The Greatest Activity Shown in the Southern States.

Since January 1, 1888, 6400 miles of railway nave been built in the United States. This mileage was built, according to statistics col. lected by the Engineering News, on 286 different lines by 190 companies.

The New England States are credited with 167 miles of new track. Maine leading with 127, and Vermont following with 19, and Connecticut with 17. New Hampshire and Massachusetts had 2 miles each. The Middle States built 176 miles, the Central Northern States 338, the South Atlantic States 1107, the Gulf and Mississippi Valley States 946, the South-western States 1504, the Northwestern States 750, and the Pacific States 937. In New York les were laid.

In Canada 14 companies built 16 new lines, whose total extent is 355 miles. In Mexico, the Central and National (the two principal American systems) built 495 miles of new

The 6430 miles laid in this country is only half the record for 1887 and two-thirds that of 1886, but is still a large showing for a year in which confidence in railway investments has been so badly shaken. Kansas leads the States with 523 miles, California has 465, Georgia 419, Kentucky 351, Washington Territory 309, and Alabama, 304. The South, on the 309, and Alabama, 304. The South, on the whole, has shown more activity compared with the North than ever before. In Iowa there is no new mileage at all. This fact is ascribed to hostile legislation and the doings of the State Railroad Commissioners, and the anti-railroad tendencies of other Northwestern Legislatures has also had a depressing effect upon railroad building.

The Rock Island's extension to Colorado

The Rock Island's extension to Colorado Springs, 298 miles, was about the only long time built during the year. Few of the 1888 extensions are important as competitive lines, while in 1886 and 1887 the feature of the work was the construction of lines to compete for the traffic between Chicago and St. Paul and Kansas City, and the road to compete with the trunk lines via the Sault Ste. Marie.

There is a great contrast between 1888 and

the trunk lines via the Sault Ste. Marie.

There is a great contrast between 1888 and the two preceding years in the ownership of the extensions. The 26 companies that built 9065 miles in 1887, or nearly 72 per cent of the whole mileage, built only 2518 miles this year, or only 39 per cent of the whole. "The current belief," says the News, "that the inter-State commerce law tends to force the local roads to consolidate with the great systems is hardly corroborated by the large number of local lines built in 1888. It seems indeed open to question whether the law, while it tends to force the consolidation of competing lines, does not handicap the great systems, which does not handicap the great systems, which are seriously affected by competition, and leave almost untouched the small local roads which in their limited fields are monarchs of

which in their limited head at all they survey."

Among the large systems the Rock Island leads with 302 miles. The Santa Fe drops from 1729 miles last year to 174 miles in 1885. The Northwestern built 121 miles, the Burlington 102, the Illinois Central 30, and the Chicago, Milwankea and St. Paul only 5. The St. Milwaukee and St. Paul only 5. The St. Paul. Minneapolis and Manitoba built 312, the Northern Pacific 80, and the Southern Pacific 237. In Canada the falling off was as marked as in the United States.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

The Business Part of Marblehead,

Mass., in Ruins-A Heavy Loss. The entire business part of Marblehead, Mass., about twelve acres, has been burned. The fire was discovered in the house furnishing store of D. R. H. Powers on Pleasant ing store of D. R. H. Powers on Pleasant street, at about 10 o'clock F. M. The first warning was a loud explosion of naptha in the store. The building was of wood, and was rapidly consumed. The buildings surrounding the structure were mere shells, and it seemed everywhere a spark fell a fire started. In fifteen minutes the entire business section was burning. The entire shoe manufacturing district, the principal business of the town, was burned. Thirty-seven buildings were consumed.

The estimated loss is \$800,000, with 1000 or more men thrown out of employment, and many families rendered homeless. Though the boundaries of the fire were almost identical with those of the big fire of June, 1877.

cal with those of the big fire of June, 1877, the losses are nearly double those by that

one.

For a while there was a panic among the anhabitants, who packed their goods for removal. Charles Choate, who broke a leg by jumping from a second story window, is the only injured person reported.

The heat on all sides was intense; curbstones were cracked and crumbled, car rails were twisted out of shape, tall chimneys fell with terrific crashes, and boilers exploded with the force of cannon. None of the manufacturers think it possible to rebuild this winter, and there is a general feeling of depression in the town.

