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to good readers. It is not a practice with teachers, to re-pupils to commit to memory in the preliminary exercises, and read over the extracts. This is done with a vague was the author's design to have less and examples used, and no of accomplishing that design.

Having disposed of the what, he next proceeded to consider the where of the interest in the reading exercise in acquitting themselves come careless, expressionless words, but not readers. And vainly wish their pupils would read better. The simple and only remedy for this general and crying evil is drilling. Teachers must address themselves to the subject in good earnest, must carefully and thoroughly study the best treatises they can procure which relate to education; if nothing else is accessible, they should study the introduction to any good series of readers and gain all the knowledge desirable from that source. They should practice the examples given, repeating them until perfectly able to exemplify to a class the idea which the author wished to convey. They should be careful to have the lessons well studied, both by their scholars, and by themselves, unless they are fully competent to instruct without such preparation, and then they should have every sentence well read before proceeding to the sentence following. Not merely errors of accent, and omission or insertions of words, should be corrected; but defective inflection, and faulty emphasis and imperfect modulation, should be pointed out, and the correct rendering of the passage should be given by the teacher, then by the pupils. No anxiety to finish a lesson must be permitted to interfere with the necessary drilling.

This is a subject requiring immediate and earnest attention from every teacher, and I cannot too urgently request all teachers who read this article, to use every effort to improve the reading of their pupils. They will find this labor a little arduous at first, but it surely will be rewarded with success; if not by better reading, the conscientious effort will be its own rich reward.

MORAL & RELIGIOUS

What and Where is Heaven--and Other Reflections.

Extract from a Sermon by the Rev. E. E. Adams, Pastor of North Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Phila.

The preacher read the whole of the 12th chapter of Second Corinthians, of which verses 2, 3, and 4 constituted his text, commenting as he proceeded. These expository introductory readings, when done with ability, constitute a most profitable and important part of divine services, and should be generally adopted. The words of his text proper were as follows:

"I knew a man above fourteen years ago, whether in the body I cannot tell; whether out of the body I cannot tell: God knoweth; such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth: how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

Mr. Adams, in commenting, said he hoped there would be something practicable in his sermon, though there would be in it some speculation. His purpose in selecting this theme was to consider the abode of holiness in the future life, and the obligations which it suggested to the mind of Christians.

The first division of his subject was the following interrogatory,

WHAT AND WHERE IS HEAVEN?

In answering this, he said it could not be denied that our ideas in this matter were extremely vague. There was nothing fixed in its contemplation; it was stretched out before the spiritual eye like a lovely landscape, overshadowed by a mist of glory. This much, however, he held to be demonstrable: that heaven was not merely a state, but a place. In the philosophy of the Jews there had been three heavens--to which Paul had probably reference in the text. The first was the surrounding atmosphere, in which birds fly; the second was the sideral heavens, the region of the stars; and the third was the heaven of heavens, the abode of the Eternal. Paradise and the third heaven were the same, the heaven where Jesus had ascended from the cross. That it was a locality, was established by the word of the Saviour to His disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you," &c.

Again, the speaker argued that heaven was a locality necessarily, from the fact that its inhabitants are to have bodies. He held, moreover, that the soul in its disembodied state, even before the resurrection, could not be contemplated in utter and complete isolation from matter. Some persons, he knew, were startled at the idea

of the eternity of matter. Yet light was material, and heaven was represented as filled with light. Nor was there a single expression in the Scriptures to prove the non-eternity of matter. Matter was not necessarily contaminating. When Adam was in his holy (innocent) state, the place of his dwelling had been material.

In the description of what heaven is, and what it is not, in its moral aspect, the speaker was eloquent, evincing extraordinary imaginative and lingual powers. Having disposed of the what, he next proceeded to consider the where of the interest in the reading exercise in acquitting themselves come careless, expressionless words, but not readers. And vainly wish their pupils would read better. The simple and only remedy for this general and crying evil is drilling. Teachers must address themselves to the subject in good earnest, must carefully and thoroughly study the best treatises they can procure which relate to education; if nothing else is accessible, they should study the introduction to any good series of readers and gain all the knowledge desirable from that source. They should practice the examples given, repeating them until perfectly able to exemplify to a class the idea which the author wished to convey.

