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A VOICE FROM ZION

THE PRESS:

The Tree of Good and Evil.

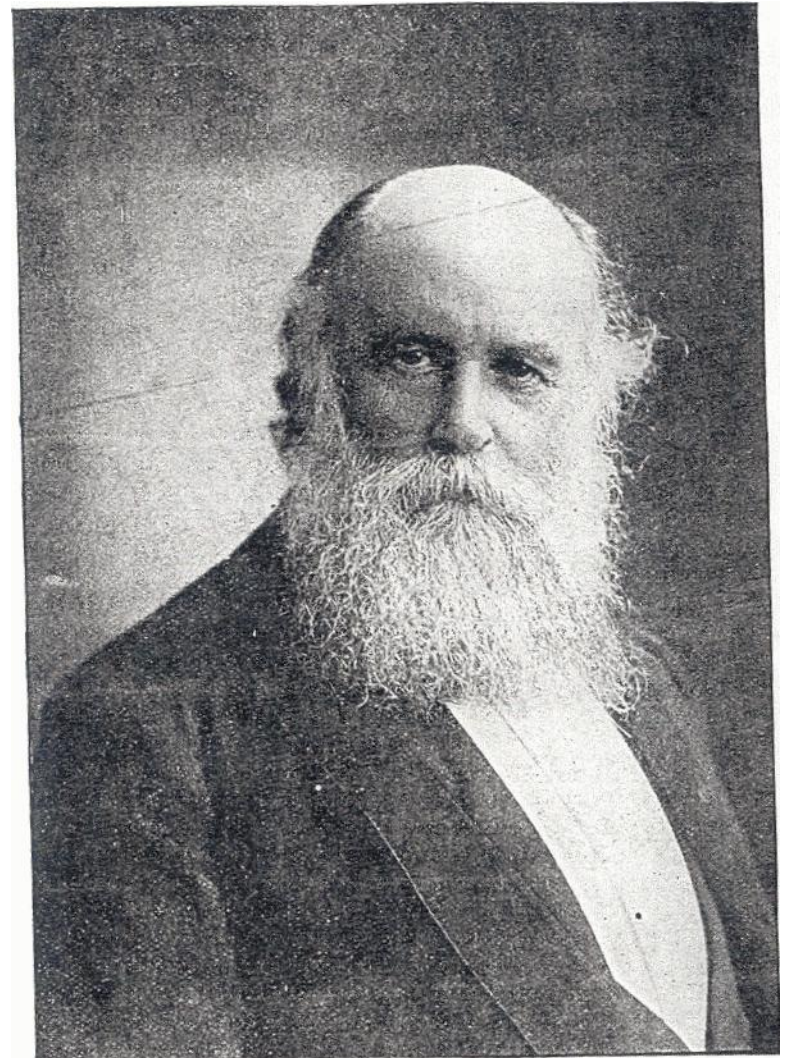
A SERMON

Delivered in Zion Tabernacle, 1621-1633 Michigan
Avenue
Chicago, Dec. 19 1897, by the

REV. JOHN ALEX. DOWIE

General Overseer of the Christian Catholic
Church

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John Alex Dowie

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THE PRESS: THE TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

The following sermon was delivered by Rev. John Alex. Dowie, in Zion Tabernacle, 1621-1633 Michigan Ave., Chicago, on Lord's Day, Dec. 19, 1897:

The meeting was opened by singing,

“Look ye saints, the sight is glorious;
See the ‘Man of sorrows’ now;
From the fight returned victorious,
Every knee to Him shall bow.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

Let us read in the inspired Word of God from of Psalms, the 24th Psalm.

“The earth is Jehovah's, and the fullness thereof;
The world, and they that dwell therein.
For He hath founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the floods.
Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in His holy place?
He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;
Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,
And hath not sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive a blessing from Jehovah,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is the generation of them that seek after Him
That seek Thy face, O God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
And be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory?

Jehovah strong and mighty
Jehovah mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
Yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
Jehovah of hosts,
He is the King of glory.”

In the book of the prophet Daniel, the last chapter:

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise' shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

“Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on the brink of the river on this side, and the other on the brink of the river on that side. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by Him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when they have made an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my lord, what shall be the issue of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are shut up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves, and make themselves white, and be refined; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but they that be wise shall understand. And from the time that the continual burnt offering shall be token away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that

waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and shalt stand in thy lot, at the end of the days.

May God bless His Word.
Let us pray.

PRAYER.

Our Father who art in the heavens, we hallow Thy name, and we say as our Lord has taught us, Father, Thy Kingdom come; that Kingdom of which prophets have in Spirit spoken the message that Thou didst inspire; that Kingdom which Thy Son come to establish, when He gave us the Gospel of the Kingdom of God; that Kingdom which it is the mission of Thy church to establish, clad in the whole armor of God, with the Helmet of Salvation, with the loins girt with truth, with the breast-plate of Righteousness, with the feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, with the shield of faith, with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Raise up a mighty army who shall thus be armed, (Amen) and in this strength of God, clad in the panoply, the whole armor of God, let us go forth to fight the good fight of faith, and with the Word of God to smite the works of the devil. (Amen.)

It seems sometimes as if it were a long time away, but we know that though there be those that mockingly say, where is the promise of His coming; for since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were; yet oh Christ of God, suddenly Thou wilt come to Thy temple, and the world shall know that the Redeemer has come to Zion, and Thou wilt fall upon Thine enemies, and drive them before Thee, and they will either have to submit and become Thine, or they will be smitten, struck down and have to go to hell. The wicked that shall do wickedly have no place on earth, and there is no place in heaven for those that rebel against God.

Oh God, our Father, help us then, and though we be in an apparent minority, let us realize that we are in the majority; for one man with Thee, oh God, on his side is an absolute majority upon any question, in any age, in any time, for the hosts of heaven are with him, and the God of all power; and if we stood alone without a man upon our side, we should conquer.

