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THE OREGON SCOUT.

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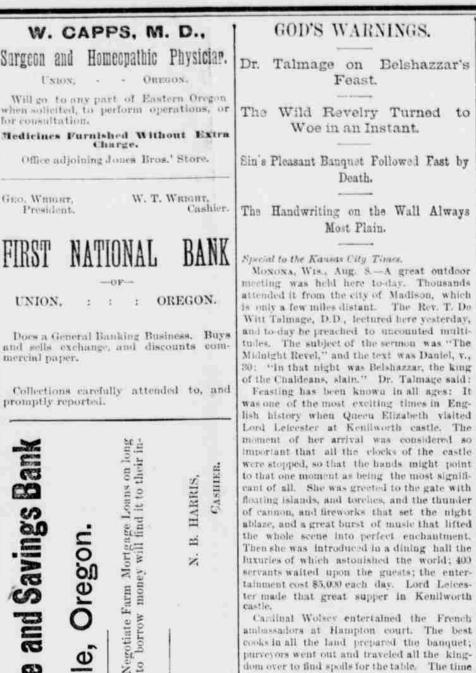
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The Wild Revelry Turned to Sin's Pleasant Banquet Followed Fast by The Handwriting on the Wall Always MONONA, W18., Aug. 8.-A great outdoor meeting was held here to-day. Thousands attended it from the city of Madison, which is only a few miles distant. The Rev. T. De

tudes. The subject of the sermon was "The Midnight Revel," and the text was Daniel, v., 30: "In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain." Dr. Talmage said : Feasting has been known in all ages: It was one of the most exciting times in English history when Queen Elizabeth visited Lord Leicester at Kenilworth castle. The moment of her arrival was considered so important that all the clocks of the castle were stopped, so that the hands might point to that one moment as being the most significant of all. She was greeted to the gate with floating islands, and torches, and the thunder of cannon, and fireworks that set the night ablaze, and a great burst of music that lifted the whole scene into perfect enchantment. Then she was introduced in a dining hall the luxuries of which astonished the world; 400 servants waited upon the guests; the entertainment cost \$5,000 each day. Lord Leices-

Cardinal Wolsey entertained the French ambassadors at Hampton court. The best cooks in all the land prepared the banquet; purveyors went out and traveled all the kingdom over to find spolls for the table. The time came. The guests were kept during the day hunting in the king's park so that their appetites might be keen; and then in the evening, to the sound of the trampeters, they were in-troduced into a hall hung with silk and cloth of gold and there were tables aglitter with im-perial plate and laden with the rarest of ments, and ablush with the costliest wines; and when the second course of the feast came and when the second course of the feast came it was found that the articles of food had been fashloned into the shape of men, birds and beasts and groups dancing and jousting par-ties riding against each other with lances. Lords and princes and ambassadors, out of cups filled to the brin, drank the health, first of the king of England and next to the king

the feet of the conquerors on the palace stars. Massacre rushes in with a thousand gleaming Massacre rushes in with a thousand gleaning knives. Death bursts upon the scene, and I shut the door of that burqueting hall, for I do not want to look. There is nothing there but torn banness, and broken wreaths, and the slush of upset tankards, and the blood of murdered women, and the kicked and tumbled carcass of a dead king. For "in that night was Belshazzar slain." First—I learn from this, that when God writes anything on the wall a man had better

writes anything on the wall a man had better read it as it is. Daniel did not misinterpret or modify the handwriting on the wall. It is all foolishness to expect a minister of the gos-

an footistmess to expect a unifieter of the gos-pel to preach always things that the people like or the people choose. What shall I preach to you to-day t. Shall I tell you of the wonders that our race has accomplished? "O, no." you say; "tell me the message that came from God." I will. If there is any handwriting on the wall it is this lesson: "Repent, accept of Christ and be saved." I might talk of a great many other things but that is the message and so I declare it. Jesus never flattered those to declare it. Jesus never flattered those to whom He preached. He said to those who did wrong and who were offensive in His sight: "Ye generation of vipers! ye whited sepulchers! how can ye escape the damnation of hell!

SPEAKING THE TRUTH PLAINLY.

Paul the apostle preached before a man who was not ready to hear him preach. What What subject did he take? Did he say, 'O, you are a good man, a very line man, a very noble map." No; he preached of righteousness, to a man who was unrighteous; of temperance to a man who was the victim to bad appetites; of the judgment to come, to a man who was unfit for it. So we must always declare the message that happens to come to us. Daniel must read it as it is. A minister preached be-fore James L of England, who was James VI. of Scotland. What subject did he take! The king was noted all over the world for being unsettled and wavering in his ideas. What unsettled and wavering in his ideas. What did the minister preach about to this man who was James I. of England and James VI. of Scotland! He took for his tert James I., 6: "He that wavereth Is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." Hugh Latimer offend-ed the king by a sermon he preached, and the king said: "Hugh Latimer, come and apolo-gize." 'I will," said Hugh Latimer. So the day was appointed, and the king's chapel was full of lords and dukes, and the mighty men and women of the country, for Hugh Latimer was to apologize. He began his sermon by saving: "Hugh Latimer, bethink thee! Thou art in the presence of thine earthly king who can destroy thy body! But bethink thee, Hugh Latimer, that thou art in the presence of the King of heaven and earth, who can de-stroy both body and soul in hellifre. O, king, cursed he thy crimes!"

