GOOD INFLUENCES.

Dr. Talmage Talks About the Mission of the "Writer's lakhorn."

flow It Makes For the World's Betterment -The Inkstand of the World's Evangelization.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In a new way and from a peculiar text Dr. Talmage discourses of good influences brought to bear for the world's improvement. The text is Ezekiel ix, 2, "And one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side."

The poem from which my text is taken is epic, lyric, dramatic, weird and overpowering. It is more than Homeric or Dantesque. No one ever had such divine dreams as Ezekiel. In a vision this prophet had seen wrathful angels, destroying angels, each with a sword, but in my text he sees a merciful angel with an inkhorn. The receptacle for the ink in olden

horn. The receptacle for the ink in olden time was made out of the horn of a cow time was made out of the horn of a cow or a ram or a roebuck, as now it is made out of metal or glass, and therefore was called the inkhorn, as now we say inkstand. We have all spoken of the power of the sword, of the power of wealth, of the power of office, of the power of social influence, but to-day I speak of the power for good or evil in the inkstand. It is upon your tables, holding a black or blue or red liquid. It is a fortress, an armory, a gateway, a ranson or a demolition. "You mistake," says some ene. "It is the pen that has the power." No, my friend. What is the influence of a dry pen? Pass it up and down a sheet of paper, and it leaves no mark. It expresses no opinion. It gives no warning. It spreads no intelligence. It is the liquid which the pen dips out of the inkstand that does the work. Here and there a celebrated pen, with Here and there a celebrated pen, with which a Declaration of Independence or a Magna Charta or a treaty was signed has been kept in literary museum or national archives, but for the most part the pens, whether, as of old, made out of reed or later of wing of bird or still later of metallic substance, have disappeared, while the liquid which the pens took from the inkstand remains in scrollc which, if put together, would be large enough to en-wrap the round world. For practical, for moral, for religious, for eternal purposes, speak of the mission of "the writer's

First, I mention that which is purely domestic. The inkstand is in every house-hold. It awaits the opportunity to ex-press affection or condolence or advice. Father uses it; mother uses it; the sons and daughters use it. It tells the home news; it announces the marriage, the birth, the departure, the accident, the last sickness, the death. That home inkstand what a mission it has already executed, and what other missions will it yet fulfill! May it stand off from all insincerity and all querulousness. Let it tell only that which it would be well to read after the hand that wrote it and the hand that received it can write no more. Dip out of that inkstand only that which is paternal, maternal, filial, sisterly, brotherly. Sacred the tit be, not to what are sometimes called the "household gods," but to the one and the only God who "setteth the solitary in families." Dip out of it solace for parents on the descending grade of years and encouragement for those who are climbing

The carvers and glass blowers are ever busy making more ornate and skillful bowls for the ink, but not one of them will be so sacred as the old fashioned inkstand out of which was dipped the liquid for the making of the family record on the blank leaves in the Bible between the Old and the New Testaments, not so many leaves now blank as before recent years made bitthey or morturery insertions. birthday or mortuary insertions. From that home inkstand the child dips out material for those large and awkward letters that one always makes when learning to write, and from it are taken the trembling letters that show the wrinkled hand is gradually forgetting its cunning.

Oh, ye who have with recent years set homes of your own, out of the new home inkstand write often to the old folks, if they be still living. A letter means more to them than to us, who are amid the ac-tivities of life and to whom postal correspondence is more than we can manage They await the coming of the letter. Undertake no great thing in life without their advice. Old people for counsel, young peo-ple for action. Even though through decadence they may be incompetent to give valuable opinions on important affairs, compliment them by asking their counsel. It will do them good; it will make their last days exhilarant. Make that home inkstand a source of rejuvenescence to those who are near the terminus of the earthly journey. Domestic correspondence is not attended to at once. The newspaper, joining with the telegraph, bears the tidings of all the neighborhood, but swiftest revolving wheel of modern printing press and quickest flash along the electric wires can never do the sympathetic work of the home inkstand. As the merciful angel of my text appeared before the brazen altar with the inkhorn at his side in Ezekiel's vision, so let the angel of filial kindness appear at the altars of the old homestead.

Furthermore, the inkstand of the business man has its mission. Between now and the hour of your demise, O commercial man, O professional man, there will not be a day when you cannot dip from who are near the terminus of the earthly

not be a day when you cannot dip from the inkhorn a message that will influence temporal and eternal destiny. There is a rash young man running into wild specu-lation, and with as much ink as you can but on the pen at one time you may save him from the Niagara rapids of a ruined life. On the next street there is a young life. On the next street there is a young man started in business who through lack of patronage or mistake in purchase of goods or want of adaptation is on the brink of collapse. One line of ink from your pen will save him from being an underling all his life and start him on a career that will win him a fortune which will enable him to become an endower of libraries, an opener of art galleries and

libraries, an opener of art galleries and builder of churches.