But we thank Thee, oh God, that there are many to-day that are wise,

that are teachers, and though they are far too few, we thank Thee Lord that their number is increasing. Let the teachers shine as the firmament; let them that turn many to righteousness in the blue of that firmament shine as stars; let the glory of God appear in the church that the nations may see and know that the all-conquering Christ has come to reign. For these are the signs of the coming, and in this time when many run to and fro, when the swift web of the continuous roll is flying through the mighty machinery; when the press is speaking with its million, and tens of millions, and hundreds of millions of tongues, Oh God, capture that press for Thy kingdom (Amen), and take possession of it. Help Thy people to take it.

We want the powers that have come into manifestation to be used for Thy glory. Let the mighty powers, the hidings of which have been so concealed from us until these latter days be revealed. Let these mighty powers latent in the atmosphere, latent in the electrical flash, latent in the water, latent in earth, latent in fire; let the mighty powers that are now being used for the swift transmission of diabolical purposes be captured and established for God. Let us in these latter times feel that we have a right to seek to capture the government of every heart for God, the government of every home for God, the government of every village and town for God, the government of every city for God, the government of the nation for God, the government of the world for Christ, its lawful God. Oh hasten Thy coming, Thou King of kings, when there shall be one government and none else. Meanwhile help us to proclaim the theocracy, the rule of God, and help us to demand of our own hearts, of our own selves, a complete consecration, and of others, that the King of glory may come in, and let the people say, Amen. (Amen.)

We ask for Christ's sake therefore great wisdom in the talk of to-day, as every day, that the King may come to His own, and may drive away His enemy, and take possession of His own. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

Dr. Dowie spoke of the career of Joseph Dunlop, late editor of the *Chicago Dispatch*, and now an inmate of the penitentiary at Joliet, and of Washington Hesing, late editor of the *Staats Zeitung* and postmaster of Chicago, who had suddenly died. Both of these men had been bitter opponents

of the work of God as carried on in Zion. He continued:

Zion is not a passive, silent, do-as-you-like institution.

Zion is aggressive.

Zion will speak out, and Zion is going to tell this city, and this land that they must do as God tells them. (Amen.)

I do not know how much God is going to do by us, but I know one thing, that we are going to do our duty. And it seems to me, as I see a good many men in many positions, that the work of Zion has told, is telling, and will tell.

I do not glory in this man's end. I glory though in the Lord; and I cannot profess to be sorry, and I will not, when those that do wickedly are cut off. I always present this prayer for those who are doing wickedly: "Oh God, bring them to repentance, and if they will not repent, and will continue to do the devil's work, let them be taken away; let the devil have his own." That is what I pray about you to-day.

See, young man, my prayer for you to-day is this: "God save that young man. Bring him to repentance. But oh my God, if that young man will not repent, and is determined to live for the devil, do not let him live for twenty years more in devilry, but let the devil take him now, quick!"

That is my prayer. You may not like it.

But my message is this: "Repent. Be baptized for the remission of sins. Trust God. Do right, and become strong and good for God." If you refuse to repent, then I say, "Oh God, clean them out. Take away the wicked. Let Thy people possess the earth." (Amen.)

That is what I am here for. I am here at the head of an army that wages war on the devil.

If you are on the devil's side, I am against you, stinkpot. (Laughter.)

I am against you, you beer-pot.

I am against you, you swine eating, filthy glutton. I am

against you, you gambler.

I am against you, you thief.

I am against you, you whoremonger.

I am against you, you harlot.

I am against you, you liar.

I am against you, and I will fight you, and if you do not submit, may the devil have you.

AN ILLUSTRATION.

Ah! Grant fought, and fought, and fought, and at last when his adversary surrendered his sword, Grant said, "Is there anything I call do for you, General?" "Nothing for me," said Lee. He knew then that he had been on the wrong side, and that the Lord of hosts, the Lord mighty in battle, had been against him, and he bowed his head. "Nothing for me General; but my men," and the tears came into Lee's eyes, "my men are starving, for they have had nothing to eat for days."

Grant turned at once to his orderly, Captain Porter, and he received the command: "Send in twenty-five thousand rations at once."

They had given up their arms. They had submitted to government. Feed them. They now are submissive to the national authority. Help them to be good citizens.

If you will give up to-day, I will pray for you, and I will send in all the rations I can. But if you will not, I will batter away at you. May every shot strike you! (Amen.)

I do not know how you feel about this thing, but Zion is for war in order that we may have peace. I tell you this; that

NOTHING IS GOING TO SAVE AMERICA BUT
THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. (AMEN.)

Your political parties are all smashed. In Washington, Democrats and Republicans, are ranged against Democrats and Republicans. Your political parties are dead. God give you now a theocratic party. (Amen.) A party that shall say, We shall stand for the rule of God in everything.

Let the people say, Amen.

Audience:—"Amen."

Dr. Dowie:—I believe that the theocratic power is not so far away; that the great masses of the people are feeling, "Oh that God would give us good men with good principles, and destroy political impurity."

Ah! it is sickening to see them, men of the same party, lurking in the dark with a political dagger ready to stab each other, professing the same political principles. Instead of aiding the President that was elected by them, they are only scheming how they can disgrace his administration, and embarrass him in his administration of government.

If we are faithful to our God, we can do, and we are doing here, a practical work, that will within a very few years be a permeating power in every part of this great land. And I bid you be of good hope brothers and sisters, the work done now in Chicago is telling everywhere.

Thank God for Zion. (Amen.)

The announcements were then made, after which the offering was received. Dr. Dowie then delivered the afternoon discourse.

THE PRESS: THE TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

INVOCATION.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight and profitable unto this people, and to all to

whom these words shall come in this, and in all coming time, for the sake of Jesus, my Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.

I put in front of all I have to say this afternoon, the words which I read to you from the book of the prophet Daniel xii, 3: "And they that be wise—"

As I remarked when I read it, the original word here means that they are teachers, divine teachers.

