

In Philadelphia, a few years since, a similar movement was started as a result of the thorough work of the Society for the Organization of Charity. It was found that, in the homes and haunts of the pauper and criminal classes, children were growing up in appalling conditions of ignorance, idleness, and vice. As it was felt that the only radical remedy for existing evils and the only hope for the future lay in vigorous preventive work, kindergartens were established in every ward of the city, and the satisfaction they gave led to their adoption as a sub-primary department of the public schools.

In San Francisco, mission kindergartens, established as an offset to the hoodlumism which threatened the safety of society, are now the most popular of all the philanthropies. In Chicago, St. Paul, Cincinnati, and Brooklyn there are efficient associations of this kind, and in St. Louis the kindergarten has for several years been a part of the school system.

New York has many of these missions; but with a tenement-house population of 1,100,000, of whom more than 142,000 are under five years of age, and with a constant influx of the lowest class of foreigners, it is felt that this is a time of emergency to meet which extraordinary efforts are necessary, and a movement has been started looking to the establishment of kindergartens throughout the city.

*Angeline Brooks.*

#### "The Use of Oil to Still the Waves."

READERS of the article under the above title in this magazine for March, and of the Open Letter on the same subject in the August number, will be interested in the following extract from the log of the steamship *Chattahoochee*, from Savannah to New York, April 7, 1889:

At 5 A. M. gale (from northeast) burst upon us with velocity of eighty miles per hour—the sea and wind something terrible; at six a sea came over the bows, end on, doing considerable damage, knocking in pilot-house windows and flooding same; ten to twelve began to board us on port-quarter, knocking in saloon and flooding same; at eleven I had oil bags put in port and starboard water-closets forward, and port one aft. When they were in working order I reluctantly stopped the engines, and, to my heartfelt desire, the ship fell off to southeast by south and took a position of her own, and was as comfortable as could be reasonably expected, shipping little or no water to speak of, so that the crew could work with the utmost safety in repairing damages.

This all done in the middle of one of the worst gales I ever encountered in thirty-three years' experience at sea. Every ship should have oil for an emergency. It is all it is recommended to be. The action of oil upon the water is upon the crest of the wave: the oil forming a slick upon the surface breaks the crest, in which is all the danger. It has no effect upon the great undulating motion of the ocean during a gale.

The quantity used in this case was about forty-five gallons in eleven hours; it took about five gallons to start each bag, and about eight quarts per hour to feed the three bags.

From 5 A. M. to noon ship drifted about three miles per hour to the southeast; from noon to 11 P. M. three per hour to south.

Ship's position at noon, by d. reckoning, latitude 36° 38', longitude 74° 41'.

At 8 P. M. gale began to moderate.

At 11 P. M. started ahead.

Oil used, five gallons raw linseed oil, ten gallons lard, thirty gallons cotton-seed. Used separately—no mixture.

[A similar instance is recorded in the case of the Norwegian bark *Alsylvia*, from Perth Amboy, Sep-

tember 3, 1889, with a cargo of 5300 barrels of paraffine oil for Copenhagen, which encountered a hurricane in latitude 70°, longitude 38°. The account of her rescue by the Clyde steamer *Yemassee* off the Delaware Breakwater, given in the "New York Times" of September 14, contains this statement, attributed to Captain McKee of the latter vessel:

The *Yemassee* sped to the assistance of the *Alsylvia*, and then lay to within about one hundred feet of her. Every time the bark made a plunge several barrels of oil were shot out of her hatchways. Oil was oozing all over the vessel, and had covered the surface of the water for quite a distance around. This waste of oil had proved the salvation of the bark's captain and crew. The water if not quiet around was free from breakers, and the boats rode the waves with ease. Had it not been for the oil, ship and boats would have been smashed long before help arrived. As it was, the bulwarks were breaking up.—EDITOR.]

#### A Speech of Lincoln's.

THE closing paragraphs of the biography of Abraham Lincoln in the August number of THE CENTURY MAGAZINE recall a memorable scene at the White House, which is now given to the public and makes a suitable appendix to the record of "Lincoln and the Churches." It occurred after an anniversary of the United States Christian Commission, which was held at the Capitol in the hall of the House of Representatives, some time in the winter of 1863, in the presence of a great assembly, in which the President was a silent and deeply interested auditor. With characteristic modesty he declined a seat upon the platform, and the only public demonstration that he made during the evening was by a request, penciled on a slip of paper and handed to the presiding officer, that Mr. Philip Phillips, who was one of the sweet singers of the war-time, would sing the hymn entitled "Your Mission," which was a favorite of the President. This request was announced and the piece was sung with wonderful effect.

After the anniversary, arrangements were made for a private reception of the delegates by Mr. Lincoln at the White House the next morning, with the distinct understanding that nothing that took place should be made public. This put all persons at their ease and the promise of privacy was well kept. It was a time of great anxiety and of long suspense; one of those critical periods when decisive battles were expected, and when news from the front was scanty, and slow in coming.

