

CONGRESS SALUTED.

REV. DR. TALMAGE PREACHES A SERMON UPON A TIMELY THEME.

He Shows How We Have Been Blessed by God in the Past—Earthly Comfort and the Rest That Shall Come to Those That Believe.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—As tomorrow the congress of the United States assembles and many of the members were present at the delivery of this sermon, Dr. Talmage took a most appropriate theme, showing that in all their work they might realize that God has always been on the side of this nation. Text, II Kings vi, 17, "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

The American congress is assembling, arriving or already arrived are the representatives of all sections of this beloved land. Let us welcome them with prayers and benedictions. A nobler group of men never entered Washington than those who will tomorrow take their places in the senate chamber and the house of representatives. Whether they come alone or leave their families at the homestead far away, may the blessing of the Eternal God be upon them! We invite them to our churches, and together they in political spheres and we in religious circles will give the coming months to consideration of the best interests of this country which God has blessed so much in the past that I propose to show you and show them, so far as I may now reach their ear or tomorrow their eye through the printing press, that God will be with them to help them as in the text he filled the mountains with help for Elisha.

The Upper Forces.

As it cost England many regiments and \$2,000,000 a year to keep safely a troublesome captive at St. Helena, so the king of Syria sends out a whole army to capture one minister of religion—perhaps 50,000 men to take Elisha. During the night the army of Syrians came around the village of Dothan, where the prophet was staying. At early daybreak the manservant of Elisha rushed in and said: "What shall we do? There is a whole army come to destroy you! We must die! We must die!" But Elisha was not scared a bit, for he looked up and saw the mountains all around full of supernatural forces, and he knew that if there were 50,000 Syrians against him there were 100,000 angels for him, and in answer to the prophet's prayer in behalf of his frightened manservant the young man saw it too. Horses of fire harnessed to chariots of fire, and drivers of fire pulling reins of fire on bits of fire, and warriors of fire with brandished swords of fire, and the brilliance of that morning sunrise was eclipsed by the galloping splendors of the celestial cavalcade. "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

I speak of the upper forces of the text that are to fight on our side as a nation. If all the low levels are filled with armed threats, I have to tell you that the mountains of our hope and courage and faith are full of the horses and chariots of divine rescue. You will notice that the divine equipage is always represented as a chariot of fire. Ezekiel and Isaiah and John, when they come to describe the divine equipage, always represent it as a wheeled, a harnessed, an upholstered conflagration. It is not a chariot like kings and conquerors of earth mount, but an organized and compressed fire. That means purity, justice, chastisement, deliverance through burning escapes. Chariot of rescue? Yes, but a chariot of fire. All our national disinheritedments have been through scorching agonies and red disasters. Through tribulation the individual rises. Through tribulation nations rise. Chariots of rescue, but chariots of fire. But how do I know that this divine equipage is on the side of our institutions? I know it by the history of the last 119 years. The American Revolution started from the pen of John Hancock in Independence hall in 1776. The colonies, without ships, without ammunition, without guns, without trained warriors, without money, without prestige. On the other side, the mightiest nation of the earth, the largest armies, the grandest navies and the most distinguished commanders, and resources inexhaustible, and nearly all nations ready to back them up in the fight. Nothing, as against immensity.

A Divine Interposition.

The cause of the American colonies, which started at zero, dropped still lower through the quarrelling of the generals, and through the jealousies at small successes, and through the winters which surpassed all predecessors in depth of snow and horrors of concealment. Elisha surrounded by the whole Syrian army did not seem to be worse off than did the thirteen colonies encompassed and overshadowed by foreign assault. What decided the contest in our favor? The upper forces, the upper armies. The Green and White mountains of New England, the Highlands along the Hudson, the mountains of Virginia, all the Appalachian ranges were full of reinforcements which the young man Washington saw by faith, and his men endured the frozen feet, and the gangrened wounds, and the exhausting hunger, and the long march because "the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." Washington himself was a miracle. What Joshua was in sacred history the first American president was in secular history. A thousand other men excelled him in different things, but he excelled them all in roundness and completeness of character. The world never saw his like, and probably never will see his like again, because there probably never will be another such exigency. He was let down a divine interposition. He was from God direct.

