COMFORT FOR THE MARTHAS

Rev. Dr. Talmage's Sermon on Household Cares.

HOW TRIALS MAY BE OVERCOME

Mary and Martha—Their Prototypes Are in Every Parlor and Kitchen in the Land — Housekeeping Cares — Severe Economy — Sickness and Trouble — Home Influence—The Christian Housekeeper.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Rev. Dr. Talmage this morning preached from the words, recorded in Luke 10: 40: "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her, therefore, that she help me."

Yonder is a beautiful village homestead. The man of the house is dead, and his widow is taking charge of the premises. This is the widow Martha of Bethany. Yes, I will show you also the pet of the household. This is Mary, the younger sister, with a book under her arm and her face having no appearance of anxiety or care. Company has come. Christ stands outside the door, and of course there is a good deal of excitement inside the door. The disarranged furniture is hastily put aside, and the hair is brushed back, and the dresses are adjusted as well as, in so short a time, Mary and Martha can attend to these matters. They did not keep Christ standing at the door until they were newly appareled or until they had elaborately arranged their tresses, then coming out with their affected surprise as though they had not heard the two or three previous knockings, saying, "Why, is that you?" No. They were ladies and were always presentable, although they may not have always had on their best, for none of us always has on our best. If we did, our best would not be worth having on. They throw open the door and greet Christ. They say: "Good morning, Master! Come in and be seated." Christ did not come alone. He had a group of friends with him, and such an influx of city visitors would throw any country home into perturbation.

I suppose also the walk from the city had been a good appetizer. The kitchen department that day was a very important department, and I suppose that Martha had no sooner greeted the guests than she fled to that room. Mary had no worriment about household affairs. She had full confidence that Martha could get up the best dinner in Bethany. She seems to say, "Now let us have a division of labor. Martha, you cook and I'll sit down and be good." So you have often seen a great difference between two sisters.

There is Martha, hard working, painstaking, a good manager, ever inventive of some new pastry or discovering something in the art of cookery and housekeeping. There is Mary, also fond of conversation, literary, so engaged in deep questions of ethics she has no time to attend to the questions of household welfare. It is noon. Mary is in the parlor with Christ. Martha is in the kitchen. It would have been better if they had divided the work, and then they could have divided the opportunity of listening to Jesus. But Mary monopolizes Christ while Martha swelters at the fire. It was a very important thing that they should have a good dinner that day. Christ was hungry, and he did not often have a luxurious entertainment. Alas me, if the duty had devolved upon Mary, what a repast that would have been! But something went wrong in the kitchen. Perhaps the fire would not burn, or the bread would not bake, or Martha scalded her hand, or something was burned black that ought only to have been made brown, and Martha lost her patience, and forgetting the proprieties of the occasion, with besweated brow, and, perhaps, with pitcher in one hand and tongs in the other, she rushes out of the kitchen into the presence of Christ, saying, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone?" Christ scolded not a word. If it were scolding, I should rather have his scolding than anybody else's blessing. There was nothing acerb. He knew Martha had almost worked herself to death to get him something to eat, and so he throws a world of tenderness into his intonation as he seems to say: "My dear woman, do not worry. Let the dinner go. Sit down on this ottoman beside Mary, your younger sister. Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful." As Martha throws open that kitchen door I look in and see a great many household perplexities and anxieties.

First there is the trial of nonappreciation. That is what made Martha so mad with Mary. The younger sister had no estimate of her older sister's fatigues. As now, men bothered with the anxieties of the store and office and shop, or coming from the stock exchange, they say when they get home: "Oh, you ought to be in our factory a little while! You ought to have to manage 8 or 10 or 20 subordinates, and then you would know what trouble and anxiety are!" Oh, sir, the wife and the mother has to conduct at the same time a university, a clothing establishment, a restaurant, a laundry, a library, while she is health officer, police and president of her realm! She must do a thousand things, and do them well, in order to keep things going smoothly, and so her brain and her nerves are taxed to the utmost. I know there are housekeepers who are so fortunate that they can sit in an armchair in the library or lie on the belated pillow and throw off all the care upon subordinates who, having large wages and great experience, can attend to all of the affairs of the household. Those are the exceptions. I am speaking now of the great mass of housekeepers—the women to whom life is a struggle, and who at 30 years of age look as though they were 40, and at 40 look as though they were 50, and at 50 look as though they were 60. The fallen at Chalons and Austerlitz and Gettysburg and Waterloo are a small number compared with the slain in the great Armageddon of the kitchen. You go out to the cemetery and you will see that the tombstones all read beautifully poetic, but if those tombstones would speak the truth, thousands of them would say: "Here lies a woman killed by too much mending and sewing and baking and scrubbing and scouring. The weapon with which she was slain was a broom or a sewing machine or a ladle."

