THE MARKETS.

Securities of All Kinds Decidedly Firm and Hard to Get.

Opinions Regarding the Future of the Grain Widely Differ.

Special Dispatch.

NEW YORK, March 18.—The market has been very dull all day with a firm undertone. The grangers were the principal stocks traded in at higher prices. Union Pacific and Pacific Mail were steady and Lackawanna were weak. Gould stocks were higher. There were no features of importance in today's trading. Bonds were steady. Market closed dull and steady.

Well informed Boston parties telegraphed last night that Union Pacific earnings decreased $500,000 in January, $450,000 in February, and $125,000 the first week in March.

Harned bought Erie all day, it is said, for the pool.

Rock Island people say that an agreement for pooling Northwestern business will likely be made in a few days.

Opinions are mixed as to the course of Pacific Mail movement. The holder of a large speculative block sold out. This caused a drop from 57¾ to 55¼.

President Dennis, of united railroads of New Jersey, is quoted as saying that Pacific Mail is worth par on its merits. He has lately been a buyer for a long turn. Parties who have been right on Pacific Mail say that it will do to buy on every reaction.

Chicago advices say they see no hope for wheat, except change of weather. If that causes bulge we believe it a sale. Corn dull, too early to bull it, except that it might be influenced by advance in wheat. Provisions quiet. Purchases on declines for turn need quick handling.

The St. Paul statement for 1883 shows a surplus to the income account of $5,079,079—a gain of $1,459,671; whereas the gain for 1882 was reported at $1,213,424 on some 300 miles less road.

A special dispatch from Chicago says that no steps have been taken for a meeting of the northwestern roads to-day, and that the prospect is that the roads will fight.

The Boston *Transcript* says that there are all sorts of rumors accounting for the advance in New York and New England securities, but all that is known is that Connecticut and New York people are buying the bonds. The 7s advanced yesterday afternoon from 102 to 106 and the 6s from 92 to 95 after the board.

Comptroller Dougherty, of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, testified in the Dinsmore suit yesterday that since 1869, including last year, the Reading company by its showings of earnings was not able to maintain its guarantee of 6 per cent. on New Jersey Central stock; that the company at present had a floating debt unprovided for of $7,800,000.

Counsel for Dinsmore claims that in the testimony of President Little and others New Jersey Central was capable of earning more than 6 per cent. on its stock; that the lease to the Reading company was ill advised and wholly in the interest of the Reading company.

Sales of stocks to-day aggregated 130,437 shares, including the following: Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 21,200; Denver and Rio Grande, 7,200; Northwestern, 15,450; Pacific Mail, 12,000; Reading, 4,500; St. Paul, 22,580; Texas Pacific, 9,200; Union Pacific, 20,700.

STOCKS.

Following are opening and closing prices of principal stocks, as corrected by special wire reports received by Bateman & Co., bankers, No. 1411 F street northwest:

	Opening.	Closing.
Western Union	75	75½
Central Pacific	59	59
New York Central	115⅞	115⅞
Erie	23⅞	24
Michigan Central	92	92⅞
Lake Shore	102¼	102¾
Louisville and Nashville	49⅝	48⅞
Chicago and Northwestern	118⅞	119
Union Pacific	76⅞	77⅛
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul	92⅞	92⅞
Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific	.....	15½
Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific pref	26¼	26⅞
Missouri Pacific	91⅞	91⅞
Denver and Rio Grande	18⅛	18¼
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western	129½	128⅞
Philadelphia and Reading	58½	58
Northern Pacific	21⅞	21½
Northern Pacific preferred	46¾	47⅛
Chicago, St. Paul, M. and O	31¼	31⅛
Chicago, St. Paul, M. and O. pref	93⅞	93⅞
Canada Southern	55¼	55¼
Texas Pacific	20⅛	20⅞
Kansas and Texas	21⅛	21⅛
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy	124⅛	124⅛
Illinois Central	130¼	130¼
Oregon Transcontinental	19⅞	20
Rochester and Pittsburg	13¾	14
Ontario and Western	.....	16⅛
Richmond Terminal	28	28¼
East Tennessee	7⅞	7⅞
East Tennessee preferred	.....	12⅞
Pullman Car company	109⅞	111¼
Canada Pacific	54¾	54¾
West Shore	57¾	58⅛
Pacific Mail	55⅞	55⅞
Rock Island	122⅞	123¼

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.
United States 4½s, 1891, registered	113⅝	113⅞
United States 4½s, 1891, coupon	113⅝	113⅞
United States 4s, 1907, registered	123¼	123
United States 4s, 1907, coupon	123¾	124
United States 3s	101⅞	.....
Exchange	488	.....