The most largely successful and useful men of our time once wore an old coat because they could not afford a new one, and got wages less than that which they pay their cook or butler. It will be a mighty thing if out of your inkstand you can dip a man's earthly and everlasting fortune. Dip out of that inkstand not one word of disheartenment. People have enough burdens to carry without your adding one ounce to the heft. From your inkstand put not one blot on an honest ambition. Keep all the whole of your factory spinning rays of sunshine. If you are a Christian man, put into your business letters an adroit, moral, religious suggestion that will keep the receiver thinking after he has left the counting room for his aome and far on into the night when he lies upon a wakeful pillow. To-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, as you begin to answer your letters, you will have on the nib f your pen enough ink to save a soul from leath and hide a multitude of sins.

Furthermore, great are the responsibilities of the author's inkhorn. All the people, or nearly all the people, read, and that which they read decides their morals or mmorals, their prosperity or failure, their aith or their unbelief, their purity or corpuption, their heaven or hell. Show me any man's library, great or small, and after examining the books, finding those with eaves uncut, but displayed for sake of the binding, and those worn with frequent erusal, and without ever seeing the man or knowing his name, I will tell you his likes and his dislikes, his morals, good or pad or indifferent, his qualifications for business or artistic or professional or methanical life. The best index to any man's haracter is the book he prefers above all others. Oh, the power of a book for good men of our time once wore an old coat because they could not afford a new one,

Abraham Lincoln in early life read Paine's "Age of Reason," and it so influenced him that he wrote an essay against Christianity. But afterward some Christian books came into his hands and gloriously changed his mind and made him a most ardent friend of the Bible and a man of prayer. A letter in Mr. Lincoln's own handwriting is in my house, the letter in response to some resolutions passed by a Methodist conference, saying: "In response to your address allow me to attest the ac-Methodist conference, saying: "In response to your address allow me to attest the accuracy of its historical statements, indorse the sentiments it expresses and thank you in the nation's name for the sure promise it gives. Nobly sustained as the Government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might in the least appear invidious against any. Yet without this it may fairly be said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the best. said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the best is by its great numbers the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the than any. God bless the Methodist church, bless all the churches, and blessed be God, who in this, our great trial, givity with the churches.

What a great thing it was that the Christian books which Mr. Lincoln read obliterated from his mind the infidel literature! William Carey became a missionary by reading "The Voyages of Washing Carey" life years. literature! William Carey became a missionary by reading "The Vovages of Captain Cook." John Wesley's life was shaped by reading Jeremy Taylor's "Holy Living and Dying." There are books in your library or lying on your parlor table or secreted in some place by your child that will decide for two worlds, this and the part the character of the this and the next, the character of its

When a bad book is printed, you do well to blame the publisher, but most of all blame the author. The malaria rose from his inkstand; the poison that caused the moral or spiritual death dropped in the fluid from the tip of his pen. The manufluid from the tip of his pen. The manufacturer of that ink could tell you that it is made of tannin and salt of iron and nut galls and green vitriol, but many an author has dipped from his inkstand hyper-criticism and malevolence and slander nd salaciousness, as from a fountain of

Among the most important are the edi-Among the most important are the editorial and reportorial inkstands. The thick ink on the printer's roller is different from the ink into which the writer dips his pen and is compounded of linseed oil and lampblack and made thick by boiling or burning. But the editorial and reportorial pens are responsible for that which the printer's ink roller impresses upon the flying sheets. Where one man reads a book, 5000 men read a newspaper. What change of opinion in regard to the printing press since the day when the great Addison wrote concerning it, "One great Addison wrote concerning it, "One cannot but be sorry that such a pernicious machine is erected among them." and when, under the reign of Charles II., only one newspaper, the London Gazette, was allowed to be printed, and that only on Mondays and Thursdays! Not until the judgment day, when the forces which have influenced the world shall be compared and announced, will be known the power of the modern newspaper.

Thomas Guthrie dipped into it and brought up "The Gospel In Ezekiel." John Cumming dipped into it and brought up

Cumming dipped into it and brought up "The Apocalypse." Oh, the opulence of Christian literature! Oh, the mighty streams of evangelistic power that have poured from the writer's inkhorn that appeared in Evalual's region! peared in Ezekiel's vision!

