21,357 62; Comm. Sinking Fund, 2,343 73; Sinking Fund for reduction, 18,168 38; Dispensary, 1,555,724 61; Loans, general account, 150,000 00; Loans, Constitutional Convention, Dec., 30,000 00; Other sources, 1,638 30; Paid by Dispensary to gen. acct. State Treasurer, 150,000 00; Cash balance, Oct. 31, 1895, 272,126 01; Total, \$3,450,930 92.

STATE TREASURER, SINKING FUND AND THE DISPENSARY.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THESE OFFICES—MAKES A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.

While the initial cost of this important work of collecting unpaid taxes, and in placing the property upon the tax duplicate is expensive, we find that enough has been done to pay the entire cost and expenses of the work, including salary of agents, and has also, during last year, paid a net amount into the Treasury, of \$2,100 over and above the amounts paid to county and school fund, and other disbursements to county officers required to be made out of the collections of the Sinking Fund. After a careful investigation of the work performed under these Acts, we commend the same as wise legislation, supplying a material deficiency in the tax laws, and going far to perfect the tax system. The laws are being administered by the County Treasurers, General Comptroller General, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, and of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, who, ex officio constitute the Board of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, their work is carefully systematized, and provided with checks and safeguards to prevent any abuse in the performance of their duties under the law. All important matters are acted upon by resolutions adopted by the Board, and each and every act of the agent is submitted to the Board for review, and for its approval. There is, however, much friction between the Comptroller General's Department and Sinking Fund Commission.

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