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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TILLMAN GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF HIS STEWARDSHIP.

The Condition in which he Found the Affairs of the State---What he has Done to Improved them---His Advice in Regard to Needed Legislation.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 25.—The following synopsis of Gov. Tillman's Message will give a good idea of the document and contain its most important features:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

Another year has come and gone, bringing the period for the representatives of the people to meet and perform their functions as a part of the government; and, as required by the constitution, it is a duty imposed upon the executive to "give to the General Assembly information of the condition of the State and recommend for their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient."

The reports of the several heads of departments and executive boards will furnish full information and details concerning all State institutions and the several departments of the State government. But I will briefly condense such information as I deem most important, and which will aid your honorable body to grasp the general situation in the State and condition of its institutions.

FINANCES.

The reports of the State Treasurer and Comptroller General are very full and comprehensive, and an examination of them will give a clear understanding of the State's finances. The condition of the treasury is better than it was last year, but is far from being satisfactory.

I will only give a brief summary, so that you can gather the general situation.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Cash on hand Oct. 31, 1890.$	77,943.93
Receipts, all sources.....	1,073,752.98
Total.....$	1,151,696.91
Expenditures.....$	1,087,081.89
Balance Oct. 31, 1891.....	64,615.02
Total.....$	1,151,696.91

The following is a comparative statement between 1890 and 1891, as to cash on hand:

1890.

Cash balance Oct. 31, 1890....$	77,943.93
Outstanding warrants.....	41,802.82
Net cash balance.....$	36,141.11
Borrowed money.....	50,500.00
Overdrawn on banks.....	22,800.00
Due by State Oct. 31, 1890..$	73,300.00
Less cash.....	36,141.11
Leaving net debt Oct. 31, 1890 .....$	37,158.89

1891.

Cash on hand Oct. 31, 1891....$	64,615.02
Less outstanding warrants...	14,250.83
Net balance.....$	50,364.19
Bond balance paid for 1890....	37,158 89
Difference in favor of 1891..$	87,523 08

Here is a comparative statement of liabilities or floating indebtedness, which may be called for any time:

1890.

Cash liabilities, Oct. 31, 1890..$	489,197.33
Cash in treasury.....	77,943.93
Net debtor.....$	411,253.40

1891.

Cash liabilities November 1, 1891.....$	428,232.83
Cash assets November 1, 1891.....	64,615.02
Net cash indebtedness.....$	363,617.81

The following is an abstract of liabilities other than cash, 1st November, 1891, (bond debt):

Total liabilities Nov. 1, 1891:	
Cash liabilities.....$	489,197.33
Liabilities, other than cash.	6,433,517.72
	$6,922,715.05
Cash assets, 1st November, 1890.....	77,943.93
Net indebtedness, 1st November, 1890.....$	6,844,771.12
Total liabilities, 1st November, 1891:	
Cash liabilities.....$	428,232.83
Liabilities, other than cash.	6,406,606.00
	$6,834,838.83
Cash assets, 1st November, 1891.....	64,615 02
Net indebtedness, 1st November, 1891.....$	6,770,223.81

The act of December 22, 1886, creating the treasury reserve fund, set apart $272,121.33, and required "that said fund shall be held by the Treasurer of of the State of South Carolina, to be used in payment of all interest due upon the bonded debt of the State and appropriations made by the General Assembly: Provided, There be no other funds in the treasury applicable thereto. And when taxes are collected and paid into the State Treasury, the treasurer shall at once, from said collections, replace the amount of said reserve fund which has been used. * * * Said fund to be used and replaced as hereinbefore directed in each succeeding fiscal year."

Now, these figures either represented cash or they did not; and if the money was there, has been since spent, in excess of the receipts from taxation, it should appear. If the money can be honestly accounted for, it will be a source of satisfaction to know it. Therefore, I cordially join in the recommendation that steps be taken to thoroughly investigate the whole matter. It is idale to continue to keep this "mythical" fund on the books of the treasury, and the act creating it should be repealed.

As will be seen by the Comptroller General's report, there is an increase on the assessed value of property this year over last of $17,660,218, and that officer deserves commendation for the zealous and unflinching manner in which he has endeavored to ferret out tax dodgers and make them share the burdens of supporting the government. The law provides that property shall be assessed at its "real market value." And, while this is difficult of accomplishment, the comptroller and his subordinates are none the less bound by their oaths to carry it out, as far as practicable. It cannot be done in one year, or in five, and there is neither sense nor law for the claim that it must be done "all in one year" or not at all. It is like requiring a child to walk before it crawls, or remain forever in the cradle. There is, and always will be, great inequality in taxation. Much property will always escape entirely; but when it can be shown that any one species of property is placed on the tax books at its "selling value," we have gone a long way towards bringing it all up to that standard. We have begun on the railroads and banks. Justice demands that we go through the whole list, and I join the Comptroller in asking that provision be made for a reassessment of land next year. In this connection I would urge the necessity of a change in the county governments and the mode of assessing property.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.

