GOD IN THE CENTURIES.

"Consider the Years of Many Generations."

Time is Only a Piece of Eternity—Chronology Engaged in Dividing Up a Portion of Eternity—Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage's New Year's Sermon.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Sunday morning appropriately took for the subject of his New Year's day sermon "The Chronology of the Bible, or God Among the Centuries."

The text chosen was Deuteronomy xxxii, 7. "Consider the years of many generations."

At 12 o'clock last night, while so many good people were watching, an old friend passed out of our homes and a stranger entered. The old friend making valedictory was 1892; the stranger arriving is 1893. The old friend was garrulous with the occurrences of many days, but the stranger put his finger over his lip and said nothing and seemed charged with many secrets and mysteries. I did not see either the departure or the arrival, but was sound asleep, thinking that was for me the best way to be wide awake now. Good-by, 1892! Welcome, 1893!

As an army is divided into brigades and regiments and companies, and they observe this order in their march and their tread is majestic, so the time of the world's existence is divided into an army divinely commanded; the eras are the brigades, the centuries are the regiments, and the years are the companies. Forward into the eternity past, out of the eternity to come! Forward is the command, and nothing can halt them, even though the world should die. While obeying my text, "Consider the years of many generations," I propose to speak of the "Chronology of the Bible, or God Among the Centuries."

We make a distinction between time and eternity, but time is only a piece of eterulty, and chronology has been engaged in the divine work of dividing up this portion of eternity that we call time into compartments and putting events in their right compartment. It is as much an injustice against the past to wrongly arrange its events as it would be an injustice if, through neglect of chronological accuracy, it should in the far distant future be said that America was discovered in 1776, and the declaration of independence was signed in 1492, and Washington born on the 22d of March, and the civil war of the United States was fought in 1840.

As God puts all the events of time in the right place, let us be careful that we do not put them in the wrong place. The chronology of the Bible takes six steps, but they are steps so long it makes us hold our breath as we watch the movement. From Adam to Abraham. From Abraham to the exodus out of Egypt. From the exodus to the foundation Solomon's temple. From the foundation of Solomon's temple to the destruction of that temple. From the destruction of the temple to the return from Babylonish captivity. From Babylonish captivity to the birth of Christ.

Chronology takes pen and pencil, and calling astronomy and history to help says: "Let us fix one event from which to calculate everything. Let it be a star, the Bethlehem star, the Christmas star." And from that we go back and see the world was created 4,004 years before Christ; the deluge came 2,348 years before Christ; the exodus out of Egypt occurred 1,491 years before Christ, and Solomon's temple was destroyed 586 years before Christ.

Chronology enters the first chapter of Genesis and says the day mentioned there is not a day of twenty-four hours, but of ages, the word there translated as "day" in other places meaning ages, and so the Bible account of the creation and the geologists' account of the creation are completely harmonious. Chronology enters the book of Daniel and says that the words "time and a half" mean a year and a half.

Chronology enters at another point and shows us that the seasons of the year were then only two—summer and winter. We find that the Bible year was 360 days instead of 365; that the day was calculated from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night; that the night was divided into four watches—namely, the late watch, the midnight, the cock crowing the early watch. The clock and watch were invented so long after the world began their mission that the day was not very sharply divided in Bible times. Ahaz had a sundial, or a flight of stairs with a column at the top, and the shadow which that column threw on the steps beneath indicated the hour, the shadow lengthening or withdrawing from step to step.

But the events of life and the events of the world moved so slowly for the most part in Bible times that they had no need of such time pieces as we stand on our mantels or carry in our pockets in an age when a man may have a half dozen or a dozen engagements for one day and needs to know the exact minute for each one of them. The earth itself in Bible times was the chief time piece, and it turned once on its axis and that was a day, and once around the sun and that was a year.

It was not until the Fourteenth century that the almanac was born, the almanac that we toss carelessly about, not realizing that it took the accumulated ingenuity of more than 5,000 years to make one. Chronology had to bring into its service the monuments of Egypt, and the cylinders of Assyria, and the bricks of Babylon, and the pottery of Nineveh, and the medals struck at Antioch for the battle of Actium, and all the hieroglyphics that could be deciphered, and had to go into the extremely delicate business of asking the ages of Adam and Seth and Enoch and Methuselah, who after their 300th year wanted to be thought young.

