

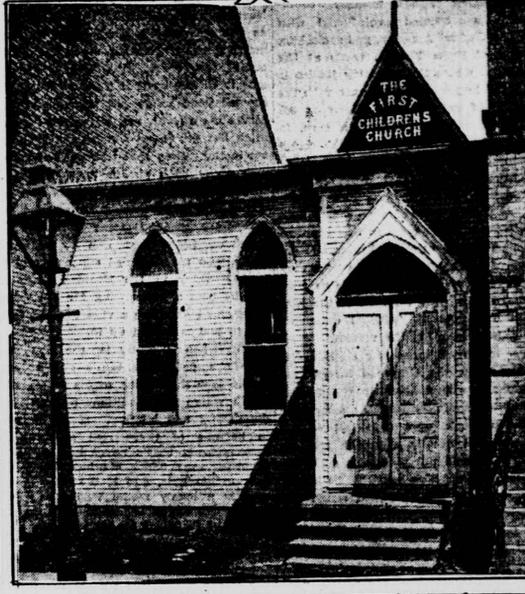
ONLY CHURCH IN THE WORLD EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHILDREN IS DRAWING CROWDS OF ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNGSTERS TO THE SUNDAY AND WEEK DAY SERVICES



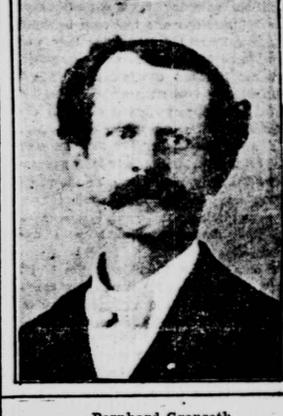
William A. Filline, Superintendent of First Children's Church.



The Vestry, Ushers and a Few of the Most Enthusiastic Workers of the First Children's Church.



The First Children's Church, Chicago.



Bernhard Gronseth, Secretary of First Children's Church.

ALTHOUGH Doctrine Promulgated by Founder of Christian Faith, in His Immortal Saying, "Suffer the Little Children," Is Reflected by the Welcome Afforded to Children by Churches of All Denominations, It Has Remained for Chicago to Produce the First House of Worship Exclusively for Youngsters—It Was Founded by William Filline and Bernhard Gronseth—A Child Evangelist Preaches Sermons and Reads the Bible, Children Sing in the Choir, Children Take Up the Money, Act as Ushers and Discharge All the Other Functions Which Are Usually Left to Adults

The building which bears the title "The First Children's Church," has just been dedicated, but the enthusiasm it aroused has resulted in a doubled membership in its brief month of activity. William Filline is superintendent of this juvenile church. A printer by trade, he has long been interested in religious work, having graduated from the Moody Bible Institute. Assisting him in the work is Bernhard Gronseth, a somewhat older but no less energetic evangelist. The motives that led to the organization of an exclusively children's church are well set forth by Supt. Filline. He says: "It is much easier to convert children than adults, and once won they are more likely to stay devout because they grow up with the love of church work ingrained. When a child is brought to know the true faith, it is a life saved, and none can tell what possibilities may be wrapped up in that life. With an adult a large part of life has passed, and has been wasted."

"We have felt that the church has not been fully alive to the opportunities of work among the children. Many a pastor has not the disposition, the understanding of children to be able to win them, and many another leader who has all these gifts is not blessed with sufficient leisure to give to the youngsters. His time is too fully consumed in his other duties. The hour spent in the Sunday school class is not a sufficiently maintained effort to get the full good. Throughout the week the children are hardly brought to mind a course of religious instruction that would include entertainment as well as instruction in practical lines, would be to build up an army of future recruits for the battle of the Lord. These are the sentiments that led to the first church for children. It is an interesting fact that other churches have not withheld their support from the Chicago project, but have given their hearty encouragement. Many a parent belonging to a church of some special denomination has been glad to let his boys or girls join the children's church, because it has no denomination, and only teaches the noble truths of religion and the duty of doing well by one's fellow-man."