You think, O man of the world, that you have all the cares and anxieties. If the cares and anxieties of the household should come upon you for one week you would be fit for the insane asylum. The half rested housekeeper arises in the morning. She must have the morning repast prepared at an irrevocable hour. What if the fire will not light; what if the marketing did not come; what if the clock has stopped—no matter, she must have the morning repast at an irrevocable hour. Then the children must be got off to school. What if their garments are torn; what if they do not know their lessons; what if they have lost a hat or sash—they must be ready. Then you have all the diet of the day and perhaps of several days, to plan, but what if the butcher has sent meat unmasticable, or the grocer has sent articles of food adulterated, and what if some piece of silver is gone, or some favorite chalice be cracked, or the roof leak, or the plumbing fail, or any one of a thousand things occur—you must be ready. Spring weather comes, and there must be a revolution in the family wardrobe, or autumn comes, and you must shut out the northern blast, but what if the moth has preceded you to the chest; what if, during the year, the children have outgrown the apparel of last year; what if the fashions have changed! Your house must be an apothecary's shop; it must be a dispensary; there must be medicines for all ailments—something to loosen the croup, something to cool the burn, something to poultice the inflammation, something to silence the jumping tooth, something to soothe the earache. You must be in half a dozen places at the same time, or you must attempt to be. If, under all this wear and tear of life, Martha makes an impatient rush upon the library or drawing room, be patient, be lenient! O woman, though I may fail to stir up an appreciation in the souls of others in regard to your household toils, let me assure you, from the kindliness with which Jesus Christ met Martha, that he appreciates all your work from garret to cellar, and that the God of Deborah, and Hannah, and Abigail, and Grandmother Lois, and Elizabeth Fry, and Hannah More is the God of the housekeeper! Jesus was never married, that he might be the especial friend and confidant of a whole world of troubled womanhood. I blunder. Christ was married. The Bible says that the church is the Lamb's wife, and that makes me know that all Christian women have a right to go to Christ and tell him of their annoyances and troubles, since by his oath of conjugal fidelity he is sworn to sympathize. George Herbert, the Christian poet, wrote two or three verses on this subject:—

The servant by this clause
Makes drudgery divine,
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes this and the action fine.

A young woman of brilliant education and prosperous circumstances was called down stairs to help in the kitchen in the absence of the servants. The doorbell ringing, she went to open it and found a gentleman friend, who said as he came in: "I thought that I heard music. Was it on this piano or on this harp?" She answered: "No. I was playing on a gridiron, with frying pan accompaniment. The servants are gone, and I am learning how to do this work." Well done! When will women in all circles find out that it is honorable to do anything that ought to be done?

Again, there is the trial of severe economy. Nine hundred and ninety-nine households out of the thousand are subjected to it, some under more and some under less stress of circumstances. Especially if a man smoke very expensive cigars and take very costly dinners at the restaurants he will be severe in demanding domestic economies. This is what kills tens of thousands of women—attempting to make $5 do the work of $7. A young woman about to enter the married state said to her mother, "How long does the honeymoon last?" The mother answered, "The honeymoon lasts until you ask your husband for money." How some men do dole out money to their wives! "How much do you want?" "A dollar." "You are always wanting a dollar. Can't you do with 50 cents?" If the husband has not the money, let him plainly say so. If he has it let him make cheerful response, remembering that his wife has as much right to it as he has. How the bills come in! The woman is the banker of the household. She is the president, the cashier, the teller, the discount clerk, and there is a panic every few weeks. This 30 years' war against high prices, this perpetual study of economics, this lifelong attempt to keep the outgoes less than the income, exhausts innumerable housekeepers.

Oh, my sister, this is a part of the Divine discipline! If it were best for you, all you would have to do would be to open the front windows, and the ravens would fly in with food, and after you had baked 50 times from the barrel in the pantry the barrel, like the one of Zarephath, would be full, and the shoes of the children would last as long as the shoes of the Israelties in the wilderness—40 years. Besides that this is going to make heaven the more attractive in the contrast. They never hunger there, and consequently there will be none of the nuisances of catering for appetites, and in the land of the white robe they never have to mend anything, and the air in that hill country makes everybody well. There are no rents to pay, every man owns his own house, and a mansion at that. It will not be so great a change for you to have a chariot in heaven if you have been in the habit of riding in this world. It will not be so great a change for you to sit down on the bansk of the river of life if in this world you had a country seat, but if you have walked with tired feet in this world what a glorious change to mount celestial equipage! And, if your life on earth was domestic martyrdom, oh, the joy of an eternity in which you shall have nothing to do except what you choose to do! Martha has had no drudgery for 18 centuries! I quarrel with the theologians who want to distribute all the thrones of heaven among the John Knoxes and the Hugh Latimers and the Theban legion. Some of the brightest thrones of heaven will be kept for Christian housekeepers. Oh, what a change from here to there, from the time when they put down the rolling pin to when they take up the scepter! If Chatsworth park and the Vanderbilt mansion were to be lifted into the celestial city, they would be considered uninhabitable rookeries, and glorified Lazarus would be ashamed to be going in and out of either of them.

