ATTACK ON INFIDELS.

Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage Takes Skepticism for the Subject of

ONE OF THE SERMONS ON PLAGUES.

The Reasons Which He Gives for Not Being an Unbeliever.

GOD NEVER DID SANCTION POLYGAMY

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

NEW YORK, April 5.—Continuing his course of sermons on "The Ten Plagues of the Cities," Rev. Dr. Talmage to-day took for his subject "The Plague of Infidelity." The discourse was delivered to large and appreciative audiences at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in the forenoon and the New York Academy of Music in the evening. The text was, Romans 3:4: "Let God be true, but every man a liar."

That is, if God says one thing and the whole human race says the opposite, Paul would accept the Divine veracity. But there are many in our time who have dared arraign the Almighty for falsehood. Infidelity is not only a plague, but it is the mother of plagues.

It seems from what we hear on all sides, that the Christian religion is a huge blunder; that the Mosaic account of the creation is an absurdity large enough to throw all nations into rollicking guffaw; that Adam and Eve never existed; that the ancient flood and Noah's Ark were impossibilities; that there never was a miracle; that the Bible is the friend of cruelty, of murder, of polygamy, of all forms of base crime; that the Christian religion is woman's thrust and man's stultification; that the Bible from lid to lid is a fable, a cruelty, a humbug, a sham, a lie; that the martyrs who died for its truth were miserable dupes; that the Church of Jesus Christ is properly gazetted as a fool; that when Thomas Carlyle, the skeptic, said, "The Bible is a noble book," he was dropping into imbecility; that when Theodore Parker declared in Music Hall, Boston, "Never a boy or girl in all Christendom but was profited by that great book," he was becoming very weak-minded; that it is something to bring a blush to the cheek of every patriot, that John Adams, the father of American independence, declared, "The Bible is the best book in all the world;" and that lion-hearted Andrew Jackson turned into a snivelling coward when he said, "That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests;" and that Daniel Webster abdicated the throne of his intellectual power and resigned his logic, and from being the great expounder of the Constitution and the great lawyer of his age, turned into an idiot, when he said, "My heart assures and reassures me that the gospel of Jesus Christ must be a divine reality. From the time that at my mother's feet, or on my father's knee, I first learned to lisp verses from the sacred writings, they have been my daily study and vigilant contemplation, and if there is anything in my style or thought to be commended, the credit is due to my kind parents in instilling into my mind an early love of the scriptures."

The Cry of the Latter-Day Skeptic.

This book, having deceived them, and having deceived the mighty intellects of the past, must not be allowed to deceive our larger, mightier, vaster, more stupendous intellects. And so out with the book from the courtroom, where it is used in the solemnization of testimony. Out with it from under the foundation of church and asylum. Out with it from the domestic circle. Gather together all the Bibles—the children's Bibles, the family Bibles, those newly bound, and those with lid nearly worn out and pages almost obliterated by the fingers long ago turned to dust—bring them all together, and let us make a bonfire of them, and by it warm our cold criticism, and after that turn under with the ploughshare of public indignation the polluted ashes of that loathsome, adulterous, obscene, cruel and deathful book which is so antagonistic to man's liberty, and woman's honor and the world's happiness.

Now, that is the substance of what infidelity proposes and declares, and the attack on the Bible is accompanied by great jocosity, and there is hardly any subject about which more mirth is kindled than about the Bible. I like fun; no man was ever built with a keener appreciation of it. There is health in laughter instead of harm—physical health, mental health, moral health, spiritual health—provided you laugh at the right thing. The morning is jocund. The Indian with its own mist baptizes the cataract Minnehaha, or laughing water. You have not kept your eyes open, or your ears alert, if you have not seen the sea smile, or heard the forests clap their hands, or the orchards in blossom week aglee with redolence. But there is a laughter which is deathful, there is a laughter which has the rebound of despair. It is not healthy to giggle about God, or chuckle about eternity, or snirk about the things of the immortal soul. You know what caused the accident years ago on the Hudson River Railroad. It was an intoxicated man who, for a joke, pulled the string of the air-brake and stopped the train at the most dangerous point of the journey. But the lightning train, not knowing there was any impediment in the way, came down, crushing out of the mangled victims the immortal souls that went speeding instantly to God and judgment. It was only a joke. He thought it would be such fun to stop the train. He stopped it! And so infidelity is chiefly anxious to stop the long train of the Bible, and the long train of the churches, and the long train of Christian influences, while coming down upon us are death, judgment and eternity—coming 7,000 miles a minute, coming with more force than all the avalanches that ever slipped from the Alps, coming with more strength than all the lightning express trains that ever whistled or shrieked or thundered across the continent.