Inception of the Work. The movement had its inception a year and a half ago at a meeting held in a Chicago lodge room. For seven months meetings were held in this place, but the atmosphere lacked the essentially religious tone that was desired, and the organizers kept on the lookout for a church building which could be obtained within the small limits set by their funds. During the summer months a shift was made to a tent, and youngsters crowded nightly to hear the speakers secured by Superintendent Filline. Others had been watching the work and had begun to see its possibilities, so when Superintendent Filline learned of a former church building, then being used as a storage house, that could be obtained for

a not excessive sum, he found proffers of help when he started out to obtain it. Six months of hard work was required to get the building in a fit condition to hold church services, but everybody helped. Much of the actual carpentering, painting and paper hanging was done by Messrs. Filline and Gronseth, assisted by volunteers from other churches, who had been aroused to the value of the work in progress. When the little church was finally refurbished it presented a pretty exterior and a comfortable, cheerful interior, that delighted the eyes of the children, who had seen it grow from a virtual barn. **Six Churches Give Aid.** Six different churches volunteered help for the opening night, aiding either with singers or speakers. One boy, Joseph Raycroft, developed unexpected powers as an evangelist, and he filled the church in services which lasted for more than a week, fifty children being converted during the time that the youngster occupied the pulpit. The new church does not abandon the regular Sunday school meeting of other churches. It merely supplements it.

Sunday school is held every Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock. On Sunday evening, from 7 to 8, is held the regular children's church praise service, which consists of singing and prayers, Bible testimonies by the youngsters and Bible readings by the children or the superintendent. For this service there is a children's choir and a drummer. Foundations have been laid for a children's orchestra, and it is hoped to have one within the next twelve months. These meetings are made as bright and interesting as possible, with the addition of good singing, singing songs that the little ones can understand and join in with enthusiasm. It is significant that the youngsters who attend this church exhibit none of the symptoms of impatience which many parents have noted in taking their offspring to their churches. For one thing the pastor is not shouting continually over the understanding of his juvenile congregation. Nor are they relegated to a place in the back part of the church where only an occasional word reaches them. This is a church designed for children, and everything is made agreeable for them. The other regular church meeting is held on Wednesday nights, and consists of Bible study and exercises designed to

teach children that in success in religion or in practical life the first rule is to be able to help one's self. **Practical Education, Too.** In addition to these services it is also hoped to introduce others, which will include a night for boys and a night for girls once a week. These will be designed more for the education of the youngsters in things practical rather than in religion. Trained speakers will discuss their specialties, there will be good music, and every new method of interesting and helping children will be introduced. When the number of poor children in a city like Chicago is taken into account, who have little means of getting either pleasure or instruction, it can readily be understood that a church which aims to reach the little ones by methods like these is reasonably certain to enjoy a big measure of success. The practical work will be of a varied nature. Groups of boys will be taken to see the industrial plants, the factories, newspaper offices, power houses, etc. Girls will be trained in domestic science, taught how to cook, wash, keep house, etc. The lesson of mercy will be taught by having a systematic visitation of the sick, and by supplying food and clothing to the needy. The children are to be organized along the regular lines of an adult organization, with president, secretary, treasurer, ushers, organist and committees. Then as they grow older they will have had all the needed experience to fit them for the church work of an adult. In this way of the church of the children will be a developing ground for the church of the adult.

BOYS and girls in Chicago have just installed the first church that was ever organized exclusively for children. From the day when the Founder of the Faith laid down the law "Suffer the little children to come unto me" till the present time youngsters have always been welcomed in all temples of wor-

HIS FATE IN HIS HAND---TAFT AND THE PRESIDENCY.

