

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Behind the Counter.

"A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple," etc.—Acts 16:14.

"Seekest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings."—PROVERBS 22:28.

The first passage introduces to you Lydia, a Christian merchantess. Her business is to deal in purple cloths or silks. She is not a giggling nonentity, but a practical woman not ashamed to work for her living. All the other women of Philippi and Thyatira have been forgotten, but God has made immortal in our text Lydia, the Christian saleswoman.

The other text shows you a man with head, and hand, and heart, and foot all busy toiling on up until he gains a princely success. "Seekest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings." In these two passages there is great

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN

who will be busy, but no solace for those who are waiting for good luck to show them, at the foot of the rainbow, a casket of buried gold. It is folly for anybody in this world to wait for something to turn up. It will "turn down." The law of thrift is as inexorable as the law of the tides. I would like to fire the ambition of young people. I have no sympathy with those who would prepare young folks for life by whitening down their expectations. That man or woman will be worth nothing to Church or State who begins life cowed down. The business of Christianity is not to quench, but to direct human ambition. Therefore it is that I come out this morning and utter words of encouragement to those who are occupied as

CLERKS IN THE STORES

and shops and banking-houses of the country. You say, "Why select one class, and talk to one specially this morning?" For the same reason that a surgeon does not open the door of a hospital and throw in a bushel of prescriptions, saying, "Come, now, and get your medicine." He first feels the pulse, watches the symptoms, and then prescribes for that particular case. So today I must be specific.

I. In the first place, I counsel clerks to remember that for the most part their

CLERKSHIP IS ONLY A SCHOOL

from which they are to be graduated. It takes about eight years to get one of the learned professions. It takes about eight years to get to be a merchant. Some of you will be clerks all your lives, but the vast majority of you are only in a transient position. After awhile, some December day, the head men of the firm will call you into the back office, and they will say to you, "Now, you have done well by us; we are going to do well by you. We invite you to have an interest in our concern." You will be told that edict very gracefully.

Either in the store or bank where you are now, or in some other store or bank, you will take a higher position than that which you now occupy. So I feel to-day that I am standing before people who will yet have their hand on the helm of the world's commerce, and you will turn it this way or that; now clerks, but to be bankers, importers, insurance company directors, shippers, contractors, superintendents of railroads—your voice might "on 'Change"—standing foremost in the great financial and religious enterprises of the day. For, though we who are in the professions may, on the platform, plead for the philanthropies, after all, the merchants must come forth with their millions to sustain the movement. Therefore,

BE PATIENT AND DILIGENT

in this transition position. You are now where you can learn things you can never learn in any other place. What you consider your disadvantages are your grand opportunity. You see an affluent father some day come down on a prominent street with his son, who has just graduated from the university, and establishing him in business, putting one hundred thousand dollars of capital in the store. Well, you are envious. You say, "Oh, if I only had a chance like that young man—if I only had a father to put one hundred thousand dollars in a business for me, then I would have some chance!"

BE NOT ENVIOUS

You have advantages over that young man which he has not over you. As well might I come down to the docks when a vessel is about to sail for Valparaiso, and say, "Let me pilot this ship out of the Narrows." Why, I would sink crew and cargo before I got out of the harbor, simply because I know nothing about pilotage. Wealthy sea captains put their sons before the mast for the reason that they know that it is the only place where they can learn to be successful sailors. It is only under drill that people get to understand pilotage and navigation, and I want you to understand that it takes no more skill to conduct a vessel out of the harbor and across the sea than to steer a commercial establishment clear of the rocks.

