PLATT SAID TO FAVOR FISH.

HE WANTS THE SPEAKER NOMINATED FOR GOVERNOR.

POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT FOR ALDRIDGE, WHO SAYS THAT HE AND FISH "ARE THE ONLY REAL CONTESTANTS FOR THE NOMINATION."

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Buffalo, N. Y., July 31.—George W. Aldridge, when here on Tuesday, said that there were actually only two Republican candidates for Governor who should be considered as having a possible chance of obtaining the nomination. "Hamilton Fish and myself are the only real contestants for this nomination," he said, "and therefore the nomination rests between Fish and myself."

Mr. Aldridge, it will be observed, with that grandeur of movement which is one of his prominent characteristics, with one sweep of his powerful arm dashes off the political table, as though they were so many wooden figures, such men as Warner Miller, Charles T. Saxton, James A. Roberts, Timothy E. Ellsworth, Lester W. Russell, John Palmer, James W. Wadsworth, Benjamin B. Odell, jr., J. Sloat Fassett, Frank S. Black, James S. Sherman and other prominent Republicans who have been suggested for the nomination for Governor. Already in his judgment, the contest for Governor is narrowed down to himself and Mr. Fish. Only one-seventh of the delegates to the Republican State Convention have yet been elected, but so powerful is the Aldridge eye looking into the future and reading the minds of the delegates to be elected that he can declare with assurance that their support is now centred upon himself and Mr. Fish.

PLATT AND THE GOVERNORSHIP.

As bearing upon Aldridge's declaration in relation to Fish and himself, a statement made by a prominent New-York Republican who was here to-day will be read with interest. He happens to be one of Thomas C. Platt's chief lieutenants, and is privileged to talk with "the boss" frankly about the Governorship. "I had a talk of two hours' duration a few days ago with Mr. Platt about the Governorship," he said, "and canvassed with him the merits of various candidates. Finally, I said: 'Well, Mr. Platt, you have said this thing and that thing in favor of the candidates, but, frankly, whom do you favor for the Governorship?'

"And what did Mr. Platt say in reply?"

"He replied at once, as though he had been expecting some such question: 'Put yourself in my place for a moment. All of these men are friends of mine; they have all done favors for me. How can I come out in support of any special man for Governor among them? If I should, all the other candidates would combine against him and possibly beat him. I cannot, therefore, put my hands out in favor of any one.'"

"And Mr. Platt did not say whom he should support?"

"No—and yet I came away from his office with an impression away down in my boots, as the result of my talk with him, that he intended, if he could bring it about, to nominate 'Ham' Fish."

ALDRIDGE'S DISAPPOINTMENT IN 1894.

This information that Mr. Platt will attempt by a circuitous path to nominate Fish for Governor is calculated greatly to distress the soul of Aldridge. What! Within two years is he to suffer the pain of twice being "thrown down" by Mr. Platt? Only two years ago Aldridge was a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, and brought from Rochester some 3,000 Republicans to Saratoga to witness his nomination for the place. If he had obtained it his road to the nomination for Governor would now be clear. His friends say that at the time he had a letter from Mr. Platt in his possession promising him the nomination. Mr. Platt did not give him support for the position, and the convention escaped from Platt's grasp and nominated Charles T. Saxton for Lieutenant-Governor. It is true that afterward the position of Superintendent of Public Works was given Aldridge in consolation, but this did not heal the gashes in a wounded heart. Accustomed as he was to the disappointments of politics, Aldridge could not overcome his anguish over his loss of the Lieutenant-Governorship. He still remembers his suffering of two years ago; and if he is now to suffer the loss of the nomination for Governor, and to endure once more a treacherous attack from Mr. Platt, no one can tell what will be his condition of mind on August 25, when the Republican State Convention selects its candidate for Governor.

It has been said in Albany for several months that Mr. Fish was Governor Morton's choice for the Republican nomination for Governor, and there has been an expectation, therefore, that the State administration officials would be at work in the month of August securing delegates for the Speaker of the Assembly. Mr. Morton persuaded Mr. Platt to make Mr. Fish the Speaker of the Assembly, but it must be remembered that Mr. Morton was then at the beginning of his State administration with abundance of patronage at his command, and any wish of his, if strongly expressed, would be respected by Mr. Platt, if to grant it did not greatly endanger the smooth working of his political machine.

Mr. Morton is said to have given his word that Mr. Fish would "behave himself"—that is, give to Mr. Platt the naming of the committees of the Assembly, and support Mr. Platt's legislation. There can be no question that Mr. Fish has most faithfully lived up to Mr. Morton's pledges in his behalf. But Mr. Morton's administration is now ending. Many Republican politicians have not believed that Mr. Morton would have the slightest further influence with Mr. Platt; not, at least, to the extent of inducing him to accept a Morton candidate for Governor. If Mr. Fish, therefore, has gained Mr. Platt's support for himself, it is believed it has been due to his own powers of persuasion, rather than to Governor Morton's.

