

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: The Triumph of Christianity — The Church of Christ is the Most Enduring Institution on Earth—Its Unsurpassed Growth—Infidelity Refuted.

(Copyright 1901.)
WASHINGTON, D. C. Although Dr. Talmage was hindered from attending the great annual meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society at Cincinnati, his sermon shows him to be in sympathy with the great movement; text, Amos ix, 13, "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper."

Unable because of other important duties to accept the invitation to take part in the great convention of Christian Endeavorers at Cincinnati, Dr. Talmage's sermon of congratulation for all the members of that magnificent association, whether now gathered in vast assemblage or busy in their places of usefulness, transatlantic and cisatlantic. And, as it is now harvest time in the fields and sickles are flashing in the gathering of a great crop, I find mighty suggestiveness in my text.

It is a picture of a tropical climate, with a season so prosperous that the harvest reaches clear over to the planting time and the swarthy husbandman, busy cutting the grain, almost feels the breath of the horses on his shoulders, the horses hitched to the plow preparing for a new crop. "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper." When is that? That is now. That is this day, when hardly have you done reaping one harvest of religious result than the plowman is getting ready for another.

In phraseology charged with all venom and abuse and caricature I know that infidels and agnostics have declared that Christianity has collapsed; that the Bible is an obsolete book; that the Christian church is on the retrograde; I shall answer that wholesale charge to-day.

Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 Endeavorers sworn before high heaven that they will do all they can to take America for God, Europe for God, Asia for God, Africa for God—are not the signs most cheering? Or to return to the agricultural figure of my text, more than a million reapers are overtaken by more than a million plowmen. Besides this, there are more people who believe in the Bible than at any time in the world's existence.

But now let us see whether the book is a last year's almanac. Let us see whether the church of God is a Bull Run retreat, muskets, canteens and haversacks strewn all the way. The great English historian Sharon Turner, a man of vast learning and great accuracy, not a clergyman, but an attorney as well as a historian, gives this overwhelming statistic in regard to Christianity and its regard to the number of Christians in the different centuries. In the first century 50,000 Christians, in the second century 2,000,000 Christians, in the third century 5,000,000 Christians, in the fourth century 10,000,000 Christians, in the fifth century 15,000,000 Christians, in the sixth century 20,000,000 Christians, in the seventh century 24,000,000 Christians, in the eighth century 30,000,000 Christians, in the ninth century 40,000,000 Christians, in the tenth century 50,000,000 Christians, in the eleventh century 70,000,000 Christians, in the twelfth century 80,000,000 Christians, in the thirteenth century 75,000,000 Christians, in the fourteenth century 80,000,000 Christians, in the fifteenth century 100,000,000 Christians, in the sixteenth century 125,000,000 Christians, in the seventeenth century 155,000,000 Christians, in the eighteenth century 200,000,000 Christians—a decadence, as you observe, in only one century and more than made up in the following centuries, while it is the usual computation that there were at the close of the nineteenth century 470,000,000 Christians, making us to believe that before this century is close the millennium will have started its boom and lifted its banner.

Poor Christianity! What a pity it has no friends! How lonesome it must be! Who will take it out of the poorhouse? Poor Christianity! Four hundred millions in one century.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century 150 missionaries; at the close of that century 84,000 missionaries and native helpers and evangelists. At the beginning of the nineteenth century there were only 30,000 converts; now there are over 1,000,000 converts in the heathenland.

So Christianity is falling back and the Bible, they say, is becoming an obsolete book! I go into a court, and wherever I find a judge or a clerk's desk I find a Bible. In the courts every testimony will be uttered the solemnity of an oath. What book is apt to be put in the trunk of the young man as he leaves for city life? The Bible. What shall I find in nine out of every ten homes in this city? The Bible. In the trunks of every traveler in Christendom? The Bible. Voltaire wrote the prophecy that the Bible in the nineteenth century would become extinct. The century is gone, and I have to tell you that the room in which Voltaire wrote that prophecy not long ago was crowded from floor to ceiling with Bibles from Switzerland.