"And they that be teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness—"

These are doers as well as teachers.

"As the stars for ever and ever."

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

There never was a time in which more manifestly men went to and fro, and knowledge was increased.

The going to and fro, and the knowledge do not necessarily go together. The devil answered when God asked where he had been:

"From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

The increase of knowledge is never dependent upon the mere going to and fro. But if those go to and fro who are wise, the knowledge of God, and that means all, that is good, will be increased.

The days in which we live are I believe the beginning of the time of the end; therefore, these are "times of refreshing,"

“Times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

The increase of knowledge in the world has been exceedingly rapid since the invention of

THE PRINTING PRESS.

The slow processes by which every word of Scripture had to be copied by skilful and careful scribes have been replaced, and only within the last few centuries, by the printing press, by means of which to-day for one penny you can buy a copy of the whole of the New Testament, and for three pennies, six cents, you can buy a copy of the whole Bible.

Five centuries ago a copy of the Scriptures would have cost you \$1500 00. And in the early days of printing even, when printing was by hand-press, when every page had to be separately printed by the slow process of a human pressure, a Bible at this time would often be worth a hundred pounds, five hundred dollars. So rare were they, that in the churches of Great Britain they were padlocked, chained to pillars in the church, and put upon the table that a few persons might read them, and there were very few who could read them.

One of the marvellous things in these days in which we live, is

THE POWER OF THE PRESS FOR GOOD AS WELL AS FOR EVIL.

Tom Payne left America at the time of the French Revolution, about 1790, and he appeared before the committee of public safety in Paris, and delivered one of his infidel addresses, amidst great applause among these bloodthirsty Revolutionists, the Mirabeaus and Robespierres, the monsters

whose names are a synonym for the bloodthirsty crew who led the mob into a sea of blood. He appeared before the committee of public safety, and was sneering at Christianity.

He had just written the “Age of Reason,” and he was being applauded for this mighty infidel work. Stalking up and down in his pompous way before the Committee of public safety, he said, “I have been through the Christians’ Garden of Eden, and I have cut down tree after tree in that Christian garden in America.” They applauded him. And he said, drawing himself up with an impressive gesture, “And there will not be ten Bibles left in America in ten years.”

A hundred years have passed away, and I have no doubt whatever that I could find a hundred million of Bibles upon American soil. (Amen.) But how many copies of the “Age of Reason” are there?

THANK GOD FOR TILE TRIUMPHS OF THE PRESS, AND THE PRINTING OF THE BIBLE.

The end of the last century, just at the time when Payne was saying these words, a little girl went over the Welsh hills with all her money in her pocket to the Rev. Mr. Charles. She said: “It is all I have, but can you give me a Bible? Oh, can you give me a Bible?” She had traveled more than twenty miles over the snow and the mountain roads seeking for a Bible, and as he looked at the maid in her eagerness, he gave her the Bible.

It was a costly thing then, a Bible, even a hundred years ago. He said: “Oh God, that there might be a society to print the Bible.” He wrote a letter about this incident. Others gathered around him, and the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded just about the time that Tom Payne was boasting that soon there would not be ten Bibles in America.

I have not the exact figures, but I think 250,000,000 of copies of the Scripture in over 210 languages, and a revenue of one million dollars a year, is now the glorious record of the British and Foreign Bible Society which is continuing to print the Bible. Thank God for the printing press. (Amen.)

Oh, I thank God for the printing press that prints the Bible. The Word of God is printed now in tongues that were unknown a century ago. The Bible has been translated by Missionaries into languages that were for the first time put into grammatical form by them, and for the first time printed.

I suppose to-day I shall be true in saying that by private presses, by the Oxford and Cambridge printing presses, by the great Edinburgh publishers, and the great Dublin publishers, by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the National Bible Society of Scotland, within the last one hundred years probably more than 400,000,000 of copies of the Word of God have been printed in Great Britain alone.

And when you add what has been printed in Germany, in America, and in a smaller measure in Europe—for very few copies are printed in Roman Catholic countries—there is no doubt that from 500,000,000 to 600,000,000 at the very least, and possibly many more copies of the Word of God have been printed.

Thank God for the printing press that has put the Word of God in reach of the common people.

Thank God also for the printing press that has been able also to tell the story of so many good things, so many glorious things.

THANK GOD FOR THE PRESS THAT HAS MADE
EDUCATION POSSIBLE TO POOR BOYS.

Duncan, a poor shepherd lad, saved his pennies, and went

in and bought a Greek testament. When the proprietor looked at this poor, bare-footed, towsy-headed boy offering eighteen pence, all he had, for a Greek testament, he said,

“Why, what do you want with a Greek Testament, laddie?”

“I want to read it.”

“You want to read it, indeed! You better learn the grammar first.”

“I have learned it,” he said.

“You what?”

“I have learned it.”

“How did you learn it?”

“I learned it when I was feeding my sheep. If you will give me a Greek Testament I will be able to read it soon.”

“Why,” he said, “I will give it to you, if you can read it.”

Μακάριοι οί πτωχοί τω πνεύματι ὅτι αὐτῷ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν

“Blessed are the poor in spirit; for their’s is the kingdom of heaven.”

And before he had finished it the good man had his arms around him, and gave him the book. Duncan went back, and fed his sheep, and read his Bible in Hebrew and in Greek, and in my time he was one of the greatest scholars in Edinburgh.

Bless God for the printing of the Bible in its original form so that poor children if they wish, can learn Greek, and read the Bible in the original tongue, if they only have diligence.

Duncan had no teacher, but he had a grammar, and he had patience, and he learned to read the Greek and Hebrew.

Oh, thank God for the Bible itself.

I want to praise God first for the printing-press. We are only at the beginning of its wonders. For now the printing presses are revolving with such a speed, and the continuous web of paper is such a wonderful improvement, and the

modes of cutting, folding, paging, binding and everything, as the thing goes on, are so wonderful that there is no limit now to the possibilities of the spread of knowledge to and fro in all parts of the earth by the printing-press.