IF you believe in palmistry and if a certain Washington palmetist knows his business you can stop all speculation and conjecture as to the outcome of the presidential election, for come of the presidential election, for William H. Taft, according to the palmetist, will be our next President. His fate is in his hand! It is foreordained, prearranged—the will of Allah, so to speak, as unchangeable as the law of the Medes and the Persians. Not once, but twice, will "Big Bill" fill the presidential chair, says the palmetist; and his tenure of office will be fraught with many storms—possibly war. **Taking the Impression.** The palmetist who prophesies these things for Mr. Taft made his predictions and character reading in absolute ignorance of the fact that he was reading the impression of such a distinguished hand. As far as The Star reporter, who obtained the reading, knows the mystic considered the imprint placed before him as but one of the many submitted to him each day. After he had scanned it for a few moments, however, he glanced quickly up and then gave the reading his closest attention. Harpooning a whale in midocean is child's play to securing a moment with Taft, for these days are the busiest of his life; and The Star reporter took but a scant five minutes in gaining the impression. Mr. Taft placed his broad hand, palm downward, on the piece of paper prepared with soot to receive the marks on the hand. Later alcohol was poured upon the sheet and the lines of the palm appeared in black and white. Then the paper was taken to the unsuspecting palmetist. Mr. Taft's hand, like his person, is large in the sense that it is thick and heavy set, the fingers being cut almost square across and with no signs of the delicacy or tapering look of the artist or sculptor. It is brown and solid and plump—a pugnaeous hand, not the hand of a poet. "A careful examination of the hand before me," remarked the modern oracle, on viewing the imprint, shows that the owner is a man of a strong, determined and even obstinate character—this is denoted by the general, heavy, square outline of the entire hand. Such a person is not nervous or fussy, but deliberate

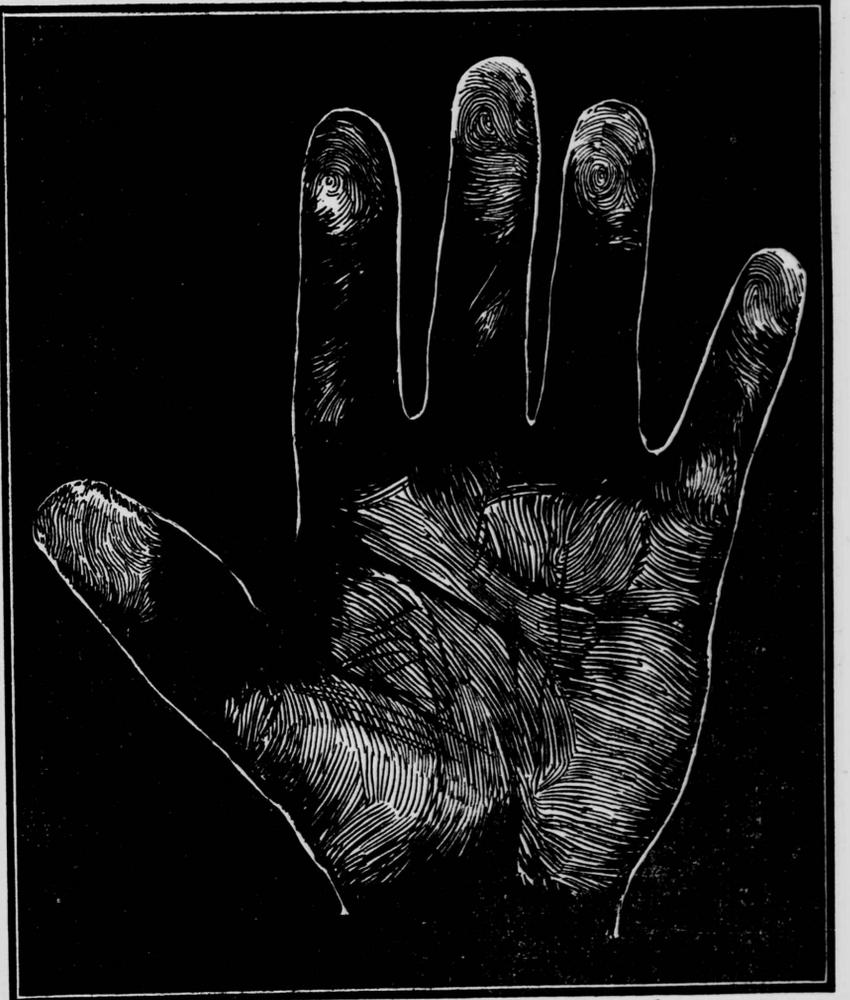
IMPORTANT PERIODS OF TAFT'S LIFE.

A comparison between this table and the statements of the palmetist is interesting.

