

BELLAMY UP TO DATE

SERMONS BY TELEPHONE ARE NOW AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

Interesting Experiments Recently Made in Philadelphia—Pastor Conwell Will Be Heard by Thousands Who Do Not See Him—An English Precedent.

And now the telephone is to be utilized as an accessory to the pulpit.

A series of highly interesting experiments were made a few days ago in Philadelphia, which, when carried to their natural conclusions, will make it possible, and even easy, for any popular pulpit orator to enlarge the numerical limit of his auditors almost indefinitely. The speaker, whose audience is now limited to the seating capacity of his church, may simultaneously address his words of exhortation to two, three or even a dozen such congregations, gathered in separate auditoriums, and that, too, without any extra exertion or inconvenience on his part, provided he possesses the first requisite of the successful orator—good speaking power and distinct enunciation.

The experiments were made in Philadelphia's famous Baptist edifice known as the Temple. It is one of the largest church structures in America, greater than any of the tabernacles which Dr. Talmage has made famous, larger in its seating capacity than most of the theaters and opera houses of the world. And yet it is no longer large enough.

The individual members of this great Temple flock were brought face to face with the ominous fact that they were rapidly outgrowing their sheepfold one Friday night about a month ago when the Rev. Russell H. Conwell, their pastor, in his characteristically blunt way, said to them: "When 112 more persons have associated themselves as members of this church every seat in the upper temple will be occupied by a Christian. If every one of these Christians attends service and occupies his or her seat, then there will be no further scope here for evangelical work. What shall we do? Think it out. Think it out!"

What Pastor Conwell alluded to as the upper temple is the main auditorium, in which the preaching services are held. Every Sunday night and morning for years it has been crowded. But there is a lower temple, too—a vast, airy room beneath the other—and for many months overflow meetings have been regularly held there. There is also a commodious forum in the Temple college building immediately adjoining the Temple.

But the trouble is that Mr. Conwell is a popular speaker, and those who throng the Temple doors go there expecting to hear him.

When Pastor Conwell said, "Think it out, think it out," therefore, everybody knew just what he meant. He wanted some problem thought out the solution of which would make it possible for the congregations in the upper temple, the lower temple and the college forum to practically attend the same service and all at once to be within the sound of his voice.

There is a young man in the church who has quite a reputation as a joker. He said sententiously, "Why not run a speaking tube from the upper to the lower temple?"

Those who heard this suggestion thought it was only a joke, and some of the young women snickered. "But," as one of the more serious minded members said, "that remark set us to thinking, and now we have thought it out."

A competent electrician was called in consultation, and he undertook to superintend the task of uniting the three auditoriums so as to achieve the desired result. He was confident of success, and he had good enough precedent in England and Europe if not in America. He told the Temple people how a similar problem had been solved not long ago in Birmingham, England, and The Temple Magazine published this interesting account of it as a stimulus to its own readers:

"Christ church, Birmingham, England, is a large edifice, and is blessed with a rector who is not only a beautiful and exemplary Christian character, but a powerful and telling speaker. Thousands come regularly every Sunday to listen to him. He was struck with the unhappy lot of the multitude of poor suffering creatures who were compelled to lie day after day in the hospitals, and he made up his mind to brighten their dark path.

"After consulting with several eminent electricians, he gave orders, at his own expense, for a loud speaking telephone connection to be made between Christ church and the principal hospital in the city. After several experiments it worked successfully, and further contracts were placed with the electricians to connect other hospitals with the church. Then the jail was put in the circuit, and eventually seven large cities at a distance ranging between 100 and 250 miles heard the whole service at Christ church simultaneously.

"That is the greatest regular telephone circuit in connection with the Christian church, that we know of. The ordinary listener in Canon's own church never thinks for a moment that any telephones are in the building. All that can

be seen are a few metal disks, if you know where to look for them. The speaker stands as other speakers, makes no more effort than they do, and puts himself to no inconvenience whatever."