IT IS A TREE OF GOOD, BUT IT ALSO IS A TREE
OF EVIL.

Cowper, a century ago, looking forward to the power of the press wrote these lines:

How shall I speak thee, or thy power address,
Thou god of our idolatry, the press?
By thee, religion, liberty and laws,
Exert their influence, and advance their cause;
By thee worse plagues than Pharoah's land befell,
Diffused. make earth the vestibule of hell:
Thou fountain, at which drink the good and wise;
Thou ever-bubbling spring of endless lies,
Like Eden's dread probationary tree,
Knowledge of good and evil is from thee."

I praise God for what the press has done in printing the Bible. I lament more than I can tell you the sad intelligence that now the devil has for the most part captured the printing-press.

I know that God is doing more than we can see. We cannot know the power of the press for evil by the mere fact of the multiplication of immense numbers of bad books and worse newspapers. It is always wise for us to pray that the power of evil which is so apparent, is not to be invested with a strength proportionate to its manifestations. For there is no real strength in numbers.

A FEW WELL DISCIPLINED MEN OF GOD COULD

CONQUER THE DEVIL'S MOB, AND CAPTURE THE
PRINTING PRESS FOR GOOD.

A great army may be a great danger. All military men know that a few well disciplined, thoroughly trained, splendidly armed men, who know how to obey a word of command, and to move with the precision of one man, can overcome a large rabble. A hundred such men are worth ten thousand of an undisciplined multitude.

I need not tell you that the devil's followers are an undisciplined mob. But I am ashamed to say that hitherto the Church of God has been an undisciplined mob too, unwilling to obey, unwilling to march under command, where every man has been ready to say, "I will do as I like, and I will go as I please," and therefore the devil has been able to whip them every time.

While I am going to draw a terrible picture of the vast power of the press to-day for evil, yet I am not afraid of the picture I draw, or of the reality that it represents. If God will only give to us a disciplined power that will march forward we can seize the printing press for God.

MEN'S COMMENTARIES ON THE BIBLE ARE
MISLEADING AND INJURIOUS.

I cannot help saying that if every line of theology that ever has been printed were lost to-morrow, I think it would be a mighty boon for the church. (Amen.) I do not hesitate to say it. The good as well as the bad. I am profoundly convinced that up to this time the attempted authoritative expositions of the Bible have been most misleading to the church.

Take this one thing. Has there been one single commentator, one of any rank, since the days of the Reformation,

that has taught in his commentaries on the Bible that Jesus Christ, whom the Bible declares is the same yesterday, to-day and forever—has there been one single commentator amongst Protestants who has taught since the Days of the Reformation that the Lord Jesus Christ was, therefore, the present day Healer of His people?

Voices:—“No.”

Dr. Dowie:—But the contrary. Calvin, Arminius, Huss, Wycliffe, Latimer, Ridley, Tyndall, Knox, all of them taught more or less, in their ignorance, the infernal lie that God made His people sick for their eternal good. That “Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth” meant, “Whom the Lord loveth He maketh sick.” And there never was a bigger lie told about God the Almighty; for the Word itself never meant anything else than “Whom the Lord loveth He nourisheth, and cherisheth, and bringeth up, educateth as a wise father, as a guardian does a child; and παιδεύω (*paideuo*), never meant to make sick.

I therefore say that the commentaries upon the Bible, yea, right down to Charles Spurgeon’s commentary on the Psalms, are misleading, and injurious, and have led the church away from the Gospel of Salvation and Healing.

MOST OF THE HYMN BOOKS ARE A HINDRANCE INSTEAD OF A HELP.

I could wish too that nine-tenths of the hymns in many of the hymn books were gone. There are wicked lies in these Hymn books, such as this:

“For He who knew that human hearts would prove
So slow to learn the dictates of His love,
Called for a cloud to darken all their years,
And said. Go spend them in a vale of tears.”

Here is another lively hymn:

“God in Israel sows the seeds
Of affliction, pain and toil;
These spring up and choke the weeds,
That would else o’erspread the soil.”

Think of God going about sowing affliction, pain and toil!
God coming down from Heaven with seeds of cancer and
boils, giving you sickness, in order to keep you good! Ah, the
dirty diabolical lie which that hymn expresses! It is horrible!
And then more serious still:

“Jehovah lifted up His rod,
O Christ it fell on Thee;
Thou wast sore stricken of Thy God,
There’s not one stroke for me.”

What a lie. The Word of God says:

“We did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.”

Who are the we?

The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Jews, and all Christians
who crucify the Lord afresh. The enemies of Christ upon the
cross said: “Ah! there You are. Your God has struck You;
Your God has afflicted You; Your God has smitten You.”
And that lie they have taken up and embodied in a hymn
book, and said that God did it. But if they had only read on:

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our
iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His
stripes we are healed.”

It was not the hand of God that did it; for Christ Himself
said: “This is your hour, and the power of” —what?

Voices:—"Darkness."

Dr. Dowie:—Peter said on the Day of Pentecost: He was crucified by the hands of—"

A voice:—"Wicked men."

Dr. Dowie:—Christ Himself said that:

"For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me."

He said He would submit Himself to death, and lay down His own life.

"No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again"

And to say that God did it, is to make God the author of the most horrible crime that was ever committed upon this earth, and is a shameful libel upon our Father in heaven.

So many of the hymns are full of lies; and I find increasingly that the commentaries are only an affliction inflicted upon the afflicted.

I think that the time has come for a fresh manifestation of the Spirit's power; and for men, without reference to a dead past, to have the living power of God, that ever liveth in an everlasting and ever-living gospel.

GOD WANTS NOT DEAD THEOLOGIES, BUT LIVING MEN.