The beautiful astronomical theory which is gradually approximating positive demonstration--that all the various systems of the universe revolve around one common centre--was taken up by Mr. Adams at this point, presented in its peculiar bearing upon the subject under discussion. If it were true that the central orb bore a similar relation in magnitude to all the bodies revolving around it, which the sun of our system sustained to the planets and satellites--being five hundred times greater in bulk than all the latter combined--that great central luminary would indeed constitute a fitting world for the abode of the Eternal. This thought, he held, was one of overwhelming sublimity, and the discoveries of science tended to confirm its truth. The motion of certain fixed stars, for example, could not be explained upon any other grounds. The star Arcturus had within the last seventy years been found to vary its position about three minutes and thirty seconds, and the noted variation of other bodies tended alike to show that there is a universal motion of the stars. So deeply was the preacher impressed with the correctness of the central-heaven idea as the capital of the universe, that he assumed it to have been the heaven into which the Apostle Paul had been mysteriously caught up when he heard those words which it was not possible for a man to utter.

Under the second head of his discourse was considered the blessedness of a more distinct apprehension of heaven in this life.

The third part was devoted to an examination of the discipline which Christians need who entertain these views of the mission which awaits them. Paul, for example, after having his mind enlightened in this matter by a heavenly vision, had given to him "a messenger of affliction." And the same discipline was necessary for the wisest and most beneficent purpose. Without this, we should be rendered utterly unfit for our earthly duties.

In the next place, the preacher considered the influence which such special views ought to have upon the subsequent course of those who receive them, in this life. Under this head the preacher administered a severe rebuke to the pretensions of modern spiritualism. Paul had not felt called upon to boast of having received a new revelation after his remarkable vision. Fourteen years had elapsed before he ever mentioned it; and then it was not to proclaim a means of intercourse between the living and the dead. On the other hand, Paul had discontinued the idea that any kind of ministrations to his brethren in the body, after his own separation from it, was possible; hence his allegation that "to remain with you is more profitable."

And surely, if so good a man as Paul could not hold intercourse with the living, after his departure to another sphere, it was not probable that others were admitted to such a privilege, and he, therefore, proclaimed boldly, that if there was any such connection between the living and the dead, it was infernal, for it was by God forbidden.

His final thought was, that by contrast, if heaven was a place, the abode of the lost must also be a locality--in which souls would not only be rendered wretched by their own history and memories, but by their horrible surroundings. One was a palace, the other a prison--a rayless tomb; in one the inhabitants rejoiced; in the other they wept; in one there was endless bliss; in the other sadness and woe unspeakable; above was heaven, below was hell.

All who heard him were on their way either to one of these or the other, and every one carried in his own heart the answer to this momentous question: "Am I a believer in Jesus as my Saviour, or am I not?"

NEWS FROM THE GREAT FLEET.

The Official Despatches.

The following are the official despatches to the Navy Department:

UNITED STATES FLAG SHIP WABASH, OFF HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL HARBOR, NOVEMBER 6th, 1861.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

Sir--The Government having determined to seize and occupy one or more important points upon our Southern coast, where our squadrons might find shelter, possess a depot and afford protection to loyal citizens, committed to my discretion the selection from among those places which it thought most available and desirable for these purposes. After mature deliberation, aided by the professional knowledge and great intelligence of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Fox, and upon taking into consideration the magnitude of the joint naval and military expedition had been extended, to which you have called my attention, I came to the conclusion that the original intentions of the department, if first carried out, would fall short of the expectations of the country and of the capabilities of the expedition, while Port Royal, I thought, would meet both in a high degree. I therefore submitted to Brigadier General Sherman, commanding the military part of the expedition, this modification of our earliest matured plans, and had the satisfaction to receive his full concurrence, though he and the commanders of the brigades very justly laid great stress upon the necessity, if possible, of getting this frigate into the harbor of Port Royal.

On Tuesday, 29th October, the fleet under my command left Hampton Roads, and with the army transports numbered fifty vessels. On the day previous I had despatched the USS Wabash, under the command of Commodore Dyer, under the command of the Vandalia, Commander Haggerty, to rendezvous off Savannah, not wishing to give the true points. The weather had been settled in Hampton Roads, though it promised well when we sailed, but off Hatteras it blew hard. Some ships got into the breakers, and two struck, but without injury.

