

A NATION'S DANGERS.

Dr. Talmage Eloquenty Portrays the Country's Destiny.

Monopoly the Overshadowing Curse of Our Land—Nihilism an Evil Power—Infidelity a Source of Weakness.

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Washington, May 28.

In this discourse Dr. Talmage speaks of some of the perils that threaten our American institutions, and points out the path of safety; text, Isaiah 62:4: "Thy land shall be married."

As the greater includes the less, so does the circle of future joy around our entire world include the epicure of our own republic. Bold, exhilarant, unique, Divine imagery of the text. At the close of a week in which for four days our national capital was a pageant and all that grand review and banneted procession and national anthems could do, celebrated peace, it may not be inapt to anticipate the time when the Prince of Peace and the heir of universal dominion shall take possession of this nation, and "thy land shall be married."

In discussing the final destiny of this nation it makes all the difference in the world whether we are on the way to a funeral or a wedding. The Bible leaves no doubt on this subject. In pulpits and on platforms and in places of public concourse I hear so many of the muffled drums of evil prophecy sounded, as though we were on the way to national internment, and besides Thebes and Babylon and Tyre in the cemetery of dead nations our republic was to be entombed, that I wish you to understand it is not to be obsequies, but nuptials; not mausoleums, but carpeted altar; not cypress, but orange blossoms; not requiem, but wedding march; for "thy land shall be married."

I propose to name some of the suitors who are claiming the hand of this republic. This land is so fair, so beautiful, so affluent that it has many suitors, and it will depend much upon your advice whether this or that shall be accepted or rejected. In the first place, I remark: There is a greedy, all-grasping monster who comes in as a suitor seeking the hand of this republic, and that monster is known by the name of monopoly. His scepter is made out of the rail track and the wire of telegraphy. He does everything for his own advantage and for the robbery of the people. Things went on from bad to worse until in the three legislatures of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for a long time monopoly decided everything. If monopoly favor a law, it passes; if monopoly oppose a law, it is rejected. Monopoly stands in the railroad depot putting into his pockets in one year \$200,000,000 in excess of all reasonable charges for services. Monopoly holds in his one hand the steam power of locomotion and in the other the electricity of swift communication. Monopoly has the republican party in one pocket and the democratic party in the other pocket. Monopoly decides nominations and elections—city elections, state elections, national elections. With bribes he secures the votes of legislators, giving them free passes, giving appointments to needy relatives to lucrative positions, employing them as attorneys if they are lawyers, carrying their goods 15 per cent. less if they are merchants, and if he find a case very stubborn as well as very important puts down before him the hard cash of bribery.

But monopoly is not so easily caught now as when during the term of Mr. Buchanan the legislative committee in one of our states explored and exposed the manner in which a certain railway company had obtained a donation of public land. It was found that 13 of the senators of that state received \$175,000 among them, 60 members of the lower house of that state received between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each, while \$50,000 was divided among the lobby agents. That thing on a larger or smaller scale is all the time going on in some of the states of the union, but it is not so blundering as it used to be, and therefore not so easily exposed or arrested. I tell you that the overshadowing curse of the United States today is monopoly. He puts his hand upon every bushel of wheat, upon every sack of salt, upon every ton of coal, and every man, woman and child in the United States feels the touch of that moneyed despotism. I rejoice that in 24 states of the union already anti-monopoly leagues have been established. God speed them in the work of liberation.

I have nothing to say against capitalists; a man has a right to all the money he can make honestly. I have nothing to say against corporations as such; without them no great enterprise would be possible, but what I do say is that the same principles are to be applied to capitalists and to corporations that are applied to the poorest man and the plainest laborer. What is wrong for me is wrong for great corporations. If I take from you your property without any adequate compensation I am a thief, and if a railway damages the property of the people without making any adequate compensation that is a gigantic theft. What is wrong on a small scale is wrong on a large scale. Monopoly in England has ground hundreds of thousands of her best people into semistarvation, and in Ireland has driven multitudinous tenants almost to madness, and in the United States proposes to take the wealth of 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 of people and put it in a few silken wallets.

the great railroads and over the telegraph poles of the continent and says: "Here are my heart and hand. Be mine forever." Let the millions of the people north, south, east and west forbid the bans of that marriage, forbid them at the ballot box, forbid them on the platform, forbid them by great organizations, forbid them by the overwhelming sentiment of an outraged nation, forbid them by the protest of the church of God, forbid them by prayer to high Heaven. That Herod shall not have this Abigail. It shall not be to all-devouring monopoly that this land is to be married.

