## DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

#### Books and Pictures.

"Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver,"-ACTS 19: 19.

PAUL had been stirring up Ephesus with some lively sermons about the sins of that place. Among the more important results was the fact that the citizens brought out their

BAD BOOKS.

and in a public place made a bonfire of them. I see the people coming out with their arms full of Ephesian literature, and tossing it into the flames. I hear an economist standing by, and saying. Stop this waste. Here are seven thouand five hundred dollars' worth of books-do you propose to burn them all up? If you don't want to read them yourselves, sell them, and let somebody else read them." "No," said the people, "if these books are not good for us, they are not good for anybody else, and we shall stand and watch until the last leaf has turned to ashes. They have done us a world of harm, and they shall never do others harm. Hear the flames crackle and roar!

Well, my friends, one of the wants of the cities of this country is

A GREAT BONFIRE

lred feet high. Many of the publish. ing-houses would do well to throw into the blaze their entire stock of goods. Bring forth the insufferable trash, and put it into the fire, and let it be known, in the presence of God, and angels, and men that you are going to rid your homes of the overtopping and underlying course of profligate literature. The printing-press is

THE MIGHTIEST AGENCY ON EARTH

for good and for evil. The minister of the Gospel, standing in a pulpit, has a it is as responsible as the position of an ey, or a James Gordon Bennett, or a to listen. Watson Webb, or an Erastus Brooks, or a Thomas Kinsella? Take the simple statistic that our New York dailies now have a circulation of about eight hundred and fifty thousand per day, and add to it the fact that three of our weekly periodicals have an aggregate circulation of about one million, and then cipher, if you can, how far up, and how far down, and how far out, reach the influences of the American printing-press. Great God,

#### WHAT IS TO BE THE ISSUE

of all this? I believe the Lord intends the printing-press to be the chief means for the world's rescue and evangelization, and I think that the great last battle of the world will not be fought with swords and guns, but with types and presses-a purified and gospel literature triumphing over, trampling down, depraved. The only way to overcome reading of novels will be nerveless, in- that looks like a detained spectre of the rature

built his own monument in his books, which are a plea for the poor and the anathema of injustice.

Now, I say, books like these, read at right times, and read in right proportion with other books, cannot help but be ennobling and purifying; but, alas, for the loathsome and

IMPURE LITERATURE that has come upon this country, in the

shape of novels, like a freshet overflowing all the banks of decency and common sense! They are coming from some of the most celebrated publishing houses in the country. They are com-ing with recommendation of some of your centre-table to curse your children, and blast with their infernal fires generations unborn. You find these books in the desk of the school miss, in the trunk of the young man, in the steamboat cabin, on the table of the hotel reception-room. You see a light in your child's room late at night. You sudenough fuel to make a blaze two hun- did you get it?" "I borrowed it." Alas, there are always those abroad who would like to loan your son or daughter a bad book! Everywhere, everywhere, an unclean literature. I charge upon it the destruction of ten thousand immortal souls, and I bid you this morning wake up to the magnitude of the theme

I shall take all the world's literature good novels and bad, travels true and false, histories faithful and incorrect, legends beautiful and monstrous, all family, city, State, and national librapoint of time, at what far-out cycle of fallible, unmistakable Christian prinsternity will cease the influence of a ciples. God help me to speak with ref-Henry J. Raymond, or a Horace Gree- erence to my last account, and help you

> I charge you, in the first place, to stand aloof from all books that give

FALSE PICTURES OF LIFE.

Life is neither a tragedy nor a farce. Men are not all either knaves or heroes. Women are neither angels nor furies. And yet, if you depended upon much of the literature of the day, you would get the idea that life, instead of being something earnest, something practical, is a fitful and fantastic and extravagant thing. How poorly prepared are that young man and woman for the duties hands tremble as though a guardian of to-day, who spent last night wading through brilliant passages descriptive of magnificent knavery and wickedness! The man will be looking all day laughs with a shrill voice that drops dead