The office of county commissioner should be abolished, and in place of it a government by townships substituted. Three intelligent men in each township, elected by the voters thereof, should be entrusted with the management of the roads and bridges, schools, and assessment of property in the same. The chairmen of these local boards should constitute a county board to manage the county finances, audit accounts and order expenditures. The salaries, if any, paid these township commissioners, or selectmen, can be determined by the voters or fixed by law. The Constitution can be changed to abolish the office of county school commissioner, and these changes will inevitably result in a great saving to each county, while there will be a corresponding increase in efficiency. Property will be assessed at its real value, and millions now hidden will be made to pay their share of taxes. This county board should also constitute the county board of equalization, instead of being appointed as at present by the auditor.

In this connection I suggest the propriety of requiring all notes, etc., to be stamped by the county auditor and placed on tax books to make them collectible by law. Make the note shaver or lender pay taxes as well as the land owner whose property stands in his name, while he perhaps owes as much as it is worth. Equity would require that a man deduct his debts from his property and pay tax on the remainder. This is impraticable, but it is better that property shall be trebly taxed, both debtor and creditor paying, than that the debtor must pay double, as he is obliged to do, and the creditor pay nothing, as is too often done.

DEFAULTERS.

The investigations by different officers during the year have brought to light the fact that the "incipient rottenness" charged last year as existing in the government was not a myth. A shortage of $5,528 was discovered in the office of the Adjutant and Inspector General, a like deficit of $930 in the account of the Clerk of the Penitentiary, and the Comptroller General has found shortages still unsettled in the treasurers' offices of Charleston, Sumter and Union aggregating $9,608. That officer says in his report that there had been a good deal of money made good of which no mention is made, and that in nearly every county irregularities and errors existed, the amounts aggregating upwards of $20,000, which he collected and turned into the treasury. These are the fruits of an examination of the books for one year only. What would be unearthed if the investigations were carried back several years, is left to conjecture.

THE ASYLUM.

At your last session a special committee was appointed to investigate the affairs of this institution. This committee began its labors in April, and, after taking voluntary testimony from some of the employees of the institution, adjourned without completing its work. They found, as I afterward learned, that one of the inmates had been allowed to retain a pistol in his possession, and other reprehensible irregularities. Shortly afterward this same patient made a murderous assault on one of the attendants, and the matter being called to my attention I immediately summoned the committee to come back and conclude its labors. Two of the members, Dr. Stralt, Senator from Lancaster, and Dr. Goodwin, member of the House from Greenville, responded; and as I am, under the Constitution, charged with the appointment of all officers and employees of the institution, I went with the committee and we made a thorough and searching investigation into its management. A stenographer was employed, who took down all important testimony, a part of which will be printed for your information to accompany the report of the committee. We found that there had been very lax discipline and negligence, attributable to the superintendent, Dr. P. E. Griffin; and after giving that gentleman an opportunity to disprove the charges made against him, which he refused to accept, he was removed and the institution placed temporarily in charge of Dr. Thompson. The correspondence in the case is on file in the executive office for the inspection of any member of the General Assembly who desires to read it. My insight into the condition and workings of the institution and knowledge of its wants was largely increased by this personal investigation, and I can reiterate, with confidence, the opinions and advice given in my inaugural address as to changes in its management.

The present superindendent, Dr. J. W. Babcock, an accomplished and thoroughly educated specialist, who was appointed in July last, and assumed control on August 15, has made some suggestions in which I heartily concur, in reference to the admission of patients and to other matters connected with the institution. There are now 738 inmates in the asylum.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The report of the board of directors and superintendant shows this institution to be in a healthy condition. The number of convicts this year is 793, as compared with 791 last year. Attention has been paid to the sanitary condition and the proper dieting of the prisoners, the good results of which are shown in the decrease in the death rate, which facts are very gratifying. The financial condition is as follows:

Total amount received.....$	61,038.57
Total amount paid out.....	52,601.92
Cash balance paid out.....	$8,436.95
Due by contractors.....	5,300.00
Cotton unsold.....	15,000.50
Total assets.....$	28,736.95

This result, which is not satisfactory, is in no wise attributable to the present management, which has accomplished all that was possible considering the adverse conditions under which the institution has labored the whole year. When the present management assumed control it found contracts existing with the canal trustees and the owners of the farms worked on shares, which they were obliged to fulfill. Experience soon showed that the compensation allowed for the work on the canal was barely enough to pay for the maintenance and guarding of the prisoners engaged in it, and although a little advance in the rates was obtained, the work has yielded very little or no profit.