There are many housekeepers who could get along with their toil if it were not for sickness and trouble. The fact is, one-half of the women of the land are more or less invalids. The mountain lass who has never had an ache or a pain may consider household toil inconsiderable, and toward evening she may skip away miles to the fields and drive home the cattle, and she may until 10 o'clock at night fill the house with laughing racket. But, oh, to do the work of life with worn-out constitution, when whooping cough has been raging for six weeks in the household, making the night as sleepless as the day! That is not so easy. Perhaps this comes after the nerves have been shattered by some bereavement that has left desolation in every room of the house and set the crib in the garret because the occupant has been hushed into a slumberwhich needs no mother's lullaby. Oh, she could provide for the whole group a great deal better than she can for a part of the group, now the rest are gone! Though you may tell her God is taking care of those who are gone, it is motherlike to brood both flocks, and one wing she puts over the flock in the house; the other wing she puts over the flock in the grave.

There is nothing but the old fashioned religion of Jesus Christ that will take a woman happily through the trials of home life. At first there may be a romance or a novelty that will do for a substitute. The marriage hour has just passed, and the perplexities of the household are more than atoned by the joy of being together and by the fact that when it is late they do not have to discuss the question as to whether it is time to go. The mishaps of the household, instead of being a matter of anxiety and reprehension, are a matter of merriment—the loaf of bread turned into a geological specimen, the slushy custards, the jaundiced or measly biscuits. It is a very bright sunlight that falls on the cutlery and the mantel ornaments of a new home.

But after awhile the romance is all gone, and then there is something to be prepared for the table that the book called "Cookery Taught in Twelve Lessons" will not teach. The receipt for making it is not a handful of this, a cup of that and a spoonful of something else. It is not something sweetened with ordinary flavors or baked in ordinary ovens. It is the loaf of domestic happiness, and all the ingredients come down from heaven, and the fruits are plucked from the tree of life, and it is sweetened with the new wine of the kingdom, and it is baked in the oven of home trial. Solomon wrote out of his experience. He had a wretched home. A man cannot be happy with two wives, much less 600, and he says, writing out of his own experience, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."

How great are the responsibilities of housekeepers! Sometimes an indigestible article of food by its effect upon a king has overthrown an empire. A distinguished statistician says of 1,000 unmarried men there are 38 criminals, and of 1,000 married men only 18 are criminals. What a suggestion of home influences! Let the most be made of them. Housekeepers by the food they provide, by the couches they spread, by the books they introduce, by the influences they bring around their home, are deciding the physical, intellectual, moral, eternal destiny of the race. You say your life is one of sacrifice. I know it. But, my sisters, that is the only life worth living. That was Florence Nightingale's life; that was Payson's life; that was Christ's life. We admire it in others, but how very hard it is for us to exercise it ourselves! When in Brooklyn young Dr. Hutchinson having spent a whole night in a diphtheritic room for the relief of a patient became saturated with the poison and died, we all felt as if we would like to put garlands on his grave; everybody appreciates that. When in the burning hotel at St. Louis a young man on the fifth story broke open the door of the room where his mother was sleeping and plunged in amid smoke and fire, crying, "Mother, where are you?" and never came out, our hearts applauded that young man. But how few of us have the Christlike spirit—a willingness to suffer for others.

A rough teacher in a school called upon a poor, half starved lad who had offended against the laws of the school and said, "Take off your coat directly, sir!" The boy refused to take it off, whereupon the teacher said again, "Take off your coat, sir!" as he swung the whip through the air. The boy refused. It was not because he was afraid of the lash—he was used to that at home—but it was from shame—he had no undergarment—and as at the third command he pulled slowly off his coat there went a sob through the school. They saw then why he did not want to remove his coat, and they saw the shoulder blades had almost cut through the skin and a stout, healthy boy rose up and went to the teacher of the school and said: "Oh, sir, please don't hurt this poor fellow! Whip me. See, he's nothing but a poor chap. Don't hurt him. He's poor. Whip me." "Well," said the teacher, "it's going to be a severe whipping. I am willing to take you as a substitute." "Well," said the boy, "I don't care. You whip me, if you will, but let this poor fellow go." The stout, healthy boy took the scourging without an outcry. "Bravo!" says every man. "Bravo!" How many of us are willing to take the scourging, and the suffering, and the toil, and the anxiety for other people? Beautiful things to admire, but how little we have of that spirit! God give us that self-denying spirit, so that whether we are in humble spheres or in conspicuous spheres we may perform our whole duty, for this struggle will soon be over.