The election of Frederick S. Gibbs, of New-York, Mr. Fish's intimate friend and political brother, as a member of the Republican National Committee, politicians regard as Mr. Platt's first step toward putting matters in such shape in this State as to permit of his supporting Mr. Fish for Governor if he deems it good policy to do so. Gibbs, moreover, has a large influence among the machine organizations in New-York City. Both Fish and Aldridge are laboring to gain the support of the big New-York delegation. Gibbs is working about among the New-York politicians already, seeking to gain delegates for Fish. Mr. Fish himself also has labored hard to secure delegates in New-York City. Whenever he has not been at Mr. Platt's express office he has been at work among the Republican politicians of the metropolis.

Aldridge, however, has not neglected New-York. A good many visits "in behalf of the canals" have been paid to New-York in the last six months. Fish and Aldridge also have been at work in Brooklyn. It may be said that their path in New-York and Brooklyn has frequently been crossed by Charles T. Saxton, James A. Roberts and other independent Republican candidates for Governor.

REED'S OPENING SPEECH.

THE LESSON OF HIS SPEECH.

From The Buffalo Enquirer.

The lesson of Tom Reed's speech is that the excitement about the currency is froth and foam, and that the great point is the security which the success of the Republican party promises. The true remedies, in his opinion, are confidence and consequent prosperity. He certainly has no faith in the project of the Democratic majority for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1; and there is no indication that he has any faith in the project of the Democratic minority for gold monometallism, with all that it implies.

SHARP AND TO THE POINT.

From The Providence Journal.

Mr. Reed's speech yesterday at Alfred, Me., was sharp and to the point. He told his hearers that the most sensible thing for them to do this year is to vote the sound-money ticket, because the currency question is the all-important one of the campaign.

CONTRASTED WITH SILVER RHETORIC.

From The Baltimore American.

Mr. Reed's speech is a bugle blast. To determine the difference between a statesman and a pretentious amateur it is only necessary to compare the decisive logic of one of the Speaker's addresses with the rhetorical masterpiece of the silver-tongued orator of the Platte.

CLEAR AND TELLING AS TO SILVER.

From The Boston Journal.

Mr. Reed's argument on the silver issue was simple, brief but telling. It demonstrated his wonderful facility to make even abstruse things as clear as day to the popular comprehension.

ASHFORD HILL RETREAT.

EXCELLENT WORK OF THE TRIBUNE FRESH AIR FUND THERE.

POOR CITY BOYS AND GIRLS ENJOY PURE AIR AND THE PLEASURES OF THE COUNTRY.

About fifteen miles from New-York City and three miles east of the Hudson River The Tribune Fresh Air Fund operates one of its summer homes for city children. They come to Ashford Hill Retreat for a two weeks' outing. This home, comprising about seventy-five acres of beautifully wooded land and four comfortable summer cottages, is situated on a high elevation about one mile from Mount Hope, a station on the Putnam Division of the New-York Central and Hudson River Railroad. To the west lies the large tract of land recently purchased by a prominent golf club of New-York City. The scenery is very beautiful. One view is the special charm of all who go there—the tall columns of rock, as they rise in grandeur, forming the Palisades of the Hudson, can be seen on a clear day as you stand on the piazza of one of the cottages. And on all sides lovely valleys stretch out, and hills covered with birch, native pines and chestnut trees are seen.

This home belongs to the Church of the Holy Communion, of New-York City, and is given, rent free, to The Tribune Fresh Air Fund, which now has the management of it. One entire cottage, however, is reserved for occupancy by those who come from or are sent by this church to the country for their outing. The present superintendent of the home is W. H. Detrich, of the class of '99, in Princeton College. He is a capable man for the place and exhibits much tact and natural ability in the management of such work. In this work he is ably assisted by Mrs. S. A. Brown, a special nurse, of Brooklyn, who is matron of the home. The four women who assist in caring for the children are Mrs. M. F. Kellam, of Binghamton, N. Y., who has charge of the cottage occupied by the people from the Church of the Holy Communion; Miss Harriet S. Edwards, of Newark, N. J., and Miss May J. Mainwaring, of New-York City, both of whom are graduates of the Teachers' College, of New-York City, and are now engaged in kindergarten work, and Miss E. E. Sherwood, of the Central High School, of Binghamton, N. Y. The four male attendants are W. W. Fowler, a student in Rutgers College, who is doing his third year's work at this home; B. Franklin Royer, of Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia; John H. Detrich, of the Franklin and Marshall College, of Lancaster, Penn., and Charles H. Warner, a student in Union Theological Seminary, in New-York City. In addition to these there is one cook, besides several other servants. The entire help numbers nineteen.