The farming operations, owing to extremely unfavorable seasons and the low price of cotton, have also left a very small margin. The canal is completed, and it is safe to say that it has cost the State of South Carolina not less than $300,000. This amount she has presented to the city of Columbia in lieu of 500 horse-power developed at the penitentiary; but we will hope that the increase in property values, which are expected to result from the development of the water power, will in time reimburse the State. There is one contract for a year still to be fulfilled, the work being on shares, but the directors have decided that in future they will only farm out the convicts for a net sum per capita to contractors, and they will bend all their energies, in farming to the development of the State farm in Sumter county, known as the DeSaussure place.

PHOSPHATE COMMISSION.

In accordance with a provision of the act creating the same, the Phosphate Commission, of which the executive is ex-officio a member, was organized in January last, and we made an extended and thorough investigation of the phosphate industry. The amount of capital invested in this business is very large, and no conception of the ingenuity displayed in adapting means to ends and in overcoming difficulties (at first glance seemingly insurmountable) can be obtained without a personal inspection of the works.

On the 1st of March in accordance with the instructions of the act creating the commission, we took possession of Coosaw river and issued licenses to mine therein to three companies. Two of these entered the river, but were enjoined in the United States court by Judge Simonton. He took advantage of the fact that the Phosphate Commissioners were treated as individuals rather than as State officers, although he knew they were State officers, to grant the injunction.

As the public prints have given full accounts of all subsequent litigation and the present status of the Coosaw case, I shall not mention it further than to say that while there has been a decrease in the revenue consequent upon the stoppage of the Coosaw Company of $52,636.60, we feel that the State is to be congratulated upon the present status, as there is every reason to expect that the United States Supreme Court will sustain the view already expressed in the decision of Chief Justice Fuller and the suit be terminated early next year.

The price of phosphate rock continues high, and as soon as work can be resumed in Coosaw river there will be an increase in the income of the State from royalty more than sufficient to recoup us for the little loss we have sustained in maintaining the right of the State to control her own property. It would be wise, in my opinion, to give the Commission the power to impose a graduated royalty to correspond with the prices of rock, and also to permit it to fix the royalty on rock in streams other than Coosaw at a less rate than for that river. Some of the rock is of low grade, and some of the deposits are very hard, making mining difficult. Therefore, a fixed royalty for every locality precludes profitable mining in many streams if concessions are not made to the miners. It would also be better when Coosaw river is opened to apportion that territory among the different persons applying for a license and require them to mine over the whole allotted territory. We have found, by the report of Inspector Jones, that under the management of the Bureau of Agriculture, Commissioner Butler and Mr. Roche, the different companies, notably the Coosaw, have been paying less royalty than the law requires, by reason of not making due allowance for the moisture expelled in drying the rock. How much of this, if any, can be recovered will have to be determined by the courts, if the Attorney General shall deem it wise to enter suit. The loss to the State thus discovered has amounted to $132,351.61 since mining operations were begun, and $86,373.59 since the establishment of the Agricultural Department in 1880. The difference, 6.45 per cent., between the amount of moisture actually expelled and that which the companies have allowed, amounts for this fiscal year to more than $11,000, and as the present officials cannot be held responsible for any *quasi* agreements or neglect on the part of their predecessors, payment of this sum will be demanded, and, if necessary, enforced in the courts, while we will in future require payment on the basis of $1.10 per ton for dried rock.

Before leaving this subject I desire to mention the importance of some steps being taken to prevent the damage now resulting to the State's interests in the Ashley, Stono and Edisto rivers by the dumping of the debris or tailings into those streams from the works of the land miners. Some time ago I addressed a communication to Capt. F. V. Abbot, U. S. Engineers, at Charleston, asking for information as to the filling up of these streams by reason of this debris being emptied therein. He replied that he had reported to the authorities at Washington in regard to Ashley river, but knew nothing of obstruction to the other streams mentioned, and informed me that Congress, last December, had passed an act prohibiting the dumping of such material into navigable streams. The State's interest is to prevent her phosphate beds from being buried so that they cannot be profitably mined, and the United States seeks to preserve the navigability of rivers. But for fear the United States authorities may not press the matter, I call it to your attention.

EDUCATIONAL AND COLLEGES.

The Governor says: "Our free schools are not in a satisfactory condition, and never will be until the present unwieldly, irregularly shaped districts are subdivided, and small, compact ones substituted, in which shall be permanently located one school house for each race. This is the basis upon which local taxation supplementing the two-mill tax can erect a school system that will accomplish the ends desired, and until it is done, little or no progress will be made except in the towns and thickly populated sections of the country. I would urge you not to adjourn again till you take up this matter and perfect the law.