One of the most affecting reminiscences of my mother is my remembrance of her as a Christian housekeeper! She worked very hard, and when we would come in from summer play and sit down at the table at noon I remember how she used to come in with beads of perspiration along the line of gray hair, and how sometimes she would sit down at the table and put her head against her wrinkled hand and say, "Well, the fact is, I'm too tired to eat." Long after she might have delegated this duty to others, she would not be satisfied unless she attended to the matter herself. In fact, we all preferred to have her do so, for somehow things tasted better when she prepared them. Some time ago in an express train I shot past that old homestead. I looked out of the window and tried to peer through the darkness. While I was doing so one of my old schoolmates, whom I had not seen for many years, tapped me on the shoulder and said, "De Witt, I see you are looking out at the scenes of your boyhood." "Oh, yes," I replied, "I was looking out at the old place where my mother lived and died." That night in the cars the whole scene came back to me. There was the country home. There was the noonday table. There were the children on either side of the table, most of them gone never to come back. At one end of the table, my father, with a smile that never left his countenance even when he lay in his coffin. It was an 84 years' smile—not the smile of inanition, but of Christian courage and of Christian hope. At the other end of the table was a beautiful, benignant, hard-working, aged Christian housekeeper, my mother. She was very tired. I am glad she has so good a place to rest in. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

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SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived.

Jan 4—Sch Ellie, 117, Maxwell, from Providence, J W Smith, bal.

Sch Anita, 115, Melene, from Eastport, Puddington and Merritt, bal.

Jan 5—Str St Croix, 1064, Allen, from Boston, C E Lecchler, mdse and pass.

Sch Ada G Shortland, 185, McIntyre, from Providence, master, bal.

Coastwise—Sch Trader, 67, Merriam, from Parrsboro.

Ard—Jan 5, s s Gallia, Stewart, from Liverpool via Halifax, Troop and Son, mails, pass and gen cargo.

Jan 6—Coastwise—Schs Willia D, 98, Ogilvie, from Parrsboro; Dora, 63, Canning, do; G Walter Scott, 75, Graham, do.

Cleared.

Jan 4—Str Lake Superior, Carey, for London via Halifax.

Sch Westfield, Cameron, for Eastport.

Sch Fay, Spragg, for Bridgeport.

Coastwise—Schs Eliza Bell, Wadlin, for Sandy Cove; Leonard B, Walton, for Parrsboro.

5th—Coastwise—Schs L M Ellis, Lent, for Westport; Harry Morris, McLean, for Parrsboro; Rex, Sweet, for Quaco.

6th—Str St Croix, Allen, for Boston.

CANADIAN PORTS.

Arrived.

HALIFAX, NS, Jan 4—Ard, sch Coleraine, Hunnelman, from Boston.

Sld, strs Gallia, Stewart, for St John; Isis, MacKay, for Bangor, Me; schs Oasis, Lawrence, for Demerara.

HALIFAX, Jan 5—Ard, schs Athlete, Knowlton, from New York; Omega, Murchison, from Boston.

HALIFAX, N S, Jan 6—Ard, strs Lake Superior, from St John for Liverpool, and proceeded; Minia (cable) Trott, from Boston, and cleared for sea, cable repairing.

BRITISH PORTS.

Arrived.

At Runcorn, Dec 30, ship Fred E Scamwell, Mahoney, from Grindstone Island.

QUEENSTOWN, Jan 3—Ard, bark Anna Camp, from Halifax.

At Liverpool, Jan 5, str Majestic, from New York.

At Falmouth, Jan 4, bark Albatross, Chalmers, from Charlottetown, PEI, all well.

At Southampton, Jan 5, str St Paul, from New York.

At Cape Town, Dec 29, bark Culdoon, Richter, from Mobile; Jan 2, Annie Bingay, Otterson, from Barry for Pensacola.

BELFAST LOUGH, Jan 3—Ard, bark Montreal, from Bangor for Glasson Dock.

FALMOUTH, Jan 4—Ard, bark Albatross, from Charlottetown.

BERMUDA, Jan 5—Ard, str Beta, from Jamaica and sailed for Halifax.

In port—Ship Vanloo, from Cardiff for St John (having new foreyard made.)

