# CHRIST'S MISSION.

## Rev. Dr. Talmage Preaches a Christmas Sermon.

**The World's Greatest Emancipators Were All of Lowly Birth—The Offender's Hope—Season of Forbearance and Forgiveness—Good Will to Men.**

In his sermon Sunday Dr. Talmage chose the universal theme of the season—the Christmastide. The text selected was, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem," Matthew ii, 1.

At midnight from one of the galleries of the sky a chant 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 pallid 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 winged orchestra. If there had been such brilliant and mighty recognition at an advent in the house of Pharaoh, or at an advent in the house of Cæsar, or the house of Hapsburg, or the house of Stuart, we would not so much have wondered, but a barn seems too poor a center for such delicate and archangelic circumference. The 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.

It is my joy to tell you what was worn 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 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 midæival 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 that property he arose until to-day he is honored in all Christiandom 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! From what depths of poverty to what height of renown! And so let all those who are poorly started remember that they can not 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.

Do you know that the vast majority of the world's deliverers had barnlike birth places? Luther, the emancipator of religion, born among the mines. Shakspeare, the emancipator of literature, born in an 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 an humble home in Westmoreland. Kitto and Prideaux, whose keys unlocked new apartments in the Holy Scriptures which had never been entered, born in want. Yes, I have to tell you that nine out of ten of the world's deliverers were born in want.

I stir your holy ambitions to-day, and I want to tell you, although the whole world may be opposed to you, and inside and outside 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 ninety-five years ago was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Oh, what magnificent encouragement for the poorly started!

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 Heaven to send its favorite to that humiliation. It was 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 tusk, 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, "Sheathe your sword, dismount your guns, dismantle your batteries, turn the warship Constellation, that carries shot and shell into a grain ship to take food to famishing Ireland, hook your cavalry horses to the plow, use your deadly gunpowder in blasting rocks and in patriotic celebration, stop your law suits, quit writing anonymous letters, extract the sting from your sarcasm, let your wit coruscate but never burn, drop all the harsh words out of your vocabulary—'Good will to men.'"

"Oh," you say, "I can't exercise it. I won't exercise it until they apologize. I won't forgive them until they ask me to forgive them." You are no Christian then—I say 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."

O my Lord Jesus, drop that spirit into all our hearts this Christmas time! 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 carry the heavy end of the load and give other people the light end, and to ascribe good motives instead of bad, and to find our happiness in making others happy.

Out of that Bethlehem crib let the bear and the lion eat straw like an ox. "Good will to men." That principle will yet settle all controversies, and under it the world will keep on improving until there will be only two antagonistists in all the earth, and they will side by side take the jubilant sleigh ride intimated by the propact when he said, "Holiness shall be on the bells of the horses."

Again, I remark that born that Christmas night in the village barn was sympathetic union with other worlds. From that supernatural grouping of the cloud banks over Bethlehem, and from 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 that our world may be better surrounded than we have sometimes imagined, and when a child is born angels bring it, and when it dies angels take it, and when an old man bends under the weight of years angels uphold him, and when a heart breaks angels soothe it. Angels in the hospital take care of the sick. Angels in the cemetery to watch our dead. Angels in the church ready to fly heavenward with the news of repentant souls. Angels above the world. Angels under the world. Angels all around the world.

Rub the dust of human imperfection out of your eyes and look into the heavens and see angels of pity, angels of mercy, angels of pardon, angels of help, angels crowned, angels charioted. The world defended by angels, girdled by angels, escorted by angels—clouds of angels. Hear David cry out: "The chariots of God are 20,000, even thousands of angels." But the mightiest angel stood not that night in the clouds over Bethlehem; the mightiest angel that night lay among the cattle—the angel of the new covenant.

As the clean white linen was being wrapped around the little form of that child emperor, not a cherub, not a seraph, not an angel, not a world but wept and thrilled and shouted. Oh, yes, our world has plenty of sympathizers! Our world is only a silver rung of a great ladder at the top of which is our Father's house. No more stellar solitariness for our world, no other friendless planets spun out into space to freeze, but a world in the bosom of Divine maternity, a star harnessed to a manger.

Again, I remark that that night born in that village barn was the offender's hope. Some sermonizers may say I aught to have projected this thought at the beginning of the sermon. Oh, no, I wanted you to rise toward it. I wanted you to examine the cornelians, and the jaspers and the crystals, 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 amid the grand old pillars of the forest, the whelp of lion takes its first step from the jungle of luxuriant leaf and wild flower, the kid of goat is born in cavern chandeliered with stalactite and pillared with stalagmite. Christ was born in a bare barn.

Yet that nativity was the offender's hope. Over the door of Heaven are written these words: "None but the sinless may enter here." "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 business was to wash away our sin that 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 erased, all washed away, all scoured out, all gone. That undergirding and overarching and irradiating and imparadising possibility for you, and for me, and for the whole race—that was given that Christmas night.