THERE are forty-two firms in the United States engaged exclusively in the manufacture of chewing-gum. Their trade is increasing, and it is estimated that the value of their annual product is not less than \$10,-

THE MADEETS

THE MARKEIS.					
51	NEW YORK.				
Beeves		4)		5 (
Milch Cows,	com. to good 30	00	@5		
Calves, comm	on to prime	1 00	0		
Sheep		3 50	0		
Lambs		5 00	@	7	
		5 25		5	
Dresse	d		60		7
	Charles Markets Committee of the	5 00	@	5	
		5 75	0	?	
	2 Red	1 02	0	1	
Rye-State		62	9		64
	1	89	@		90
Corn-Ungra	ded Mixed		40		4854
Oats-No. 1	White	29	9		3934 33
Mixed	Western	15	8		95
Hay-No. 1.	. D	80	8		85
	Rye	00	ä	7	850
Lard-Crys	team	20	98	200	29
	e Creamery	20	ä		23
Dair	y fair to good t. Im. Creamery	20	8		26
	orv	13	ä		15
	e Factory		Va.		113
	ms-Medium	6	· @		8
	tern	10	ä		115
	and Penn	233	400		25
PP9. Carre	BUFFALO		federet		1999
Steers-West	tern	3 25	0	4	00
	um to Good	4 25	200		
	to Good				-
	to hoice Yorks				50
Flour-Fami	ly	5 00	ä		25
Williams No.	u Northann		1000		911

eef-Drezsed weight..... 7 @ neep-Lave weight...... 2 @ Northern

LATER NEWS.

THE new United States cruiser Vesuvius made three trial runs in Delaware Bay with satisfactory results.

BROKER E. GRAHAM HAIGHT, Lieute of Company G, Seventh Regiment, thirty-seven years old, committed suicide by shooting himself through the right temple at his residence in New York city. Despondency, caused by the death of his brother and dissipation, was the cause.

THE City Gas Works at Big Rapids, Mich., were destroyed by fire, leaving the city in

THE ducking tub and hanging-by-thewrist modes of punishment, long in vogue at the Ohio Penitentiary, at Columbus, have been abolished by Warden Coffin as too severe and inhuman, and the dark dungeon will be substituted for them.

A CHILD of Joseph Groff, aged sixteen months, was burned to death at Westminster, Md., a three-year-old brother setting its clothing on fire during the mother's absence.

A DYNAMITE cartridge placed under the corner of a house near McGaheysville, Va. in which a party of colored people were hav-ing a dance, exploded and almost totally destroyed the building, fatally injuring Amos Moore and two women,

MARTHA HIGDON, a girl eighteen years old, of Jellico, Tenn., killed Pete Morris, who was trying to murder her father.

"PET" OVERTON was hanged at Bastrop, La., for the murder of Frank Hearsey in April last, and Ling Sing, a Chinaman, was hanged at San Francisco, Cal., for the mur-

Up to the present time 163 Republican and 159 Democratic candidates have been certified to the clerk of the House as having been elected to the next Congress. This leaves three districts in doubt-two in West Virginia and one in Tennessee. In Tennessee the Governor decided to issue the certificate to the Republican, but was restrained by an

THE bursting of a shell in one of the fortresses of Messina, Sicily, exploded a powder magazine, killing sixteen soldiers and injuring many others.

THE annual report of the Minister of Customs shows that the exports of Canada during the fiscal year ending June 30 were \$90,250,000 and the imports \$111,000,000, the largest balance of trade against Canada since the Dominion was formed.

WEBB BRANDON, who killed his wife, while drunk, has been hanged at Winnipeg, Mani-

FIRE destroyed most of the village of Deloraine, in Canada. The total loss is about

PRINCE KARAGEORGEVITCH, brother of the pretender to the Servian throne, is dead. His immense fortune goes to his brother.

A TRAIN "HELD UP."

Two Masked Men Rob the Central Pacific Express of Bags of Money.

The east-bound Overland train on the Central Pacific, from Sacramento the other night, was robbed by masked men near Clipper Gap. The express-car was ransacked and many packages were taken. Two men with masks suddenly appeared while the cars were running slowly through a long snow-shed. They broke the glass in the upper part of the express car doors and covered the two messengers with rayolvers. Then, while one engers with revolvers. stood guard over the men, the other went through safe and packages. He secured considerable plunder, but, strangely enough, he passed over one sack containing over \$10,000 in gold coin, and he also left behind several

When the train neared New England Mills the robbers dropped from the door. They are described as young men, but they were so well masked that no description of them could be obtained. Detectives were at once sent by special train to the scene of the rob-bery. The railroad company claim that the rebbers only secure 1 \$800, but other reports say that they got from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

A GREAT Match Trust is the latest. Indiana is about to borrow \$2,000,000, THERE are 500) Hebrews in Minneapolis. DIPHTHERIA is decidedly on the increase. THE use of tobacco is on the increase in this country.

