

A FAMOUS SPEECH

At the fall term of court in Woodward in the year 1889 Col. Temple Houston was attorney in a case and secured acquittal of his client by his wonderful oratory against the most direct evidence of guilt.

The following is taken from an old file of the Woodward News, published immediately after the occurrence.

Last Friday there was tried in the district court at this place before Judge Buford one of the most remarkable cases in certain respects ever disposed of in the territory. One of the women of the town, Minnie Stacey, was prosecuted for plying her vocation and running a bawdy house. Something about the case aroused the indignation of Temple Houston who instantly undertook her case. Exposure had impaired his voice and he in a calm conversational tone. After referring to the legal question involved and discussing the evidence he bent over toward the jury so he only addresses the court and jury could almost have laid his hands on the shoulders of each and in a low, clear voice closed his address with these words:

"Gentlemen. You heard with what cold cruelty the prosecution referred to the sins of this woman as if her condition was her own preference. The evidence has painted you a picture of her life and surroundings. Do you think that they were of her own choosing? Do you think that she willingly embraced a life so revolting and horrible? Ah, no! Gentlemen, one of our sex was the author of her ruin, more to blame than she; then let us judge her gently. What could be more pathetic than the spectacle she presents? An immortal soul in ruins? Where the star of purity once glittered on her brow is now a burning shame as set in seal forever. And only a moment ago they rejected her for the deities she has served; the company she kept, the life she led. Now, what else is left her? Where can she go and her sin not pursue her? Gentlemen, the very promises of God are denied her. He said: 'Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.' She indeed labored and is heavily laden, but if at this instant she were to kneel down before us all and confess her Redeemer and beseech His tender mercies where is the church that would receive her? And even if they accepted her when she passed the portals to worship and to claim her rest, scorn and mockery would greet her and those she met would gather around them their skirts the more closely to avoid the pollution of her touch. Would you tell me a single employment where she could realize: 'Give us this day our daily bread?' Her own sex shrunk from her as they would the pestilence, Society has reared its relentless walls against her and only in the friendly shelter of the grave can she be betrayed and broken hearted ever find the Redeemer's promised rest. They told you of her assumed names as fleeting as the shadows on the walls of her sins, her habits, but they never told

you of her sorrows, and who shall tell what her heart, sinful though it may be, now feels? When the remembered voices of mother and sisters whom she must see no more on this earth fall again on music on her erring soul and she could return and meet not in this life, for the seducer has destroyed the soul.

You know the story of the prodigal son; but he was a son. He was one of us, like her destroyed; but for the prodigal daughter there is no return. Were she with her wasted form and bleeding feet, to drag her self back to her girlhood home, she, the fallen and the lost, what would be her welcome? Oh, consider this when you come to decide her guilt, for she is before us and we must judge her. They sneer and scorn at her. We should respect her grief, and I tell you that there reigns over her penitent and chastened spirit a desolation now that none can name but the searcher of all hearts can ever know.

None of us are utterly evil, and remember that when the saffron scourge swept over the city of Memphis in 1878, a courtesan there opened wide the door of her gilded palace of sin to admit the sufferers; and when the scythe of the Reaper swung fast and pitiless she was angelic in her ministrings. Death called her in the midst of her mercies and she went to join those who in she tried to save. She, like those the Lord forgave, was a sinner, and yet I believe that in the day of reckoning her judgment will be lighter than those who persecute and seek to drive off the earth such poor unfortunates as she whom you are to judge.

They wish to fine this woman and make her leave. They wish to wring from the wages of her shame, the price of this meditated injustice: to take from her the little money she might have; and God knows, gentlemen, it came hard enough. The old Jewish law told you that the price of a dog nor the hire of such as she should not come within the house of the Lord, and I say unto you that our justice, fitly symbolized by woman's form, does not ask that you add aught to the woes of this unhappy one, who only asks at your hands the pitiful privilege of being left alone. The Master while on earth, while He spake in wrath and rebuke to the kings and rulers, never reproached one of those. One he forgave, another he acquitted. You remember both—and now looking upon this friendless outcast, if any of us can say unto her 'I am holier than you' in the respect which she is charged with sinning who is he? The Jews who brought the woman before the Savior have been held up to the execration of the world for 2,000 years. I always respected them. A man who will yield to the reproaches of his conscience as they did has the element of good in him but the modern hypocrite has no such compunctions. If the prosecutors of this woman whom you are trying had brought her before the Savior they would have accepted his challenge and each one gathered a rock and stoned her

in the twinkling of an eye. No, gentlemen do as your master did twice under circumstances that surround you. Tell her to go in peace. The jury acquitted her as soon as they could reach their room.