Another suitor claiming the hand of this republic is nihilism. He owns nothing but a knife for universal euthroathy and a nitroglycerin bomb for universal explosion. He believes in no God, no government, no Heaven and no hell except what he can make on earth. He slew the czar of Russia, keeps many a king practically imprisoned, killed Abraham Lincoln, would put to death every king and president on earth, and, if he had the power, would climb up until he could drive the God of Heaven from His throne and take it himself, the universal butcher. In France it is called communism; in the United States it is called anarchism; in Russia it is called nihilism, but that last is the most graphic and descriptive term. It means complete and eternal smash-up. It would make the holding of property a crime, and it would drive a dagger through your heart and put a torch to your dwelling and turn over this whole land into the possession of theft and lust and rapine and murder.

Where does this monster live? In all the towns and cities of this land. It offers its hand to this fair republic. It proposes to tear to pieces the ballot box, the legislative hall, the congressional assembly. It would take this land and divide it up, or rather, divide it down. It would give as much to the idler as to the worker, to the bad as to the good. Nihilism! This panther, having prowled across other lands, has set its paw on our soil, and it is only waiting for the time in which to spring upon its prey. It is nihilism that burned the railroad property at Pittsburgh during the great riots; it was nihilism that slew black people in our northern cities during the war; it was nihilism that mauled to death the Chinese immigrants years ago; it is nihilism that glares out of the windows of the drunkeries upon sober people as they go by. Ah, its power has never yet been tested. I pray God its power may never be fully tested. It would, if it had the power, leave every church, chapel, cathedral, schoolhouse and college in ashes.

Let me say it is the worst enemy of the laboring classes in any country. The honest cry for reform lifted by oppressed laboring men is drowned out by the vociferation for anarchy. The criminals and the vagabonds who range through our cities talking about their rights, when their first right is the penitentiary—if they could be hushed up, and the downtrodden laboring men of this country could be heard, there would be more bread for hungry children. In this land riot and bloodshed never gained any wages for the people or gathered up any prosperity. In this land the best weapon is not the club, not the shillalah, not firearms, but the ballot. Let not our oppressed laboring men be beguiled to coming under the bloody banner of nihilism. It will make your taxes heavier, your wages smaller, your table scantier, your children hungrier, your suffering greater. Yet this nihilism, with feet red of slaughter, comes forth and offers its hand for this republic. Shall the bans be proclaimed? If so, where shall the officiating priest, and what will be the music? That altar will have to be white with bleached skulls, the officiating priest must be a dripping assassin, the music must be the smothered groan of multitudinous victims, the garlands must be twisted of night shade, the fruits must be the apples of Sodom, the wine must be the blood of St. Bartholomew's massacre. No! It is not to nihilism, the sanguinary monster, that this land is to be married.

Another suitor for the hand of this nation is infidelity. When the midnight stewards despoiled the grave of A. T. Stewart in St. Mark's churchyard everybody was shocked; but infidelity proposes something worse than that—the robbing of all the graves of Christendom in the hope of a resurrection. It proposes to chisel out from the tombstones of your Christian dead the words "Asleep in Jesus" and substitute the words "Obiteration—annihilation." Infidelity proposes to take the letter from the world's Father, inviting the nations to virtue and happiness, and tear it up into fragments so small that you cannot read a word of it. It proposes to take the consolation from the broken-hearted and the soothing pillow from the dying. Infidelity proposes to swear in the president of the United States, and the supreme court, and the governors of states, and the witnesses in the courtroom with their right hand on Paine's "Age of Reason," or Voltaire's "Philosophy of History." It proposes to take away from this country the book that makes the difference between the United States and the kingdom of Dahomey, between American civilization and Hottentot cannibalism. If infidelity could destroy the Scriptures it would in 200 years turn the civilized nations back to semibarbarism, and then from semibarbarism into midnight savagery, until the morals of a menagerie of tigers, rattlesnakes and chimpanzees would be better than the morals of the shipwrecked human race.