I do not know how many can read the history of those times without admitting the contest was decided by the upper forces. Then in 1861, when our civil war opened, many at the north and at the south pronounced it national suicide. It was not courage against cowardice, it was not wealth against poverty, it was not large states against small states. It was heroism against heroism, it was the resources of many generations against the resources of generations, it was the prayer of the north against the prayer of the south, it was one-half of the nation in armed wrath meeting the other half of the nation in armed indignation. What could come but extermination?

At the opening of the war the commander in chief of the United States forces was a man who had been great in battle, but old age had come, with many infirmities, and he had a right to quietude. He could not mount a horse, and he rode on the battlefield in a carriage, asking the driver not to jolt it too much. During the most of the four years of the contest, on the southern side, was a man in middle, who had in his veins the blood of many generations of warriors, himself one of the heroes of Churubusco and Cerro Gordo, Contreras and Chapultepec. As the years passed on and the scroll of carnage unrolled there came out from both sides a heroism, and a strength, and a determination that the world had never seen marshaled. And what but extermination could come when Philip Sheridan and Stonewall Jackson met, and Nathaniel Lyon and Sidney Johnston rode in from north and south, and Grant and Lee, the two thunderbolts of battle, clashed? Yet, we are a nation, and yet we are at peace. Earthly courage did not decide the conflict. The upper forces of the text—they tell us there was a battle fought above the clouds on Lookout mountain, but there was something higher than that.

A Friend of the Nation.

Again, the horses and chariots of God came to the rescue of this nation in 1876, at the close of a presidential election famous for ferocity. A darker cloud yet settled down upon this nation. The result of the election was in dispute, and revolution, not between two or three sections, but revolution in every town and village and city of the United States seemed imminent. The prospect was that New York would throttle New Orleans, and Boston, Boston, and Savannah, Savannah, and Washington, Washington. Some said Mr. Tilden was elected, others said Mr. Hayes was elected, and how near we came to universal massacre some of us guessed, but God only knew. I ascribe our escape not to the honesty and righteousness of infuriated politicians, but I ascribe it to the upper forces of the text. Chariots of mercy rolled in, and though the wheels were not heard and the flash was not seen, yet all through the mountains of the north, and the south, and the east, and the west, though the hoofs did not clatter, the cavalry of God galloped by. I tell you God is the friend of this nation. In the awful excitement at the passage of Lincoln, when there was a prospect that greater slaughter would open upon this nation, God hushed the tempest. In the awful excitement at the time of Garfield's assassination God put his foot on the neck of the cyclone. To prove God is on the side of this nation I argue from the last eight or nine great national harvests, and from the national health of the last quarter of a century, epidemics very exceptional, and from the great revivals of religion, and from the spreading of the church of God, and from the continent blossoming with asylums and reformatory institutions, and from an Edenization which promises that this whole land is to be a paradise, where God shall walk.

I am encouraged more than I can tell you as I see the regiments wheeling down the sky, and my jeremiads turn into doxologies, and that which was the Good Friday of the nation's crucifixion becomes the Easter morn of its resurrection. Of course God works through human instrumentalities, and this national betterment is to come among other things through a scrutinized ballot box. By the law of registration it is almost impossible now to have illegal voting. There was a time—you and I remember it very well—when droves of vagabonds wandered up and down on election day, and from poll to poll, and voted here, and voted there, and voted everywhere, and there was no challenge, or if there were, it amounted to nothing, because nothing could so suddenly be proved upon the vagabonds. Now, in every well organized neighborhood, every voter is watched with severest scrutiny. If I am in a region where I am allowed a vote, I must tell the registrar my name, and how old I am, and how long I have resided in the state, and how long I have resided in the ward or the township, and if I misrepresent, 50 witnesses will rise and shut me out from the ballot box. Is not that a great advance? And then notice the law that prohibits a man voting if he has bet on the election. A step farther needs to be taken and that man forbidden a vote who has offered or taken a bribe, whether it be in the shape of a free drink, or cash paid down, the suspicious cases obliged to put their hand on the Bible and swear their vote in if they vote at all. So, through the sacred chest of our nation's suffrage, redemption will come.