Suppose the Congress of the United States should pass a law that there should be no more Bibles printed in America, no Bibles read. If there are 60,000,000 grown people in the United States there would be 60,000,000 people in an army to put down such a law and defend their right to read the Bible. But suppose the Congress of the United States should make a law against the reading or the publication of any other book—how many people would go out in such a crusade? Could you get 60,000,000 people to go out and risk their lives in the defense of Shakespeare's tragedies or Gladstone's tracts or Macaulay's "History of England"? You know that there are a thousand men who would die in defense of this book where there is not more than one man who would die in the defense of any other book. You try to insult my common sense by telling me the Bible is fading out from the world. It is the most popular book of the centuries.

"Oh," say people, "the church is a collection of hypocrites, and it is fading out from the world." Is it? A bishop of the Methodist church told me that that denomination averages two new churches every day. In other words, they build 730 churches in that denomination in the United States and there are at least 1,500 new Christian churches built in America every year. Does that look as though the Christian church were fading out, as though it were a defunct institution? What stands nearest to the hearts of the American people to-day? Do you not care in what village or what city or what neighborhood you go. What is it? Is it the postoffice? Is it the hotel? Is it the lecture hall? Ah, you know it is not. You know that that which stands nearest to the hearts of the American people is the Christian church.

You may talk about the church being a collection of hypocrites, but when the diptheria sweeps your children off, whom do you send for? The postmaster? The Attorney-General? The hotel keeper? Alderman? No. You send for a minister of this Bible religion. And if there is a song to be sung at the obsequies, what do you want? The "Marseillaise Hymn"? "God Save the Queen"? Our own grand national air? No. They want the hymn with which they sang their old Christian mother into her last sleep, or they want sung the Sabbath school hymn, "Little girl, singing the last Sabbath afternoon she was cut before she got that awful sickness which broke your heart. I appeal to your common sense. You know the most enduring institution on Earth—its unsurpassed growth of the Lord Jesus Christ. A man a fool that does not recognize it.

The infidels say: "There is great liberty in infidelity—freedom of platform, infidelity shows its power from the fact that it is everywhere tolerated, and it can say what it will." Why, my friends, infidelity is not half so blatant in our day as it was in the days of our fathers. Do you know that in the days of our fathers there were pronounced infidels in public authority, and they could get any political position? Let a man to-day declare himself antagonistic to the Christian religion, and what city would him for mayor? What State would him for Governor, what nation would him for President or for king? Let a man openly proclaim himself the enemy of our glorious Christianity, and he cannot get a majority of votes in any State, in any city, in any county, in any ward of America. The Christian religion is mightier to-day than it ever was.

These opponents say that science is overcoming religion in our day. They look through the spectacles of the infidel scientists and they say: "It is impossible that this book be true. People are finding it out. The Bible has got to go overboard." Do you believe that the Bible account of the origin of life will be overthrown by infidel scientists who have fifty different theories about the origin of life? If they should all come up in solid phalanx, all agreeing on one sentiment and one theory, perhaps Christianity might be damaged, but there are not so many differences of opinion inside the church as outside the church.

Oh, it makes me sick to see these literary fops going along with a copy of Darwin under one arm and a case of transfused grasshoppers and butterflies under the other arm, telling about the "survival of the fittest" and Huxley's protoplasm and the nebular hypothesis. The fact is that some naturalists, just as soon as they find out the difference between the feelers of a wasp and the horns of a beetle, begin to patronize the Almighty, while Agassiz, glorious Agassiz, who never made any pretension to being a Christian, put both his feet on the doctrine of evolution and the fact that many of the naturalists of our day are adopting facts which do not bear observation or have not passed under observation. These men warring with each other—Darwin warring against Lamarck, Wallace warring against Copernicus, Herschel denouncing Ferguson. They do not agree about anything.