THERE are 2008 owners of Percheron horses in this country. OREGON has doubled her population during the last ten years.

THE latest syndicate is one formed to force up the pri e of silk.

AMERICANS used 875,211 pounds more muff in 1888 than in 1887. THERE are 3000 women in charge of post-offices in the United States.

THE Pope has abandoned the proposed European congress on slavery.

New Jersey will derive \$1,340,431 in taxes from railroads during 1889. MARYLAND oyster pirates number nearly 8000 armed men and have 800 vessels.

WARNER, N. H., with a population of over 1500, has not had a death in five months.

The tonnage of the United States in the foreign trade continues to slowly decrease.

China has not been without a rebellion in some portion of the empire for over 120 years. At Los Angeles, Cal., coal was from \$25 to \$30 per ton last year. To-day it costs \$14. An experimental shipment of Alabama coal is to be made from Pensacola, Fla., to

THE damage done to summer resorts along the Atlantic each winter is estimated at \$2,

ORDERS have been given for a large in-crease of the Russian artillery force in Poland. CANADA'S trade with England has fallen off about \$4,000,000 during the last ten

Is eleven months thirty-two men have been aken from Northern and Western jails and

uug up.

FLORIDA alligator-hunters say that the saurians will be looked upon as curiosities ten years hence.

THE Government grant per pupil, reckoned on the daily average attendance for England and Wales is \$4.18.

SOUTHERN quail introduced into the State of Maine are wintering well and becoming easily acclimated. Oven \$8,000,000 was invested in roller skating rinks during the craze, and most of it proved a total loss.

The number of streets in London is now upward of 28,000, and new ones are added at the rate of 300 per year.

Subject: "Barnlike Birthplaces."

TEXT: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host."—Luke ii.,

At midnight from one of the galleries of the sky a cliant broke. To an ordinary observer there was no reason for such a celestial demonstration. A poor man and wife—travelers, Joseph and Mary by name—had lodged in an outhouse of an unimportant village. The supreme hour of solemnity had passed, and upon the paillid forehead and cheek of Mary God had set the dignity, the grandeur, the tenderness, the everlasting and divine significance of motherhood.

But such scenes had often occurred in Bethlehem, yet never before had a star been unfixed, or had a baton of light marshaled over the hills a winged orchestra. If there had been such brilliant and mighty recognition at an advent in the house of Pharaoh,

had been such brilliant and mighty recogni-tion at an advent in the house of Pharaoh, or at an advent in the house of Carsar, or the house of Hap-burg, or the house of Stuart, we would not so much have wondered; but a barn seems too poor a center for such deli-cate and archangelic circumference. The stage seems too small for so great an act, the music too grand for such unappreciative

stage seems too small for so great an act, the music too grand for such unappreciative auditors, the window of the stable too rude to be serenaded by other worlds.

No, sir. No, madam. It is my joy this morning to tell you what was born that night in the village barn; and, as I want to make my discourse accomplative and climac. morning to tell you what was born that night in the village barn; and, as I want to make my discourse accumulative and climacteric, I begin, in the first place. by telling you that, that night, in the Bethlehem manger, was born (I.) encouragement for all the poorly started. He had only two friends—they His parents. No satin lined cradle, no delicate attentions, but straw, and the cattle, and the coarse joke and banter of the camel drivers. No wonder the mediaeval painters represent the oxen as kneeling before the infant Jesus, for there were no men there at that time to worship. From the depths of what poverty He rose, until to-day He is honored in all Christendom, and sits on the Imperial throne in Heaven.

What name is mightiest to-day in Christendom? Jesus. Who has more friends on earth than any other being? Jesus. Before whom do the most thousands kneel in chapel and church and cathedral this hour? Jesus. For whom could one hundred million souls be marshaled, ready to fight or die! Jesus. From what depths of poverty to what height of renown! And so let all those who are poorly started remember that they cannot be more poorly born, or more dieadyantareously.

started remember that they cannot be more poorly born, or more disadvantageously than this Christ. Let them look up to His example while they have time and eternity to imitate it.

example while they have time and eternity to imitate it.