At the appointed hour the delegates were ushered into the President's office. Soon afterwards Mr. Lincoln came in slowly and looking careworn, sad, and anxious. In brief remarks by men representing the various work of the Christian Commission, he was told that we had no requests to make, no favors to ask, no offices to seek; that we were there only to assure him of our profoundest respect, sympathy, and loyalty to the Government and to himself as its head, and of our intention to carry on the philanthropic and spiritual ministrations of the Commission in the army and navy, with the continued sanction and help of himself and of the military and naval authorities. It was also said that "behind all the political and patriotic forces of the Union there was a vast Christian constituency in the homes and churches of loyal States which would never fail him with their prayers and consecration to

the cause for which the Government was contending against armed rebellion in the field of war, and against disloyal opposition in the North."

To these sentiments and assurances Mr. Lincoln listened with closest attention, and he replied, as my vivid recollection serves me, chiefly in these very words:

"I thank you, gentlemen, for this interview. Such visits strengthen me. No man who knows what we know here of the state of things can fail to see that a greater than a human hand is controlling the issues of this war. If our great enemy over there," pointing his finger across the Potomac, "could have had his way, he would have had victory long ago. But the Almighty has not thought as he thought. If I could have had my way, I would have had victory long ago. But it is evident that the Almighty has not thought as I thought. I know not how, nor when, nor by whom it shall be accomplished, but I have a firm, unshaken faith that in the end success will crown our arms, and that the Union of these States will be restored and maintained."

Then, alluding with kindly appreciation to the remarks of one of the speakers respecting the loyalty of the Christian constituency in the churches of the land, he said:

"Whatever differences of opinion may exist concerning the management of the war, it is manifest that the Government must be sustained by the people of the loyal States. For example," said he, with a humorous smile and a twinkle of the eyes that lighted up his grave face for the moment, "if a man wishes to be elected President of the United States, he must sustain the Government in prosecuting this war to a successful end, because if it should not be victorious there will be no Union for him to preside over!"

Adding a little in this strain and closing with renewed expressions of his gratification in the interview, and of his warm approval of the beneficent work of the Commission, the President greeted each delegate with a hearty handshake and a pleasant parting word.

NEWARK, N. J.

*William J. R. Taylor.*

#### "Governor Seymour during the Draft Riots."

I WAS one of the "multitude," described by Mr. Wheeler in your July number, who listened to Governor Seymour's address on July 14, 1863.

During most of the time of the draft riots the neighborhood of the "Tribune" office was occupied by a turbulent crowd, and an attack on the building was only prevented by the preparations believed to have been made to defend it. If not a crowd of actual rioters, it was distinctly composed of sympathizers, and very many of them were of just the class who were elsewhere active participants in the riot. It was such a crowd, and not "a multitude of persons naturally attracted to the City Hall by the news that the governor of the State, whose arrival was anxiously expected, had actually come." The whole tenor of his speech was distinctly, and in his usual adroit manner, meant for just such a class, and not for interested but peaceable citizens, and this the extracts given in the Lincoln history show. I was standing with a friend looking on from the outside of the crowd while it was in the square in front of the

"Tribune" building when a sudden movement was begun towards the City Hall. I followed, or rather anticipated, the movement as I saw it begin, and when I found it was to be addressed by some one I moved up to within hearing distance, and listened to the speech.

That it was an apology for the rioters, who were told that they were unjustly dealt with by the Government, and that if they would abstain from violence the draft would be stopped through the measures that he had taken, was the meaning given to it by the multitude, and no other meaning was thought of then, and for some time afterwards, by any one. The governor had only recently made his great Fourth of July speech in the city when he had arraigned the Administration in the most violent manner, exactly in unison with his speech to the incipient rioters.

NEW YORK CITY.

*Miln P. Dayton.*

#### The Methodist Episcopal Church South.

IN the August CENTURY the authors of the Lincoln history say, "The Methodist Church in the South had separated from their brethren in the North fifteen years before the war on the question of slavery, and a portion of their clergy and laity when the war broke out naturally engaged in it with their accustomed zeal; but they were by no means unanimous, even within the seceding States, and the organization was virtually wrecked by the war."

The close of the war found the Methodist Episcopal Church South, with over 400,000 members, impoverished and more or less discouraged; but it was not "wrecked" in any sense that was not true of other churches in the South, and of the whole people. Nor did any part of the Southern people rally more quickly from this fearful blow. The 400,000 with whom this church started in 1866 became 1,101,465 in 1887, and its "organization" was never in more excellent working order than it is to-day. It is one of the great churches of our nation, not more than three or four others outranking it in any element of strength.

At the breaking out of the war the individual members of this church were for or against secession according to their individual ways of looking at things. But the church as such made no deliverance upon the subject, considering it to be its mission to preach the gospel to secessionist and unionist alike, and not to promote any special ideas of government.

DALLAS, TEXAS.

*John K. Allen.*

#### Erratum.

IN the July number of THE CENTURY, in the article "Gentile da Fabriano," an error occurs in the sentence beginning on the 27th line of the second column of page 450, "He was the contemporary," etc. The clause, "not far from the same time as Gentile," should come in after the first "and died" instead of after the second, which would make the sentence read thus: "He was the contemporary of the brothers Van Eyck, the elder of whom, Hubert, was born about 1366, and died not far from the same time as Gentile, in 1426, while John was twenty or thirty years younger, and died probably in 1446." So far as the historical facts go, the article contains the material for the correction of the error.