As might be expected with the great number of children, many natures, vastly different, meet on the playground. The display and subsequent study of this varied human nature is an interesting feature of the work. Boys and girls are here who represent the extremes of both education and training, from homes as varied as their number is great, and bringing with them just the characteristics peculiar to their several homes and immediate environment—newsboys, cashboys and those of every class from the bootblack to the clerk. Among the girls are found cashgirls, clerks, servant girls and girls who are dependent solely upon their own resources and who need such a vacation in which to regain their impaired strength and thus be enabled to return to their labors. These all live together and play together. Hence discipline, wisely administered, is often necessary; but in it all the true dignity of right-doing is always strongly emphasized. The timid ones must be encouraged in their plays, the rebellious ones governed, and so in this way much benefit for all is derived.

It might be interesting to many to know what the children do in a day at the home. Beneath the roofs of these four cottages sleep 200 little ones. Though far from home and their parents, they are generally contented and happy. At 6 o'clock they are called, but almost all are awake and ready to jump out of bed when the call comes. After dressing themselves, the boys go to the barn nearby to wash, where basins have been conveniently arranged for that purpose. The attendants eat breakfast at 7 o'clock. At 7:30 the bell rings, and merry shouts ring out as the children bound into line ready to march in to their breakfast. With folded arms and bowed heads they sing this grace, which is also sung before each meal:

God is great and God is good,
And we thank Him for this food;
By His hand must all be fed,
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

After breakfast the girls swing, jump rope, gather wild flowers and amuse themselves, while the boys enjoy a spirited game of baseball. After dinner the girls take a long walk for flowers and ferns, and the boys go with two of the men to a clear stream a mile away for a good swim. About ninety boys go and enjoy this sport each day. On their return, a football game is usually played, and supper follows at 6:30. At its close, as well as at bedtime, the Lord's Prayer is repeated by all. After supper one may hear little groups about the grounds singing "Kathleen," "Down in Poverty Row," "There's Only One Girl in This World for Me" and many other New-York street songs. During the day you frequently hear the two Retreat yells:

Who are we, hum, hum, hum?
New-York Tribune Fresh Air Fund!

and:

Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Ashford Hill!

On Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock the children assemble in the chapel for their Sunday-school. A Scripture lesson is read, and a short talk is made by one of the attendants. The children then sing familiar Gospel hymns.

The immediate community is much interested in the work and renders many kind services. The following is taken from the last issue of "The Ardsley Herald," which contains an article about the home: "The children who come from the mission schools of New-York City and whose parents are too poor to afford their little ones the outing which the philanthropy of The Tribune has made possible are sent to Ashford Hill Retreat. A grand work is being done there by our great contemporary, The New-York Tribune, for the pale and sickly children of that great city. Every facility for enjoyment in the way of outdoor games and toys is provided for them."

The neighbors recognize the noble character and design of the work, and they stand ever ready to render any assistance. Through their kindness the children also enjoy many privileges along the public highway near their farms. Those persons who are truly interested in and are in sympathy with such an enterprise as this have ample opportunities to assist in the noble work which The Tribune Fresh Air Fund now accomplishes at Ashford Hill Retreat.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In memory of Ottie	$5 00
Jacob H. Schiff	25 00
A Friend	5 00
In memory of Julie	1 00
W. H. B.	5 00
Little Richard's Birthday Gift	
Morris K. Smith $0 50	
Mayer A. Smith 50	
S. J. K. 1 00	2 00
Little Henry	5 00
H. L. M.	5 00
Charles H. Meeker	10 00
C. A.	25 00
Grace Ward	2 00
Mrs. Harris	5 00
In memory of S. N. H.	5 00
H. P. Garland	10 00
In memory of Lucia, New-Haven, Conn.	10 00
W. H. B.	1 00
H. C. C.	3 00
Proceeds of an entertainment given by the little folks of the Reservoir House, Lake Placid, N. Y., per Christopher Swezey	16 64
Annual contribution of the Congregational Sunday-school of Flushing, N. Y., for The Tribune Fresh Air Fund	2 00
Young Ladies' Bible Class, First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, N. Y.	3 00
Previously acknowledged	15,683 15
Total July 31, 1896	$15,834 48

THE WEATHER REPORT.

YESTERDAY'S RECORD AND TO-DAY'S FORECAST.

