

is a hideous and unwarranted attack on the Credit of the City."

Moral: Municipalities that want to borrow money should be careful to select decent agents. — Philadelphia North American.

#### PUTTING THE GOLDEN RULE INTO PRACTICE.

A portion of the remarks made by Rev. Harris R. Cooley, director of public charities, at the funeral services of Plummer Jones, held in Cleveland, O., August 18. Plummer Jones lost his life while trying to rescue the men imprisoned in the tunnel by the first of the two recent disasters at the "cribs" in Lake Erie opposite the city of Cleveland.

We are too prone to look into the past for our heroes. Damon and Pythias, with their infinite love for each other, always stand before us as the symbol for an earthly love between mortals which approximates the divine. We have been taught to go to the distant battlefields for our examples of valor and of courage, but if we look about we can find in the less sanguinary scenes of daily life instances which should at least equally arouse our admiration and reverence. There are the great deeds of charity and benevolence, the devotion of lives to the welfare of brother men which have within them the same sentiment, the same lofty adherence to the ideal that prompted the heroes of history to battle for principle.

In all our city and in all our country, I know of no nobler deed than that which brings us here for our sad duty to-day. Some among you knew this young man when he stood ready to offer his life if necessary for his country. I know but of his death, which was glorious, though sad. I have talked with the men who were with him before he went down into the bowels of the earth, below the rolling waves, into a place of whose dangers he well knew, and from one of them I learn that before he entered the tunnel he said to one of his comrades: "I believe that if I was down there I would like to have some one come after me. I can't see the poor fellows die." Here was the exemplification of the religion taught nineteen centuries ago, and which is true to-day. It was putting into practice, under the most trying strain, the golden rule.

In the death of this young man we have at once the highest apprehension of religion and the best refutation of that remark so often made that we are growing materialistic.

On all sides we hear the remark that life now is to the selfish and that success is only measured by dollars. We hear that brotherly love is a doctrine without sense or without any firm foundation in reason. Materialism, the expression of the religion of selfishness, is spreading its claims. But here is a young man, with health, with hopes for many years of pleasure, who, when he sees a fellow man in danger, does not hesitate. He never wavered to say that this is the age of materialism, but by his act declared to the world that all men are brothers, that there is kindred in humanity, and that the golden rule is still the grandest doctrine and expression of divine law which has been given to man in all the ages. . . .

God grant us grace to live as Plummer Jones died.

#### JAMES E. MILLS.

Away off in the Mexican mesas, so far off that it was some days before news of the event reached civilization, there died a man to whom the world owes a large debt of gratitude.

James Ellison Mills, whose death on the 26th ult., at San Fernando, Mexico, where he was engaged in managing extensive mining properties, was announced in a telegram from his wife, has a two-fold claim to fame. He was a pathfinder in the realm of physical science and a torch-bearer in the higher field of social progress. He was born in Bangor, Me., February 13, 1834, springing from old New England stock, his father being Dr. P. B. Mills, a noted physician of the time. As a boy he lived part of the time in the logging camps of Maine, where he was brought into touch with nature and with independent manhood. When 18 years of age he went to Boston, with hardly a larger equipment than that possessed by Ben Franklin when the latter made his advent in Philadelphia. Here he entered the Lawrence scientific school, over which the famous Louis Agassiz presided. Six years later he took the degree of bachelor of science and became an assistant of Agassiz in his laboratory. It was there he first met the late Prof. Le Conte, who just preceded him in the scientific school. The acquaintance thus formed, in later years ripened into friendship which continued uninterrupted to the last.

It was through a suggestion of Agassiz that Mr. Mills first gained fame as a geologist. The great scientist one day remarked that the old

water courses of the Sierras cross each other at strange angles, indicating that there would be found the most interesting geological formation on the face of the earth, and that Mr. Mills was the one man to investigate it and solve the problem. This suggestion led Alexander Agassiz, son of the famous scientist, and Quincy Shaw to supply funds for instituting that work, which afterwards and for many years was continued at Mr. Mills' own expense, he establishing a geological survey while engaged in his work as a mining geologist, for the most part in Plumas county. The results of his labors are maps showing in detail and accurately the formation of the Sierras, the changes of the water courses and the causes therefor, and the "most interesting geological formation on the face of the earth" is therefore known to scientists through his individual efforts, unaided by the government.

It was while thus isolated from his kind, far from the remotest outposts of civilization, that Mr. Mills entered a new field of research. Early in the '80's he was one of the passengers on a snowbound train, away up in the heart of the mountains.

This misfortune, if such it may be termed in the light of after events, was the untoward cause of awakening in him an interest in the vast and then untrodden field of political economy. On this snowbound train was a copy of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." He read it again and again and resolved then and there henceforth to exert all his powers to the noble task of the world's awakening. Mr. Mills wrote several able pamphlets, dealing with the single tax doctrine in its ethical and spiritual bearings. One of these was published in 1893, under the title, "Privilege or Service?" Two others appeared as supplements to the San Francisco Star—one in 1895 and one in 1898—under the respective titles of "Christian Economics, the First Principles of Political Economy," and "The Two Great Commandments in Economics." He was a friend of Henry George himself and the two men gained much from each other.—Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat, of August 22.

#### ROBERT BROWNING'S EVANGEL.

"Yes, often when I wake in the morning I do be just so glad that I be alive," said the woman to me once—a woman who made beds, and swept, and waited on table, and washed linen, for 14 or 16 hours a day, and who al-