cursed be thy crimes!" Second—Another lesson that comes to us: There is a great difference between the opening of the banquet of sin and its close. Young man, if you had looked in upon the banquet in the first few hours you would have wished you had been invited there and could sit at the feast. "O, the grandeur of Beishazzar's feast," you would have said; but you look in at the close of the banquet and your blood curdles with horror. The

start. There is a thousand-voiced shrick of horror. Let Daniel be brought in to read that writing. He comes in. He reads it: "Weigh ed in the balances, and art found wanting." must being them from the arctic? What fish but our acts must sweep them for the mark-cts? What music but it must sing in our Meanwhile the Assyrians who for two years halls? What enquence but it must speak in had been laying a siege to that city, took at-our senates? Ho? to the national banquet reaching from mountain to mountain, and from sea to sea! THE NATION'S JOY ENDS IN WOR.

NO. 8.

THE NATION'S JOY ENDS IN WOE. To prepare that banquet the sheep folds and the aviarles of the country sent their best treasures. The orchards piled up on the ta-bles their sweetest fruits. The presses burst out with new wires. To sit at that table came the reomanry of New Hampshire, and the lum-bermen of Matne, and the tanned Carolinian from the rice-swamps, and the narvesters of Wiscousin, and the western emigrant from the pines of Oregon, and were all brothers—broth-Wisconsin, and the western emigrant from the pines of Oregon, and were all brothers—broth-ers at a banquet. Sudienly the feast ended. What meant those mounds thrown up at Chickahominy, Shiloh, Atlanta, Gettysburg, South Monntain! What meant those golden grain fields turned into a pasturing ground for cavalry horses? What meant the corn-fields gullied with the wheel of the heavy supply train! What meant those rivers of tears, those lakes of blood! God was angry. Jus-tice must come. A handwriting on the wall! The nation had been wanting and found wanting. Darkness! Darkness! Woe to the north! Woe to the south! Woe to the east! Woe to the west! Death at the ban-quet! quet!

Fourth-I have also to learn from the sub-ject that the destruction of the vicious and of those who despise God will be very sudden. The wave of mirth had dashed to the highest The wave of mirth had dashed to the highest point when that Assyrian army broke through. It was unexpected. Suddenly, almost always, comes the doom of those who despise God and defy the laws of men. How was it at the deluge? Do you suppose it came through a long northern storm, so that people for days before were sure it was coming? No; I sup-rose the morning was bright: that commense before were sure it was coming? No; I sup-pose the morning was bright; that calmness brooded on the waters; that beauty sat en-throned on the hills; when suddenly the heaven's burst, and the mountains sank like anchors into the sea, that dashed clear over the Andes and the Himalayas.

the Andes and the filmathyas. con's awreth SUDDEN JUDGMENTS. The Red sea was divided. The Egyptians tried to cross it. There could be no danger. The Israelites had just gone through; where they had gone why not the Egyptians! O, it was such a beautiful walking place! a pave-ment of tinged shells and pearls, and on either wide two grad walk of mater solid There ment of tinged shells and pearls, and on either side two great walls of water, solid. There can be no danger. Forward, great host of Egyptians! Clap the cymbals and blow the trumpets of victory! After them! We will catch them yet and they shall be destroyed. But the walls of the solidified water began to tremble. They rock. They fall. The rushing waters! The shriek of drowning men! The swimming of the war horses in vain for the shore! The strewing of the great host on the shore! The strewing of the great host on the shore wreck! Suddenly destruction came. One-half hour before they could not have believed it. Destroyed and without remedy. remedy.

remedy. I am just setting forth a fact which you have noticed as well as L. Ananias comes to the apostle. The apostle says: "Did you sell the land for so much!" He says: "Yea." It was a lie. Dead! As quick as that! Sapphira, his wife, came in. "Did you sell the land for so much?" "Yes." It was a lie and quick as that she was dead! God's indements are upon those who despise and

and quick as that she was dead: God's judgments are upon those who despise and defv him. They come suddenly. The destroying angel went through Egypt. Do you suppose that any of the people knew he was coming? Did they hear the flap of his great wings? No! No! Suddenly, unex-pectedly, he came. Skilled sportsmen do not like to shoot a bird standing on a twig near by. If they are skilled they pride themselves on taking it on the wing, and they wait till it starts. Death is an old sportsman and he loves to take men flying under the very sun. He loves to take them on the wing. to take them on the wing. PREPARING FOR THE LORD'S FEAST.

bauqueting hall the spoils of all kingdoms and the banners of all nations. It has It has gathered from all music. It has strewn from its wealth the tables and floors and arches. And yet how often is that banquet broken up and how horrible is its end! Ever and auon there is a hand writing on the wall. A king falls. A great culprit is arrested. The knees of wickedness knock arrested together. God's indgment, like an armed host, breaks in upon the banquet, and that night is Beishazzar the king of the Chaldeans shin.