Do you know that the vast majority of the world's deliverers had barnlike birthplaces! Luther, the emancipater of religion, born among the mines. Shakespears, the emancipator of literature, born in a humble home at Stratford-on-Avon. Columbus, the discoverer of a world, born in poverty at Genoa. Hogarth, the discoverer of how to make art accumulative and administrative of virtue, born in a humble home at Westmoreland. Kitto and Prideaux, whese keys unlocked new apartments in the Holy Scriptures which had never been entered, born in want. Yea, I have to tell you that nine out of ten of the world's deliverers, nine out of ten of the world's deliverers, nine out of ten of the world's messiahs—the messiahs of science, the messiahs of law, the messiahs of medicine, the messiahs of poverty, the messiahs of grand benevolence—were born in want.

I suppose that when Herschel, the great astronomer, was born in the home of a poor musician, not only one star, but all the stars he afterward discovered, pointed down to his manger. I suppose when Haydn, the German composer, was born in the humble home of a poor wheelwright that all the angels of music chanted over the manger. Oh, what encouragement for those who are poorly

music chanted over the manger. Oh, what encouragement for those who are poorly started. Ye who think yourselves far down

aspire to go high up!

I stir your holy ambitions to-day, and I want to tell you, aithough the whole world may be opposed to you, and inside and outmay be opposed by the analysis and has a said of side of your occupations or professions there may be those who would hinder your ascent, on your side and enlisted in your behalf are the sympathetic heart and the almighty arm of one who, one Christmas night about eighteen hundred and eighty-eight years ago, was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Oh, what magnificent succuragement for the poorly started!

11. Again, I have to tell you that in that village barn that night was born good will

was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Oh, what magnificent succuragement for the poorly started?

II. Again, I have to tell you that in that village barn that night was born good will to men, whether you call it kindness, or forbearance, or forgiveness, or geniality, or affection, or love. It was no sport of high hraven to send its favorite to that humiliation. It was a sacrifice for a rebellious world. After the calamity in Paradise, not only did the ox begin to gore, and the adder to sting, and the elephant to smite with his task, and the lion to put to bad use tooth and paw, but under the very tree from which the forbidden fruit was plucked were hatched out war and revenge, and malice and envy and jealousy, and the whole brood of cockatrices.

But against that scene I set the Bethlehem manger, which says: "Bless rather than curse, endure rather than assault," and that Christmas night puts out vindictiveness. It says: "Sheathey your sword, dismount your guns, dismantle your batteries, turn the war ship Constellation, that carried shot and shell, into a grain ship to take food to famished Ireland, hook your cavalry horses to the plow, use your deadly gunpowder in blasting rocks and in patriotic celebration, stop your lawsuits, quit writing anonymous letters, extract the sting from your sarcasm, let your wit coruscate but never burn, drop all the harsh words from your vocabulary.

"Oh?" you say, "I can't exercise it; I won't exercise it until they ask me to forgive them." You are no Christian, or you are a very inconsistent Christian. If you forgive not men their trespasses, how can you expect your Heavenly Father to forgive you? Forgive them if they ask your forgiveness, and forgive them anyhow. Shake hands all around. "Good will to men."

Oh, my Lord Jesus, drop that spirit into our hearts this Christmas hour. I tell you what the world wants more than anything else-more helping hands, more sympathetic hearts, more kind words that never die, more disposition to give other people a ride, and to

when He might have had a vaster scale and vaster worlds?" But my skepticism is all gone as I come to the manger and watch its surroundings. Now I see all the worlds are sisters, and that when one weeps they all weep and when one sings they all sing.

From that supernatural grouping in the cloud banks over Bethelebem, and irom the especial trains that ran down to the scene, I find that our world is beautifully and gloriously and magnificently surrounded. The meteors are with us, for one of them ran to point down to the birthplace. The heavens are with us, because at the thought of our redemption they roll hosannas out of the midnight sky.

Oh! yes; I do not know but our world may be better surrounded than we have sometimes imagined; and when a child is born angels fetch it, and when it dies angels take it, and when an old man bends under the

REV. DR. TALMAGE.

THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUN-

lengthened addresses as Luke, non-quotations from the Old Testament thew. Mark enters upon his narrative the briefest introduction. His style is ten-simple, graphic; the grouping picturesque; the movement rapid. "Straightway" is a favorite and characteristic word. The lion has long been the symbol of Mark. The nar-rative is vivid. Events are sometimes put in the present tense, as though were look-ing at them. There is also requent abrupt-ness in passing from one thing to another. In Acts x., 35, we have a summary of this Gosp. to a manger.