long for his heroine, in the tin-shop, by at its own sound. The sweat on her brow himself to be entangled in the specula-the forge, in the factory, in the count- is the spray dashed up from the river of tions of Constable. When every excuse ing room, and he will not find her, and death. The clock strikes "four," and has been made, this passion to heap up he will be dissatisfied. A man who the rosy dawn soon after begins to look money is the worst side of Sir Walter's and crushing out forever that which is gives himself up to the indiscriminate through the lattice upon the pale form character. It made him guilty of un-

novels are healthfully redolent with the sions. I do not refer now to that kind Beware of bad ones. The assassin of Lord Russell declared that he was led breath of the seaweed, and the air of of a book which the villain has under the American forest. Charles Kingsley his coat waiting for the school to get into crime by reading one vivid has smitten the morbidity of the world, out, and then, looking both ways to see romance. The consecrated John Angell and led a great many to appreciate the that there is no policeman around the James, than whom England never propoetry of sound health, strong muscles, block, offers the book to your son on his duced a better man, declared in his old and fresh air. Thackeray did a grand | way home. I do not speak of that kind | days, that he had never yet got over the work in caricaturing the pretenders to of literature, but that which evades the effects of having for fifteen minutes gentility and high blood. Dickens has law and comes out in polished style, and once read a bad book. But I need not with acute plot sounds the tocsin that go so far off. I could tell you of rouses up all the baser passions of the A COMRADE To-day, under the nostrils of this who was great-hearted, noble, and gen-

erous. He was studying for an honorland, there is a fetid, reeking, unwashed literature, enough to poison all the able profession; but he had an infidel book in his trunk, and he said to me fountains of public virtue, and smite one day, "DeWitt, would you like to read it?" I said, "Yes, I would." I your sons and daughters as with the wing of a destroying angel, and it is time that the ministers of the Gospel took the book and read it only for a few blew the trumpet and rallied the forces minutes. I was really startled with of righteousness, all armed to this great what I saw there, and I handed the

battle against a depraved literature. Again, abstain from those books

which are APOLOGETIC OF CRIME.

soul.

It is a sad thing that some of the best myth. He gave up God as a nonentity. our religious newspapers. They lie on and most beautiful bookbindery, and He gave up the Bible as a fable. He gave up the Church of Christ as a usesome of the finest rhetoric, have been brought to make sin attractive. Vice less institutiou. He gave up good is a horrible thing anyhow. It is born morals as being unnecessarily stringent. in shame, and it dies howling in the I have heard of him but twice in many darkness. In this world it is scourged years. The time before the last I heard years. The time before the last I heard with a whip of scorpions, but afterof him, he was a confirmed inebriate. ward the thunders of God's wrath pur-The last I heard of him, he was coming out of an insane asylum-in body, mind sue it across a boundless desert, beating denly go in, and say, "What are you doing?" "I am reading." "What are you reading?" "A book." You look I looking from behind embroidered cur-worlds. it with ruin and woe. When you come of bad books and newspapers. We have at the book; it is a bad book. "Where tains, or through lattice of royal seragyour library, and then, having looked lio, but as writhing in the agonies of a city hospital.

Cursed be the books that try to make where you keep your pictorials and impurity decent, and crime attractive, newspapers, and apply the Christian principles 1 have laid down this mornand hypocrisy noble! Cursed be the books that swarm with libertines and ing. If there is anything in your home desperadoes, who make the brain of the that cannot stand the test, do not give young people whirl with villainy! Ye it away, for it might spoil an immortal authors who write them, ye publishers | soul; do not sell it, for the money you who print them, ye booksellers who distribute them, shall be cut to pieces, if rather kindle a fire on your kitchen not by an aroused community, then at hearth, or in your back yard, and then last by the hail of divine vengeance, tracts, all chronicles, all epilogues, all which shall sweep to the lowest pit of perdition all ye murderers of souls. I one in Ephesus. responsible position; but I do not think | ries-and pile them up in a pyramid of | tell you, though you may escape in this literature, and then I shall bring to world, you will be ground at last under editor or a publisher. At what distant bear upon it some grand, glorious, in- the hoof of eternal calamities, and you will be

CHAINED TO THE ROCK.

and you will have the vultures of despair clawing at your soul, and those whom you have destroyed will come around to torment you, and to pour hotter coals of fury upon your head, and rejoice eternally in the outcry of your pain, and the howl of your damnation. 'God shall wound the hairy scalp of him that goeth on in his trespasses. The clock strikes midnight. A fair form bends over a romance. The eves flash fire. The breath is quick and irregular. Occasionally, the color dashes

to the cheek, and then dies out. The spirit were trying to shake THE DEADLY BOOK

out of the grasp. Hot tears fall. She by scattering ane, and a nuisance. He will be fit night. Soon in a madhouse she will

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1887. The Passover. LESSON TEXT. (Exod. 12: 1-14).

