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The Pioneer Express circulates numerously in every neighborhood in Pembina county, and to a distance of over 50 miles west of Red river. It is independent in politics, though supporting Republican principles. Regular communications from all parts of the county published weekly. As an advertising medium it has no equal in North Dakota.

The Pioneer Express.

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JOB DEPARTMENT

THE PIONEER EXPRESS
JOB DEPARTMENT

Is complete, and well supplied with latest styles of type. Our prices are as low as are consistent with a legitimate business.

We keep constantly on hand a large and varied stock of letter heads, note heads, bill heads, monthly statements, flat caps, foolscap, business cards, shipping tags, labels, envelopes, ball programmes, etc., which enables us to do all kinds of commercial printing, both plain and ornamental, on short notice.
We keep on hand a full line of Legal Blanks.

NEWS NUNCIATURE.

A General Review of the News of the Day Condensed from Associated Press Dispatches.

Doings at Washington.

The senate amendments to the house bill for the taking of the eleventh census were concurred in by the house. The principal amendments are those extending the scope of the inquiry as to the number of soldiers and sailors and their widows and to provide further for ascertaining the number of negroes, mulattoes, quadroons and octoroons and for ascertaining the recorded indebtedness of private corporations and individuals.

"This order must be carried out by Feb. 28," is the emphatic injunction at the foot of President Cleveland's order closing the several land offices in Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and it rather emphasized the political purpose o the administration in this act. It is utterly impossible for the registers and receivers to pack their office traps by that time, to say nothing of moving into a new town. A great row has been made by senators and representatives in every state where land offices have been closed.

Although it is customary to give thirty days' notice upon closing a land office, it has not been found practicable to extend the time beyond the 28th of the present month. The Minnesota senators, who lose considerable patronage by the closing of the offices at Worthington, Benson, Redwood Falls and Fergus Falls, are inclined to question this action, and will ask the senate to inquire of the president his reasons for consolidating these offices. The short notice of eight days given for closing the offices indicates the present administration does not propose to trust the incoming one with any string by which it can pull back these proposed consolidations.

Minor Casualties.

James Cassidy, signal officer assigned to the Illinois state agricultural office at Springfield, was run over and instantly killed by a Chicago & Alton train at St. Louis. He belonged to the army corps, and has a mother and two sisters in New York city.

Thomas Iverson of Kenyon, Minn., aged seventy-six years, met with a peculiar accident. He fell into a curled well head foremost, and his arms were pinioned by his sides so that he was in a helpless condition. He was discovered by a gentleman driving past, who released him from his perilous position, none the worse for his experience.

A north-bound passenger train on the Northern Central railroad was thrown from the track by a broken rail near Ralston, Pa. About fifteen passengers were injured, none of them seriously. Conductor William Dale was supposed to be fatally injured. One car rolled down an embankment, turning over twice in its descent. The passengers suffered intensely from the cold during the delay caused by the accident.

A passenger train from Bangor, Maine, to St. John, was wrecked by an open switch near Kingman. When the shock came the cars went over in a heap, rolling over several times. The train consisted of engine, mail car, baggage, Pullman, smoker and three passenger cars. The first five left the track, but the other three kept on running upon a side track. The mail car, baggage, Pullman and smoker caught fire like a flash, being entirely consumed with ten minutes. The train had been running at full speed. Caleb Palmer of Bangor, M. C. Mudgett of Dexter and John Campbell, mail clerks, were held like a vise by the timbers of the shattered car, the former with part of a heavy beam across his legs, and Mudgett under the stove. Campbell's back was broken. The dense smoke from the burning cars and stream from the engine boiler hung over the mail car. All shouted for help. Mudgett cried to Palmer that he was being burned, and bade him good-bye. Palmer thrust one arm up through an opening and was seen by Conductor Chase, who attempted to pull him out, but was unable to do so. Three others joined him, and finally succeeded in removing him in a bruised condition. They were unable to reach Mudgett and Campbell before they burned to death.

People Talked About.

Dr. D. W. Bliss died at Washington on Feb. 21. He was conscious up to the end. He was, however unable to speak, and had not spoken since the attack of paralysis on the 15th. In his last illness he had the care of his son and daughter and several members of the profession. His daughter, Mrs. George Hearst, who lives in Montana, is the only absent one of the immediate family. She was notified of the death by telegraph.