While you recognize the distinguished ones who have dipped into the inkstand of the world's evangelization do not for-get that there are hundreds of thousands of unknown men and women who are engaged in inconspicuous ways doing the same thing. How many anxious mothers writing to the boys in town! How many sisters writing encouragement to brothers far away! How many invalids bolstered up in bed, the inkhorn on the stand at their side, writing letters of condolence to those worse off than themselves! They are flying all the time kind words, gospel words, helpful words, saving words.

Call the evangelistic inkhorn into serv-

ice in the early morning, when you feel well, and you are grateful for the protecwell, and you are grateful for the protec-tion during your sleeping hours, and write before you retire at close of day to those who all night long will be saying, "Would to God it were morning!" How many bruised and disappointed and wronged souls of earth would be glad to get a let-ter from you! Stir up that consolatory inchorn

All Christendom has been waiting for great revivals of religion to start from the pulpist and prayer meetings. I now suggest that the greatest revival of all time may start from a concerted and organized movement through the inkhorns of all Christendom each writer light of all Christendom, each writer dipping from the inkhorn nearest him a letter of gospel invitation, gospel hope, gospel warning, gospel instruction. The ink is all ready on a hundred thousand tables, and beside it are the implements with which to dip it out. Why not through such process have millions of souls brought to God before next summer? By letter you could make the invitation was effective. God before next summer? By letter you could make the invitation more effective than by word of mouth. The invitation from your lips may be argued back, may evoke querulous reply, may be answered by a joke, but a good, warm, gospel letter, written in prayer, and started with prayer, and followed by prayer, will be read over and over again and cannot be answered in a frivolous way.

a frivolous way.

Within arm's reach of where you sit there may be a fluid that you may put on wing with message of light and love. Oh, for the swift flying angel of mercy which Ezekiel saw in vision "with a writer's ink-

for the swift flying angel of mercy which Ezekiel saw in vision "with a writer's inkhorn by his side."

The other angels spoken of in my text were destroying angels, and each had what the Bible calls a "slaughter weapon" in his hand. It was a lance or a battleax or a sword. God hasten the time when the last lance shall be shivered, and the last battleax dulled, and the last sword sheathed, and the angel of the text, who Matthew Henry says was the Lord Jesus Christ, shall from the full inkhorn of His mercy give a saving call to all nations. That day may be far off, but it is helpful to think of its coming.

As Dr. Raleigh declared that when thirty-six miles at sea off the coast of New Everland the

ty-six miles at sea off the coast of New England the cattle on board the ship as well as himself scented the clover on the New England hills, s, we amid all the tossing waves of the world's controversies inhale the redolence of the white lilies of universal peace. universal peace.

hale the redolence of the white lilies of universal peace.

If our Bible is true—and no other book that was ever printed is as true as that book, which Moses began and John finished—then the time will come when all the weapons of cruelty will stop, and the inkhorns of evangelization will have their way. In the museums of the world the carbine and the cannon and the bomb will be kept as curiosities, and children will be incredulous as parents tell them that civilized nations once employed such instruments of death, and more incredulous when told by their parents that the army that killed the most men was considered the most glorious army. The red horse of carnage that St. John saw in vision and the black horse of famine and the pale horse of death will be stabled, and the white horse of prosperity and peace, mounted by the King of Kings, will lead the great army with banners. Through the convicting, converting, sanctifying power of the Eternal Spirit may we all march in that procession! Hail, thou Mighty Rider of the white horse in the final triumph! Sweep down and sweep by, thou Angel of the New Covenant, with the inkhorn of the world's evangelization! "The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the mytle tree, and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

PENNSYLVANIA NEWS.

The Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Over the State.

WON'T ASSESS THE CARNEGIE MEN.

It Is Believed the Income From the \$4,000,000 Fund Will Be Sufficient to Provide Pensions -- Twice Struck by Lightning -- Claimant of Defunct Trust Company Clamoring for \$65,000 -- Dairymen Organize.

President C. M. Schwab, of the Carnegie Company, on his return to Pittsburg said that a meeting of company officials would be held shortly to act on the pension plan involved in Mr. Carnegie's donation of \$4,000,000, the interest on which is to be used for such purpose. It was learned authoritatively that there would be no assessment feature in the plan. The best that is possible will be done with the \$200,ooq annually coming from the bonds It is believed that the income from the fund will be sufficient, as the money is intended only to supplement what the company already regularly does for the ictims of accidents. The report that Carnegie intended to endow the Polytechnic School which he has founded with \$25,000,000 is denied as absurd by those in a position to know. Mr. Carnegie will doubtless care for the chool as its requirements may arise in the future on the same system by which he has from time to time added to the Carnegie Institute Endowment fund,

