A THREE DAYS' SALE OF LINENS

To Which American Mills Contribute Largely

Will begin here to-morrow morning. A few years ago it was said we could not make linen cloth here in America, but it is being made in this country and in the West, too. Every loyal citizen should be proud of the advances American mills have made in this industry. We are pleased to place these home-made linen crash towelings we have right alongside of the high-class imported ones and ask you to compare qualities and prices. In addition to these low-priced good quality table linens and towelings this sale will include large purchases of muslins, sheetings, ready-to-use sheets and pillow slips and bed spreads. We bought these goods from mill owners and manufacturers who were desirous of closing out their season's stocks. In no other way could we secure and place before you such extraordinary values as are listed below. We have unbleached LL muslin which we will sell at 3½c; the regular price is 5c and it's worth it. Pure linen table damask which we don't think was ever sold in the West for less than 50c a yard, is in this sale at 38c. There isn't an item listed below that is not priced much lower than regular. Look them over. (Sale on main floor.)

10 pieces of Bleached Table Linen, 60 inches wide, strong 25c value, this sale 25c

5 cases Soft Finish Bleached Muslin, 36 inch, has never sold for less than 6½c, this sale, per yard 5c

5 pieces of 72 inch Bleached Satin Damask Table Linen, pure linen, actual value 98c, this sale, per yard 75c

10 pieces Cream Pure Linen Table Damask, 72 in. wide, actual 50c value, this sale, per yard 38c

25 pieces 68 inch Extra Heavy Twilled Table Damask, strong 55c value, this sale, per yard 48c

15 pieces Pure Linen Table Damask, cream, 72 inches wide, worth 75c, this sale, per yard 59c

25 pieces Turkey-red Table Damask, 60 in. wide, worth 35c, this sale, per yard 25c

25 pieces Turkey-red Table Linen, 54 inches wide, this sale, per yard 12½c

50 pieces Pure Linen Checked Crash, 16 inches wide, worth 8 1-3c, this sale, per yard 5½c

100 pieces of Brown American Crash, 18 inches wide, extra absorbent, worth 7c, this sale, per yard 5c

50 pieces 18 inch Bleached and Unbleached American Crash, extra fine, absorbent, worth 12½c, this sale, per yard 9c

50 pieces Twilled Checked Cotton Crash, this sale, 10 yards for 25c

100 dozen Towels, consisting of the Turkish Bath, Bleached Cotton, Honey Comb Cotton, worth 7c, 8c, 9c, this sale, each 5c

10 pieces Pure Linen Bleached Table Linen, 62 inches wide, satin finish, strong 69c value, this sale, per yard 50c

100 dozen Towels, consisting of Bleached Cotton, size 24x48, Pure Linen Huck, size 18x34; Turkish Bath, size 20x40, and Pure Linen Fringed Damask, size, 20x41, worth 12½c and 15c, this sale, choice, each 10c

150 dozen Towels, consisting of Hemmed Huck, extra fine, size 20x42; Fringed Huck, size 20x42; an extra heavy Fringed Huck, size 20x38, and a Turkish Bath, double thread, size 21x45, worth 19c, this sale, each 15c

25 dozen Fringed Damask Towels, with white and colored borders, size 23x47, worth 25c, this sale, each 20c

50 dozen Towels, consisting of Hemstitched Damask, size 27x42; Hemstitched Huck, size 20x40; a Fancy Bordered Damask, knotted fringe, size 22x45c; a Drawnwork Fringed Damask, size 20x42; a Turkish Bath, double thread, size 24x55, and a Bleached Turkish Bath, size 20x42, every one worth from 29c to 35c, this sale, the price, each 25c

5 cases Unbleached LL Muslin, you are paying everywhere 5c for it, this sale, the price, per yard 3½c

20 dozen Sheets, in the bleached and unbleached, sizes 72x81 and 81x90, hemmed and ready for use, worth 45c; this sale, each 40c

2,500 yards Lonsdale Finish Bleached Muslin, extra fine, 36 in. wide, worth 7½c, this sale, sixteen yards for $1.00

20 dozen Ready Made Sheets, 2-inch hem at top and 1-inch at bottom, hand torn and dry ironed, size 72x81, this sale, each 33c

1,000 only of Atlantic Sheetings, unbleached, in the mill lengths, this sale while they last, the 8-4 for 14c, the 9-4 for 16c, the 10-4 for 18c; worth 18c, 20c and 22c.