The Chicago anarchist, Oscar W. Neebe has supplemented the petition which his brother has presented with his personal letter to Gov. Fifer, in which he reiterates his former denials that he had any connection with the Haymarket tragedy, and adds that no one more deeply regretted that occurrence than himself. He says he has been more condemned, and does now, all means contrary to law in promoting the interests of the working classes. He adds that whatever imprudence or folly may have been committed by him in organizing labor unions, he has been amply punished, and asks, more for the sake of his motherless children than his own, that the governor remit the remainder of his sentence. Neebe closes with the statement that he shall, if he regains his liberty, become a law abiding citizen.

The Ways of the Wicked.

Policeman Louis Schlie shot and killed himself at his home in Milwaukee. He had been unwell and was temporarily insane, although able to attend to his duties the day before. He leaves a wife and child, and was twenty-six years old.

Alfred M. Lay, aged twenty-six, son of ex-Congressman Lay, committed suicide at Kansas City by taking two ounces of laudanum. The young man was in good circumstances, and it is supposed that his act was caused by temporary insanity.

The sheriff of Mendocino county, Cal., has captured two men supposed to be the parties who held up both Mendocino stages on the night of Jan. 5. Each man was armed with rifles and revolvers. On them were found $750 and a silver watch. The men gave the names of Charles Manning and H. W. Hanlon.

P. F. Clark, a druggist, was assassinated at Chicago while at work in his store, corner of Harrison street and Hermitage avenue. The victim was shot in the back, a bullet penetrating his heart. No one saw the deed done. People living about the store heard a cry for help, then the shot, followed by hurrying footfalls. The perpetrator and his motives are unknown.

Word was received at Little Rock, Ark., that Edward McMeriot, known as the "King of the Moonshiners," had been captured on Brush creek, Searcy county, after a desperate fight with a sheriff's posse. McMeriot yielded only when his pistol had been shot from his hand and his body punctured with buckshot. Several of the posse were wounded. The officers claim that the capture will break up the moonshiners in that section.

Inspector Byrnes of New York, received a warrant signed by Recorder Smyth for the arrest of Henry S. Ives and George R. Staynor on an indictment for grand larceny in the first degree found by the grand jury. The warrant was served on the warden of Ludlow street jail, as the detainer, with instructions that if the millionaire defendants should be able at any time to secure bail in the civil suits on which they are now held, they are to be turned over to Inspector Byrnes.

There was somewhat of a sensation in the general sessions court in New York when Judge Cowing, in charging the grand jury, urged them particularly to look up a certain case where parties were supposed to be guilty of grand larceny. Many people take this to mean Ives and Staynor, who are accused by the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton people of misappropriating nearly $3,000,000. The grand jury went into session shortly after, and it was rumored that indictments had been found against both Ives and Staynor.

County Treasurer James M. Lane had absconded from Circleville, Ohio, and was a defaulter in the sum of $25,000. His absence and the presence of a number of his bondsmen at the court house, gave credence to the rumor, and soon there were afloat exaggerated statements of the shortage varying in amount from $26,000 to $100,000. It was not entirely unexpected, for Mr. Lane was a frequent patron of the bucket shops, and has of late spent much time and money in the company of fewd women.

Judge Dudley Kennedy committed suicide at the Putnam house New York by taking poison. He had been involved, it is said, in legal troubles with the banking firm of Fisk & Hatch, over the sum of $23,000, which he paid for shares of Central Pacific stock. It was guaranteed that the stock would go up to 100, but it did not. It fell, instead, and Kennedy lost his money. He began legal proceedings against Fisk & Hatch, but lately it is said that these proceedings were discontinued, for what reason cannot be learned. The financial loss led to Kennedy's ending his life.

Mrs. Lizzie McAuley and her two children were found dead in bed together at Chicago. In the womans mouth was a rubber tube connecting with the gas jet. The gas was turned on full, indicating that Mrs. McAuley deliberately planned to kill her two children and herself. She is the woman who shot her husband Dec. 4, 1887, while in a fit of jealousy. No indictment was found against her by the grand jury. She has suffered from a mild form of insanity ever since the murder. One of the children found dead by her side was a boy three and a half years old, the other a girl one and a half years of age.

A woman was arrested in Chicago in connection with the mysterious assassination of Druggist J. F. Clark. It was discovered by looking over the dead man's private papers that he had for several years held unlawful relations with the wife of W. H. Smith, a traveling auditor for the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad. Smith some time ago separated from the woman, presumably on learning of her infidelity. The police have ascertained that a woman and man, whose movements were of a suspicious character, were in the neighborhood of the drug store the night just before the shot was fired. Mrs. Smith was arrested charged with complicity in the murder. Clark's most intimate friends were totally unaware of his amour.