Why He Is Not an Infidel.

Now in this sentiment of infidel thinkers I cannot join, and I propose to give you some reasons why I cannot be an infidel, and so I will try to help out of this present condition any who may have been struck with the awful plague of skepticism.

First I cannot be an infidel because infidelity has no good substitute for the consolation it proposes to take away. You know there are millions of people who get their chief consolation from this book. What would you think of a crusade of this sort? Suppose a man should resolve that he would organize a conspiracy to destroy all the medicines from all the apothecaries and from all the hospitals of the earth. The work is done. The medicines are taken and they are thrown into the river, or the lake, or the sea. A patient wakes up at midnight in a paroxysm of distress, and wants an anodyne. "Oh," says the nurse, "the anodynes are all destroyed; we have no drops to give you, but instead of that I'll read you a book on the absurdities of morphine, and on the absurdities of all remedies."

But the man continues to writhe in pain, and the nurse says: "I'll continue to read you some discourses on anodynes, the cruelties of anodynes, the indecencies of anodynes, the absurdities of anodynes. For your groan, I'll give you a laugh." Here in the hospital is a patient having a gangrened limb amputated. He says, "Oh, for ether. Oh, for chloroform." The doctors say, "Why they are all destroyed; we don't have any more chloroform or ether; but I have got something a great deal better. I'll read you a pamphlet against James Y. Simpson, the discoverer of chloroform as an anæsthetic, and against Drs. Agnew, and Hamilton, and Hosack, and Mott, and Harvey, and Abernethy." "Ha," says the man, "I must have some anæsthetics." "No," say the doctors, "they are all destroyed, but we have got something a great deal better." "What is that?" "Fun." Fun about medicines. Lie down all ye patients in Bellevue Hospital and stop your groaning—all ye broken-hearted of all the cities, and quit your crying: we have the catholicon at last!

Here is a dose of wit, here is a strengthening plaster of sarcasm, here is a bottle of ribaldry that you are to keep well shaken up and take a spoonful of it after each meal, and if that does not cure you, here is a solution of blasphemy in which you may bathe, and here is a tincture of derision. Tickle the skeleton of death with a repartee! Make the King of Terrors cackle! For all the agonies of all the ages, a joke! Millions of people willing with uplifted hand toward heaven to affirm that the gospel of Jesus Christ is full of consolation for them, and yet infidelity proposes to take it away, giving nothing, absolutely nothing, except fun. Is there any greater height, or depth, or length, or breadth or immensity of meanness in all God's universe?

A Religion of Awful Negatives.

Infidelity is a religion of "Don't know." Is there a God? Don't know! Is the soul immortal? Don't know! If we should meet each other in the future world will we recognize each other? Don't know! A religion of "don't know" for the religion of "I know," "I know in whom I have believed," "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Infidelity proposes to substitute a religion of awful negatives for our religion of glorious positives showing right before us a world of reunion and ecstasy, and high companionship, and glorious worship, and stupendous victory; the mightiest joy of earth not high enough to reach to the base of the Himalaya of uplifted splendor awaiting all those who on wing of Christian faith will soar toward it.

Furthermore: I cannot be an infidel, because of the false charges infidelity is all the time making against the Bible. Perhaps the slander that has made the most impression and that some Christians have not been intelligent enough to deny is that the Bible favors polygamy. Does the God of the Bible uphold polygamy, or did he? How many wives did God make for Adam? He made one wife. Does not your common sense tell you when God started the marriage institution, he started it as he wanted it to continue? If God had favored polygamy he could have created for Adam 5 wives, or 10 wives, or 20 wives, just as easily as He made one. At the very first of the Bible God shows himself in favor of monogamy and antagonistic to polygamy. Genesis ii, 24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife." Not his wives, but his wife.

How many wives did God spare for Noah in the ark? Two and two the birds; two and two the cattle; two and two the lions; two and two the human race. If the God of the Bible had favored a multiplicity of wives He would have spared a plurality of wives. When God first launched the human race He gave Adam one wife. At the second launching of the human race He spares for Noah one wife, for Ham one wife, for Shem one wife, for Japhet one wife. Does that look as though God favored polygamy? In Leviticus xviii., 18, God thunders His prohibition of more than one wife.