- 1857—Born September 15, at Cincinnati.
- 1874—Graduated from high school.
- 1878—Graduated from Yale.
- 1880—Graduated from Cincinnati Law College; began practice.
- 1881—Assistant prosecuting attorney.
- 1882—Collector internal revenue at Cincinnati.
- 1886—Married Miss Helen Herron, daughter of John W. Herron of Cincinnati.
- 1887—Appointed judge of Superior Court of Cincinnati by Gov. Foraker.
- 1890—Appointed Solicitor General of United States by President Harrison.
- 1892—United States Circuit Judge for Sixth Judicial District.
- 1896—Professor and dean law department, University of Cincinnati.
- 1901—First civil governor of Philippines.
- 1904—February 1, Secretary of War.
- 1904—Inspected Panama Canal.
- 1905—President National Red Cross Society.
- 1906—Provisional Governor of Cuba.
- 1907—Visited Porto Rico and Panama.
- 1907—Opened Manila Congress.
- 1908—Nominated for Presidency by Republican National Convention.

and methodical, accomplishing a great deal of work in a quiet way. **The Reading.** "The hand, in its general outlines, also shows a strong sense of justice—it is that of a person who can be relied upon in positions of trust and responsibility. "His constructive ability is well developed, showing that he makes the best of every position in which he may be

placed, and combines the philosophical with the imaginative and ideal. "He has wonderful powers of endurance, an especial aptitude for planning and organizing and a shrewd business sense combined with a strong will power. "His executive ability as shown is very largely developed, while his aims are of the most ambitious. "The most remarkable line in the hand is that of fame, which rises just under the third finger and extends downward to an unusual length, crossing the lines of heart and life. This is very unusual. This line shows that his life will be one of a series of upward steps, a constant rising that will culminate in his attaining the heights of his ambition, the highest positions to be won. His fame will be world-wide, his eminence of the greatest. "His active career began in his twenty-fourth year, since which time his way through life has been most successful. "The most important periods of his life are the ages of forty-four, forty-seven and fifty-one." (Mr. Taft will be fifty-one years old September 15). **To Be Honored Twice.** "Judging from the construction of the line of fate and that of fame, I would say that he will reach the summit of his ambitions in one of these years. His high position will be of but a few years' duration. Then will come an interim, after which he will again be placed in the same lofty station. During his occupancy of this important post his career will meet many storms, possibly wars, but he will cope successfully with the situation. "His line of heart shows that his disposition is loyal and kindly. Though thoroughly business-like, he has a keen appreciation of the humorous and the funny things of life. Though liking the esthetic things of life, his tastes also strongly incline to material pleasures. In habits he is orderly and punctual, fond of analyzing not only others but himself. "In nature he is affectionate, fond of his home; generous, but not extravagant; broad-minded, but not over-critical, never forgetful of an injury, though not vindictive. He has keen foresight, which enables him to gather his forces and make his calculations correctly for future moves. "His life line is good and shows a robust personality with but little sickness. It also denotes a very long life. "At a later period of life he will travel. "I would say that from the length of his life line the owner of this palm would live well on into the seventies."



The Deeply Lined Hand of William H. Taft. The Impression Was Made by the Republican Presidential Nominee Placing His Right Hand Upon a Piece of Paper Prepared With Soot and Alcohol. The Local Palmetist Who Read the Lines Declared That Mr. Taft Will Be Elected President Not Once, But Twice. The Above Photograph of the Impression Is, of Course, Very Much Reduced in Size.

TRAMP CATS POSSESS HABITS OF HUMAN HOBOES.

THIS is the season when the tramp cat starts on his downward career. There are tramp cats just as surely as there are tramps of the human species. Springtime migrations and the annual summer migrations of city families to the country throw hundreds of cats out of good homes, and so make tramps out of them. But not all tramp cats are victims of environment—a great many are victims of heredity. The writer has studied cat psychology for a number of years and has found it an interesting study. There are two sorts of tramp cats—the natural born hobo and the tramp that takes to the road from actual necessity. There are black sheep in the best of cat families. The genuine tramp cat is born with a thirst for adventures. Usually his parents are just as sure to be prowling cats by temperament as the children of gypsies are certain to be gypsies. Kittens of tramp cats grow up, run away from home and take to tramping. It comes as natural with them. It is bred in the bone. Some cats will actually turn tail on saucers of good country cream and revel in the pickings of garbage cans. There are naturally ill-bred cats. In the majority of cases the parents and grandparents are tramp cats. The ancestry of

