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LOVE IS ITS KEY.

The People's Church Founded on the Bed Rock of Faith.

Divine Discontent Causes the Formation of a New Congregation.

Rev. Samuel G. Smith Embodies the Western Idea of Progress.

An Edifice Reared Heavenward Which Knows No Race or Sect.

Social Organizations Made a Feature in Increasing the Roster of Members.

A Quartette of Singers Aided by the Finest Organ Built.

Talmage's Tabernacle Alone Exceeds This Structure's Seating Capacity.

The People's church is Samuel G. Smith, "writ large." Love of truth, love of humanity and love of progression—elementary distinctions of the love of God—are the vital principles of the individual and the institution. Some men are born ministers, and others—poor souls and worse congregation—have ministry forced upon them. Dr. Smith

belongs to the former class. He was educated at Cornell college, Iowa, graduating from there in 1872. He afterwards took a post-graduate course in philosophy at Syracuse university, New York, and commenced the study of law. But by the process of natural selection, the church took him out of law and appropriated him to her own uses. He never studied theology. The perplexing problem of computing the number of infants' souls required to pave a square foot of the pleasant paths around the burning lake, or the number of angels that can be comfortbaly accommodated on the point of a needle, never exhausted his brain, and it was with a clear head and as clear a conscience that he began his ministerial career, riding a circuit in Iowa. He had been a member of the Upper Iowa conference for seven years when he was transferred to St. Paul and became pastor of the First Methodist church here. The faith in the benefit of a change and the love of something new that operate in the administration of the Methodist church to break up a pastor's home every three years and move him on, dealt kindly with Dr. Smith. It only moved him into the presiding eldership of this district, with no change in his home. On the expiration of his term as presiding elder he was returned to the First Methodist church. Here the "divine discontent" that had directed him from the law to the ministry led him to cast about for a broader basis on which to establish his altruistic efforts. All existing religious denominations drew too narrow bounds. Inclining to certain ideas of the Episcopal church, he found the restraint of others galling. Calvin barred him from Presbyterianism, and a greater love of church freedom than of the Puritan and Pilgrim kept him out of the Congregational society, just as a desire for liberty rebelled against the limitations of other sects. The outcome of the conflict was his conception of the idea of a church organized on the basis of the apostles' creed, with government by the congregation.

THE NEW CHURCH.

The Spirit That Led to Its Formation---Bed-Rock Beliefs.

The spirit of progression moved all but one of the trustees of the First M. E. church to sympathy with Dr. Smith's idea; and when, on the 1st of January, 1888, he preached his farewell sermon to the members of that society, it was a rallying cry to as many as it bade farewell. The trustees who retired with him were Messrs. D. S. B. Johnston, J. R. Nichols, Hezekiah Hall, E. J. Hodgson, E. E. Scribner and C. L. Johnston. On the 27th of December, 1887, these gentlemen, in company with others, had met in the office of C. L. Johnston to discuss the organization of a Christian church on an undenominational bases. There were present Dr. Smith, Messrs. E. J. Hodgson, C. E. Marvin, J. R. Nichols, D. S. B. Johnston, W. F. Graves, Hazekiah Hall, P. H. Gotzian, W. H. Dixon, C. C. Fairchild, C. L. Johnston, H. P. Pilkington. E. E. Scribner, M. P. Gilbert, Pinzka, A. D. Brown, A. D. Davidson, J. M. Jaggar and Capt. Straight. Dr. Smith was unanimously invited to become pastor of the new church, and religious services were held at the Grand opera house the Sunday following that on which he and his adherents went off like the first gun at Fort Sumter, from the fold of the First M. E. Articles of incorporation and rules of the church were drawn up by Dr. Smith and adopted at a meeting held Jan. 18, 1888. On the first day of February a roll call containing 140 names was read, and the first officers of the church were elected. The People's church was on earth, endowed with all its social and religious rights, a proper, powerful being. Orthodoxy looked upon it askance, beset with strong doubt that amounted to perfect disbelief in its propriety. But even orthodoxy has since indirectly set the seal of approval upon it when the Congregationalists admitted into their fold the Strangers' church, of West St. Paul, which is governed by the articles of incorporation and rules of the People's church.

The growth of the alien institution was viritably that of the banyan tree. It sent out its roots in all directions, and has accomplished in a single year an organization that is wonderful in extent, completion and vital force. Dr. Smith's personality is the wonder-working power. His energy is tireless, and, where all else would fail, he surprises men and women into his power with a flash of wit, and retains them in his service with the conviction that the measure of a man's christianity is not the length of his face. He is, without doubt, one of the ministers of grace whom men and women—women especially—serve in the innocent delusion that they are serving the Lord. He says to them come, and they come; do this, and it is done whether the task is to build one of the finest churches in the country or to organize a social club. The social relations of the People's church, are as much glory as their new building, and a great deal more; for the one, any society, given funds can produce, but the other requires certain conditions that the majority of churches find impossible or unorthodox to create. The members of the organization are known as the congregation, and embrace members of the church and any person not of the church who is a regular contributor to its support. Either spiritual or financial qualifications make a man elegible to membership, though the popular belief that "Jesus paid it all" inspires about 900 people to elect themselves members of the congregation without either spiritual or financial guarantee of their right to the privilege. The officers of the church are pastor, secretary, treasurer, council and board of trustees, who together constitute the advisory board. The pastor is nominated by the advisory board and elected by the members of the congregation, all of whom, women not excepted, have a vote. The officers of the present year are Rev. S. G. Smith, D. D., pastor; C. C. Fairchild, secretary; C. L. Johnston, treasurer; council, C. E. Marvin, W. O. Denegre, E. E. Scribner, John Jaggar, M. D. Flower, J. A. Swenson, A. D. Davidson, W. F. Moritz, Hezekiah Hall; trustees, E. J. Hodgson, A. R. McGill, J. R. Nicols, C. R. Groff, D. S. B. Johnston, W. F. Graves, E. C. Long, William Stoddart, C. E. Dickerman. After the 1st of March the church forces will be increased by a Sunday school superintendent and pastor's aid, in the person of D. C. Eggleston, of Chagrin Falls, O.