From Foreign Shores.

The Emperor of Germany is far from being free from painful earaches. The recent changes in the weather have given him much trouble. He is obliged some times to have recourse to morphia in order to obtain a few hours' sleep.

It is understood that the Manitoba government will grant aid to the Hudson's Bay railway to the extent of $2,000 per mile for the portion within the province that is about 300 miles. By an act of the legislature passed two years ago the government was authorized to guarantee bonds of the road to the amount of $4,500,000. This is $250 per mile more than is granted the Northern Pacific. With this bonus and the land grant from the dominion government, the promoters should now be able to proceed with the construction, if they have any money of their own and any confidence in the enterprise.

The London Times, commenting upon the addition of four states to the Union, says: "The Union has passed the ordeal too many times for the latest increase to cause top heaviness. But it is as impossible for a community like America not to be transformed by the plunging into it of realm after realm as for the infusion of a potent ingredient not to affect a chemical combination. The Americans themselves imperfectly comprehend the actual amount of metamorphosis. Still less can they predict the eventual modifications to which it points. But neither they nor foreigners can help seeing that the center of national gravity must be substantially altered by accretions such as these.

A correspondent writes us from Apia, January 30, to the effect that German consulates and giving the German version of affairs in Samoa is printed in the Honolulu Bulletin of February 12. The letter says: Nearly all black plantation men have been driven from their plantations by Malietoa's men. Native plantation alone losing not less than 340 men. Pigs, poultry and horses have also been driven off by armed bands of men. On several occasions the dwellings of the planters have been robbed. Mr. Blacklock, United States acting consul, took a sensible view of the state of affairs, to prove which, the appended notice speaks for itself: "Proclamation to all citizens of the United States. Having been informed by the Imperial German consul that Germany is at war with Mataafa and his followers, I hereby notify you that you are forbidden to take any part in the hostile operations on either side. So long as you remain non-combatants you are entitled to personal immunity and protection. Any offense committed against you or your property is an offense against the laws of war, and should be promptly reported to me, so that the offender or offenders may be brought to justice.

Miscellaneous News Items.

About 150 of Sitting Bull's followers have left the agency at Standing Rock and gone up the Big Missouri river. It is said that Sitting Bull has inspired them with hostility toward the whites, and trouble is expected.

The sheriff of Johnson county, Iowa, seized at the Burlington depot two car loads of beer and removed it to a storehouse to await the result of a trial. A number of search warrants have been executed against the supposed saloons running in a quiet way, and as a result every place in the city has closed up and the town is under absolute prohibition except as to individual supplies.

There is reason to believe that President Harrison will devote much attention to civil service and that the opinions that he will express will not be of the sort that will be acceptable to the politicans who are certain to be clamorous for the spoils. Some of those who are nearest to the new president and who are certain to have his confidence after March 4, say that there is to be no clean sweep, and that the first great test that Mr. Harrison will have to encounter upon his office will be to resist the demands that will be made upon him for removals from office. It is said to have already been determined that there will be no extensive removals in the minor positions. Washington merely an political grounds, and with some conspicuous exceptions the rule will be that the present incumbents will be permitted to serve out their terms. Where officers have proved efficient, the presumption is that they will be retained in office until their commissions shall expire.

Hal Reid Pardoned.

The notorious Hal Reid has been pardoned by Gov. Merriam, as it has been known for some time that he would be. The governor claims to have knowledge that Reid was innocent of the crime charged against him, but he withholds all new evidence if he has any. It was about two weeks ago that Hon. C. D. O'Brien, attorney for Reid, went before the governor and offered to prove by a credible witness that the crime of rape, upon which Hal Reid was convicted, was a false charge, and that the consequent sentence of fifteen years to the penitentiary was a cruel one. He brought a witness, a lady who was familiar with the circumstances and who was not called at the time of the trial because she did not wish to become public in the affairs. Even now her identity cannot be discovered. She came forward with her own free will to do what she believes to be an act of justice, and to release the prisoner, who had been in confinement in the state prison. The lady in question believes that a crime was committed, but she holds that it was a mutual act and not the fiendish one with which Hal Reid was charged. The foreshe volunteered the story, believing that Reid had been sufficiently punished, and that further confinement would be unjust.