WASHINGTON STOCK EXCHANGE.

District of Columbia.		
Permanent imp. 6s, 1891, coin	115¼	116
Permanent imp. 7s, 1891, currency	119½	.....
Market stock 7s, 1892, currency	127	.....
Water stock 7s, 1901, currency	131	.....
Water stock 7s, 1903, currency	131	.....
Fifty-year funded 3.65s, 1924, cur'y	114	114½
Twenty-year funded 7s, 1891, cur'y	113½	.....
Twenty-year funded 6s, 1891, coin	110½	110⅞
Thirty-year funded 6s, 1902, coin	125	.....
Fire Insurance and Gas Light Companies.		
Washington City Gas Light	38⅞	38½
Georgetown Gas Light	38⅞	40
Firemen's Insurance	.....	45
Franklin Insurance	.....	50
National Metropolitan Insurance	66	.....
National Union Insurance	18	.....
Arlington Insurance	137	.....
Columbia Insurance	10½	12½
Certain-Amerlcan Insurance	.....	13⅞
Potomac Insurance	4½	.....
Riggs Insurance	7	7½
Railroad Stocks.		
Washington Market Co. bonds	112	.....
Metropolitan	69	71
Columbia	28	.....
North Capitol and O street	37	40½
Free List.		
Board of Public Works, green 8s, small	96	96½
Masonic Hall bonds	98	.....
National Theater bonds	97	.....
Washington Market Co. stock	17¼	17¾
Inland and Seaboard Coast Co. bonds	.....	70
Rambler Mining Co. stock	.....	10
Wash'n Brick Machine Co. stock	100	100
Bank of Washington	200	500
Bank of Washington	100	225
National Metropolitan bank	100	150
National Bank of the Republic	100	150
Farmers and Mechanics' National bank, Georgetown	100	145
Second National bank	100	197
Central National bank	100	170
Great Falls Ice company	100	95
Real Estate Title Insurance company	.....	108
Pennsylvania Telephone company	.....	68
Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co.	.....	95
Sioux Half Breed Scrip	per acre	30.00
Land Warrants, war of 1812	per acre	1.15
Land Warrants, other wars	per acre	1.12

COTTON MARKET.

The following were opening and closing prices:

	Opening.	Closing.
March	11.02	11.04
April	11.08	11.05
May	11.27	11.24
June	11.41	11.39
July	11.50	11.51
August	11.68	11.60
September	10.39	10.39
October	10.50	10.58
November	10.70	10.75
December	10.77	10.76

Sales, 32,000 bales.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The following are the opening, highest, lowest, and closing prices on Chicago board of trade, as corrected by special wire reports to Cooke & Co., brokers:

Futures.	Wheat	Corn.	Oats.	Pork.	Lard.
Opening—					
May	95⅝	56⅞	35⅛	$18 10	$9 62½
June	97¼	57⅝	35⅛	18 20	9 70
July	98⅝	59½	34⅞	18 32½	9 75
Highest—					
May	95½	57	35¼	18 10	9 65
June	97⅛	58	35⅞	18 22½	9 72½
July	98⅝	59⅝	34⅞	18 37½	9 77½
Lowest—					
May	94⅝	56⅝	35	18 00	9 57½
June	96⅝	57⅝	35⅛	18 12½	9 67½
July	97⅞	59	34⅞	18 22½	9 75
Closing—					
May	95⅛	57	35⅛	18 05	9 60
June	97⅛	58	35⅛	18 15	9 67½
July	98⅛	59½	34⅞	18 22½	9 75

BALTIMORE STOCK MARKET.

BALTIMORE, March 18.—Virginia 6s, consolidated, 40½; contdue coupons, 38⅞; new 3s, 36⅞; North Carolina 6s, old, 111 bid to-day.

BALTIMORE PRODUCE MARKET.