IV. Again, I remark that that night born in that viliage barn was the offender's hope. Some sermonizers may say I ought to have projected this thought at the beginning of the sermon. Oh, no. I wanted you to ribe toward it. I wanted you to examine the cornelians and the jaspers and the emeralds and the chrysalis before I showed you the Kohinoor—the crown jewel of the ages.

Oh! That jewel had a very poor setting. The cub of bear is born aimid the grand old pillars of the forest, the whelp of the lion takes its first step from the jungle of luxuriant leaf and wild flower, the kid of goat is born in cavern chandellered with stalactite and pillared with stalagmite. Christ was born in a bare barn. Yet that nativity was the offender's hop. Over the door of beaven are written these words: "None but the sinless may enter here."

"Oh, horror," you say, "that shuts us all out."

"Oh, horror," you say, "that shuts us all out." No. Christ came to the world in one door and He departed through another door. He came through the door of the manger and He departed through the door of the sepulcher, and His one business was so to wash away our sins that one second after we are dead there will be no more sin about us than about the eternal God.

I know that is putting it strongly, but that is what I understand by full remission. All

pensation by be labors of the Baptist. The "gospel" here ands for the work of Christ, as in 2 Tim. i., 10. See a summary of it in 1 Cor. xv., 1-4 by Paul. The dignity of Christ is declared—the son of God," not made a son by adoption, as aints are, but "made of the seed of David," at 1 "declared to be the Son of God" by what did and by His resurrection (see Rom. 3, 4). The evangelists deemed it of the last importance that we should know this. Blark begins and John ends with it John xx., 21).

John is the messenger (v. 2) called Elijah in Mal. iil., 1 from being in his "spirit and power" (see Luke i., 15-17). The preparing of the way relates to the influence on men's minds of the Baptist's teaching. Christ was to appeal to men's consciences, and the work

I know that is putting it strongly, but that is what I understand by full remission. All crased, all washed away, all scoured out, all gone. That undergirding and overreaching and irradiating and imparadising possibility for you and for me and for the whole race was given on that Christmas night.

Do you wonder we bring flowers to-day to celebrate such an event! Do you wonder that we take organ and cornet and youthful voice and queenly soloist to celebrate it! Do you wonder that Raphael and Rubens, and Titien and Giotto and Ghirlandajo, and all the old Italian and German painters gave the mightiest stroke of the pencil to sketch the Madonna, Mary and her boy! minds of the Eaptist's leaching. Christ was to appeal to men's consciences, and the work of preparing men for Him is a moral work.

V. 3 quotes Isa. xl., 3: "The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of the Lord" (see Revised Version). In the "wilderness of Judea." it is called in Matt. iii., I. John preached in a wild, rocky, and the contraction in the extern contraction. not cultivated land, but used for pastures, and with spots tilled. So far was it from being uninhabited, that, even in Joshua's time, it had towns like Engedi (Josh. xv., 62; Judges i., 16). Its natural festures would suggest the figures employed (Isa. xl., 4) to describe a great moral change. It was only a few hours journey from Jerusalem. As, in order to make roads in this difficult region, leveling must be done, so, for the making of a way to men's hearts, the pride and haughty, impenitent spirit of the stony heart must be brought down. Hence John's preaching of repentance.

the old Italian and German painters gave the mightiest stroke of the pencil to sketch the Madonna, Mary and her boy? Oh! now I see what the manger was. Not so high as the glided and jeweled and em-broidered cradle of the Henrys of England, or the Louises of France, or the Fredericks of Prussia. Now I find out of that Bethleor the Louises of France, or the Fredericks of Prussia. Now I find out of that Bethlehem crib fed not so much the oxen of the stall as the white horses of Apocalyptic vision. Now I find the swaddling clothes enlarging and emblazoning into an imperial role for a conqueror. Now I find that the star of that Christmas night was only the diamond sandal of Him who hath the moon under His feet. Now I come to understand that the music of that night was not complete song, but only the stringing of the instruments for a great chorus of two worlds, the bass to be carried by earthly nations as ved, and the soprano by kingdoms of glory won.

"Oh, heaven, heaven, heaven! I shall meet "Oh, heaven, heaven, heaven! I shall meet you there. After all our imperfections are gone I shall meet you there. I look out to-day, through the mist of years, through the fog that rises from the cold Jordan, through the wide open door of solid pearl, to that reunion. I expect to see you there as certainly as I see you here. What a time we shall have in high converse, talking over sins pardoned, and sorrows comforted, and battles triumphant!

doned, and sorrows comforted, and battles triumphant!