Washington, July 31.—The area of high pressure has moved from Minnesota to Lake Erie. A storm has developed in Kansas, and the second storm has remained stationary to the north of Montana. Rain has fallen in the Missouri, the Middle and Upper Mississippi valleys and Florida. The temperature has remained stationary in the Ohio Valley and Southwest, and risen slightly in the Northwest, and has generally fallen elsewhere. Moderate winds and fair weather will prevail in New-England and the Atlantic States; showers in the lake region, Middle and Upper Mississippi valleys.

DETAILED FORECAST FOR TO-DAY.

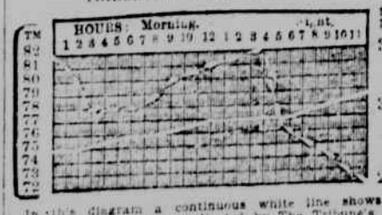
For New-England and Eastern New-York, fair; no change in temperature; northwesterly winds, becoming variable.

For the District of Columbia, Eastern Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, fair; moderately cool; northerly to northeasterly winds.

For West Virginia, generally fair; increased cloudiness Saturday afternoon; northeasterly winds.

For Western Pennsylvania and Western New-York, fair, followed by showers on the lakes; light variable winds, becoming westerly and increasing.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In this diagram a continuous white line shows the changes in pressure as indicated by The Tribune's self-recording barometer. The dotted line represents the temperature as recorded at Perry's Pharmacy.

Tribune Office, Aug. 1, 1 a. m.—The weather yesterday was fair and cool. The temperature ranged between 72 and 82 degrees, the average (77¾ degrees) being 5¾ degrees lower than that of Thursday and 10¾ higher than that of the corresponding day of last year.

The weather to-day will be fair and cool.

NORTHFIELD'S CONFERENCE.

A GOOD PLACE FOR REST OR FOR BIBLE STUDY.

THE FIVE REGULAR MEETINGS IN THE AUDITORIUM AND ON ROUND TOP—REMARKABLE SERMON ON "THE POWER OF PRAYER."

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Northfield, Mass., July 31.—Two classes of persons come to Northfield—those who want to attend the religious conferences held here, and those who want to rest. The latter class finds this an ideal place for its purpose. Tired bodies and unstrung nerves are soon restored to their normal condition, or, if they are not, it is because their possessors cannot be helped by bracing air, restful scenery, substantial food and delightful company. But this is not a sanitarium, and one's sympathies are not overtaxed by contact with invalids, to whom one can give only compassion.

The Northfield visitor who comes chiefly for religious instruction has little time to enjoy the scenery or anything else outside of the meetings.

THE REV. DR. R. A. TORREY.

The first meeting in the Auditorium is announced to begin at 10:30 a. m., but there is an audience of fair proportions seated by 10 o'clock, or shortly after that, and a song service is held for half or three-quarters of an hour, while the hall is filling up. The morning meeting lasts until 12 or 12:30 o'clock. Then at 3 o'clock another service is held in the Auditorium; at 4:30 a third service on Round Top, a knoll back of Mr. Moody's house; at 7 o'clock a second gathering at Round Top, and at 8 o'clock the regular evening meeting in the Auditorium. In addition to these five announced meetings, groups of people are seen studying the Bible or engaging in religious conversation, following out the line of thought advanced by a speaker, or finding Scripture proof for a doctrine which appeals to them and which they wish others to embrace.

EXPERIMENTING WITH HYMNS.

Besides the spoken words of instruction, much attention is given here to the singing. Mr. Stebbins sits at the organ, while Mr. Sankey leads the voluntary choir in singing hymns from "Special Sacred Songs," containing a hundred hymns which have been compiled and arranged for use in the conventions by Mr. Sankey, Mr. Stebbins and Mr. McGranahan. The purpose is to see what hymns can be sung, or, to use Mr. Sankey's words, "what hymns will sing." Those that are appreciated by the visitors or that satisfy the compilers will be published later in one of the regular series of hymn books that have been used by Mr. Moody and other Evangelists with much success.

Mr. Moody sometimes points to two of the seminary buildings and says in his generous way: "Sankey sang those up." It is generally known now that all of the royalty on "Gospel Hymns" is used in evangelistic work, not a dollar of it enriching those who are by every right entitled to it.

Several of the new hymns are written by Fanny J. Crosby, the blind poet, who is said to have composed more than 3,000 hymns. One is entitled "Eye Hath Not Seen," and is based upon St. Paul's words: "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, to conceive the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him," which forms the chorus. The music is by Mr. Stebbins, who, with his wife, sang the hymn this morning. Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are favorites here, as at other religious gatherings. For several years Mr. Stebbins has led the singing at the Christian Endeavor conventions.