Mr. Conwell and the Rev. Dr. George A. Peltz, the associate pastor, stationed themselves in the lower temple and delivered brief addresses in their ordinary speaking tone. They were distinctly heard and listened to with interest by the auditors in the upper temple and the college forum. It is not unlikely that the telephone system may be extended ultimately to include in its circuit several institutions, and the possible further ramifications of such a system appear to be almost limitless.—New York Herald.

A Sanson Pawned the Guillotine.

The Sansons have a place in French history, not only because they continued so long to hold their odious office, but because two of their number, a father and son, held office during the evil days of the reign of terror, when they were kept so busily engaged with their guillotine. The last of the Sanson dynasty was dismissed from his post in the reign of Louis Philippe, in 1847, under remarkable circumstances. Although he had inherited a comfortable fortune from his father, the executioner of the revolution, he got into pecuniary difficulties and was guilty of pawning his guillotine, surely the most lugubrious pledge ever taken by mortal pawnbroker. An order came from the procurator general for the execution of a criminal, and the necessary apparatus was not forthcoming. The prison authorities had perforce to get it out of pawn, and the execution took place. But the last of the Sansons was informed that his services would no longer be required. What became of him afterward does not appear to be known.—London News.

Confined Sound.

The intensity of confined sound is finely illustrated at Causbrook castle, Isle of Wight, where there is a well 200 feet deep and 13 feet in diameter. The well has 13 feet of water in it, and the entire interior from top to water is lined with smooth masonry. This lining so completely confines the sound that a pin dropped from the top can be heard very plainly to strike the water, at a distance of 183 feet below. Another instance is cited from India, where workmen at the waterworks often talk with those at the reservoir, 18 miles away, their telephone being an 18 inch water main that is no longer used for conveying water.—St. Louis Republic.

Are We a Big Coward?

The New York World makes this statement: "Recent statistics show that the total 'banking power,' as it is called, of the world is £4,000,000,000, or \$20,000,000,000. Of this North America, mainly this country, controls £1,200,000,000, while all Europe, including Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, all the great 'capitalists' nations, control but £3,800,000,000. In other words, this country holds about half as much of the world's 'banking power' as all Europe combined, and greatly more than any single country in Europe or the world." Then, why in the name of common sense should we pursue a timid policy and act as though we were a pauper nation dependent upon the financial whims of other countries?—National Watchman.

Too Much For the "Leaders."

When the smoke of battle rolled away from the scene of the free for all silver convention held in Memphis in June, such Democratic leaders as Senators Jones of Arkansas, Harris of Tennessee and Turpie of Indiana realized that they had been the participants in a movement that tended in its effect toward the breaking up of the Democratic party. The Populists and "free silver or bust" Democrats had captured the convention, body and boots, and had shaped its resolutions to this end, and it was all these leaders could do to prevent a straight out declaration that the free silver people would bolt any party not declaring itself to be in favor of their pet scheme.—Memphis Special in New York World.

Scared the Shahsada.

A London correspondent tells the following interesting episode of the shahsada and the review at Aldershot. He was evidently astonished and delighted by what he saw, but there was one critical moment during which he must have doubted the good faith of Englishmen. A large body of lancers was put to the charge, and instead of charging past, as is the custom, it charged directly on the spectators—that is to say, on the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Connaught, the shahsada and their attendants. The object was to show how suddenly a military movement could be arrested, but the shahsada evidently doubted its purport, for as the troops advanced at full speed, with their lances leveled, he suddenly turned his horse half round as if he apprehended a mistake and a disaster. His attendants took care that his momentary exhibition of fear should not be too conspicuous. When his horse was turned round again, the lancers had pulled up as if by the movement of one pair of reins a few yards from the royal party.

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NEW BALLOON IDEAS.

TWIN SYSTEM SCHEME TO MAKE LONG VOYAGES FEASIBLE.