You see every day the folly of people going into a business they know nothing about. A man makes a fortune in one business; thinks there is another occupation more comfortable; goes into it and sinks all. Many of the commercial establishments of our cities are giving to their clerks a mercantile education as thorough as Yale, or Harvard, or Princeton are giving scientific attainment to the students matriculated. The reason there are so many men foundering in business from year to year is because their early mercantile education was neglected. Ask these men high in commercial circles, and they will tell you they thank God for their severe discipline of their early clerkship. You can afford to endure the wilderness march, if it is going to end in the vineyards and orchards of the promised land. But you say, "Will the

WOMANLY CLERKS

in our stores have promotion?" Yes. Time is coming when women will be as well paid for their toil in mercantile cir-

cles as men are now paid for their toil. Time is coming when a woman will be allowed to do anything she can do well. It is only a little while ago when women knew nothing of telegraphy, and they were kept out of a great many commercial circles where they are now welcome; and the time will go on until the woman who at one counter in a store sells ten thousand dollars' worth of goods in a year will get as high a salary as the man who at the other counter of the same store sells ten thousand dollars' worth of goods. All honor to Lydia, the Christian saleswoman.

And in passing, I may as well say that you merchants who have female clerks in your stores ought to treat them with great courtesy and kindness. When they are not positively engaged, let them sit down. In England and the United States physicians have protested against the habit of compelling the womanly clerks in the stores to stand when it was not necessary for them to stand. Therefore I add to the protest of the physicians the protest of the Christian Church, and in the name of good health and that God who has made her constitution more delicate than man's, I demand that you let her sit down.

II. The second counsel I have to give to the clerks is that you seek out what are the

LAWFUL REGULATIONS

of your establishment, and then submit to them. Every well-ordered house has its usages. In military life, on ship's deck, in commercial life, there must be order and discipline. Those people who do not learn how to obey will never know how to command. I will tell you what young man will reach ruin, financial and moral; it is the young man who thrusts his thumb into his vest and says, "Nobody shall dictate to me, I am my own master; I will not submit to the regulations of this house." Between an establishment in which all the employees are under thorough discipline and the establishment in which the employees do about as they choose, is the difference between success and failure—between rapid accumulation and utter bankruptcy. Do not come to the store ten minutes after the time. Be there within two seconds after. Do not think anything too insignificant to do well. Do not say, "It's only just once." From the most important transaction in commerce down to the particular style in which you tie a string around a bundle, obey orders.

DO NOT GET EASILY DISGUSTED

While others in the store may lounge, or fret, or complain, you go with ready hands and cheerful face and contented spirit to your work. When the bugle sounds, the good soldier asks no questions, but shoulders his knapsack, fills his canteen, and listens for the command of "March!" Do not get the idea that your interests and those of your employer are antagonistic. His success will be your honor. His embarrassment will be your dismay. Excuse none of the frailties of the firm. Tell no store secrets. Do not blab. Rebuff those persons who come to find out from clerks what ought never be known outside the store. Do not be among those young men who take on a mysterious air when something is said against the firm that employs them, as much as to say, "I could tell you some things if I would, but I won't." Do not be among those who imagine they can build themselves up by pulling somebody else down. Be not ashamed to be a subaltern.

III. Again, I counsel clerks in this house to search out what are the

UNLAWFUL AND DISHONEST DEMANDS

of an establishment, and resist them. In the six thousand years that have passed, there has never been an occasion when it was one's duty to sin against God. It is never right to do wrong. If the head men of the firm expect of you dishonesty, disappoint them. "Oh," you say, "I should lose my place then." Better lose your place than lose your soul. Christian heroism is always honored. You go to the head man of your store and say, "Sir, I want to serve you; I want to oblige you; it is from no lack of industry on my part, but this thing seems to me to be wrong, and it is a sin against my conscience, it is a sin against God, and I beg you, sir, to excuse me." He may flush up and swear, but he will cool down, and he will have more admiration for you than for those who submit to his evil dictation; and while they sink, you will rise.

DO NOT GIVE UP YOUR CHARACTER, young man, because of seeming temporary advantage. Under God, that is the only thing you have to build on. Give up that, you give up everything.

That employer asks a young man to hurt himself for time and for eternity who expects him to make a wrong entry, or change an invoice, or say goods cost so much when they cost less, or impose upon the veridancy of a customer, or misrepresent a style of fabric. How dare he demand of you anything so insolent!

There is one style of temptation that comes on a great many of our clerks, and that is upon those who are engaged in what is called

"DRUMMING."