YESTERDAY'S ARRIVALS.

There were many new faces seen at the Northfield and at the buildings on the seminary campus to-day. Among them were those of the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, Philadelphia; the Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon, Brooklyn; the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. John R. Davies, New-York; the Rev. J. A. Billingsley, Brooklyn; Isaac O. Rankin, Boston; the Rev. J. Smith, New-Brunswick, N. J.; Mrs. Theodore L. Cuyler, Brooklyn; the Rev. Dr. John R. Love, jr., Germantown, Penn.; the Rev. Dr. Albert B. King, New-York; Rufus W. Clark, Detroit; the Rev. E. W. Day, Granby; Dr. Edward G. Rhoades, Germantown, Penn.; C. E. Harrell, New-York; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Janeway, New-Brunswick, N. J.; George Cooper, Richmond; Robert Phillips, Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. O. Irving, East Orange, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. M. Howell, Montclair, N. J.; Mrs. Charles A. Tripp and Mrs. F. H. Harris, Brattleboro, Vt.; the Rev. Dr. W. W. Clark, Caldwell, N. J.; the Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Peck, of Corona, L. I., the Rev. Joseph McC. Leiper, of Blauvelt, and the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Renshaw, of Hinsdale, N. H.

There are many people in the Northfield, which is a part of the seminary property, and is used for the training-school in the winter, who remain there throughout the summer. From one piazza one may see into Vermont and New-Hampshire, from another follow the trend of the picturesque Connecticut River winding its way from the mountains to the Sound, and from a third look across the river and see the hills of Mount Hermon, where 250 young men are receiving preparatory education at the hands of Mr. Moody.

SPEAKERS OF THE DAY.

The speakers here to-day included the Rev. Dr. R. A. Torrey, superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago; the Rev. Dr. W. W. Clark, of Caldwell, N. J.; the Rev. Dr. W. J. Erdman, of Germantown, Penn.; the Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, and the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, of Philadelphia. Dr. Torrey spoke on "The Power of Prayer." The following is a verbatim report of his sermon:

There are three texts in the New Testament that I wish could in some way be so deeply graven on the heart of every Christian minister and every Christian worker here this morning that you could never forget them. They are: "Ye have not because ye ask not." James iv, 2; "We will give ourselves continually to prayer." Acts vi, 4, and "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Luke xviii, 1. The first one, "Ye have not because ye ask not," explains the spiritual poverty and the powerlessness of the average Christian and the average church neglect of prayer. "Ye have not because ye ask not." "Why is it," many a Christian is asking, "that I do not make better progress in my Christian life?" "Neglect of prayer," God answers. "Ye have not because ye ask not." "Why is it I do not see more conversions in my class?" asks many a Sunday-school teacher. "Neglect of prayer," God answers again. "Ye have not because ye ask not." "Why is it there is so little fruit to my ministry?" asks many a discouraged minister. "Neglect of prayer," God answers again. "Ye have not because ye ask not." "Why is it our church makes so little headway in the community?" ask both pastor and people, and again God's answer is clear and loud, "Neglect of prayer. Ye have not because ye ask not."

The early history of the Church was a history of marvellous growth and triumph. There was opposition most bitter, determined and relentless, opposition to which the opposition of to-day is but as child's play. Yet the Church marched right on. We read again and again such statements as these: "The Lord added daily to the Church such as should be saved." "Many of them which heard the Lord believed, and the number of them was about five thousand." "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." The explanation of all this is that the early Church was a praying Church. "They continued steadfastly in prayer." The leaders of that early Church gave themselves "continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

The churches of to-day and the ministers of to-day, or, to bring it closer home, you and I have departed from Apostolic precedent in nothing more notably and lamentably than in the matter of prayer. We do pray some, but of how many of us could the Holy Spirit write: "They continued steadfastly in prayer; they gave themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word?"

NEGLECTED PRAYER.

Many professed Christians to-day do not believe in the power of prayer, and of those who do believe in it theoretically not one in a thousand realize its power. Oh, it was a master stroke of the devil when he got the Church so generally to lay aside the mighty weapon of prayer! The devil is pretty willing that the Church should multiply its organizations and deftly contrived machinery for the conquest of the world for Christ if it will only give up praying. He laughs softly as he looks at the Church of to-day, and says under his breath: "You can have your Sunday-schools and your Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and your Young Men's Christian Associations, and your Young Women's Christian Associations, and your Women's Christian Temperance Union, and your Young People's Baptist Unions, and your institutional churches, and your boys' brigades, and your grand choirs, and your fine organs, and your brilliant preachers, and your revival efforts even, if you do not bring the power of Almighty God into them by earnest, persistent, mighty prayer."

