

AS AN EXHILARATION.

Dr. Talmage Says Christianity is Uplifting and Dispel Melancholia. The Fate of Young Men Who Go in for Sinful Amusements.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage exhorts his hearers to be of the uplift and urge all people to try their lifting power; text, Proverbs iii, 17, "Her ways are ways of pleasantness."

You have all heard of God's only begotten Son. Have you heard of a woman who was born in heaven. She came down over the hills of our world. She had a queenly step. Her voice was celestial rhapsody. Her voice was music. Her name was religion. My text is, "In the world there are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." But what is religion? The fact is that theological study has had a different effect upon me from the effect sometimes produced. Every year I read another leaf from my theology until I have only three or four leaves left—in other words, a very brief and plain statement of Christian belief.

Now, I take these three or four leaves of my theology, and I find that, in the first place and dominant above all others, is the sunshine of religion. When I go into a room I have a passion for throwing open all the shutters. That is what I want to do this morning. We are apt to throw so much of the sepulchral into our religion and to close the shutters and to pull down the blinds that is not only through here and there a crevice that the light streams. The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ is a religion of joy indescribable and unutterable. Wherever I can find a bell I mean to ring it.

It is in setting forth this idea, the dominant theory of religion is one of sunshine, I hardly know where to begin for there are so many thoughts that rush upon my soul. A mother saw her little child seated on the floor in the sunshine and with a spoon in her hand. She said, "My darling, what are you doing there?" "Oh," replied the child, "I am getting a spoonful of this sunshine." Would God that to-day I might present you with a gleaming chalice of this glorious, everlasting gospel sunshine!

What of all, I find a great deal of sunshine in Christian society. I do not know of anything more doleful than the companionship of the mere funmakers of the world—the Thomas Hoods, the Charles Lambes, the Charles Mathewses of the world—the men whose entire business it is to make sport. They make others laugh, but if you will examine their autobiography or biography you will find that down in their soul there was a terrific disquietude. Laughter is no sign of happiness. The man who laughs, like the hyena, laughs in gloom among the Adirondacks laughs. The drunkard, dashing his decanter against the wall, laughs.

There is a terrible reaction from all sinful amusement and sinful merriment. Such men are cross the next day. They snap at you on exchange or they pass you, not recognizing you. Long ago I quit mere worldly society for the reason, it was so dull, so insane and so stupid. My nature is voracious of joy. I must have it.

I always walk on the sunny side of the street, and for that reason I have crossed over into Christian society. I like their mode of repartee better. I like their style of amusement better. They live longer. Christian people, I sometimes notice, live on when when they ought to have died. I have known persons who have continued in their existence when the doctor said they ought to have been dead ten years. Every day of their existence was a defiance of the laws of anatomy and physiology, but they had this supernatural vivacity of the gospel in their soul, and that kept them alive.

I have to tell you that where the Christian has one self-denial the man of the world has a thousand self-denials. The Christian is not commanded to surrender anything that is worth keeping. But what does a man deny himself who denies himself the religion of Christ? He denies himself peace of conscience; he denies himself the joy of the Holy Ghost; he denies himself a comfortable death pillow; he denies himself the gates of heaven. Do not talk to me about the self-denials of the Christian life. Where there is one in the Christian life there are a thousand in the life of the world. "Her ways are ways of pleasantness."

Again, I find a great deal of religious sunshine in Christian and divine explanation. To a great many people life is an inexplicable tangle. Things turn out differently from what was supposed. There is a useless woman in perfect health. There is an industrious and consecrated woman a complete invalid. Explain that. There is a bad man with \$300,000 of income. Why is that? There is a foe of society who lives on, doing all the damage he can, to seventy-five years of age, and here is a Christian father, father in every department of life, at thirty-five years of age taken away by death, his family left helpless. Explain that. Oh, there is no sentence that atones drops from your lips than this: "I cannot understand it; I cannot understand it."