I think it must have been in recognition of the stupendous work of making an almanac that all the days of the week are named after the gods. Sunday, after the sun, which was of old worshiped as a god. Monday, after the moon, which was also worshiped as a god. Tuesday, after Tuesco, the god of war. Wednesday, after Woden, the chief god of the Scandinavians. Thursday, after Thor, the god of thunder. Friday, after Frea, the goddess of marriage. And Saturday, after Saturn. The old Bible year began with the 25th of March. Not until 1752 did the first of the month of January get the honor in legal documents in England of being called the first day of the year.

Improvements all along have been made in chronology until the calendar, and the almanac, and the clock, and the watch seem to have reached perfection, and all the nations of Christendom have similarity of time calculations and have adopted what is called "new style," except Russia, which keeps what is called the "old style," and is twelve days different, so that, waiting from there, if you wish to be accurate, you date your letter January 1 and January 13, or December 19 and December 22. It is something to thank God for that the modes are so complete for calculating the cycles, the centuries, the decades, the years, the months, the days, the hours, the seconds.

Think of making appointments as in the Bible days for the time of the new moon. Think of making one of the watches of the night in Bible times a rooster crowing. The Bible says, "Before the cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice." "If the Master cometh at the cockerowing," and that was the way the midnight watch was indicated. The crowing of that barnyard bird has always been most uncertain. The crowing is at the lowest temperature of the night, and the amount of dew and the direction of the wind may bring the lowest temperature at 11 o'clock at night or 2 o'clock in the morning, and at any one of six hours. Just before a rain the crowing of chanticleer in the night is almost perpetual.

Compare these modes of marking time with our modes of marking time, when 12 o'clock is 12 o'clock, and 6 o'clock is 6 o'clock, and 10 o'clock is 10 o'clock, and independent of all weathers, and then thank God that you live now. But notwithstanding all the imperfect modes of marking hours or years or centuries Bible chronology never trips up, never falters, never contradicts itself, and here is one of the best arguments for the authenticity of the Scriptures.

If you can prove an alibi in the courts, and you can prove beyond doubt that you were in some particular place at the time you were charged with doing or saying something in quite another place, you gain the victory, and infidelity has tried to prove an alibi by contending that events and circumstances in the Bible ascribed to certain times must have taken place at some other time, if they took place at all. But this book's chronology has never been caught at fault. It has been proved that when the Hebrews went into Egypt there were only seventy of them, and that when they came out there were 3,000,000 of them.

"Now," says infidelity, with a guffaw that it can not suppress, "what an absurdity! They went down into Egypt seventy and came out 3,000,000. That is a falsehood on the face of it. Nations do not increase in that ratio." But, my skeptical friend, hold a moment. The Bible says the Jews were 430 years in Egypt, and that explains the increase from seventy persons to 3,000,000, for it is no more, but rather less than the ordinary increase of nations. The pilgrim fathers came to America in the Mayflower, one small shipload of passengers, less than 300 years ago, and now we have a nation of 60,000,000. Where, then is so-called impossibility that the seventy Jews who went into Egypt in 430 years became 3,000,000? Infidelity wrong and Bible chronology right.

Now stop and reflect. Why is it that this sublime subject of Bible chronology has been so neglected, and that the most of you have never given ten minutes to the consideration of it, and that this is the first sermon ever preached on this stupendous and overwhelming theme? We have stood by the half day or the whole day at grand reviews and seen armies pass.

Again and again and again on the Champs Elysees Frenchmen by the hundreds of thousands have stood and watched the bannered armies go by, and the hurza has been three miles long and until the populace were so hoarse they could huzza no longer. Again and again and again the Germans by hundreds of thousands have stood on the palaced and statued Unter den Linden, Berlin, and strewn garlands under the feet of uniformed hosts led on by Von Moltke or Blucher or Frederick the Great.

When Wellington and Ponsonby and the Scots Grays came back from Waterloo, or Wolseley from Egypt, or Marlborough from Blenheim, what military processions through Regent street and along by the palace of London and over the bridges of the Thames! What almost interminable lines of military on the streets of our American capitals, while mayors and governors and presidents, with uncovered heads, looked on! But put all those grand reviews together, and they are tame compared with the review which on this New Year's day you from the pew and I from the pulpit witness.