Among the regular contributors to the support of the church, and by this act members of the church, are Gov. Merriam, J. J. Hill, A. J. Castle, L. K. Stone, W. S. Morton, A. Kalman, Ansel Oppenheim, D. M. Finlayson, Gordon E. Cole, Albert Scheffer, Col. R. M. Newport, D. D. Merrill, Mrs. Conrad Gotzian, P. H. Gotzian, T. L. Schurmeier, Jefferson, F. Driscoll, Sr., Mrs. Bigelow, Alex Ramsey, Channing Seabury, Dr. A. J. Stone, D. H. Moon and J. Fairchild.

THE LADIES SOCIETY.

An Auxiliary On Which the Life of the People's Church Largely Depends.

The first auxiliary organization to grow out of the People's church was the Ladies society. Making underclothes for the happy heathen who revel in their wickedness on South Sea islands, piecing bed quilts to be raffled off for the good of the cause, passing around subscription lists and assembling the community at 50c. a head to assist at the last sad rites performed over the flat, flabby bodies of a few drowned oysters, do not, in this instance, constitute the aid given by women to the church. The society numbers one hundred members, who are divided into six committees, that embody the most pleasant and practical sort of charity, and are regulated by four officers: President, Mrs. E. E. Scribner; vice president, Mrs. J. Ross Nicols; treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Hodgson; secretary, Mrs. Jennie E. Straight. The charter members seceded from the First M. E. church to unite with Dr. Smith, and their prompt action, responsive to the inspiration he furnishes, has been an indispensible element of the success of the People's church. The society was named by Mrs. John Nichols, when the following ladies had effected the organization: Mesdames E. E. Scribner, C. E. Marvin, John Nicols, J. Ross Nicols, H. P. Pilkington, E. J. Hodgson, W. F. Graves, J. W. Routh, H. C. McCarty, Cratzenberg, Bowman, C. L. Johnston, A. D. Brown, D. S. B. Johnston and Jennie E. Straight. The aim of the society is to carry on that part of church work usually allotted to women, paying special attention to the development of good fellowship among the congregation. For the conventional communion of saints, in which each saint carefully draws on his glove before shaking the hand of another, they propose to substitute the healthful, stimulating, personal contact of men and women attracted by a common impulse to benefit humanity. Monthly sociables are held in pleasant contrast with those wire-drawn social mockeries where good men and women, with subdued agony and patient resignation, congregate to enjoy their mutual misery. The different committees are appointed with regard to the adaptability of different women to certain lines of work. Those with dominant originality form the committee of entertainment—Mesdames J. H. Woolsey, E. J. Farnham, Fannie Williams, Neil Murray, A. G. Hawkins, W. H. Dixon, W. H. Montey, A. Cratzenberg and H. C. McCartey. Those who are blessed with that rare gift, tact, comprise the committee for visiting strangers—H. C. McCartey, D. S. B. Johnston, H. L. Pilkington, A. D. Brown, Hitchcock, Peel, J. W. Rank, J. R. Nichols, J. M. Jaggar, Lincoln, R. C. Morgan, A. D. Turnbull, E. E. Scribner, A. D. Davidson, A.C. Becken, Skinner, Waller and Neil Murray. Women of quick perception and ready sympathy are assigned the task of visiting the poor. Of this committee Mrs. C. E. Marvin is chairman, the other members being Mesdames E. J. Hodgson, A. B. Bowman, W. H. Montey and A. G. Hawkins. To be an efficient Sunday school worker one must be a good manager, possessed of a vigorous magnetic personality.

CHOIR QUARTETTE AND ORGANIST.

Mrs. J. Ross Nichols presides over the committee on Sunday school work, which includes Mesdames A. J. Swinson, C. L. Johnston, W. W. Schiffman and H Hall. Mistresses of emergencies are the committee who visit the sick—Mrs. D. Brown, chairman, Mesdames John Nicols, H. C. McCarthy and Lincoln. That special, proper, woman genius, the shrewd shopper, finds expression in the committee on church furnishing—Mesdames E. E. Scribner, Woolsey and Cratzenberg. Mrs. D. S. B. Johnston is the leading spirit in the foreign missionary work of the society which is in unison with the Bishop Taylor African mission. The spiritual success of the society is beyond reckoning, and in temporal affairs the ladies have forcibly shown what women can do when they will. At the beginning of the current year there was a balance in their treasury of $1,059. No grasping masculine hand is extended for the receipts of their efforts; they are permitted the satisfaction of disbursing their own funds, and after their own pleasure—artfully dictated by their pastor—they have furnished the Sunday school rooms, kitchen, parlor and lecture room of the new church.