Hydrogen and Hot Air Balloons to Work in Tandem—Hot Air to Raise and Lower the Outfit and Thus Keep Hydrogen Intact For Carrying Purposes.

M. Savine, a Russian living in Paris, who is at once a scientist and a maker of pictures for illustrated newspapers, has invented a balloon of novel design with which he hopes to accomplish some remarkable things, the first of which is a voyage from New York to Europe, and the second—starting with the warm weather next year—a journey to the pole. To arrange for the first mentioned voyage an agent has been appointed in M. Kroll of New York city.

So far as lifting power is concerned there is nothing novel in M. Savine's invention. He utilizes the hydrogen gas bag commonly in use among balloonists, with the usual basket below it. This gas bag is of 3,000 cubic meters capacity, and the basket will hold two men. No ballast of any kind is carried in this basket, save such supplies of food and drink as would be needed in long voyages. It is in the substitute for ballast that M. Savine has developed a novelty. At the end of a cable, 40 meters long, hanging below the basket, is suspended a second balloon of 1,000 cubic meters capacity, with a stout metal car attached that will carry two men, 300 kilograms of petroleum, and an apparatus for burning the oil, and by its combustion to heat air for inflating this lower balloon.

The operation of the whole outfit, as described by M. Kroll, is easily understood. On inflating the upper gas bag with hydrogen the lifting power obtained will be sufficient to carry up the entire outfit to a moderate height—possibly high enough to reach a steady current of air flowing in the direction in which it is desired to travel.

In this case it will be necessary, according to M. Kroll, merely to let the balloon travel. In case, however, the hydrogen balloon does not raise the outfit to the desired altitude, the crew of the lower balloon will fire up their apparatus and inflate the lower balloon. Naturally this will gradually relieve the upper balloon of the weight suspended below it, and so the whole concern will continue to rise until the sought for current is reached. Then the fire in the lower balloon will be turned down, or entirely off, as may be needed to hold the balloon at its proper altitude.

Eventually, of course, the hot air will cool off a bit and the upper balloon will be unable to maintain the altitude. Then, too, the favoring current of air may cease to flow or may change its course. In such cases as these it will be necessary to again fire up the apparatus for inflating the hot air balloon and so keep the balloons in the old current or lift them to a higher level in search of a new current. In case they get too high weight can easily be added to the load on the upper balloon by deflating the lower one, and so the hydrogen gas can be kept intact and the balloons be sunk or raised, as the balloonists may choose.

M. Kroll's description of the apparatus for heating the air was not detailed, but he said in general that the petroleum would be carried in rubber bags and fed by pipes to a system of 400 burners or jets, set like gas burners in a Yankee butter cake baker, the flames being six centimeters long and the area of the arrangement of burners one square meter. Above this heating surface a metal cone would capture the hot air and conduct it into the bag above. The system provides for carrying 300 kilograms of petroleum, and it is calculated that this would entirely fill the lower bag 60 times. M. Savine thinks this will be ample for all alterations in ballast during the time needed for even a voyage to the pole and back. M. Kroll says that experiments have been made with the air heater in the presence of many balloon experts in Paris, and that 25 minutes was the average time required to fill the bag holding 1,000 cubic meters.

The date for starting for the pole is fixed for a day next June, and the starting point is to be Spitzbergen island. The time for sailing from New York for Paris will be fixed whenever any New York capitalist is sufficiently interested in such doings to contribute a matter of \$8,000 or \$10,000 for preliminary expenses.—New York Sun.

Victor Maurel on American Women.

Victor Maurel, the baritone, has written in France his opinion of American women. In the main he is just and generous, and of course polite. But he points out one peculiarity of our society that nobody but a Frenchman would ever think of. He says that when a French girl gets married she achieves her freedom; when the American girl gets married, she has already exhausted it. Is this an apt epithet, a fact or a horrible imputation? One might almost suspect that the American girl had wild oats to sow.—New York World.