Hurt and Boyne have been Reid's attorneys since the latter's first arrest. Judge Hart used every effort in his power to prevent a conviction and since his client has been incarcerated in the penitentiary has never lost interest in the case and has put forth every energy to secure his pardon. It is principally due to Judge Hart's efforts, it is said, that the evidence and affidavits presented to Gov. Merriam, which ultimately resulted in an unconditional pardon, was secured. Judge Hart expressed himself as highly pleased over Reid's pardon, but refused to go into detail regarding the evidence submitted to the governor and flatly refused to state the names of the persons who had made the affidavits.

"They were secured," said he, "only after a distinct promise in each case that they would never after be made public. Gov Merriam was requested not to make any of the evidence public, or say anything at all regarding the people who made them. The evidence could have been secured in no other way."

The news of Reid's pardon occasioned considerable surprise in Minneapolis. The prisoner was quite well known here and had many relatives in the city who were prominent in both business and social circles. Their intended to make the interest in the case quite general. There were certain things about the case which set a great many people to thinking and it was a common thing to hear conservative people expressing doubt about Reid's guilt. The surprise which the pardon created was not an unpleasant one. A large number of the most prominent men in the city had given the matter special attention, and at the solicitation of Dr. Reid, the prisoner's father, had signed the petition for his pardon. The affidavits which were made public several months ago had, no doubt, much to do with changing the public mind in regard to Reid. There were a good many who thought that it was a little early, perhaps, for the new governor to issue so important a pardon.

No Time for Foolishness

Dealer (to countryman looking at clocks)—"Now there is something unique in the way of clocks sir. When the hour begins, a bird comes out from the top and sings, 'Cuckoo.' For instance, I turn this hand to 3 o'clock, and now the bird comes out and sings 'Cuckoo' three times."

Countryman (enthusiastically, to wife)—"By gum, Mariar, don't that beat all!"

Wife—"That kind o'clock may do fur people who've got lots o' time, but it 'd take me half the forenoon every day to look after the bird."

FOUR NEW STATES.

The Two Dakotas, Montana and Washington added to the Galaxy of Stars.

On Washington's birth-day the president signed the territorial admission bill. Great satisfaction was expressed on both sides of the house of representatives when the president's action was generally known. The news was telegraphed to the capitol, and was received with every manifestation of approval. Shortly after the house met, a special messenger from the White House brought the following autograph letter to Mr. Springer, chairman of the committee on territories:

Hon. William M. Springer—My Dear Sir. I signed the bill for the admission of the new states at 11 o'clock this morning. Yours very truly, GROVER CLEVELAND.

The news of the approval of the territorial admission bill by President Cleveland was received with general gratification. There was every assurance that the president would sign the bill, but the knowledge of its approval relieved a long suffering people of much anxiety, and there was universal rejoicing. While the bill is not just what the people of South Dakota had hoped for, there is but one sentiment—to accept any bill at the hands of the present congress that has the semblance of justice to the disfranchised citizens of the territories. The citizens of South Dakota join in rejoicing over the arrival of the day that has given them the rights of self-government, for which they have fought for eight years.

The news that President Cleveland had signed the omnibus bill was received at Piere with expressions of gratification by the entire population. The fact that every barrier to division and statehood is now removed creates a feeling of relief and satisfaction which is visible on every countenance. The passage of the bill ushers in another question of immense importance to Pierre—the vote on location of capital. After fifteen years of unceasing labor for division, and eight years of unceasing labor for statehood, Yankton is enjoying the full gratification over the consummation of its never abandoned hopes. When the capitol was taken from Yankton to the north it was the boast of the winners in that game that division was dead, and the friends of the cause over the territory were quite generally disposed to accept that conclusion. But the division leaders at Yankton stood steadfastly by the cause, and through their efforts two constitutional conventions have run their course, each presided over by a Yankton man. These kept alive the division sentiment, and the result now is two Dakotas instead of one. Congress and the president, so the flags were flying from all the flagstaffs in the city, and every one rejoiced. There is not an unhappy man in Yankton. All the other prominent cities and towns in Dakota went wild with delight over the glorious result.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

Wheat—No. 2, red, 98@99¼c; elevator, $1@1¼ afloat; No. 3, red, 94c. No. 1, red, $1.08; No. 1, white, $1. Corn—No. 2, 43¾c; elevator, 44½@46c, afloat; No. 2, white, 46½c; No. 3, 40½@44½c; ungraded mixed, 40@44½c; steamer mixed, 40@44½c. Oats—No. 2, white, 33@33½c; mixed western, 30@33c; No. 2, Chicago, 32c. Eggs, western, 14½@15c. Pork, old mess, $12.50@12.75. Butter, western dairy, 13@20c, do creamery, 16@29c. Elgins, 30@31c. Cheese, western, 10½@11½c.