Then you have noticed a more significant fact if you have talked with people on the subject—that they are getting dissatisfied with the worldly philosophy as a matter of comfort. They say it does not amount to anything when you have a dead child in the house. They tell you when they were sick and the door of the future seemed opening the only comfort they could find was the gospel. People are having demonstrated all over the land that science and philosophy cannot solace the troubles and woes of the world, and they are taking Christianity, the only sympathetic religion that ever came into the world. You just take a scientific consolation into that room where a mother has lost her child. Try in that case your splendid doctrine of the "survival of the fittest." Tell her that child died because it was not worth as much as the other children. That is your "survival of the fittest." Just try your transcendentalism, your philosophy, your science, on that widowed soul, and tell her it was a geological necessity that that companion should be taken away from her, just as in the course of the world's history the megatherium and the ichthyosaurus had to pass out of existence, and then you go on in your scientific consolation until you get to the sublime fact that the child died because it was not worth as much as the other children.

Will you take the evidence of those who have witnessed as well as felt the power of religion, or will you prefer the testimony of those who begin by declaring that they have never witnessed or felt its power? You tell me that on a certain 4th of March, twenty years ago, a President of the United States was inaugurated. How do I know it? You tell me there were 20,000 persons who distinctly heard his inaugural address. I deny both. I deny that he was inaugurated. I deny that his inaugural address was delivered. You ask who? I did not see it. I did not hear it. But you say that there were 20,000 people who did see and hear him.

Is not the testimony of the 20,000 who were present worth more than the testimony of one who was absent? Now, there are some men who say they have never seen Christ crowned in the heart, and they do not believe it is ever done. There is a group of men who say they have never heard the voice of Christ, that they have never heard the voice of God. They do not believe that anything like it ever occurred. I point to twenty, a hundred thousand or a million people who say: "Christ was crowned in our heart's affections. We have seen Him and felt Him in our soul, and we have heard His voice. We have heard it in the storm and darkness. We have heard it again and again."

You say morphia puts one to sleep. You say in time of sickness it is very useful. I deny it. Morphia never puts anybody to sleep. It never alleviates pain. You say that I say that I have never tried it. I never took it. I deny that morphia is any soothing to the nerves or any quiet in times of sickness. I deny that morphia ever put anybody to sleep. But here are twenty persons who say they have felt the soothing effects of a physician's prescribing morphia.

Young man, do not be ashamed to be a friend of the Bible. Do not put your thumb in your vest, as young men sometimes do, and swagger about, talking of the glorious light of nature, and of there being no need of the Bible. They have the light of nature in India and China and in all the dark places of the earth. Did you ever hear that the light of nature gave them comfort for their troubles? They have lancets to cut and Juggernauts to crush, but no comfort. Ah, my friends, you had better stop your skepticism. Suppose you are put in a crisis like that of Colonel Ethan Allen. I saw the account and at one time mentioned it in an address. A descendant of Ethan Allen, who is an infidel, said it never occurred. Soon after I received a letter from a professor in one of our colleges, who is also a descendant of Ethan Allen and is a Christian. He wrote me that the incident is accurate; that my statement was authentic and true. The wife of Colonel Ethan Allen was a very consecrated woman. The mother instructed the daughter in the truths of Christianity. The daughter sickened and was about to die, and she said to her father, "Father, shall I take your instruction, or shall I take mother's instruction? I am going to die now. I must have this matter decided." That man who had been loud in his infidelity said to his dying daughter, "My dear, you had better take your mother's religion." My advice is the same to you, O young man! You know how religion comforted her, and you know what she said to you when she was dying. You had better take your mother's religion.

Papers Build Up Towns.

The effort of any newspaper to build up a town is practically nullified unless it is backed up by the business men of the town. A stranger turns from the news columns of a paper to find there the business cards of the merchants and professional firms he comes to the conclusion that the editor is not appreciated, in which case it is a good place to keep clear from.

No town ever grew up without the active assistance of its papers. Nor can papers grow and build up their localities without the assistance of the town.

Business men should realize this, and remember that in lending support to their local paper they are not only building up their own business, but are helping to support that which is steadily working for the growth of the whole town.

