INGERSOLL GIVES NEW LECTURE; CLERGY PITIES.

"Superstition" the Theme of His Talk.

"Belief in the devil laid the foundation for another belief: witchcraft."

"If the devil does not exist, the Christian creeds all crumble."

Dr. MacArthur Replies to the Agnostic.

Some Clergymen Say "Not Worth an Answer."

He Sneers at McKinley's Thanks to the Lord.

"We know that superstition has given us delusions and illusions, dreams and visions, ceremonies and cruelties."

"SUPERSTITION THE CHILD OF IGNORANCE AND THE MOTHER OF MISERY. SCIENCE THE REAL REDEEMER."

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL has made a new lecture. Last evening he spoke it at the Acadmy of Music. The subject is "Superstition." Here are the best epigrams and the most notable declarations:

"The foundation of superstition is ignorance, the superstructure is faith and the dome is a vain hope. Superstition is the child of ignorance and the mother of misery."

"Belief in the devil and evil spirits laid the foundation for another belief: Witchcraft."

"An act performed by a master of nature without reference to the facts in nature. This is the only honest definition of a miracle. Miracles are not simply impossible, but they are unthinkable by any man capable of thinking."

"To deny the existence of evil spirits to deny the existence of the devil, is to deny the truth of the New Testament. To deny the existence of these imps of darkness is to contradict the words of Jesus Christ. If we give up the belief in devils, we must give up the inspiration of the Old and New Testaments. We must give up the divinity of Christ.

"The success of the devil in the Garden of Eden made the coming of Christ a necessity, laid the foundation for the Atonement, crucified the Saviour and gave us the Trinity."

"If the devil does not exist, the Christian creeds all crumble."

"No intelligent man believes in the existence of a devil—no longer fears the leering fiend. Most people who think, have given up a personal God, a creative deity. They now talk about the 'Unknown,' the 'Infinite Energy,' but they put Jehovah with Jupiter. They regard them both as broken dolls from the nursery of the past."

"The meanest thing charged against the devil is that he leads the children of men into temptation, and yet, in the Lord's Prayer, God is insultingly asked not to imitate the king of fiends, 'Lead us not into temptation.'"

"Only a few days ago our President, by proclamation, thanked God for giving us the victory at Santiago. He did not thank Him for sending the yellow fever. To be consistent the President should have thanked Him equally for both."

"Spain gave her gold to superstition, her brain to priests, but she faithfully counted her beads. Only a few days ago, relying on her God, and His priests, on charms and amulets, on holy water and pieces of the true cross, she waged war against the great Republic. Bishops blessed her armies and sprinkled holy water on her ships, and yet her armies were defeated and captured, her ships battered, beached and burned, and in her helplessness she sued for peace."

"The inspired Bible has been and is the greatest curse of Christendom, and will so remain as long as it is held to be inspired."

"There may be a place called heaven, the home of God, where angels float and fly and play on harps and hear with joy the groans and shrieks of the lost in hell, but of this there is no evidence. It all rests on dreams and visions of the insane."

"We know that superstition has given us delusions and illusions, dreams and visions, ceremonies and cruelties, faith and fanaticism, beggars and bigots, persecutions and prayers, theology and torture, piety and poverty, saints and slaves, miracles and mummeries, disease and death. We know that science has given us all we have of value. Science is the only civilizer."

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL ANSWER AND PITY THE AGNOSTIC.

TO a number of clergymen a synopsis of Colonel Ingersoll's latest lecture was given last evening, and they were requested to reply to the views he expressed in the same. In not a few instances they declined, on the ground that they felt for the famous agnostic only a profound pity, and did not regard his "false doctrines" as worthy of argument.

Rev. Robert S. MacArthur—Very many Christians do not believe in a personal devil and are Christians still. They hold that the references in the New Testament to a devil are simply personifications of evil, and do not apply to any personal existence. It would be easy for me to give the names of a number of pastors who hold such views. The fact is Colonel Ingersoll puts up a man of straw and then vigorously beats him down, proclaiming his triumph over Christianity. I do not hesitate to say that Colonel Ingersoll is far behind the religious thinking of the hour. It is a thousand pities that Colonel Ingersoll does not keep in step with the advanced thinkers of the hour. He would then save himself from the ludicrous position in which he is placed, and would avoid the unfairness of putting into the minds of representative thinkers of to-day the opinions of mediaeval monks—opinions which leading religious teachers of to-day long ago discarded.

