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The Books of Aristophanes. Hall's Book S. the city is wholly given up to pleasure, as deep, and a drunkenness as beastly, The Books of Terence...Hall's Book Store and is wild and drunken with feasting and a debauchery as monstrous, among the great and grand of high society as

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Belshazzar's Feast.

REV. A. J. MOWATT

In St. Paul's Church, Fredericton Sunday norning Dec. 23rd 1888.

feast to a thousand of his lords. and drank wine before the thousand .-

"In that night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. - DANIEL v. 30.

My subject tonight is Belshazzar's feast, an oldtime drunken banquet. I do not know whether they used to have in Babylon any merry Christmas, or Happy New Year, or anything that corresponded to these festive seasons with us, but this I do know, they had their drunken hilarious feasts.

Now, I take you to Belshazzar's feast tonight. It is the season of feasting, and we may pick up some ideas that may help us, that may teach us wisdom and do us good. I grant it is a good deal over two thousand years since it came off, and the dust of the ages has gathered thick on the ruins of Babylon; still, we are not too late to share in the feast. Of course the wine of drunkenluxury have all been eaten, the profane ests have all been told and laughed over, the bacchanalian songs have all been sung, the speeches have all been made and applauded to the echo, and LOTTIMER'S SHOE STORE the convivial guests have all gone away long ago to their drunkard's hell. We But we are not too late for the lessons of wisdom and warning we may learn here, and perhaps that is after all the best part of Belshazzar's feast.

I. THE FEAST.

The proclamation has gone forth from the king, and the royal heralds have shouted it all over the city, that Baby-lon is to keep a holiday in honor of the niversary of his illustrious reign, or some victory achieved or supposed to have been achieved, over the Median Army The Books of Xenophon. . Hall's Book Store that has been besieging the city without

any time. "Long live the king! Live forever Belshazzar!" Echo and re-echo towers, are alive with citizens in holiday

But tonight it is at Babylon's palace where the chief attraction is. A royal banquet is to be given by the king in person, in the grand hall of the palace, the like of which has not

the great city, the great empire, the

abundance of everything that can tempt the appetite in the shape of meats, fruits, wines, and dainty dishes that cost fabulous sums of money to procure them, show that there is as yet no fear of famine in the city. And then look at the thousands of guests, and the thousands of waiters! Look at the me is not nearly carried out. The voluptuous king and his voluptuous grandest part of the entertainment is lords drinking to one another's healths full goblets of rich Babylonian wine! Listen to their uproarious mirth! How they vociferate, gesticulate, jest, laugh, ing, shout, cheer, roll on their seats, and speak the silliest of speeches, and do the silliest of silly doings, and drink, drink, drink.

What is the meaning of it all? Look at the king! What has become of the majesty with which he entered the banqueting hall, and the dignity and reserve with which he greeted the thousands that came to do him honor? And those great lords and fine ladies-What has come over them? What has robbed them of their manliness and modesty, and made them so bcorish and uncouth? Ah! the plain English of it is, they are drunk, beastly drunk. Yes, the gaily festooned banqueting halls." elite of Babylon, the proud aristocracy of the proudest city of the then world, the guardians of the national honor, the power and prowess, the might and majesty, the beauty and fashion of the empire, are filled full with the excess of wine. They are drunk.

And, although it seems almost too bad to hint at such a thing, too shocking, is it not even today too sadly true, that so many of the great men of the state, the so-called elite of society, the pride and fashion of the larger cities, the rulers of our country, the aristocracy of the land, are still very much adicted to wine's bebasing sneers? Only the are too late for that part of the feast. other day we had to read in the papers of a drunk in ____ not a Scott Act City, I am happy to say. And the fair capital of the Dominion has been the scene of certain Babylonian banquets that have shocked every sense of propriety, and made the land blush from ocean to ocean.