BALTIMORE, March 18.—Cotton higher; middling, 10⅞c. Flour unchanged and quiet; Howard street and western superfine, $2.75@3.50; do. extra, $3.75@4.75; do. family, $5.00@6.00; city mills superfine, $2.75@3.50; do. extra, $3.75@4.25; do. Rio brands, $5.00@5.25; Patapsco family, $6.50; do. superlative patent, $7.00. Wheat—Southern quiet and steady; Western lower and active; southern red, $1.12@1.15; do. amber, $1.15@1.17; No. 1 Maryland, $1.13@1.13¼; No. 2 western winter red, spot, $1.07@1.07¼; April, $1.07⅛@1.07⅞; May, $1.09⅞@1.09¾; June, $1.10⅛@1.10⅞. Corn—Southern steady; western quiet and lower; southern white, 57@61c; do. yellow, 56@59½c; western mixed, spot and March, 57⅞@58c; April, 58@58⅛c; May, 59⅝@59⅞c; June 60⅛@60⅝c; steamer, 57@57½c. Oats steady, with rather more inquiry; southern, 42@45c; western white, 43@44c; do. mixed, 42@43c; Pennsylvania, 43@44c. Rye quiet at 68@70c. Hay firm; prime timothy for Pennsylvania and Maryland, $14.00@15.00. Provisions steady, with moderate demand; mess pork, old, $18.00; new, $19.00; bulk meats, shoulders and clear rib sides, packed, 8@10⅛c; bacon—shoulders, 8¾c; clear rib sides, 11c; hams, 14½@15¼c. Lard—Refined, 10¼c. Butter steady; western packed, 16@22c; creamery, 25@38c. Eggs at 20c. Petroleum nominal; refined, 8¼@8⅞c. Coffee easier and dull; Rio cargoes, ordinary to fair, 10¾@12c. Sugar easier. A soft, 7⅞c. Copper—Refined steady at 14@14¼c. Whisky quiet at $1.19@1.19½. Freights to Liverpool per steamer dull and unchanged; cotton, 9-32d.; flour, 1s. 3d.; grain, 2½@3d. Receipts—Flour, 3,628 barrels; wheat, 51,000 bushels; corn, 115,000 bushels; oats, 5,000 bushels; rye, 600 bushels. Shipments—Wheat, 56,000 bushels; corn, 56,000 bushels. Sales—Wheat, 991,000 bushels; corn, 143,000 bushels.

THE COURT RECORD.

Business Transacted by the District Judiciary Yesterday.

Court in General Term—Chief Justice Cartter, and Justices James and Cox.—Virginia Stewart vs. Jane Smith and Lizzie Cannon; on hearing. John M. Stutz, administrator of J. G. New vs. Metropolitan Life Insurance company; defendant granted leave to withdraw original policy of insurance.

Circuit Court—Judge Hagner.—Kilbourn vs. Thompson; jury discharged from case and new jury selected. Young vs. Young; judgment for plaintiff.

Equity Court—Judge MacArthur.—Kendall vs. Lescollett; appearance of absent defendant ordered. Darth vs. Devereux; decree directing conveyance. Johnson vs. Johnson; sale restrained and motion to dismiss bill overruled. Blodget vs. Grant; motion to file replication nunc pro tunc denied. Barnard vs. Hitz; auditor's report confirmed. Murphy vs. Washington's heirs; reference to auditor ordered. Dipple vs. Keese; petition of J. Mell, Carrington dismissed. Merritt vs. Geyer; restraining order, returnable March 21, 1884, granted. Kirk vs. Clark; restraining order, returnable March 21, granted. Robinson vs. Johnson; on hearing.

Criminal Court—Judge Wylie.—John J. Altey, charged with violating section 5480 revised statutes (pension law); on hearing. A. C. Soteldo, assaut to kill; nolle prosequied. August Donath and George M. Depue, libel; nolle prosequied.

NEW SUITS.

No. 8939. Andrew J. Robinson vs. Thomas M. and Mary V. Robinson, to confirm sale; J. Walter Cooksey, solicitor.

COURT CALL.

Court in General Term—Chief Justice Cartter, Justices Cox and James.—Nos. 19, 60½, 62, 70, 71, and 76.

Circuit Court—Judge Hagner—Nos. 151, 155, 158, 159, and 160.

Equity Court—Judge MacArthur.—Assignment unchanged.

