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THE TIMES Port Limon, Costa Rica (G. A.)

The Profound Influence of the English Bible.

The following sermon was preached by the Rev. T. D. Macnee at Bryce during Easter: Dear Friends—I desire to take as the subject of my discourse today these words found in Acts 2nd chapter, verse 8: "Every man in our own tongue," as a continuation of my lecture on the English Bible.

On the day of Pentecost "the wonderful works of God," were spoken in fourteen different tongues of men; but now, those fourteen different tongues have been multiplied to four hundred. For, in our day, into the four hundred different dialects of men, has the word of God been translated and distributed. Till to-day, in the most literal and in the most world-wide sense, all men on the face of the earth can take up the word of the wandering people in Jerusalem, and can say with them, "We do all hear, and every man in his own tongue, the wonderful works of God." But it is for their possession of the English Version of the Holy Scriptures that all the English-speaking people are at one in praising and blessing God; and out of a multitude of blessings and benefits of all kinds, that have come to our people from their possession of the English Version of Holy Scripture, I shall this morning select two or three and shall report to you some of the thankful acknowledgements of some eminent English-speaking men who may be taken as fitly representing all the English-speaking people; and out of a multitude of blessings and benefits that have come to us through our English Bible, I shall take first the great influence of the English Bible on the moral and intellectual character of the English-speaking people, at home and all over the world.

Now take as such a robe of such an enriching subject, and it has so many able and eloquent testimonies borne to it by so many men of eminence and authority, that I shall very meekly stand aside and let a succession of those eminent men speak to you on this subject.

To begin with hear what Coleridge, that great literary authority and great student of Holy Scripture has said in his epoch-making correspondence, entitled "Confessions of an Enquiring Spirit":

"For more than a thousand years our Bible has gone hand in hand with civilization, science and law: in short, with the moral and intellectual cultivation of our people; always supporting and often leading the way. God and holy men, the best and the wisest of men, the royal spirits of all our history, have borne witness to the universal influence of the Bible, and have declared it to be, beyond compare, the most perfect instrument, and the only adequate organ, of the best man and the best heart of mankind."

And the late Professor Huxley, ostentatious agnostic though he was, in speaking of the English Bible as a school-book for culture, said: "Consider this great historical fact, that, for three centuries this book has been woven into all that is noblest and best in English history: consider that it has become the national epic of Great

DISASTROUS FIRE IN LIMON.

Several Valuable Properties Reduced to Smouldering Ruins in Short Time.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT OVER C71,000.000.

Good Work Done By Fire Brigade and Other Private Gentlemen.

On Saturday morning 5th inst. the town of Limon was again visited by the ravaging monster fire.

It was about 2.30 when the police whistle shrieked out the news that the town was once more doomed to lie in ashes. The railway engines were not slow in responding, and with full steam on blew a blast that was almost enough to raise a half dead soul.

Fire life yelled many persons that tumbled out of their beds only to see a large blaze and a volume of smoke ascending the skies. Our man was not to be beaten for speed in reaching the scene of the blaze. As it were with electric shoe leather on made a dash for the ill-fated spot where he was just in time to see the first building that took fire burnt flat.

The conflagration originated in Señor Bartolli's premises known as Jamaica Hotel. It was about twenty minutes to three when the building was engulfed by the fire which burned steadily. Apparently the fire was burning in the main building for some time before it was discovered, as it did not take many minutes for the flames to spread over the structure, so great must have been the havoc wrought in the inner part of the building before the threat of danger was discovered.

A mild north-west breeze was blowing at the time of the fire, and fortunately it did not increase its velocity but only varied its course about a hour after when it commenced to blow from the sea. Grave fears were entertained by the knowing ones, as it pointed to the utter destruction of not only the block that was burning, but the block on which Hotel Miramar is situated. But fortune seemed to smile on the much excited occupants of the block when the breeze lulled considerably.

The fire brigade was quickly on the scene and attached its hose to a hydrant and turned the key for water, but like many other occasions of this kind, and which Port Limon is not free from, no water came. Several attempts were made to get a supply but proved a failure.

The fire all the time burnt all

Britain, and that it is as familiar to noble and simple, from John O'Grat's to Lord's End, as Tasso and Dante once were to the Italian; consider that it is written in the

NOBLEST AND PUREST ENGLISH.

and that it abounds in exquisite beauties of literary form and, finally, consider that it forbids the veriest kind, who never left his native village, to be ignorant of the existence of other countries and other civilizations and of a great past stretching back to the furthest limits of the oldest nations in the world."

(To be continued.)

Libitum. There was still no water to quench the mighty demon which was at the time spreading itself from house to house. On and on did the flames travel, not caring for whom it came in contact with, and soon the whole range of buildings from the corner where Bartolli had a large tavern and which was opposite the old Gem to the large four-story structure owned by Señor Quinto Vaglio.