100 dozen Pillow Slips, 42 and 45x36, same as you are paying 10c for elsewhere; this sale, choice, each 7c

5,000 yards Bleached Extra Fine Muslin, 36 in. wide, worth 8½c, this sale 7½c

5 dozen only of Crochet Bedspreads, 49c value, this sale while they last, each 39c

100 Extra Fine Crochet Bedspreads full size, finished ends, worth 75c, this sale, each 59c

100 Crochet Bedspreads, extra heavy, same as you are paying $1.25 for, this sale, each 98c

One case only of Unbleached Sheeting, marked 19-4, this sale while it lasts, per yard 12½c

Big Saving in Flour

We now make possible for you by selling 240,000 pounds from the salvage stock of Waters & Dennis, Dubuque. The list of brands below will assure you of its quality and as to its condition we guarantee every pound to be perfect and satisfactory. If it isn't return it and get your money. Here are prices on a dozen or more brands all made from Kansas, Minnesota and South Dakota hard wheat—the finest wheat-growing section of the United States. There isn't a low grade flour among them—nothing in the lot but what is worth at least $2.75 per cwt.

Pillsbury's Best, per cwt	$2.25	Noll's Patent, per cwt	$2.00
Crosby's Best, per cwt	$2.25	White Rose, per cwt	$2.00
Washburn's Gold Medal, per cwt	$2.25	Pillsbury's Magnet, per cwt	$2.00
Cream Patent, per cwt	$2.25	Prairie Queen, per cwt	$2.00
Belle of St. Mary's, per cwt	$2.25	Magnet, per cwt	$2.00
XXXX Half Patent, per cwt	$1.75	25-lb sack Rye Flour	50c
Crosby's AA, per cwt	$1.90	25-lb bags Buckwheat Flour, per bag	15c
Crosby's AAA, per cwt	$2.00	10-lb bags White Cornmeal, per bag	5c
2-lb pkgs Pillsbury's Vitos Wheat Food, 15c kind, per pkg	10c	10 bags Yellow Cornmeal, per bag	5c

(Sixth Floor.)

The Big Grocery's Offerings.

To-morrow will be a good day to place a grocery order—after buying your share of the flour on sixth floor. These are fair samples of the prices we make from day to day. Read them through.

23 pounds No. 1 Fine Granulated Sugar, on orders	$1.00	2-lb. cans Sugar Corn, per can	6c
Columbia River Salt Salmon, per lb	5c	3-lb. cans Table Peaches, per can	10c
10c size Salt Mackerel, each	3c	3-lb. cans Table Plums, per can	10c
Family White Fish, per pound	2c	3-lb. cans Table Apples, per can	4c
Large Fancy Lake Trout, per pound	5c	Fresh Baked Vanilla Wafers, per pound	7c
2 pounds Full Cream Cheese	25c	40-oz. 3-layer Cakes, 40c kind assorted flavors, each	20c
Dodson & Hill's bulk Tomato Catsup, per gallon	30c	10 pkgs. Pyle's Pearline	25c
3-lb. pail Pure Leaf Lard, 18c; 5-lb. pail, 28c; 10-lb. pail, 65c; 20-lb. pail	98c	15 bars Rex Soap	25c
Sugar Cured Hams, per pound	6½c	15 bars Monday Morning Soap	25c
California Hams, per pound	4½c	30 pounds Washing Soda	25c
Sugar Cured Breakfast Bacon, per lb	7½c	Fresh Baked Ginger Snaps, per pound	5c
3-lb cans Solid Packed Tomatoes	7½c		

FIFTH FLOOR.

Sample Values Of Sample Shoes. (FOURTH FLOOR.)

Our Shoe housewarming was a great success, and we are spurred on to securing better values for you than ever. We believe we have them now, for we have made some very fortunate purchases and have bought heavily, forestalling a trade which we know will increase greatly in our big new salesroom. We consider these values as being unequaled anywhere in this country.

330 sample pairs Men's Hand Sewed Russia Calf Shoes, black, tan and oxblood colors, guaranteed equal to anything sold in Kansas City at $4.00, for $2.48

375 sample pairs Ladies' Coin Toe Dongola Kid Shoes, lace, a $2.50 grade, all sizes $1.45

350 sample pairs Ladies' $4.00 Hand Sewed Welt Shoes, fine Cincinnati made goods, all sizes, button and lace $1.95

600 sample pairs Misses' Dongola Kid Button Shoes, square and coin toes, strictly solid, worth $1.25, sizes 12 to 2 ..... 59c

Laces and Embroideries.