In fact the newspaper is so important to a community's welfare that if there is a town struggling along without one the merchants are keeping money out of their own pockets by not seeing to it that one is established.

An Interesting Possibility.

The market for bridges is far greater in the United States than elsewhere. The States have now 190,000 miles of railways, and it has been estimated that there is an average of one span of metallic bridge for every three miles of railway. This gives 53,000 bridges on existing lines, without including those required for new lines. The increase in the United States of the weight of cars and engines has resulted in wonderful economic changes. This increase of weight of rolling stock has led to the renewal of the 53,000 old bridges by stronger and heavier ones. This demand has brought into existence many bridge building companies, and they can well afford to equip themselves with the best labor-saving and accurate working machinery, regardless of first cost, as they know it would seldom, if ever, lie idle. —Baltimore News.

An Epidemic of Baldness.

The ladies of Osaka, in Japan, are in a state of the utmost terror lest they should lose their beautiful hair through a disease which results in baldness. It is not unusual for a fair one to have her hair dressed one day in a most elaborate manner, and a few days later to find every hair come out in the comb. This remarkable epidemic prevailed in the China prefecture last spring, and now it is devastating human heads in Osaka. The disease has also claimed a few victims in Tokio, where the police have issued stringent regulations to barbers regarding the disinfection of their scissors, combs, razors, etc. The germ of the disease, according to one doctor, is of an "extremely fine sort," and more dangerous to the hair of women than to that of men. —London Daily Mail.

Woman of Seventy Climbs a Tree.

Illinois has many active women who have passed the limit of three score and ten, but none of them surpassed the feat of Mrs. Richard Furley, of Carross, Md. This lady, who is nearly seventy and who has done a deal of work in her long life, besides bearing her own share of the cares that fall to most mortals, astonished her friends, but not herself, by climbing a tree fifty feet high, cutting off a limb on which bees had swarmed and descending in safety to the ground, where she hived the bees. She went up the tree much as an active boy would do it, proving that sixty years ago there were girls in Maryland who were not too delicate to learn boy tricks, including tree climbing. —Chicago Record-Herald.

Woman of Seventy Climbs a Tree.

The fact is that infidelity and agnosticism are founded on ignorance geological, ignorance chemical, ignorance astronomical, ignorance geographical. We have heard what the enemies of Christianity have had to testify. Now I put before you the testimony of those who believe in the church in heaven. Not fifty, not a thousand, not a million, but all of the church on earth and all of the redeemed in heaven.

Will you take the evidence of those who have witnessed as well as felt the power of religion, or will you prefer the testimony of those who begin by declaring that they have never witnessed or felt its power? You tell me that on a certain 4th of March, twenty years ago, a President of the United States was inaugurated. How do I know it? You tell me there were 20,000 persons who distinctly heard his inaugural address. I deny both. I deny that he was inaugurated. I deny that his inaugural address was delivered. You ask who? I did not see it. I did not hear it. But you say that there were 20,000 people who did see and hear him.

Is not the testimony of the 20,000 who were present worth more than the testimony of one who was absent? Now, there are some men who say they have never seen Christ crowned in the heart, and they do not believe it is ever done. There is a group of men who say they have never heard the voice of Christ, that they have never heard the voice of God. They do not believe that anything like it ever occurred. I point to twenty, a hundred thousand or a million people who say: "Christ was crowned in our heart's affections. We have seen Him and felt Him in our soul, and we have heard His voice. We have heard it in the storm and darkness. We have heard it again and again."

Best For the Bowels

No matter what ails you, headache to a cancer, you will never get well until your bowels are put right. Cascarets help nature, cure you without a gripe or pain, produce easy natural movements, cost you just 10 cents to start getting your health back. Cascarets Candy Cathartic, the genuine, put up in metal boxes, every tablet has C. C. C. stamped on it. Beware of imitations.

Paris burns the wood of 1000 acres of forest a week.

Are You Using Allen's Foot-Ease? It is the only cure for Swollen, Smarting, Itched, Aching, Hot, Sweating Feet, Corns and Bunions. Ask for Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder to be shaken into the shoes. Cures while you walk. At all Druggists and Shoe Stores, 25c. Sample sent FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

The disagreeable man is apt to get bald. Even his hair has a falling out with him.