CHICAGO.

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour firm and unchanged. No. 2 spring wheat, $1.01@$1.02½; No. 3 spring wheat, 96@98c; No. 2 red, $1.05@1.06⅝. No. 2 corn 34½c bid; No. 2 oats, 25⅝c. No. 2 rye, 44c. No. 2 barley nominal. No. 1 flax seed, $1.57. Prime timothy seed, $1.43 bid. Mess pork (per bbl), $11. Lard (per 100 lbs), $6.67½@6.70. Short ribs sides (loose), $5.75@5.90. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $5.50@5.62½. Short clear sides (boxed), $6.00@6.12½. Whisky—Distilled finished goods, per gal $1.03. Eggs, 12½@13c.

MINNEAPOLIS.

Wheat—No. 1, hard, Feb., $1.19; March, $1.19½; May, $1.23; track, $1.19@1.20; No. 1 northern, Feb., $1.09; March, $1.09½; May, $1.11½; Track, $1.10@1.12; No. 2 northern, Feb., $1.00; March, $1.00½; May, $1.03; Track, $1.00@1.05; Patents, sacks to be returned, $4.30@4.40; patents to ship, sacks car lots, $66@70; in barrels, $2.25@5.35; delivered at New England points, 76@7.15; New York points, $5.90@7.05; delivered at Philadelphia and Baltimore, $6.85@5.95; bakers' here, $4.20@5.20; superfine, $2.50@4.10; red dog, $1.50@1.85; rye flour, $1.70@1.85. Bran, $9; shorts, $8.75; corn, 27@27½c; oats, fair, 23@25c; choice, 28c; Barley, 40@50c; Feed, $11.50@12.50; Flax, $1.51; Chicago, $1.57; Hay, wild, $3.50@5.50; timothy, $7.50@8.25.

ST. PAUL.

Prices on incoming trains only: Wheat—No. 1, hard, $1.20 bid; No. 1, Northern, $1.12 bid; No. 2, Northern, $1.03 bid. Corn—No. 2, 29@30c; No. 3, sample, 27c bid, 27@29c asked. Oats—No. 2, mixed, 24c bid; May, 29c bid, 30c asked; No. 2, white, 27½c bid; No. 3, white, 26c bid, 28c asked; No. 3, 23@25c bid, 26c asked. Rye—No. 2, 45c bid. Barley—No. 2, 58c bid; No. 3, 40@52c bid. Ground Feed—$12 asked; No. 3, $14.50 asked. Corn meal—unbolted, $12.50 asked. Bran—Bulk, $9 bid, $9.75 asked. Hay—No. 1, upland prairie, $4 bid, $5 asked; No. 1, $3 asked; timothy, $6.50 bid. Dressed hogs—$5.25 bid. Timothy seed—$1.35 bid. Clover seed—$4.60 bid. Flax seed—$1.53 bid. Eggs—13c bid, 13c asked; ice house, 6c. Flour—Patents, $6.25 asked; straights, $5.75@6 asked, bakers', $4.50@5; rye, $4@4.50; buckwheat, $4.50. Butter, choice creamery, 22.24c; extra dairy, 16@18c; good to choice, dairy 10@14c; roll and print choice, 10@14c; fair to medium, 10@12c.

An Incredible Yarn.