Well, now religion comes in just at that point with its illumination and its explanation. There is a business man who has lost his entire fortune. The week before he lost his fortune there were twenty carriages that stopped at the door of his mansion. The week after he has lost his fortune all the carriages you could count on one finger. The week before financial trouble began people all took off their hats to him as he passed the street. The week after the prospects were under discussion people just touched their hats without any bending the rim. The week that he was pronounced insolvent people just jolted their heads as they passed, not touching their hats at all, and the week the sheriff sold him out all his friends were looking in the store windows as they went down past him.

Now, while the world goes away from a man while he is in financial distress, the religion of Christ comes to him and says: "You are sick, and your sickness is to be moral purification. You are bereaved, and God is in some way to take your family to heaven, and He must be your somewhere, and so He took the one that was most beautiful and was ready to go." I do not say that religion explains everything in this life, but I do say it lays down certain principles which are grandly consolatory. You know business men often telegraph in cipher. The merchant in San Francisco telegraphs to the merchant in New York certain information in cipher which no other man in that line of business can understand, but the merchant in San Francisco has the key to the cipher, and the merchant in New York has the key to the cipher, and on that information transmitted there are enterprises involving hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, the providences of life sometimes seem to be strange rigmorale, a mysterious cipher, but God has a key to that cipher, and the Christian has a key to that cipher, and though he may hardly be able to spell out the meaning he gets enough of the meaning to understand that it is for the best.

Oh, what an observatory in which to study astronomy heaven is, but not by power of telescope, but by supernatural vision, and, if there be something doubtful 10,000,000 miles away, by one stroke of the wing you are there, by another stroke of the wing you are back again, and all less time than I tell you, catching it all in one flash of eternity.

And geology! What a place that will be to study geology when the world is being picked to pieces as easily as a school girl in botanical lessons picks up the corolla! What a place to study architecture, amid the thrones and the palaces and the cathedrals—St. Mark's and St. Paul's rookeries in comparison.

Sometimes you wish you could make the tour of the whole earth, going around as others have gone, but you have not the time, you have not the means. You will make the tour by during one meal cal pause in the eternal anthem. I say these things for the comfort of those people who are abridged in their opportunities—those people to whom life is humdrum, who toil and work and toil, and work and aspire after knowledge, but have no time to get it and say, "If I had the opportunities which other people have, how I would fill my mind and soul with great thoughts!" Be not discouraged, my friends. You are going to the university yet. Death will only matriculate you into the royal college of the universe.

What a sublime thing it was that Dr. Thornevall, of South Carolina, uttered in his last dying moments! As he looked up he said, "It opens; it expands; it expands." Or as Mr. Hojlad, the author of "Rock of Ages," in his last moment during his last hours looked up and said, as though he saw something supernatural, and then as he came on nearer the dying moment, his countenance was luminous, he cried, "Light!" and at the very moment of his departure lifted both hands, something supernatural in his countenance as he cried "Light!" Only another name for sunshine.

DEERING AT PARIS IN 1900.

The Famous Chicago Harvester Company Received More and Greater Honors Than Were Ever Before Accorded an American Exhibitor in the History of Expositions.

America may well feel proud of the interest which her citizens took in the Paris Exposition and the elaborate exhibits which were presented in magnificent style and displayed in a manner not excelled by any other country. Those of Harvester Machinery in particular were most complete and interesting. The Deering Harvester Company, of Chicago, America's foremost manufacturer of this line of goods, was accorded the position of highest honor, having contributed more to the advancement of the art of harvesting than any other manufacturer, living or dead, and with a greater array of important inventions to its credit than any other company in the world.