Our day is characterized by the multiplication of man's machinery and the diminution of God's power sought and obtained by prayer. Prayer could do to-day as much as it could ever do. Do you know how much that is? I will tell you. Prayer can do anything God can do. By prayer I put forth my finger and I touch God's arm, and that arm moves and does its mighty work. The arm that sways the universe moves in response to my prayer. All of the infinite resources of God are at the command of prayer. Prayer is the key that opens the wide, inexhaustible storehouse of divine grace and power. "Ask and it shall be given you." "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in Heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" There is only one limit to what prayer can do. That is what God can do. And all things are possible to God.

EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

What can prayer do? How do we know that prayer has this great power? First from direct and explicit statements in the Bible. "The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its workings." Read James v., 16 (revised version). But how much? Read the context: "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months, and he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit."

The Lord Jesus, in his last words to his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion, said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto My Father, and whatsoever ye shall ask in My name that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name I will do it." John xiv, 12-14. And again on the same night: "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." John xv, 7. Many years later, after he had tested the promise of the Saviour for upward of half a century, John wrote: "And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." I John iii, 22.

Secondly, we know the power of prayer again from Bible incident. When Jerusalem was circumvented by an overwhelming and all-conquering Assyrian army, "Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed and cried to Heaven, and the Lord sent an angel which cut off all the mighty men of valor and the leaders and the captains in the camp of the King of Assyria, so he returned with shame of face into his own land." II Chronicles, xxxii, 20-21. See also II Kings, xix, 35. Again in the day when Judah's enemies came up against them in countless hordes, "Judah gathered themselves together to ask help of the Lord and the Lord set ambushments against their enemies and they were sore smitten." II Chronicles, xx, 4, 17 and 22.

When Peter was in prison, guarded by sixteen soldiers, and chained, and doors and gates locked, the early Church cried to God, "and God sent His angel and brought him forth." Acts xii, 5 to 12. When Paul and Silas were thrust into the inner prison, and their feet made fast in the stocks, they prayed unto God, and there was an earthquake, and the foundations of the prison were shaken and they were set free, and the jailer was saved.

EXAMPLES FROM HISTORY.

Thirdly, we know the power of prayer by Christian history outside of the Bible. In nothing is Christian history richer than in illustrations of the mighty power of prayer. The wonderful deliverance of Leyden in the days of the siege is a case in point. The shoals of fish that God, in answer to prayer, sent into the harbor of Rochelle to feed the starving Huguenots is another. The history of the Covenanters in Scotland furnishes numerous examples. The inexplicable ending of the awful grasshopper plague in Minnesota, when Governor Pillsbury in their extremity appointed a day of prayer, is another case in point. George Muller's orphan homes, with their thousands of children, supported year after year for many long years by appeals to no one but God, and yet never once going hungry, though sometimes the supplies came only at the last moment, is another illustration.

Fourthly, we know the power of prayer again from observation and experience. I have seen the hopelessly sick rise from their beds, desperate sinners saved, revivals break out and thousands of dollars come in direct answer to prayer.

Three years ago Mr. Moody was in Chicago, and one day at noon he said: "We need $5,000 at once to pay bills connected with our meetings. Let us tell the Heavenly Father our needs." We all kneeled at the table and prayer was offered. Before we had finished the meal a telegraph message was handed to Mr. Moody. He read it and passed it to me. It was from this Conference, then in session, and read: "Your friends at Northfield thought you might need some aid. Have taken a collection this noon of $6,000. More to come."

I have the same reason for knowing that God answers prayer that I have for knowing that water quenches thirst and food satisfies hunger. I have literally lived by prayer. Many philosophical, theological and scientific objections have been urged against the doctrine that God answers prayer. There is no need of considering them. They may seem very wise and learned and unanswerable, but they contradict the clear teaching of God's Word. They contradict the unquestionable facts of history. They contradict the absolutely certain facts of our own observation and experience. The fact is demonstrated by experiment that God does answer prayer. Prayer does move the hand that moves the universe. Prayer can do anything that God can do.

THINGS THAT PRAYER WILL DO.

What will prayer do? Let us look briefly at some specific things that prayer will do. First of all, prayer promotes as almost nothing else our own spiritual growth. Every precious spiritual blessing is given in answer to prayer. The more time we spend in real, true prayer, the more we will grow in likeness to our Master.

John Welch, the son-in-law of John Knox, the great reformer, is said to have given one-third of his time to prayer, and often he spent a whole night in prayer, and it is said that from the beginning of his ministry to his death he reckoned the day ill spent if he stayed not seven or eight hours in prayer, and the testimony of one who remembered him was that "he was a type of Christ."