I am going in. I am going to take all my family with me. I am going to take all my church with me. I am going to take all my friends and neighbors with me. I have so much faith in manger and cross I feel sure of it. I am going to coax you in. I am going to push you in. By holy strategem I am going to surprise you in. Yea, with all the concentrated energy of my nature—physical, mental, spiritual and immortal—I am going to coursel you to go in. I like you so well I

centrated energy of my nature—physical, mental, spiritual and immortal—I am going to compel you to go in. I like you so well I want to spend eternity with you!

Some of your children have already gone. Some time ago I buried one of them, and though people passing along the street and seeing white crape on the doorbell may have said: "It is only a child," yet when the broken hearted father came to solicit my service he said: "Come around and comfort us, for though she was only fifteen months' old we loved her so much." Ah! it does not take long for a child to get its arms around the parent's whole nature.

What a Christmas morning it will make when those with whom you used to keep the holidays are all around you in heaven! Silver haired old father young again, and mother who had so many aches and pains and decrepitudes well again, and all your brothers and sisters and the little ones. How glad they will be to see you!

They have been waiting. The last time they saw your face it was covered with tears and distress, and pallid from long watching, and one of them I can imagine to day, with one hand holding fast 'he shining gate, and the other hand swung out toward you, saying:

Steer this way, father, steer straight for me.

the other hand swung out toward you, saying:

Steer this way, father, steer straight for me;
Here safe in heaven I am waiting for thee.

Oh! those Betbelehem angels, when they went back after the concert that night over the hills, forgot to shut the door. All the secret is out. No more use of trying to hide from us the glories to come. It is too late to shut the gate. It is blocked wide open with hosannas marching this way and hallelujahs marching that way.

What almost unmans me is the thought that it is provided for such sinners as you and I have been. If it had been provided only for those who had always thought right, and spoken right and acted right, you and I would have had no interest in it, had no share in it; you and I would have stuck to the raft mid ocean, and let the ship sail by, carrying perfect passengers from a perfect life on earth to a perfect life in heaven.

Oh! I have heard the Commander of that ship is the same great and glorious and sympathatic One who husbed the tempest around the boat on Galilee, and I have heard that all the passengers on the ship are sinners as yell by graze. pathatic One who hushed the tempest around the boat on Galilee, and I have heard that all the passengers on the ship are sinners saved by grace. And so we hall the ship, and it bears down this way, and we come by the side of it and ask the Captain two questions: "Who art Thou! and whence!" and He says: "I am Captain of Salvation, and I am from the manger." Oh! bright Christmas morning of my soul's delight. Chime all the bells. Wreathe all the garkends. Rouse all the anthema. Shake hands in all the congratulations.

Merry Christmas! Merry with the thought of sins forgives, merry with the raptures to come. Oh! lift that Christ from the manger and lay Him down in all our hearts. We may not bring to Him as costly a present as the magi brought, but we bring to His feet and to the manger to-day the frankincense of our love, the prostration of our worship.

Down at His feet, all churches, all ages, all earth, all heaven. Down at His feet the four-and-twenty elders on their faces. Down the "great multitude that no man can number." Down Michael, the archange! Down all worlds at His feet and worship. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!"

V. 7 gives the Baptist's announcement of the Messiah. He draws attention, but it is to turn it to another coming after him, greater that he, and more worthy of attention, as he expresses by "whose shoes," etc. This needs no explanation.

The taptism of John with water (v. 8) was preparatory. The higher baptism of the coming one should be with the Holy Ghost. The facts of our Lord's teaching, promise, and gift of the Spirit, explain this.

The baptism of our Lord (v. 9), who came from Galilee to John at Jordan, we can only understand in part, and much conjecture regarding it is useless, or worse. All we can certainly say is that it was His willing identification of Himself with men, with the Jews, and His acceptance of that new dispensation for which John's work was a preparation. He had no sin to confess, as John the Baptist felt. (See Matt. iii., 14.) He desired to "fulfill all righteousness, even as He was circumcised." Omitting particulars, not in the line of his main object, Mark hastens to the supernatural testimony.

Christ, coming up out of the water, saw the heavens opened (v. 10), as did John also (John i., 25), and the deccending Spirit, whether in the form or with the motion of a dove is not clear. This marked off His baptism from that of all the rest. What relation it had to the mind of Christ we cannot tell, because the inner experience of the Godman we can only know from Himself, and He has not told us.