FITS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. \$2 trial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila. Pa.

Fewer people proportionately keep their own carriages in Paris than in London.

As an Educator.

Churches advertised in newspapers, newspaper reading rooms in churches, and newspapers in schools and colleges, says the Printer Journalist, are indications that those who are seeking after goodness and knowledge, taught through a living record of human events and endeavors, are coming more and more to prize the free, outspoken American press, which has been rightly called "the epitome of contemporaneous history, the concentrated news of the universe, each paper the handwork of a thousand men." As the conveyor of more facts, more truths, more messages, more information than any other, it is the greatest teacher of the age.

Cheap and Costly Funerals.

A paragraph in one of the English weeklies says that the sum of \$175,000 required to defray the expenses of Queen Victoria's obsequies is \$25,000 less than the cost of Lord Nelson's funeral. Pitt was buried at a cost of \$200,000. King Edward VII. witnessed the most gorgeous funeral ceremony of the nineteenth century in London. It was that of the Duke of Wellington, on which about \$350,000 is said to have been spent. Marlborough's funeral was less magnificent. It cost barely \$25,000. Mr. Gladstone's involved an expenditure of only about \$12,000. The costliest and most imposing ceremony in the United States was that of Grant.

Dark Hair

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for a great many years, and although I am past eighty years of age, yet I have not a gray hair in my head."
Geo. Yellott, Towson, Md.

We mean all that rich, dark color your hair used to have. If it's gray now, no matter; for Ayer's Hair Vigor always restores color to gray hair.

Sometimes it makes the hair grow very heavy and long; and it stops falling of the hair, too.
\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address: J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Constipation

Does your head ache? Pain back of your eyes? Bad taste in your mouth? It's your liver! Ayer's Pills are liver pills. They cure constipation, headache, dyspepsia.
25c. All druggists.

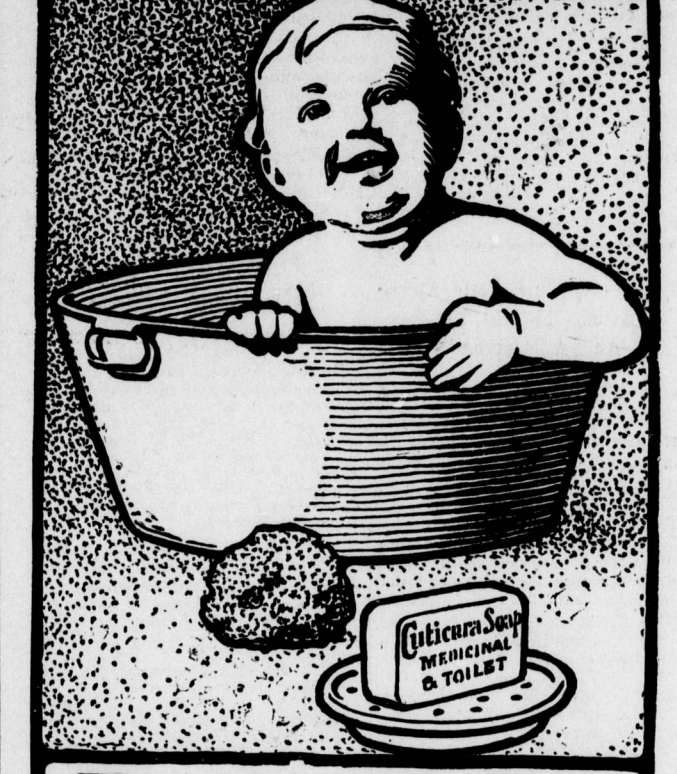
Worms

IN CHILDREN ARE veritable demons, and must be removed or serious results follow. The medicine which for 60 years has held the record for successfully ridding children of these pests is Frey's Vermifuge—made entirely from vegetable products, containing no calomel. IT ACTS AS A TONIC. 25c. at druggists, or by mail, E. & S. FREY, Baltimore, Md.