Yet there is much that is valuable in these things, and especially in connection with the study that has been given to the sacred text. And I should be recreant to that which is right and true, if I did not acknowledge my own indebtedness to the labors of those who have spent a great many years in discovering the best text, and in honestly putting it before us.

But I have no praise and no thanks for those who leaped into the arena to fight, not for truth, but for some pet theory. Calvinists and anti-Calvinists made the world ring with their battle strokes as they fought each other, and tore the Bible leaf from leaf in the fight. You can see the same thing today. You see men handling the Word of God deceitfully, and I would to God that all their deceitful handling could be blotted out to-morrow. (Amen.)

MANY PIOUS BIOGRAPHIES ARE A CURSE RATHER THAN A BLESSING.

More trouble has arisen from the writing of pious biographies than tongue can tell.

They write that the Rev. Mr. Jones glorified God in a long period of sickness. The Rev. Mr. Jones would have glorified God a good deal more in a long period of health. (Laughter.)

And that Mrs. Jones, the dear saint, glorified God by thirty-five years of groaning on her back, discharging from her many sores a stinking pus. It would have been better for her to have got up, and gone about her house work, and glorified God upon her feet in a healthy body.

God has never been glorified in our sickness any more than our sin, but God is glorified in delivering us from sin, and in delivering us from sickness.

I wish that most of the biographies were burned, and especially all the story books about the good little children who all died. I used to think when I was a little boy that I did not want to be a good little child, not very good, in case I might die too. (Laughter.) I was tempted to think that, if I became very, very good I should be sure to die too; for all the children in the books died that were good.

I think we could do without a vast amount of that trash,

and I venture to say that in the not distant future the great mass of all this about the Bible will be relegated into the past, and the Bible itself will come out, saying, I am the Lord that healeth thee." "I am the Lord I change not." Hallelujah! Let it come. (Amen.)

But the great triumph of the press is giving us the Bible. It enables me as teacher to appeal to the Word that is in all your hands, and I thank God for that. The day for the scholastic theologian, and the ecclesiastical polemic is gone never to return, God be ever praised. (Amen.)

Now, turning to the other side, I want to briefly present to you how the press is being used, and misused. The devil very quickly saw what a tremendous power for the extension of the kingdom of evil there was in the printing press. Very early after its discovery he began to use it. Its discovery, and its first application, were like most discoveries, due to good men—men who wanted to make good use of it.

BUT THERE IS NO GOOD THING THAT THE DEVIL DOES NOT PERVERT.

God gives a good grape, and the devil knows how to ferment it, to stew it, and destroy it, until it becomes a stinking mass of corruption, and out of it he gets the wine.

God gives us good barley, but the devil knows how to make bad whiskey out of it.

God gives us good grain, but the devil knows how to fatten the pig with it, after it has eaten all kinds of dead horses and filth, and give us rotten and disgusting swine's flesh to eat.

God gives us a good thing, and the devil forthwith goes away and manufactures it in such a form that it becomes a bad thing. And so he has used for evil the printing press.

The devil seized it and began to teach lies, and made it at once a vehicle of the filthy writings of the Italians and others.

BOCCACCIO, BYRON, BURNS, AND SHAKESPEARE WERE AUTHORS OF FILTHY, IMMORAL WRITING.

I want to tell you here that the writings of Boccaccio, and other writers among the Latin nations, amongst whom is the author of Don Quixote, and other writers of vice and rapine and of filth, that these writings translated in Europe, have so polluted down to the very depths of their moral nature, the Roman Catholic countries of Europe that the people are steeped in immoral thought from the first days of their life.

England itself has been cursed by its greatest poets becoming the singers of the devil's songs. Lord Byron with his Don Juan, Robert Burns with his Beggar's Opera, and his other dirty writings, only a few of them being fit for publication. Shakespeare with his tremendous insight, and wonderful dramatic and poetic genius, in his sonnets is the presenter of vice. In his Merry Wives of Windsor, and in other of his plays there runs the infernal muck, all the dirty, filthy immorality of his time, handed down to children in the schools as elegant literature.

EVILS OF THE GRECIAN AND LATIN LITERATURE REPRODUCED.

And so the devil began to put in type the filth that came down from Greece and Rome, plays of Euripides, Sophocles and Æschylus, who lived seven hundred years before Christ, and men began to study and model after them. These multiplied like vermin, and all the filth of heathenism, all the

myths of mythology, all the dirty muck that had only been kept from mouth to mouth previously, was immediately turned by the devil into type, and Europe was flooded with all the filth and immorality of the Asiatics and Grecians and Latins. The dirty records of Greece and Rome, and the filth of the Latin poets, Horace not excepted, the Iliad not excepted, all this dirt and filth, it has been to me a life-long sorrow that I ever read. Heathen mythology whether in prose or poetry, in painting or in sculpture, is always degrading.

I have studied this thing, tracing the history of the printing-press, and seeing how quickly the devil put all his filth into type. But within the past century the use that the devil has made of the printing-press has been terrific.

PUBLICATION OF FALSE HISTORIES.

Take, for instance, the false histories that have been printed by the Roman Catholic Church, presenting as true that which is false; presenting the infamous crimes of Mary, as noble deeds; presenting her, whom the people called "bloody Mary," as Mary the saint; presenting as saints the lives of the popes, which are so filthy in many periods that one pope after another excommunicated his predecessor, and in some cases dug up their bodies out of the grave, and hacked off the fingers with which they had given the papal benediction. A Roman Catholic historian, Hefele, in his "History of the Councils," Vol. 4, p. 397, says that Pope Stephanus VII, hacked from the dead hand of Pope Formosus, his predecessor, the three fingers, with which he was wont to give the papal benediction, and then threw his naked and mutilated body into the Tiber.

These accursed lies of the Roman Catholics have presented the popes as a chain of continuous saints, when their own

historians have told us that for long periods they were chains of continuous devils.

To-day the printing-press is used by Rome not to tell the truth, but to conceal it, and to pervert it.