A Permission Not a Sanction.

God permitted polygamy. Yes; just as he permits to-day murder and theft and arson and all kinds of crime. He permits these things as you well know, but he does not sanction them. Who would dare to say he sanctions them? Because the Presidents of the United States have permitted polygamy in Utah, you are not therefore to conclude that they patronized it, that they approved it when on the contrary, they denounced it. All of God's ancient Israel knew that the God of the Bible was against polygamy, for in the 450 years of their stay in Egypt there is only one case of polygamy recorded—only one. All the mighty men of the Bible stood aloof from polygamy, except those who, falling into the crime, were chastised within an inch of their lives. Adam, Aaron, Noah, Joseph, Joshua, Samuel, monogamists.

But you say: "Didn't David and Solomon favor polygamy?" Yes, and did they not get well punished for it? Read the lives of those two men, and you will come to the conclusion that all the attributes of God's nature were against their behavior. David suffered for his crimes in the caverns of Adullam and Massada, in the wilderness of Mahanaim, in the bereavements of Ziklag. The Bedouins after him, Absalom after him, Ahitophel after him, Adonijah after him, the Edomites after him, the Syrians after him, the Moabites after him, death after him, the Lord God Almighty after him. The poorest peasant in all the empire married to the plainest Jewess was happier than the King in his marital misbehavior.

How did Solomon get along with polygamy. Read his warnings in Proverbs, read his self-disgust in Ecclesiastes. He throws up his hands in loathing, and cries out: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." His 700 wives nearly pestered the life out of him. Solomon got well paid for his crimes—well paid. I repeat that all the mighty men of the Scriptures were aloof from polygamy, save as they were pounded and flailed, and cut to pieces for their insult to holy marriage. If the Bible is the friend of polygamy why is it that in all the lands where the Bible predominates, polygamy is forbidden, and in the lands where there is no Bible, it is favored? Polygamy all over China, all over India, all over Africa, all over Persia, all over heathendom, save as the missionaries have done their work; while polygamy does not exist in England and the United States, except in defiance of law. The Bible abroad, God honored monogamy. The Bible not abroad, God abhorred polygamy.

Not Antagonistic to Women.

Another false charge which infidelity has made against the Bible is that it is antagonistic to women, that it enjoins her degradation and belittles her mission. Under this impression many women have been overcome of this plague of infidelity. Is the Bible the enemy of woman? Come into the picture gallery, the Louvre, the Luxembourg of the Bible, and see which pictures are the more honored. Here is Eve, a perfect woman, as perfect a woman as could be made by a perfect God. Here is Deborah, with her womanly arm hurling a host into the battle. Here is Miriam, leading the Israelitish orchestra on the banks of the Red Sea. Here is motherly Hannah, with her own loving hand replenishing the wardrobe of her son Samuel, the prophet. Here is Abigail, kneeling at the foot of the mountain until the 400 wrathful men, at the sight of her beauty and prowess halt, halt—a hurricane stopped at the sight of a water lily, a dewdrop dashing back Niagara. Here is Ruth, putting to shame all the modern slang about mothers-in-law as she turns her back on her home and her country, and faces wild beasts and exile and death, that she may be with Naomi, her husband's mother. Ruth, the queen of the harvest fields. Ruth, the grandmother of David. Ruth, the ancestress of Jesus Christ. The story of her virtues and her life sacrifice the most beautiful pastoral ever written.

Here is Vashti, defying the bacchanal of a thousand drunken lords, and Esther, willing to throw her life away that she may deliver her people. And here is Dorcas, the sunlight of eternal fame gilding her philanthropic needle, and the woman with perfume in a box made from the hills of Alabastron, pouring the holy chrism on the head of Christ, the aroma lingering all down the corridor of the centuries. Here is Lydia, the merchantess of Tyrian purple immortalized for her Christian behavior. Here is the widow with two mites, more famous than the Peabodys and the Lenoxes of all the ages, while here comes in, slow of gait and with careful attendants and especial honor and high favor, leaning on the arm of inspiration, one who is the joy and pride of any home so rarely fortunate as to have one, an old Christian grandmother, Grandmother Lois. Who has more worshippers to-day than any being that ever lived on earth, except Jesus Christ? Mary. For what purpose did Christ perform his first miracle upon earth? To relieve the embarrassment of a womanly housekeeper at the falling short of a beverage. Why did Christ break up the silence of the tomb, and tear off the shroud and rip up the rocks? It was to stop the bereavement of the two Bethany sisters. For whose comfort was Christ most anxious in the hour of dying excruciation? For a woman, an old woman, a wrinkle-faced woman, a woman who in other days had held him in her arms, his first friend, his last friend, as it is very apt to be, his mother. All the pathos of the ages compressed into one utterance, "Behold thy mother." Does the Bible antagonize woman?