A sensational story comes from Carbon county, Wyoming, which brings Mrs. Kate Maxwell, the owner of a small cattle ranch, into prominence as a daring and desperate woman, whose career may rival that of the notorious Belle Starr. Mrs. Maxwell is known among ranchmen as "Cattle Kate," and since the recent wholesale cattle raids her reputation has not been of the best. On her ranch are some twenty cowboys, who have been losing heavily during the last few weeks at a Fargo game in Bessemer. "Cattle Kate" seldom goes into town, but when last Sunday $1,500 was stolen from her bedroom she started out for gore. It is said she felt no resentment toward the thieves, who were her own men, but was convinced that they were being fleeced by the two Colorado gamblers, Farley and Goodell, who were running the game. Half the population of the little town and cowboys from several ranches were in the gambling hell Monday night. Kate was accompanied by her foreman, an ex-Chicago gambler, and both were armed to the teeth. She is an expert horsewoman, and rode her horse inside the doorway of the saloon, dismounting with a jump that caused every man in the place to grab his gun. With a big six-shooter in each hand Kate walked up to the faro table and ordered the dealer to "get out." Mason followed, and, securing the box and cards, found what he anticipated, that the game was the worst sort of a "skin" or "brace." While Kate kept the gamblers covered with her revolvers, Mason explained to the crowd how the gamblers had been fleecing them. There was a wild rush made for Farley and Goodell, and they were dragged outside and badly beaten. Some of the crowd went for ropes, and the two gamblers were given ten minutes in which to say their prayers. This last suggestion, made by a cow boy who had been to Mondyke, San Francisco, was received with scorn by the gamblers. "Cattle Kate" and Mason secured the money in the drawer and about one thousand dollars. Kate was disposed to generosity, and just as the two gamblers were being pinioned, and the ropes were about to encircle their necks, she suggested that their place be burned down, and that the gamblers be given one chance for life. "Give them a horse apiece and start them for Utah," she urged. "I've got all their stuff here, and if you'll all come up to the ranch I'll divey up." That little speech saved two lives. A couple of scrub ponies were furnished the "tin-horn" gamblers. Kate gave them two $20 gold pieces, and amid the rattle of a hundred pistol shots they were started on their journey.

Land Offices Extinguished.

Mr. Cleveland wiped out several land offices in Minnesota. The fact that he was likely to do so has been stated several times, but the matter was not definitely settled until his signature was affixed to the documents. He has put Benson, Worthington and Redwood Falls into the Tracy district, and then left Tracy out in the cold by moving that land office over to Marshall, in Lyon county, on the Wilmar division of the Manitoba road. This was the plan that President Hill and Vice President Clough, of the Manitoba road, argued for when they were in Washington some weeks ago. The Fergus Falls office is closed and the district is annexed to the St. Cloud district. This plan throws eight officials out of office, and leaves Mr. Harrison that many fewer officers to care for. In Wisconsin the La Crosse and St. Croix Falls offices are discontinued and the offices attached to the Eau Claire district. Neither of these offices paid much, and will not be of much loss to the officeholders. The president directs that the business archives of these discontinued offices be immediately removed to the offices in which by this order they are annexed.

TABERNACLE PULPIT.

An Eloquent Sermon by Dr. Talmage on Things That are Mysteries.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The audience that crowded the immense auditorium of the Brooklyn Tabernacle and the adjoining lecture-room and parlors to-day, united in singing:

"Sun of my soul, thou Savior dear,
It is not night if thou be near."

Dr. Talmage preached on the subject, "Dark Sayings on a Harp." Text: xlix, Psalm o. David, verse 4, "I will open my dark sayings on a harp."

The world is full of the inexplicable, the impassable, the unfathomable, the insurmountable. We can not go three steps in any direction without coming up against a hard wall of mystery, riddles, paradoxes, profundities, labyrinths, problems that we cannot solve, hieroglyphics that we cannot decipher, anagrams we can not spell out, sphinxes that will not speak. For that reason David in my text proposed to take up some of these somber and dark things and try to set them to music: "I will open my dark sayings on a harp."

So I look upon society and find people in unhappy conjunction of circumstances and they do not know what it means and they have a right to ask. Why is this? and Why is that? and I think I will be doing a good work by trying to explain some of these strange things and make you more content with your lot, and I shall only be answering questions that have often been asked me or that we have all asked ourselves, while I try to set these mysteries to music and open my dark sayings on a harp.

