

REV. DR. TALMAGE.  
THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUN-  
DAY SERMON.

Subject: "Migratory Birds."

Text: "The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord."—Jeremiah viii, 7.

When God would set a beautiful thought he plants it in a tree. When he would put it into a bird, he makes it a migratory bird. He made it so that it should be a messenger of his will to the people of the world. He made it so that it should be a messenger of his love to the people of the world.

Then, I ask, is anything impossible for the Lord? I do not believe that God exhausted all his grace in Paul and Lattimer and Edward Payson. I believe there are higher points of Christian attainment to be reached in the future ages of the Christian world.

You tell me that Paul went up to the tiptop of the Alps of Christian attainment. Then I tell you that the stork and crane have flown above the Alps plenty of room for free flying. We go out and we conquer our temptations by the grace of God and lie down. On the morrow those temptations rally themselves and attack us, and by the grace of God we defeat them again; but staying all the time in the old encampment we have the same old battles to fight over. Why not whip out our temptations and carry them forward in the morning, one raid through the enemy's country, stopping not until we break ranks after the last victory?

Do, my brethren, let us have some novelty of combat at any rate by changing, by going on, by making advancement, trading off our state prayers about sins and toward a higher state of Christian character, and routing out sins that we have never thought of yet. The fact is, if the church of God, if we, as individuals, made rapid advances in the Christian life, these crooked and prayer-worn would be as inappropriate to us as the shoes, and the hats, and the coats we wore ten or fifteen years ago. Oh, for a higher flight in the Christian life—the stork and the crane in their migration teaching us the lesson:

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live.  
At this poor dying rate—  
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,  
And Thine to us so great?

Again, I remark that the birds of the air never take flight, because they know when to start. If you should go out now and shout, "Stop storks and cranes; don't be in a hurry!" they would say, "No, we cannot stop; last night we heard the roaring in the woods bidding us away, and the still fluff of the north wind has sounded the retreat. We must go." So they gather themselves into companies, and turning not aside from storm or mountain top or shock of musketry, over land and sea, start on their way, and when they see the "draw was up" and they went down. How long to repeat and pray? Two seconds! Two seconds! To do the work of a lifetime and to prepare for the vast eternity in two seconds!

It was a realising of an entertainment given in a king's court, and there was music and there were dancers. After awhile Mozart came and began to play, and he had a blank piece of paper before him, and the king familiarly looked over his shoulder and said, "What are you playing?" "I see no music before me," said Mozart put his hand on his brow, as much as to say, "I am improvising." It was very well for him, but oh, my friends, we cannot extemporize heaven! If we do never take part in the orchestral harmonies of the saved. Oh, that we were as wise as the crane and the stork, flying away, flying away from the temptations!

Some of you have felt the pinching frost of sin. You feel it to-day. You are not happy. You are not happy. There are voices within your soul that will not be silenced, telling you that you are sinners, and that without the pardon of God you are undone forever. We never take part in the orchestral harmonies of the saved. Oh, that we were as wise as the crane and the stork, flying away, flying away from the temptations!

I propose, so far as God may help me, this morning, carry out the idea of the text, to show that the birds of the air have more sagacity than men. And I begin by particularizing and saying that they mingle music with their work. The most serious business of a bird's life is to travel from the Hudson to the Amazon, from the Thames to the Nile. Naturalists tell us that they arrive there thin and weary and plumage ruffled, and yet they go singing all the way; the ground, the upper line of the music themselves, the notes scattered up and down between.

It is a good sign when you hear a workman whistle. It is a better sign when you hear him hum a rounder. It is a still better sign when you hear him sing the words of Isaac Watts or Charles Wesley. A violin choried and strung, if something accidentally strike it, makes music, and I suppose there is such a thing as having our hearts so attuned by divine grace that even the roughest vibrations of life will make a heavenly vibration. I do not believe that the power of Christian song has yet been fully tried. I believe that if you could roll the "Oid Hundred's" doxology through Wall street it would put an end to any financial disturbance! I believe that the discords, and the sorrows, and the sins of the world are to be swept out by heaven born ballads.

Some one asked Haydn, the celebrated musician, why he always composed such cheerful music. "Why," he said, "I can't do otherwise. When I think of God my soul is so full of joy that the notes leap and dance from my pen." I wish we might all exit melodiously before the Lord.

Children of the Heavenly King,  
Ye journey sweetly singing,  
Sing your hearts' fervent praise,  
As ye traverse home to God,  
In the way your fathers trod;  
They are laughing now, we weep,  
Soon their happiness shall see.

The church of God never will be a triumphant church until it becomes a singing church.