Criminal Court—Judge Wylie.—Nos. 14738, 15137, 15237, and 15286.

Alabama Claims.

In the court of commissioners of Alabama claims yesterday judgments were announced as follows, with interest at 4 per cent. from dates named: No. 2920, John Freeman, $127, Nov. 21, 1865. No. 2921, James E. Crosby, $191, July 1, 1861. No. 2923, John Freeman, administrator estate of John Freeman, deceased, $421, Sept. 12, 1864. No. 2930, Aaron D. Wild, Aaron A. Wild, jr., and Richard H. Wild, firm of A. D. Wild & Son, $7,455, April 8, 1864. No. 2949, Jonas G. Clark and George B. Wilbur, firm of Clark & Wilbur, $6,034, May 5, 1863. No. 2948, John H. Nichols, $325, June 6, 1862. No. 2949, Thomas Kimball, $175, Dec. 1, 1865. No. 2955, Mary Paine and John R. Stevens, executors of the will of Edgar Paine, deceased, $52, Sept. 14, 1864. No. 2927, Henry Gardner, $19,855; Francis A. Gray, $3,383; Eustace C. Fitz, administrator of the estate of Alfred Blanchard, deceased, $611, and Henry Gardner, administrator of the estate of Wm. H. Averill, deceased, $136, Feb. 28, 1864; Moses T. Rice, surviving partner, &c., claim dismissed. No. 2924, Hatsel Crosby, administrator of the estate of Benj. F. Berry, deceased, $112, Oct. 19, 1864. No. 2933, Paul L. Forbes, Warren Delano, Henry S. Grew, William A. Forbes, Edward Cunningham, Frank B. Forbes, and Richard S. Dana, surviving partners firm of Russell & Co., $896, Dec. 4, 1863. No. 2944, George M. Barnard, $14,335; James M. Barnard, $2,242; Mortimer C. Ferris and James T. Hayward, surviving partners firm of Dana, Dana & Co., $4,654; H. Hollis Hunnewell, $445, and H. Hollis Hunnewell and Hollis Hunnewell, firm of H. H. Hunnewell & Son, $1,634, Nov. 14, 1863. No. 2916, Godfrey Hopkins, administrator estate of Elisha Foster, deceased, $817, and Mallissa H. Crosby, administratrix estate of Nathan F. Foster, deceased, $59, Jan. 8, 1865. No. 2914, Walter F. Cobb, special administrator estate of Freeman Cobb, deceased, $1,888, Sept. 29, 1864. No. 2933, Thomas M. Devens, surviving partner firm of Gassler & Co., $8,913, Aug. 7, 1863.

Supreme Court.

The proceedings in the United States supreme court yesterday were as follows:

No. 1266. The United States ex rel. S. V. White, plaintiff in error, vs. John J. Knox, comptroller of the currency. Motion to advance submitted.

Nos. 256 and 257, Barzilla Stephens, plaintiff in error, vs. The Monongahela National Bank of Brownsville, Pa., and

No. 258. Azeriah Stephens, plaintiff in error, vs. The Monongahela National Bank of Brownsville, Pa. Argument concluded.

No. 119. The New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, plaintiff in error, vs. S. E. Woodworth, administrator, &c.; argued. Adjourned.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following transfers of real estate were filed for record yesterday:

H st. n. w., south side, bet. 21st and 22d sts., lot 19, sub. of sq. 79, fronting 20 ft., Harriet C. Goldsbrough and Lucy C. Hunt to Martha C. Goldsborough; dated March 11 ..... $5

20th and N sts. n. w., southeast corner, lot 13, sub. of sq. 116, Thomas J. Fisher to Henry D. McCubley and Charles Early; dated March 17 10

F st. n. w., north side, bet. 13th and 14th sts., lot 34, sub. of sq. 256, Thomas L. Cropley and wife to Abraham H. Herr; dated March 17 1

Ohio ave. and 15th st. n. w., northeast corner, lot 10, sub. of sq. 128, Edmund L. Rogers and wife to Bennett W. Frazier and Ira Godfrey; dated March 17 5,160

Prospect st. West Washington, part of the McQuillin place, sub. of Georgetown, Richard Fallalove and wife to Joseph Scollatt; dated Nov. 16 650