More Charges Against Infidelity.

Infidelity scrapes no lint for the wounded, bakes no bread for the hungry, shakes up no pillow for the sick, rouses no comfort for the bereft, gilds no grave for the dead. While Christ, our Christ, our wounded Christ, our risen Christ, the Christ of this old-fashioned Bible—blessed be His glorious name forever! our Christ stands this hour pointing to the hospital, or to the asylum, saying: "I was sick and ye gave Me a couch, I was lame and ye gave Me a crutch, I was blind and ye physicianed My eyesight, I was orphaned and ye mothered My soul, I was lost on the mountains and ye brought Me home; inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it to Me."

But I thank God that this plague of infidelity will be stayed. Many of those who hear me now by the Holy Ghost upon their hearts will cease to be scoffers and will become disciples, and the day will arrive when all nations will accept the Scriptures. The book is going to keep right on until the fires of the last day are kindled. Some of them will begin on one side and some on the other side of the old book. They will not find a bundle of loose manuscripts easily consumed like tinder thrown into the fire. When the fires of the last day are kindled, some will turn on this side, from Genesis toward Revelation, and others will turn on this side, from Revelation toward Genesis, and in all their way they will not find a single chapter or a single verse out of place. That will be the first time we can afford to do without the Bible. What will be the use of the Book of Genesis, descriptive of how the world was made, when the world is destroyed?

What will be the use of the prophecies when they are all fulfilled? What will be the use of the evangelistic or Pauline description of Jesus Christ when we see him face to face? What will be the use of his photograph when we have met him in glory? What will be the use of the Book of Revelation, standing as you will with your foot on the glassy sea, and your hand on the ringing harp, and your forehead chapleted with eternal coronation, amid the amethystine and 12-gated glories of heaven? The emerald dashing its green against the beryl, and the beryl dashing its blue against the sapphire, and the sapphire throwing its light on the jacinth, and the jacinth dashing its fire against the chrysoprase, and you and I standing in the glories of 10,000 sunsets.

Progress.

It is very important in this age of vast material progress that a remedy be pleasing to the taste and to the eye, easily taken, acceptable to the stomach and healthy in its nature and effects. Possessing these qualities, Syrup of Figs is the one perfect laxative and most gentle diuretic known.

SUNDAY'S BIG PAPER.

THE DISPATCH OF TWENTY PAGES FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH NEWS.

Graphic Details of the Situation in the Coke Regions—All the News of the World Arranged for the Reader in a Most Attractive Manner.

THE DISPATCH of yesterday maintained its reputation as one of the leading newspapers of the country. Wherever in the wide world there was anything of general interest going on it was reported in its columns. The condition of affairs in the coke regions is fully told. Beyond the news there were many fine selected articles, some of them being artistically illustrated. Following are some of the principal news features:

Foreign.

Peculiar effect of the Jackson decision on the English marriage law....Serious charges against S. Le Bapty, appointed as the English assistant manager of the World's Fair....Parnell says success will attend his cause at the general election....Heavy sentences passed upon Irish prisoners for boycotting....Another massacre feared in India....A remedy suggested for London's smoke nuisance....Indications that the prohibition against Yankee pork in Germany will be repealed....Labouchere predicts that Parnell will only have 6 Members of Parliament to at least 70 for McCarthy....Threats against Prince Ferdinand's life....Wages of iron workers in the North of England reduced....The Kaiser's congratulations to Bismarck.....Forced paper money to be introduced into the Argentine Republic....Germany not satisfied with the Czar's explanation of Carnot's decoration....The Newfoundland press still bitter against the Government....The bank of Corradini, at Leghorn, fails for $3,000,000, and its head is a fugitive from justice....Roman police raid the houses of Socialists and Anarchists....The death of Earl Granville a serious loss to the Gladstone forces....Life not very safe in Moscow....Immigrants by hundreds dropping into London in spite of the precautions against them....Dr. Brown-Sequard's elixir again coming to the front....King Milan wants 4,000,000 francs placed to his credit....The Pope's health is good....Herbert Vivian has a new reform scheme....The Gordon-Cumming case to be heard in about a month....A wedded alliance between Austria and Italy not popular....Big steamers to be built in America to capture the subsidy....Sir Charles Dilke will accept a nomination for Parliament.