The trouble with Colonel Ingersoll is that he has not kept up with the procession. For a quarter of a century he has been jumping up and down in the same spot. I once in personal conversation urged him to strive to catch up with the progressive thinkers of the hour. He is really in the middle ages of theological thought. While posing as a radical thinker he is practically engaged in destroying the crockery gods of mediaevalism far behind the times.

I am willing to indorse his comments on Spain, but Spain is not a representative of progressive religious teachers who stand for Christianity to-day. It is simply absurd to make Spaniards a type of modern religious teachers in progressive countries. In regard to his yellow fever reference I have to say that it is a filth disease. Its presence is a rebuke to human skill and is indicative of the violation of the laws of cleanliness and health. It is nature vindicating an attempted violation of her law. In that sense we can thank God for yellow fever because we are then led to remove the causes that make the fever possible. We can thank God for every pain and ill which reminds us of the violation of some law of the body or soul. God is not the author of evil except as men in their freedom have violated His laws.

Rev. Dr. J. Lewis Parks—I'm sorry, but I cannot discuss Colonel Ingersoll's address. To do so would be dignifying him.

Rev. Dr. E. F. Moldehnke—Colonel Ingersoll is a scoffer, and is illogical as well. Christianity is not founded upon the devil, but upon Christ. We do not believe in such a thing as a devil in human form, but we know that there is evil, and that evil we call the devil. Of course, the yellow fever among our soldiers came from God, and we should thank him for it, but not as Ingersoll means. It works out God's purposes, as does everything he sends us. Ingersoll says that pain makes strong while pleasure enfeebles and degrades, consequently those in heaven should shrink and shrink. Here again he is illogical. The pleasure that Ingersoll speaks of is of the body, while the pleasures of heaven are holy and elevating.

Rev. F. Hamlin (Methodist)—In my opinion, Ingersoll's influence—what little he has—is on the wane. All his arguments are easily refuted. I do not care to discuss him, as my words would only be an advertisement for him. Barring sophistry and inaccuracy of statement, Ingersoll leaves nothing for a Christian minister or a Christian thinker to answer.

Rev. J. W. Campbell (Methodist—The devil does exist. If there is not a fountain head, where does sin emanate from? Ingersoll is unfair in the treatment of the case from beginning to end. The late Bishop E. O. Haven challenged him to a public debate, which he refused.

Rev. F. J. Belcher (Methodist)—Ingersoll in many respects is like Voltaire. He does not attack the essence of religion. He does not attack the real, vital, godly faith. This country is orthodox. There is no danger of Ingersoll leading Christians astray.

Rev. Dr. W. D. Buchanan (Presbyterian)—It is scarcely worth wasting time in answering the arguments of a man whose every utterance impresses men with his insincerity, whose every argument is specious, and who simply spends his time in ringing the changes upon arguments that are so old that they have been answered over and over again for hundreds of years.

HAVEMEYER HOME HAS A SMALL FIRE.

Servants Form a Bucket Brigade in the Fifth Avenue Mansion.

A servant girl ran into the telegraph office at No. 557 Fifth avenue, yesterday morning, and told Manager Banks that the house of her employer, Theodore Havemeyer, at No. 537 Fifth avenue, was on fire.

Mr. Banks telephoned a still alarm to the Fire Department and with a number of his assistants hurried to the house.

The building is a four-story brownstone structure, being at present occupied only by servants, in the absence of the family. The fire was in one of the apartments on the top floor of the building, having started from a defective flue.

Although the servants were almost in a panic from excitement, Mr. Banks and his subordinates organized them into a bucket line and poured water upon the blaze so effectually that the flames were nearly extinguished by the time the firemen reached the house.

Sleigh Riders Take a Tumble.

A cutter, in which were Miss Nellie Culaine, of No. 426 Third avenue, and Joseph Reynolds, of No. 315 West Thirty-ninth street, capsized on Fifth avenue at Thirty-sixth street last night, throwing both the occupants into a snow drift and slightly injuring the woman. The horse ran away and was caught at Fifty-sixth street and Eighth avenue. Fifth avenue was almost impassable at points.

PLAYS COMMENDED AND CONDEMNED.