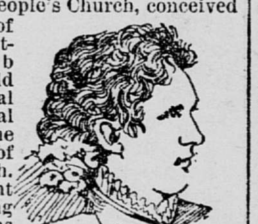
INTELLECTUAL FEATURES.

Cable's Idea of Home Culture Clubs and the Lyceum.

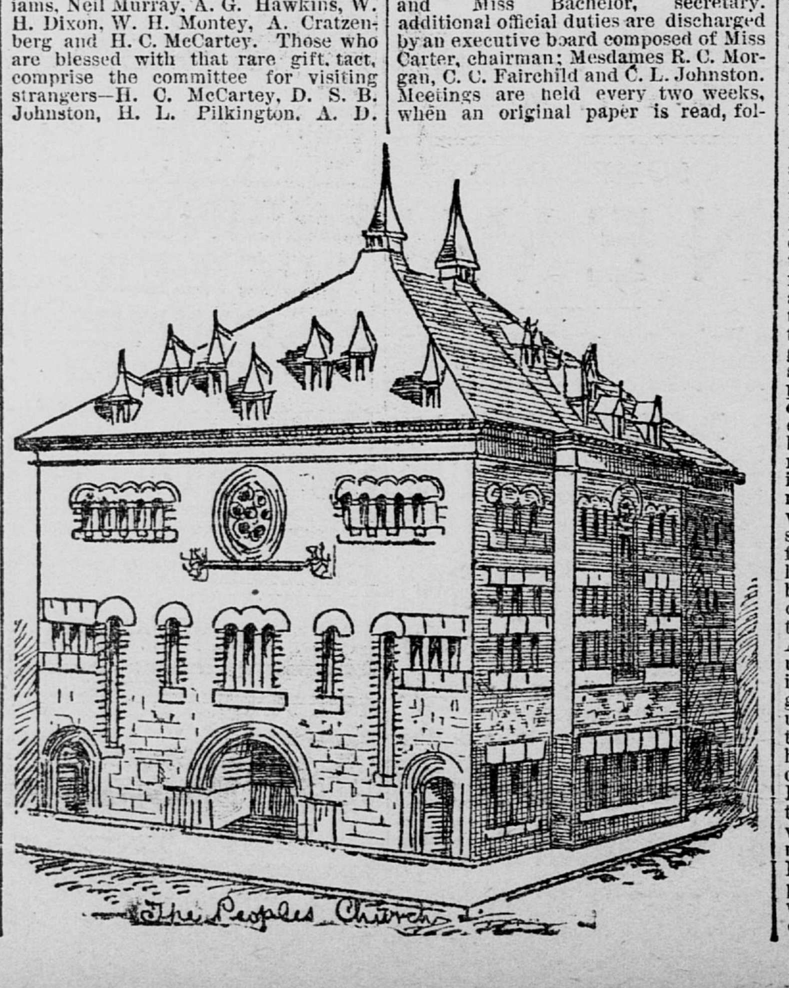
While traveling last summer, Dr. Smith met George W. Cable, who put forth his now widely circulated idea of home culture clubs. On his return to St. Paul, Dr. Smith at once introduced the idea in the People's church. Mrs. H. C. McCarty, Misses Anna and Lizzie Wright, Miss Holden and Miss Carter have each organized two clubs. The plan is to assemble not more than eight persons one evening each week for the purpose of reading, and so to develop a taste for self-culture that shall influence home life, elevating its tone and making it more attractive. With the exception of Mrs. McCarty, who has a natural aptitude for all good work, and an earnest love of books, the other ladies who have organized clubs are teachers in schools in the city, and are thus specially qualified to succeed in the task of mental development.

The Lyceum.

Last December Mrs. Jennie E. Straight, secretary of the Ladies' Society of the People's Church, conceived the notion of organizing a literary club which would promote social and intellectual life among the young folks of the church. Mrs. Straight prior to coming to St. Paul was for several years instructor of elocution in



the Bloomington conservatory, Illinois, and the conductor of a Shakespearian club in Bloomington, hence she is well fitted to lead in the movement she instituted. As a result of her efforts the lyceum of the People's church came into existence with Mrs. Straight, president; E. J. Hodgson, vice president; and Miss Bachelor, secretary. additional official duties are discharged by an executive board composed of Miss Carter, chairman; Mesdames R. C. Morgan, C. C. Fairchild and C. L. Johnston. Meetings are held every two weeks, when an original paper is read, followed by a general discussion. Occasional entertainments are given, an interesting feature of which is usually a recitation by Miss Pierce. Miss Adah Hawkins, the clever little actress and talented musician, also contributes her services, as have at different times Miss Helen Murray, the pianist, and Miss Hattie Brush, the singer, contributed theirs. The ladies are rather backward in assuming prominent parts in the literary exercises, in which conspicuously appear Messrs. H. C. McCarty, G. A. Williams, E. J. Hodson, H. H. Williams and F. S. Daggit.



VASHTI AND BETHANY CLUBS.

