PRESULAL REPORT FOR THE EVENING TRUBGRAPH.) The Rev. Dr. Talmage's Church, Seventh, above Brown street, was filled by a large assemblage of our citizens, on last Monday evening, to hear the lecture of Rev. A. A. Willits, D. D., of Brooklyn, on the above subject. The object of the meeting, the well-known capabilities of the meturer, the beautiful moonlight evening, and the wild weather, were the inducements which drew out so large a gathering.

The call of the meeting was in aid of the Charity Hospital situated in the northwestern part of our city which, since the establishment of this institution, has grown so rapidly as to treble its former population. The object of the institution is to aid all in a destitute and suffering condition, to give medical aid, and to preserve the lives of injured and poverty-stricken people, without which gratuitous aid, advice, and medical skill, their injuries, coupled with their wants, would prove fatal. A series of lecsares have, therefore, seen commenced to help this charitable institution. Before the commencement of the lecture, sweet music was discoursed by the choir; after which Mr. Talmage, in a few pertinent remarks, introduced the Rev. Dr. Willits,

Mr. Willits remarked the great difficulty experienced in determining upon a theme or sub-lect of discourse without selecting one which had not more or less been touched upon by numerous orators. The whole carth seems laid under contribution, and seems to have been ransacked, and nearly upset, in order to find subjects for the innumerable writers and speakers of the present day. My subject this evening, said Mr. Willits, is "Off Soundings," which, if not entirely new, had often been salted, was yet good enough to be refreshing, and one which would not be entirely dry. Mr. Beecher says that one pleasing reflection of the future state is, that there is to be no more sea. I admit that it is not a very deligniful object to contemplate when one is lying on his back in a barrow berth, and to feel that the billows are rolling within instead of around you.

I heard of one poor fellow, who was the gayest of the gay at the first table, but when we had fairly reached the off soundings, and into the deep plue sea, suddenly disappeared, and was not seen again during the whole voyage. But when we reached the port a pale spectre came ereeping from his state-from, and when accosted as to bow he self intimated, that he had but two cesires: one was to reach terra firma, and the other to find and beat the man who wrote "A Life on the Ocean Wave." But the trip I purpose to-night has this great advantage, that in it you run to risk of sea-sickness, for we go but in imagination, and that seldom affects one's equilibrium. Born upon the set-coast, and standing at its very edge, I have often witnessed the sublime scenes of the ocean. Nothing can be more levely than the sea; there is rapture on its pebbly shores; music in its tar-resounding waves, refreshing asspiration in its pure, sweet breath, which I and nowhere else under heaven. But apart from this personal attachment, there is an intrinsic richness far beyond that which many persons imagine. Nownere else in nature can be found such noole charms, no where else

does she teach such sublime lessons. Few persons are aware of the vast debt of gratitude we owe to the sea, because very lew consider the unspeakable benedits we derive from this generous part of nature. The apostle bas said, "The earth is full of Thy riches, but so is this wide sea." He then referred to the Mediterranean, that little arm of the great ocean. What would be have said had be known, as we do, of that mighty deep which covers three-fourths of this globe, and is illed from its glassy bosom to its deep bed, from its centre to its remotest shore, filled bein full with beauty and mystery; with power and sublimity; with beneficence and riches. If you would see all the varying beauties of nature, you must go to sen, there will they be found, whether the sea be calm or convolsed. It you would witness the peacefully sublime, you must stand on some upon the gently heaving surface, when it hes still and calm, like a sleeping infant, while the smooth glittering expanse grows out before you, boundless, trackless, tathomiess, mysterious. Would you have the grandest and noblest reflections of the invisible that can be found in the universe, you have but to gaze on the ocean, with its varying scenes, to learn of the infinity, the immensity, the eteruity and mystery of Jehovah. As Byron expresses it,