a cat will often explain erratic tendencies. There are, of course, cases where good cats go wrong despite faultless pedigrees and the most pleasant surroundings. **Easy to Distinguish Hobo Tribe.** One can always distinguish the born tramp cat, of whatever upbringing, from the cat that tramps from necessity. The born tramp gets his living easily. He is always fat, if not sleek. There is a triumphant, devil-may-care air about him. He is not bothered about the ways of the world. He knows just where to find the richest garbage boxes and cans. He has a genius for slipping through back doors and rifting larders. His sins never find him out until it is too late to catch him. A favorite trick is to steal into the house and enjoy a nap curled up on top of the company counterpane. That is a regular tramp cat trick. He is an adept at putting up a hard-luck story—a story which would make a human tramp blush to the very roots of his ears. A tramp cat will wince a meal from a cook when an honest cat will go away with an empty stomach. The tramp cat knows how to throw the trick, and he does it to perfection, too. He never makes a mistake. He is onto his job. Tramps of the cat tribe that are given to toying with a human are a forlorn lot. The born tramp cat is so jauntily, so debonnaire, in spite of his dirty coat and his bad character, so evidently in harmony with his surroundings, that pity affronts him. He

likes to fly the red flag and live in a state of war and siege. **The Homeless Tramp Cat.** But with the other sort of tramp cat it is a different story. They don't know how to forage for food, and they always get caught in larder raids. Between hunger and homelessness and the tauntings of bad boys, they lead a terribly strenuous life. It is a case of get out and hustle. Every well regulated household, if it owns no cat, makes haste to adopt one in the fall of the year. The cat stays in the house all winter and catches rats and mice and drinks milk and grows as fat as butter. Summer comes and the family migrates. Frequently it happens that pussy has cleared out all of the rodents by spring, and no one wants him about any longer. There are, too, of course, the blandishments of alley cats that hang about the back yards and whisper to sedate house cats the temptations of anarchy. Spring is in the air. Birds fit temptingly in the trees. The good, plump cat falls. In about six weeks he is a confirmed tramp—a disgrace to the cat tribe. There is no reformation for the alley cat. He is a goner. The cat that has really enjoyed the pleasures of a home will take to the alley life quick and lasting. He soon learns to love the life of a hobo cat. There are people who have a weakness for tramp cats, just as there are persons

whose hearts go out toward human hoboies. In a way, of course, they encourage vagrancy among cats. Out in the northwest section of Washington there lives a learned gentleman who is a professor of botany. He lives alone in a large house—not alone, for in and around his home he has a large number of cats which he has picked up in the "by-ways and hedges," and these are his sole companions. He seems to be happy with them. **The Ham Story.** "THE ALLEN," said a New York politician, "took a cynical view of mankind. For one thing, he did not believe in trial by jury. Humanity, he would say, was too corrupt to admit of a jury getting twelve good men and true in a jury box together. Then he would tell his ham story. "A chap, the story ran, was indicted for stealing a multitude of hams—some six or seven hundred. "The trial came. The evidence against the chap was overwhelming. His lawyer leaned to him and whispered, which enabled him to gather his forces and make his calculations correctly for future moves. "His life line is good and shows a robust personality with but little sickness. It also denotes a very long life. "At a later period of life he will travel. "I would say that from the length of his life line the owner of this palm would live well on into the seventies."

The False Front. HUGH JENNINGS and his Detroit Tigers were entertained at a dinner in New York last month, and in the course of his address of acknowledgment Mr. Jennings said: "Our enemy's mortification brings back Cornell to me. The Cornell team played at the seashore one June, and after the game we took a bath. "There was a lady in a nearby bathroom, and she had a little dog with her. After a bit the dog came running out of

her bathroom with a bunch of curly golden hair in its mouth. It tore up and down the long aisle winking that glittering bunch of curls, shaking it and growing at it as if it had been a cat. A funny sight to see. "There was, naturally, a good deal of laughter. Then the lady was heard calling the attendant in a distressed voice. "Oh," she called, "would you please fetch my little dog back to me? He has run off with something of mine, and I can't get my shoes on without it." "The attendant was one of those fresh chaps. He yelled back at the lady very loud. "Yes'm, yer little dog's out here, all right, havin' a spree with somethin' or other; but from the look of it I wouldn't say it was a shoe hair." One-fifth of the world's surface is uninhabitable by the white man because of the presence of malaria.