The Father in heaven sets His seal on the Redeemer in this act of His bumiliation and declares Himself "well pleased" (v. 11) with the position He takes. It is the beginning and pleage of His finishing the work God gave Him to do. Great trials often follow great privileges. As with the Master, so It will be in a measure with His people.

FOINTS TO REMEMBER.

1. John is the connecting link between the

of one joy, the pears of our tears, the kiss of our love, the prostration of our worship.

Down at His feet, all churches, all ages, all earth, all beaven. Down at His feet the four and-twenty elders on their faces. Down the "great multitude that no man can number." Down Michael, the archangel! Down all worlds at His feet and worship. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!"

The Fiftieth Congress will expire March 3 at midnight by limitation. The first regular session of the Fifty-first Congress will not convene till December of 1859.

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

1. John is the connecting link between the old and the new dispensation.

2. John forgets self, exaits Christ, fears not man, does as he is directed, leaving the results with God. So should all the Lord's ministers.

3. His influence, judged by numerical results, was not great. There were great alarm, immense transient excitement, much baptising and high expectation. Anything like it in our day would have made a stir in the "religious world;" but how small the number who accepted Jesus in consequence!

4. The divine Voice calls to us now, "Hear ye Him." Let us gladly obey, take Christ for our Saviour, and follow Him as Lord.—Sunday-School World.

HOUSEROLD AFFAIRS.

Tar painted Floors. Some months ago the floors of many Australian garrisons were painted with ar, and the results have proved so uni-ally advantageous, that the method is g greatly extended in its appli-The collection of dust in cracks prevented, and a consequent n in irritating diseases of the an noted. Cleanliness of the n greatly facilitated, and most completely ex-ing of tar is inexpen-wal but once a year, one disadvantage, color. - Housewife.

ame for Invalids.

eing properly prepared, says mes' fractic, boil a fine young it is three parts cooked; then e skin, pick all the fiesh from and pound it in a mortar le of the liquid in which it was ee tablespoonfuls of finely ead crumbs, a teaspoonful of and a grating of nutmeg. When d to a perfectly smooth paste, put xture into a saucepan with a little more of the liquid, and let it simmer gently for ten minutes. When finished, the panada should be slightly thicker than good cream. It will keep quite fresh and sweet for three or four days, and can be heated, a few spoonfuis at a time, and served poured over a slice of nice, crisp, not toast, or in a very tiny dish with sippets of toast inserted round about. Nothing more quickly destroys the capricious appetite of an invalid than having a large dish of anything, no matter how dainty, set before them; they require to eat often, but only a very little

by John (vs. 1-6).—The "be-1) does not refer to the book

rugged region in the eastern part of Judah's territory. It is called "wilderness" because

Repentance (v. 4) is the translation of a

Greek word, metanoia, change of mind. It means much more than another word con-

means much more than another word con-fused with it in the Authorized Version. (See 2 Cor. 7, 8, 10. Paul regretted, but the Co-rinthians repented.) It is far more than re-gretting. It is a total change of all that thinks and feels in us. Judays repentance was not metanoia. It is the other Greek word for it. He rued his deed. He did not

nange his mind in the wide sense

ntance mere keen regret for soul-d

simple diet.
V. 7 gives the Paptist's announcement of

the Messiah. He draws attention, but it is

POINTS TO REMEMBER.

Dampening and Ironing Clothes.

The clothes should be gathered as soon as dry on windy days, as an hour's whipping and switching in the wind will wear them more than weeks of ordinary usage.

Dampen the night before ironing by sprinkling each piece, which should b lightly rolled up, and then placed in the

Do not dampen fine starched clothes until an hour or two before ironing them, as they will be less stiff if damp a longer time. Dampening collars, cuffs and shirts is an important feature of the polishing, as they must be limber but not wet. For collars and cuffs procure a thin piece of cloth-cheese-cloth is best perhaps-wet it and wring it out. Then begin near one end of it, to lay on it a cuff: then fold over the end without bending the cuff, lay on another piece, fold again and so continue until all the cuffs and collars are wrapped in the damp cloth. They will be ready for polishing in about an hour.

To dampen shirts, lay a damp cloth over the bosom, sprinkle the rest of the shirt lightly, roll up and place with the collars and cuffs.