In speaking of the South Carolina College the Governor says: I cannot refrain from expressing regret that so much money has been wasted in the past three years for the salaries of professors and tutors who had no pupils, to the neglect of the buildings and library. There is dilapidation everywhere about the institution, and a woeful lack of modern books in the library. It is to be hoped the General Assembly will act liberally, so as to put the buildings in repair and supply the more pressing needs of the library. In this connection I would direct your attention to the feasibility and desirability of lighting all the State institutions in the city, the State house, the asylum, the South Carolina College, the executive mansion and the penitentiary, from one plant, located either on the canal or at the asylum.

I have during the year visited the Citadel Academy, Claflin College and the Cedar Springs institute. All of these institutions are in good condition, and, so far as I could see, admirably conducted. The Citadel has recently had the burnt wing rebuilt, and has been put in thorough repair throughout, and has laid the foundation of a handsome and useful library. The Cedar Springs Institute is a credit to the State. It has such an atmosphere of love and kindness about it that it does one good to see it. Its management reflects great credit on the board of commissioners and the zealous superintendent. I think the General Assembly can confidently grant all the money asked by these gentlemen with the assurance that it will be used judiciously.

The Governor speaks of Clemson College and the Industrial School for Women, but as extracts from his remarks on the former has already been published in these columns it is not necessary to republish them. Of the school for women he recommends that an act be passed providing for the foundation and future liberal support a State Industrial and Normal College for Women, conditioned upon the acceptance and fulfilment of some one of the offers recently made by different cities and towns. The Governor thinks that after the Clemson college shall have gotten well under way and equipped, in four or five years at most, there will be enough money now going to that school to run it and also this girls' school without taxation.

THE CRIMINAL LAW.

The Governor comments at length on the criminal law. He says: Continuances are granted upon the slightest pretext. Appeals are taken upon no pretext at all sometimes, and crime, when backed by money, appears to override or break through the meshes of the law with such impunity, that it is no wonder that our citizens have at times forgotten themselves and taken the law into their own hands. I give as instances of justice long held at bay, the Turner and coon cases in Spartanburg, the James case in Darlington, and the Jones case in Edgefield. One remedy which I desire to suggest is, that the juries, which I have every reason to believe now are sometimes tampered with or "fixed" beforehand, shall be drawn in open court for the next term after the judge in person shall have examined the boxes and seen that everything is correct. In the prosecution of criminal cases the solicitor is always at a disadvantage. He is often confronted by the ablest lawyers at the bar who live in the county and are acquainted with witnesses, jurors, etc. But these difficulties are frequently overcome and verdicts obtained in spite of them. The main reason why so many crimes go "unwhipt of justice" is that the cases are not properly prepared for the solicitor by the trial justices or coroner. If the office of coroner were dignified and the salary or fees made commensurate so as to make it a desirable office; if it were filled by a competent lawyer, whose duty it should be to investigate all deaths caused by violence, collect evidence, prepare the case, and act as assistant prosecutor in his county, we would have many a man convicted who now goes scot free. Then, if trial justices were required to attend court and help the solicitor in cases where they have held a preliminary examination, it would add largely to the list of convictions. Another abuse is, that instead of a prisoner under sentence, and in whose case appeal has been taken, being required to be brought into court at the next term for resentence, thus entailing expense upon the county for maintenance, the sentence should be executed as soon as the Supreme Court shall have dismissed the appeal. Then there should be strict and mandatory legislation prohibiting a judge from continuing a case that had been once continued, except under extraordinary circumstances. Another is to make it obligatory upon the Supreme Court to dishar any attorney who takes an appeal on frivolous grounds. It has come to the pass that an appeal is almost a matter of course, and a stay of proceedings follows.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

I desire to direct your attention to a question of great importance, with which the welfare of society and the economical administration of the government are closely connected. It is the matter of licensing the sale of liquor. Without entering into any discussion of the prohibition question, I will call your attention to a gross inequality and injustice to a part of our citizens, entailed by the present system. Section 1732 of the General Statutes read: "No license for the sale of intoxicating liquor shall be granted by any municipal authority in any city, town or village in this state, except upon the payment by the person applying for the same to the treasurer of the county in which said city or town is situated the sum of $100 in addition to the license charged by such city, town or village, for the use of said county, to be applied to the ordinary expenses of the county."