Hear them pass in chronological order—all the years before the flood; all the years since the flood; decades abreast; centuries abreast; epochs abreast; millenniums abreast; Egyptian civilization, Babylonian populations, Assyrian dominions; armies of Persian, Grecian, Peloponnesian and Roman wars; Byzantine empire, Saracenic hosts, crusaders of the first, the second, third and the last avalanche of men; dark ages in somber epaulets and brighter ages with shields of silver and helmets of gold; Italy, Spain, France, Russia, Germany, England and America, past and present; dynasties, feudal domains, despotisms, monarchies, republics, ages on ages, ages on ages, passing to-day in a chronological review, until one has no more power to look upon the advancing columns, now brilliant, now squalid, now garlanded with peace, now crimson with slaughter, how horrid with ghastliness, now radiant with love and joy.

This chronological study affords, among other practical thoughts, especially two—the one encouraging to the last degree and the other startling. The encouraging thought is that the main drift of the centuries has been toward betterment, with only here and there a stout reversal. Grecian civilization was a vast improvement on Egyptian civilization, and Roman civilization a vast improvement on Grecian civilization, and Christian civilization is a vast improvement on Roman civilization.

What was the boasted age of Pericles compared with the age of Longfellow and Tennyson? What was Queen Elizabeth as a specimen of moral womanhood compared with Queen Victoria? What were the cruel warriors of olden times compared with the most distinguished warriors of the last half century, all of them as much distinguished for kindness and good morals as for prowess—the two military leaders of our civil war on northern and southern side communicant members of Christian churches, and their home life as pure as their public life?

Nothing impresses me in this chronological review more than the fact that the regiments of years are better and better regiments as the troops move on. I thank God that you and I were not born any sooner than we were born. How could we have endured the disaster of being born in the eighteenth or seventeenth or sixteenth century? Glad am I that we are in the regiment now passing the reviewing stand, and that our children will pass the stand in a still better regiment. God did not build this world for a slaughter house or a den of infamy.

A good deal of cleaning house will be necessary before this world becomes as clean and sweet as it ought to be, but the brooms and the scrubbing brushes, and the upholsterers and plumbers are already busy, and when the world gets fixed up, as it will be, if Adam and Eve ever visit it, as I expect they will, they will say to each other: "Well, this beats paradise when we lived there, and the pears and the plums are better than we plucked from the first trees, and wardrobes are more complete, and the climate is better.

Since I settled in my own mind the fact that God was stronger than the devil I have never lost faith in the empafadisation of this planet. With the exception of a retrogression in the Dark Ages, the movement of the world has been on and on, and up and up, and I have two jubilant hosannas—one for the closing year and the other for the new year.

But the other thought coming out of this subject is that Biblical chronology, and indeed all chronology, is urging the world to more punctuality and immediateness. What an unsatisfactory and indefinite thing it must have been for two business men in the time of Ahaz to make an appointment, saying: "We will settle that business matter to-morrow when the shadow on the dial of Ahaz reaches the tenth step from the top," or "I will meet you in the street called Straight in Damascus in the time of the new moon," or when asked in a courtroom what time an occurrence took place should answer, "It was during the time of the latter rain," or "It was at the time of the third crowing of the barnyard!"

You and I remember when ministers of the gospel in the country, giving out a notice of an evening service, instead of saying at 6 or 7 or 8 o'clock, would say, "The service will begin at early candle light." Thank God for chronological achievements which have ushered in calendars and almanacs and clocks and watches, and at so cheap a rate all may possess them! Chronology, beginning by appreciating the value of years and the value of days, has kept on until it cries out, "Man, immortal; woman, immortal; look out for that minute; look out for that second!"

We talk a great deal about the value of time, but will never fully appreciate its value until the last fragment of it has passed out of our possession forever. The greatest fraud a man can commit is to rob another of his time. Hear it, ye laggards, and repent! All the fingers of chronology point to punctuality as one of the graces. The minister or the lecturer or business man who comes to his place ten minutes after the appointed time commits a crime the enormity of which can only be estimated by multiplying the number of persons present by ten. If the engagement be made with five persons, he has stolen fifty minutes, for he is ten minutes too late, and he has robbed each of the five persons of ten minutes apiece, and ten times five are fifty.

If there be 500 persons present and he be ten minutes too late, he has committed a robbery of 5,000 minutes, for ten times 500 are 5,000, and 5,000 minutes are eighty-three hours, which make more than three days. The thief of dry goods, the thief of bank bills, is not half so bad as the thief of time.