The ironing table should be covered with a thick blanket and a clean white sheet. There should also be a shirt board six feet long and eighteen inches wide covered with two or three thicknesses of cloth, in order to iron dresses and skirts nicely. A bosom-board is in-dispensable; this should be nine inches by eighteen inches, planed very smooth, and covered with a single thickness of cotton-cloth.

Gospel.

The Jewish people needed to change their mind as to life and its ends, as to duty, and as to the Messiah and the reign they expected. Every soul that becomes religious has to change in the same way, to be revolutionized. All religion that makes remaining mere keep regret for soul-destroy-Keep the smoothing irons clean, and free from rust by scouring them well occasionally with powered emory. pentance mere keen regret for som destroy-ing sin is imperfect. Repentance is a change of mind regarding God, self, time, Carist, and the very end for which we are made. A sense of sin is but the first result of this.

It is to be hoped that no one who reads this is an advocate of the "non-ironing" theory. So slovenly a practice as that of putting away clothes unironed cannot A sense of sin is but the first result of this.

John fulfilled the prophecy. He would have men break up old associations of Pharisees, Sadducees, and the like, and begin anew, with a changed mind which would be owned by a fitting rite, baptism with water. Hence it is called the "baptism of repentance." And as one was coming to put away sin, whom they would reject if the mind remained unchanged, and receive if it were changed, it is added "for" or unto "the remission of sins."

His audience was "all...Judea"—not be deprecated too severely. Other careless habits will be sure to follow in the wake of such a violation of the rules of

If time is limited and strength inadequate, economize elsewhere. See that no garments are soiled and washed unnecessarily. Have fewer tucks and ruffles if need be, but do not neglect the

changed, it is added "for" or unto "the remission of sins."

His gudience was "all....Judea"—not every inhabitant, but people from every part of it—and "of Jerusalem" (v. 5). The Jordan was near. They who did change their minds and adopt the new truth he set forth were "baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." A true sense of sin is the first practical result of the changed mind.

Baptism of Jesus (vs. 6-11).—The striking appearance of the preacher is described in v. 6. His dress recalled, as did his tones, an Old Testament prophet & Kings i., 8); camel's hair the material of his simple robe, and a leathern girdle about his loins; his food the locusts, not cakes or fruits, but the locust's bodies, the legs and wings being thrown away, and the body eaten with salt, as among the poor Orientals till this day. Honey that was gathered from the rocks or from the trees was the other element in his simple diet. Laces and embroideries should be placed wrong side up over flannel, and ironed after being carefully smoothed. Iron the thinner parts of dresses and other starched garments first, as they dry soonest; leave gathers and bands until the last .- Youth's Companion.

APPLE FROTH,-Bake four large apples very soft, press the pulp through a sieve and add twelve ounces of sugar, the white of an egg and the juice of half a lemon, or any flavor desired. Stir to a froth and serve with maccaroous or any delicate cake.

BLANC MANGE, -One package of gelatine soaked for one hour in a pint of water. At the end of this time pour on the gelatine two quarts of boiling hot milk; add three heaping teaspoonfuls of powdered augar; stir until dissolved; lavor to taste; strain into molds and set

CRANBERRY JELLY, -Boil the cranberries and water the same way for fifteen or twenty minutes till they are soft, then strain through muslin close enough to retain the seed. To every pint of juice put a light pound of sugar, and boil ten minutes. This ought to be very clear and firm.

PLUM PUDDING SAUCE. - An excellent sauce for plum pudding can be made from the following recipe: Stir to a cream a sup of butter, three cups of powdered sugar. When quite light, add the juice of one lemon, two teaspoon-iuls of nutmeg, and the whites of two eggs beaten very stiff.

CHICKEN SOUP.—Cut up one chicken and put it into two quarts of milk; season with salt and pepper. When about half done add two teaspoonfuls of barley or of rice. When this is done remove the chicken from the soup, tear or cut part of the breast into small pieces and add to the soup with a cup of cream.

CAULIFLOWER WITH CHEESE, -Short-en the stems of cold boiled cauliflower; place it on a flat dish and set it in the oven; when a little warred pour over it an ounce of hot clarified butter mixed with some ground Parmesan or other cheese; put it again into the oven, and tet it brown; serve immediately.

BROILED STURGEON,—Cut a fine piece of sturgeon, skin it and divide into slices about an inch thick, dip them into beaten egg, powder fine bread crumbe, pepper, salt and chopped parsley over them, fold in paper and bro'l over a tlear fire. Send to table with essence of inchovies, sage or Worces'ersh re sauce,