Now, that occupation is just as honorable as any other, if it be conducted in accord with one's conscience. In this day, when there are so many rivalries in business, all our commercial establishments ought to have men abroad who are seeking out for opportunities of merchandise. There can be no objection to that. But there are professed Christian merchants in the week-night prayer-meeting who have clerks abroad in New York conducting merchants of Cincinnati and Chicago and St. Louis through the debaucheries of the great town, in order to secure their custom for the store. There are in stores in New York and Brooklyn drawers in which there are kept moneys which the clerks are to go and get whatever they want to conduct of these people through the dissipations of the city. The head men of the firm know it and in some places actually demand it—professed Christian merchants. One would think that the prayer would freeze on their lips, and they would fall back dead at the sound of their own song. What chance is there for young men when commercial establishments expect such

things? Oh, young men, disappoint the expectation of that firm—disappoint those customers, if these things are expected of you! You may sell an extra case or goods; you may sell an extra roll of silk; but the trouble is, you may have to throw your soul to boot in the bargain.

IV. Again, I counsel all clerks to conquer the trials of their particular position. One great trial for clerks is

INCONSIDERATE OF CUSTOMERS

There are people who are entirely polite everywhere else, but gruff and dictatorial and contemptible when they come into a store to buy anything. There are thousands of men and women who go from store to store to price things without any idea of purchase. They are not satisfied until every roll of goods is brought down and they have pointed out all the real or imaginary defects. They try on all kinds of kid gloves, and stretch them out of shape, and they put on all styles of cloak and walk to the mirror to see how it would look, and then they sail out of the store, saying, "I will not take it to-day," which means, "I don't want it at all," leaving the clerk amid a wreck of ribbons, and laces, and cloths, to smooth out five hundred dollars' worth of goods—not to mention the time that man or woman may expect to pay. Now I call dishonored on the part of the customer.

Then a great trial comes to clerks in the fact that they see

THE PARSIMONIOUS SIDE

of human nature. You talk about lies behind the counter—there are just as many lies before the counter. Argus-time speaks of a man who advertised that he would, on a certain occasion, tell the people what was in their hearts. A great crowd assembled, and he stepped to the front and said, "I will tell you what is in your hearts; to buy cheap and sell dear!" Oh, people of Brooklyn, lay not aside your urbanity when you come into a store. Treat the clerks like gentlemen and ladies, proving yourself to be a gentleman or a lady. Remember that if the prices are high and the clerks are old and have a son or a daughter and such a one comes home all worn out, be lenient, and know that the martyr at the stake no more certainly needs the grace of God than our young people amid the seven-times heated aspirations of a clerk's life!

Then there are all the trials which come to clerks from the treatment of

INCONSIDERATE EMPLOYERS

There are professed Christian men in this city who have no regard for their clerks than they have for the scales on which the sugars are weighed. A clerk is no more than so much store furniture. No consideration for their rights or their interests. Not one word of encouragement from sunrise to sunset, nor from January to December. But when anything goes wrong—a streak of dust on the counter or a box with the cover off—thunder showers of scolding. Men imperious, capricious, cranky toward their clerks—their whole manner as much as to say, "All the interest I have in you is to see what I can get out of you."

Then there are all the trials of

INCOMPETENT WAGES

Some of you remember when the war broke out and all merchandise went up, and merchants were made millionaires in six months by the simple raise in the value of goods. Did the clerks get advantage of that rise? Sometimes, not always. I saw estates gathered in those times over which the curse of God has hung ever since. The cry of unpaid men and women in those stores reached the Lord of Sabaoth, and the indignation of God has been around those establishments ever since; rumbling in the carriage wheels, flashing in the chandeliers, glowing from the crimson upholstery, thundering in the long roll of the ten-penny alley. Such men may build up palaces of merchandise heaven high, but after awhile a disaster will come along, and will put one hand on this pillar, and another hand on that pillar, and throw itself forward until down will come the whole structure, crushing the worshippers like grapes in a wine-press. Then there are boys in establishments who are ruined—in prosperous establishments—ruined by their lack of compensation. In how many prosperous stores it has been for the last twenty years that boys were given just enough money to teach them how to steal! Some were seized upon by the police. The vast majority of instances were not known. The head of the firm asked, "Where is George now?" "Oh, he isn't here any more." A lad might