"The glorious mirror where the Almighty's form

Would you have the terribly sublime, look out. upon that mighty deep, when the storm-spirit walks the waters, majestic waves roll up with their snowy white crests, and ally themselves with the howling winds, black clouds, and the thunderbolts of heaven, going forth to do the Almighty's bidding. How sublime the ocean then; how sublime its vastness, its actions; how terribly sublime its power! In such a sea, in such a presence, how feeble and impotent is man, and how omnipotent the Atmighty! But not only for sublimity or beauty does the ocean stand unrivalled. To find this beauty you need not in imagination descend with the pearl-diver into its watery depths, but go down to its surfbeaten shores, and there pick up the glittering pebbles on its silvery beach. You have but to raise your eyes, gaze out upon its broad expanse, and behold the most beautiful sight in nature. A mountain wave rolls up to break upon the beach As it rises with the very poetry of motion into the air, its lotty crest ourling into a line of matchless grace, it forms a miniature cascade to breuk in foam at your teet. But the sea has not only the richest charms of

her own, but it mirrors the beauties of earth and heaven. Here they come to reflect their highest charms. The clouds love to move over He bosom and see the gorgeous dyes of their wardrobes blended. Over the sea the rambow spans, the silvery sheen reflecting and percecting its circle of beauty. The sunbeams cast themselves into its unfathomed depths, and dance to and fro with the wind and waves in freedom. The sisterhood of stars and planets find their mates there; the sisterhood of stars in the sky find a brotherhood castars in the sea; for

Every wave with glittering face that leaped into the air, Caught a star in its embrace, and holds it there,"

What music so beautiful as that upon the borders of the sea? What cliffs, and fields, and dwellings so enchanting as those by the reflecting sea? The spirit of beauty and loveliness has its home in its depths, and on its surface, and along its shores.

But the ocean has not only the charms of sublimity and beauty, but it is filled with the riches of beneficence to man. That man is indebted for all the beauties and necessaries of debted for all the besuties and necessaries of life, I hold to be a truth. Of course those who are lovers of cysters, fish, snell-lish, and lobster salad, with all the other electeras, are deeply indebted to this part of nature. Some call the ocean "a waste of waters," which is as gross a slander as calling the earth a "howling wilderness." I know nothing to give the latter its name, except it be those who howl in it. Look over the map of the world, and you will find three-quarters covered with water. This is not, perhaps, unnatural, when we view this vast perhaps, unnatural, when we view this vast disproportion to dry land, and imagine that it would have been better had this vast expanse been filled with dry land, and its immeasurable deep filled uo, and covered with fields and forests, and valleys and hills-covered with

cities-instead of this vast desert of water. Instead of being an incumbrance, the sen is essential to life, and happiness to the world, as the circulation of the blood is to the health and happiness of man. Instead of its being a waste and desert, it is the very thing that keeps the earth from becoming a waste and a desert. It is, then, the fountain to the earth of life and beauty. And if this great reservoir should be

taken away, and its depths filled up with dry land, the forests and the hill-tors would wither away, All material objects would crumble away, and all the children of the earth would

grow emaciated, deformed, and die oif. All beauty would be extinguished. Everything would become dry, silent, and dead. Water is indispensable to all life, both vegetable and animal. But water has not only done great things for navigation, but as a steady drink for nourishment to all living things it is indispensable. It is as necessary to the cedar upon the mountain-top as to the ivy that clings to the wall; as necessary to the mastodon that pastures upon forests as to the animaicula that floats in the ocean's deep. All things are by it made to grow, to have life, and be crowned with beauty. This water, to give all these things life, is supplied by the sea. All the waters in the rivers and fountains, and springs and lakes, all come our of the test.

all come out of the sea.