MAIN FLOOR.

Some sharp cuts are made on these goods to reduce the stock before the time comes for putting it into its new quarters. These cuts extend through the entire stock, though we mention but six items:

2,500 yards Cotton Laces; 1,500 yards Assorted Colored Silk Laces, worth 10c, 12½c and 15c; your choice of lot, per yard 5c

3,500 yards All Silk Laces; also big lot Chantilly Laces, white and cream, are worth 15c, 19c and 25c; your choice of lot, per yard 10c

200 gross Splendid Valenciennes Laces, narrow widths, kind always sold at 35c, 50c and 69c a bolt, to-morrow, your choice 25c

2,500 yards Swiss, Hamburg and Nainsook Embroideries, assorted patterns, kind always sold at 8½c and 10c; choice, per yard 5c

Elegant Swiss, Hamburg and Nainsook Embroidery, 6 and 7 inches, Guipure edge, kind always sold at 15c and 19c; choice to-morrow, per yard 10c

250 bolts, 12 yards each, fine Valanciennes Lace and Insertion, kind usually sold at 25c and 35c; your choice, per bolt 15c

Valentines at Cost.

THIRD FLOOR.

To-morrow we will sell any of our Fancy Valentines at exact cost. The selling prices as marked on them will not be changed, but salespeople will deduct our profits from that price.

Comic Valentines, large assortment to select from at, per dozen 3c

Silk Skirt Bargain.

THIRD FLOOR.

Our buyer for ladies' and misses' wearing apparel is now in the East buying for the coming season. He chanced upon a 4-dozen lot of Ladies' Black Brocade China Silk Skirts, lined and interlined throughout, and velveteen bound—a regular $6.00 garment wherever sold. We place them on sale to-morrow at

$4.25 for Choice.

Ladies' Gloves and Mittens.

MAIN FLOOR.

To-morrow we place on sale another shipment of Ladies' Black and Colored Kid Gloves in the 4 hook and 4 button. They cannot be classed as perfect, for some have been mended and others have such slight imperfections as you would never notice. Were they perfect, prices would be $1, $1.25 and $1.50—these go at 63c.

25 dozen Ladies' Kid Gloves, in 2 clasp, black and colors, same as you are paying 95c for, to-morrow only, per pair 75c

25 dozen Ladies' Silk Mitts, double with fancy backs, worth 75c, to-morrow only, per pair 39c

50 dozen Children's Wool Mittens and Gloves, have never sold for less than 19c and 25c, to-morrow only, per pair 15c

Corsets at Special Prices.

MAIN FLOOR.

This stock has been greatly improved during the past six weeks, and as an inducement for you to become better acquainted with it we will make special prices for the next three days. Here are 4 of them:

W. B. Tuxedo Corset, white and drab, medium waist, 4 hook, well boned, 3 side steels, perfect fitting, 69c value, this sale 49c

Dr. Warner's Seldom Corset, black, white and drab; long waist, 5 hook, well boned, silk flossed, best value ever offered for 49c

Royal Worcester W. C. C. Corset, new model, short hip, 5 hook, lace trimmed top and bottom, $1.25 value, this sale 98c

W. B. Cyclist Corset, cutaway hip, silk elastic sides, 4 hook, medium waist, adapted to ladies with large hips, comfortable and perfect fitting, price 98c

Reducing Wall Paper Stock.

THIRD FLOOR.

In a week or 10 days the Wall Paper Dept. will be moved into the new annex. We wish to reduce the stock just as low as possible before moving, and to do so have divided it into 2 lots, as follows:

1,700 rolls Fine Wall Paper, including fine gilts, embossed and 22-inch specials, worth up to 20c; clean-up price, per roll 3c

2,300 rolls Extra Fine Wall Paper, giving you choice of any embossed, 22-inch specials or flitters, worth regular from 15c to 30c, clean-up price, per roll 3½c

Reducing the Wreckage Stock.

There are other big stocks of salvage goods now demanding room for selling and they must have it. To reduce the stocks now on the floor we make prices that will crowd 2 weeks' business into 3 days. Read some of the prices that will help to do it.