BETTER STARVE TO DEATH

on a blasted heath than take one cent from his employer. We be to that employer who unnecessarily puts a temptation in a boy's way! There have been great establishments in these cities building marble palaces, their owners dying worth millions and millions and millions, who made a vast amount of their estate out of the blood and muscle and nerve of half-paid clerks. Such men as well, I will not mention any name; but I mean men who have gathered up vast estates at the expense of the people who were ground under their heel. "Oh," say such merchants, "if you don't like it here, then go and get a better place." As much as to say, "I've got you in my grip, and I mean to hold you; you can't get any other place."

Oh, what a contrast we see between such men and those Christian merchants of Brooklyn and New York who to-day are sympathetic to their clerks—when they pay the salary, acting in this way, "This salary that I give you is not all my interest in you. You are an immortal man; you are an immortal woman; I am interested in your present and your everlasting welfare; I want you to understand that, if I am a little higher up in this store, I am beside you in Christian sympathy." Go back forty years to

ARTHUR TAPPEN'S STORE

in New York—a man whose worst enemies never questioned his honesty. Every morning he brought all the clerks and accountants and the waiters into a room for devotion. They sang. They prayed. They exhorted. On Monday morning the clerks were asked where they had attended church on the previous day, and what the sermons were

about. It must have sounded strangely, that voice of praise along the streets where the devotees of mammon were counting their golden beads. You say, Arthur Tappen failed. Yes; he was unfortunate, like a great many good men; but I understand he met all his obligations before he left this world, and I know he died in the peace of the Gospel, and that he is before the throne of God to-day. If that be failing, I wish that you might all fail!

There are a great many young men in this city—yes, in this house—who want a word of encouragement, Christian encouragement.

ONE SMILE OF GOOD CHEER

would be worth more to them to-morrow morning in their places of business than a present of fifty thousand dollars ten years hence. Oh, I remember the apprehension and the tremor of the apprehension and the tremor of the apprehension. I remember very well the man who greeted me in the ecclesiastical court with the tip ends of the long fingers of the left hand; and I remember the other man who took my hand in both of his and said, "God bless you, my brother; you have entered a glorious profession; be faithful to God and He will see you through." Why I feel this minute the thrill of that hand-shaking, though the man who gave me the Christian grip has been in heaven twenty-five years. There are old men to-day who can look back to forty years ago, when some one said a kind word to them. Now, old men, pay back what you got!

It is a great art for old men to be able to encourage the young. There are many young people in our cities who have come from inland counties of our own State—from the granite hills of the North, from the savannas of the South, from the prairies of the West. They are here to get their fortune. They are in boarding-houses where everybody seems to be thinking of himself. They want companionship and they want Christian encouragement. Give it to them.

My word is to all clerks in this house, BE MIGHTIER THAN YOUR TEMPTATIONS.

A, Sandwich Islander used to think when he slew an enemy all the strength of that enemy came into his own right arm. And I have to tell you that every unfortunate you conquer is so much added to your moral power. With omnipotence for a lever and the throne of God for a fulcrum, you can move earth and heaven. While there are other young men putting the cup of sin to their lips, stoop down and drink out of the fountains of God, and you will rise up strong to throb the mountains. The ancients used to think that pearls were fallen raindrops, which, touching the surface of the sea, hardened into gems, and then dropped to the bottom. I have to tell you to-day that storms of trial have showered imperishable pearls into many a young man's lap. Oh, while you have goods to sell, remember you have a soul to save.