And so with others. As Disraeli said of a certain author, he wrote a history in fifteen volumes to prove that Providence was a Tory. There are many historians to-day that write history to prove that the South was right, or that the North was right; who only write for party, and not for truth.

The printing press has been prostituted to the vilest aims of untruthful historians and vile-thinking men. All the evils that have been wrought in olden time are as nothing compared to those within the last few centuries.

FALSE VIEWS OF LIFE PRESENTED IN THE WRITINGS OF SCOTT AND DICKENS.

False views of life are presented by Sir Walter Scott in his famous novels, or infamous novels. His Tales of a Grandfather no more represent Scottish history than if they were the tales of a lunatic. His romances invest the Jacobins, who were the foes of Liberty, and God, and Religion, with all the high virtues, and leave the Covenanters, who died for Christ and won the liberties of Scotland, unpraised. Sir Walter Scott was a Jacobin to the backbone. He has presented a false view of history.

The writings of Dickens have strained the imagination of the people, and endeavored to create virtue in a Bill Sykes and in a Nancy, and to invest with the halo of romance the most horrible crimes. In all Dickens' writings there is not one good word said for the ministers of God who fought the battles of liberty, and lived, and loved, and died for their Lord. He did not know Christ, and like so many others, lived

are infamous life. The world is full of this accursed novel writing.

FICTION CONDEMNED.

The outrageous appetite for lies with which Satan angles for souls like flies, has found expression in a perpetual flood of fiction, from the blood, and thunder, and Murder novels for the boys, and the dirty immorality for the girls, down to the misplaced lies of a Marion Crawford, who wants to invest Rome with a halo of mystery and majesty, when Rome, as he knows—or, if he does not he is very ignorant—has been the foe of religion, liberty, education and morality.

And to-day the fiction writers are all told that they must write to please. They therefore create characters who never lived, and invest them with powers, and with so-called goodness that they never possessed.

The whole mass of fiction writing is nothing else but bad from beginning to end. It fills up the mind with a thousand delusions, and leaves it paralyzed, and distorted. The very best of it is as if a man should always be eating pie-crust made of lard; it soon makes him sick.

THE DAILY NEWSPAPER IS THE GREATEST PRESENT EVIL OF THE PRESS.

But all these former fall into nothing as compared with the gigantic evil that we now have to stand against, and that is this new power that has arisen, the daily newspaper press, which arrogates to itself the diabolical right to do what it pleases.

It raises its club to strike the legislator who would bring it under law, and make it amenable to law for its falsehoods,

and for its crimes.

That press stands strong by its association practically in one vast syndicate, full of sin of every, kind. It stands firm with the tremendous power of the Associated Press, controlling all the news of all the world, and making it impossible for the voice of truth to be heard in the great cities as far as its power extends.

THE DAILY PAPER IS ONLY A MONEY MAKING INSTITUTION.

The newspaper press of to-day is established simply and solely as a money making institution. Mammon creates it. The desire for mammon continues it. Mammon appoints the editor. Mammon controls his mind, and makes him at his bidding to write what it pleases or go. No liberty is left to the editor, but to obey the dictates of the money power that, puts him in the editorial chair.

For the most part the man who gets the money sits on his money-bags in the editorial chair, and every one, in all departments, political, religious, literary, has to write as the ignorant pig on the top of his money bags tells him, or find the tusks of that boar will rip him up, and throw him into the sty.

THERE IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF ANY RANK IN AMERICA.

The very men who say they are independent are afraid.

Let me just for a moment give you an illustration directly affecting ourselves. There is not a week in my life that I do not speak to at least three thousand people. Some weeks I speak to five; some weeks I speak to eight; some weeks I

have spoken to ten thousand people in this city. Have you ever read a hundred lines of fair report of anything I have said?

Voices:—"No."

Dr. Dowie:—Have you ever read fifty lines of fair report of anything I ever said? Say yes or no.

Audience:—"No."

A voice (from the gallery):—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—Who says yes?

The brother:—"I do."

Dr. Dowie:—Where?

The brother:—"In the LEAVES OF HEALING." (Applause.)

Dr. Dowie:—Well. (Laughter.) I was not touching the LEAVES OF HEALING. We know the public press does not, the daily newspaper which I am dealing with. Thank you very much for your compliment to the Little White Dove.

The press cannot plead ignorance. Their reporters go to report men who do not speak to one-tenth of those I speak to, and give them long reports. Why? For these men are Freemasons; these men are the tools of the press, the tools of the power that controls the press: and these men flatter the press of this city. For the most part, the newspaper press is the most cowardly, mean, lying, rotten institution that ever the devil created. (Amen. Applause.)

JOSEPH MEDILL, EDITOR OF THE TRIBUNE,
DENOUNCED.

I have told you again and again that when I entered this city, Mr. Joseph Medill of the *Tribune* sent to me to know concerning the healing. The reporter who came was a very gentlemanly man, and he was amazed at the facts.

He took the case of the healing of the Rev. Calvin Pritchard, diabetes, from Mr. Pritchard's own lips.

He took the case of the healing of Mrs. Jennie Paddock from her own lips, who was dying with that terrible tumor.

He took the case of the healing of Mrs. Andrews, the editor of the Christian *Union Signal*, prostrated with rheumatism, who was healed through my agency, and was able to go around the world as a missionary, from her own lips.

He took the testimony of Dr. Kate Bushnell from her own lips.

He took the testimony of one that had gone out of the hospital dying with cancer and was healed, from her own lips.

He then went back to Mr. Medill, and Mr. Medill read it, and he said:—"it; that was not what I sent you to report," and threw it in the waste paper basket. The gentleman said to him: "You sent me to get the facts, Mr. Medill; I have given them to you." "But," said Mr. Medill "the *Tribune* is against Dr. Dowie." "But, you did not send me to write an article against Dr. Dowie, you sent me to get the facts."—you, get out."