The fire then changed its course and Messrs. Marshall and McGuinness' book store then received its death knell. It did not take any time to crumble to ashes, but bowed itself quickly to the inevitable. The fire brigade at this juncture turned their attention to the sea water and with the aid of the fire engine applied the water vigorously on Mr. DePass' and the American Consul's building. This had but little effect, for it helped to make matters worse. Great efforts were made to save the building of the Hamburg-American Line Office. The men climbed the top of the verandah with hose in hand and fought the fire bravely. But with the office was doomed, as it quickly caught and like a candle did it burn, also spreading itself to Mr. Lindo's house which was also burnt to the ground.

A supply of fresh water was now got and the fire brigade fought with might and main to subdue the rage. Mr. Cecil Lindo's dwelling now attracted the attention of all as the sparks from the adjoining building was falling fast and in a short time it caught and burnt flat to the ground.

The Hamburg-American Line steamer Prinz Joachim arrived the previous evening from Jamaica and brought a number of deck passengers—men and women. These took lodgings at the Jamaica Hotel and when the fire was discovered they made a rush for the door downstairs but to their horror it was locked. They became panic stricken and to save life rushed upstairs again and climbed down a large column attached to the burning building. The people lost practically all their belongings. Many of the boarders had come from the lines intending to leave for Jamaica on Monday. We came across a man whose appearance was above the ordinary with only his night suit on and without boots.

Quinto Vaglio's four-story house although brick was gutted, the doors, windows and roof being wood caught and in a short space of time the mere brick shell was visible. The loss sustained by Señor Vaglio's was great.

The "Gem," which was next to it, stocked with a large and varied assortment of liquor, shared the same fate. During the progress of the fire on this building an explosion occurred that startled many of the by-standers. It was supposed to be casks of liquor that took fire. Juan Knohr & Sons, who kept a liquor store and bodega beneath Vaglio's building, also suffered complete destruction. In their bodega in the back was

stored oil and it is supposed powder when the flames took these the most equalized that of the caution that was heard on Monday on the occasion of the opening of Congress.

Alfonso's building had a narrow escape. So as to protect it the brigade got into the back of the yard and like real fire fighters, they climbed on a small house that they had destroyed to prevent the flames and carried a constant supply of water on the burning structures of the yard, and also on the building.

The fire stopped at Mr. Cecil Lindo's house in thirty seconds and Vaglio's building is saved and a train of destroying a block.

The fire brigade worked admirably, and did all they could to keep the fire under control, and if it was not for their strenuous efforts probably the fire would have carried away two blocks.

Dr. Stagall was seen at an early stage of the fire assisting to direct the men extinguishing the fire. He worked all through the time and was unceasing in his efforts to get the men together when they seem to swerve through the heat.

The policeman, who on other occasions meet and pressed peaceful citizens, did nothing of the sort this time; they remained and did good work, and in many instances assisted the helpless.

It was a pitiable sight to see Bartolli and his son sitting in the Park bath in tears and moaning the loss of their property.

We are informed that Bartolli and the man who managed the Jamaica Hotel for him has been apprehended and carried to the court, where they await the pleasure of the higher authorities.

Mr. Cecil Lindo, the banana king in Limon, had five of his houses destroyed. The first was occupied by Mr. Sam Lindo; the second, American Consul; the third, the Agent of the Hamburg-American Line of steamers; the fourth, Mr. N. A. Finley and employees of the United Fruit Company and the fifth, by Mr. Cecil Lindo himself, who was in San José at the time of the fire.

The total loss is estimated at

not less than C1,000,000. The fire was burning till a late hour in the day.

Local Train Wrecked.

DRIVEN BADLY INJURED.

A badly cracked switch at Sterling Spur on the 2nd road, was the cause of a late morning accident. The engine, a 4-6-0, was stuck when the engine going on one rail when the engine took the other with the result that the engine was overturned, and the engine was severely damaged. The engine was recovered for a considerable time and a wreaching train was sent to the scene and to remove the engine. The engine was taken out, the engine was broken and the engine was badly fractured. It was brought to Limon the next morning and taken to the hospital where he now lies in a precarious condition.

[COMMENTED.]

An Unfortunate Trip.

Whilst the flames of yesterday morn in mighty torrents roared in its exit, to crumble thousands of dollars' losses, Ellen Watson (better known as the "Mighty Looter") was knocked by a "hump of law" in the act of making friends with some of Mr. Mendez's good wares and chain. After a short but rough tussle she was safely landed in a pretty quiet spot in the Cuartel, just to await the pleasure of justice.

Understand that this is the said woman who only a few days ago, launched an action against a certain firm, of this very town, to recover damages for her "character" which was alleged to have been shattered. Very pretty indeed—trying to regain that which was never possessed or lost.

Yours respectfully,
E. A. S.

At gentlemen's marks signatures of «Nacionales»

NOTICE

We beg to advise the general public and our patron friends, that in consequence of the disastrous fire yesterday morning which completely destroyed our offices and warehouses, we have provisionally established ourselves in the house of Mr.

Ramón González

situated in the Market place and adjoining the offices of «The Times», were we and at your service and shall be able in a few days to your valued orders as pereto.

Juan Knohr hijos

Limon, may 7th 1911.—3 v.

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