In a hospital a Christian captain, wounded a few days before, got delirious, and in the midnight hour he sprang out on the floor of the hospital, thinking he was in the battle, crying, "Come on, boys! Forward! Charge!" Ah! he was only battling the spectres of his own brain. But it is no imaginary conflict into which I call you, young man, to-day. There are ten thousand spiritual foes that would capture you. In the name of God, up and at them. After the last store has been closed, after the last bank has gone down, after the shuffle of the quick feet on the Custom House steps has stopped, after the long line of merchantmen on the sea have taken sail of flame, after Brooklyn, and New York, and London, and Vienna have gone down into the grave where Thebes and Babylon and Tyre lie buried, after the great fire-bells of the Judgment Day have tolled at the burning of a bank—on that day all the affairs of banking houses and stores will come

UP FOR INSPECTION.

Oh, what an opening of account books! Side by side, the clerks and the men who employed them—the people who owned thread-and-needle stores on the same footing with the Stewarts, and the Bertrams, and the Abbotts, and the DeLansys. Every invoice made out—all the labels of goods—all certificates of stock—all lists of prices—all private marks of the firm now explained so everybody can understand them. All the maps of cities that were never built, but in which lots were sold. All bargains. All gougings. All snap judgments. All false entries. All embezzlements of trust funds. All swindles in coal, and iron, and silver, and stocks. All louts, and Huntingtons, and Ketchums. On that day, when the cities of this world are smoking in the last conflagration.

THE TRIAL

will go on; and down in an avalanche of destruction will go those who wronged man or woman, insulted God and defied the judgment. Oh, that will be a great day for you, honest Christian clerk! No getting up early; no retiring late; no walking around with weary limbs; but a mansion in which to live, and a realm of light, and love, and joy over which to hold everlasting dominion. Hoist him up from glory to glory, and from song to song, and from throne to throne; for while others go down into the sea with their heads like a millstone hanging to their neck, this one shall come up the heights of amethyst and alabaster, holding in his right hand the pearl of great price in a sparkling, glittering, flaming casket.

Land and Water has done a useful service in pointing out the value of wide-spread belief that my trained assistants the walls of a dwelling-house is productive of damp walls and general unhealthiness. The very opposite of this is the case. If anyone will carefully examine an ivy clad wall after a shower of rain, he will notice that while the overlapping leaves have conducted the water from point until it has reached the ground, the wall beneath is perfectly dry and dusty. More than this, the ivy thirsty shoots which force their way into every crevice of the structure which will afford a firm hold, set like suckers, in drawing out any surplus of moisture for their own nourishment. The ivy, in fact, acts like a great coat, keeping the house from wet and warm into the bargain. One more virtue it has, in giving to the ugliest structure an evergreen beauty.

ORIGIN OF FASHIONS.

Man's and Woman's Slavery to the Whims of the High in Social Station.

In observing the characteristics and changes of fashion it is impossible not to ridicule them. We may become familiarized with a present fashion and so see nothing preposterous in the attire in which humanity may clothe itself; but when we look back historically to the many devices which have been used for her occasions we find abundance of amusement in the records of luxurious folly. The queen of fantasy has been denounced with the anathemas of the church, stigmatized with the ridicule of the stage and apparently crushed by sumptuary enactments; but "resurgam" is written on her brow and she stalks triumphant in every age.

Many of the fashions of former days were invented to conceal some deformity of person. Hoops, cushions, panniers and other monstrous devices were substituted to make up for certain unkindness of Nature, who had not graced all her creatures with the forms to which they considered themselves entitled. Thus patches were invented in England in the reign of Edward VI. by a foreign lady, who concealed with one an eruption on her face, and to such a height was the fashion carried that the ladies cut their black patches into grotesque forms, such as rings, crowns, etc. In a book published at the time the author has prefixed a picture of Virtue and of Vice, in which virtue is modestly represented as wearing a plain black dress and hood, with a kerchief covering her neck; and Vice with a low-cut dress wears no kerchief over the parts which modesty should hide, and with a face variously figured with patches most curiously devised of all manner of fantastical conceits.

Full-bottomed wigs were invented by a French barber named DuViller for the purpose of concealing a deformity in the shoulder of the Dauphin of France, and, while the beau monde in England, wore their hair luxuriant, the bench and the bar were seen with the enormous wig, and the physicians appreciated conjointly the magical effect that was paid to it by the world.