Domestic.

The funeral of the dead coke workers attended by thousands, but there was no disorder. The end of the fight not yet in sight. Two more victims of the deputies' bullets die, ...A New York man who had both of his legs cut off, survives only to die of the grip....W. J. Tolbert, South Carolina State lecturer, says the farmers mean to control things at all hazards....Edwin Booth makes his last appearance for the season....Rev. Mr. MacQueary has enough calls to lecture to keep him busy. ....The net earnings of the National Cordage Company for this year are estimated at $2,000,000....Astronomers demand that the National Observatory be divorced from the Navy Department.... The deaths of Captain Thomas H. Lapsly, of Braddock, Captain James D. Touhey, of Erie; Peter M. Dox, of Huntsville, Ala., and Clifton Bell, of Denver, are announced....Cleveland again defeats the Pittsburg Club, at St. Augustine.... The ballot testimony in the Greevy-Scull contest all taken....Rev. Dr. Brennan to be consecrated Bishop at Erie....Gould and Wanamaker discuss telegraph tolls....Blaine's reply to Rudini expected soon....A view that the Supreme Court has jurisdiction in the New Orleans cases. Detective O'Malley says the Italians lynched at New Orleans were innocent, with one exception....Bishop Gilmour, of Cleveland, dying....Potters' clay of a superior kind found near Shenandoah, Pa....Supervising Architect Windrim resigns, to accept his new post at Philadelphia....Ex-Senator Blair says his Chinese views have been misrepresented....The fight in the New York M. E. Conference over the admission of women....Grip has run its course in New York....Gould has a scheme to assume control of 40,000 miles of Southwestern railroads.....Continuation of the Sugar Trust inquiry in New York....

Local.

Citizens, in mass meeting, after a hot debate, approve a curative act to reimburse the city for street improvements already made....David Hunter appointed superintendent of the Allegheny Bureau of Lighting....Officials of the Columbia Iron and Steel Company say business will be resumed....The Pennsylvania Construction Company's plant closed by the Sheriff.... The Poor Boards are practically dead....Sam Brown buys out C. S. Holmes, of the Monongahela House....F. A. de Marquiez, a Mexican glass manufacturer, says that outside the Government officials the people of Mexico have little love for Americans.... No changes expected at the new Goverment building because of the resignation of Architect Windrim....The Bar Association adopts resolution on the street improvement matter....Members of the Trades Council object to the Carnegie Library Association....Cheaper telephone service promised by a new company....Death of Dr. H. H. Hofmann....Detective Murphy may not be able to attend the Gilkinson inquest to-day....Chief Bigelow asked by the Court to explain why he failed to abate a nuisance....College throws Reilly once and lack of time stops their contest ....But few new cases of the grip reported.

WHAT IS THE GRIP?

This Mysterious and Terrible Disease Carefully Analyzed and Described—What to Do When It Comes.

Nearly every physician, every scientist and every sufferer has been asking this great question: What is the grip? Some have asserted that it is a dangerous microbe which comes into the system, breeds several millions every second, and soon overruns the body with disease. Others have said that we are passing through a region of star-dust, and that the minute particles are drawn into the body with every breath. Whatever it may be, it is certain that it is something within the body which is fighting with the body to undermine the life.

What would common sense dictate in such an emergency? Counteract the enemy. Drive it from the system. Do not trifle with it. Act promptly and wisely at the first approach which you can readily detect. Take something which can counteract their deadly influence. Spirits of some kind are the best thing to take, and whiskey is preferable to any other kind of spirit; but it should be borne very carefully in mind that only pure whiskey will have the effect, and it should also be remembered that Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey stands at the head of all preparations and is the only medicinal whiskey upon the market. Scientists have asserted this, the doctors have verified it, and millions of people have proven it beyond a doubt. There are many unscrupulous dealers who will assure you that any whiskey will answer the purpose, but they are wrong and are trying to deceive you. In case of Grip you cannot afford to take any chances, therefore take that which is beyond question pure, medicinal and the only valuable whiskey upon the market. M