The underground trolley system is being adopted in Washington on several street car tracks.

MONEY AND PRICES.

Secretary Carlisle Driven Into a Corner by "Silver Dollar" Bland.

Mr. Carlisle in his speeches has laid down the broad proposition that the free coinage of silver would give us a dollar worth only 50 cents, and in the very same breath insists that the restoration of silver would cause a contraction of currency and fall in prices. If there should be a fall in prices below what they now are, it would mean that the dollar would buy more than the dollar now buys. If he would explain how a 50 cent dollar can buy more than a 100 cent dollar, he would make himself better understood.

The idea of cheap money and falling prices are antagonistic. The two cannot coexist, and no man understands this better than Mr. Carlisle himself. A cheap dollar means that it will buy less of property. He argues that the effect of free coinage would cause the export of our gold to foreign countries. Taking this argument as true, it would not happen until there had been a sufficient supply of other money to take the place of the gold so exported, for the simple reason that gold would be worth more here than abroad until we had supplied its place with other money to keep up the prices here as compared to prices abroad.

But what would be the effect of sending our gold abroad? It would go into the gold standard countries—England, Germany and France. It would swell the volume of money in those countries to the amount of gold exported, and if that amount was 600,000,000 it would add 600,000,000 to the volume of money of these countries where we sell our surplus products. The wheat growers, the cotton growers, the producers of food and textiles export their surplus to these countries, and if 600,000,000 of gold was added to the volume of money of these countries it would proportionately raise prices in those countries, and especially the prices of those things we export and sell to them for gold.

In that event the farmer, the manufacturer and those who produce articles for export would get possibly 25 or 30 per cent more gold for their commodities than they receive now. And inasmuch as Mr. Carlisle himself admits that the prices of our export products in foreign countries tend steadily the prices here we can at once see that if the price of these commodities was raised 25 or 30 per cent or 50 per cent in foreign countries to which we export them they would necessarily go up to that figure at home.

As long as our policy is to drain these countries of their gold we must look for low prices in this country and in the countries to which we export our products, and the more gold we drain from England, Germany and France the more we lower their prices, and the consequence is the lower will be the prices of our export commodities to these countries, and if the prices fixed in these countries fix our prices here we readily understand why it is that prices are constantly on a decline, for this fact I assert to be the case, and the statisticians above referred to establish the truth of this beyond controversy, and I take issue with Mr. Carlisle on that point when he insists that prices, as a consequence of silver demonetization, have not fallen.

Will he or any gold advocate contend that had there been no demonetization of silver, and we had continued the free coinage of silver, prices would have fallen as they have? Or will he contend that the demonetization of silver has not had the effect to cause a fall in prices, which means an appreciation of money? If he does, will he explain, if he can, how the restoration of silver will have any effect upon prices or the value of money?—R. P. Bland at Sedalia, Mo.

What Is the Matter?

For three days the "sound money" committee of the Chamber of Commerce has neglected to inform us that the "silver craze" is dying out, and has also refrained from supplying interviews with people who thought the Chamber of Commerce ought to keep up the fight.

If the Chamber of Commerce has let go to get a better hold, it may be a more serious matter with a number of newspapers in the west and south than it will be with the United States treasury when the bond syndicate permits gold to go out.

The treasury has the United States behind it, but these newspapers have no support from the people of their localities and depend entirely for existence upon the New York chamber of commerce, the Gold trust and the administration.

The administration, of course, controls the policy of these newspapers, but there is no salary attached to a postoffice or a collectorship, either of customs or internal revenue, which will enable a man to live respectably and at the same time foot the weekly deficiency of running a newspaper which fails to represent the views of the majority of the people in the community where the paper is published.—New York Mercury.

What She Said.

Marie—Did you tell your friend, Miss Van Puff, of our engagement?
Osburne—Yes.
Marie—What did she say?
Osburne—Oh, she said I had her sympathy.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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