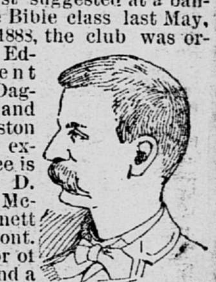
Institutions That Furnish the Pleasures of Club Life to Both Young Women and Young Men.

The People's church has been wonderfully fortunate in effecting social organizations that embody the prudent compromise which insures the greatest amount of happiness. Mrs. H. C. McCarty, who founded the Vashti club, is notably a woman who builds her goodness up without getting it so high it topples over on the other side, like Romney Leigh's, and makes a sort of badness. Unlike many pious souls striving for the world's redemption, she wears her halo under her bonnet when she goes out to do good, and keeps her patients in ignorance of the operation while she is reforming them, as nicely as modern science extracts teeth without pain. The ostensible aim of the Vashti club is purely social enjoyment; the hidden spring of its being, however, works in the direction of the protection of young women—protection against the world and their own ignorance. It imitates the methods of its founders, and instead of forcing a struggling victim into a corner and with tracts and blunt instruments of moral suasion accomplishing her regenerstion, it woos a young woman to communion with people infected with Christian endeavor and before she realizes her exposure she has caught the contagion. When she regains consciousness she discovers, that her old self has cauterized and dropped off, and that she is much the stronger and fairer for the attack. A library and parlor have been set aside for the use of the club in the new church building. The rooms will be open at all times to the members, who will find there the expurgated luxuries of men's club life. The society, as an offspring of the People's church, naturally establishes itself on a broad basis. All young women are eligible to membership on signifying a desire to possess the privilege.

The membership at present numbers fifty. Mrs. A. D. Brown is president, Miss E. A. Whitney secretary, and Mrs. C. H. Johnston treasurer. Every fourth Monday a club meeting is held, at which, when business affairs are disposed of, a chatty discussion of some author gives a mild, unforbidding literary tone to the intercourse of the members that encourages no flaunt of a single blue stocking. The second Friday of each month a social evening is spent similarly to that enjoyed last Friday evening at the residence of Mrs. J. Ross Nicols. Prominent among the members are Mesdames H. C. McCarty, E. J. Hodgson, A. J. Swenson, the Misses Anna and Lizzie Wright, the Misses Pierce, Misses Anna Sutton, Olive Swenson, Coffin, Mabel Manley, Edith Lott, Whitney, Morgan, Root and Snell.

The Bethany Club.

Out of the Young Men's Bible class which Dr. Smith convened at the Ryan last winter to study the Scriptures after the literary method advocated by Matthew Arnold grew the Bethany club. The idea was first suggested at a banquet given by the Bible class last May, and in October, 1888, the club was organized, with Edmund S. Durment president, F. S. Daggit secretary and Charles L. Johnston treasurer. The executive committee is composed of A. D. Brown, H. C. McCarty, J. C. Bennett and C. W. Dumont. There is an odor of tobacco smoke and a click of billiard balls within the club rooms



over the Seven Corners bank that completely praralyzes the little imps of Satan who dance in malicious anticipation about the smokeless, clickless quarters of the Y. M. C. A. There is really no difference between the Bethany club and any social club, save that gambling and the sale of liquors are prohibited. The same system of dues exists, making the institution wholly self-supporting. Its relation to the People's church lies in this—all rules for its regulation are subject to the approval of Dr. Smith. General meetings are held once a month, when an informal debate on some popular question is the leading attraction. There are between fifty and seventy-five active members. In addition to those already named, there are among them Messrs. A. G. Briggs, Sheldon, R. C. Morgan, C. W. Horr, Theo Blase, Williams and J. A. Swenson.

YESTERDAY'S SERVICES.

A Prophecy and Sketch of the Congregation and Choir---The Sunday School---Its Leading Workers.

It is a painful task to assume the role of Cassandra in the midst of the happy congregation of the People's church, but if the change of hour for morning worship from 11 o'clock to 10:30 doesn't cost Dr. Smith a few feminine souls, it will be either because women have no souls to lose or because the fair members of his flock are those anomalies in a lazy world—persons who hate to lie abed Sunday mornings. Half-past 10 in the morning comes at least one hour earlier on Sunday than on any other day of the week. Getting to church by that time means a frantic rush and none of the finishing poses and pattings and shaking-downs before the mirror that go so far toward paving the way for the entrance of divine grace into a woman's soul. A short-sighted man might suppose that, deprived of the peace of mind that comes of the consciousness of being well dressed, women might more easily be brought to a sense of their need of the righteousness that produces peace. But it is an historical fact, though history may have neglected to record it, that no woman ever had any mind for salvation, or was ever won from the error of her ways, so long as there lurked withing her gentle bosom a single fear that her bonnet is on crooked, or the harrowing suspicion that her back hair is tumbling down. An unsophisticated male Christian might have supposed yesterday morning, from the uneasiness of some of the good sisters around him, that they were under conviction; while all the time they were only suffering with that horrible sensation of being half dressed, that comes of a hasty toilet. Even Dr. Smith caught the spirit of distrust in one's personal appearance that was afloat, and became doubtful of the modest intentions of his crayat. It was another bond of sympathy between him and every women present to see him now and then quietly slip his hand around to make sure the very correct white lawn tie was not aspiring to ride the top of his collar. The light of the room where services were held, dim to a religious degree, was the sole compensating feature of the reform in the hour of opening, which a change in place of worship has brought about.