Dr. Rush, the greatest and busiest physician of his day, appreciated the value of time, and when asked how he had been able to gather so much information for his books and lectures he replied: "I have been able to do it by economizing my time. I have not spent one hour in amusement in thirty years." And taking a blank book from his pocket, he said, "I fill a book like this every week with thoughts that occur to me and facts collected in the rooms of my patients."

But do not let us get an impression from chronology that because the years of time have been so long in procession they are to go on forever. Matter is not eternal. No, no! If you watch half a day, or a whole day, or two days as I once did, to see a military procession you remember the last brigade, and the last regiment, and the last company finally passed on, and as we rose to go we said to each other, "It is all over."

So this mighty procession of earthly years will terminate. Just when I have no power to prognosticate, but science confirms the Bible prophecy that the earth can not always last. Indeed there has been a fatality of worlds. The moon is merely the corpse of what it once was, and scientists have again and again gone up in their observatories to attend the deathbed of dying worlds and have seen them cremated. So I am certain, both from the Word of God and science, that the world's chronology will sooner or later come to its last chapter.

The final century will arrive and pass on, and then will come the final decade, and then the final year, and the final month, and the final day. The last spring will swing its censer of apple blossoms and the last winter bank its snows. The last sunset will burn like Moscow and the last morning radiate the hills. The clocks will strike their last hour, and the watches will tick their last second. No incendiaries will be needed to run hither and yon with torches to set the world on fire.

Chemistry teaches us that there is a very inflammable element in water. While oxygen makes up a part of the water, the other part of the water is hydrogen, and that is very combustible. The oxygen drawn out from the water, the inflammable hydrogen will put instantly into conflagration the Hudsons and Savannahs and Mississippis and Rhines and Urals and Danubes, and Atlantic and Pacific and Indian and Mediterranean seas. And then the angel of God, descending from the throne, might put one foot on the surf of the sea and the other on the beach and cry to the four winds of Heaven, "Time was, but time shall be no longer!" Yet, found in Christ, pardoned and sanctified, we shall welcome the day with more gladness than you ever welcomed a Christmas or New Year's morn.

What Holds Churches Together.

In speaking of church union, the Independent remarks: "We are fully convinced that spiritual oneness is the only force that can bring churches together. What separates them is what is formal—intellectual or administrative differences, or theology or polity. The churches have already well-nigh learned that intellectual differences should not separate them. We are slower to learn that it is not polity that makes a church."

DISEASE EXTERMINATED.

Secretary Rusk Satisfied With the Work of His Department.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—According to the reports of Secretary Rusk on the operations of the bureau of animal industry for the year 1892, laid before the senate, the work of stamping out pleuro-pneumonia has been carried on as rapidly as was possible under the prevailing conditions of the country and the disease has completely disappeared. "The scope of this branch of the work of the bureau has, therefore," Secretary Rusk adds, "been complete, and this dangerous and much dreaded disease has been eradicated from our soil and the United States is the first of the large nations of the world which, having been once extensively affected, has been able to completely exterminate. The time required was five years and the total expenditure a little in excess of $1,500,000.

"The regulations for preventing the dissemination of Texas fever have not hindered the shipment of cattle from the infected districts to markets for slaughter, nor have they depreciated the value of these cattle. The numerous large outbreaks of the disease which have been the rule in former seasons have not occurred, and with the exception of an outbreak in western Texas and one in Lyons and adjoining counties in Kansas, none have been reported."

It is shown that one of the main causes of the appearance of the fever among export cattle is the shipment of the animals in cars which had not been disinfected, and the prevention of the disease, the secretary says, will not be absolute until congress enacts some legislation that will compel railroads to comply with regulations for cleaning and disinfecting cars. During 1892 there were reported 131 head of cattle in the export trade affected with this disease, as compared with 524 during 1891. Animals imported from Canada are inspected, owing to the prevalence of foot and mouth disease and pleuro-pneumonia in Europe, and the constant importation of animals from Europe into Canada. There is no authority to inspect imported horses, but these animals are not liable to be contaminated by infectious diseases. The work of meat inspection has more than justified the hopes of its promoters and fully warrants the comparatively small expense incurred by the government for its maintenance.

INSOLVENT RAILROADS.