All the Pearline, in perfect quality, you want, at, per cake 2½c

Over 1,000 small fancy Wicker Baskets, assorted sizes and shapes, perfect, worth 8c and 12c, each, 3c and 6c

About 500 Boys' Silk Gossamer and Rubber Hats, most of them perfect, sell regularly at 50c, choice 10c

A $1.25 Silk Serge Umbrella, paragon frame, for 69c

Over 100 pure gum light weight Rubber Coats, nearly all perfect; most of these coats are high grade, made in the latest styles, ventilated backs and shoulders, retail regularly at from $3.75 to $4.50; choice of lot $1.98

Over 1,000 blue cloth fancy trimmed Tam o' Shanters, latest style, perfect, retail regularly at from 75c to $1.25, each, 19c and 29c

Bring us your Pictures to frame. We have a large assortment of Picture Frames, in the oak, rustic and enamel. We charge about ¼ the usual price and guarantee satisfaction or money refunded.

2,000 papers of Sharp's Needles, perfect, sell all over the world at 5c, our price, one day only, 2 papers for 1c

We have still in stock over 5,000 pairs Ladies' and Misses', Men's and Boys' Rubbers and Overshoes, in perfect condition, which cannot be bought regularly in carload lots for the price we ask for them by the single pair.

Ladies' and Men's Rubber Footholds, 25c value, per pair, 3c and 5c

Others in proportion.

A large assorted lot of Umbrellas, most of them in perfect condition, to be sold like this:

A 65c Cotton Umbrella, natural wood handle, for 39c

A $2.00 steel rod heavy Silk Serge Umbrella for 89c

A small assorted lot, somewhat damaged, each, 10c and 15c

Over 10,000 spools of Cotton Thread, assorted sizes, makes and colors, per spool 1c

Now is the time to buy Winter Underwear. We have an immense stock of Ladies', Men's and Children's heavy weight Woolen Underwear, in practically perfect condition. It is late in the season, so we offer you a $1.00 garment for 33c

A 75c garment for 25c

And a 50c garment for 19c

500,000 Paper Napkins, perfect condition, worth 20c per 100, our price 10c

5,000 pairs assorted lot of Ladies' and Men's Cotton Socks, some water soiled, some fire damaged, per pair 1c

500 cases 2-lb cans Wayne Co. Baked Beans, perfect condition, retail everywhere for 10c; our price, per can 5c
65c a dozen.

7,000 yards of Colored Canton Flannels, nearly perfect, regular price 12½c, at, per yard 6c

Thousands of yards of Linen Toweling, bleached and unbleached, values from 10c to 20c, some slightly damaged, per yard 5c

Special Sale of Pants.

SECOND FLOOR.

Monday will be a good time to buy Pants, especially of the cheaper grades. If you can't come and pick them out and try them on yourself, send for them. If they don't fit or are unsatisfactory we will take them back and return your money.

10 dozen Men's Jeans Pants, gray and black, made equal to any $1.75 Jeans on the market, our regular $1.15 Jeans, Monday only 79c

5 dozen Men's All Wool Pants, worth $1.75 to $2.00; special Monday only $1.19

10 dozen Boys' All Wool Knee Pants, neat plaids, plain colors, our regular 45c and 50c goods; special Monday only 37c

5 dozen Men's Pants, odds and ends, our regular $2.00, $2.25 and $2.50 goods, special Monday only $1.59

Your Money Back if Your Purchase is Not Satisfactory.

JESPERSON'S

Northeast Corner Sixth and Main Sts.

PRAYER IN SCHOOL.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CROW SAYS IT IS UNLAWFUL IN MISSOURI.

CONSTITUTION FORBIDS IT.

OPINION RENDERED ON REQUEST OF SUPERINTENDENT KIRK.

Ground for Opinion Is That, Under the State Constitution, No Person Can Be Compelled to Support a Place of Worship.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 12.—(Special.) The state legal department, the office of attorney general, to-day rendered a very important opinion to the state superintendent of public schools, John R. Kirk, regarding religious instruction in the public schools of the state. The opinion was prepared by Assistant Attorney General Sam B. Jeffries. It knocks out all kinds of religious exercises in the public schools of the state. According to it, not even the Lord's Prayer may be repeated nor the Bible read as an opening exercise in the public schools.

The opinion is in the form of a letter to Superintendent Kirk, and is, in part, as follows:

"You state that in a certain public school the teacher desires to open the school by reciting the Lord's Prayer, and ask the following questions:

"'First—Is there legal authority for such religious exercise?'

"'Second—If there is authority for such religious exercise within school hours, can the teacher require pupils of the school to give attention to the prayer if they do not volunteer to do so; or if the teacher has authority to conduct such religious exercise may a portion of the children retain their seats and pursue such studies as they prefer to pursue during the exercise?'