As many as 1,000 persons assembled in the new church yesterday morning to worship God according to the dictates of Dr. Smith's conscience. It is truly the people who compose the congregation of this society. No pews are rented. The woman who drives in her coupe, and the one who slips and slides afoot over the icy sidewalk, meet at the door and go in side by side. The ulster that was bought at a red-letter sale down on Seventh street and the sealskin that cost hundreds brush each other in friendly greeting. If the friendliness costs the sealskin an awful effort, the ulster is none the wiser. No church ever existed where a man swallows the laws of caste as imperceptibly and seemingly suffers as little, shaking hands with his cook or pastor, as in the People's. Here and there come hints from the congregation of the gathering of many sects that it embraces. Presbyterianism shows his exclusiveness the least bit, seated beside his butcher; the recruit from the English church ducks his head automatically with the utterance of Christ's name repeating the creed, and a relic from the First Methodist forgets his change of base, and shouts amen in a loud voice to some sentiment that accords with his views. Printed slips containing the hymns for the day are handed to each person on entering, and with the exception of a selection by the choir following the Lord's prayer and the offratory, the singing is congregational.

THE CHOIR.

Pedigree and Accomplishments of the Quartette and Organist.

The choir of the People's church is wonderfully well-balanced, and strongly individual in many respects. Mrs. Nettie C. Fuller, the popular soprano, is the director; Mrs. C. B. Yale, alto; James Swift, tenor, and Frank Garland, bass. J. Hanson is the regular organist, but during his illness his place is filled by volunteer service. Yesterday, Mrs. Fitch, an English organist, who has but recently located in St. Paul, played. Not only are the voices of the choir exceptionally well balanced, but so is their personal appearance. They vary but an inch or two in height, and it is rare that four singers facing the same congregation, and endowed with the uniform good looks they possess.

Mrs. Fuller is a charming little woman, who came to St. Paul about six years ago, with an exquisite voice that lacked nothing but cultivation. Under the instruction of W. Nelson Burritt she has developed a sweet soprano, whose sympathetic, bell-like tones have won her an enviable place in public favor. She has sung at different times in the choir of St. Paul's, Plymouth and Park Congregational churches, and at present is also singing at the Jewish synagogue. Her pronunciation is remarkably distinct, as indeed is that of the choir as a whole. To "sing before the Lord with a loud voice" does not, as with the majority of choirs, embody their conception of their duty. They seem to consider it a reasonable method to let Him and the congregation know what they are singing about. Mrs. Fuller has appeared in concerts before St. Paul audiences so often that her artistic merits are fully known and appreciated. Her stage presence is easy and graceful, and in private life she is one of those bright, magnetic little women who are popular whether they want to be or not.

Mrs. C. B. Yale is the possessor of a full, rich contralto that is admirably adapted to oratorio work. She studied under the best masters Chicago affords before coming to St. Paul, and during her residence here has studied with W. Nelson Burritt. Another feature in common of the People's church choir is that their voices have all been brought to their present degree of perfection by Mr. Burritt. Mrs. Yale was heard to excellent advantage yesterday morning in the solo parts of Schilling's arrangement of "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Her pretty, piquant face is apt to set one wondering, while she sings, who went without some needed charm that she should have more than her share.

James Swift is an Englishman who has been in this country only three years. He exhibits all an Englishman's natural reserve, and had even kept his voice to himself before coming here. He has a high tenor that is very clear, strong and sweet, which under the direction of Mr. Burritt he uses with ease and skill. He is also a member of the choir of the Jewish synagogue.

Frank Garland is blessed with a baritone voice of such splendid quality he should take it into opera. Like many another person greatly blessed, he is indifferent to the value of his gift and really does not use it to the utmost. Dudley Buck's "Te Deum" in B minor, sung by the choir at the morning service yesterday, displayed the ability of the members and demonstrated their right to the honor of being acknowledged one of the best quartette choirs in the West.

J. H. Hanson, the organist, is one of the oldest musicians in St. Paul, and has been associated with the principal musical societies of the city.

He received his musical education in Boston, and by musicians and lovers of music has always been considered an organist of merit. Until the organization of the People's church he was organist and director of the First Methodist church, and the congregation and choir members speak of his abilities in the highest praise. When Dr. Smith formed the new congregation Mr. Hanson resigned from the First Methodist and took charge of the music for the People's church. A few months ago he was forced to abandon his work temporarily, owing to a very severe illness which has confined him to the house. His musical friends hope to see him around soon, and occupying his place in the new People's church at the grand new organ, which will be ready by August.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

How Dr. Smith Breaks It---The Sunday School.

Dr. Smith's sermon yesterday morning, as usual, gave evidence of the hold he has upon the people. They assume the proprietary interest in their leader that all devoted followers exhibit. With a clever agument, brilliant peroration, or the even tenor of his abrupt, discursive ways, the eyes of the 1,000 were upon him; old women regarded him with the fond gaze of a doting mother, old men with the approving regard of a wise father, and young women with the reverential admiration due a superior brother—their own in some instances, and others the superior brother of somebody else.