At Kingston, Dec 28, sch Fauna, Ham, from Lunenburg.

At Barbados, Dec 28, str Taymouth Castle, Forbes, from St John (and sailed for Trinidad); 20th, bark Athena, Dill, from Buenos Ayres; schs Pearline, Perry, from Annapolis (and sailed 21st for St Vincent, WI); Allan A McIntyre, Sommerville, from St John (and sailed 24th for Demerara); 21st, bark Buteshire, Wyman, from Buenos Ayres (and sailed 22nd for Pensacola); 23rd, Landskrona, Starratt, from Buenos Ayres (and sailed 25th for New York); sch Utopia, Wagner, from Demerara; 25th, sch Opal, Foote, from Demerara; 28th, schs Wapti, Eldridge, from Yarmouth, NS (and sailed 27th for Trinidad); Phyllis, Davis, from Yarmouth, NS; 28th, ship W H Corser, Slocomb, from Santos; bark L W Norton, Parks, from Bahia.

Sailed.

SWANSEA, Jan 4—Sld, str Albis, for Halifax.

From Cape Town, Jan 1, str H M Pollock, Newman, for Newport News.

From Ardrossan, Jan 1, str H M Pollock, Newman, for Newport News.

From Barbados, Dec 13, ship Marlborough, Cochran, for Sandy Cove.

QUEENSTOWN, Jan 6—Sld, str Britannic, for New York.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Arrived.

At Buenos Ayres, Dec 27, barktn St Croix, from Bear River; 29th, barktns St Peter, from Bear River via Halifax; St Paul, from Dorchester.

At New York, Jan 2, brigt G B Lockhart, Sheridan, from Curacoa.

At Baltimore, Jan 2, bark Severn, Reid, from Rio Janeiro.

At Pernambuco, Jan 3, schs Muriel, Wasson, and Stella Maud, Miller, from St John.

RIO JANEIRO, Jan 4—Ard, ship Macedon, McMaster, from Ship Island.

RED BEACH, Me, Jan 4—Ard, sch Wm Cobb, from Weymouth.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass, Jan 4—Ard and sld, sch Kolop, from Sand River for New York; ard, schs Wellman Hall, from New Haven for Advocate, NS.

SALEM, Mass, Jan 4—Ard, sch Sir Hibbert, from Port Morant.

Sld, sch H Holder, for St John.

PORTLAND, Me, Jan 4—Ard, sch Ira D Sturgis, Kerrigan, from Salem for St John, NB; Annie, from Salmon River, NS, for Boston.

At Buenos Ayres, Dec 25, bark Strathome, Harvey, from Boston.

At St Thomas, WI, Dec 15, sch John S Parker, Gesner, from Las Palmas (and sailed 19th for Jacksonville.)

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass, Jan 5—Ard, schs Annie Bliss, and Sarah C Smith, from Hillsboro for New York; Orinimbo, from Calais for do; Sarah Eaton, from Calais for Sag Harbor; Annie Gus, from Calais for Cottage City and Newport.

Ped, schs Clara Jane, from Calais for New Bedford.

BOOTHBAY, Me, Jan 5—Ard, schs Harvard H Havey, from St John; Stella Maud, from do; Lyra, from do; Annie Harper, from do; Lakotag, from do; Pefetta, from do; Rebecca W Huddell, from do; Marion, from do; Roger Dixon, from Hillsboro, NB.

BOSTON, Jan 5—Ard, str Prince Edward, from Yarmouth, NS; sch Andrew Peters, from New York for Calais.

Sld, str Prince Edward, for Yarmouth, N S; schs Lorena Maud, for Liverpool, NS; Sarah F, for Parrsboro, NS.

CITY ISLAND, N Y, Jan 5—Ard, sch L T Whitmore, from St John via New London, in tow.

MARSEILLES, Jan 5—Ard, bark Razeto, from Campbellton, NB, via Cagliari.

NEW LONDON, Conn, Jan 5—Ard, schs Walter Miller, Barton, from St John for New York; John Stroup, Richards, from do for do.

At Havana, Dec 28, sch Omega, from Kingport; 30th, sch Harold Borden, Barkhouse, from Kingsport, NS.

At New York, Jan 6, str Teutonic, from Liverpool.

At St Johns, PR R, sch Fred B Balano, Sawyer, from Annapolis, NS.

At Norfolk, Jan 4, ship Kings County, Salter, from Barbados.

