

REV. DR. TALMAGE. The Brooklyn Divine's Sunday Sermon.

Subject: "The Surprise of Religion." Preached in Vienna, Austria.

Text: "Behold, the half was not told me."—1 Kings x, 7.

Appearing before you today, my mind is agitated by the scenes of the Holy Land from which we have just arrived...

Again, my subject teaches me what is earnestness in the search of truth. Do you know where Sheba was? It was in Abyssinia...

He went down to Ezion-geber and ordered a fleet of ships to be constructed... He heard that there was the best of timber on Mount Lebanon...

Here we find ourselves amid a collection of buildings on which the King had lavished the wealth of many empires...

Well, there is coming a greater surprise to every Christian—a greater surprise than anything I have expected. Heaven say the word. Everybody talks about it...

Learn from this subject what a beautiful thing it is when social position and wealth surrender themselves to God...

for the alleviation of the masses; Queen Clotilde, leading her husband and three thousand of his armed warriors to Christian baptism...

Tea-Chests, Teas and Tea-Making. In a letter from China a correspondent says: "The manufacture of tea-chests being peculiarly Chinese, is of itself a curiosity..."

Protecting the Plate Glass. Passing along Dearborn street, yesterday, says a writer in the Chicago Journal, I saw a crowd watching closely the placing in position of some enormous panes of glass in a handsome new building...

Vanderbilt's New Palace. George W. Vanderbilt, the youngest of the sons of the late William H. Vanderbilt, is determined, in addition to his well-known palace in New York, to have the most magnificent private park and the lordliest country estate in America...

It is the old story, Everybody tells it. Isaiah told it, John told it, Peter told it, Ezekiel told it, Luther told it, Calvin told it, John Milton told it—everybody tells it...

The Queen of Sheba alights. She enters the palace. She washes at the bath. She sits down at the banquet. The cup bearers bow. The music smokes. The music trembles in the dash of the waters from the molten sea...

Send the word up to the palace that we are coming, and that we are weary of the march of the desert. The King will come out and say: "Welcome to the palace; bathe in the waters, recline on these banks. Take this cinnamon and frankincense and myrrh and put it upon a censor and swing it before the altar..."

When heaven bursts upon us it will be a greater surprise than that—Jesus on the throne, and we make like Him! All our Christian friends surrounding us in glory!

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Glimpses of Cloudland. BY MABLE SMITHSON.

There is scarcely any one who has not peered many a happy hour, looking up at the skies, and wondering at the never-ending changes in the beautiful cloud-scenery.

What lovely colors are seen there! Such delicate blue and rose and creamy white, besides the hundred shades of gold and crimson which paint the western sky at sunset.

Not so nice as it seems, perhaps, for that fluffy hill is made of water, and is as wet as a sea fog. Any one who has seen a steam engine knows that the fire is there to heat the water, and that that makes steam, to set the machinery going.

It is that wonderful power that sends messages all round the world on wires, that lights our streets so much better than gas does, that rings bells to warn us when robbers are breaking in, and that is going to move ships and trains of cars, and do all kinds of things for us which we get to know in better and better ways.

We do not hear the clap until after we have seen the flash although the two take place at the same instant, and this is because the sound takes longer to travel through the air than light does.

A Tree's Record of its Life. It is not known to everyone that a tree keeps a record within its stem of the character of each successive season since it began its growth.

Reflection increases the vigor of the mind as exercise does the strength of the body.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON. SUNDAY JANUARY 19, 1908.

The Song of Zacharias LESSON TEXT. Luke 1: 67-80. Memory verses, 76, 79.

LESSON PLAN. TOPIC OF THE QUARTER: Jesus the Saviour of Men.

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2: 14.

LESSON TOPIC: The Saviour's Glories Foretold.

LESSON OUTLINE. I. As wrought out by the Father, vs. 67-70. 2. As experienced by the Redeemed, vs. 71-75. 3. As set forth by His Herald, vs. 76-80.

GOLDEN TEXT: Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his way.—Luke 1: 76.

DAILY HOME READINGS: M.—Luke 1: 67-80. The song of Zacharias.

T.—Isa. 32: 1-8. Messiah's glories foretold.

W.—Isa. 35: 1-10. Messiah's glories foretold.

T.—Isa. 40: 1-11. Messiah's glories foretold.

F.—Isa. 42: 1-16. Messiah's glories foretold.

S.—Isa. 53: 1-12. Messiah's glories foretold.

S.—Isa. 55: 1-13. Messiah's glories foretold.

LESSON ANALYSIS. I. AS WROUGHT OUT BY THE FATHER. A. People Redeemed: He hath wrought redemption for his people (68).