Immediately following the service Sunday school was held. While the People's church was a body without a home, two Sunday schools were convened—one on St. Anthony hill, the other at Seven corners. Yesterday reorganization was effected and the two were merged into one. The new superintendent and pastor's aid, D. C. Eggleston, of Ohio, not having arrived, J. W. L. Corning was appointed temporarily to fill his place. W. C. Denegre was made assistant superintendent, H. R. McGregor secretary, and M. P. Gilbert, treasurer.

A feature of the People's Sunday school is the music rendered every Sunday by the St. Anthony Hill stringed band. About 300 children and young people are numbered among the attendants of the Sunday school. They are skillfully instructed in Scriptural lore by the following corps of teachers: Mr. Chipman, Miss Lizzie Wright, Miss Stillwell, G. A. Skinner, Mrs. C. H. McCarty, Misses Ada Finch, Libby Morgan and Holden, Mrs. J. R. Nicols, Mrs. D. S. B. Johnston, Miss Judson, Miss Carter, C. L. Johnston, Mrs. E. E. Scribner, Miss Edith Lott and Mrs. Barnard.

EXCELS ALL OTHERS.

The Largest Protestant Church in America.

The partial completion of the People's church on Pleasant avenue enables the congregation to hold services in the lower floor of the new edifice. The amphitheater, or upper portion of the interior, will be finished and ready for occupancy April 14, upon which day the dedicatory service will be held.

The People's is the largest Protestant church in America, and second in size as to seating capacity. The dimensions are 104x133 feet, larger than the Talmage tabernacle in Brooklyn, N. Y., whose seating capacity is the greatest in the United States. There are 2,500 individual opera seats in the main auditorium, and ample room for 1,000 persons extra. The room where services will be held until the dedication will seat from 1,200 to 1,500, and is a model of modern lecture rooms.

The floor in the auditorium gradually inclines toward the pulpit, affording a full view of the speaker from the remotest parts of the room. A large balcony extends around the room, meeting at the pulpit and gradually rising on each side An ornamental arch over the organ will be an especial decorative feature. Acoustics and ventilation were perfected after much study by the architects, and Dr. Smith prides himself upon the success of every appointment.

The building will cost $60,000 when completed. Twenty thousand dollars were paid for the grounds, and the organ, which will be a magnificent instrument, will cost $10,000.

The structure is unique among St. Paul churches. It has been planned with an eye to the modern idea of making the place of worship a great social center. With fine auditorium and every preparation for the fitting observance of religious services, there will be such accessories as to draw upon and quicken the intelligence, gratify social instincts and, so far as is possible, bring every inclination toward the better into the service of religion. The new People's church building and society will be an every-day church, in some respects, after old Catholic fashions.

It is expected there will be some church work to do during every twenty-four hours and it is intended that the building shall be in constant use.

PROBLEMS FOR SKEPTICS.

An Eloquent Sermon by Dr. Smith.

Rev. Samuel G. Smith preached his first sermon in the new People's church yesterday morning. Every available seat was occupied at the opening of the service, and Dr. Smith, gratified at this large audience, preached a most eloquent sermon, taking as his topic, "Problems for Unbelievers." The discourse was based upon the denial of Christ by Peter, as given in Matthew, xxvi., 7. "Then began he to curse and swear, I know not the man."

"Peter in his denial," said Dr. Smith, "was overcome, as you and I have been sometimes, by the power of the visible. He was in the grip of doubt, and he surrendered. Flaming torches, a lawless mob, courts of law and the surrendering Jesus bred skepticism, and that strangled him. The God-revealer was totally eclipsed in the suffering man. It is plain that Jesus of Nazereth was to him somewhat different from that which many of us have seen in Him. That life of preparation which he had thought a prelude to the throne seemed at length to only lead up to a painful overthrow. There may have been some excuse for this impetuous, rash, and warm-hearted man; but you and I will still blame him, that he surrendered all the past, and all the hope of a better future, to the tyranny of that dark-brooding present. He had much to give up. All the sweet communings of quiet seaside and solemn mountain were vanished from him; all the rich faith that he manifested at Cæsarea and Philippi was gone. All the superb wisdom and healing power the Master had exhibited counted for nothing.

In this time of ours, tossed on a wild sea of untrust, many men feel that if they are to keep afloat intellectually, it is needful to lighten ship. In the struggle with themselves and their age, many men are throwing overboard cargoes of old traditions and old faiths. Such a time and such a spirit demand especial care. In the storm we must not, in order to live, throw over such vital necessities of the spiritual life that we find it impossible to maintain ourselves in the quiet sunshine of a calm sea. No man can give up the essence of Christianity without involving himself in such difficulties as are beyond human power to solve. The Christ is so inwoven with the best human development that he who denies Christ denies also the good in history; but he who denies the historic good breaks the vital current connecting him with all the best in humanity.

I stood on the Rigi and saw a storm go hurtling down the mountain side to lash Lucerne into fury and to wrap with gloom the villages which fringed its banks. To the people below there was nothing but pelting rain and the encompassing gloom; but where I stood the sun laughed upon the clouds, and with his rosy fingers painted a complete rainbow crown and laid it on the brow of the storm. And the far white heights of the mountain tops slumbered in serene majesty, like symbols of eternity. So there are spiritual heights, if we can climb them, where the clouds and storms of earth may be seen from the upper side, and where the radiance of God's light and love furnishes coronets for earth's tempests, while we become companions of the serene and undisturbed splendors of God's wider realm.