The only impulse in the right direction that this world has ever had has come from the Bible. It was the mother of Roman law and of healthful jurisprudence. That book has been the mother of all reforms and all charities—mother of English magna charta and American Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin, holding that holy book in his hand, stood before an infi-

del club in Paris and read to them out of the prophecies of Habakkuk, and the infidels, not knowing what book it was, declared it was the best poetry they had ever heard. That book brought George Washington down on his knees in the snow at Valley Forge, and led the dying Prince Albert to ask some one to sing "Rock of Ages."

I tell you that the worst attempted crime of the century is the attempt to destroy this book. Yet infidelity, loathsome, stenchful, leprous, pestiferous, rotten monster, stretches out its hand, ichorous with the second death, to take the hand of this republic. It stretches it out through seductive magazines, and through lectures, and through caricatures of religion. It asks for all that part of the continent already fully settled and the two-thirds not yet occupied. It says: "Give me all east of the Mississippi, with the keys of the church and with the Christian printing presses. Then give me Wyoming, give me Alaska, give me Montana, give me Colorado, give me all the states west of the Mississippi and I will take those places and keep them by right of possession long before the Gospel can be fully entrenched.

And this suitor presses his case appallingly. Shall the bans of that marriage be proclaimed? "No!" say the home missionaries of the west, a martyr band of whom the world is not worthy, toiling amid fatigues and malaria and starvation. "No, not if we can help it. By what we and our children have suffered we forbid the bans of that marriage!" "No!" say all patriotic voices. "Our institutions were bought at too dear a price and were defended at too great a sacrifice to be so cheaply surrendered." "No!" says the God of Bunker Hill and Independence hall and Gettysburg. "I did not start this nation for such a farce." "No!" cry 10,000 voices. "To infidelity this land shall not be married!"

But there is another suitor that presents his claim for the hand of this republic. He is mentioned in the verse following my text where it says: "As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." It is not my figure. It is the figure of the Bible. Christ is so desirous to have this world love Him that He stops at no humiliation of simile. He compares His grace to spittle on the eyes of the blind man. He compares Himself to a hen gathering the chickens, and in my text He compares Himself to a suitor begging a hand in marriage. Does this Christ, the King, deserve this land? Behold Pilate's hall and the insulting expectation on the face of Christ. Behold the Calvarian massacre and the awful hemorrhage of five wounds. Jacob served 14 years for Rachel, but Christ, my Lord, the King, suffered in torture 33 years to win the love of this world. As often princesses at their very birth are pledged in treaty of marriage to princes or kings of earth, so this nation at its birth was pledged to Christ for Divine marriage.

Before Columbus and his 120 men embarked on the Santa Maria, the Pinta and the Nina for their wonderful voyage, what was the last thing they did? They sat down and took the holy sacrament of the Lord Jesus Christ. After they caught the first sight of this country and the gun of one ship had announced it to the other vessels that land had been discovered, what was the song that went up from all the three decks? "Gloria in Excelsis." After Columbus and his 120 men had stepped from the ship's deck to the solid ground, what did they do? They all knelt and consecrated the new world to God. What did the Huguenots do after they landed in the Carolinas? What did the Holland refugees do after they landed in New York? What did the pilgrim fathers do after they landed in New England? With bended knee and uplifted face and Heaven besieging prayer, they took possession of this continent for God. How was the first American congress opened? By prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. From its birth this nation was pledged for holy marriage with Christ.