#### LESSON PLAN.

TOPIC OF THE QUARTER : Bondage and Deliverance.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER: There is no other God that can deliver after this sort. - Dan. 3:29.

LESSON TOPIC: Delivered from Death.

GOLDEN TEXT: Christ our passover

is sacrificed for us -1 Cor. 5:7.

DAILY HOME READINGS: M.-Exod. 12 : 1-14. Delivered from death.

T.--Exod. 12 : 21-36. Death of Egypt's first-born.

W.-Heb. 11:23-29. Kept through The passing over in Egypt (Exod. 12: faith. T.-Ezra 6 : 16-22. A joyous Pass-

over. F.-Luke 22 : 7-23. Christ's last

Passover. S .-- John 1 : 19-34. The Lamb of God.

6.-Rom. 8 : 31-39. Joy in deliverance.

### LESSON ANALYSIS. I. THE LAMB.

I. A Lamb Provided: They shall take to them every man a lamb (3).

God will provide himself the lamb (Gen. get would be the price of blood; but 22:8).

Draw out, and take you lambs (Exod. 12:21).

He was....as a lamb that is led to the slaughter (Isa. 53:7).

Behold, the Lamb of God (John 1: 36). II. A Lamb Without Blemish:

Your lamb shall be without blemish

A lamb.... without blemish, for a burnt offering (Lev. 9:3).

He-lambs without blemish (Lev. 14)

Christ....offered himself without blemish unto God (Heb. 9:14).

A lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet. 1:19).

III. A Lamb Slain:

at even (6).

A gentle lamb that is led to the slaughter (Jer. 11:19).

even Christ (1 Cor. 5:7)

A Lamb standing, as though it had been slain (Rev. 5:6).

The Lamb that hath been slain (Rev. 5:

become new.

man a lamb." (1) A universal ently, within two or three months. All peril; (2) An all-sufficient remedy; of them were of a most formidable

I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son (Mal. 3:17)

"Ye shall eat it in haste." (1) Ready for departure; (2) Awaiting the summons; (3) Glad to obey.

2. "I will ... smite all the firstborn." (1) An angry God; (2) A fearful

doom; (3) A sweeping blow. 3. "This day shall be anto you for a memorial." (1) Of grace to God's children; (2) Of vengeance to God's

foes. LESSON BIBLE READING. FEAST OF THE PASSOVER.

I. Law of the Passover:

Ordained of God (Exod. 12:14, 24:13: 9, 10).

Date of observance (Exod. 12:2, 6, 18; Lev. 23:4, 5).

Length of observance (Exod. 12:15,19; Lev. 23:6).

Titles (Exod. 12, 11, 27; John 2:23; John 11: 55; Luke 22: 1; Acts 12:3). All males attended (Exod. 23: 14-17;

Deut. 16:16). The prescribed food (Exod. 12:8, 15;

Deut. 16:3). 2. Lessons of the Passover:

26, 27). Deliverance from Egypt (Exod. 12:17,

42; Deut. 16:3). Symbol of redemption (1 Cor. 5:7,8).

3. Observances of the Passover:

In Egypt (Exod. 12: 28, 50; Heb. 11:

In the wilderness (Num. 9:1-5). On entering Canaan (Josh. 5: 10, 11). On returning from captivity (Ezra 6 : 19-22)

Recognized by Roman governors (Matt. 27:15).

Honored by the Lord Jesus (Matt. 26: 17-20; Luke 22 : 7-16; John 2 : 13, 23).

LESSON SURROUNDINGS.