McILHENNY'S TABASC J.

If afflicted with weak eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water

BABY'S



BATH

MILLIONS OF MOTHERS USE CUTICURA SOAP ASSISTED BY CUTICURA OINTMENT THE GREAT SKIN CURE

For preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin of infants and children, for rashes, itchings, and chafings, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales, and dandruff, and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening, and soothing red, rough, and sore hands, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Millions of Women use Cuticura Soap in the form of baths for annoying irritations, inflammations, and excoriations, for too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes for ulcerative weaknesses, and for many sanative, antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, especially mothers. No amount of persuasion can induce those who have once used these great skin purifiers and beautifiers to use any others. Cuticura Soap combines delicate emollient properties derived from Cuticura, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients and the most refreshing of flower odors. It unites in ONE SOAP at ONE PRICE, the BEST skin and complexion soap and the BEST toilet, bath, and baby soap in the world.

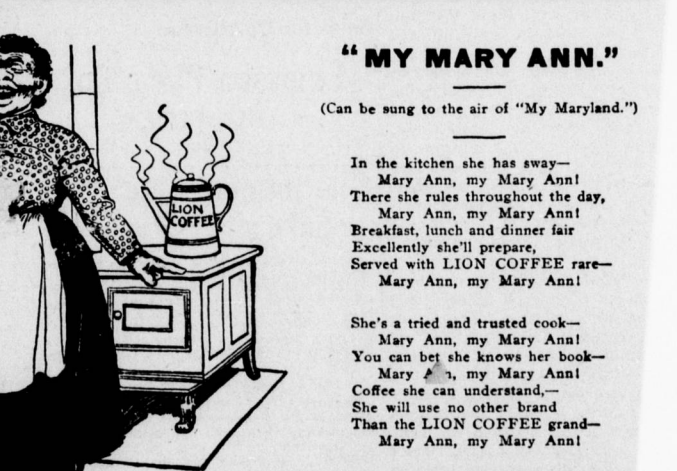
COMPLETE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL TREATMENT FOR EVERY HUMOR. Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle, CUTICURA OINTMENT, to instantly allay itching, inflammation, and irritation, and soothe and heal, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disgusting, itching, burning, and scaly skin scalp, and blood humors, with loss of hair, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. British Depot: F. NEWBERRY & SONS, 27-28, Charterhouse Sq., London. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston, U. S. A.

DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY: gives quick relief and cures worst cases. Book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment free. Dr. H. E. GREEN'S SONS, Box 3, Atlanta, Ga.

ADVERTISING IN THIS PAPER PAYS. N. Y. 27

LION COFFEE

A LUXURY WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL!



"MY MARY ANN." (Can be sung to the air of "My Maryland.")
In the kitchen she has sway—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
There she rules throughout the day,
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
Breakfast, lunch and dinner fair
Excellent she'll prepare,
Served with LION COFFEE rare—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!

She's a tried and trusted cook—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
You can bet she knows her book—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
Coffee she can understand—
She will use no other brand
Than the LION COFFEE grand—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!

Well she knows it is not glazed,—
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
That in million homes 'tis praised!
Mary Ann, my Mary Ann!
One pound package, in the bean,
Lion head on wrapper seen,
Premium list inside will mean
Presents for my Mary Ann!

Just try a package of LION COFFEE and you will understand the reason of its popularity.
LION COFFEE is now used in millions of homes.

Watch our next advertisement.

Just try a package of LION COFFEE and you will understand the reason of its popularity.
LION COFFEE is now used in millions of homes.

In every package of LION COFFEE you will find a fully illustrated and descriptive list. No housekeeper, fact, no woman, man, boy or girl will fail to find in the list some article which will contribute to their happiness and convenience, and which they may have by simply cutting out a certain number of Lion Heads from the wrappers of our one pound sealed packages (which is the only form in which this excellent coffee is sold).
WOOLSON SPICE CO., TOLEDO, OHIO