I go further and remark that the birds of the air are wiser than we in the fact that in their migration they fly very high. During the summer, when they are in the fields, they often come within reach of the gun, but when they start for the annual flight southward they take the places of the children and of straight as an arrow to the mark. The longest rifle that was ever brought to shoulder cannot reach them. Would to God that we were as wise as the stork and crane in our flight heavenward! We fly so low that we are within easy range of the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are brought down by temptations that ought not to come within a mile of reaching us.

Oh, for some of the faith of George Mueller, of England, and Alfred Cookman, one of the church militant, now of the church triumphant! So poor is the type of piety in the church of God now that men actually caricature the idea that there is any such thing as a higher life. Moses never did believe in angels. But, my brethren, because we have not reached those heights ourselves, shall we deride the fact that there are any such heights?

# FARM AND GARDEN

TO KEEP BOYS ON THE FARM.

When a farmer who owns 200 acres of land is continually grumbling that he cannot make anything at the business, although his three or four boys work for their board and clothing, has he a right to grumble because the boys want to leave the farm? Possibly if he were to divide his land and his ready money with the boys, and then each one tried to do his best upon his share of the farm, all would get better results than they do now, and all would stay upon the farm, unless they had decided tastes and talents for some other pursuit.—Chicago Times.

GOOD AND BAD BUTTER.

The average creamy butter is called better than the average farm dairy butter, and the same is true of cheese, but there are some private dairies that make better goods and get better prices than the factories can. Such ones should hesitate before pooling their products along with the shifflers, careless ones who never could make good butter, mainly because they had not learned how to make good milk to begin with. Possibly a saving of labor in the household may pay for a little loss in price, but the separator seems likely to make much reduction of the labor of butter making, and it is said they can be used profitably where there are a dozen cows.—American Dairyman.

SEED CORN.

In all manner of farming it is most important that good seed, fully matured and kept in the safest way should be secured. A wise farmer will raise and keep in safety as many of his own seeds as may be necessary. The present is perhaps the best time of the year to save seed corn of every sort. Select ears that are well filled out at each end and such as show no mixture. Corn will mix from forty to eighty rods apart. While husking corn throw out every extra good ear and from these again make a selection of the best. Let a few husks remain on the ear and then trace them up by dozens and hang them up where no rodents can get at them; but not in a granary where wheat and oats are stored, as the emanations from these will destroy the germinating principle. Secure at least twice as much as you expect to use. Some sluggard will pay \$2 per bushel for it.—St. Louis Republic.

POULTRY TOPICS.

It is much better to divide the flock at night, permitting a small number to roost together. Crowding results frequently in diseases.

Grind up the bones from the meat you use for the table, leaving some of the meat on the bones, both being essential at intervals. Hens lay better if tans fed twice or three times a week.

The earthen drinking fountain is the cleanest and most convenient when water must be carried to a flock of fowls. The water remains cool longer in earthenware than in tin. A running stream is best of all.

The silky fowl is a toy, yet many admire it for its odd appearance. The hens lay well, but their eggs are not large. Their feathers are like hair, standing up straight. Their wattles and combs are a bluish red color.

Keep the poultry in a house especially provided for them. Do not permit the mangel in the horse or cow stable to be contaminated with the droppings, making the food distasteful to the horse, or cow, that occupies the stall.—American Agriculturist.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Give ducks as much liberty as possible. The fall is a good time to apply manure to asparagus beds.

New oats are too laxative for horses which do hard work.

With nearly all kinds of fowls the final fattening is on corn.

INSECTS IN GREENHOUSES.

Florists are now having a busy season, preparing plants and greenhouses for the winter supply of flowers, writes Margaret Dale. Let me suggest to those who may not be already aware of the fact that a liberal supply of tobacco stems spread thickly over the walks will prevent the development of insects, the pest of amateur as well as professional florists. I have been assured by florists of experience that fresh supplies of stems are all that they find necessary to keep their greenhouses in perfect condition regarding insects. Throughout the winter the stems must be renewed every few weeks, and, though this may seem a troublesome operation, I am convinced that many persons will consider it an improvement on the old method of fumigating, by which the florist effectually smoked himself with sulphur or tobacco, while vainly endeavoring to destroy the flies and aphids that were luxuriating on his choicest carnations and roses.

After being used in the greenhouses the stems can be utilized as a mulch about the June roses of the garden, where they prove an effective remedy for the slug.—New York Independent.

SPREADING ASHES IN WINTER.

At the Rhode Island Station a portion of an old sheep pasture was plowed and seeded with a mixture of timothy and red top in 1890. In the following winter and spring it was fertilized with Canada ashes for the purpose of making a comparison between winter and spring applications of ashes to newly seeded meadows, and to determine whether any loss would result from washing while the ground was frozen. The soil is a light sandy loam, and the ashes were hauled directly from the car and spread from the cart upon the field when the ground was frozen and covered with four inches of snow.

The field is very level, and two plots of one-fifth acre each were selected and staked out side by side. Upon the west plot on January 6 half a ton of ashes

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