STRONG SERMON AGAINST DIVORCE

DELIVERED BY REV. W. F. GIB BONS LAST NIGHT.

It Was the Sixth in a Series of Sermons on "What Would Jesus Do." Speaker Condemned the Present Drift Toward the Divorce Court and Put Himself on Record as Favoring a National Divorce Law. Causes That Are Responsible for Prevalence of Divorces.

"How Would Jesus Regard Marriage and Divorce?" was the subject of a strong sermon delivered last night in the Dunmore Presbyterian church by Rev. W. F. Gibbons. It was the sixth in a series of sermons on "What Would Jesus Do?" During his discourse, Mr. Gibbons said:

This is a subject that demands our most serious attention. It is a fact greatly to be deplored that marriage is often regarded as a joke and divorce a comedy for the delectation of the courts and newspapers. The whole subject has and newspapers. The whole subject has been treated with a levity which would be astonishing if it were not so pitiful. Marriage stands at the foundation of the family; and the family stands as the unit of society. Divorce, which breaks up the family, undermines the very foundation of society.

very foundation of society.

It is a mistake to say that it is no-body's business who may choose to marry; but it is a still greater mistake to suppose that only the parties immediately concerned are interested in mediately concerned are interested in mediately concerned are interested in proceedings for divorce. History shows that the greatest nations of the earth, which for the longest period-have ruled the destiny of mankind, have been those in which the family and not the individual was regarded as the social unit.

A DIVINE INSTITUTION. A DIVINE INSTITUTION.

As Christian men we need have no doubt that marriage is a divine institution. Fortunately, no word of Christ's has come to us with greater clearness than his specific declaration on the subject of marriage and divorce. When Christ was asked concerning this sub-Christ was asked concerning this sub-ject, he declared that from the begin-ning God had ordained the mairriage of one man with one woman in an indis-soluble union. When questioned con-cerning the law of Moses, He declared that divorce had been permitted by God, as had also polygamy, because of the hardness of men's hearts. But from the beginning it was not so. His own dictum is, "Whosoever shall out away his wife, except for fornication, com-mitteth adultery."

The Christian is bound to regard mar-

mitteth adultery."

The Christian is bound to regard marriage not from the point of view of human law; but from the viewpoint of Jesus Christ. Our Savior plainly thought this not a mere human contract to be made or broken at will. From Jesus' made or broken at will. From Jesus' point of view, the marriage of convenience, or the bargaining of American dollars for a foreign title would have been utterly abhorrent. We cannot imagine that Jesus would have hallowed by his presence, or that he would have given his approval to any marriage regarded by the parties as merely a civil contract. a civil contract.

The teaching of Christ has also served to bring about an equality of the sexes. St. Paul says, in Jesus Christ "there is relither male or female." That which is sinful in woman is no less sinful in man. When the two parties shall stand in God's presence, both shall be judged alike. From the days of Adam to the present, sel-fish man has tried to shift the blame unon the woman, as the weaker party, What a debt woman owes to Jesus Christ? No worder there are more women in the church than men; no wonder that she was "last at the cross and earliest at the grave."

THEY WERE MERE SLAVES.

According to the marriage laws of and the almost every nation, ancient or modern, except certain Germanic tribes, and a few others, woman passed from the hand of her father to the hand of her husband, until the teachings of Christ raised her from the position of a slave to the place of an equal.

Jesus taught also the sacredness of marriage. Infinitely above the teaching of early philosophers stands the tender ideal of Christ concerning wedlock. It is a mistake to suppose that there is any especial sanctity in celibacy. Indeed, the sacred mystery of marriage has been forever honored by being compared to the union between Christ and the church. But although Christ thus honors wedlock, not all per-

sons are to marry.