The last lesson treated of the call of Moses to be the deliverer of the Hebrews; the present one describes the great festival divinely instituted at the conclusion of the first part of the work of Moses. The interval between the two lessons is filled with a record of mighty deeds wrought through Moses, in order to humble Pharaoh, and to make him willing to let the Lord's peo-

ple go. Moses was at first reluctant to undertake the commission given him in the desert, and his reluctance seems to have led to the division of his work with Aaron; but he accepted the position finally assigned to him, and he returned to Egypt accordingly. The first result of his appeal to Pharaoh was an aggra-The congregation of Israel shall kill it vation of the sufferings of the Hebrews, who were compelled to hunt straw or stubble for their brick-making, in addition to their former share of work. Our passover also hath been sacrificed, As a result, they spoke hardly of their would-be deliverer. Then commenced an extraordinary series of miraculous plagues, or strokes, on the Egyptians from the hand of the Lord. They were so performed as to be credentials of 1. "It shall be the first month of the Moses, as a true minister of Jehovah. year to you." (1) The old ended; They were ten in number. They dif-(2) The new begun.--(1) Old things fered each from all the others. They are passed away; (2) All things are were performed in swift succession several occurring at intervals of only a 2. "They shall take to them every week, and the whole completed, appar-

All men go to Abbotsford who go to that country at all, and yet the place is hardly to be looked at with patience. In spite of the trees which are always beautiful, it is one of the least beautiful spots on the Tweed. The bare hills

opposite were a fit scene for the savage

Abbotsford.

book back to him, and said, "You had better destroy that book." No, he

kept it. He read it. He re-read it.

After awhile he gave up religion as a

Go home to-day and look through

through your library, look on the stand

Brooklyn shall be as consuming as that

and futile battle in which Kerr of Cessford fell by "fierce Elliot's border spear," at the ford called "Turn Again." Sir Walter loved to think that he looked out on a spot where the history of his country had been made, but the saddest part of his own life is associated with the building of this showy house. It was to raise some such place as this that he sold himself to the task masters in Edinburgh who ruined him so cruelly. To make money, and found an estate therewith, he first became a partner with the Ballantynes, and then allowed himself to be entangled in the specula-

drop the poison in it, and the bonfire in

abroad that which is healthful. May God speed the cylinders of an honest, intelligent, aggressive Christian printing-press.

I have to tell you this morning that the greatest blessing that ever came to this nation is that of an elevated literature, and the greatest scourge has been that of unclean literature. This last has its victims in all occupations and departments. It has helped to fill insane asylums, and penitentraries, and almshouses, and dens of shame. The bodies of this infection lie in the hospitals and in the graves, while their souls are being tossed over into a lost eternity, an avalanche of horror and despair! The London plague was nothing to

That counted its victims by thousands, but

#### THIS MODERN PEST

nas already shovelled its millions into the charnel-house of the morally dead. The longest rail-train that ever ran over the Erie or Hudson tracks was not long enough or large enough to carry the beastliness and the putrefaction which have been gathered up in bad books and newspapers of this land in the last twenty years.

Now, it is amid such circumstances that I put this morning a question of overmastering importance to you and shape, and the same rules which will newspaper reading.

#### WHAT SHALL WE READ?

Shall our minds be the receptacle of everything that an author has a mind to write? Shall there be no distinction between the tree of life and the tree of death? Shall we stoop down and drink out of the trough which the wickedness of men has filled with pollution and shame? Shall we mire in impurity, and chase fantastic will-o'-the-wisps across the swamps, when we might walk in the blooming gardens of God? Oh, no! For the sake of our present and everlasting welfare we must make an intelligent and Christian choice. Standing, as we do, chia-deep in fictitious literature, the question that young people are asking is, "Shall we read

#### NOVELS?"

I reply, There are novels that are pure. good, Christian, elevating to the heart and ennobling to the life. But I have still further to say that I believe that ninety-nine out of the one hundred work of fiction is history and poetry combined. It is a history of things around us with the licenses and the as sumed names of poetry. The world can never pay the debt which it owes to such fictitious writers as Hawtborne and McKenzie, and Landon and Hunt, and Arthur and Marion Harland, and others, whose names are familiar to all. The follies of high life were never better exposed than by Miss Edgeworth. The memories of the past were never more faithfully embalmed than in the

neither for the store, nor the shop, nor mistake her ringlets for curling serthe daytime, when she ought to be voyage, all sail set? busy, staring by the half hour at There is one other quick.