To Exterminate Yellows.

DOVER, Del., Jan. 10.—Representative Sackett introduced a bill in the house of delegates yesterday which is intended to exterminate peach yellows. It applies to that part of the state lying south of a line drawn through the lower part of Kent county. It provides that the owner of any orchard neglecting to remove any diseased tree, after being notified, shall be fined $50, and any person selling or shipping fruit of such diseased trees shall be fined $25.

Expired at Ninety-Five.

Special to the Globe.

DUBUQUE, Io., Feb. 10.—Mrs. Jennings, the oldest person in this city, a pioneer settler of forty years ago, expired to-day at the ripe age of ninety-five years. She emigrated from Pennsylvania to this city. The remains were forwarded to Chicago to-night for interment.

THE CALL'S FAREWELL.

Winnipeg Isn't Large Enough for Three Dailies.

Special to the Globe.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 10.—The Call to-morrow will announce its demise as follows: "To the Call's readers: For some time past it must have been apparent to the public that the newspaper business in Winnipeg was overdone, and that there has been competition beyond the limits justified by the field occupied. As a matter of fact, there is not support in Winnipeg for more than two daily papers. The enterprise and excellence of Winnipeg's papers is recognized throughout the dominion, but there is no doubt but this enterprise has been carried further than the population of the constituency warrants, especially when it is borne in mind that the public support has been divided among three papers here. No town of equal size in Eastern Canada publishes more than two papers daily. In no such town is there a paper which compares with either of the Winnipeg papers, and outside of Toronto, Montreal Hamilton and London there is no paper which displays as much enterprise or publishes as much telegraphic matter as either of the Winnipeg morning dailies, notwithstanding the fact that in the East the cost of telegraphic news is only about one-fourth what it is here. Since April, 1887, the morning field has been occupied by the Call and the Free Press, and considerable competition has resulted. After a most careful consideration of the whole situation and circumstances the management of the Call has come to the conclusion that the capital invested in the business can be employed to better advantage, and it has accepted an offer made by the Manitoba Free Press company, in pursuance of which the plant and the telegraphic and other franchises owned by the Call company have been said to the Free Press company. The Call company will wind up its own affairs' paying its liabilities and realizing its assets. To-day's Morning Call is the last which will be issued.

MAKING A CABINET.

The Miller and Platt Factions Hopelessly at Variance.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 10.—The recent visit of Senator-elect McMillan, of Michigan, is now said to have been for the purpose of urging the selection of Senator Palmer as the head of the new department of agriculture, and that he went away satisfied Michigan would get the place. His visit, however, has given an impetus to the talk of Alger for the war department, which had died out some days ago, as it was said, because of a remonstrance against his appointment by Senator Sherman. Maj. Calkins, who was for several years a member of congress from the Thirteenth Indiana district and the Republican candidate for governor of the state in 1884, has just returned from a visit to New York. He went upon private business, but while there closely observed the situation, and the results thus obtained will be given to Gen. Harrison. He regards the situation there as being too deeply involved for the general to settle it satisfactorily by cabinet appointments. He says the farmers and all the church elements support Miller, while the party machinery is allied to Platt, and that no peace is possible between the two factions. R. A. Dudley, an intelligent colored man of Americus, Ga., is in the city. He was a delegate to the Chicago convention, and one of the two Georgia men who voted for Harrison. He calls to present to the general his views as to the treatment that should be accorded the colored men of the South. He says that to ignore them in the distribution of patronage, as has been urged by some of the Southern delegates, would be to destroy the Republican party in the South. He will call upon the general to-morrow. The anti-Foster delegation that was reported as being on its way here from Columbus has not yet put in an appearance.

STABBED IN THE BREAST.

Young Simon Dillon Killed at Danbury, Conn.

DANBURY, Conn., Feb. 10.—Simon J. Dillon, who was stabbed and killed early this morning, was twenty-three years old and a son of the "Widow" Dolan, who keeps a resort on Ives street. Dillon and James C. Chambers had just left Mike Brannis' saloon, and were intoxicated. They met four men near Still river bridge, and Dillon got into a quarrel with one of the strangers. Chambers pulled him away, but a moment later he ran back and renewed the quarrel. Shortly afterward he fell in front of the Grand Central hotel, calling for help. He was carried into the hotel, and died in a few moments. It was found that he had been stabbed in the left breast, a large bl od-vessel being severed. Internal hemorrhage ensued and it proved fatal. Dillon was a professional gambler, and was considered an expert in handing cards. The police think they have a clue to the murderer, but up to this evening no arrest has been made.

Funds Misappropriated.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 10 (via Galveston).—Luis Huller, concessionaire of the lower California branch of the International company, is accused by the stockholders with misappropriating funds, and the authorities have ordered his arrest, but he has concealed himself. The complaint was presented by Emilio Valasco for the American stockholders. President Diaz is personally proceeding in the matter. Great denouements are expected.

Mill Sold.

Special to the Globe.

BIG STONE CITY, Dak., Feb. 10.—The Big Stone City Milling company, of this city, heretofore consisted of three partners, Z. W. Oehler, W. B. Moonis and Thomas H. Dawson. Yesterday Z. W. Oehler sold his one-third of the mill property to the remaining two partners; consideration, $6,000.

