

showing that it belonged to the primitive Church and was a vital part of the true plan of salvation. Infant baptism was also a part of the church referred to, but such a procedure was in no wise authorized by the word of God.

The Church of Christ was to be one of unity, and without the same organization that existed anciently such a condition was impossible. The word of God indicated that there should be Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc., and still without these authorities, said the speaker, numerous denominations in the earth had laid claim to being the true Church of Christ.

In conclusion Elder Roberts pointed out the prosperity attending the Church of Christ in its work in the earth. It had withstood the persecutions of the wicked and ungodly at all times and would continue to do so, however crude its presentation unto the people. The truth was here. It was God's controversy with the nations, and He would vindicate it among the people of the earth. Those yielding obedience thereto would gain a testimony of its divinity, and would be blessed in their desires to follow in the footsteps of the Father.

The choir sang the anthem:

Song of the Redeemed.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Joseph E. Taylor.

### A NEW ILLUMINANT.

The New York World is so given to the most pronounced kinds of "yellow journalism," that its readers know not what part of its contents they may safely believe. Its Sunday issue, especially, is of this character. Page after page is embellished with "scare heads" and still more startling pictures, while the possibilities of the English language, in the way of exaggerated description, are exhausted. Strange, morbid, unique, and sensational subjects of all kinds are treated in this style, and facts, that are undeniably such, are so interwoven with fiction as to puzzle the reader in drawing the line between truth and its opposite.

In last Sunday's issue of the world is given a graphic account of a new illuminant said to have been invented by S. B. Nickum, of Logansport, Indiana, who is represented as a trained and devoted scientist, and the possessor of a well appointed laboratory. The World says:

"This inventor claims to have discovered a means of making artificial suns. He can bottle up a light more brilliant than the electric arc, steadier than the incandescent lamp, softer than an oil burner. It is like imprisoned sunshine. It has neither wires nor battery connected with it. It can be carried about in one's pocket. Its brilliancy will last as long as the glass in which it is confined.

"The new light is the result of a chemical action heretofore unknown. There is no elaborate apparatus, no complicated machines needed to generate it. The chemicals are placed in a glass globe from which the air is extracted and which is then hermetically sealed. The light glows at once. The globe can be carried about with the greatest freedom, in one's pocket if it is desired, or in any receptacle. Once started the light never goes out, so long as the globe is intact. If all that is claimed for this illuminant be true, it is one of the greatest discoveries of all times. It is more marvelous than the vacuum tube light discovered by Tesla.

"It means the destruction of gas trusts. It means the abandonment of their great plants and those of electric-light companies as well. Each individual and each household can have

its independent illuminant. It will be a deadly blow to a great oil trust. The brilliancy, the hue and the power of the new light can be regulated by the size and color of the glass globe and the amount of chemicals used. But there is one drawback. The light cannot be extinguished without destroying it absolutely, nor can its power be regulated.

"The globes are made in sizes varying from an ordinary egg to the covering of an arc light. Some of them glow with a soft, dim light, while the large ones possess extraordinary brilliancy. The brilliancy of the larger sizes depends upon the degree of exhaustion in the globe. If a perfect vacuum could be obtained the inventor declares that the human eye could no more bear the light than it can look at the sun in midday. He says that the only obstacle that now stands in the way of complete success is the exhaustion of the globes and the sealing of them. This is a purely mechanical problem which does not give him great concern.

"The discovery of the new light is not the only one which Nickum is sure that he has made. He declares that many of the accepted beliefs of scientists are wrong. He has become convinced that astronomers have been misled and that the force commonly called gravitation has a character wholly different from that ascribed to it by the Newtonian theory.

"This is so revolutionary, so tremendous an upturning of accepted beliefs that it arouses only a smile of incredulity. But Nickum is not disturbed. He says that his new illuminant is the first result of his theories and a demonstration of their truth. He is writing a book about his researches, and of this you shall read later.