At Turks Island, Dec 13, brik Harry Larkin, from Porto Rico (and sailed 13th for Yarmouth, NS); sch Yucatan, Conrad, do (and sailed 14th for Lunenburg); 15th, brig May, Manning, from Porto Rico (and sailed 16th for Lunenburg); 16th, schs Jersey Lilly, Ryan, from Trinidad (and sailed 17th for Lockport); Clifford, McKeone, from Porto Rico (and sailed 18th for Lunenburg); 19th, sch Volunteer, Cresser, from St Martins (and sailed 20th for Lunenburg, NS); 22nd, brig Leo, Matson, from Demerara (and sailed 23rd for Lunenburg); sch Laconia, Card, from Barbados (to sail list for New York.)

BOSTON, Jan 6—Ard, strs Halifax, from Halifax; Boston, from Yarmouth, NS.

Sld, schs Minnie Heckman, for Halifax; Bertha Maud, for St John.

BUCKSPORT, Me, Jan 6—Ard, str Isis, from Cardiff via Halifax for Manchester; sch Charleston, from Boston.

SALEM, Mass, Jan 6—Ard, sch Mattie J Alles, from Long Cove for New York.

PORTLAND, Jan 6—Ard, sch John M Plummer, from P E Island for New York.

Cld, sch Edna, Donovan, from Barbados.

MACHIAS, Me, Jan 6—Ard, schs B H King, from Grand Manan for Boston; C B Willard, from Red Beach for New York; Julia A Bryant, from Jonesport.

GLOUCESTER, Mass, Jan 6—Ard, sch Mattie J Alles, Crockett, from Long Cove, Me, for New York.

Cleared.

NEW YORK, Jan 4—Cld, strs St Louis, for Southampton; Germanic, for Liverpool; schs Rewa, for St John, NB; Bonnie Doon, for do.

BOSTON, Jan 4—Cld, sch Minnie J Heckman, for Halifax, NS.

At Darien, Jan 3, bark Ossuna, Andrews, for Liverpool.

At Brunswick, Jan 4, sch Erie, Brown, for Barbados, and sailed.

Sailed.

From Baltimore, Jan 2, sch Blanca, Lambert, for St Croix.

NEW LONDON, Conn, Jan 4—Sld, sch L T Whitmore, from St John, NB, for New York, in tow of tug Alert.

NEW HAVEN, Conn, Jan 4—Sld, sch St Maurice, for Hillsboro, NB.

CALAIS, Me, Jan 4—Sld, schs G M Porter, for New York; Edith and May, for Warren.

DUTCH ISLAND HARBOR, RI, Jan 4—Sld, schs Walter Miller, Hazelwood, and Uranus, from St John, NB, for New York; John Stroup, from Hillsboro, NB, for New York; Romeo, from Providence, for St John, NB.

From Pensacola, Dec 21, brigtn Curlew, Grundmark, for New York.

From Perth Amboy, Dec 3, schs Hattie E King, Johnson, and Etta A Stimson, Hogan, for Portsmouth.

From Tybee, Jan 3, ship Euphemia, Kinney, from Marseilles for Newport News.

From Teneriffe, Dec 6, brig Ora, Sprague, from Maoris to load for New York.

From Cadiz, Dec 12, brig Alice Bradshaw, Lauro, for Rio Grande do Sul.

NEW YORK, Jan 5—Sld, strs St Louis, for Southampton; Germanic, for Liverpool; ship Earl of Zetland, for Sydney, NSW.

From New London, Jan 4, sch E V Glover, Harris, bound east.

From Pensacola, Dec 31 (not previously) ship Lizzie Burrill, for Buenos Ayres.

From Havana, Dec 31, sch Brenton, Morrison, for La Plata; Delta, Baxter, for Apalachicola.

From Brunswick, Jan 4, brig Darpa, Bradley, for Oporto.

From Pensacola, Jan 4, ship Rubby, Robbins, for Rio Janeiro.

From Pernambuco, Dec 11, bark Angara, Rodenheiser, for New York.

NEW LONDON, Jan 6—Sld, sch Walter Miller, from St John for New York.

DANTZSIC, Jan 6—Sld, str Drot, for Halifax.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Jan 6—Sld, sch Wellman Hall, for ——.

Hyannis, Mass, Jan 6—Sld, sch Abner Taylor, for Calais.

MEMORANDA.

CITY ISLAND, N Y, Jan 5—Bound south, sch St Maurice, from Hillsboro, NB, via New Haven, to load for Azua.

In port at St Johns, P R, Dec 27, brig Sceptre, Dexter, ready for sea.

Passed Ascension, previous to Jan 1, ship Theodore H Rand, Morris, from Cape Town for Barry.

Passed Anjer, Nov 25, bark Strathisla, from Manila for New York.

BROW HEAD, Jan 6—Psd, str Barcelona, from Halifax via St Johns, NF, for Liverpool.

LONDON, Jan 6—Psd, str Halifax City, from St John via Halifax.