The Year 1892 Shows a Falling Off in the Sale of Large Lines.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—While the year 1892 was a period of comparatively small railway construction it was not marked by a corresponding decrease in the number of insolvent railways. The Railway Age to-morrow will say:

"We find that during 1892 there were sold under foreclosure twenty-eight railways, having an aggregate mileage of 7,993 miles and an apparent capitalization of $95,898,000. While the number of roads is larger than in the previous year it is encouraging to find that the mileage and capitalization show a large decrease compared with the three preceding years. Of the twenty-eight roads sold during the year four belonged to Texas, three to Oregon, three to New York and two each to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, while Rhode Island, Maryland, West Virginia, Illinois, Iowa and Washington each have one.

"No great and important line is in this year's mortality table, the largest in point of mileage being the Florida Southern with 397 miles and a capitalization of about $5,500,000, while the largest in respect to liabilities is the uncompleted Oregon Pacific, whose 195 miles represent securities aggregating $22,000,000. The narrow gauge roads continue to swell the number of failures, there being five of that class in this year's sales."

The article sets forth that in the last twelve months thirty-six companies having 10,108 miles of road and representing $558,000,000 have been placed in the hands of receivers.

Mr. Blaine Improved.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Dr. Johnston, Mr. Blaine's physician, said this morning, after he had paid his usual morning visit to his distinguished patient, that the ex-secretary had had a good night, and further that he thought he was better to-day. Dr. Johnson was accompanied by Dr. Loomis, the New York specialist who came here to see Mr. Blaine. The two gentlemen seated themselves in the carriage awaiting them and gave orders to coachman to drive rapidly to the railway station. It is therefore supposed that Dr. Loomis has accomplished the purposes of his visit here.

Mr. Cleveland and the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Representative Amos Cummings of the committee on naval affairs has just returned from New York, where he had a conference with Mr. Cleveland as to the policy of his administration with respect to the navy. Mr. Cleveland's views will be laid before the committee and the naval appropriation bill will be framed in accordance with them.

Said to Be a Fake.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Jan. 6.—A special from Bakersville, N. C., says the story of the horrible killing of people as reported in the papers is a fake of the first water. No such an occurrence has taken place and the people of the locality are at a loss to understand why the story was told.

Satolli May be Recalled.

ROME, Jan. 6.—The Courriere Del Manitto, a paper published at Naples, says that a leading topic at Rome is the fiasco of Mgr. Satolli's mission from the vatican to the United States. The Courriere article says that Mgr. Satolli's brusque manner has excited the discontent of the American bishops who have caused the curia to understand that they will not tolerate the arrogance of its envoy. The vatican, therefore, for fear of causing greater friction, has been obliged to recall Mgr. Satolli instead of having him remain in America to represent the pope at the Chicago world's fair.

Cowboys Killed.

DENISON, Tex., Jan. 6.—James Andrews, Will Nevins and Jack Landon, all cowboys, had a fight with Winchesters and six shooters at the "Three Heart" ranch in the Choctaw nation yesterday. Will Nevins and Landon were killed and James Andrews fatally injured. The men worked on different ranches. The former was charged with stealing a maverick and a fight on horseback began. The first shot killed Nevins and a sharp duel between the other two remaining men followed. The latter was killed at the fifth shot and Andrews was riddled.

THE ARKANSAS PEN.

The Wholesale Death of Convicts Due to Bad Food, Filth and Bad Management Generally.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—Dr. G. M. D. Cantrell, of Little Rock, is in the city, and to a reporter made an interesting statement regarding the recent deaths of convicts at that place. Dr. Cantrell was penitentiary physician for four years, his last term of office ending in May, 1890, when he was succeeded by Dr. J. J. Robertson. It was during his term of office in the fall of 1888 that so much excitement was created by the exposure of the treatment of convicts at Coal Hill. At that time two or three deaths occurred from the excessive use of the cat-o'-nine-tails. Dr. Cantrell was called upon by the state penitentiary board to accompany its members upon a tour of inspection of the Coal Hill camps and was afterwards sent to inspect the different camps throughout the state. Dr. Cantrell in speaking upon the subject said:

"I always dwelt upon the proper treatment of convicts and the surroundings of convict camps in my reports made to the board prior to the time when the legislative assembly created the office of prison inspector in 1888. In my last report made in January, 1891, to the present state board, consisting of Gov. Eagle, Attorney-General Atkinson and Secretary of State Chism, I devoted fully one-half of it to the unsanatory condition of outside camps, and showed that the death rate was greater among convicts in the camps than those confined in the penitentiary walls. The custom is for this report to be submitted to the board, and in turn sent to the legislature with the governor's message.