Secondly, prayer will bring a blessing to your family. A mother with an incorrigible boy came to me for advice. Her son was a great trial to her. She had tried everything but prayer. At my suggestion she began to pray definitely for him, and a great change came over his life.

Thirdly, prayer will bring power into your work. Do you desire the divine blessing in your Sunday-school, in your personal work, in your training of your children, in your preaching? Pray for it. There is not a minister of the Gospel, nor an humble Christian worker here that cannot have power in his work if he will hold on to God for it in earnest, persistent, believing prayer, in the holy boldness that will not take no for an answer.

SAVING OTHERS BY PRAYER.

Fourthly, prayer will bring salvation to others. "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death." Saul of Tarsus, the most dangerous human enemy the cross of Christ ever had, became Paul the Apostle in answer to prayer. Prayer often avails where all effort fails.

There was one whom God once laid upon my breast. I made many efforts to win him to Christ, but they seemed worse than useless. There seemed to be nothing left to do, and I took myself to God in prayer. God wrought in that man's life by His providence and in his heart by His spirit, and that man came to me and asked me to tell him how to become a Christian, and for many years he was a faithful preacher of the Gospel.

Fifthly, prayer will bring a blessing into the church. It will settle church quarrels, allay misunderstanding, root out heresy and bring down gracious revivals from God. One of the greatest revivals this country ever knew began, as far as its human origin could be traced, in the prayers of a woman in New-York State who held on to God for it.

In all true, deep and lasting spiritual awakenings prayer has played a more important part than anything else. There have been great revivals without much preaching and with almost no machinery. There has never been a great and true revival without prayer. Many modern so-called revivals are gotten up by man's machinery. Genuine revivals are brought down by prayers.

Sixthly, prayer will bring wisdom and power to the pastor and worker. Paul was doubtless a great preacher and worker, but he never felt that he could get along without the prayers of God's people, and to every church to which he wrote, save one, the backslidden church in Galatia, he asked them to pray for him.

Prayer can transform a poor preacher into a good one. If you are not satisfied with your present minister, you can get a better one by praying for him, and if you do think your present minister a pretty good one you can make him far better by more prayer. Little do many Christians realize how much they have to do with the good or poor, powerful or powerless preaching their pastor gives them by their prayer or neglect of prayer. In beginning my present pastorate I said to my people: "How much would I give to know that a few members of this church stayed up late on Saturday night or rose up early Lord's Day morning to pray for me and the Holy Spirit's power upon my preaching." Some of the people took me at my word, and the church has steadily filled up, conversions have gone steadily on and more than 700 people have been added to the church in Chicago within the last few months.

THE PRESENT NEED.

The great need of the day is more prayer, not more organizations, not new methods, not even more work, but more prayer, that there may be more of God's power in the organizations now in existence and the methods now used and the work now done. The great need of our own lives, the great need of the churches throughout the land, the great need of work abroad, the evangelization of the world is prayer.

I wish that Mr. Moody or some one else would do in our day what Jonathan Edwards did in his, namely, issue a call to the churches of America to assemble for prayer. But if this is not done, let individual ministers and laymen from this day give themselves to the ministry of prayer.

THE ELECTION ADVERTISING.

SOME CANDID CORRESPONDENCE.

FALSE ECONOMY AS AN EXCUSE FOR THE PUSILLANIMOUS EVASION OF A STATUTE.

The following letters, which have recently passed between The Tribune and the Bureau of Elections of the Police Department, explain themselves:

Police Department of the City of New-York, Bureau of Elections, 300 Mulberry-st.
New-York, July 27, 1896.

To the Publishers of the New-York Tribune, New-York City.

Gentlemen:—Please furnish this bureau with your terms for publishing location of polling places and boundaries of 1,392 election districts in thirty-five Assembly Districts, for the general election to be held November 3, 1896. The publication of boundaries and polling places will comprise eight (8) insertions to wit: October 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 17th and November 2d and 3d; copy to be furnished by this bureau.

Your terms must also cover the publication of election notice of offices to be filled, etc., copy to be furnished by the County Clerk; said notice to be published once in each week after August 3d until the day of election (see Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 1896.)

Your bid should be on the basis of 1,000 ems agate type for the actual space to be covered by the whole number of insertions required, be enclosed in a sealed wrapper marked "Bids for election advertising," addressed and delivered to the Chief of Bureau of Elections, on or before 11 o'clock a. m., Friday, July 30th. (31) Telephone.

Very respectfully,
T. F. RODENBOUGH,
Chief of Bureau of Elections.
By A. C. ALLEN, Chief Clerk.

Note.—Matter must be set in type not larger than specimen to be seen at this office.