No Federal Dictation.

"In passing upon the foregoing propositions I beg to refer you to the provision of our federal constitution, which is as follows: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' (First amendment to the constitution.)

"It will be observed from reading the above constitutional provision that our people are accorded the utmost freedom of religious worship. The federal government refuses either to dictate to the subject the observance of religious principles, or to interfere with the free exercise thereof of all so desiring. The first amendment to the constitution of the United States, which is the only expression contained in that instrument on that question, extends only to such length as ordains that congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. It does not, however, place a direct inhibition upon the several states to legislate upon the subject in such manner as they may deem proper, and which is not inconsistent with the constitution of the state in which the law is adopted.

"Judge Story, in his work on the constitution section 1879, says: 'It was under the solemn consciousness of the dangers from ecclesiastical ambition, the bigotry of spiritual pride, and the intolerance of sects, thus exemplified in our domestic as well as in foreign annals, that it was deemed advisable to exclude from the national government all power to act upon the subject. The situation, too, of the different states equally proclaimed the policy as well as the necessity of such an exclusion. In some of the states Episcopalians constituted the predominant sect; in others, Presbyterians; in others, Congregationalists; in others, Quakers; and in others again there was a close numerical rivalry among contending sects. It was impossible that there should not arise perpetual strife and perpetual jealousy on the subject of ecclesiastical ascendency, if the national government were left free to create a religious establishment. The only security was in extirpating the power. But this alone would have been an imperfect security, if it had not been followed up by a declaration of the right of the free exercise of religion and a prohibition, as we have seen, of all religious tests. Thus the whole power over the subject of religion is left exclusively to the state governments, to be acted upon according to their own sense of justice and the state constitutions; and the Catholic and Protestant, the Calvinist and the Armenian, the Jew and the infidel, may sit down at the common table of the national councils without any inquisition into their faith or mode of worship.'

What State Constitution Says.

"Having discussed the provisions of the federal constitution on the subject and the wisdom thereof, we look now to the constitution of our own state, which upon this subject is as follows:

"Section 5, article 2, of our bill of rights, provides: 'That all men have a natural and indefensible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience; that no person can, on account of his religious opinions, be rendered ineligible to any office of trust or profit under this state, nor be disqualified from testifying, or from serving as a juror; that no human authority can control or interfere with the rights of conscience; that no person ought, by any law, to be molested in his person or estate, on account of his religious persuasion or profession; but the liberality of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, nor to justify practices inconsistent with the good order, peace or safety of this state, or with the rights of others.

"'Section 6. That no person can be compelled to erect, support any place or system of worship, or to maintain or support any priest, minister, preacher or teacher of any sect, church, creed or denomination of religion; but if a person shall voluntarily make a contract for any such object, he shall be held to the performance of the same.

"'Section 7. That no money shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect or denomination of religion, or in aid of any priest, preacher, minister or teacher thereof, as such; and that no preference shall be given to, nor any discrimination made against, any church, sect or creed of religion, or any form of religious faith or worship.'

Federal Principle Followed.

"It will be noticed that the framers of our state constitution were not unmindful of the principle enunciated and practiced by the framers of the federal constitution; and that conservative policy of freedom in religious belief, and the impartial protection of all sects and creeds so necessary to a people where freedom of conscience is recognized as one of the essential virtues, is manifested in the above sections of our bill of rights in unmistakable terms. Not only can it be said that these inhibitions were enacted for the purpose of allowing the utmost freedom of conscience on religious matters and protecting the citizens in the full enjoyment thereof, but for the protection and perpetuity of the state in its sovereign capacity as well.

"Recognizing the principle that religion is more wholesome and pure, and more effective upon the life and character of man when freed from the mandate of an arbitrary civil rule, and that the forced observance thereof would dwarf the moral sensibilities and culminate in superstition and despotism, social abuse and political ruin, they deemed it wise and proper to guarantee to every subject that perfect freedom of religious belief and worship so essential to his well-being in both church and state. By adopting this policy by which all religions are impartially protected and the arm of the state stayed from any interference with religious belief or worship a mutuality of church interests is encouraged, besides the continuance of the detrimental strife for church control of state affairs is satisfactorily and effectively avoided, and that fearless and unscrupulous religious warfare which has placed its footprints upon the darkest pages of the world's history is stilled to inactivity by the peaceful solicitude of a free and unmolested mind and conscience upon matters affecting the soul of man and its destiny.