To hide his ill-made legs, Charles VII. of France introduced long coats, reaching to the ground, and Henry, Duke of Anjou, wore shoes whose points extended fully two feet, to conceal an excrescence on one of his toes. So, also, when Francis I. was obliged to wear his hair short on account of a wound he had received on his head, it became the prevailing fashion of the time.

Conceive, if you can, a beau and belle of the time of Queen Elizabeth, the beau dressed in his starched doublet, his luxurious curls, mustache and beard starched to a point, his enormous breeches pushed out to a most laughable excess, being stuffed with wool, hair, feathers, or other light material—to all of which was attached a rapier of about four feet in length, sticking above his head, with a standing ruff rising above his head, her stays or bodice so long-waisted that it reached to her knees, with a large hoop farthingale that extended around her like a capacious tub, making it impossible for her beau to impress his love upon her distant lips, and which allowed him only to come in contact with extended hands. Yet such was the dominion of fashion that these creatures walked the earth, not with the commiseration of mankind, but with the same envy that the world now looks upon her disciples who parade together as the mining monkey and the divinely drooping kangaroo.

The Russian Soldier.

He is, under ordinary circumstances, a soft-hearted, good-natured fellow, but there are savage instincts in his semi-barbarous nature which render him capable of any brutality, if he is once thoroughly excited. The awful atrocities committed during the late persecutions of the Jews are still fresh in our minds, and bear witness to the savagery of the Russian peasant, and the treatment experienced by the Turcomans, both after the capture of Khiva and the fall of Geok Tepe, show that, at all events in Asia, the authorities even encourage the worst passion of the soldier. Perhaps Skobelev's greatest thorough appreciation of the peculiarities of the men he commanded. He had a wonderful hold on their sympathies, and he enjoyed a popularity with the rank and file such as no other Russian general has ever acquired. It was Skobelev who conducted the pursuit and harrying of the wretched Yomud Turcomans after Khiva, so vividly described by his friend and admirer, the American correspondent MacGahan; and it was Skobelev who, after the storming of Geok Tepe, and the route of its brave Tekke defenders, gave 25 hours' complete liberty to his excited soldiers to work their wicked will on the persons and property of the defenseless families of the dispersed Turcomans. Skobelev thoroughly understood his men, and re-established his control as deliberately as he permitted unbridled license. For exactly 24 hours the captors of Geok Tepe were uncontrolled; within six hours of the termination of that period two soldiers were shot for trifling crimes. This circumstance, coupled with the fact of Skobelev's great popularity in the army, gives a striking indication of the character of the Russian soldier as judged by the man who knew him best.

As a finish or covering for walls and ceilings pulverized steatite is coming into use quite satisfactorily. It is simply soapstone. It takes a high polish, is pear gray in tint, is said to present the best possible surface for painting, either in oil or water-color, and what is very desirable, it will neither crack nor chip. It is claimed for it that it is a non-conductor and non-absorbent; that it can be washed without injury; that it can be driven into it without damage. When subject to heat, moisture and chemical fumes it gives no smell, and it does not turn yellow with age. It is thought to be especially adapted for hospitals, factories, cellars, markets, etc.

NORTHERN APPEITES.

Something About the Table Customs of People of the Arctic Circle.