Do you wonder we bring flowers to-day to celebrate such an event? Do you wonder that we take organ and youthful voice and queenly soloist to celebrate it? Do you wonder that Raphael and Rubens and Titian and Giotto and Ghirlandajo, and all the old Italian and German painters gave the mightiest stroke of their genius to sketch the Madonna, Mary and her boy?

Oh! now I see what the manger was. Not so high the gilded and jeweled and embroidered cradle of the Henrys of England, or the Louis of France, or the Fredericks of Prussia. Now I find out that 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 robe for a conqueror. Now I find that the star of that Christmas night was only the diamonded sandal of Him who hath the moon under his feet. Now I came to understand that the music of that night was not a complete song, but only the stringing of the instruments for a great chorus of two worlds, the base to be carried by earthly nations saved and the soprano by kingdoms of glory won.

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 the sins pardoned, and sorrows comforted, and battles triumphant!

Some of your children have already gone, and though people passing along the street and seeing white crape on the door bell 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 we loved her so much."

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 the shining gate, and 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 Bethlehem 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. In the splendor of the anticipation I feel as if I was dying—not physically, for I never was more well—but in the transport of the Christmas transfiguration.

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 midocean and let the ship sail by carrying perfect passengers from a perfect life on earth to a perfect life in heaven. But I have heard the commander of that ship is the same great and glorious and sympathetic 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 hail 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. Merry Christmas!

Merry with the thought of sins forgiven, merry with the idea of sorrows comforted, 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 joy, 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!"

## OLD PUT. OUTDONE.

**A Virginia Hunter's Torch Taken Away From Him by a Bear.**

Some time ago Mr. Washington Via, 82 years of age, Mr. Oscar Early, Mr. Willie James and Mr. Rice Via went out on a hunt. These gentlemen live in the neighborhood of Black Rock Springs, a country not thickly settled, and which is the home of "varmints" of every description in profusion.

They had not been out long when they started four bears. The dogs ran them all afternoon, and about night ran one of them into his den in a cliff of rocks. Night coming on, the hunters concluded that they could do nothing until morning, so one or two of the party were detailed to watch the den while the others went home, intending to come back next morning and try to get Mr. Bruin out. During the night the other three bears came to the den, it evidently being their habitation also, but were frightened off by the camp fire. These became separated from the fourth one during the hunt, the dogs following the one already run to lair.

In the morning the other gentlemen came back to the den, and with picks and shovels endeavored to dig down to his bearship. In the meantime Mr. Rice Via sent his dog, a valuable hound, into the orifice, and in a few minutes heard a "squawk," and the dog failed to return. This got Mr. Via excited and he determined to go in and rescue his dog. The entrance to the den was a long, horizontal passageway about two feet high and probably two feet wide. Mr. Via prepared a torch and fastened it upon a long pole, which he thrust into the opening before him, and entered without knife, gun or other defensive weapon. He had not gone far when the bear seized the torch and extinguished it. Several times this occurred, but finally Mr. Via located him and found his fine dog in a dying condition. He backed out of the hole, asked for his gun, and while some of the others pushed in the torch Mr. Via succeeded in shooting the bear in the head, killing him instantly.

Mr. Via then came out and his son went in to bring out the dead bear. The den was a large aperture, probably twenty feet square and ten feet high, and was approached from the passageway above described by an inclined plane. The young man went through this passage, entered the den, and pulled the bear to the passage, and then endeavored to pull him through, but found he was unable to do so. He lay down on his breast and grasped the bear and the others caught hold of his feet and brought both man and bear to the light. The bear weighed easily 200 pounds, and was as "fat as butter."—Richmond Dispatch.

—Women make a mistake when they do not wear warm woolen socks in winter, instead of lisle thread hose.—Atchison Globe.


*PROFESSIONAL CARDS*

IRA C. MITCHELL, Attorney-at-law.—Office in Crider's Exchange. Prompt service and careful attention to all legal business.

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WM. J. SINGER, Attorney-at-law.—District attorney. Office in court house.

ORVIS, BOWER & ORVIS, Attorneys-at-law.—Offices in Crider's Exchange. German and English. All forms of legal business given prompt attention.

W. C. HEINLE, Attorney-at-law.—Office in Woodring building, opposite the court house. Consultations in German and English.

D. F. FORTNEY, Attorney-at-law.—Office in Woodring building, opposite court house. Prompt attention to all legal business.

JOHN M. KEICHLINE, Attorney-at-law and Justice of the Peace. Office in Opera House block, opposite the court house.

JAMES W. ALEXANDER, attorney-at-law—office, High street, near Court House. Practices in all the Courts.