God will save this nation through an aroused moral sentiment. There has never been so much discussion of morals and immorals. Men, whether or not they acknowledge what is right, have to think what is right. We have men who have had their hands in the public treasury the most of their lifetime, stealing all they could lay their hands on, disconcerting eloquently about dishonesty in public servants, and men with two or three families of their own preaching eloquently about the beauties of the seventh commandment. The question of sobriety and drunkenness is thrust in the face of this nation as never before and takes a part in our political contests. The question of national sobriety is going to be respectfully and deferentially heard at the bar of every legislature, and every state senate, and an omnipotent voice will ring down the sky and across this land and back again, saying to these rising tides of drunkenness which threaten to overwhelm home and church and nation, "Thus far shalt thou come, but no farther, and here shall thy proud waves be staid."

Antigonus' Army.

I have not in my mind a shadow of disheartment as large as the shadow of a house fly's wing. My faith is in the upper forces, the upper armies of the text. God is not dead. The chariots are not unwhooled. If you would only pray more and wash your eyes in the cool, bright water fresh from the well of Christian reform, it would be said of you, as of this one of the text, "The Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

When the army of Antigonus went into battle, his soldiers were very much discouraged, and they rushed up to the general and said to him, "Don't you see we have a few forces and they have so many more?" And the soldiers were affrighted at the smallness of their number and the greatness of the enemy. Antigonus, their commander, straightened himself up and said, with indignation and rebuke, "How many do you reckon me to be?" And when we see the vast armies arrayed against the cause of sobriety it may sometimes be very discouraging, but I ask you in making up your estimate of the forces of righteousness—I ask you how many do you reckon the Lord God Almighty to be? He is our commander. The Lord of Hosts is his name. I have the best authority for saying that the chariots of God are 20,000, and the mountains are full of them.

Have you any doubt about the need of the Christian religion to purify and make decent American politics? At every yearly or quadrennial election we have in this country great manufactories—manufactories of lies—and they are run day and night, and they turn out half a dozen a day, all equipped and ready for full sailing. Large lies and small lies. Lies private and lies public and lies prudent. Lies cut bias and lies cut diagonal. Long limbed lies and lies with double back action. Lies complimentary and lies defamatory. Lies that some people believe and lies that all the people believe, and lies that nobody believes. Lies with humps like camels, and scales like crocodiles, and necks as long as storks, and feet as swift as an antelope's, and stings like adders. Lies raw and scalloped and panned and stewed. Crawling lies and jumping lies and soaring lies. Lies with attachment screws and rufflers and braiders and ready wound bobbing. Lies by Christian people who never lie except during elections, and lies by people who always lie, but beat themselves in a presidential campaign.

A Potent Force.

I confess I am ashamed to have a foreigner visit this country in such times. I should think he would stand dumb with his hand on his pocketbook, and dare not go out nights. What will the hundreds of thousands of foreigners who come here to live think of us? What a disgust they must have for the land of their adoption. The only good thing about it is many of them cannot understand the English language. But I suppose the German and Italian and Swedish and French papers translate it all and peddle out the infernal stuff to the subscribers.

Nothing but Christianity will ever stop such a flood of indecency. The Christian religion will speak after awhile. The billingsgate and low scandal through which we wade every year or every four years must be rebuked by that religion which speaks from its two great mountains—from the one mountain intoning the command, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," and from the other mount making plea for kindness and blessing rather than cursing. Yes, we are going to have a national religion. There are two kinds of national religion. The one is supported by the state, and is a matter of human politics, and it has great patronage, and under it men will struggle for prominence without reference to qualifications, and its archbishop is supported by a salary of \$75,000 a year, and there are great cathedrals, with all the machinery of music and canonicals, and room for a thousand people, yet an audience of fifty people, or twenty people, or ten or two. We want no such religion as that, no such national religion, but we want this kind of national religion—the vast majority of the people converted and evangelized—and then they will manage the secular as well as the religious.