"All that portion of my report bearing on the filthy condition of the camps was stricken out by Attorney-General Atkinson, who argued that my province was within the penitentiary walls and that I had no authority over convicts confined in camps. Further, that the report, if presented to the legislature as I had drafted it, would act as a two-edged sword, inasmuch as that body would bring the board to task for being derelict in their duties, and therefore he thought it best to strike it out.

"His opinion was seconded by the governor and all that portion was suppressed; was never printed, and never found its way into the legislature of 1891. That report in full is now on file in Secretary Chism's office, and it is only just for me to say here that both he and Prison Inspector Carroll were both in favor of submitting my report in full.

"With my past knowledge of the unsanatory condition which existed at times past in the camps during my term of office, and exposures to which convicts were sometimes subjected, I know as a positive fact that there was a larger percentage of deaths than should have occurred.

"Now as to the recent deaths at Helena and Little Rock: Personal investigations coupled with past experience suggest to my mind that the deaths were due to bad food and unsanatory surroundings—sleeping in freight cars and drinking water from sewer drains contiguous to slaughter houses, etc., has been reported. If the precaution that I suggested to the board in my last report had been put into force the recent deaths would not, in my opinion, have occurred. I repeatedly tried to get the board to supply the convicts with better bedding, and my efforts did succeed in having new stockades built at nearly all the camps in the state during my first term of office. It is impossible to keep a large body of men healthy when their beds are covered with vermin and their food unwholesome.

"The convict lease system is inhuman and is a blot upon the name of the state. In my opinion, the best thing that can be done to alleviate the evil is for the legislature to abolish the lease system during the coming term and let the state run the penitentiary itself. These convicts are men, and should be treated as men. The lease system is all wrong and the state should run the penitentiary, even if it does not make quite as much out of it as under the present system."

THE BAKERSVILLE FAKE.

The Smart Alec Turns Out to Be a Reporter of Johnson City, Tenn., Who May Get Hurt.

WASHINGTON, Jan 7.—The circumstantial story of the Bakersville lynching and riot transmitted from Johnson City, Tenn., signed J. W. Hyams immediately attracted attention by its apparent exaggeration, and telegrams were sent both to the author of the original dispatch and to adjacent points in the south to secure a verification.

Mr. Hyams responded to inquiries by furnishing names and other details which seemed to confirm the statements made, but to requests for further authentic information by statements that the roads to Bakersville were blocked and impassable.

In the meantime other means had been resorted to of obtaining the actual facts and this morning the following message was received from Johnson City: "Your telegram of yesterday is received. J. W. Hyams came here about one week ago from Cranberry, N. C. He was formerly a resident of Bakersville, N. C. He is now working here as assistant city editor of the Daily Comet. Am unable to say where he obtained his bloody story. Can now assure you it is untrue."

Unfit For Sea.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7.—Private advices from Mare island say that extensive repairs will be necessary if the United States steamer Ranger is to go to China to relieve the Alert. Her recent trial trip, the result of which has been made a great mystery, was an utter failure. The orders were to speed her under steam and all sail. She went well until the revolutions were increased beyond fifty-five a minute. Then, to use the words of an officer on board, "her engines rattled like rocks working through a crusher." So fearful was the noise that a break-down was feared and the test was abandoned.

Interlocking Devices Ordered.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 7.—The railroad and warehouse commissioners have announced a decision in what is known as the Kinder crossing case, recently heard. The Madison, Alton & St. Louis Railroad Co. petitioned for permission to cross at grade the tracks of the Chicago & Alton, the Wabash and the Big Four roads at the place named. Permission was granted and it was ordered that an interlocking device be put in. An interlocking device has also been ordered at Watseka at the crossing of the T., P. & W. and the Chicago & Eastern Illinois roads.

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

The Legislative Problem That Confronts the Bewildered Democracy.

The extra session idea is still advocated with much persistence by the radical southern press. A short time since the Memphis Appeal-Avalanche said:

"There is before the democratic party a great legislative problem. It should be attacked at once, and disposed of promptly. If the tariff needs revision, it needs it now, and there is no necessity for waiting. While an extra session may not be able to revise the tariff, it would enable congress to get in good working order at least. But the revision of the tariff ought not to be a difficult matter to the leaders of the democratic party, who have so thoroughly studied the question. It ought not to be difficult for them to prepare a bill to take the place of the McKinley measure. Messrs. Carlisle, Mills, Harris, Morrison, Wilson, McMillin, Springer and Watterson could prepare such a bill in a very short time. If Mr. Cleveland, then, is willing, let us have the extra session, and let us do what the people have told us to do."