In appearance an Esquimau somewhat resembles a Chinaman, but has a darker skin, said an Arctic traveler to a reporter. He is short, stout, full-faced, very oily, and rather odorous, but genial and full of hospitality. To a stranger some of their customs seem strange and, perhaps, a little barbarous, but as one becomes acquainted with them these notions gradually fade away. Their food, perhaps, is raw flesh, being that seals, walrus and reindeer, chiefly; but sea and land birds and an occasional polar bear also contribute to the Esquimau's larder. To a sensitive person I have no doubt that it would be a repulsive sight to see, for instance, two or three Esquimau children enjoying what would here be called a "piece." This would probably be a newly killed duck, which, after being stripped of a few of the larger and more indigestible feathers, would be torn to pieces and disposed of so quickly that, if it were not for a certain percentage of blood and feathers which remain about the mouths of the consumers, one could scarcely tell what became of it. When an Esquimau family gather around to enjoy a meal, their food is treated in the same way, but perhaps on a larger scale. A seal would probably replace the bird, but from it the skin would first be cut and laid down to form a dish for the reception of the liquid and most highly nutritious part of the animal. The family dip basin the members of the family dip with their skin cups, or very often some of my old meat cans, and from the carcass hack and carve with their knives, not until they have had sufficient, but, as a rule, until there is nothing left but the skin and cleaned bones. I have seen a family of four sit down about a newly-killed seal and in about ten minutes dispatch the whole of it. This was not a time when they were hungry, but when they were being well fed from the storehouse. You may think that this does not speak well for my liberality in dealing out supplies, but assure you that an Esquimau can eat almost an unlimited amount at any time. A whaling captain who wintered about seventy miles west of where I was stationed told me (these never exaggerate) that a quarter of reindeer formed a very average lunch for an Esquimau. On one occasion of which I know of, when a large number of natives were engaged in a great feast on the skin of a whale, one old lady ate to such excess that she soon became feebly, and, as her friends thought, she died. They, out of respect for a convenient place and covered her up with snow. The time when this happened was about the middle of May, so that the frost was not very severe, but I should think would be sufficient to cause rheumatism. Whether it did or not I do not know, but after having lain dormant three days the corpse kicked off the snow and came out ready to resume her debauch.

Vegetable Life in the Everglades.

The Everglades, says the correspondent, present a world of vegetable life of a semi-tropical character. The India-rubber tree abounds in sufficient growth to suggest its subjection to utility. Many of the trees are of large size, varying from twenty to fifty feet in height, and having diameters often exceeding two feet. Their growth is suggestive of many purely tropical species, the limbs bending over and taking root in the soil. When notched they emit a white fluid in large quantities, which gradually thickens and becomes dark in color. The cabbage-palms are the most conspicuous objects throughout the regions. They grow on all islands and on the outskirts. Their appearance in a windstorm is very much like a cluster of inverted umbrellas braced against a gale. The cypress presents the same peculiar appearance here as elsewhere. Its roots bend over, above ground and water, with an appearance not unlike a human knee when doubled. These innumerable projections, appropriately termed "cypress knees," are undoubtedly the culmination of an evergreen tree, the part of nature to propagate new trees, with the result of producing rudimentary trunks, but on the islands, and other trees are found on the islands, and interspersed the evergreen clumps of woodland. The most dense semi-tropical growth lies between Lake Okechobee and the sawgrass. Here is a belt of trees comprising every species of the regions, thickly interlaced with the vines of gourd, and often forming a solid, almost impenetrable, wall.

Japanese Foot-Gear.

In Japan children's shoes are made of blocks of wood secured with cords. The stocking resembles a mitten, having a place for the great toe. As these shoes are lifted only by the toes, the heels make a rattling sound as their owners walk, which is quite stunning in a crowd. They are not worn in a house, as they would injure the floors or straw mats with which the floors are covered. You leave your shoes at the door to the number of mats required for the floors, each room having from eight to sixteen, and in taking lodging you pay for a mat. They think it extravagant in us to require a whole room to ourselves. The Japanese shoe gives perfect freedom to the foot. The beauty of the human foot is only seen in the Japanese. They have no corns, no ingrowing nails, no distorted joints. Our toes are cramped until they are deformed, and are in danger of being extinguished. The Japanese have the full use of their toes, and to them they are almost like fingers. Nearly every mechanic makes use of his toes in holding his work. Every toe is fully developed. Their shoes cost a penny, and will last six months.

Russia's coal fields on the Black sea

and in its neighborhood are almost equal in extent to those of Great Britain, but, whereas England produces 100,000,000 and 150,000,000 tons a year, the yield of the Russian coal mines for the last year for which statistics are attainable, was about 135,000,000.