No doubt it would be a great hardship, if the law should interfere to prevent marriage on the part of persons who are unfit; for instance, those who are smitten with inherited disease of body or mind. When human law hesitates, the inexorable laws of God inter-vene, the weakest die, the fittest survive. But the race deteriorates. We need a more stringent public opinion concerning such matters. It may also be that there are some men who are called to some great mission in life which precludes marriage. But such cases are rare. The married state is a

natural one, the celibate is abnormal.

The teachings of Christ concerning divorce come nearer to explicit legis-lation than almost any other words uttered by the Master. His words plainly teach the union of one husband to one wife, to be parted only by death, except it be for adultery. Notice that He does not command divorce even for this one cause, nor forbid separation for any other good reason, while He recognizes that the hardness of men' hearts brought about both polygamy and divorce or separation.

While the severity of this teaching of Christ seems still too great for our modern legislators, there can be no question but what it should be the ideal secret. all who profess themselves to be followers of Christ. But if this teaching seems to be too severe for us, what must it have been in Christ's own day? Then in Judea, a man might divorce his wife for burning his dinner; while in Rome, matrons kept



Which Way?

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count of time not by the year of the consuls but by the number of their husbands. Nor are the teachings of Christ less needed today, when accord-ing to the figures furnished by the United States census, divorce increased in twenty years 159 per cent, while the population increased but 60 per cent.

The storm centre, today, is said to be in Indiana, where one-seventh of the marriages end in divorce, while for the city of Indianapolis, the relation of divorces to marriages is as one to four. Even secular writers have deplored the shameful conditions which obtain in Oklahoma or South Dakota, where divorces are almost granted "while you

wait."

But does this fatal facility of divorce improve the moral of these communities, as it is sometimes claimed it should? The records of the courts do not show it. The movement now on foot to secure by the enactment of congress an uniform divorce law for all the states is worthy of all praise. But more than legal enactment, the whole contains now a party more public senticountry needs a purer public senti-

Prominent among the varied causes Fromment among the varied causes of divorce is the misfit marriage—the foolish, hasty, ill-considered choice on the part of husband or wife. Selfishness is another prominent cause. The unwillingness on the part of married people to assume the responsibilities of parenthood is another cause. A modern writer declares, "Divorce is like suicide; it is the coward's refuge from the ills of life."

the ills of life."

If Christ's law of love ruled in the home, it would never be broken up by divorce. Receive Christ into your hearts, and fill your lives with peace and blessing.

REV. F. A. STROUGH'S ADDRESS. Spoke on "The Modern Prodigal" in the Lyceum Yesterday.

Rev. F. A. Strough, of Albany, N. Y. delivered an exceedingly interesting and instructive illustrated lecture yesterday afternoon in the Lyceum on "The Modern Prodigal." The meeting was largely attended and was given under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian association,

The speaker traced the history of the young man starting in life in one of the great cities of this country. He told of the many dangers and temptasity of being a true and faithful follower of Jesus Christ in order to overcome these temptations.

In the course of his remarks Rev. Mr Strough spoke of what he termed the rampant immorality of Scranton, and stated that never before, except in New York city, had he seen immorality flaunted in the face of the public to such an extent. He said the mayor lice ought to be heartily ashamed of themselves for not taking measures to stamp out this wicked-

The lecture was effectively illustrated with a number of stereopticon representing the darker side of life in the large cities. Several appropriate selections were rendered during the services by a male quartette, under the direction of Prof. J. M. Chance. The lecture was given again last evening in the Jackson Street Baptist church.

CHAMPIONS OF THE WEST.

University of Chicago Wins the Title from Wisconsin.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 10.-Despite the cold, chilly weather and the dismal dripping rain a great crowd turned out yesterday to see the Universities of Chicago and Wisconsin battle for the championship of the west. Led on by We Kennedy, the big quarter back-captain the Chicago boys won in a hardfought game by the decisive score of 17 to 0. Spectacular plays were the order of the day and captain Patrick O'Dea, the wonderful kicking full back of Wisconsin, made more than his share of them.