Visitors to the Exposition were prompted to accord the Deering exhibits supreme honors, and it only remained for official mandates to ratify the popular verdict, which was done in a manner as substantial as it was well-merited. Each one of the seven Deering exhibits secured the highest award in its class. In addition to four high decorations, the Deering Harvester Company received twenty-five awards, or twenty-nine in all, as follows: Decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor, Decoration of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, two Decorations of Officer of Merit Agricole, a Special Certificate of Honor, The Grand Prize, Six Gold Medals, Six Silver Medals and Eleven Bronze Medals, including Deering Collaborator Medals.

The Decoration of Legion of Honor was instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte when First Consul in 1802, and is only conferred in recognition of distinguished military or civil achievements. It is the highest distinction in the gift of the French Republic. The Decoration of Merit Agricole is an honor of but slightly less importance, which is conferred upon those who have contributed greatly to the advancement of agriculture. An Official Certificate of Honor was accorded the Deering Retrospective Exhibit, which showed the improvements in harvesting machinery during the past century, and the highest praise of the French Government Officials who had entrusted to the Deering Harvester Company the preparation of this most important exhibit. This exhibition, which has been presented to the National Museum of Arts and Sciences at Paris, where it has become a permanent feature of that world-famous institution.

The Deering Tractor Exhibit and Corn Harvester Exhibit, both of which received the highest awards, have by request of the French Government been presented to the National Agricultural College of France and to the Imperial Farm of Tomsk, Siberia, August 14th to 18th. All the leading American and European machines participated and were subjected to the most difficult tests by the Government Agriculturnist. The Expert Commission awarded the Deering Harvester Company the Grand Silver Medal of the Minister of Agriculture and Domain, which was the highest award.

The Deering Harvester Works are the largest of their kind in the world, covering eighty-five acres and employing 9000 people. They are equipped with modern automatic machines, many of which perform the labor of from five to fifteen hands. This Company is also the largest manufacturer of Binder Twine in the world, having been first to produce single-strand binder twine, such as is in general use today, making over a third of the product of the entire world. The output of its factory for a single day would tie a band around the earth at the equator, with several thousand miles to spare. The annual production would fill a freight train twenty miles long. Made into a mat two feet wide, it would reach across the American Continent from ocean to ocean.

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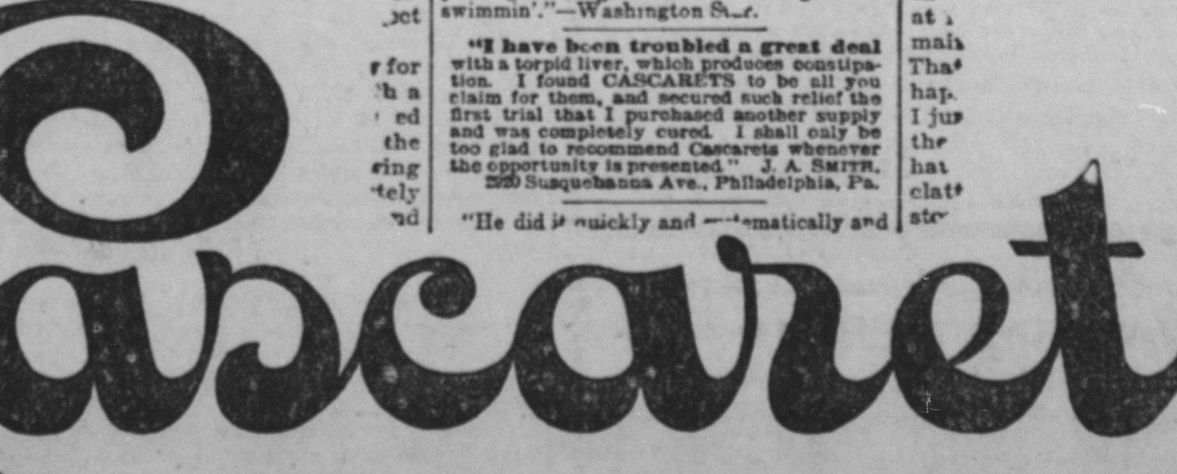
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