The Rev. Charles H. Eaton, D. D., preached upon the subject of "Cyrano de Bergerac; or, The Coronation of Friendship," at the Church of Divine Paternity, Seventy-sixth street and Central Park West, last evening. He said:

"A well-known English critic has said that 'Cyrano de Bergerac' is one of the most remarkable plays ever seen on any stage and in any age. Looked at as a work of art it will rank among the immortals. These are strong words. But I confess to something of the same fascination.

"When I read the play some months ago I was charmed both with the idea and the execution, but when I saw it acted I was delighted. Only a poet could have invented the situations and clothed them with such power and pathos. Only real actors could have given them physical embodiment, such as Coquelin in Paris and Mansfield in New York.

"But aside from the plot, the dramatic skill and the literary grace 'Cyrano de Bergerac' unconsciously perhaps, really preaches a noble sermon; awakens within us motives which are all-powerful in the creation of characters. Not only is the drama pure and without a taint of evil suggestion, it is also a moral force when thoughtfully considered."

The Rev. R. S. MacArthur, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in West Fifty-seventh street, last night preached to a large congregation on "Stage and Pulpit." He said:

"The book of 'The Christian' is unwholesome and the chief characters are impossible characters. No one ever saw a Glory Quale or a John Storms and you are to be comforted that you have not. In my opinion the success of Mr. Caine will cause other writers to attempt something of the sort and no one can tell where it will end. Second rate theatres will bring out second rate books and then third rate plays.

"The tendency of the theatre is toward degeneration. The parts for portrayal fall into the hands of professionals. The men who are pillars of the church are not "first-nighters" at the theatre.

"Most of so-called religious plays are poor literature. It is poorer drama and the poorest religion. This is not an interesting combination. If we are to have religious plays, we must have them written by some one competent to do the work."

LYMAN ABBOTT TO LEAVE PLYMOUTH.

Tenders His Resignation to Take Effect at End of Season.

ILL HEALTH THE CAUSE.

Warned by His Physician That His Strength Is Unequal to His Duties.

CONGREGATION IS DISTRESSED.

Address of the Pastor Brings Tears to the Eyes of Many in the Famous Old Church.

The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott has tendered his resignation, and his connection with historic Plymouth Church will probably end with the close of the year. The resignation may be considered almost as much a surprise to the clergyman as to his parishioners.

Dr. Abbott has been failing physically for the past year. Last week Dr. Henry Conkling, of No. 10 Sidney place, carefully studied his condition, and told him frankly that the work he was doing as preacher and editor was too much for him, and that he must do less. Dr. Abbott called his deacons together at his home, No. 110 Columbia Heights, on Saturday evening, and made known his forced determination to resign. He then prepared his farewell speech to the congregation. Owing to the storm there was but a small congregation to hear it, but those who were present were greatly affected, and nearly all the women were weeping when he ceased speaking.

Dr. Abbott referred with gratitude to the manner in which he had been treated during his ten years' pastorate, and said that nothing but his growing sense of physical weakness and his physician's mandate would have caused him to take this step. "I have no option," he said, "but to withdraw from the pastoral work and devote myself to the equally responsible but quieter work of the pen. It is not necessary that my work with the church should immediately cease, though it will not be possible for me to continue it beyond the present season."

At the request of one of the deacons Dr. Abbott announced a meeting of the congregation at the close of the service. H. L. Pratt presided, and a committee, consisting of Thomas G. Shearman, Fred C. Manville and Walter G. Crittenden, was appointed to act on the resignation.

That committee was instructed to select a larger committee, the names to be announced next Friday.

Dr. Abbott is sixty-three years old. He was born in Boston, reared in Maine and educated in New York, being one of the youngest men ever graduated at the New York University. He was admitted to the Bar before taking up the profession of the ministry.

GILLETT OFF FOR SPAIN.

The Cattle King Sends a Message from New York to Abilene.

Abilene, Kansas, Nov. 27.—The brother-in-law of Grant Gillett, the missing cattle king, received this telegram to-day from the missing man:

"New York, Nov. 27.

I sail to-day by steamer for Spain. Cable me at Cadiz. How are my wife and baby? C. L. GILLETT."

The creditors of Gillett spent Sunday struggling over the wreck which he left behind him. It has developed into a case of every man for himself, and the result is a worse snarl than ever. The losses are piling on losses, and a million and a half liabilities, estimated, may go even beyond that amount.