"The matter of reading or teaching the Bible in the public or common schools has been held to rest exclusively within the province and pleasure of the several states, and the right so to do must be found to be authorized by the constitution and laws thereof, or by the failure of such constitution or laws to deny the same by a direct or implied inhibition.

Question in Other States.

"In Maine it was held that the requirements of the superintending committee that the Protestant version of the Bible should be read in the schools by the scholars was in violation of no constitutional provision, and therefore binding upon all members of the school, though comprised of divers religious sects.

"In this case the question involved was only incidentally mentioned, the controversy being based upon an action by the parent for damages against the teacher for expelling the pupil from the school on account of failure to read the Scripture as prescribed by one of the rules of the school.

"In Massachusetts it was held that the committee having the schools in charge might require the school to be opened each morning by reading of the Bible and with prayer, provided that no pupil should be required to participate when objection thereto was made by the parent.

"The same principles seem to have been voiced by the supreme court of Illinois in the case of McCormick vs. Burt.

"In Ohio it was held that the constitution of the state did not require religious instruction or the reading of religious books in the public schools, and that the legislature, having placed the management and control of the schools exclusively in the hands of the board of directors, the courts would not enjoin them from enforcing a resolution discontinuing the reading of the Bible during school exercises. This court, however, did not undertake to pass upon the constitutionality of their rule requiring such exercises.

"In the state of Iowa a statute providing that the Bible should not be excluded from any school or institution in the state was held to be constitutional.

"For the reasons hereinafter mentioned I do not consider this decision as bearing upon or having any effect in placing a proper construction upon our own constitution. In that case, however, in order to avoid the requirements of the constitution upon the subject it was held to be a matter of individual option with the teacher as to whether or not they would use the Bible in their schools, such option being restricted by the provision that no pupil should be required to read it contrary to the wishes of his parents or guardian.

Do Not Apply to Missouri.

"Admitting that the conclusions reached in the opinions above referred to are logical and proper under the circumstances of the respective cases, we are not warranted in admitting their value or correctness when supplied to our own constitution, or that of other states similar to ours.

"The constitution of Wisconsin upon the question here involved is similar to that of our state, although clothed in somewhat different language, the Wisconsin constitution on this point being more clearly and lucidly enunciated, yet the evident purpose and scope of each are the same. In that case, state ex rel vs. district school board, 78 Wis., 177, it was held that the use of the Bible in the public schools, by reading or otherwise, is prohibited by the constitution.

"It is needless to say that the people of our state are confronted with the same condition of affairs as the people of Wisconsin now are, and were at the time of the adoption of their constitution. We are religious and sectarian, consisting of Catholics, Jews many Protestant sects, and other religious denominations. The constitution as it now is must have been formed and adopted in such manner as would meet the approval and mutual concessions of all; and at the same time, protect each subject in the free exercise of his religious opinion and worship. It is clear in point, firm in expression, and impartial in its application, though on account of dealing with general terms and policies it may be the victim of tangential application, or unwarranted construction.

"'That all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences,' and,' that no human authority can control or interfere with the rights of conscience.' This language is virtually the same as embodied in the Wisconsin constitution and the Pennsylvania constitution. Upon the latter Mr. Justice Story, in the Girard will controversy, had occasion to say: 'Language more comprehensive for the complete protection of every variety of religious opinion could scarcely be used, and it must have been intended to extend equally to all sects, whether they believed in Christianity or not, and whether they were Jews or infidels, so that we are compelled to admit that although Christianity be a part of the common law in this state, yet it is so in this qualified sense that its divine origin and truth are admitted, and therefore it is not to be maliciously and openly reviled and blasphemed against, to the annoyance of its leaders or the injury of the public.'

"Such was the doctrine of the supreme court of Pennsylvania in Uptograph vs. commonwealth, 11, Serg. & R., p. 394.

What Is Religious Worship?

"Your communication virtually admits the Lord's prayer is 'religious worship,' and there is no doubt but that it is the correct view, necessarily assumed by all its believers.

"Webster's International defines the term 'worship' to be, among other things, 'the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; adoration or acts of reverence paid to God, or a being viewed as God.'

"It is defined in the Century dictionary as 'superficially to adore; pay divine honor to; show reverence to, with supreme respect and veneration; perform service to.'