It will be seen that, by this provision of law, only a small proportion of the tax derived from the sale of liquor goes to the general fund. Now, while I do not believe that it is practicable, or even desirable, to attempt the absolute prohibition of the sale of liquor in this State, no sensible man will deny that one-half or three-fourths of the crimes committed in the State, are traceable directly to the drinking of whiskey. In order to punish these crimes, the machinery of the law is set in motion. The courts are supported by general taxation, and largely by the country people, and yet the State permits municipal corporations to maintain or license what many men regard as a nuisances and breeders of crime, while two thirds or three-fourths of the money accruing therefrom is retained by the corporations. The anomalous condition is presented then of a community allowing itself to be unjustly taxed as a whole for the suppression of a crime produced by the action of a part—the tax being largely for local benefit, while the abuse is general. The people in the country not only pay tribute to those who sell liquor,—by means of which the towns are beautified and adorned—but they pay tax for the suppression of crime produced by the maintenance of these barrooms. It is unjust and unequal, and ought to be stopped. I therefore strongly reccomend that all municipal corporations be prohibited from levying any license at all, and that all tax derivable from the sale of whiskey shall go into the State and county treasuries, leaving the matter of local option as at present; and if any municipal corporation desires to license the sale of liquor, let it derive no special benefit from it. There are, as I am informed, between 700 and 800 barrooms in the State. How many municipalities would relinquish the sale of liquor if they derived no money benefit from it, I cannot even guess. What decrease may follow the enactment of such a law is equally unknown. With a high license imposed on each dealer in the article, either at wholesale or retail, and all of this fund going to support State and county governments, it appears to me we would have a large increase of revenue, as well as a large decrease in crime, with a corresponding decrease in court expences, and consequent reduction of taxes.

OTHER MATTERS.

In reference to removals from office the Governor says: In my administration of the executive office I have found things in a very muddled and unsatisfactory condition as regards the powers and duties of the governor in the matter of removal. He then briefly outline the existing status and the defects in the law, so that the general assembly can see the importence of legislation and says: The General Assembly have a choice between two evils; giving more power to the Governor, which power may be abused as against a few men, or permitting things to remain as they are, to the injury of the public at large, and producing discontent and a demoralized condition of the public service. If given authority to correct these evils, I will do it fearlessly. If it is thought better to trust to juries drawn by the men who are to be tried, I am content, since attention has been called to the matter and the people can understand where the blame rests.

In the matter of the Charleston Supervisior case the Governor argues at some length against the decision of Judge Wallace in the Cantwell case. He concludes that there was a grave doubt as to whether his construction of the law was wrong, and he believes the Executive should be given the benefit of the doubt. He says: I am aware that in thus commenting on a judge's action I may be accused of committing the very offence with which I am charging Judge Wallace, viz: an invasion of the domain of a co-ordinate department of the government. The General Assembly enacts laws, the judges construe them, and the governor executes. To say that a governor should not criticise a judge, even on the Supreme bench, when the rights and powers of his office are at issue, is absurd. Judges are but men, and they are neither infalliable nor immaculate. For the Executive and Legislative Departments to submit in slavish silence to unreasonable decisions would be a betrayal of the trusts reposed in them by the people.

The Governor in speaking of railroads says: Owing to a difference of opinion between the Legislature and the executive at the last session, the railroad law failed and it was too late to amend the act so that I could conscientiously approve it. I may be allowed to express the hope that the differences of opinion which then existed will be amicably adjusted and a proper bill passed. There are some points in the proposed law to which I desire to direct attention and commend to your earnest consideration. One is a provision preventing the consolidation of competing lines. The absorption by lease or otherwise has gone on until virtually there are only four railroad systems in the State. As fast as new lines are constructed, they are bought up or leased by the older corporations, and many communities in the State which are staggering under a heavy debt contracted to aid in the building of competing lines are without the benefit of competition. He recommends that assessments on railroads be made by the Railroad Commission, as in the nature of things they would know more about it than anybody else. There has been an increase during the year in the valution of railroads of about $8,000,000, which will make the increase in the taxation which will have to be paid by them $100,000.

The Governor strongly urges a State exhibit at the World's Fair. He says not to make one would be a crime against ourselves. With Clemson College materials an appropriation of $15,000, supplemented by voluntary contributions a most respectable exhibit could be made. Not to be represented would be an act of parsimony that would cause us to blush. He urges the appointment of a commission to take charge of the matter.

The Governor states that a bill has been prepared appointing a commissioner who shall obtain necessary information about direct taxes in the archives of Washington, who shall act as the State's agent in payment of claims. The amount to be paid is $222,000.

The Governor recommends that the "black district" shall be abolished. "It was never seen before and should never be seen again." "We have no reason to dread the return of negro rule in the State and there is no reason why our Congressional districts should not be arranged in reasonably compact shape."

The Governor recommends that the County Boards of Medical Examiners be abolished and says: I do not think any person should be allowed to practice medicine who has not taken at least a three years' course, and who cannot stand an examination before a competent board of physicians. A county board is objectionable because in a small area it might be accused of rejecting applicants from jealousy or a desire to cut off competition. This objection could not hold against a State board, and I therefore recommend the re-enactment of the old law with such modifications as will prevent abuses or tyranical rejections.

In the report of the Adjutant and Inspector General, he suggests that a small fund be provided for the publication, in pamphlet form, of the rolls of such companies and regiments as are not complete. The purpose is that these may be distributed in the territory from which the men were enlisted, so that the survivors may have some data to be guided by in supplying the missing names. It should be a matter of State pride, and of justice to the dead and living alike, that everything reasonable be done to put on record in the archives of the goverment at least the name of every man who wore the gray. I therefore urge consideration of the Adjutant General's recommendation. He is a zealous and efficient officer, and, being a gallant Confederate soldier himself, will use every reasonble effort to finish this necessary work.