New-York Tribune,
New-York, July 31, 1896.

Hon. T. F. Rodenbough, Chief of Bureau of Elections, Police Department, N. Y.

Sir: Your letter of July 27th is at hand asking The Tribune to furnish you its terms for publishing location of polling places, boundaries of election districts, election notices, etc., for the general election to be held November 3rd, 1896.

The Tribune must decline to comply with your request on the ground that in addition to the known and deliberate violation of the law in this matter, your credit is not good. A year ago, The Tribune entered its protest against the Board's evasion of its duty as prescribed by law to designate the papers from each party to publish these notices, and pointed out that in the nature of the case, the services which the city required and the law contemplated should not be secured by inviting competitive proposals any more than such services as the city requires from Police Commissioners could be rationally procured in the same way. Proposals for services as Police Commissioners, if duly advertised, would bring thousands of replies, and men of considerable ability—possibly quite equal to those now assigned to this work could be procured for half or a fourth of the money now expended upon them. So, too, the police advertising could be printed in many papers at the slightest margin above cost of paper and press work; or it could be printed at even less cost in handbills and liberally posted throughout each election district. But these methods were not contemplated by the law, which you have evaded. The Tribune refused to make any bid on a competitive basis last year; but to save the city from any embarrassments resulting from the Board's illegal course, which was then presumed to be merely hasty and inconsiderate, it offered to do the work for that year only for the bare cost of composition at Typographical Union rates. Even that paltry sum has not yet been paid, and The Tribune has found itself confronted with the necessity of suing the city for it. Under such circumstances The Tribune does not care to do business with you on any terms. If you had credit, it would treat you exactly as it treats the large commercial houses of this city, whose business is far more valuable, and whose bills are paid by business men with business punctuality. The Tribune certainly would not invidiously discriminate against them by doing business for an unsatisfactory customer at lower terms than it does similar business in larger quantities for the honorable merchants of this city. If by restoring your credit you should place yourself in a position in which self-respecting business men would care to do business with you, our only rate to you would be the regular and uniform commercial one of 30 cents per line for each insertion, which would be equivalent to about $8.60 per thousand ems, plain measurement.

In making this statement we renew our protest against the Board's violation of the plain spirit and intent of the law, which must now be considered deliberate.

Three of the newspapers of this city with which you sought to place The Tribune in competition for advertising a year ago were then doing the sort of business which has resulted in placing them now in the hands of receivers. There are still numerous Republican papers open to you, however, if, instead of its present evasive and illegal course, the Board should have the courage to do its sworn duty and honestly designate, as commanded, the Republican paper which in its judgment would best serve the public interests for this year in printing this advertising at its honest and regular rates, without seeking to induce it to discriminate unfairly against its regular customers. If the plain speech of The Tribune offends you, or if, in your honest judgment, The Tribune is not the proper medium for reaching the Republican readers of this city, as contemplated by the law, you still have "The Evening Mail and Express," "The Press," "The Commercial Advertiser" and perhaps others from which to choose. The evasion of the duty to choose is cowardly, and the efforts to get these papers to bidding against each other, without reference to the rights of their regular customers, or the interests of their own business, on the ignorant notion that advertising is merely a commodity, like coal or potatoes, is as insulting to responsible newspapers as an advertisement from Mayor Strong for people to fill your places at half-price would be to you. Respectfully,

(Signed) NATHANIEL TUTTLE, Cashier.

The foregoing correspondence recalls the following letter on the same subject which was sent to the Police Commissioners by The Tribune last year:

New-York Tribune,
New-York, Sept. 26, 1895.

To the Honorable, the Commissioners of the Police Department, City of New-York.

Gentlemen: Replying to the communication of the Chief of Bureau of Elections of September 20, 1895, asking The Tribune to furnish that Bureau with its terms for publishing the boundaries of election districts, the location of polling places and the official canvass for the general election of 1895, in accordance with the resolution of your Honorable Board of the same date, we respectfully beg to say:

As we are advised, the statute in question providing that "all advertising provided for in this section shall be done in two daily newspapers only, published in the city of New-York, to be designated by the Board of Police and in the City Record" has been construed by the Supreme Court substantially as follows: That in designating such two daily newspapers, the Board of Police exercise a quasi judicial function, the chief, if not the sole, purpose of which is to determine the best method of giving notice to the voters of both parties; to designate, in a word, the best newspaper on the one hand to give notice to Democratic voters, and on the other the best newspaper to give notice to Republican voters. "There is no discretion in the act," says Judge Barrett, in the case referred to, "even as to the compensation. The duty is simply to designate, and that duty is mandatory." As to the compensation, the Court held that the only question was wh