Interrogation the first. Why does God take out of this world those who are useful and whom we can not spare and leave alive and in good health so many who are only a nuisance or a positive injury to the world? I thought I would begin with the very toughest of all the seeming inscrutables. Many of the most useful men and women die at 30 or 40 years of age, while you often find useless people alive at 60 and 70 and 80. John Careless wrote to Bradford who was soon to be put to death, saying: "Why does God suffer me and such other caterpillars to live that can do nothing but consume the alms of the church and take away so many worthy workmen in the Lord's vineyard?" Similar questions are often asked. Here are two men. The one is a noble character and a Christian man; he chooses for lifetime companion one who has been tenderly reared and she is worthy of him and he is worthy of her; as merchant, or farmer, or professional man, or mechanic, or artist he is able to educate and rear a family of children; he is succeeding, but he has not yet established for his family a full competency; he seems absolutely indispensible to that household, but one day before he has paid off the mortgage on his house he is carried home through a strong northeast wind and a chill strikes through him and four days of pneumonia end his earthly career, and the wife and children go into a struggle for shelter and food. His next door neighbor is a man who though strong and well, lets his wife support him; he is round at the grocery store or some general loafing place in the evenings while his little sons, his boys are imitating his example and lounge and swagger and swear; all the use that man is in that house is to rave because the coffee is cold when he comes to a late break fast, or to say cutting things about the waffles looks when he furnishes nothing for her wardrobe. The best thing that could happen to that family would be that man's funeral; but he declines to die; he lives on and on. So we have noticed that many times the wicked live early out off while the parasites of society have great vital tenacity.

I take up this dark saying on my harp and give them to music, and thrum on the string in the way of surmising and hope if guess. Perhaps the usual man was taken out of the world, because he and his family were so constructed that they could not have endured some great prosperity that might have been just ahead and they altogether might have gone down in the vortex of worldliness which every year swallows up ten thousand households. And so he went while he was humble and conservative and they were by the trials of life kept close to Christ and fitted for usefulness here and high seats in heaven, and when they meet at last before the throne they will acknowledge that though the furnace was hot it purified them and prepared them for an eternal career of glory and reward for which no other kind of life could have fitted them. On the other hand, the useless man lived on 50, or 60, or 70 years, because all the ease he could have he must have in this world, and you ought not, therefore, begrudge him his earthly longevity. In all the ages there has not a single man been without trouble. There is no place for him to hang around. Not in the temples, for they are full of the most vigorous, alert, and rapturous worship. Not on the river bank, for that is the place where the conquerors recline. Not in the graves, because there are multitudes entering, and we are told that at each of the twelve gates there is an angel, and that celestial guard would not allow the place to be blocked up with idlers. If the good and useful go early rejoice or them that they have so soon got through with human life, which at best is a struggle. And if the useless and the bad stay, rejoice that they may be out of the battle and fresh air a good many years before their final incarceration

Interrogation the second: Why do so many good people have so much trouble, sickness, bankruptcy, poverty, while the black vultures sometimes putting their fierce beaks into one set of jangled nerves? I think now of a good friend I once had. He was a consecrated Christian man, an elder in the church, and as polished a Christian gentleman as ever walked Broadway. First his general health gave out and he hobbled around on a cane, an old man at 40. After a while paralysis struck him. Having by poor health been compelled suddenly to quit business, he lost what property he had. Then his beautiful daughter died. Then a son became hopelessly demented. Another son, splendid in mind and commanding of presence, resolved that he would take care of his father's household, but under the swoop of yellow fever at Fernandina, Fla., he suddenly expired. Now you know good men and women who have had just enough trouble, you think, to crush fifty people. No worldly philosopher could take such a trouble and set it to music, or play it on violin or flute or dulcimer or sackbut, but I dare to open that dark saying on a gospel harp.

You wonder that very consecrated people have trouble? Did you ever know the very consecrated man or woman who had not had great trouble? Never. It was through their troubles sanctified that they were made very good. If you find anywhere in this city a man who has now and always has had perfect health, and never lost a child, and has always been popular and never had business struggle or misfortune, who is distinguished for goodness, pull your wire for a telegraph messenger-boy and send word and I will drop everything and go right away to look at him. There never has been a man like that and never will be. Who are those arrayed, with robes of purity, that would be let go about with sympathy for others, and who think more of a St. Bernard dog, or an Alderney cow, or a Southdown sheep, or a Berkshire pig than of a man? They never had any trouble, or the trouble was never sanctified. Who are those men who listen with moist eye as you tell them of suffering, and who have a pathos in their voice and a kindness in their manner and an excuse or an alleviation for those gone astray? They are the men who have graduated at the Royal academy of trouble and they have the diploma written in wrinkles on their own countenances. My! my! What heartaches they had! What tears they have wept! What influence they have suffered! The mightiest influence for purification and salvation is trouble. No diamond fit for a crown until it is cut. No wheat fit for bread till it is ground. There are only three things that can break off a chain—a hammer, a file, or a fire; and trouble is all three of them. The greatest writers orators, and reformers get much of their force from trouble. That great poem, Washington Irving that exquisite tenderness and pathos which will make his books favorites while the English language continues to be written and spoken? An early bereavement that he never once mentioned; and when thirty years after the death of Matilda Hoffman, who was to have been his bride, her father picked up a piece of embroidery and said: "That is a piece of poor Matilda's workmanship," Washington Irving sank from hilarity into silence and walked away. Out of that lifetime grief the great author dipped his pen's mightiest reinforcement. "Calvin's Institutes of Religion," than which a more wonderful book was never written by human hand, was begun by the author at 25 years of age, because of the prosecution of Francis, king of France. Farading toiled for all time on a salary of $80 a year and candles. As every brick of the wall of Babylon was stamped with the letter N, standing for Nebuchadnezzar, so every part of the temple of Christian achievement is stamped with the letter T, standing for trouble.