MICROBE OF LOVE WILL BE PRESENTED FRIDAY NIGHT

The play entitled "Microbe of Love" will be presented at the High School Auditorium Friday night by the ladies of the Methodist Church. It was originally announced for Thursday night but it has been deferred one day. It promises to be a most entertaining play. You should be there.

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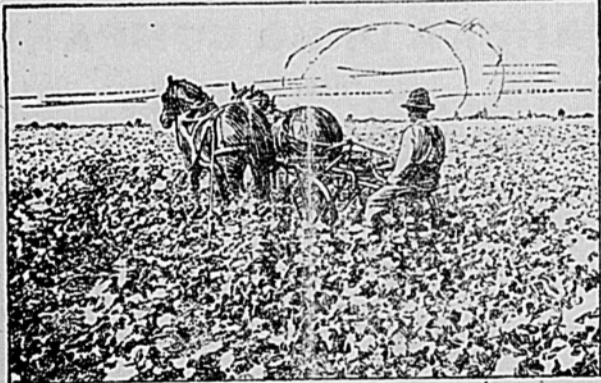
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Published Every Thursday at
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Entered as second class matter at the post office at Tahoka, Texas, under act of March 3, 1879.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

Advertising Rates on Application

Published by E. I. Hill, Proprietor
Lynn County News Association

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any erroneous reflection upon the reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation, that may appear in the columns of the News, will be gladly corrected when called to our attention.

Are't these winter nights fine?

No boll weevils, no pink boll worms, no grasshoppers yet on the south side. This must be the Lord's own country.

We can't conceive of any one being so unthoughtful as to whittle and cut on the beautiful trees 'round town. Trees are such a rarity here that every one should do his utmost in speeding; the time when Crosbyton will be noted as a town of trees. To mar the beauty of the tree is to strike at the very thing that takes time and watchfulness to start. Let's put out trees and then see to it that they are protected.

Crosbyton Review

There is nothing that adds to the beauty of Tahoka more than her tree. The trees on the court house lawn and those surrounding many homes here are a wonderful asset to the city. In a few years the trees in the city park, if properly cared for, will make it a real beauty spot. More trees should be planted every year. Every home should be surrounded with trees and they should be attentively cared for. We have noted no acts of willful injury to any of the trees here but some of them have been allowed to suffer and even to die through neglect. Let's care for trees, and swat the first gink you find abusing one of them.

People who drink liquors are equally responsible with the vendors of the same for the violation of the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution. The illegal traffic in contraband liquors would cease almost overnight if respectable people would cease buying the stuff that kills at fancy prices. When buyers are punished as accessories after the fact and punishments are made so heavy that the business of buying and selling will be unprofitable and both the dispenser and purchases are liable to penitentiary sentences, liquor sales will almost cease overnight.

That view seems plausible to a great many people who have not thought the matter through. Make it a crime either to sell or to buy, and the thing is fixed, they think. But suppose that were the law. Then where would the State get its testimony. Whom would the State use as a witness. No man can be compelled to give self incriminating testimony, unless he is first promised immunity. The buyer could not be compelled to testify against the seller, for the same testimony that would convict the seller would incriminate the buyer. The seller could not be compelled to testify against the buyer, for the same testimony that would convict the buyer would incriminate the seller. The buyer and the seller are usually the only persons present when a whiskey transaction takes place. So, if such a law existed, the State would be completely "sawed up" unless one of the parties to the transaction were first promised immunity and then used as a witness against the other. Even then, the State would be handicapped by the fact that it was using one criminal with which to convict another. As a matter of fact, we had a law similar to the one suggested upon our statute books for two years. In 1919, a statewide prohibition law was enacted which made it unlawful for any person to "receive", for any purpose any intoxicating liquor since the purchaser of intoxicating liquor usually "received" it, he could not be compelled to testify against the "bootlegger" that sold him the stuff until he was first promised immunity from prosecution. The law did not work well, and it was repealed in 1921. The illegal traffic in intoxicating liquors did not "cease overnight" nor during all the time that the law was on the statute books. In fact, it worked in favor of the bootlegger and was detrimental rather than helpful in stamping out the illegal traffic.