There is no one to feed or water the thousands of cattle at the Gillett farm here, and while the creditors of the failed magnate are quibbling among themselves the cattle in the fields are dying for the want of water and feed. The employes on the ranch have deserted their posts. On a side track are twenty carloads more of Beresfords and Short Horns suffering in the storm with no one to care for them. They arrived on the date of the failure.

BLIND, HE SEEKS TO DIE.

Peter Goepfert, of Nyack, Puts a Bullet in His Head Because He Can't See.

Peter Goepfert, a newsdealer and stationer at Nyack, became insane yesterday because of the total loss of his eyesight.

He shot himself in the head, but the bullet went high and he will recover. He says he will kill himself, as he does not want to live if blind.

DICKEY CLUB'S BIG LOSS.

Rooms of the Noted Harvard Organization Burned Out.

Boston, Nov. 27.—The Dickey Club rooms, in a building in Brattle Square, Cambridge, were burned out this morning during the storm. The Dickey Club is a Harvard organization. All its property was destroyed.

The club occupied the entire top floor of the building, and the rooms contained a great amount of valuable bric-a-brac, paintings and books, the accumulation of years.

The Dickey club has made itself famous by its unique method of initiating members. It has been suppressed by the faculty several times in its history.

KLONDIKE KING WEDS.

Frank Phiscator, Quoted at $3,000,000, Takes Him a Bride.

Chicago, Nov. 27.—Frank Phiscator, known as the "Klondike gold king," who is reputed to have made three millions in Alaska, was married last night at the Hotel Whitcomb to Miss Nellie Boyd.

The wedding was private, and a great surprise. The couple left on a late train for the South.

GUESTS DANCED OVER A FIRE.

Blaze in the Harmonie Clubhouse Kitchen Didn't Bother Them Any.

As the Harmonie Club was winding up a ball and reception early yesterday morning at their club house, No. 45 West Forty-second street, one of the employes discovered that the woodwork of the kitchen was on fire. Two firemen detailed in the building sent in an alarm, but with Patrolmen Masterson and Powers succeeded in putting out the blaze before the firemen arrived.

Meantime the dancing was going on in the ball room upstairs, for none of the guests of the club was informed of the fire in the basement. Even the approach of the engines was not heard from the outside on account of the storm.

HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOT DEAD IN THEIR BEDROOM.

Police Think That Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rhoner Were Murdered.

SON SAYS FATHER DID IT.

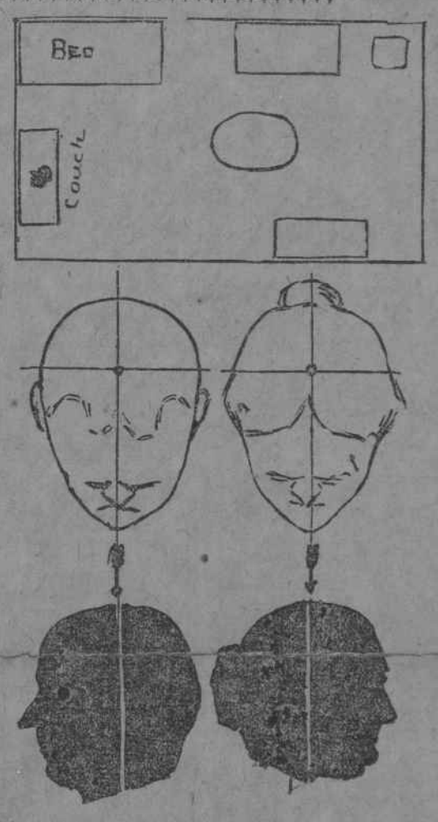
Bullets Were Sent Through the Top of Each Victim's Head.

NO POWDER MARKS ARE VISIBLE.

Police Doubt Rhoner's Ability to Fire the Fatal Shots—Son Balks Their Investigation.

Frank Rhoner, an old man, of Williamsburg, is said to have killed his wife and committed suicide some time Saturday night, but the police incline to the theory that a double murder was done. The mystery hinges on the solution of a plain problem, namely—would a man intent on murder and suicide shoot his victim straight down through the top of the head and then shoot himself straight down through the top of the head, and could a man sixty-eight years of age so hold a revolver as to send a bullet straight down through the top of his head?