The Governor refers feelingly to the death of Chief Justice Simpson.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I beg to remind you that the present General Assembly and the present State administration were elected on a platform of reform, and that the people are confidently looking to us to redeem our pledges. Many of the reforms contemplated have been consummated or are in a process of consummation; but there are other questions of vital importance which I hope will receive your careful consideration. The present deplorable condition of our people, which I have more than once alluded to, caused by the poor yield of our staple crop and its low price, make it obligatory upon you to cut off every possible item of expenditure not absolutely necessary; for it is possible, and altogether probable, that there will be a considerable deficit by reason of inability of the people to pay their taxes. A bill to substitute salaries instead of fees in county offices, putting the fees into the treasury, and making a reduction of salaries all along the line to a figure corresponding with the increased purchasing power of money and the decreased ability of the people to pay, seems absolutely necessary. The saving may be little, but we have reached the point where even a small economy is of material importance.

Relying upon your patriotism and wisdom, and assuring you of my cordial co-operation, I invoke the blessing of God on your labors.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

Fasted Too Long.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—G. Henry Stratton, one of a dozen men who began the fasting contest in the Fourteenth street museum and who lasted longer than all the others, and who was taken to Bellevue Hospital on Tuesday in an exhausted condition, died this morning. An autopsy will be held to determine the cause of his death.

DR. TALMAGE IN ATHENS.

WONDERS OF THE ACROPOLIS AND ITS SUGGESTIONS.

The Market Where the Athenians Daily Met to Hear or Tell Some New Thing---St. Paul on Mars Hill---A City Wholly Given to Idolatry.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 22.—The congregation at the Tabernacle, led by cornet and organ, sang this morning with great power the hymn of Isaac Watts, beginning:

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.

The sermon, which was on the Acropolis, is the sixth of the series Dr. Talmage is preaching on the subjects suggested by his tour in Bible lands. His text was taken from Acts xvii, 16, "While Paul waited for them at Athens his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry."

It seemed as if morning would never come. We had arrived after dark in Athens, Greece, and the night was sleepless with expectation, and my watch slowly announced to me one and two and three and four o'clock; and at the first ray of dawn I called our party to look out of the window upon that city to which Paul said he was a debtor, and to which the whole earth is debtor for Greek architecture, Greek sculpture, Greek poetry, Greek eloquence, Greek prowess and Greek history.

That morning in Athens we sauntered forth armed with most generous and lovely letters from the president of the United States and his secretary of state, and during all our stay in that city those letters caused every door and every gate and every temple and every palace to swing open before us. The mightiest geographical name on earth today is America.

But this morning we pass through where stood the Agora, the ancient market place, the locality where philosophers used to meet their disciples, walking while they talked, and where Paul, the Christian logician, flung many a proud Stoic and got the laugh on many an impertinent Epicurean. The market place was the center of social and political life, and it was the place where people went to tell and hear the news.

The market place was a space three hundred and fifty yards long and two hundred and fifty wide, and it was given up to gossip and merchandise, and lounging and philosophizing. All this you need to know in order to understand the Bible when it says of Paul, "Therefore disputed he in the market daily with them that met him." You see it was the best place to get an audience, and if a man feels himself called to preach he wants people to preach to. But before we make our chief visits of today we must take a turn at the Stadium. It is a little way out, but go we must. The Stadium was the place where the foot-races occurred.

Paul had been out there no doubt, for he frequently uses the scenes of that place as figures when he tells us, "Let us run the race that is set before us," and again. "They do it to obtain a corruptible garland, but we an incorruptible." The marble and the gilding have been removed, but the high mounds against which the seats were piled are still there. The Stadium is six hundred and eighty feet long, one hundred and thirty feet wide, and held forty thousand spectators. There is today the very tunnel through which the defeated racer departed from the Stadium and from the hisses of the people, and there are the stairs up which the victor went to the top of the hill to be crowned with the laurel.

In this place contests with wild beasts sometimes took place, and while Hadrian, the emperor, sat on yonder height one thousand beasts where slain in one celebration. But it was chiefly for foot racing, and so I proposed to my friend that day while we were in the Stadium that we try which of us could run the sooner from end to end of this historical ground, and so at the word given by the lookers on we started side by side, but before I got through I found out what Paul meant when he compares the spiritual race with the race in this very Stadium, as he says, "Lay aside every weight." My heavy overcoat and my friend's freedom from such incumbrance showed the advantage in any kind of a race of "laying aside every weight."