"In the Standard dictionary it is given thus: 'The feeling or the act of religious homage towards a deity, especially the supreme God; an act, or the acts collectively, of such homage at a given time and place such as adoration, thanksgiving, prayer, praise and offering.'

"Reading the Lord's prayer is certainly manifesting that degree of reverence which constitutes worship. The continuous reading of the Bible and repeating the Lord's prayer cannot be done by believers in Christianity without feelings of deepest gratitude, 'and a holy sense of honor, reverence, adoration and homage to the Supreme Being, which is the essence of worship.'

"This exercise, therefore, being a form of religious worship, and the same being done as one of the rules and exercises of our public schools, it necessarily and logically follows that a public school house is therefore made a place of worship. Referring now to that part of our constitution which provides 'that no person can be compelled to erect, support or attend any place of worship.' It must be borne in mind that the tax paid by our citizens for the erection and maintenance of the public schools is an involuntary tax, one which they are by the provisions of law 'compelled to pay.' Thus he becomes 'compelled' to erect, support and maintain a place of worship, if such religious worship is suffered in a public school.

"Some of the earlier constitutions having similar clauses used the words 'building and church.' Manifestly the words 'place of worship' were advisedly used as applicable to any place or structure where worship is steadily held, and where the citizen is compelled to attend, or the taxpayers are compelled to erect or support. The mere fact that only a small fraction of the school hours is devoted to such worship in no way justifies such use as against an objecting taxpayer. If the right be conceded, then the length of time so devoted becomes a matter of discretion. If such right does not exist, then any length of time, however short, is forbidden. The relators are taxpayers of the district, and were compelled to aid in the erection of the school in question, and also to aid in the support of the school maintained therein. Being thus compelled to aid in such erection and support, they have a legal right to object to its being used as a place of worship.

Worship in Schools Illegal.

"I am, therefore, of the opinion that religious worship can not be indulged in any of our public schools, and that repeating the Lord's Prayer, being, as suggested by you, religious worship, may be excluded therefrom. By this I do not mean to infer that those great principles contained in the Bible, which teach the duty of one to another, and set the pace for true manhood and womanhood, are to be denied the youth, or that the teacher is barred the right to so instruct. To carry the limit thus far would, to a certain extent, repudiate the force and effect of Christianity as the parent and protector of our government. This, however, can be done in an impartial manner, without referring to religious worship, or the teaching of sectarianism.

"If it is true the legislature has placed the management of the public schools in charge of a board of directors in each district throughout the state, with authority to make all necessary rules and regulations for the government of the same, and upon failure of the board to make and prescribe such rules, the teacher is clothed with that authority. But such rules when made must fall within the provisions of our state constitution, or be such as are not prohibited by it. Having answered your first proposition in the negative, I deem it unnecessary to give attention to the second. In fact, the suggestion there made admits the whole of the argument, that reciting the Lord's prayer is religious worship, and to compel any pupil against his conscience to participate and observe any such exercise is a vile perversion of the constitution guaranteeing freedom of conscience and religious worship.

Pupils Cannot Be Coerced.

"On this point the Wisconsin court said: 'When, as in this case, a small minority of the pupils in the public school is excluded for any cause from a stated school exercise, particularly when such cause is apparent hostility to the Bible, which a majority of the pupils have been taught to revere, from that moment an excluded pupil loses caste among his fellows, and is liable to be regarded with aversion and subjected to reproach and insult. But it is a sufficient refutation of the argument that the practice in question tends to destroy the equality of the pupils which the constitution seeks to establish and protect, and puts a portion of them to serious disadvantage in many ways in respect to others.'

"Such practice would produce religious and sectarian strife in every school district in the state. No matter how innocently or honestly done, it would constitute the first step toward a union of church and state, which logically involves the last step.

"Along this line the supreme court of Massachusetts, in the case of Commonwealth vs. Cook, 7, Am. Law Reg., D., 425, said: 'Child desired the privilege in a school of reading the commandments from his Bible, the only one that his religion would allow him to read. It would seem to a generous mind tyrannical to deny so simple and innocent request, and it would indeed be so were that the whole of the matter. May not the innocent pleading of a little child for its religion in school, if granted, be used like the silken thread to first pass that heretofore impassable gulf which lies between church and state, and when once secured, may not stronger cords be passed over until cables which human hands cannot sever shall have bound church and state together forever?'