His punting was magnificent, his dace kicking superb and his drop kicks marvelous. When it is mentioned that on one of his kick-offs he sent the ball over the goal posts it is unnecessary to add anything further. but still it may be mentioned that the only time the Badger team came near scoring was when the tail captain tried a drop kick for goal from the 55-

Chleago scored twice in the first and once in the second half. The left side of the Wisconsin line was weak and most of the Chicago plays were directed against it. Slaker scored two of the touchdowns and Feil one. The former also covered himself with glory by lashing down the field for a thirty-yard sprint, the longest of the day. Captain Kennedy also put up a star game, running his team in a sagacious manner and making punts and place kicks in very able fashion. The following

is the game's summary: Positions. Wisconsin. Chicago. .. right end Eldredge Webbright tackleCurtis Flannagan right guard Comstock
Speed center Chamberlain
Ahlswede left guard Rodgers
Lerum,Feil left tackle Blair Sheldonleft end ... Cochems Kennedyq'terback. Trott, Wilmarth Hamiliright half back Larson Henryleft half backPeele

Slaker full back . . . O'Dea Score-Chicago, 17; Wisconsin, 0. Touchdowns, by Slaker, 2; Feil. Goals from touchdown, by Henry, 2. Referee -Evarts Wrenn, Harvard. Umpire-Bob Wrenn, Harvard. Linesmen-Dr. Hollis-ter, Northwestern; Alexander, Wiscon-Thatcher, Chicago. Timekeeper-Dr. Hollister, Northwestern. Time of halves, 35 minutes.

Three Boys Drowned.

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 10.—Ralph and Clyde Hendri, brothers, aged 12 and 11 years, respectively, and Albert Schilling, aged 14 years, while skating on McCoy's pond at Gailitzin Saturday afternoon. broke through the ice and were drowned in sight of a number of young compan-

LIVE NEWS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD

MEETINGS OF ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN HELD.

Outline of the Work Done by the Grievance Committee, Was Presented-Changes the New D., L. & W. Time Table Will Bring About. Lackawanna Board for Today. Frank P. Christian to Open a Shirt Factory in Binghamton-Lackawanna Cars Equipped.

At the regular meeting of the local division of the Brotherhood of Engineers yesterday a report was received from Chairman Belden, of the general committee, outlining the work the committee has done so far and the result of the conference with General Superintendent Russell.

What the report contained could not be learned. It was given out after the meeting that no action was taken on the report and that no action was ex-pected to be taken, as the whole matter rests with the committee.

The trainmen also had a meeting and heard a report from a member of their general committee on the progress that has been made towards securing redress of the grievances they

D., L. & W. Board for Today. Following is the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western board for today: Monday, Dec. 11, 1899.

No. 34-F. F. Stevens, with C. Bartholomew's men. Extra—F. D. Secor.

No. 24—George Ludlow, No. 36—James Ginley, No. 38—P. Cavanaugh, with J. F. Stevens' Men. No. 40-G. T. Staples, with F. E. Secor's

men.
No. 240-J. Burkhart.
No. 238-J. Gerrity.
No. 42-M. Carmody, with Mann's men.
No. 44-45. McAllister, with H. T. Fel-

No. 41-E. McAllister, with In-lows' men. No. 18-J. Brock. No. 45-M. Devaney. No. 250-J. Bush. No. 48-M. Moran. No. 50-T. McCarthy, with G. Wallace's

Extra-W. A. Bartholomew. SUMMITS.

7.30 a. m., north—G. Frounfelker. 9 a. m., north, McLane, with Warrick's men. 1 a. m., north—S. Carmody. 2 noon, south—O. Randolph, 5 p. m., south—H. Bush, 5.30 p. m., south—M. Madigan.

PULLERS. 10 a. m.-Peckins

PUSHERS 4 p. m., south-C. Lamping, 7 p. m., south-W. LaBar,

10 p. m., south-O. Case. PASSENGER ENGINES. 7 a. m.-Widener. 10 p. m.-McGovern. NORTH.