MRS FRANK RHONER



FRANK RHONER

Principals in the Williamsburg Tragedy.

Frank Rohner and his wife were found dying in their bedroom yesterday morning, each shot through the top of the head. Their son says the father did the shooting, but no powder marks are visible and the police think both were murdered by a third party. The position of the wounds of both were identical and the bullets both came from the same direction.

Investigation that would tend to solve this problem has been persistently balked by Frank Rhoner, Jr., twenty-four years old, a son of the couple. He insists that it was a plain case of murder and suicide, but can assign nothing upon which the belief might be placed without a doubt, save a letter, purporting to have been written by his father, giving directions as to the disposition of his property. This letter the young man showed to the Coroner, but he has refused to show it to the police.

His Wife Supported Him.

Rhoner lived with his wife and two sons at No. 85 Ross street. Mrs. Rhoner was fifty-four years old. Rhoner had been a prosperous lumber salesman, but of late years had been unfortunate and was personally in poor circumstances. His wife kept a boarding house. Rhoner, it is said, often complained of his inability to make a living and bewailed the fact that he was supported by his wife.

Rhoner, with his wife, his sons and five of his boarders sat in the basement dining room of his home Saturday night talking. He did not appear to be despondent and gave no intimation that he intended to kill his wife and himself. It was 12:30 o'clock Sunday morning when Rhoner and his wife went to their room, which was on the ground floor and was known as the back parlor.

It was the custom of the Rhoner to sleep till noon on Sundays. The servant rapped at the door of their apartment at noon yesterday and received no response. She called young Frank Rhoner, who found the door was unlocked. He entered the room, he says, and found his father reclining on a settee, attired only in his undergarments, covered with blood and seemingly dead. A revolver was clasped in is right hand. On the bed Mrs. Rhoner was lying, shot through the head, but breathing.

No Powder Marks Found

On the advice of a physician who was summoned and pronounced both Rhoner and his wife alive, the couple were sent to the Eastern District Hospital in an ambulance. It was found there that both had been shot directly in the centre of the top of the head, the probe indicating that the bullets had gone straight down. The hair of neither Mrs. Rhoner nor her husband was burned, indicating that the revolver had been held some distance from the head of each. They died within a few hours. Rhoner never regained consciousness.

Roundsman Mandy, of the Clymer street station, was sent with a policeman to make an investigation. When they got to the house they were refused admission by young Frank Rhoner. It was only by persistent display of authority that they succeeded in getting into the house.

The young man was reticent, and it was found that the room in which the crime had been committed had been cleaned out and that all evidence tending to show how it had been committed had been removed.

The letter which young Rhoner showed to Coroner Dalap, said to have been written by the old man, was despondent in tone and in the nature of a will. In statements made to the police and to a Journal reporter last night young Rohner contradicted himself about the letter.

Before her death Mrs. Rhoner recovered consciousness and was asked who had shot her. At first she said that "a man" had done the shooting, but after persistent cross-examination replied to a direct question that she had quarrelled with her husband and that he had shot her.

The police say that in the howling storm the house could have been entered from the rear by a murderer, but no investigation to find whether the house was entered or not has been made thus far, although detectives will be put on the case to-day.

DIXON SCORES MRS. GRANNIS.

Clergyman Says Her Negro Speech Was That of an Insane Woman.

The Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., at the Grand Opera House yesterday preached on "The Race Problem in America." He said:

"In reply to the remarkable speech made by Mrs. Grannis at the meeting at Cooper Union recently, in which she said that Southern women were tainted with negro blood, I simply say, as a Southern and Northern man, that this poor woman is simply insane—out of her head. God save the negro from such kind of friends.

"The negro in America is just now entering upon his greatest crisis. If worthy he will survive, if not he will be crushed. The Northern white man thinks less of the negro than the Southern white man does. You don't want him in your house—you don't want him about you.

"The negro need expect no more artificial support from the North now. He must not expect to rule the Anglo-Saxon. There are 50,000 negro voters in New York now. How many hold office? The negro can solve the problem by education and the working of the hands."

DR. BERRY MAY NOT RECOVER.

London, Nov. 27.—The Rev. Charles Albert Berry, pastor of the Queen's street Congregational Church, in Wolverhampton, is seriously ill, and not likely to recover. Dr. Berry was chairman of the Evangelical Conference held in London in 1897.

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