SIN'S OPENING AND ENDING.

Here is a young man who says: not see why they make such a fuss about the intoricating cup. Why, it is exhilar-ating. It makes me feel well. I can talk I cannot better, think better, feel better. see why people have such a prejudice against it." A few years pass on and he wakes up and finds himself in the clutches wakes up and hads himself in the clutches of an evil habit which he tries to break and cannot; and he cries out: "O Lord God, help me!" It seems as though God would not hear his prayer, and in an agony of body and soul he cries out: "It blieth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." How bright it was at the start! how black it was at the last!

Here is a man who begins to real French Here is a man who begins to real French novels. "They are so charming," he says: "I will go out and see for myself whether all these things are so." He opens the gate of a sinful life. He goes in. A sinful sprite meets him with her wand and it is all enchantment. Why it seems as if the angels of God had poured out phials of perfume in the atmosphere. As he walks on he finds the hills becoming more radiant with foliage, and the raviews more resonant with the hills becoming more radiant with follage, and the ravines more resonant with the falling water. O, what a charming land-scape he sees! But that sinful sprite with her wand meets him again; but now she reverses the wand and all the enchant-ment is gone. The cup is full of poison. The fruit returns to ashes. All the leaves of the bower are forked tongues of hissing scrpents. The flowing fountains fall back in a dead pool, stenchful with corruction. The luring songs become curses and screams of luring songs become curses and screams of demoniac laughter. Lost spirits gather about him and feel for his heart and beckon him on with: "Hail, brother! Hail, blasted spirit, hail?" He tries to get out. He comes to the front door where he entered and tries to push it back, but the door turns against him; and in the jar of that shatting door he hears these words: "This night is Beishazzar the king of the Chaldeans sist." Sin may open bright as the morning: it closes dark as the night. DEATH AT THE BANQUET. Third—I learn turther from this subject

Third-I learn further from this subject that death sometimes breaks in upon a banquet. Why did he not go down to the prisons in Babylon! There are people there that would like to have died. I suppose there were men and women in torture in that city who would have welcomed death. But he comes to the palace, and just at the time when the mirth is dashing to the tip-top pitch death breaks in at the banque!. We have oft-en seen the same thing illustrated. Here is a

Are there any here who are unprepared for the eternal world! Are there any here who have been living without God and without hope! Let me say to you that you had better accept of the Lord Jesus Christ. lest suddenly your last chance be gone. The lungs will cease to breathe, the heart will stop. The time will come when you shall go no more to the office, or to the store, or to the shop. Nothing will be left but death, and judgment, and eternity. O, flee to God this hour! If there be one in this presence who has wandered far away from Christ, though he may not have heard the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be saved. Flee from thy sin! Flee to the stronghold of

To-day I invite you to a grander banquet than any I have mentioned. My Lord, the King, is the banqueter. Angels are the cup-bearers. All the redeemed are the guests. The balls of eternal love, freseoed with light and paved with joy and curtained with un-fading beauty, are the banqueting place. The harmonies of eternity are the music. The challces of heaven are the plate; and I am one of the servants coming out with both hands filled with invitations, scattering them everywhere; and of that for yourselves, you might break the scal of the invitation and read the words written in red ink of blood by the tremulous hand of a dying Christ: "Come now, for all things are ready." After this day has rolled by and the night

After this day has rolled by and the night has come may you have rosy sleep, guarded by Him who never slumbers! May you awake in the morning strong and well? But O, art thou a despiser of God? Is the coming night the last night on earth? Shouldst thou be awakened in the night by something, thou knowest not what, and there be shadows floating in the room and a handwriting on the wall, and you feel that your last hour is come, and there be a fainting at the heart, and a tremor in the limb, and a catching of the breath—then thy doom would be but an echo of the words of my text: "In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain. slain.

A Rara Avis.

"Are you in need of any curiosities?" asked a lady addressing the proprietor of a dime museum.

"We are always on the lookout for curiosities," he replied, "and willing at all times to enter into negotiations for the exhibition of anything extraordinary. What have you got? A giant; dwarf, a monstrosity?-'' "A rare curiosity," answered the

lady. "in short, I have a servant girl who is not only neat and tidy and un-derstands her duties, but is also polite and lady like in speech and manner, and does not ask for more than a night in a week."

"Good gracious, madam! you don't say so! Why, she will be a prize for us!-prize! why, there is nothing like her in the country. Bring her along at once and she can name her own salary."-Boston Courier.

A little girl lately wrote to her friend: Yesterday a little baby sister arrived. and papa is on a journey. It was but a piece of luck that mamma was at home to take care of it."

Never gets full-The contribution box--Pitteburgh Dispatch.