An impression has prevailed that the rivers filled the sea; but it is just the reverse. It is the flow of the sea that fills the rivers. You hear and have read of orators exclaiming "Britannia rules the waves," or of the quaint saving of the Yankee, that "we have but to turn the Missisters of the Mammoth Cave, and the syppi river into the Mammoth Cave, and the British navy would be floundering in the mud." The rivers made the sea, but it is the sea which make the rivers. All of the waters of the river have once been in the clouds, and clouds are but the condensation of the invisible vapor which floats in the air; and when all this vapor has been lifted into the air by the sunbeams, it forms in clouds, and the winds wait them over the land to redil the rivers and retresh the earth. This is the reason why the ocean pever over-flows the earth, because its superfluity goes floating off into the air to the same amount which the ocean receives from the rivers. For every Mississippi and Amazon which flows into the sea, so to speak, another Mississippl and

Amazon run out of it. The "old ocean" is the nursing mother to all living things on the globe. All the cities, nations, and continents—all living things—the trees and beauteous flowers which brighten this world, the trees on the hill-tops and the delicate and many-tinted flowers on the wayside, all wait upon the sea for their nurture and life. Thus it is made a generous giver to the nourishment of the whole world. Without it all nature would return to dust. Bountiful and beautiful mother ocean, let man never forget what he owes to thee. So the sea is the great benefactor of the world, because it is the generous Samaritan which heals all, and gives life anew. should feel very grateful; perhaps we should feel more gratitude if we should be far separated from it. The ocean is the great regulator of the climate of the world. Natural science teaches that were it not for the sea, that in the tropics the deserts would be one perpetual are, in the polar regions everything would seem and be a desert of perpetual frost. Then there would be but one in the three regions at for the habitation of man. The one would be on fire, the other locked up in the ley hand of the lee-king, and the middle one, combining some of the qualities of both the others, would present the only place where numanity could abide.

Whereas now, by the tempering influence of the ocean, the whole world is fit for the homes or men, and all over it can be tound thousands

of varying forms of life.

The manner in which the sea influences the temperature of the globe cannot be precisely stated. The vertical rays of the sun, pouring down with all their intense nery heat into the depths of the ocean, raise the temperature of the water to about 86 degrees, causing an expanse of the water. The water, rising and swelling by this great heat, moves right and left to all quarters to find its level. These heated waters flow northeastward, in what is called the "Gulf Stream." which is a mighty river of warm water in the middle of the ocean, three thousand miles long, with a current swifter

than that of the "Father of Waters," This Gulf Stream separates by actual contact large masses of ice formed in the vast waters of the North Atlantic. It sends these vast icc-bergs, swept along by the winds, across the lines to the centre of the ocean. And a similar current passes down the opposite side of the earth, in some places 1600 miles in breadth. This large, warm body of water detaches other large masses of ice from the polar regions, and sends them to and across the equinoctial line. Thus the warmth conveyed by these streams tempers the freezing climate of the polar regions, and in their turn forward gigantic icebergs to ol and make fresh the torrid region. Taus they serve a three-fold purpose of beneficence. They bear to the Irigid zone the superfluity of heat, and to the torrid the superduity of cold and ice; and in addition to all this, these warm currents cause counter currents towards every quarter, bring from all portions of the earth their different temperatures, which, united, make all lands fit for human habitation.

Old mother ocean had been in the ice trade ong before man had been born, or even thought of such a manner of business. It does its business in a grand way, not in little bits. It does not charter vessels with cargoes of ice, or deliver it in little carts, through a little microcosm, or small city. But she has her great ice-bouses far north and far south, and she draws whole trains or leebergs in her train. So she moves away from the ourning heat of the tropical climate to the colder regions of the north, carrying warmth to the inhabitants' ice-bound land, and oringing back softness and health, thus distributing the beauties of spring, the glories of sum-mer time, and the coolness of winter, to all parts of the globe.