We come now to the Acropolis. It is a rock about two miles in circumference at the base and a thousand feet in circumference at the top and three hundred feet hizh. On it has been crowded more elaborate architecture and sculpture than in any other place under the whole heavens. Originally a fortress, afterward a congregation of temples and statues and pillars, their ruins an enchantment from which no observer ever breaks away. No wonder that Aristides thought it the center of all things—Greece, the center of the world, Attica, the center of Greece; Athens, the center of Attica, and the Acropolis, the center of Athens. Earthquakes have shaken it. Verres plundered it.

Lord Elgin, the English embassador at Constantinople, got permission of the sultan to remove from the Acropolis fallen pieces of the building, but he took from the building to England the finest statues, removing them at an expense of eight hundred thousand dollars. A storm over threw many of the statues of the Acropolis. Morosini, the general, attempted to remove from a pediment the sculptured car and horses of Victory, but the clumsy machinery dropped it and all was lost.

But the overshadowing wonder of all divinities; centaurs in battle; weaponry from Marathon; chariot of night; chariot of the morning; horses of the sun, the fates, the furies; statue of Jupiter holding in his right hand the thunderbolt; silver footed chair in which Xerxes watched the battle of Salamis only a few miles away.

Here is the colossal statue of Minerva in full armor, eyes of gray colored stone, figure of a Sphinx on her head, griffins by her side (which are lions with eagle's beak), spear in one hand, statue of liberty in the other, a shield carved with battle scenes, and even the slippers sculptured and tied on with thongs of gold. Far out at sea the sailors saw this statue of Minerva rising high above all the temples, glittering in the sun. Here are statues of equestrians, statue of a honness, and there are the Graces, and yonder a horse in bronze.

The Persians easily and terribly assaulted the Acropolis from this hilltop. Here assembled the court to try criminals. It was held in the nighttime, so that the faces of the judges could not be seen, nor the faces of the lawyers who made the plea, and so, instead of a trial being one of emotion, it must have been one of cool justice. But there was one occasion on this hill memorable above all others.

A little man, physically weak, and his rhetoric described by himself as contemptible, had by his sermons rocked Athens with commotion, and he was summoned either by writ of law or hearty invitation to come upon that pulpit of rock and give a specimen of his theology. All the wise-acres of Athens turned out and turned up to hear him. The more venerable of them set in an amphitheater, the granite seats of which are still visible, but the other people swarmed on all sides of the hill and at the base of it to hear this man, whom some called a fanatic, and others called a madcap, and others a blasphemer, and others styled contemptuously "this fellow."

Paul arrived in answer to the writ or invitation, and confronted them and gave them the biggest dose that mortals ever took. He was so built that nothing could scare him, and as for Jupiter and Athenia, the god and the goddess, whose images were in full sight on the adjoining hill, he had not so much regard for them as he had for the ant that was crawling in the sand under his feet. In that audience were the first orators of the world, and they had voices like flutes when they were passive, and like trumpets when they were aroused, and I think they laughed in the sleeves of their gowns as this insignificant looking man rose to speak.

In that audience were Scholiasts, who knew everything, or thought they did, and from the end of the longest hair on the top of their craniums to the end of the nail on the longest toe, they were stuffed with hypercriticism, and they leaned back with a supercilious look to listen. As in 1889, I stood on that rock where Paul stood, and a slab of which I brought from Athens by consent of the queen, through Mr. Tricoupis, the prime minister, and had placed in yonder Memorial hall, I read the whole story, Bible in hand.

What I have so far said in this discourse was necessary in order that you may understand the boldness, the defiance, the holy recklessness, the magnificence of Paul's speech. The first thunderbolt he launched at the opposite hill—the Acropolis—that moment all agliter with idols and temples. He cries out, "God who made the world." Why, they thought that Prometheus made it, that Mercury made it, that Apollo made it, that Poseidon made it, that Eros made it, that Pandrocus made it, that Boreas made it, that it took all the gods of the Parthenon, yea, all the gods and goddesses of the Acropolis to make it, and here stands a man without any ecclesiastical title, neither a D. D., nor even a reverend, declaring that the world was made by the Lord of heaven and earth, and hence the inference that all the splendid covering of the Acropolis, so near that the people standing on the steps of the Parthenon could hear it, was a deceit, a falsehood, a sham, a blasphemy. Look at the faces of his auditors; they are turning pale, and then red, and then wrathful. There had been several earthquakes in that region, but that was the severest shock these men had ever felt.

The Persians had bombarded the Acropolis from the heights of Mars Hill, but this Pauline bombardment was greater and more terrific. "What," said his hearers, "have we been hauling with many yokes of oxen for centuries these blocks from the quarries of Mount Pentelicum, and have we had our architects putting up these structures of unparelleled splendor, and have we had the greatest of all sculptors, Phidias, with his men chiseling away at those wondrous pediments and cuttting away at these friezes, and have we taxed the nation's resources to the utmost, now to be told that those statues see nothing, hear nothing, know nothing?"