On Friday, 1st November, the rough weather soon increased into a gale, and we had to encounter one of great violence from the southeast, a portion of which approached to a hurricane. The fleet was utterly dispersed, and on Saturday morning one sail only was in sight from the deck of the Wabash.

On the following day the weather moderated, and the steamers and ships began to appear. Orders, not to be opened except in case of separation, were furnished to all the men-of-war by myself, and to the transports by Brigadier General Sherman. As the vessels required reports came of disasters. I expected to hear of many, but when the severity of the gale and the character of the vessels are considered, we have only cause for great thankfulness.

In reference to the men-of-war, the Isaac Smith, a most efficient and well armed vessel for the class purchased, but not intended to encounter such sea and wind, had to throw her formidable battery overboard to keep from foundering, but this relieved, Lieut. Commander Nicholson was enabled to go to the assistance of the chartered steamer Governor, then in a very dangerous condition, and on board of which was our fine battalion of marines, under Major Reynolds. They were finally rescued by Capt. Ringgold in the Sabine under difficult circumstances, soon after which the Governor went down, and I believe seven of the marines were drowned by their own imprudence.

Lieut. Commanding Smith's conduct in the Isaac Smith has met with my warm commendation.

The Peerless, transport, in a sinking condition, was met by the Mohican, Commander Gordon, and all the people on board, twenty-six in number, were saved under very perilous circumstances, in which Lieut. W. Miller was very favorably noticed by his commander.

On passing Charleston I sent in the Seneca, Lieut. Commanding Amman, to direct Capt. Lardner to join me with the steamer Susquehanna off Port Royal without delay.

On Monday, at eight o'clock in the morning, I anchored off the bar with some twenty five vessels in company, many more being in sight. The department is aware that all the aids to navigation had been removed, and the bar lies ten miles seaward, with no features on the shore line with sufficient prominence to make any bearings reliable. But, to the skill of Commander Davis, the Fleet Captain, and Mr. Boutelle, the able assistant of the coast survey, in charge of the steamer Vixen, the channel was immediately found, sounded out and buoyed.

By three o'clock I received assurances from Capt. Davis that I could send forward the lighter transports, those under eighteen feet, with all the gunboats, which was immediately done, and before dark they were securely anchored in the roadstead of Port Royal, South Carolina.

The gunboats almost immediately opened their batteries upon two or three Rebel steamers, under Commodore Tatnall, instantly chasing him under the shelter of their batteries. In the morning Commander John Rogers, of the United States steamer Flag, temporarily on board this ship, and acting on my Staff, accompanied Brigadier Gen. Wright, in the gunboat Ottawa, Lieutenant Commanding Nicholson, made a reconnaissance in force, and drew the fire of the batteries on Hilton Head and Bay Point, sufficiently to show that the fortifications were works of strength and scientifically constructed. In the evening of Monday Capt. Davis and Mr. Boutelle reported water enough for the Wabash to enter in.

The responsibility of hazarding so noble a frigate was not a light one. Over a prolonged bar of over two miles there was but a foot or two of water to spare, and the fall and rise of the tide is such that if she had grounded she would have sustained most serious injury from straining, if not probably lost. Too much, however, was at stake to hesitate, and the result was entirely successful.

On the morning of Tuesday the Wabash crossed the bar, followed closely by the frigate Susquehanna, the Atlantic, Vanderbilt and other transports of deep draft, and on run-

ning through that portion of the fleet already in, the safe passage of this great ship over the bar was hailed by gratifying cheers from the crowded vessels.

We anchored and immediately commenced preparing the ship for action, but the delay of planting buoys, particularly on the Fishing Reef, a dangerous shoal we had to avoid, retarded the hour late before it was possible to move with the attacking squadron. In our anxiety to get the outline of the forts before dark we stood in too near this shoal and the ship grounded. By the time she was gotten off it was too late in my judgment to proceed, and I made a signal for the squadron to anchor out of gunshot from the enemy.

To-day the wind blows a gale from the southward and eastward, and the attack is unavoidably postponed.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Respectfully your obedient servant, S. F. DUPONT, Flag Officer Com'g. S. Atlantic Squadron.

Commodore Dupont's Second Despatch.