During a thunderstorm at Sharon Mrs. Archibald Rankin, aged 65 years, received a violent shock from lightning, totally paralyzing her. When restored to consciousness she was subected to a sensation of prickly heat, resembling being punctured by the points of a thousand needles. Some years ago Mrs. Rankin was severely shocked by lightning, since which time she has een exceedingly sensitive and susceptible to its influence. She has been styled "the human magnet" on account i her keen susceptibility to all electrical disturbances. For years she has been compelled to sleep in a bed on the legs of which are glass insulators. She also sits in an insulated chair. Her case has been a puzzle to doctors gener-

The stockholders and depositors in the defunct Chester County Guarantee Safe Deposit and Trust Company are wanting another dividend or division of what is left of the wreck. The affairs of the concern have been in the hands receivers for over four years, during which time 30 per cent, has been divided among the claimants. Now there is about \$65,000 more in the hands of the receivers and those interested are clamoring for it.

To fight the Philadelphia milk dealers more successfully and to promote the dairymen's interests generally, a meeting was held at Chadd's Ford. After discussing methods to be adopted y the shippers, the following officers were elected upon what is considered a rotective platform: President, Albert Huey, Lenape; vice-president, James Kirkpatrick, Brandywine Summit; secretary, George Byers, Brandywine Summit; treasurer, Joseph P. Williams,

of same place. W. D. Brisbin, while collecting mail in the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Rail-road yards at McKeesport, made a ghastly discovery of a dead man sitting on top of a box car pinned to the upright brake. Upon investigation it was ound that the man had been struck by a beam of a bridge fifteen miles below The top of his head was knocked off. It was learned afterward that the man was John B. Nefcy, of

Driftwood, Pa. It is feared that Edward Kuhn, a wealthy and retired farmer living at Oakville, has been murdered and his body cast into the Loyalhanna creek. Three days ago he left home with a large amount of money to pay a contractor several miles away. It developed that he was last seen in company with three men near the bank of the The creek is being dragged for Kuhn's body.

The Central Labor Union, at a meeting at Wilkesbarre, determined to make an investigation regarding the ages of children employed at the factories and breakers in that valley. Factory Inspector Campbell will aid the union in discovering and punishing parents who have falsely sworn as to the ages of their children in order to secure em-

A mine prop gave way in a heading at Hickory Swamp colliery, Shamokin, and tons of coal and rock rushed out and completely buried George Ramsey and William Blyler. After a rescuing party had worked over eight hours Ramsey was found dead. His companon was taken out in a dying condition.

Peter McCann, a resident of Green-field, who was arrested by Detective Neary in Wilkesbarre on the charge of robbery, committed suicide in the jail by hanging himself with a pair of sus-penders. McCann's body was found by Chief of Police McAndrews. McCann was perfectly sane when arrested, but had been drinking hard last night.

Easton has declined to accept a public library from Andrew Carnegie, who offered to donate \$50,000 for the purpose if the city would maintain the institution. There is much disappointment over the fact that the Board of Control voted not to levy a tax sufficient to support the library.

Jesse Shoop, aged 16 years, son of Harry Shoop, of Steelton, while riding on a freight train fell off near the Pennsylvania Railroad Station and was instantly killed.

The body of an unknown man was found floating in the river ten miles above Lock Haven by the crew of a raft. The body was taken ashore and an inquest will be held.

A number of capitalists of Wilkesbarre have obtained the right of way for building an electric road around Harvey's Lake and will complete it by July.

One man was killed and two fatally njured on the railroad near Greensburg. George Lindsey, 28 years old, living at Crabtree, met instant death. John Skutchell, a Johnstown brakeman, and George Bradley, of Hermbinie, were crushed so badly that death is ex-

By the will of Laura H. Witmer, of Laneaster, \$500 is bequeathed to Long-necker's Mennonite Meeting House.

The Testimony

Of many thousands who use and have used Crab Orchard Water in various diseases, would warrant anyone in giving it a trial.

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Many mothers hesitate to take their daughters to a physician for examination; but no mother need hesitate to write freely about her daughter or herself to Mrs. Pinkham and secure the most efficient advice without Mrs. Pinkham's address is Lynn, Mass.



Mrs. August Pfalzgraf, of South Byron, Wis., mother of the young lady whose portrait we here publish, wrote Mrs. Pinkham in January, 1899, saying her daughter had suffered for two years with irregular menstruation— had headache all the time, and pain in her side, feet swell. and was generally miserable. Mrs. Pinkham promptly replied with advice, and under date of March, 1899, the mother writes again that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cured her daughter of all

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