16th st. n. w., west side, bet. S and T sts., lots 2, sub. of sq. 177, Julia B. Marvin to Thos. Cavanaugh; dated March 17 1,800

County of Washington, pt. lot 36, sub. of the Metropolis View, containing 3 acres of land, Albert G. Barnes to Moses Madry; dated April 26, 1883 835

New York avenue n. w., north side, bet. 3d 4th sts., pt. lot 1, sub. of sq. 53, Charles W. Dawes and wife to Albert F. Fox and Louis P. Shoemaker; dated March 18 2,177

Grant st. n. w., north side, bet. 9th and 10th sts., lot 89, sub. of sq. 375, fronting 20 ft., Sarah E. Gray and others to Louisa C. Gregory; dated Oct. 1, 1883 6,300

Ivy City, lots 7 and 8 sub. of blk. 4, Mary J. Snowden to Ellen C. Holt; dated March 15 300

The Greely Relief Expedition.

It is the intention of Secretary Chandler to have the vessels of the Greely relief expedition start as early as possible. The bureau officers have therefore been notified to make their arrangements for the expedition accordingly. It is expected that the Bear will sail from New Your April 25, the Thetis May 1, and the Alert May 10. They will proceed direct to St. John's, N. F.

Appeals From Customs Decisions.

The treasury department is in receipt of a large number of appeals from the decisions of customs officers in cases coming within the provisions of section 7 of the new tariff act relating to the duty on charges. Over 3,000 appeals from New York were received Monday. They are based on the recent opinion of the attorney general on this subject.

A Card.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a recipe that will cure you, free of charge. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. Joseph T. Inman, Station D, New York City.

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LECTURING AS A FINE ART.

An Instructive Criticism on Col. T. C. Cone's Recent Interesting Lecture.

Lecturing is one of the fine arts. As decidedly so as is painting or sculpture. To compose and deliver a great lecture requires genius of as high, or even higher, order than is required to compose and paint a great picture or to produce a great group in marble. In each case it is the work of creative genius. In the matter of painting or sculpture, however, the artist is confined by the limitations of his art to the presentation of but one or, at most, two or three phases of his thought or conception, and while it, to be a great picture, requires greatness of conception, as well as perfection in drawing, coloring, pose, and atmosphere, and the lesser, though important, qualities of touch and technique, still it does not admit of that breadth of treatment, that scope in handling, that sounding of all the notes in the gamut of human feeling which is allowed, which is, indeed, demanded of him who would present to a mixed audience the many sides of a great subject with only the air for his canvas and words for his colors. Besides this, the artist in color or stone reaches and moves us through the eye alone, and when we are in the mood to be so reached and moved. We can return to his work again and again, and willingly yield ourselves to silent contemplation and the influence of the thought which the picture embodies. The lecturer, on the contrary, has to please on the instant many eyes, ears, and minds, and, taking these in every tone, hue, and variety of mood, weld them at the same moment into one. This requires all that is demanded of the artist—in drawing, in color, in atmosphere, in pose, tone, and technique—but it demands, as to the breadth and power of conception and treatment, which is the first and highest quality of creative genius, a universality, both of mind and acquirement, which the artist in color or clay need not possess.

What we have said of art is, of course, true, whether the subject be a flower, a battlefield, or "The Ascension," only the real scope of the genius of the artist is made more and more apparent in the greatness of the subjects he may attempt, and from the flower to the Ascension increases in geometrical ratio.

There are many works of art which win our observation and give us pleasure for the moment, but which we soon forget, and probably do not again recall. This is evidence of the fact that while they have merit in one or more of the qualities we have pointed out, still they fall in some one of those requirements which are necessary to any great work, and by so much lack of being up to the standard of a really great performance, and arguing, of course, a want of the highest genius in the artist. A few pictures that we have seen do not merely please our eyes and give us present pleasure, but they seem to take possession of us, mind and heart. We seem to live in the picture, breathe its atmosphere, and when we turn away from it it is not forgotten. We carry it with us in thought, and constantly recur to it. It has an ever tightening grasp upon us. Often it gives us a wakeful hour in the silence of midnight. It suggests many new and bright fancies to our own minds, and awakens trains of reflection and tones of feeling which are a source of perpetual pleasure and profit—a rich possession which cannot be taken away from us. To produce such an effect is the highest achievement of creative genius and is its consecration.