To Tackle the Legislature.

Special to the Globe.

GRAND FORKS, Feb. 10.—A citizens' committee leaves Monday for St. Paul to try to get an appropriation from the legislature to make up an excess in the amount over the bonds issued for building a bridge across the Red river. Delegations from East Grand Forks will accompany them and work to secure it, as the bridge will benefit that town.

Popular Hostelry Burned.

ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 10.—The Hotel Humbert, a large and popular summer resort on the dividing ridge, near Cresson Springs, was totally destroyed by fire last evening. Loss, $50,000; partly insured. The fire was caused by a defective flue.

Only a Gambler.

Special to the Globe.

DULUTH, Feb. 10.—The man Russell, arrested last night on suspicion of being implicated in the recent safe burglaries here, was released from custody this evening, the authorities becoming satisfied he was simply a gambler.

STAMPEDED GUESTS.

Fire Destroys a Chemical Manufactory in the Quaker Metropolis.

Guests of the Hotel Stratford, Adjoining, Move Out in Great Haste.

Firemen Caught Under Falling Walls, One of Them Being Killed.

A Million Dollars' Worth of Standard Oil Consumed at Constable Hook, N. J.

Burning Oil Illuminates the Kill von Kull and Lower New York Bay.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 10.—The extensive establishment of John Wyeth & Brother, manufacturing chemists, at 1412, 1414 and 1416 Walnut street, was completely destroyed by fire to-day. The building was completely gutted, and the loss will be between $200,000 and $300,000, nearly covered by insurance. The fire created the greatest excitement in the neighborhood. Families hastily packed up their most valuable possessions and moved to safer quarters. The guests of the Hotel Stratford were alarmed, and many of them moved out. The firm of Wyeth & Brother occupied the whole of the large double marble front building at 1412 and 1414 Walnut street, except the front part of the ground floor, which was leased by Frank F. Morgan, who conducted a retail drug store. The brown stone front building, 1416, was also occupied by Wyeth, the ground floor being used as an extension to the salesroom and offices on the second floor of all these buildings. On this floor also was was the stock room, where the goods manufactured were stored until sold, and in the rear part was the packing department. The third and fourth floors were devoted to the manufacturing department. The cellars were used for storing the raw material. By the time the engines arrived the fire had gained tremendous headway, and, although the building was provided with iron doors and the best devices known for preventing the spread of fire, in less than forty minutes the whole double building was

A MASS OF FLAMES

from Walnut street to Brighton street, about 150 feet in the rear. A breeze from the west carried the brands toward Broad street, and many fell on the Hotel Stratford, to the great alarm of the guests. The place was surrounded by firemen, who placed ladders against the eaves of the adjoining houses, and, swarming up with lines of hose, soon had several streams of water playing upon the building. Several explosions occurred, causing the firemen to run for their lives. Shortly after 2 o'clock the roof of 1404 Walnut street, the annex of the Stratford hotel, was discovered to be on fire, creating immediate alarm, excitement and bustle throughout the hotel. The fire apparatus of the house was immediately put into service and the guests began packing up their belongings. The damage by fire was wholly confined to the upper stories of the annex, the lower floors, with the curtains, carpets, furniture and clothing of the occupants, being damaged wholly by water. The fire originated in the front part of the cellar of No. 1412. Its origin is a mystery. The theory generally advanced is that two combustible chemicals somehow came into contact and started the fire, which spread rapidly through the crowded cellar. During the progress of the fire the central portion of the double building fell, burying several firemen. George Showers was taken out dead, and Abraham Savery and William Buzzard injured, the latter quite seriously. Wyeth & Co.'s loss on buildings, machinery and stock will aggregate $500,000, on which there is an insurance of over $300,000. George C. Boldt, the proprietor of the Hotel Stratford, estimates his loss on furniture, carpets, bric-a-brac, etc., at $40,000, covered by insurance. Morgan's loss is $35,000, insurance not known.

Illuminated the Bay.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Fire broke out in the Standard Oil company's works at Constable Hook, N. J., to-night, and the main buildings and tanks burned for several hours. The Kill Von Kull and the lower part of New York bay were brightly illuminated. The attempts to quench the flames on the part of the firemen proved futile. The loss is estimated at between $50,000 and $75,000.

Oil, Fuses and Powder.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Fire occurred at 3 o'clock this morning in the basement of the large tenement 7 Hester street, occupied by twenty families. The fire was quickly discovered by a belated longer and extinguished. It was found that an attempt had been made to burn and blow up the building. Bundles of rags soaked in oil, fuses and packages of powder were arranged for the purpose. The police are investigating the matter.

Small Blaze at Mankato.

Special to the Globe.

MANKATO, Minn., Feb. 10.—The fire companies were called out early this afternoon by a blaze in McLaughlin's general store. The hydrants in the vicinity of the fire were frozen up, and a considerable portion of the stock was destroyed before the flames could be extinguished. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

One Death.

Special to the Globe.

GRAND FORKS, Dak., Feb. 10.—The first death at the university from diphtheria occurred to-day, that of the janitor's child. All the sick students had been removed.

Died of Pneumonia.

Special to the Globe.

YANKTON, Dak., Feb. 10.—D. W. C. Tanner, secretary of the Yankton Fire Insurance company, died this forenoon of pneumonia.