"In passing upon this matter one should not be unmindful of the fact that he is not dealing with religious sentiment or soul persuasion, for upon that we are all more or less blinded by prejudice. We have dealt with a constitutional provision and construed it according to the inflexible and unrelaxing principles of law. Yours very truly,

E. C. CROW,
"Attorney General."

SAYS HE "LIFTED" THE POEM.

Rev. Mr. Kenyon, of Syracuse, N. Y., Accuses J. Sterling Morton of Plagiarism.

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 12.—The Rev. J. B. Kenyon, Lit. D., of this city, a poet of considerable note, accuses Mr. J. Sterling Morton, former secretary of agriculture, with plagiarism. Mr. Morton recently delivered a poem at the meeting of a Western grange and called it "Tree Planting." The poem has been extensively copied by the newspapers throughout the country, and the poetic fire of the ex-secretary has been most favorably commented upon.

Now Mr. Kenyon says that Mr. Morton's effort was lifted bodily from the works of Henry Abbey, printed by Kingston, of New York, in 1895, where it appears under the name of "What Do We Plant?" Mr. Kenyon says that the poem as it appears in Mr. Abbey's book is word for word the same as that which has been published over ex-Secretary Morton's signature. Mr. Abbey's poem follows:

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the ship which will cross the sea;
We plant the mast to carry the sails;
We plant the plank to withstand the gales,
The keel, the keelson, the beam, the knee;
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
We plant the houses for you and me:
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors;
We plant the studding, the lath, the doors,
The beams, the siding, all parts that be;
We plant the house when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
A thousand things that we daily see;
We plant the spire that outtowers the crag;
We plant the staff for our country's flag;
We plant the shade from the hot sun free,
We plant all these when we plant the tree.

Mr. Abbey's poem was written for an Arbor day celebration in 1890.

A GOOD ROADS SCHEME.

W. H. Cundiff, of Pleasant Hill, Gives His Views as to Highway Improvement.

Washington, Feb. 12.—(Special.) W. H. Cundiff, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., in a letter to Goverpor Stephens, tells how to secure good roads for Missouri. His plan of taxation is as follows:

"First. The taxation for a system of public roads in the state should be equally divided between the state, counties, townships and road or school districts. As our road districts are laid out they embrace three miles square.

"I would divide the cost of all roads built in accordance with the provisions of a well digested and well guarded law for a good macadamized road in each road district, the decision being left to each of these districts as to whether they desire such a road under the provisions of this general law.

"Insert in the law a provision that whenever the voters of any road district shall decide by a majority vote at an election properly called according to the provisions of the law that they will build a macadamized road through the center of their district as near as the lay of the ground will permit, both east and west and north and south, crossing at or near the school house in said district.

"The cost of building the same shall not exceed ..... dollars in said district. The state shall pay 25 per cent of the first cost; the county 25 per cent; the township 25 per cent, and the road district the remaining 25 per cent, and the excess, if any, over the limit given in the provision of the law as to cost.

"The division in the road district as to its 25 per cent shall be divided as follows, to-wit:

"The lands adjoining said road or roads in each road district accepting the provisions of this general law shall be taxed as follows:

"The first quarter of mile strip shall pay 4 per cent on each side of the road; the second, 3 per cent; the third, 2 per cent; the fourth, 1¾ per cent; the fifth, 1 per cent, and the sixth, ½ of 1 per cent. From this division we have 25 per cent so equitably distributed that none would feel it and none would have cause to complain.

"We would soon have macadamized roads from almost every farm to every other place in our state. For those living one and a quarter miles from the main road would join in and soon make their private road to the public roads, and in this manner we would soon give our Sucker neighbors a free transmit over the best roads in the world to the Sunflower state; but if they were hunting good, rich homes they would never pass over the western boundary of our rich and fertile state, a state that can live within her own bounds, if her resources were properly developed. These immigrants would soon, by their added wealth, pay to our present population more than the first cost of the roads.

"Then the frozen Iowans and Minnesotans emigrating to the sunny southlands of Arkansas would never pass entirely over our state, as they would be caught up either upon the rich prairies of the north and middle belt of the state or upon the Ozark mountains, where the fine springs gush out from under the mountains; and on the top of the Ozark mountains is the land of the big red apple."

Versatile.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"Your son is said to be remarkable for his versatility, Mr. Skiply."

"I guess he must be. He never sticks to one thing for than a month."

Chollie—"Er—aw—I do believe a good deal in this—aw—hewedity theowy." Miss Smart—"Your own case shows it. You would never have been rich if your father had not been so."—Indianapolis Journal.