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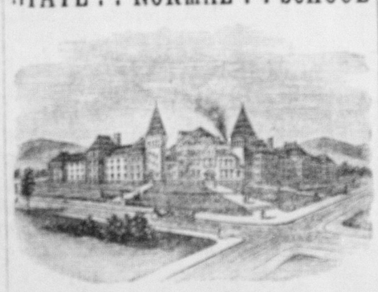

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We shall be glad to correspond with any who are interested. Send for free catalogue and secure rooms for next term.

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*LEGAL NOTICE*

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.
Estate of Samuel Gilliland, late of College township, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for settlement to
J. C. GILLILAND, Oak Hall, or
H. SECHLER, Bellefonte, Pa.,
12-5-6t Executors.

ADMINISTRATORS' NOTICE.
Estate of Catharine Brown, deceased, late of Hublersburg, Pa.,
Letters of administration on said estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will present them without delay for settlement to the undersigned.
Loganton, Pa. JOHN BROWN,
11-13-6t. Admr.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—
Estate of Mary M. Hall, decd., late of Milesburg boro.
Letters testamentary upon said estate having been granted by the Register of Wills to the undersigned, all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them for settlement.
11-21-6t JAMES M. LUCAS Ex'r.

PUBLIC HALL.
Walker Grange, No. 345, desires to inform the public that the lower room in their Hall, in Hublersburg, is now ready for rental. Any person desiring to rent for holding entertainments etc., call or correspond with
J. H. MCAULEY,
Oct. 3-2m Hublersburg, Pa.

LEGAL NOTICE.
Harry Rossman, vs. Sarah Rossman. } In the Court of Common Pleas of Centre co. No. 29 Jan. T. '95. Libel in Divorce.
*To Sarah Rossman, Respondent.*
You are hereby notified that the undersigned, a commissioner appointed by the said court to take testimony in the above stated case and report the same to the court, will meet the parties interested to perform the duties of his appointment at his office in Bellefonte, Pa., on Tuesday the 14th day of January, A. D. 1896, at 10 a. m., at which time and place all parties interested may attend.
J. W. ALEXANDER,
3t Commissioner.

ORPHANS COURT SALE.
Estate of John Pownell, deceased.
By virtue of an order issued out of the Orphans Court of Centre county, the undersigned executors will offer at public sale, on
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1896,
on the premises, the following described real estate to wit: A FINE FARM and tract of timberland embracing 106 acres and 145 perches, situated in Boggs township, Centre co., Pa., along the road leading from Milesburg to Marsh Creek. Thereon erected a two story frame dwelling house, barn and outbuildings in good repair. Land is productive and in high state of cultivation. This property is desirably located.
TERMS: One-half purchase money in cash; balance in one year. Sale at 10 a. m.
J. S. POWNELL,
AGNES MOORE,
O. B. & O. attorneys. Executors.

NOTICE—Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 28th day of January, A. D. 1896, the first and partial account of The Commonwealth Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit company, trustee of James A. Beaver for the benefit of creditors of James A. Beaver and the Bellefonte Iron and Nail company, will be presented to the court for confirmation, and unless exceptions thereto be filed on or before the 2nd day of term, the same will be confirmed.
W. F. SMITH,
Dec. 24, '95. Prothonotary.

EXECUTORS NOTCE—Letters testamentary on the estate of A. J. Thompson, late of Half Moon township, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment without delay.
MRS. MARY C. THOMPSON,
Ira C. Mitchell. A. C. THOMPSON, Executors.
Atty., Bellefonte, Pa.

NOTICE—Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 28th day of January, A. D. 1896, the first and partial account of The Commonwealth Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit company, assignee for the benefit of creditors of the Bellefonte Iron and Nail company, will be presented to the court for confirmation, and unless exceptions thereto be filed on or before the 2nd day of the term, the same will be confirmed.
W. F. SMITH,
Dec. 24, '95. Prothonotary.

FOR SALE—A good Store Room and dwelling for sale at Hublersburg, Pa. It is an excellent business point. Will sell at a bargain. Apply or address, MRS. MARY A. YEARICK,
1-1tf Millheim, Pa.

COURT PROCLAMATION.
WHEREAS the Hon. John G. Love, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the 49th Judicial district, consisting of the county of Centre, and the Hon. C. A. Faulkner Associate Judge, having issued their precept bearing date the 30th day of Dec., 1895, to me directed for holding a Court of Oyer and Terminer and general Jail Delivery and Quarter Sessions of the Peace in Bellefonte, for the county of Centre, and commence on the 4th Monday of Jan., the 27th day of January, 1896, and to continue two weeks. Notice is hereby given to the Coroner, Justices of the Peace, Aldermen and Constables of said county of Centre, that they be then and there in the proper persons, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, with their records, inquisitions, examinations, and their own remembrances, to do those things which to their office appertains to be done, and those who are bound in recognizances to prosecute against the prisoners that are or shall be in the jail of Centre county, be then and there to prosecute against them as shall be just.
Given under my hand, at Bellefonte the 30th day of Dec., in the year of our Lord, 1895 and the one hundred and eighteenth year of the Independence of the United States.
JNO. P. CONDO,
Sheriff.