The ocean is the great purifier of the globe Did you ever think of the fact that the only possible drainage is by water? What would come of us if it were not for the beneficence of the sta? The proportion of decay would soon make this earth's surface one vast receptacle of corruption, whose stagnant air would soon and swiftly breed pestilence. But for the eneficial drainage office of the sea, such would be the result. The sea is as essential to us for carrying away the decayed matter as for bringing in materials of lite. Nothing could save us if the great deep did not act as a purifier of the corrupt earth. And it it is asked if the winds are not a means of purification, I answer "No;" for there is no place to deposit their burden, which will accumulate in their hands, and fill all their breath with poisonous effluxia, and carry destruction in every part of the world at once. But the rains have come from the sea for the purpose of purifying the winds and emptying their hands of their burdens. The rain is ever ready for this grand purifying

The sea becomes the grand scavenger of the world. It is not one of the Street Commissioners, who go on the general principle, as laid down in Dickens' "Bleak House," where is portrayed the "Circumfocution Office," in which the great study was "How not to do it." If we were left to the tender mercies of the sanitary officers, we would not, nor could not live in our cities. The sea is the great purifier of nature. which never betrays its trust. Where no sanitary company could go, no Street Commissioner would go, its million eyes are watchful, its million hands are ready, in exploring the luring places of decay, and to bear swift away the dangerous sediment, and cast it away in the slimy bottom of the great deep.

One hundred billions tons of the sediment of earth are borne by the rivers into the ocean in a single summer. Let your little ready reckoner think and meditate on that with our national debt. Fill all the ships and use all the railroads in the world, and let all the men and all the women work together in the reserver tool one. work together in this great sanitary toil, and they could not accomplish what is thus by the beneficent agent, the sea; and all is done so stiently, so easily, sud all working at once as well as speedily and effectually; no caucuses nor decrees of legislature, stump speeches or electioneering; no excitements, rum drinking. newspaper lying, briding, lobbying, or fighting; no Tammany or Mozart Hall meetings. Thank God that the sea is not under contribution to

man or politicians, The winds whose wings are weary, and their breath is sickening with the malaria of the land, always go to the "off-soundings" to recover their health. They evidently believe in watercure. They are hydropathists. Here they rest when worn out and weary—rest in the vast swinging-bath of the ocean. And when they have been filled with health, and purity, and

sweetness, they lift their wild pinions to the air, and move across the waters to the panting, dry. and sultry land. They strike pinions from the

ocean, the sweet voices singing-"We come, we come: for the boundless flight, With hearts tull of love and wings full of might, Over mountains high and valleys deep, Our broad, invisible wings shall sweep."

And thus they come, breathing life, and vigor, and joy, until the plants, so lately drooping, and man, and beast, and all the living creatures of earth, lift up their rejoicing voices, because the sweet breath of the sea has been poured with such a tide of refreshment upon them. Thus the sea is for the puritying of the earth. It fills earth with healthful blood, and fills its nostrils with the breath of life. For six thousand years it has kept the whole earth fresh, vigorous, and beautiful, and, apparently, none the worse. the worse.

How vast have been the benefits afforded to mankind by the sea, as a great means of com-munication between the countries of the earth! If it had not been for the ocean, all the surface of the earth would have been one vast, unbroken continent; communication would have been impossible; no highway of the nations. system of railroads, running hither and thither, in intricate lines, and now see the wonderful result of civilization, which has enabled the world to lay all countries under contribution! With all the life and advanced stage of civilization there is not not accounted. stage of civilization, there is not yet one single railroad across the continent; but the wide sea has afforded to man the broad, permanent, easily travelled highway to all nations of the

Look at our own country, and see how long it would have taken the whole civilization of the world to furnish even an imperfect entrance to all its parts, such as has been given by the sea that washes all our shores, makes our rivers and vast lakes, which interpenetrate our whole continent. Look at that great chain of lakes, like a necklace of pearly, which the sea has thrown around the neck of this vast and favored land. We see what this great deep has done, when in New York we witness the rising of the sun from its glassy surface, and the people of San Francisco, three thousand miles away, gaze upon the same glorious orb, as it sinks into the bosom of the Pacific; and by the little arms of the fathomiess seep, the centre of the continenpours its riches into both these cities. All our manuactures we owe to the sea.