CITY ISLAND, Jan 6—Psd, sch Uranus, from Hillsboro, NB, for Jersey City.

SPOKEN.

Ship Ardnamurchan, Crosby, from Barry for Santa Rosalie, Dec 15, lat 27 N, lon 21 W.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

PORTLAND, Me, Jan 4—West Penobscot Bay, from the Westward—Notice is hereby given that Hay Ledge buoy, 1st class can, black, No 1, reported adrift Dec 31st, was replaced Jan 3.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Births, Marriages and Deaths occurring in the families of subscribers will be published FREE in THE SUN. In all cases, however, the name of the sender must accompany the notice.

BIRTHS.

DRAPER—On Jan. 2nd, to the wife of W. J. Draper, 256 Germain street, a daughter.

PALMER—At Hopewell Cape, Albert Co., N. B., Dec. 24th, to the wife of Rufus P. Palmer, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

FORBES-McNAUGHTON—At 80 Mecklenburg street, St. John, N. B., by Rev. W. W. Rainnie, on Jan. 5th, Charles R. Forbes of Boston, Mass., to Margaret A. McNaughton of St John.

FOWLER-SHAW—At 161 Waterloo street, St. John, on Jan. 5th, by Rev. J. W. Clarke, W. A. Fowler to Essie Troop Shaw, only daughter of the late Rev. Jarvis Shaw, both of St. John, N. B.

McLAUCHLIN-NEVIN — At Bathurst, on Jan. 4th, Daniel McLauchlin of Campbellton and Miss Ida Nevin of Bathurst.

MEREDITH-McLAUCHLIN—At St. Stephen, N. B., Dec. 25th, by Rev. Frederic Robertson, Georgiana I. Meredith of St. Stephen and Walter D. McLaughlin of Grand Manan.

MURRAY-MENZIE — On Thursday, Dec. 30th, 1897, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. A. MacLean, assisted by Rev. D. M. Bailey, William Murray to Miss Alma Jane, eldest daughter of John Menzie, all of Belleisle, Kings Co., N. B.

DEATHS.

HOWE—Suddenly, at his residence, Princess street, on Monday, Jan. 3rd inst., John Howe, in the 86th year of his age.

HEWAT—At 72 Sydney street, on Jan. 5th, Davidson, infant son of A. D. Hewat.

LOGAN—At Tower Hill, N. B., Dec. 31st, Mary J., relict of the late Andrew Logan, aged 34 year, 3 months, 10 days.

SKINNER—At Hastings, England, William Skinner, aged 30 years, brother of Frank Skinner of this city.

WEBB—In this city, on Jan. 6th, Amasa Webb, aged 52, a resident of Sunbury county, after a short illness, leaving a wife to mourn her loss.

WILLIAMS—At Milltown, N. B., Dec. 31st, Eliza Williams, relict of the late William Williams, aged 64 years.

MARINE MATTERS.

Barkentine St. Croix arrived at Buenos Ayres on Dec. 27th, from Bear River, and on the 29th the barkentines St. Peter and St. Paul entered the same port from Bear River and Dorchester respectively.

The following charters are reported: Bark Eudora, New York to Sydney, N. S. W., £2,450; ship Euphemia, Pensacola to Buenos Ayres, lumber, at or about $11; bark Landskrona, New York to Rio Janeiro, lumber, p. t.; schs Gypsum Emperor, New York to Barbados, general, $2,050; Lewisnika, Macoris to New York, sugar, $2.50 and port charges; Clayola, Edgewater to St. John, coal, 70c.; Romeo, sand, 75c.; Stephen Bennett, Perth Amboy to Portsmouth, coal, 75c.; Gypsum Empress, New York to Barbados, general, $2,200 and free lighterage.

Bark Samaritan, Capt. Dexter, at Queenstown has been ordered to Tyne dock to discharge.

Bark Emma R. Smith, Capt. Smith, at New York Jan. 3rd from Black River, Ja., was 15 days north of Hatteras, with strong N. W. and S. E. gales; carried away a portion of the fore rigging.

Sch. Heather Bell, wrecked on Fuller's Rock, near Seguin, Me., while bound from Boston in ballast to St. John, N. B., was only insured for $700.

Fears are entertained for safety of sch. Julia A. Warr, owned in Fall River. She left there five weeks ago for Calais to load lumber for Vineyard Haven, after which she was to go under charter to the south. Three weeks ago Capt. Warr notified the owners that the vessel was loaded and would sail from Calais immediately. Since then she has not been heard from. Fears of owners have been increased by report of Capt. Spencer, of British steamer Bostonian. He reports Dec. 26, 230 miles outside of Boston Light, encountered wreckage consisting of light lumber, laths and shingles, and parts of a vessel with bulwarks painted white. The Warr carried such a cargo and was painted white. Capt. Warr belonged to the Ledge, Charlotte county.