In this same vein the New Orleans Picayune declares: "There must be no waiting until next December, a year away. If delay to so remote a date should occur, it is not likely that any decisive action in revising the tariff would be possible until far into 1894, and the new tariff would have to be so framed as that many of its provisions would not come into operation until 1895. It is plain that the democratic administration would be nearing its end before any of the reforms that have been so eagerly and anxiously expected could be put into actual force.

"Evidently that sort of policy of delay will be intensely disappointing, and may work the downfall of democratic prospects for a continuance of power. The fate of the democratic party is largely in its own keeping. All depends on the zeal and readiness which the party may manifest towards giving to the people the necessary relief."

From these expressions it appears that there is no confusion of opinion or uncertainty among the tariff reformers of the south. It is the duty of the democratic party to revise the tariff and to revise it at once.

But while opinion as to the pressing character of the duty is unanimous, there are no suggestions as to the exact form which the "relief" should take. It is generally admitted that the Chicago platform is not to be taken literally, and therefore that document may be passed over altogether; but no substitute for it has been enunciated.

What principle is to guide the reformers in the performance of the duty which they conceive to have been laid upon them? The business interests of the country demand that they should not be left in doubt longer than is absolutely necessary. They look anxiously to see the democratic policy take definite shape.—Albany Journal.

ABSURD PRETENSIONS.

What Intelligence Had to Do with the Recent Election.

Democratic journals, since election, have had much to say about the victory of their party being the result of their campaign of education; that it was the triumph of intelligence over partisan bias and prejudice. The absurdity of this pretentious claim is apparent to every intelligent student of American politics. It would require more indifference to facts than is usually possessed by the typical democratic politician to enable one to claim that the sweeping democratic majorities in New York city and Chicago were the result of the superior intelligence and conscience of the voters from which they were drawn. It is not claimed that there was no element of study and conviction in the democratic victory, but it is claimed, and the claim is capable of demonstration, that the triumph was by no means traceable to any such cause.

There were sixteen southern states, including Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Missouri, with one hundred and fifty-nine electoral votes that went into the democratic column, with which the "campaign of education" had no more to do than had last summer's league games of baseball. The result in those states would have been the same if the democratic platform and its interpreters had pronounced in favor of absolute non-intercourse with foreign nations, or the wildest schemes of financial and public policy. The southern vote, that is, that portion of it which is cast and honestly counted, is democratic from prejudice and nothing else. Intelligence is not necessarily an ingredient of it.

The New York Press has compiled some figures on this subject which are worthy of preservation in the interests of the truth of history. From these figures it appears that Harrison's total majority in the New England states, all of which he carried except Connecticut, was 70,000. In the middle western states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska his majority was 192,000. In the northwest and Pacific states of Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota he had 54,000 majority—a grand total of 316,000. Of the northern states Cleveland carried Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin by an aggregate majority of 105,000. In these northern states Harrison had 159 electoral votes and Cleveland 103. These figures effectually dispose of the democratic twaddle about intelligence, for in the states containing as intelligent a population as there is and where voting is free and supposed to be governed, to some extent at least, by the principles set forth by the parties, Harrison had a large majority.—Chicago Journal.

THE NATIONAL TREASURY.

No Grounds for the Democratic Prediction of Bankruptcy.

Secretary Foster is apt to take the optimistic view of affairs in his department in all exigencies, but there can be no reasonable doubt that his latest diagnosis of the treasury situation is fully justified by the facts. Although the treasury has lost several million dollars of its gold recently, he thinks that all of this will be recovered at an early day, and that the treasury will be stronger than it has been at any time within the past seven or eight months. About a month ago when the heavy gold shipments to Europe set in, there was $25,000,000 free gold in the treasury. That is, there was this sum in excess of the $100,000,000 kept on hand as a reserve for the redemption of the $346,000,000 of greenbacks. This was the largest accumulation of the yellow metal which the treasury has had since the first half of the calendar year 1892. In the past month the gold exportation amounted to $12,000,000, and most of this came from the treasury. This outgo was altogether unexpected by financiers, and struck the treasury hard, yet more than half of the losses of this repository have been made up in the interval. The treasury's gold surplus, which was at $25,000,000 when at its highest point about a month ago, reaches $21,000,000 now.