Power is furnished by the water-wheel and steam-engine; the water and steam are but that which come from the rolling deep. It is the sea which spins your thread, runs your mills, cuts iron bars, and rolls them out into papery thimness. It is the sea that tunnels the mountain, bores the well, lays the iron track, and with its fiery breath puts energy into the iron borse, and makes it speed along the way. It is the sea which does for man his mechanical work, in subduing continents, and revealing

work, in subduling continents, and revealing the riches of the earth.

If the sea should be dried, and its right arm of power be taken away, the wheels of progressive civilization would be stayed. Think, again, of the food it affords to man, its shellt fish, and lobsters, and 18h of such delicious flavor. Notice the many innumerable vessels employed in fishing of various kinds, from the small and delicate to the large unwieldy dan, which are so benedicial to man for use. So the sea gives inexhaustable rienes to man. It is a vast storchouse of all the beauties and necessa-

ries of lite. And one of the most interesting and peculiar phases of the sea is the influence which it has on the nature of man. Let a man once become the adopted child of the ocean, and she has so stamped ner impress upon him that time cannot

The true sailor is a marked character, peculiar in his clothes, style of speech when he talks, and gait when he walks. These characteristics are among the noblest bind, and where allied to moral ty and truth, present the linest specimens

ot a man. One of the first and most prominent characteristics which old ocean impresses upon her children, is that of noble courage. The allor, rocked in the rough cradle of the deep; standing in the midst of the rolling and dashing waves with the winds howling and shricking around and the lightning darting its lurid flashes amid the darkness of the tempest—the sailor, amid constant danger, becomes the nursling of the storm, and inevitably becomes animated with a dauntless and courageous spirit. In the noise or battle, amid alt its dangers, Jack is always filled with manifest courage.

Another trait of the sailor is that of generosity. The ocean is generous; her bosom yields spontaneously, not like reluctant earth, which needs the cutting of the plough and the drawing of the harrow, to prepare for its backward and often meagre harvest. The sea givewith a bounteous hand—spontaneously and freely she yields her riches to all classes and conditions of humanity. You never saw the sailor turn a deaf ear, or show a cold heart, when he talls in with a shipmate in distress Innumerable cases have occurred of their ever-generous nature in relieving persons in distress and want. They exhibit a noble heart and true Christian spirit.

Another trait which the ocean stamps upon the nature of the child of the sea, is the love of freedom, and the desire of excitement. He is constantly mid scenes the very types of liberty. The floating clouds, unfettered breezes, the heaving deep, obey but the mandate of Jehovah. They have no respect of that little tyrant called man. Man vainly aspires to the allieg of himself the monarch of the ocean; but when the master-spirit of the storm arises then all these aspirations and sayings fall to nothing. The sea is free; it cares nothing for kings or conquerers-

The sea, the sea, the open sea, The blue, the fresh, the ever-free."

This spirit of liberty the ocean breathes into her children. You see it in his open collar, loose necktie, wide breeches, and rolling gait, which at once points him out to the observer. Thank God! you can't find, once in a thousand, an infidel sailor. You have but to study the sailor character, and you will find Jack inspired also, with a love for the fair sex. No man respects woman more than Jack; none esteem her, morally and intellectually, more than him. None know the debt of gratinge they owe the sailor from the time long ago, when, by his genius and far-seeing knowledge, this fine hand was discovered, to the present day, when all our lakes and rivers and the great ocean itself is crossed by him, to bring riches and the biessines of all lands to the people. People have misjudged the nature of Jack. They have seen him when the ever-watchful "land-sharks" have led him into all manner of most peraicious vices. We have only to protect him from the dangers, which are many on shore, to trap him into dens of vice and wickedness. Look to their welfare, and you will soon see them the truest, most virtuous, generous, and courageous of all men.

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