No. 29, 2 engines—J. O'Hara, Extra, 2 engines, 11 a. m.—C. Kingsley, No. 31, 2 engines—J. Swartz, Extra, 2 engines, 3 p. m.—J. Gahagan, Extra, 2 ergines, 3.50 p. m.—J. E. Mas-

Extra, 2 ergines, 3.30 p. m.—J. E. Mas-ters.

Wild cat. 2 engines, 6 p. m.—A. Ketchum.

Extra, 2 engines, 7 p. m.—E. S. Warfel
with Bisbing's men.

Wild cat. 2 engines, 8 p. m.—A. Mullin.

Extra, 2 engines, 9 p. m.—R. Castner.

Wild cat, 2 engines, 10 p. m.—T. Fitzpatrick.

Extra, 2 engines, 11 p. m.—J. Hennigan,
with George Hill's men.

The New Time-Table.

new Delaware, Lackawanna and Western time-table is completed and will go into effect Sunday, Dec. 17, at 12.01 a, m. As previously told in The Tribune, a new train will pass through here at 4.05 a. m. for Buffalo from New York, and the Tobyhanna accommodation, now leaving here at 6.10 p. m., will run from Plymouth to Strouds. burg and return.

Some of the important changes to be made on the main line are as follows: Leaving Scranton for the East-Train

"The Mill Cannot Grind with Water That's Past."

A fagged out, tearful little woman said this in telling her cares and weaknesses. Her friend encouraged by telling of a relative who was cured of just such troubles by Hood's Sarsaparilla. The little woman now has tears of joy, for she took Hood's, which put her blood in prime order, and she lives on the strength of the present instead of everying about that of the past.

Told Her Friend-"After having goitre on my neck 42 years Hood's Sarsaparilla completely cured me. I was so glad I told friends about it and a lady in Wisconsin who read of my cure told me she also took Hood's for the same trouble and was cured. She thanked me." Mrs. Anna Sutherland, Kalamazoo, Mich.

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++++++++++++++++++ Mention this Journal, as Adv. is insertas our Contribution.

No. 10 at 2.15 a. m. instead of 1.40 a. m.: train No. 12 at 5.30 a. m. instead of 5.10 a. m.; train No. 30, formerly train No. 22, leaves at 6.10 p. m. for Stroudsburg, instead of Tobyhanna, as

heretofore, Trains leaving Scranton for the West are changed as follows: Train No. 11 at 1.50 a. m., instead of 1.03 a. m.; train No. 9 at 2.50 a. m., instead of 2.35 s. m.: train No. 13, new train, leaves Scranton at 4.05 a. m. for Buffalo; train No. 29, starting from Stroudsburg, instead of Tobyhanna, arriving at Scran-

ton at 8.05 a, m.

The crew of the local train running between Tobyhanna and Plymouth will now run between Stroudsburg and Plymouth, and will lay over at Strouds-

Cars Are All Equipped.

The Lackawanna railroad had no interest in the hearing before the interstate commerce commission at Washington, on Dec. 6, at which time the largest railroads in the United States, through their representatives, petitioned the commission for further time in which to comply with the law requiring that all cars shall be equipped with automatic couplers.

When this law was first passed the Lackawanna railroad began with vigor to carry out this provision, and a year ago every car which had been returned to the road from its connecting and foreign lines has been so equipped During the present year these cars have been provided with automatic couplers and today every one of the thirty thousand cars of the road is so equipped.

Only five other railroads in the United States have complied fully with the law regarding the equipment of cars with automatic couplers.

Christian Shirt Factory.

Frank P. Christian, of this city, will establish a large shirt factory in Binghamton, and material has already been received there to commence work on, The large shirt industry of Dunmore & White was removed from Bingham-ton to Scranton, and its place will be filled by Mr. Christian's factory.

The latter, which will open in a few days, will employ over 100 hands, and will do simply a contract business for large jobbing firms.



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