And then see how good God has been to us! Just open the map of the continent and see how it is shaped for immeasurable prosperities. Navigable rivers, more in number and greater than any other land, rolling down on all sides into the sea, prophesying large manufactures and easy commerce. Look at the great ranges of mountains timbered with wealth on the top and sides, metaled with wealth underneath. One hundred and eighty thousand square miles of coal. One hundred and eighty thousand square miles of iron. The land so contoured that extreme weather hardly ever lasts more than three days—extreme heat or extreme cold. Climate for the most part bracing and favorable for brain and brain. All fruits, all minerals, all harvests. Scenery displaying an autumnal pagantry that no land on earth pretends to rival. No South American earthquakes. No Scotch mists. No London fogs. No Egyptian plagues. No Germanic divisions. The people of the United States are happier than any people on earth. It is the testimony of every man that has traveled abroad. For the poor, more sympathy; for the industries, more opportunity. Oh, how good God was to our fathers, and how good He has been to us and to our children. To Him—blessed be His mighty name—to Him of cross and triumph, to Him who still remembers the prayer of the Huguenots and Holland refugees and the pilgrim fathers—to Him shall this land be married. Oh, you Christian patriots, by your contributions and your prayers, hasten on the fulfillment of the text.

Needed Him.
"I must send them all circulars," exclaimed the man who was addressed by his acquaintances as professor. "Those men who have testified in the investigation ought to know about me."
"What business are you in?"
"I have a new system of memory training."—Washington Star.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

According to recent statistics gathered from all denominations, church membership in the United States is increasing more rapidly than the population.

Statistics have been given concerning the parents of the students in our denominational colleges, showing the four-fifths of them to be professing Christians.—United Presbyterian.

The Methodist church in Canada is inaugurating a fire insurance business to take risks only on churches and parsonages. The profits will go to the fund for superannuated ministers.

A petition in favor of closing all saloons all day on Sunday in England has been signed by 4,000 clergymen, representing the Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational and Methodist churches of that country.

The Tennessee Methodist Episcopal conference has a "Conference Sisterhood." The institution fee is 25 cents, and on the death of a member each survivor pays one dollar. The membership consists of the wives and widows of the Tennessee preachers.

The English correspondent of the Episcopal Recorder says that "Wesleyan Methodist ministers are a long-lived class. Only 30 out of 2,000 home workers died during the last year. And of this number seven were septuagenarians and five octogenarians."

The ecumenical conference on foreign missions, to be held in New York April 21 to May 1, 1900, will be one of the largest and most representative assemblies of Christians ever held. It is expected that at least 3,000 delegates will be in attendance, and that nearly all the missionary societies in the world will be represented. Only Protestant Christianity will participate.

Herman Ehrlich, who for the past 37 years has conducted a mission for the Jews of Whitechapel, London, says that the Zionist movement has taken hold of the Jews in a most miraculous way. And at a recent meeting of the Zionists in the East end over 6,000 Jews met together to hear something of the land of their fathers, and the enthusiasm was so great that during an address an aged Jew cried out: "Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem!"

FOREST DENUDATION.

Future Generations Being Robbed by Eastern Mills of Valuable Possessions.

One of the most important matters under consideration before the joint high commission for the adjustment of questions between the United States and Canada is that which concerns the preservation of our forests.

The situation is critical and is growing worse year by year. The destruction of our forests to provide material for pulp and sawmills in the four states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York is going on at the rate of 1,700 square miles per annum. Forest fires in various parts of the country, according to the figures of the agricultural department at Washington, cause an annual loss amounting in money value to \$20,000,000. The geographical survey reports that the low-water level of our important lakes and rivers is steadily declining. The violence and destructive character of freshets show a marked increase, and in those streams furnishing water power for manufacturing purposes the alternation of flood and drought causes alarm for the future availability of this great industrial resource.