The carpet that was plain before will be plainer after having wandered LASCIVIOUS PICTORIAL LITERATURE parks with plumed princesses, or desperado. Oh, these confirmed novelreaders! They are unfitted for this life, which is a tremendous dicipline. They know not how to go through the furpass, and they are unfitted for a world where everything we gain we achieve by hard and long-continuing work.

Again, abstain from all those books which, while they have some good things, have also

AN ADMIXTURE OF EVIL.

your families. What books and news- You have read books that had two apers shal we read? You see I group elements in them-the good and the hem together. A newspaper is only a bad. Which stuck to you? The bad! book in a swifter and more portable The heart of most people is like a sieve, which lets the small particles of gold apply to book-reading will apply to fall through, but keeps the great cinders. Once in a while there is a mind like a loadstone which, plunged amid steel and brass filings, gathers up the attempt to plunge through a hedge of burrs to get one blackberry, you will get more burrs than blackberries. You cannot afford to read a bad book, however good you are. You say, "The influence is insignificant." I tell you that the scratch of a pin has sometimes produced the lock-jaw. Alas, if through curiosity, as many do, you pry into an evil book, your curiosity is as dangerous as that of the man who would take a torch into a gunpowder-mill of death holds a banquet every night, merely to see whether it would really and these periodicals are the invitation blow up or not.

In a menagerie in New York, a man put his arm through the bars of a bla k looked so sleek and bright and beautiful. He just stroked it once. The monster seized him and he drew forth a hand torn, and mangled, and bleeding. Oh, touch not evil, even with the faintnovels in this day are baleful and de-structive to the last degree. A pure and beautiful, touch it not, lest you pull forth your soul torn and bleeding under the clutch of the black leopard. knew an exception-something suspicious in the index or style of illustration. This venomous reptile always carries a warning rattle.

> Again, I charge you to stand off from all those

BOOKS WHICH CORRUPT writings of Walter Scott. Cooper's the imagination and inflame the pasy i Cherish good books and newspapers.

the field. A woman who gives herself pents, and thrust her white hand up to the indiscriminate reading of through the bars of the prison, and movels will be unfitted for the duties of smite her head, rubbing it back as is the outward and visible sign of all wife, mother, sister, daughter. There though to push the scalp from the skull, this. There it stands, a big, showy, she is, hair dishevelled, countenance shrieking, "My brain! my brain!" Oh, vacant, cheeks pale, hands trembling, stand off from that! Why will you go what vulgar house. It is just such a L The Blood Shed: bursting into tears at midnight over sounding your way amid the reefs when the fate of some unfortunate lover; in there is a vast ocean in which you may

There is one other thing I shall say nothing; biting her finger-nails into the this morning before I leave you, whether you want to hear it or not. That is, that I consider the

through a romance all night long in of the day as most tremendous for ruin. tessellated halls of castles. And your There is no one who can like good picindustrious companion will be more tures better than I do. The quickest unattractive than ever, now that you and most condensed way of impressing have walked in the romance through the public mind is by picture. What the painter does by his brush for a few ounged in the arbor with the polished favorites, the engraver does by his knife for the million. What the author accomplishes by fifty pages, the artist does by a flash. The best part of a painting that costs ten thousand dollars you may naces of trial through which they must | buy for ten cents. Fine paintings belong to the aristocracy of art. Engravings belong to the democracy of art. | ered by his hand in Italy after the intel-You do well to gather good pictures in vour homes.

But what shall I say of

THE PROSTITUTION OF ART to purpose's of iniquity? These deathwarrants of the soul are at every street corner. They smite the vision of the young man with pollution. Many a young man buying a copy has bought his eternal discomfiture. There may be enough poison in one bad picture to poison one soul, and that soul may poison ten, and ten fifty, and the fifty hundreds, and the hundreds thousands, steel and repels the brass. But it is until nothing but the measuring line of generally exactly the opposite. If you eternity can tell the height and depth and ghastliness and horror of the great undoing. The work of death that the wicked author does in a whole book, the bad engraver may do on a half side of a pictorial. Under the guise of pure mirth, the young man buys one of these sheets. He unrolls it before his comrades amid roars of laughter, but long after the paper is gone the result may, perhaps, be seen in the blasted imaginations of those who saw it. The queen to her guests.