What has been said of painting is, we think, and in a larger sense, true of lecturing—a term which we employ in sharp contrast to public speaking of the ordinary and usual kind; for, of public speaking, lecturing is the highest in form and finest in quality. It is a carefully considered, thoughtfully composed, picture of many views and long vistas, and, if the subject be a great one, makes the heaviest demands upon all the faculties of the human mind. It demands the most thorough education, the widest reading, the highest culture. It requires originality of mind and thought, which is that quality that gives strength and depth to every great conception. It must be perfect in drawing, coloring, and pose; in tone, touch, and technique, and over all there must prevail that atmosphere of perfect intellectual poise which is felt rather than seen.

There have been but a few great American painters, and fewer still of great lecturers. Measured by the high standard here set up one may reckon them on his ten fingers. But this standard, high as it is, has now been nearly reached by one who may be said to be just on the threshold of what is a need, but certainly for him a true sphere of action; for, if we are correctly informed, the occasion on which we lately heard him was his first appearance anywhere as a lecturer. We refer to Theodore C. Cone, of Georgia, and his lecture recently delivered in a small hall, and to a small but distinguished audience, in Washington.

In the first place, the lecturer's personal appearance (for this is one of the things which is of importance to the lecturer and of no concern to the artist), in this instance, has little else to be desired. He is a man in the prime of his first maturity; in stature nearly or quite six feet, burly, square-shouldered, and growing stout, but he has that mingling of dignity and ease of manner and movement which we call natural grace. His head is large and almost classic in form and is in admirable proportion to his large and elegant person. His hair is now quite silvered over and has that silken sheen in it which is so sure an indication of a high nervous and mental organization. His complexion is florid and healthy. His face is strikingly strong. His eyes are blue, with the tired, worn expression we so often remark in students; but when he is speaking they give out vivid flashes which are more like those of the impending tempest than the broad, mild "heat" lightning of a summer evening.

The first impression he makes on an audience (at least, it was the first made on the writer) is that of intellectual refinement. There was all about him that undefinable air of high breeding which so indelibly marks and indicates a true gentleman. The second impression is that of intellectual force, which grows as he proceeds and becomes broader and deeper until the last word is spoken. It is the impression which we bring away and which remains with us. It is the "atmosphere" of the lecture. The first word which the lecturer utters discloses a voice of unusual compass and power, round, flexible, musical, resonant, and full throughout its great range. We cannot recall a better voice in any speaker.

It is not remarkable that with gifts such as these the lecturer, from the first word of his modest introduction of himself, and the great subject which he "dares" discuss this subject is the conflict between religion and science, with an examination of Ingersollism from a man-of-the-world point of view), should hold the close, at times absorbed, attention of his audience to the last. But before the introduction is well concluded the audience feel that they are in the presence of a man who has the most powerful grasp upon and the most complete mastery of his great subject, for not only are his scholarly attainments at once apparent, but the impression deepens with every topic he touches that here is a man who has gone to the heart of everything in the world of books, and, having made it his own, has that vigor and originality of mind to open new, strong and great vistas of thought for us, and this with the free, bold, grand stroke which belongs only to genius.

In addition to his great information and solid acquirements, which he wields into a sledge hammer of logic, and uses with the power and dexterity of a master hand, he has that great gift of exhausting a topic with a few powerful strokes which is the very perfection of the lecturer's art. He has also a splendid imagination. Not the riotous imagination to which we are treated by others who hold a great place in popular estimation, but one which is trained and in perfect discipline—disciplined to play its own proper part in fields of original thought. It furnishes him with a wealth of illustration at once striking, original, and beautiful. He has a great command of language, a marvelously rich vocabulary. We do not remember a single speaker in the senate, pulpit, or at the bar who has a greater power of elegant and pure expression. Words are to him what the colors on his palette are to the painter, readily at his command, and with which he expresses the finest shades of meaning with clearness, precision, and power. Still another impression which the audience soon feels is that the speaker is deeply in earnest in what he is about. He is never for a moment drawn away from the direct line of his argument, and is ever pressing with all his forces to the conclusions sought to be maintained.