Oh, Paul, stop for a moment and give these startled and overwhelmed auditors time to catch their breath! Make a rhetorical pause! Take a look around you at the interesting landscape, and give your hearers time to recover! No, he does not make even a period, or so much as a colon or semicolon, but launches the second thunderbolt right after the first and in the same breath goes on to say, God "dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Oh, Paul! Is not deity more in the Parthenon, or more in the Erechtheium, or more in the temple of Zeus Olympius than in the open air, more than on the hill where we are sitting, more than on Mount Hymettus out yonder, from which the bees get their honey? "No more!" responds Paul, "He dwelleth not in temples made with hands."

But surely the preacher on the pulpit of rock on Mars Hill will stop now. His audience can endure no more. Two thunderbolts are enough. No, in the same breath he launches the third thunderbolt, which to them is more fiery, more terrible, more demolishing than the others, as he cries out, "hath made of one blood all nations." Oh, Paul! you forget you are speaking to the proudest and most exclusive audience in the world. Do not say "of one blood." You cannot mean that. Had Socrates and Plato and Demosthenes and Solon and Lycurgus and Draco and Sophocles and Euripides and Æschylus and Pericles and Phidias and Miltiades blood just like the Persians, like the Turks, like the Egyptians, like the common herd of humanity? "Yes," says Paul, "of one blood all nations."

Surely that must be the closing paragraph of the sermon. His auditors must let up from the nervous strain. Paul has smashed the Acropolis and smashed the national pride of the Greeks, and what more can he say? Those Grecian orators, standing on that place, always closed their addresses with something sublime and climactric—a peroration—and Paul is going to give them a peroration which will eclipse in power and magesty all that he has yet said. Heretofore he has hurled one thunderbolt at a time; now he will close by hurling two at once. The little old man, under the power of his speech, has straightened himself up, and the stoop has gone out of his shoulders, and he looks about three feet taller than when he began; and his eyes, which were quiet, became two flames of fire; and his face, which was calm in the introduction, now depicts a whirlwind of emotion as he ties the two thunderbelts together with a cord of incomunable courage and hurls them at the crowd now standing or sitting aghast—the two thunderbolts of Resurrection and Last Judgment. His closing words were, "Because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, whereof he hath given assurance unto all men in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Remember those thoughts were to them novel and provocative; that Christ, the despised Nazarene, would come to be their judge, and they should have to get up out of their cemeteries to stand before him and take their eternal doom. Mightiest burst of elocutionary power ever heard. The ancestors of some of those Greeks had heard Demosthenes in his oration on the crown, had heard Æschines in his speeches against Timarchus and Ctesiphon, had heard Plato in his great argument for immortality of the soul, had heard Socrates on his deathbed, suicidal cup of hemlock in hand, leave his hearers in emotion too great to bear; had in the theater of Dionysus at the foot of the Acropolis (the ruins of its piled up amphitheater and the marble floor of its orchestra still there) seen enacted the tragedies of Æschylus and Sophocles, but neither had the ancestors of these Grecians on Mars Hill or themselves ever heard or witnessed such tornadoes of moral power as that with which Paul now whelmed his hearers. At those two thoughts of resurrection and judgment the audience sprang to their feet. Some moved they adjourn to some other day to hear more on the same theme, but others would have torn the sacred orator to pieces.

The record says: "Some mocked." I suppose it means that they mimicked the solemnity of his voice; that they took off his impassioned gesticulations, and they cried out: "Jew! Jew! Where did you study rhetoric? You ought to hear our orators speak! You had better go back to your business of tent-making. Our Lycurgus knew more in a minute than you will know in a month. Say, where did you get that crooked back, and those weak eyes from? Ha! ha! You try to teach us Grecians! What nonsense you talk about when you speak of resurrection and judgment. Now, little old man, climb down the side of Mars Hill and get out of sight as soon as possible." "Some mocked." But that scene adjourned to the day of which the sacred orator had spoken—the day of resurrection and judgment.

As in Athens, that evening in 1889, we climbed down the pile of slippery rocks, where all this had occurred, on our way back to our hotel, I stood half way between the Acropolis and Mars in the gathering shadows of eventide, I seemed to hear those two hills in sublime and awful converse. "I am chiefly of the past;" said the Acropolis. "I am chiefly of the future," replied Mars Hill. The Acropolis said: "My orators are dead. My lawgivers are dead. My poets are dead. My architects are dead. My scuptors are dead. I am a monument of the dead past. I shall never, never again hear a song sung. I will never again see a column lifted. I will never again behold a goddess crowned."

Mars Hill responded: "I too, have a history. I had on my heights warriors who will never again unsheath the sword, and judges who will never again utter a doom and orators who will never again make a plea. But my influence is to be more in the future than it ever was in the past. The words that missionary, Paul, uttered that exciting day in