II. SALVATION SECURED. He hath raised up a horn of salvation (69).

III. PROMISES FULFILLED. As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets (70).

IV. AS EXPERIENCED BY THE REDEEMED. I. Saved From Enemies: Salvation from our enemies (71).

II. Encircled with Mercy: Mercy shall compass him about (Psa. 32: 10).

III. AS SET FORTH BY HIS HERALD. I. Servant without Fear: That we should serve him without fear (74).

II. He is the Dayspring: The dayspring from on high shall visit us (78).

III. He is the Guide: To guide our feet (79).

IV. He is the Light: I am the light of the world (John 8: 12).

V. He is the Guide: He will be our guide even unto death (Psa. 48: 14).

VI. He is the Guide: Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel (Psa. 73: 24).

VII. He is the Guide: The Lord shall guide thee continually (Isa. 58: 11).

VIII. He is the Guide: Thou art the guide of my youth (Jer. 3: 4).

IX. He is the Guide: "To make ready his ways" (1)

The coming king; (2) The unprepared ways; (3) The appointed pioneer. 2. "To give knowledge of salvation." (1) A benighted world; (2) An enlightening messenger.

LESSON BIBLE READING. CHRIST IN PROPHECY. The seed of the woman (Gen. 3: 15; Gal. 4: 4).

The seed of Abraham (Gen. 17: 7; 22: 18; Gal. 3: 16).

The seed of David (Psa. 132: 11; Acts 13: 23).

The Son of God (Psa. 2: 7; Luke 1: 32, 35).

Called Immanuel (Isa. 7: 14; Matt. 1: 23).

Preceded by a herald (Isa. 40: 3; Matt. 3: 1, 3).

A zealous worker (Psa. 69: 9; John 2: 17).

A lowly one (Isa. 42: 2; Matt. 12: 15; 19).

His death (Isa. 53: 12; Matt. 27: 50).

His dominion (Psa. 72: 8; Dan. 7: 14; Phil. 2: 9, 11).

INTERESTING EVENTS.—Mary returns to Nazareth, from her visit to Elizabeth, apparently before the birth of John. Probably the dream of Joseph (Matt. 1: 18-24) occurred shortly after Mary's return. When John the Baptist was born there was great joy in the household. It was customary among the Jews to name male children at their circumcision, and female children when they were weaned. On the eighth day, therefore, when the child was to be circumcised, it was proposed to name him after his father, Zacharias. But his mother said, "He shall be called John." Zacharias so directed in writing, and immediately his speech was restored. All this occasioned great wonder in that region.

PLACE.—The same as before, at the home of Zacharias.

TIME.—Probably, though not certainly, on the day when the child was named. The birth of John must be fixed six months before that of Jesus. The traditional date is June 24. The eighth day would be July 1. The year, according to the chronology followed here, was 749 (year of Rome) or B. C. 5.

PERSONS.—Probably Zacharias, Elizabeth, and the listening company in their house, assembled to name the child.

INCIDENTS.—The old spirit of prophecy comes upon the priest to whom, after so long a silence, God has again spoken. The "Benedictus," like the "Magnificat" of Mary, is so called from the first word with which the song of Zacharias begins in Jerome's Latin version of the Scriptures.

MOTHER'S CORNER. Mothers have a right I think, if they can possibly command it, to an occasional vacation says a writer in The Cottage Hour.

Many a woman wears herself out in constant, unwearying devotion to her family, who would not only live longer, if she would take regular and stated times of rest, but who would be able to be of even more service to them than she can ever hope to be when there is no stopping-place, no relaxation from morning till night, from year's end to end.

If the one object of a woman's life is to get just as much out of herself as she possibly can, the best way to do it, is to husband her forces, and to reserve at least some small portion of her strength for those emergencies which are sure to come sooner or later to all of us.

And if a woman wishes to be amiable and companionable as well as useful, what more helpful tonic to tried nerves than jar and fret, than the daily nap, the yearly vacation?

"O bed, bed, delicious bed! Thou heaven on earth to the weary head!"

wrote Hood, and it is a heaven to which many a weary woman would be the better for repairing much more frequently.

A half hour's nap after dinner may make all the difference between a shrew and an angel, for the women who could are oftentimes simply tired women who would be as gentle as cooing doves if their overtaxed nerves could have the rest and refreshment which they need.

If at first thought it seems impossible to command the leisure necessary for rest and study, let us only realize the economy, the necessity for it, and then we shall make a constant effort to obtain a right which instead of being a selfish indulgence, is simply a part of that wise devotion which makes every true woman long to make her life not only useful and helpful, but a constant inspiration to those about her.

THE CLOTHING OF BABIES. Although I own that children are now more sensibly clothed than was the case thirty years ago, it is still common to see an infant, who can take no exercise to warm himself, wearing a low necked, short sleeved, short coated dress in the coldest weather. The two parts of the body—viz., the upper portion of the chest and the lower portion of the abdomen—which it is most important to keep from variations of temperature, are exposed, and the child is rendered liable to colds, coughs and lung diseases on the one hand and bowel complaint on the other. What little there is of the dress is chiefly composed of open work and embroidery, so that there is about as much warmth in it as in a wire sieve, and the socks accompanying such a dress are of cold white cotton, exposing a cruel length of blue and red leg. I can not see the beauty of a pair of vivid blue legs, and would much rather behold them comfortably clad in a pair of stockings. If the beauty lie in the shape of the leg, that shape will be displayed to as much advantage in a pair of stockings; if it lie in the coloring of the flesh, beautiful coloring will not be obtained by leaving the leg bare; and, from the artistic point of view, a blue or red stocking is infinitely preferable to a blue and red leg. JESSIE O. WALLER.