One thing for which this speaker is greatly to be praised (for it erects the highest standard for those who are to come after him) is, that of all the lecturers who have occupied the platform in our day, accustomed to deal with mixed audiences, and who seem to hanker after popular applause, he is the only one who is absolutely guiltless of that clap-trap which takes "short cuts to a climax," and is calculated, in theatrical parlance, to "bring down the house." He does rise to the greatest heights of eloquence, but it is always that which is best, argumentative eloquence, the eloquence of thought, that which belongs to the argument, and hence there is no impression left of a straining after effects. All is fitting, easy, and natural. He is always on the line of his argument. He wanders neither to the right nor left; takes "no cross cuts" for a "climax." Every step is toward his conclusion. To the force of these all else is subservient and secondary. And the audience knows that they are being honestly dealt with.

For some reason Mr. Cone, although unmistakably possessing great oratorical powers, shows an indifference, or what may be more precisely termed an intellectual contempt, for the orator's art. It will be well for him to remember that a lecture is not a philosophical treatise nor a scientific or literary essay, pleasant only for the eyes of the learned, but that a lecture is for a mixed and popular assembly, and, however much oratory would be out of place in the one, it is of the first importance in the other, and he will do well to hold it at its true value in addressing mixed and popular audiences.

It is not within the purpose of this criticism to follow or reproduce any part of the lecture. That is the duty of the stenographer, not the critic, and Mr. Cone will undoubtedly be heard throughout the country.

Our estimate of him, in addition to what has been said, is that he is a public educator of the best order, and, in the wide and great field which he has chosen, it would be well if he could be heard by every thoughtful man and woman, every intelligent boy and girl in the land. He comes at the right time, and exactly "fits the hour." He is learned, original, and brilliant, logical, eloquent, and profound. His wit is fresh and bright, his humor pure and of the finest flavor—even scholarly—and his sarcasm bites like an acid. In the discussion of "Ingersollism" the courtesy with which he salutes his antagonist personally is knightly, graceful, and charming, while his exposure of the "Ingersollian philosophy" is simply terrible. His attack is so hot and overwhelming, his use of all the weapons in the arsenal of aggressive argumentative warfare is really so tremendous, that it may, not without justice, be termed intellectual ferocity.

The general inquiry which we heard as the audiences was leaving the hall was, "Where has this man been that we have not heard him before?" It is not difficult to find the answer, for it is quickly apparent that his days and nights have been passed in his library, while his recreations have probably been long, solitary, brooding, fruitful walks. A wise man who has bided his time, and had the patience to wait for the full ripening of his unquestionably great powers.

What has here been said is of the first lecture, which, as the lecturer announced, is the first part of an argument which is continued and concluded in a second lecture, but which, as he said, "is complete as far as it goes." In the second lecture, as he announced, he attempts to find "reason's reply to the five greatest questions." These are, he said: 1. Is there a God? 2. Which, if any, is the true religion? 3. Why Christianity is the true religion. 4. Is the conflict between religion and science, has religion been fatally discredited? and if not, what is the reconciliation? 5. Was the founder of Christianity a miraculous being?

His powerful handling of the subject in the first lecture left his audience with an eager, deep-seated desire to hear the argument throughout, in this widest and greatest field to which the mystery of life forever provokes the profoundest concern and inquiry of the human mind. Without invidious comparisons, either with the living or dead we have no hesitation in assigning to this lecturer in the lyceum of the immediate future a very high place. Heretofore, all of our great lecturers have been from the north, generally from New England, and usually from Massachusetts. It is a fact not without significance, that Col. Cone hails from the south, and is, we understand, a native Georgian.

W. P. D.

Georgetown Cattle Market.

Drovers' Rest live stock sales, Tuesday, March 18. Reported by Tavenner Brothers, proprietors. Twenty-five head of cattle offered and sold; best, 6 to 6¼c; good, 5½ to 6c; medium, 4¾ to 5½c; common, 4 to 4½c. One hundred and fifty sheep sold at 5½c. Ten cows and calves at from $25 to $60. Market brisk.

Charged with Theft.

The police of the eighth precinct arrested a colored man named Watkins H. Williams last night, who is charged with having stolen some goods from Mr. William O. Douglass.

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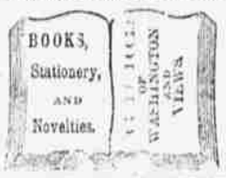

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