Now, of course, there are those who would not be seen going into mean shebeens where Indians, and the loafers king, perhaps his birth day, or the an- of the street-corners, and the boors from the backwood get drunk. There is no respectability about that. But they get up their grand champagne suppers, and their royal dinners, and they will get royally drunk there. Oh! is it much of a wonder that intemperance grows in the land, and the honor of our country is sometimes sacrificed, and the fair tame of the nation is defamed, when princes and statesmen, and even ludies of fashion, get drunken with wine? palaces as well as our cottages! What The Books of Flucydides. Hall's Book Store evening draws on, the streets and wealth, as well as the rags of the worth-The Books of Aeschylus. Hall's Book Store squares blaze with illuminations, and less poor! Yes, there is a degradation the great and grand of high society as

there is among the low of low society. The drunkenness of wine is as much drunkenness as the drunkenness of bad rum. The debauch of a champagne of himself. It is to be a splendid affair, than the debauch of a dramshop. Belshazzar's drunken feast is not any more is very large to meet the requirements of Babylon since the days of the great respectable in any respect than a drunk-Nebuchadnezzar, perhaps never before. en spree in a low back-street dance-

The scene is changed. The lights shine with a strange lurid glare in the presence of that awful writing. The ladies are fainting, weeping. shrieking. The great lords are awestruck and fearpossessed. The royal feast is broken up before it is half finished. The programstill to come. Some of the choicest dishes have never been touched. But who can feast with those dark words presaging woe looming down upon him ? Who can sing, and jest, and laugh, and scoff, and drink wine, and get drunk, when the hand of God writes doom before his eyes ? Ah ! how suddenly and 6.25 awfully those four little words, "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin," put an end to their drunken revelry, and turn their

singing into shrieking, their laughter into weeping, their joy into woe. But you will tell me perhaps, "There are no such spectre-hands and no such spectre-words nowadays. Our merry Christmas and New Year festivities are never marred by any such hand as Belshazzar saw writing doom on our

Ah! are you sure of that? Let me shew you a home-scene. I paint it for you, but I am afraid there is too much of truth in it even in this temperance city. I believe however that there is very much improvement in temperance in Fredericton. Still we are not what we should be. Very far from it, and sometimes I am entreated by members of my own congregation to cry out aloud against the intemperance of the city. And so I take this opportunity to utter a warning cry, lest some may forget and fall.

It is New Year's night. The lights are lit in the parlor. The family are assembled dressed up in gay holiday attire awaiting the arrival of their guests. The evening is to be given up to mirth and merriment. The piano is standing open waiting for skilful fingers to flit across its keys, and awake its stirring melodies. The side-board is loaded with wines and fruits and cake. Around the walls of the room are wrought in fantastic letters happy greetings, and pleasant mottoes and devices. The tinkle of sleigh-bells is heard in the streets, and the door-bell rings a merry peal. There is the trampling of feet in the hall and up the stair, and the merry chime of silvery voices and happy greetings. Soon the evening's merriment opens. The quiet home-scene bursts into life and boistrous mirth. Everything like cold formality and stiff restraint is broken in upon. The gay young votaries of pleasure give way to the impulses of the moment. They sing, they dance, they jest, they laugh, they quaff the ruby wine. Some taste for the first The Books of Juvenal...Hall's Book Store time Babylonian style. And as the royalty, and the silks and satins of selves to its fascination. The long winter evening hours glide swiftly away, and far into the night they revel.

But the scene is changed. The merry company has been dismissed. The lights in the parlor have been put out. The flickering fire, dying in the grate, makes strange ghostlike shadows on the wall, and they seem to dance and jest in wierd mockery of the evening's hilarity, to the grandees of the empire, in honor supper in a palace is not a whit better and it turns the fantastic lettering into a writing of mystery and doom. Flushed with wine's excess, and the evening's excitement, sits dozing and dreaming, half asleep and balf awake, a young man, the hope and promise of the home. His face was the sunniest, his eye the brightest, his laugh the merriest, his wit the keenest, of all there that night. But now his fevered brain sees wierd shapes and ladies are to drink wine with the tian, no more becoming a good and noble in the fire-light shadows, and reads doom in the happy inscriptions on the wall. And he reads them right, for the adder's deadly poison is already in his blood. and the first step to ruin is taken. Now, far be it for me to condemn out and out all such festivities. The word of God does not, and I do not. The Blessed Lord Himself was more than once at some such evening entertain-