Young man, buy not this MORAL STRYCHNINE

leopard's cage. The animal's hide for your soul! Pick not up this nest of coiled adders for your pocket! Patronize no news-stand that keeps them! Have your room bright with good engravings, but for these outrageous pictorials have not one wall, not one bureau, not one pocket. A man is no better than the pictures he loves to look at. If your eyes are not pure, your heart cannot be. At a news-stand one "But," you say, "how can I find out whether a book is good or bad without kind of pictorial he purchases. When reading it?" There is always something the devil fails to get a man to read a suspicious about a bad book. I never | bad book, he sometimes succeeds in getting him to look at a bad picture WHEN SATAN GOES A-FISHING

he does not care whether it is a long line or a short line, if he only draws his victim in. Beware of lascivious pictorials, young man, in the name of Almighty God I charge you.

worthy concealments, of compromising alliances of frantic expedients to ward off the evil day at last. It is the cause of everything in his life which has been deemed to require excuse. Abbotsford and, to speak the plain truth, a someplace as a foolish laird with a passion for building would inflict on his unfortunate heirs. The imitation of the seventeenth century style of building is conspicuous; there are succo turrets and useless excretcences and manifest copies everywhere. It can hardly be said even to belong to his representatives. One great cantle of it, and that the part which contains Sir Walter's dearest rooms, his library, his armory, the drawing-room in which he died, is a public show. He broke down in the desperate effort to keep these things from passing into the hands of strangers, and now they are a little local museum haunted by the tourist. It is a very painful place to go into. The very books locked up forever in their cases and nearly useless are a dismal spectacle; and worst of all is the beap of illegible manuscript covlect was dead.

#### The Best Way for Farmers to Fight Dealers in Adulterated Goods.

Prof. A. J. Cook points out the fact that while comparatively little genuine maple syrup is made, it is well-nigh impossible to go into any of the thousands of grocery stores in this country without finding plenty of jars marked "Pure Maple Syrup." It is a story of fraud and adulteration as wicked as that practiced by the oleomargarine people. Glucose sells for less than 20 cents per gallon. Mixed and doctored with a little maple flavoring, it is sold for \$1.00. This glucose is made from corn. The grain is ground, the starch washed out and heated with sulphuric acid. The acid is afterward removed by the use of lime, but the consumer never knows how complete this removal is or whether any of the acid remains in the glucose he is called upon to cat. When poorly prepared-and the consumer never knows when this condition occurs-glucose contains a virulent poison which will surely injure the system. Makers of pure maple sugar must convince the r patrons of their honesty. The sweet they prepare in its pure state will always command the highest price, for it is a delicate luxury. The best way to fight the bogus dealers is to warrant every can as strictly pure, to observe the most scrupulous honesty and to advertise in an attractive way.

A woman who bought an oldfashioned bureau at a second-hand store in Cincinnati discovered a secret drawer in it which contained \$1,300 in gold and

The unsuccessful striver may lose his property, his situation, his means of livelihood; all his plans may come to naught and all his efforts be frustrated; but until he lose his courage, he has not lost all.

3) A saving a

'Your lamb shall be without blemish." (1) A symbol of ceremonial purity; (2) A symbol of purity in Christ

IL. THE BLOOD.

They shall take of the blood (7). Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons (Exod. 24:6).

This is my blood of the covenant (Mark 14:24). Apart from shedding of blood there is

no remission (Heb. 9:22). Whose blood is brought into the holy place (Heb, 13:11).

#### II. The Blood Sprinkled:

They shall . . . put it on the two side bosts and on the lintel (7).

Half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar (Exod. 24:6). Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it

on the people (Exod, 24:8).

By faith he kept . . . the sprinkling of the blood (Heb. 11:28).