Right here in New England we have some of the most striking instances of the impending peril of forest destruction. In Maine all of the townships accessible by large rivers have been entirely denuded of their valuable timber. In New Hampshire the state forestry commission predicts the exhaustion of the entire forest resources of the state within 12 years, and this means not only a commercial waste, but the destruction of the scenic beauty which renders that state attractive to visitors from all parts of the country. In Vermont the timber supply has already been so far reduced as hardly to meet the home demand. New York has in some degree awakened to the impending danger, and steps have been taken to save something of what is left by prohibiting the cutting of timber on certain large tracts for a period of years sufficient to allow a new growth by reserving the great Adirondack park and by making liberal appropriations for the purchase by the state of other forest lands threatened with denudation.

Hereabouts we have seen the melancholy results of forest destruction in the deterioration of the water power of the Merrimac and other rivers. In Pennsylvania the stripping of the timber from the watershed of the Schuylkill river has forced the city of Philadelphia to seek a new source of water supply. In New Hampshire the state commissioners report that the present methods of lumbering, if continued, will entail unfortunate scenic, climatic and economic results, injuring the health, property and occupation of all citizens, impairing the industrial development of the state and rendering intermittent the flow of rivers which are most important to agriculture and manufacture.—Boston Post.

In Doubt.
Ethel—Did Will seem to be nervous when he proposed to you?
Frances—I don't know. The janitor had let the steam go down, and I couldn't tell whether he was nervous or merely shivering because it had got so cold.—Chicago Evening News.

Judging the Man.
"They say Jobson has inherited \$10,000."
"That must be a mistake."
"What makes you think so?"
"I saw him less than an hour ago and he was perfectly sober."—Chicago Evening News.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The following rates will be charged for announcements under this head, and none will be inserted unless paid in advance: Sheriff, \$7.00; Treasurer, \$6.00; Register, \$6.00; Recorder, \$5.00; Commissioners, \$3.00.

Nothing in derogation of any candidate will be published at any price, but notices of endorsement or articles setting forth the merits of candidates will be received at cents per line each insertion. These rates will be rigidly adhered to and the cash must accompany every order.
CHAS. H. KURTZ, Editor.

SHERIFF.
T. F. KENNEDY, of State College, requests us to announce that he will be a candidate for sheriff, subject to the Democratic County Primaries and County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of ELLIS SHAFER, of Madisonburg, as a candidate for sheriff, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of SAMUEL HARPSTER, JR., of Ferguson township, as a candidate for sheriff, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of GEORGE W. KEISTER, of Haines township, as a candidate for the office of sheriff, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER.
We are authorized to announce the name of THOMAS F. RILEY, of Harris twp., as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of GARET DECKER, of Gregg twp., as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of PHILIP H. MEYER, of Harris twp., as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

DANIEL HICKMAN, of Bedford township, requests us to announce that he will be a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce W. H. FRY, of Ferguson township, as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of ADAM BARTOLES, of Haines township, as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

REGISTER.
DEAR SIR—Please announce my name as a candidate for the office of Register, subject to the decision of the Democratic county convention. I am yours truly,
W. J. CARLIN,
Miles township.

G. F. Weaver, of Gregg twp., desires us to announce that he will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Register.
P. O. address, Ferris Cave.

We are authorized to announce that A. G. ARCHIE, of Ferguson township, will be a candidate for the nomination of Register, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

RECORDER.
We are authorized to announce the name of J. CALVIN BAILEY, of Bellefonte, Pa., as a candidate for Recorder, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

We are authorized to announce the name of RAYMOND A. MAYER, of Bellefonte, Pa., as a candidate for Recorder, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

TREASURER.
To the Democracy of Centre Co.—I am a candidate for the nomination of County Treasurer, and would respectfully solicit your influence and support. Successful or not, I am yours,
W. T. SPEER,
Bellefonte, Pa.

At the coming Democratic Primaries and County Convention I will be a candidate for Treasurer and would respectfully solicit favorable consideration of my candidacy.
J. D. MILLER,
Walker twp.

We are authorized to announce the name of H. A. SPOONER, of Howard twp., as a candidate for Treasurer, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

ERUSTO DEMOCRAT—Please announce my name as a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention. Yours respectfully,
Moshannon, Pa.
J. TONER LUCAS.

We are authorized to announce the name of JOHN E. BOWEN, of Phillipsburg borough, as a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

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