"First it is interesting to know something of the man himself and how he came to discover the new light. He is forty years old and was born in Ohio. He is self-educated. He has lived in Logansport for several years and in Indiana the greater part of his life. He has a model shop and is known as a mechanic of rare skill and as a student as well. From his early youth he has found no pleasure in the recreations that attract men. His days have been passed in work and experiment, his nights in delving into scientific works. He has made several inventions which yield him a comfortable income.

"About five years ago an order for half a dozen representations of the solar system was sent to him. He set to work to build an exact model showing the movements of the planets about the sun. This led him to study astronomy and physics very carefully. Doubt entered his mind, and further study and experiment led him to believe that the attraction which is called gravitation is a force vastly different and acting in a manner not yet grasped by scientists.

"From his conclusions he began to draw further deductions as to attractions and repulsions, finally deciding that there was no such thing as atomic affinity or cohesion of molecules. Starting from this view-point he began a series of experiments, both mechanical and chemical, and finally stumbled upon the new light. Nickum was not elated with his discovery. He had no great confidence in it at first. He did not accept it as a real discovery of practical importance until he had put it to the test. Each development was more and more extraordinary. He was finally convinced that he had found a new illuminant.

"This was three years ago. Since then he has worked night and day to bring the idea to a state of practical perfection. He has worked in absolute secrecy. Years ago Nickum had an unfortunate experience with an inven-

tion. It taught him caution. He extended his laboratory to twice its former size. He took every precaution to keep out intruders. He went to live over the workshop. An idea of the application of this inventor can be gained when it is said that for weeks at a time he has not been in the open air. At long intervals he appears upon the streets of the town hurrying to perform some urgent business. He is jealous of every minute that keeps him from his work."

The book upon which Mr. Nickum is working is entitled, "Nature Unfolded," and in it he endeavors to substantiate the following seven fundamental propositions of physical science:

"First—That all matter is of one kind.

"Second—That there is but one kind of power.

"Third—That atoms singly or atoms in mass are not endowed with the power of attraction.

"Fourth—That atoms singly or atoms in mass are not endowed with the quality called affinity.

"Fifth—That there is no such substance as the intangible, indescribable something called ether, which is supposed to invade and permeate space.

"Sixth—That the supposed atmospheric pressure of something like fifteen pounds to the square inch is not less than ninety pounds to the square inch or thereabouts.

"Scientific men," he says, "have been groping about in the darkness for a long time. The progress of thought has been in the direction of unity of matter and unity of force. I believe that all kinds of matter are composed of one kind of atoms in various forms, and all energy or force is but the various manifestations of one original movement given to matter by the Creator.

"There are no different kinds of forces or power. The force of gravity, adhesion, cohesion, capillary attraction, growth, electricity, &c., are not separate kinds of forces, but different manifestations of the same force, and that force is the imperishable continuation of the original movement to matter given by the Creator. We may call it power, force, energy or what not; it makes no difference. I say Creator because I take no middle ground, being entirely unable to comprehend how an adverse view can find lodgment in rationality."

The World further explains the theories of the inventor, as follows:

"Nickum substitutes for all the forces—cohesion, adhesion, gravitation and the like—a force pushing particles into juxtaposition, and he calls it vibration. In this it will be seen that he accepts the Tesla theory that vibration includes all force. According to Nickum, the atoms, in varying sizes, with different vibration rates, form the different kinds of matter known to our senses. The force itself, in different forms, makes heat, light, electricity, gravitation and the other forms of energy. Thus one force and one kind of matter, both originally implanted by the Creator, account for the whole universe.

"He believes that light is the result of a high period of vibration in moving atoms. The larger the atoms the faster they must be forced to vibrate, and the more power required to get up the speed required to produce light; the smaller the atoms the easier it is to produce light with them. The inventor says that phosphorus has the smallest atoms, and is therefore the easiest to make light with. It is supposed that this substance in certain compounds is used in his vacuum lamps."

How much of the foregoing is "yellow journalism," and how much of it is pure science, no one but a savant could tell, and he might not be able to draw the lines accurately. But there