The blood of sprinkling (Heb. 12:24). III. The Flesh Eaten:

They shall eat the flesh in that night (8).

Thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded (Exod. 12:11).

Go and make ready ... the passover, that we may eat (Luke 22:8).

I have desired to eat this passover with you (Luke 22 : 15).

That they might . . . eat the passover (John 18:28). "They shall take of the blood,"

(1) The blood; (2) The taking; (3) The sprinkling; (4) The preservation.-(1) Gracious provision; (2) Believing appropriation; (3) Glorious salvation.

2. "They shall eat the flesh in that night," (1) Defended by the blood; (2) Strengthened by the flesh.

With bitter herbs they shall eat it." (1) As a reminder of bitter bondage; (2) As a zest to sweet deliverance.

III. THE PASSOVER.

I. Terrific Doom: I will go through . . . and will smite

all the firstborn (12). All the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die (Exod. 11:5).

The Lord smote all the firstborn in the land (Exod. 12 : 29).

There was not a house where there was \_\_\_\_\_ not one dead (Exod. 12:30).

He smote .... the chief of all their strength (Psa. 105:36).

II. Saving Blood: When I see the blood, I will pass over

vou (13). When he seeth the blood ... the Lord will pass over (Exod. 12 : 23).

This is my blood ... which is shed for many (Matt. 26 : 28).

The blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us (1 John 1:7).

Loosed us from our sins by his blood (Rev. 1:5).

III. Sparing Grace:

lestroy you (13). I will spare all the place for their sake

(Gen. 18:26). I will put a division between my people

haracter These plagues were intended to show the supremacy of Jehovah over all nature. He was not simply a national deity, but One to whom all the active agencies in the universe are subject. This was clearly manifested by the wide sweep of the judgments, affecting land and water, vegetable and animal life, the comfort and even the existence of man and beast. The plagues were, in a peculiar sense, an exhibit of the powerlessness of the gods of Egypt. The idolatry of the Egyptians had assumed the form of nature-worship, and their divinities were all associated with the Nile, or the earth, or some of the numberless forms of animated existence. When these, one after another, were struck by a resistless hand, there was a judgment executed "upon all the gods of Egypt." They were shown to be "things of nought," or nonentities (Psa. 96 : 5, Rev. Ver., marg.)

Along with this demonstration against idolatry was an exposure of the emptiness of magic arts. It matters not, in this view of the case, whether we consider the magicians of Egypt simply as skillful adepts in sleight of hand, as we know that at the present day that land shows wonderful exploits in legerdemain, or whether we adopt the view that Satan was allowed to assist his disciples then, as he was afterwards allowed to do, in New Testament times, by demoniacal possessions. In either case the defeat of "Jannes and Jambres" (2 Tim. 3: 8) and the other sorcerers was complete ; they being compelled to say, when the third plague occurred, "This is the finger of God." There was also a thorough humiliation of Egypt as represented in the person of its sovereign.

It is said that in the progress of these plagues "Pharaoh's heart was hardened" (Exod. 7: 22; 8: 19); again, that "Pharaoh hardened his heart" (Exod. 8:15, 32;9:34); and yet again, that "the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh" (Exod. 9: 12; 11: 10). All these statements are in accordance with the simple truth, that in the order of God's providence a heart that resists the pressure of God's hand upon it grows hard instead of tender under that pressure. At last, however, there was to come such a stroke as even a heart of stone must feel. The first-born in every home in Egypt was to die in a single night ; "from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maid-servant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of cattle," That plague was to make Pharaoh and all his people urgent that the Hebrews, whose detention was a cause of such a judgment, should go away, as they desired.

It is at this point that the lesson opens, with the Lord's directions for the guarding of the homes of the Hebrews against a share in the plague be was to send upon Egypt. The place is Goshen in eastern Lower Egypt. The There shall no plague be upon you to time is, according to the chronology of our Bible margins, B. C. 1491.

There is a great deal of cheap counsel about being contented with one's lot. and thy people (Exod. 8:23). A difference between the Egyptians and Israel (Exod. 11:7). Out upon that contentment that is satisfied with the imperfect ! It is a sign of weakness, not of wisdom.

# Queer Things About Money.

# old bank bills.