Another man was sent for. He came to me, and made this pretense, that the other man had failed to be able to come up to the time, and his copy was not right. Well, he produced an article which sneered a little about me, but still gave the facts, and he was "damned" because his article did not go against me.

Both these two gentlemen came and told me these things, and when a third man came, I said, "No, I will not waste any more time with you, nor with your master." That man was up to newspaper business, and he wrote an infamous set of fabrications which Mr. Medill printed.

Mr. Medill then wrote an article, and I answered it, and the whole correspondence is doubtless on his files; it is on mine, and if needful I will print it, in which I told him he was a mean old liar.

That man lied to his own mother, for at her death-bed he promised that he would confess Christ as his Saviour. The minister that was at that death-bed told me that Joseph Medill

went down to Canton to see his dying mother, and he saw her, and promised her on her death-bed, that he would confess Christ in his paper as his Lord, and he has lied to her; for he has never confessed Christ as his Lord, but fought the divinity of Christ. I said then, and I say it now to that old reprobate and liar, that if he does not repent he will go to hell.

God Almighty will not take any notice of him, whether he is the editor of the *Tribune* or not. He will go to hell because he could have done much good, and he would do much harm.

THE PRESS IS A BLACK MAILING INSTITUTION.

You know what the press has been. You know what it has done; we know it. Not only in our own case but in others, and many a brave man has broken his heart, and fallen into obscurity and poverty, because he was not strong enough to take that monster by the throat and throttle it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Amen.) I have never been afraid of it. I have had my foot upon its neck all the way, and I have it still. (Amen. Applause.)

I want to tell you this, that the press only prints for money, and is a blackmailing institution.

I will remind you of my sermon which you can read in the back issues of *LEAVES OF HEALING*: "Christ against a generation of vipers." [See Vol. I, No. 17, Jan. I I, 1895.]

You remember that there I told a story that was not contradicted, of how the then editor of the *Times* sent to me its business manager, and offered me their editorial, and their news columns, to write me up for a consideration, and I told that man that he had insulted me, and bade him go.

What! was I going to pay the press to write laudatory paragraphs? If the press is what it claims to be, the giver of the news of the day as it is, whether it liked what I said or not, it ought to have given it. But they are afraid.

In this place thousands have been converted, 1,080 have been baptized within eight months, tens of thousands have attended, and yet no report. In the Auditorium from three to

four and five thousand persons attended every Sunday, and perhaps in some of the papers there were five or six lines, but in most of them none.

THE PRESS IS AN AGENCY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF TRUTH.

Do you hear? Not for the extension of truth. That is true; do you deny it?

Voices:—"No."

Dr. Dowie:—Now, listen. There are exceptions. There is one man in this city, personally a good man, who seems to be entirely unable to control his paper, Mr. Kohlsaas. He is the only Editor in this city for whom I have personal esteem and respect; but that has been modified by the fact that he has been afraid to print my answers to the persons that have attacked me. He has objected to the violence of the language. Well, what has he to do with that? The press is there for the purpose of giving the news of the day, is it not?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—I am responsible for the violence of the language, not the paper that prints it, and he knows that well. He knows that he is not afraid of prosecution, because there is not any paper in this city that need be.

The law was made at Springfield to suit the press, and in that law a certain provision was made which protects them from legal punishment. They got a law to suit them by means of which they can libel anybody, and then within twenty-four hours of the time of the trial, if they put away at the bottom of the paper in small type, "We withdraw our charges," they cannot be prosecuted. They can repeat them the next day, and go through a long litigation, only to say the same thing again, and leave you without remedy. Oh, they have been clever.

THE DAILY PRESS MUST BE CAPTURED FOR GOD.

But I will tell you that, as you look at this institution to-day, you can see just this one thing, that if truth is to triumph, either from the pulpit, or from the political platform, or anywhere else, and honor and honesty are to be triumphant, then the press must either be completely reformed, or entirely abolished. It cannot be abolished as things stand to-day. Then the only thing is to capture it for God, and use it for God. (Amen.)

Friends, I propose that Zion's fight against all kinds of evil shall continue to extend to the Press. The LEAVES OF HEALING is our little paper for the extension of the Kingdom of God; but not one-tithe of what we speak, and one-tithe, or hundredth part of what God has wrought call ever get into it. My brother knows that no week does the LEAVES OF HEALING contain one-sixth of what I have spoken in that week; and that no week does the LEAVES OF HEALING contain one-twentieth of the testimony.

Friends, I want to be practical. Throughout the whole earth, it is evident to you and to me, that the daily press has become an absolute necessity of modern life. It cannot be trusted as it is just now; neither its foreign, nor its domestic, is political, agricultural, financial nor commercial news. All these are manufactured to rig the market, and to please the party which controls that press.

I want to tell you this, I have set before myself this aim among others, that

ZION MUST HAVE ITS OWN CITY AND ITS OWN DAILY PAPER.

Zion must have its own city, its own municipal government, the power to prevent all trade and traffic in liquor, in tobacco, in drugs, in pork, all theatres, gambling saloons and houses of ill-fame—all these things that flourish in Chicago; we must have the power by our own municipal arrangements to absolutely exclude from Zion. (Amen.)

We must have our own religious organizations. We must

have our own colleges for the training of elders, evangelists, missionaries for home and abroad. We must have our own schools, where the Bible will be read from the kindergarten to the University, where the truth will be taught. We must have our own manual training and polytechnic institutions where the youth of Zion shall be fitted for the best possible life.

We must have our own manufactories, make our own boots, and some to sell; make our own clothes and some to sell; make our own necessary things, and establish factories where our people shall get employment.

We must have our own agricultural colleges, grind our own wheat, dig our own coal, and paddle our own canoe. (Amen. Applause.)

And then we must have a daily paper, and perhaps before we move out to our Zion, we must ask God to help us to capture one of the Chicago papers. (Amen.) God helping us, we shall carry out this programme, believing that you can best train your families, and live the best and the holiest lives, under circumstances where there is no taxation for the maintenance of vice, and the punishment of crime that does not need to exist; and where wickedness is not increased by a press that is the upholder of every iniquity.