DURANT MUST HANG.

The Latest Attempt to Delay the Execution Unsuccessful.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Counsel for Durant, the condemned murderer, today made an unsuccessful effort to have Justice Brewer of the supreme court interfere and stay the proceedings. Attorney Boardman arrived here from California today and made two applications for interference. Justice Brewer went over the case in detail with him first, and considered an application Mr. Boardman made to sign a citation upon the appeal, which was sought to be taken from the judgment of the federal circuit court of California denying the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus, the object being to perfect the appeal. This application was refused, and then Mr. Boardman presented an application for a writ of error from the judgment of the supreme court of California upon the appeal from the last order of Judge Bahrs' fixing the date of Durant's execution, the object being to secure a writ of supercedeas, which would act as a stay of proceedings.

In denying the application upon the habeas corpus proceedings Justice Brewer said that under the construction by the court of the constitution the federal courts had no power of limitation upon the right of appeal in habeas corpus proceedings, the opinion being that such appeals should not be allowed where the appeal operates to suspend the power of the state and authorities and especially where the case has already been heard upon one appeal in a habeas corpus proceeding. With reference to the writ of error he considered especially the representation of Mr. Boardman upon the claim that as the constitution of California grants an appeal, such appeal became a vested right. The justice considered this point carefully, but said as he could not accept the court's judgment on this point as its final action he could not therefore see his way clear to interfere on this account.

Mr. Boardman pointed out that the probable execution of Durant tomorrow would have the practical effect of making the judgment final so far as it should bear upon his fortunes, but the justice held to this original determination in the matter.

The interview lasted forty minutes. After its conclusion Mr. Boardman stated that he was undecided as to whether to make an application to the full supreme court tomorrow for a writ of prohibition, staying the execution. As the court does not convene until noon and the execution is set for 10.30, he was fearful that the difference in time would not be sufficient to save Durant, even if he should be successful in having his motion granted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—Governor Budd has announced that he will not interfere with the execution of Durant.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—Unless something unforeseen intervenes to prevent, William Henry T. Durant, the condemned murderer of Blanche Lamont, will expiate his crime upon the gallows at San Quintin prison tomorrow morning.

EXPRESS COMPANY ROBBERY.

A Trusted Clerk Supposed to Have Stolen Ten Thousand Dollars

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The American Express Company was robbed this morning of $10,582, and Clark Braden, jr., a trusted employe, is missing. Detectives are hunting for him. Three days ago the night manager in charge of the office at 47th street and Madison avenue was taken ill, and Braden, a clerk of the company for more than ten years, was temporarily substituted.

Among the parcels to be sent on the 6.30 o'clock train on the Hudson River road this morning were several containing cash to the amount of $5,582, and one containing five $1,000 Chicago Gas bonds. It was Braden's place to take these packages to the train, return to the office and remain on duty till 7 o'clock.

When the day employes arrived Braden was not in the office. The safe was locked. There were no receipts for valuable packages by the morning train, although the books showed that several such parcels had been received at the office, and the leather bags which had contained the packages were found under some freight. They had been cut open and the money and bonds taken.

That the robbery was hastily carried out is shown by the fact that $25,000, mostly in cash, was left in the safe, and that the bonds were taken. These bonds have a face value of $5,000, but are worth in other markets $5,350. They are for $1,000 each, issued in 1896, and bearing five per cent. interest. They are numbered Nos. 1,603, 1,827, 2,359, 4,000 and 4,191.

REINDEER FOR KLONDYKE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—A cablegram received at the war department today from Lieut. Devore, who was sent with Dr. Jackson to Europe to secure reindeer for the Klondyke relief expedition, said that a steamer had been chartered for the transportation of the reindeer to the United States, and it was expected the party would be able to sail for New York on the 20th instant.

ANOTHER CREATION.

(Harper's Bazar.)

Wife (displaying a large lamp shade, recently purchased)—Isn't that perfectly lovely, dear? And it cost only $17.

Husband (severely)—If you wear that to church tomorrow you will go alone. There's a limit to everything, including hats!

RETIRED FROM THE RANKS.

(Oswego Times.)

Wallace—What is the reason Johnny isn't wearing his "Little Defender" badge any more?

Mrs. Wallace—He doesn't seem to be so fond of ministering to dumb animals since he put a poor, little, half-frozen bee into his pocket to get it warm.

A couple that had loved and then drifted apart, remaining so for twenty years, were married recently in East Waterford, Me.