BLOCKADING FLEET, FLAG SHIP WABASH, OFF HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL HARBOR, NOVEMBER 8th, 1861.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, Washington:

Sir--I have the honor to inform you that yesterday I attacked the enemy's batteries on Bay Point and Hilton Head--Forts Beauregard and Walker--and succeeded in silencing them after an engagement of four hours duration, and driving away the squadron of rebel steamers under Commodore Tatnall. The reconnaissance of yesterday made me acquainted with the superiority of Fort Walker, and to that I directed my special efforts, engaging it at a distance of first eight hundred yards, and afterwards six. But the plan of attack brought the squadron sufficiently near Fort Beauregard to receive its fire and the ships were frequently fighting the batteries on both sides at the same time.

The action was begun on my part at twenty-six minutes past nine, and at half past two the American ensign was hoisted on the flag staff of Fort Walker, this morning at sunrise on that of Fort Beauregard.

The defeat of the enemy terminated in their utter rout and confusion; their quarters and encampments were abandoned without any attempt to carry away either public or private property.

The ground over which they fled was strewn with the arms of private soldiers, and officers retired in too much haste to submit to the encumbrance of their swords.

Landing my marines and a company of seamen, I took possession of the deserted ground and held the fort at Hilton Head till the arrival of Gen. Sherman, to whom I had the honor to transfer its occupation. We captured forty three pieces of cannon; most of them are of the heaviest calibre and of most improved description. The bearer of these despatches will have the honor to carry with him the captured flags and two small brass field pieces lately belonging to the State of South Carolina, which are sent home as suitable trophies of the success of the day. I enclose herewith a copy of the general order which is to be read in the fleet to-morrow morning at sunrise.

A detailed account of the battle will be submitted hereafter.

I have the honor, to be very respectfully, Your most obedient servant, S. F. DUPONT, Flag Officer Commanding

South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. P. S.--The bearer of despatches will also carry with him the first American ensign raised upon the soil of South Carolina since the rebellion broke out.

General Order, No. 2.

FLAG SHIP WABASH, OFF HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL HARBOR, NOVEMBER 8th, 1861.

It is the grateful duty of the Commander-in-Chief to make a public acknowledgment of his entire commendation of the coolness, discipline, skill and gallantry displayed by the officers and men under his command at the capture of the batteries on Hilton Head and Bay Point after an action of five hours duration.

The Flag Officer fully sympathizes with the officers and men of his squadron in the satisfaction they must feel at seeing the ensign of the Union flying once more in the State of South Carolina, which has been the chief promoter of the wicked and unprovoked rebellion they have been called upon to suppress.

S. F. DUPONT, Flag Officer Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Third Despatch.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

FLAG SHIP WABASH, OFF HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL HARBOR, NOV. 8th, 1861.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy: Sir--I have to report the following casualties in the action of yesterday in the capture of the batteries at Hilton Head and Bay Point:

Wabash--Killed, 1--Thomas Jackson, Coxswain, Capt. of a gun. Slightly wounded, 2--Alfred Homesby, seaman, and Wm. Wall, seaman. Susquehanna--Killed, 2--John P. Clark, ordinary seaman; Wm. Price, second coal heaver.

Wounded severely, 1--Samuel F. Smart, first class boy. Wounded slightly, 2--Patrick Dwyne, ordinary seaman, and Samuel Holbrook, second gunner.

Pawnee--Killed, 2--John Kelly, ordinary seaman; Wm. H. Fitzhugh, first class boy. Wounded slightly, 3--Alfred Washburne, master's mate; Joseph Haue, ordinary seaman; Patrick Quinn, ordinary seaman.

Mohican--Killed, 1--John A. Wittermore, Third Assistant Engineer. Wounded seriously, 2--W. Thompson, Isaac Leyburn, Acting Master, and Sherman Bascom, ordinary seaman.

Wounded slightly, 4--Mayland Cuthbert, Assistant Engineer; John O. Pitman, Master's Mate; John W. Townsend, ordinary seaman; Charles Brown, ordinary seaman. Bienville--Killed, 2--Patrick McGuigan, Alex. Chambers.

Wounded slightly, 3--Peter Murphy, Alex. Fewey, Wm. Gilchrist. (Continued on third page.)

The Gens of...

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GEO. W. ELDER,

Attorney at Law,

Office Market Square, Lewistown, will attend to business in Mifflin, Centre and Huntingdon counties. my26

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