A saloon keeper in Chicago spent two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars in an effort to keep out of jail, after being sentenced to jail for disobeying the court's injunction not to open his saloon. He was successful in getting a pardon from President Coolidge, but the supreme court held last week that the President did not have the authority to pardon a man who had been sentenced by a court for contempt of a court order. So in spite of the attempted interference by the President of the United States, the saloon keeper is now serving his jail sentence.

Panhandle Herald

Another instance where a man's money and political pull failed to buy immunity for him. They got him "by" the President, but they

failed to get him "by" the courts. In fact, that old charge that anyman who has money can commit crime and escape punishment has been considerably overworked. With money, he can fight harder and longer, of course. With plenty of money, he can hire more able and sometimes more "crooked" criminal lawyers to fight his case. Occasionally he can bribe a juror. But it is rare indeed that he can ever touch the court, or any member of it, with his money, as has been often insinuated. This has been a hard year on the crooks and criminals with money and "pull"

WHAT BOB TAYLOR THOUGHT OF FINFIDEL

The following from the pen of Robert L. (Bob) Taylor, following a visit to a theatre where he heard a famous infidel berate Christianity, is one of the greatest sermons ever preached in a few words

"I sat in a great theatre in the National capitol. It was thronged with youth and beauty, old age and wisdom. I saw the man, the image of God, stand up on the stage, and I heard him speak.

"His great gestures were perfection of grace, his voice was music, and his language was more beautiful than any I had ever heard from mortal lips.

"He painted picture after picture of the pleasures and joys and sympathies of the home. He enthroned love and preached the gospel of humanity like an angel. Then I saw him dip his brush in the ink of mortal blackness and blot out the beautiful picture he had painted. I saw him stab love dead at his feet. I saw him blot out the stars and sun and leave the universe in eternal darkness and eternal death.

"I saw him like a serpent of old, worm himself into the paradise of human hearts and by his seductive eloquence and subtle devices and so-

phistry inject his fatal venom, under whose blight its powers faded, its music was hushed, its sunshine was darkened and its soul was left a desert of faith and hope.

"I saw him like a lawless, erratic waste, with only the new-made graves a meteor without an orbit, sweep across the intellectual sky, brilliant only in self-consuming fire generated by friction with the indestructible and eternal truths of God:

"That man was the archangel of modern infidelity and I said: 'How true is holy writ which declared 'The fool hath said in his own heart there is no God!'

"Tell me not, O Infidel, there is no God, no heaven, no hell! Tell me not, O infidel there is no risen Christ!

"What intelligence less than God's could fashion the human body? What motive power is it if not God, that drives the throbbing engine of the human heart with ceaseless, tireless stroke sending stream of life bounding and circulating thru every vein and artery?

"Whence and what, if not God is this mystery we call mind? What is it that thinks and feels and knows and acts? O, who can deny the divinity that stirs within us?

"God is everywhere and in everything. His mystery is in every bud and blossom and leaf and tree; in every rock and vale, and hill and mountain; in every spring and rivulet and river. The rustle of His wing is in every zephyr; its might is in every tempest he dwells in the dark pavilions of every dark cloud. The lightning is His messenger and thunder His voice. His awful tread is in every earthquake and in every angry ocean. The heavens above teem with His myriads of shining witnesses. The universe of solar systems, whose wheeling orbs course the crystal paths of space, proclaim thru dread halls the domination of an allwise omnipotent and eternal God."

Miss Clara Diehlmann of Morgan, Texas, is the guest this week of Mrs. J. H. Collenback.

Miss Dovie Collenback left Monday morning for Austin, where she expects to spend the summer as a student in the University of Texas.

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