REGISTER'S NOTICE.
The following accounts have been examined, passed and filed of record in the Register's Office for the inspection of heirs and legatees, creditors and all others in anywise interested, and will be presented to the Orphan's court of Centre county for confirmation on Wednesday, the 29th day of January, 1896.
1. The second partial account of M. D. Rockey and John Yearick, executors of, etc., of Adam Shaffer, late of Miles twp., deceased.
2. The sixth partial account of Geo. Bower and Samuel Evert, executors, etc., of Jacob Evert, late of Penn township, deceased.
3. The account of James Harris, administrator of, etc., of Samuel Foster, late of Bellefonte borough, deceased.
4. The first and final account of Angeline McBride, guardian of Caroline McBride Summy, (now Dale).
5. The first and final account of Calvin Rishel, administrator of, etc., of Michael Rishel, late of Gregg township, deceased.
6. The first and final account of Katherine Shaffer and Mary J. Erhard, administratrices *cum testamento annexo* of, etc., of Mary Morgan, late of Bellefonte borough, deceased, as filed by Mrs. Katherine shaffer.
7. The account of Wm. H. Bressler, administrator of, etc., Rebecca Bressler, late of Haines township, deceased.
8. The first and final account of S. H. Bennison, guardian of Nellie Johnson, minor child of Nancy Johnson, late of Marion township, deceased.
9. First and final account of Henry Brown, administrator of, etc., of John Divin, late of Walker township, deceased, as filed by Solomon Peck, his administrator.
10. The account of Mary J. Odenkirk and W. A. Kirr, executors of, etc., of John H. Odenkirk, late of Potter township, deceased.
11. First and final account of Martha S. Packer, executrix of, etc., of J. W. Packer, late of Curtin township, deceased.
12. First and final account of Jacob Smith, administrator of, etc., of Jacob Miess, late of Potter township, deceased.
13. First and final account of James Harris, trustee of Sarah E. Shaffner and Mary Grace Shaffner, under the will of Mrs. Clarissa Awl, late of Bellefonte boro, decd.
G. W. RUMBERGER, Register.


**BUILDERS' SUPPLIES.**

STONE for building purposes, furnished at our quarry or delivered in Bellefonte and vicinity, as well as loaded on the cars of the Bellefonte Central and Penna. Railroads, as customers may require.

FLAG STONES, manufactured from the very best quality of Blue Stone, the strongest and most durable stones for the purpose of the various sizes and thickness, ranging from one inch to six inches in thickness or more, to meet the wants of customers for street crossings, pavements and other walks, as well as window sills, lintels, door sills, steps and curb stones, dressed to order, will be furnished at short notice for low prices, the quality of stone considered. After a thorough examination of the Flag, Paving and other dressed stones, which we propose to add to our already extensive line of Builders' Supplies, we can assure our patrons, that they are the best quality of stone for the purpose, ever offered for sale in this community.

BRICK for building, brick for paving side-walks and streets, as well as fire brick of every description will be furnished on short notice. We carry a limited stock on hand at our Yard Warehouses.

SAND of the very best quality for building purposes. We make a specialty of Mt. Eagle sand for building purposes, on the principle that the best is the cheapest. We also furnish Mine Bank Sand, washed, for building purposes.

LIME for building purposes, of our own make.

CALCINED PLASTER and hair for plasters' use.

PATENT WALL PLASTERS. We are agents for the sale of the Paragon Patent Wall Plaster, which has proven by actual experience to be the best wall plaster now offered for sale in this community. After mixing it with water, it is ready for use.

ALUMINITE CEMENT PLASTER. This is a natural product which comes from the far west, and has the advantage of requiring two parts of sand to one of cement; it is easily mixed and makes an excellent wall plaster for less money than the average patent wall plasters cost.
The advantages in the use of these plasters is that they can be put on the wall immediately after mixing—the old mortar of lime and sand, after mixing, requires from four to six weeks in the mortar bed "to season" before using; if put on sooner, it does not make a good job—hence the advantage of the patent wall plasters for immediate use.

HYDRAULIC CEMENTS. We sell the Cumberland, which is one of the very best standard cements produced in this country; also the Hoffman Brand of the Rosendale Cements, which has the highest reputation for good quality. We also keep a small stock of English Portland Cement for special use, which comes to us highly recommended as of the best quality. With these facts in our favor, we invite the patronage of those in want, with the full confidence that we furnish the best articles for the least money. A share of public patronage is solicited.

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