Do you say that this is impracticable? No. The time is coming just as certainly as there is a God, and that this is his book, and that he has the strength and the honesty to fulfill his promises. One of the ancient emperors used to pride himself on performing that which his counselors said was impossible, and I have to tell you today that man's impossibilities are God's easies. "Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Hath he commanded, and will he not bring it to pass?" The Christian religion is coming to take possession of every ballot box, of every schoolhouse, of every home, of every valley, of every mountain, of every acre of our national domain. This nation, notwithstanding all the evil influences that are trying to destroy it, is going to live.

Never since, according to John Milton, when "satan was hurled headlong flaming from the ethereal skies in hideous ruin and combustion down," have the powers of darkness been so determined to win this continent as now. What a jewel it is—a jewel carved in relief, the cameo of this planet! On one side of us the Atlantic ocean, dividing us from the wondrous governments of Europe. On the other side the Pacific ocean, dividing us from the superlatives of Asia. On the north of us the

arctic sea, which is the gymnasium in which the explorers and navigators develop their courage. A continent 10,500 miles long, 17,000,000 square miles, and all of it but about one-seventh capable of rich cultivation. One hundred millions of population on this continent of North and South America—100,000,000, and room for many hundred millions more. All flora and all fauna, all metals and all precious woods, and all grains and all fruits. The Appalachian range the backbone, and the river the ganglia carrying life all through and out to the extremities, isthmus of Darien, the narrow waist of a giant continent, all to be under one government, and all free, and all Christian, and the scene of Christ's personal reign on earth if, according to the expectation of many good people, he shall at last set up his throne in this world. Who shall have this hemisphere, Christ or satan? Who shall have the shore of her inland seas, the silver of her Nevadas, the gold of her Colorado, the telescopes of her observatories, the brain of her universities, the wheat of her prairies, the rice of her savannas, the two great ocean beaches—the one reaching from Baffin's bay to Tierra del Fuaga, and the other from Bereng strait to Cape Horn—and all the moral and temporal and spiritual and everlasting interests of a population vast beyond all human computation? Who shall have the hemisphere? You and I will decide that, or help to decide it, by conscientious vote, by earnest prayer, by maintenance of Christian institutions, by support of great philanthropies, by putting body, mind and soul on the right side of all moral, religious and national movements.

The Final Needs.

Ah, it will not make any difference to you or to me what becomes of this continent, so far as earthly comfort is concerned. All we will want of it will be 7 feet by 3, and that will take in the largest, and there will be room and to spare. That is all of this country we will need very soon—the youngest of us all. But we have an anxiety about the welfare and the happiness of the generations that are coming on, and it will be a grand thing if, when the archangel's trumpet sounds, we find that our sepulchre, like the one Joseph of Arimathea provided for Christ, is in the midst of a garden.

One of the seven wonders of the world was the white marble watch tower of pharos of Egypt. Sostratus, the architect and sculptor, cut his name on it. Then he covered it with plaster, and to please the king he put the monarch's name on the outside of the plastering, and the storms beat and the seas dashed in their fury, and they washed off the plastering, and they washed it out, and they washed it down, but the name of Sostratus was deep cut in the imperishable rock. So across the face of this nation there have been a great many names written, across our finances, across our religions, names worthy of remembrance, names written on the architecture of our churches, and our schools, and our asylums, and our homes of mercy, but God is the architect of this continent, and he was the sculptor of all its grandeur, and long after—through the wash of the ages and the tempests of centuries—all other names shall be obliterated the divine signature and divine name will be brighter and brighter as the millenniums go by, and the world shall see that the God who made this continent has redeemed it by his grace from all its sorrows and from all its crimes.

The Mightiest Agency.