Here is some justification for the secretary's prediction that the treasury will be in a fairly satisfactory condition when the present administration steps down. Gold shipments have fallen off, and no conditions are in sight which would naturally lead to their return, within the next month or two at any rate. This is the opinion of those most capable of forming a reasonably accurate judgment in the matter. Wall street's alarm has subsided. Money on call is again down to low rates. Those who were trying to spread a panic throughout the community and to send gold to a premium have closed their efforts in this direction, knowing that the conditions are altogether against the success of their conspiracy. The one dark cloud on the financial horizon is the silver law of 1890, and the great number of republicans and democrats who are working for its repeal gives some reason for the hope that it will be stricken from the statute book before the expiration of the Fifty-second congress. This would inspire renewed confidence all over the world in the stability of our financial system, and lead to heavy purchases of our securities by Europe and the movement of gold to this country. Meanwhile the gold in the treasury is slowly but steadily increasing.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE SENATORIAL STRUGGLE.

Unfounded Allegations of Foxy Democrats.

The democrats of the United States senate recently appointed a committee to look after the disputed elections in the states of Wyoming, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska and California. They did so on the pretense that the republicans were endeavoring to secure control of the legislatures in these states by fraudulent means. The republicans subsequently appointed a like committee, declaring that the democratic allegations of fraud were unfounded and were designed to cover a scheme to secure democratic senators in these states by manipulation of the returns. The fact appears to be that in some of the states named the result as to the election of senators will depend upon two or three votes. So far as appears, neither party is secure of its position, the factor of the populist vote in the legislatures being altogether uncertain.

We do not share the belief avowed in some quarters that it would be desirable that the democrats should have control of the senate merely because they happen to have the house of representatives and the executive. If in any one of these states the republicans are entitled to an honest majority in the legislature under the law, they should, at whatever hazard, secure and exercise their rights. But if their majority can only be established by a resort to improper methods, then it is to be hoped that the democrats will be permitted to have their way. We cannot afford, as a party, to maintain our supremacy in the senate at the expense of the party honor. It is better, on every ground, that we should lose that supremacy than maintain it by sharp practices, or a resort to corrupt or questionable means. That sort of thing should be left to the democracy. A victor gained by any such methods as were employed by the democrats in the state of New York a year ago would inevitably bring disasters in its train which would more than outweigh any temporary advantages which that triumph might assure.—Frank Leslie's Weekly.

COMMENT AND OPINION.

☞ Grover Cleveland seems to realize that he got a Murphy in his stocking that is so large that he cannot pull it out.—Iowa State Register.

☞ Democrats insist that they should have the United States senate, but the people seem not to have voted that way.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

☞ If Cleveland doesn't smash the democratic party before he has "smashed the robber tariff," he may regard himself in great luck.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

☞ We are to have a year of unexampled prosperity. The democracy will be in full control of the government on the 4th of March and then the good times will begin. Speed the day.—Minneapolis Tribune.

☞ The reticence of the democratic press on the tariff question since the election is the best possible proof that its hysterical volubility in that relation before the election was merely a put-up job.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

☞ The Louisiana planters are clamoring for a "revenue" tariff on sugar, while their brethren in Florida are asking for a similar duty on tobacco. These men are democrats, and are therefore entitled to a hearing. Surely the ways of the tariff reformer are difficult ways.—Albany Journal.

☞ There were many protectionist democrats who voted for Cleveland because they deemed the free trade plank in the Chicago platform to be a swindle, and that nothing will be done in the way of tariff tinkering to injure business. Perhaps they will see their error in a year or so.—Toledo Blade.

☞ Republicans are easy. If congress fails to meet in an extra session it will mean another year of republican protection and prosperity, only so far as threatened injury will affect business. If they do meet and "smash the tariff," the sooner the misery will end upon the trial. The thing for every business man to do is to make the most and best of his opportunities. No interest should be allowed to sag that can be kept alive and active.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

☞ That "bankrupt treasury" which the democrats have been falsely predicting all summer will not materialize. Secretary of the Treasury Foster is confident that the treasury will show no deficit this year, notwithstanding the large expenditures on account of pensions and sugar bounties. The cash balance is reduced to about $27,650,000, largely in subsidiary silver or on deposit with national banks, and a further decline is expected before the end of this month. Thereafter there will be smaller demands, and the natural increase in the revenues is expected to restore the balance. Republican financial management has always been superb, and we doubt if the democrats have the ability to equal it.—Toledo Blade.