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12.00 M. - For Fredericton Junction St John and points east. 3.15 P. M.—For Fredericton St. John and points East. Junction,

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- 9.25 A. M .- From Fredericton Junction
- 9.25 A. M.—From Fredericton Junction St. John and all points East.
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 7.15 P. M.—Express from St. John

7.15 P. M.—Express from St. John, and inter-mediate points, St Stephen, Houlton Woodstock and points north.

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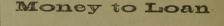
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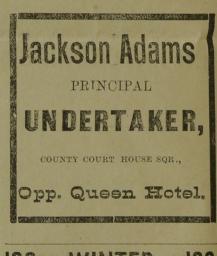
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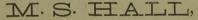
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place at that royal feast!

did equipages of the lords and high Jerusalem as trophies of his victory estates of the city and empire! That is over the Jews. We cannot put them to general so and so, the Commander-in-chief of the Babylonian army. Look at Babylonian wine out of them, can we? the stars and medals of honor and What say you, lords and ladies of Babyvictory sparkling on his breast! What a splendid chariot he rides in, and what Cor. Germain & Princess Sis. a brilliant cortege, the flower of the idea! Long live the king! army, attend him! And there goes the lord high chamberlain of the city! Look cries aloud in his drunken blasphemy: at his robes and insignia of office! What a magnificent turn-out! And there they go, every one greater and grander than another! What a fine thing it must be to have plenty money, and to be a Babylonian lord tonight! A. N. PETERS, - PROPRIETOR through the trees. What a magnificent pile of architectural grandeur! It is one their profane drunken revelry a sceptreblaze of glory tonight. The aroma of hand suddenly shows itself, and traces flowers that perfumes all the air is from dark mystery words of woe on the wall. those beautiful hanging gardens, the The strange apparition seems to have

work of great Nebuchadnezzar, and the for the banquet will have begun. Let

Thus, it seems to me, we may learn great occasion, the great personages to from this royal wine-feast, that wine be present, the great army, the great drinking is no better than rum-drinkpeople. A thousand lords and a thous- ing, no more respectable, no more chrisking. The elite of the empire are to be man, whether prince or peasant.

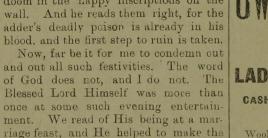
there in full costume. What a great II. THE SCEPTRE HAND AND THE WRIT-banquet! Oh to be honored with a ING ON THE WALL. ING ON THE WALL.

"Waiter," cries the drunken king, There they go already thundering "bring those sacred vessels my father along the illuminated streets, the splen Nebuchadnezzar brought with him from

"A happy thought, O king! A worthy

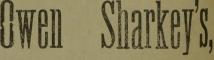
When they are brought in Belshazzar "Now for a bumper of the choicest wine out of them to the gods of Babylon! And the king, his princes, his wives, his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of wood, and of stone.

But while they are in the height of made its appearance directly opposite world's wonder. But we must along, where the king is sitting, and the light LXIII USCEUT VICENTRY.THE SCIENCE OF LIFE
the grave and the bound use way through the grand
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Man, Office, No. 4 Bulkinch Street.for the banquet will have begin. Lemis
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wise have been. There are some who would have us believe that because Jesus was at that marriage-feast it would be more like a prayer-meeting than a feast. They cannot understand how such a holy One could consistently go to any feast. But it is no use trying to make a prayermeeting out of that feast. It was a gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of feast, and Jesus and His disciples were there as honored guests, and He contributed His share towards making the entertainment a success. I grant indeed there would be prayer and thanks giving where Jesus was, But they were there to feast, and they feasted. The guests were merry-hearted as guests at marriage-feasts ought to be, and perhaps some of them carried their merriment a

feast more a feast than it would other-



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