When in olden time a man was to be honored with knighthood he was struck with the fact of the sword. But those who have come to the honor of knighthood in the kingdom of God were first struck not with the flat of the sword but with the keen edge of the cimeter. To build his magnificence of character Paul could not have spared one lash, one prison, one stoning, one anathema, one poisonous viper from the hand, one shipwreck. What is true of individuals is true of nations. The horrors of the American revolution gave this country this side of the Mississippi river to independence, and the conflict between England and France gave the most of this country west of the Mississippi to the United States. France owned it, but Napoleon, learning that England would take it practically made a present to the United States—for he received only $15,000,000—of Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Indian territory. Out of the fire of American revolution came this country east of the Mississippi, out of the European war came that west of the Mississippi river. The British empire rose to its present overtowering grandeur through gunpowder plot, and Guy Fawkes's conspiracy, and Northampton insurrection, and Walter Raleigh's beheading, and Bacon's bribery, and Cromwell's dissolution of parliament, and the battles of Edge Hill, and Grantham, and Newberry, and Marston Moore, and Naseby, and Dunbar, and Sedgemoor, and execution of Charles the First, and London plague, and London fire, and London insurrection, and Ryehouse plot, and the vicissitudes of centuries. So the earth itself, before it could become appropriate and beautiful residence for the human family had, according to geology, to be washed by universal deluge, and scorched and made incandescent by universal fires, and pounded by sledgehammer of icebergs, and wrenched by earthquakes that split continents, and shaken by volcanoes that tossed mountains, and passed through the catastrophes of thousands of years before Paradise came possible and the groves could shake out their green banner and the first garden pour its carnange of color between the Gihon and the Hiddekel. Trouble is a good thing for the rocks, a good thing for nations, as well as a good thing for individuals.

Interrogation third: Why did a good God let sin and trouble come into the world when he might have kept them out? My reply is, he had reasons that he has never given us. He had reasons which he could not make us understand in our finite state than the father starting out on some great and elaborate enterprise could make the 2-year-old child in its armed chair comprehend it. One was to demonstrate what grandeur of character may be achieved on earth by conquering evil. Had there been no evil to conquer and no trouble to conquer, then this universe would never have known an Abraham or a Moses or a Joshua or an Ezekiel or a John Milton or a John Howard, and a million victories which have been gained by the consecrated spirits of all ages would never have been gained. Had there been no battle there would have been no victory. I will not say that I am glad that sin and sorrow have entered the world, but I say that if God has given all his reasons to an assembled universe he will be more honored than if sin and sorrow had never entered and that the redeemed of earth and a Christian man; he chooses for lifetime companion one who has been tenderly reared and she is worthy of him and he is worthy of her; as merchant, or farmer, or professional man, or mechanic, or artist he is able to educate and rear a family of children; he is succeeding, but he has not yet established for his family a full competency; he seems absolutely indispensible to that household, but one day before he has paid off the mortgage on his house he is carried home through a strong northeast wind and a chill strikes through him and four days of pneumonia end his earthly career, and the wife and children go into a struggle for shelter and food. His next door neighbor is a man who though strong and well, lets his wife support him; he is round at the grocery store or some general loafing place in the evenings while his little sons, his boys are imitating his example and lounge and swagger and swear; all the use that man is in that house is to rave because the coffee is cold when he comes to a late break fast, or to say cutting things about the waffles looks when he furnishes nothing for her wardrobe. The best thing that could happen to that family would be that man's funeral; but he declines to die; he lives on and on. So we have noticed that many times the wicked live early out off while the parasites of society have great vital tenacity.

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