Have you faith in such a thing as that? After all the chariots have been unwhooled, and after all the war chargers have been crippled, the chariots which Elisha saw on the morning of his peril will roll on in triumph, followed by all the armies of heaven on white horses. God could do it without us, but he will not. The weakest of us, the faintest of us, the smallest brained of us, shall have a part in the triumph. We may not have our name, like the name of Sostratus, cut in imperishable rock and conspicuous for centuries, but we shall be remembered in a better place than that, even in the heart of him who came to redeem us and redeem the world, and our names will be seen close to the signature of his wound, for, as today he throws out his arms to us, he says, "Behold, I have graven thee on the palms of my hand." By the mightiest of all agencies, the potency of prayer, I beg you seek our national welfare.

Some time ago there were 4,600,000 letters in the dead letter postoffice in this city—letters that lost their way—but not one prayer ever directed to the heart of God miscarried. The way is all clear for the ascent of your supplications heavenward in behalf of this nation. Before the postal communication was so easy, and long ago on a rock 100 feet high on the coast of England there was a barrel fastened to a post, and in great letters on the side of the rock, so it could be seen far out at sea, were the words "Postoffice," and when ships came by a boat put out to take and fetch letters. And so sacred were those deposits of affection in that barrel that no lock was ever put upon that barrel, although it contained messages for America and Europe and Asia and Africa and all the islands of the sea. Many a storm tossed sailor, homesick, got messages of kindness by that rock, and many a homestead heard good news from a boy long gone. Would that all the heights of our national prosperity were in interchange of sympathies—prayers going up meeting blessings coming down, postal celestial, not by a storm struck rock on a wintry coast, but by the Rock of Ages.

Language.

Elegance of language may not be in the power of all of us, but simplicity and straightforwardness are. Write much as you would speak. Speak as you think. If with your inferiors, speak no coarser than usual; if with your superiors, no finer. Be what you say, and within the ruler of prudence say what you are.—Alford.

LEGAL NOTICE

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Samuel Gilliland, late of College township, deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary on the above estate have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for settlement to J. C. GILLILAND, Oak Hall, or H. SECHLER, Bellefonte, Pa., Executors. 12-5-95

ADMINISTRATORS' NOTICE.

Estate of Catharine Brown, deceased, late of Hubersburg, Pa. Letters of administration on said estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will present them without delay for settlement to the undersigned. Loganston, Pa. JOHN BROWN, Admr. 11-18-95

AUDITORS NOTICE—In the assigned estate of Wm. H. Runkle, of Potter township. The undersigned having been appointed an auditor to make distribution of the balance in the hands of the Assignee to and among those lawfully entitled thereto, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment, at his office in the court house, at Bellefonte, on Friday, December 17th, 1895, at 10 a. m., when and where those who desire may attend, or foreve afterwards be debarred from coming in on said fund. WM. J. SINGER, Auditor.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—Estate of Mary M. Hall, decd., late of Milesburg borough. Letters testamentary upon said estate having been granted by the Register of Wills to the undersigned, all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them for settlement. 11-24-95 JAMES M. LUCAS, EXR.

PUBLIC HALL.

Walker Grange, No. 243, desires to inform the public that the lower room in their Hall, in Hubersburg, is now ready for rental. Any person desiring to rent for holding entertainments etc., call or correspond with J. H. MCATEEY, Hubersburg, Pa. Oct. 3-2m

MILL FOR SALE OR RENT—Wagner mill, in Central City, Boggs township, for sale or rent. Inquire at the office of J. M. Kichline, Bellefonte, Pa., for further information.

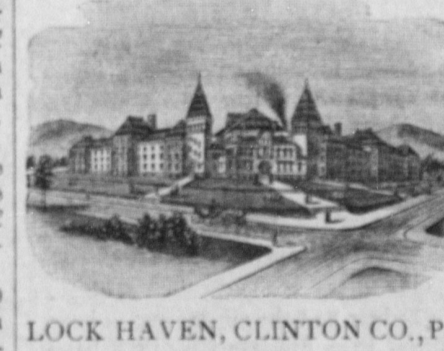
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