Friends, my indictment is a terrible one, and the power of the press to hurt is great. They did all they could; even the one friend I had in the press was silenced; and against me for years the unmasked batteries of the press, every day poured their shot and their shell. You know what happened. God brought us out, and Zion stands, and many of the editors who fought us are dead and buried, and one is in the penitentiary.

I ask you now to turn with me once more for a moment, to the right side of the shield.

WHAT A POWER THE PRESS MIGHT BE FOR GOOD!

I ask you this, with all their faults, are there not tens of

thousands of people in this city that want to know the truth?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—With all their faults, are there not tens of thousands of people in this city whose hands are stretching out to God for help?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—Is it not fitting that we should have a paper that could lie on every breakfast table of every honest man, who would not need to blush for the news on the front page, and push it into his pocket lest wife or daughter should read its filth?

Can we expect the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to triumph when the people's minds are saturated constantly with lies?

Audience:—"No."

Dr. Dowie:—Then is it not time to pray God to give the control of a daily newspaper to Zion?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—I believe God is going to do it, and I ask you, if that should be added to my labors, to pray God to raise up men that will be able to help me to do this work.

Friends, we want the Kingdom of God to be established. The Kingdom of God is first Righteousness, then Peace, then Joy; and we will not have peace, and we will not have joy, until we have righteousness.

CALL.

Every man and woman in this building who wants to do right, stand to their feet.[Apparently all rise.]

Pray.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.

My God and Father in Jesus' name I come to Thee. Make me what I ought to be in spirit, in soul, in body. Give me power to do right, to confess. and to restore to those whom I may have wronged Give me the power to extend the right and to hold up the hands of those that fight for

the right. Give me Thy Spirit. Help me to trust Thy Son, the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Take away my sin, my sickness, my impurity Make me strong to do right, for Jesus' sake.

[All repeat the prayer clause by clause, after Dr. Dowie.]

Did you mean it?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—God bless you. Zion has thousands of strong men, and if we do our duty, we shall number hundreds of thousands ere another year has passed.

The Doxology was then sung.

I am going to ask a question. If a daily paper were established which Zion could control, how many of you, God helping you, would take a copy every day? Put up your hands. [The congregation of several thousand, with very few exceptions, raised their hands.]

Well, I am not talking into my hat. (Laughter.) I am talking to men and women who expect me to lead in practical things, don't you ?

Audience:—"Yes."

Dr. Dowie:—Help me then, and we will knock the devil out.

The service was then closed with the following

BENEDICTION.

Beloved, abstain from all appearance of evil, and may the very God of Peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole Spirit, Soul and Body be preserved entire without blame unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it; the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God our Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide; one Eternal God, abide in you, bless you and keep you and all the Israel of God everywhere, forever. Amen.

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How to Pray. 32 pp. with portrait of author. A sermon delivered in Zion Tabernacle, Chicago, on Lord’s Day, May 24th, 1896. Price 5 cents, 12 for 50 cents, 100 for \$4.

This Sermon is published in the LEAVES OF HEALING, has been greatly blessed of God, and it

is hoped that in its present form its field of usefulness will be still more widely extended.

“I Will” An Address on Divine Healing with Answer to Questions. 48 pp. With Portrait of author. Price five cents, 12 for 50 cents, 100 for \$4.

This address was delivered at a conference with Mennonites, at the Railway Schoolhouse near Pekin, Illinois, May 14, 1897. It presents the truths regarding Divine Healing in clear simple words, and at its close Dr. Dowie answered the questions asked by the audience and these questions and answers are included in the report.

“If It Be Thy Will.” 16 pp. With portrait of author. Price two cents, 15 for .25 cents, 50 for 75 cents 100 for \$1.25, 1000 for \$10.

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An address delivered at the afternoon service of Zion Tabernacle, Chicago, March 24th 1895, and published in the LEAVES OF HEALING. The difference between permission and commission is clearly shown, and the general objections to Divine Healing are fully considered.

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It contains 832 pages of broad double columns, printed on fine enameled book paper, with large numbers of full page and cabinet photo-engraved pictures. Illustrating descriptive articles of the various institutions connected with Zion Tabernacle, The Divine Healing Homes, etc., and a long series of selected cases under the heading of God’s Witnesses to Divine Healing”. It also contains *verbatim* reports of many hundreds of healings and of Dr. Dowie’s lectures and sermons and full accounts of the long Persecution from which the work has come forth in triumph. The volume is handsomely bound, with gold lettered title on front page and has a carefully prepared index and full page frontispiece of the Editor and his family. This volume is one of great value, and a mine of golden facts and teachings concerning the Full Gospel and the Miracles of Love and Power which are attending it.

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The Christian Ordinance of Baptsim by Triune Immersion.

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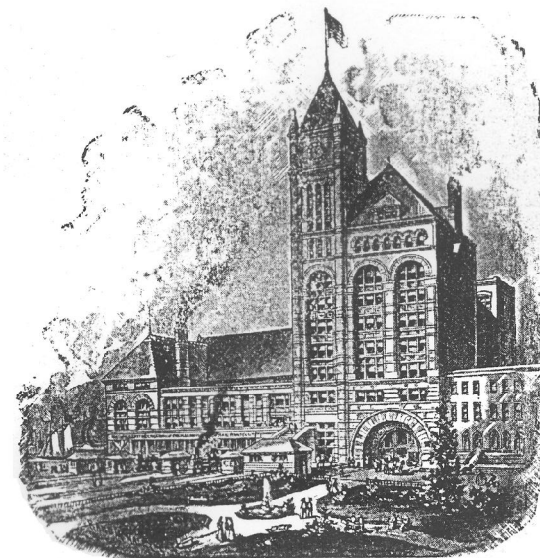
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