THE SIN OF SILENCE.

A Dumb Devil Is in the Land, Who Stills the Christian's Voice.

INFIDEL SCOFFERS UNREBUKED.

Sounds of Singing, Prayer and Exhortation Are Smothered.

A BALEFUL INFLUENCE ON POLITICS

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BROOKLYN, May 15.—Dr. Talmage's text to-day was Mark ix., 25, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him."

Here was a case of great domestic anguish. The son of the household was possessed of an evil spirit which, among other things, paralyzed his tongue and made him speechless. When the influence was on the patient, he could not say a word—articulation was impossible. The spirit that captured this member of the household was a dumb spirit—so-called by Christ—a spirit abroad to-day and as lively and as potent as in New Testament times. Yet in all the realms of sermonology, I cannot find a discourse concerning this dumb devil which Christ charged upon in my text, saying: "Come out of him."

There has been much destructive superstition abroad in the world concerning possession by evil spirits. Under the form of belief in witchcraft this delusion swept the continents. Persons were supposed to be possessed with some evil spirit, which made them able to destroy others. That belief, which has become the laughing stock of all sensible people, counted its disciples among the wisest and best people of Sweden, Germany, England, France, Spain and New England.

Evil Spirits Still in the Land.

But while we reject witchcraft, any man who believes the Bible must believe that there are diabolical agencies abroad in the world. While there are ministering spirits to bliss, there are infernal spirits to hinder, to poison and destroy. Christ was speaking to a spiritual existence, when, standing before the afflicted one of the text, He said, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, come out of him."

Against this dumb devil of the text, I put you on your guard. Do not think that this agent of evil has put his blight on those who, by omission of the vocal organs, have had the golden gates of speech bolted and barred. Among those who have never spoken a word are the most gracious and lovely and talented souls that were ever incarnated. The chaplains of the asylums for the dumb can tell you enchanting stories of those, who never called the name of father or mother or child. We are not this morning speaking of congenital mutes. We mean those who are born with all the faculties of vocalization, and yet have been struck by the evil one mentioned in the text.

There has been apotheosization of silence. Some one has said silence is golden, and sometimes the greatest triumph is to keep your mouth shut. But sometimes silence is a crime and the direct result of the baleful influence of the dumb devil of our text. There is hardly a man or woman in this house to-day who has not been present on some occasion when the Christian religion became a target for raillery. Perhaps it was over in the store some day when there was not much going on and the clerks were in a group; or it was in the factory at the noon spell.

Silence When Religion Is Railed.

Some one got the laugh on the Bible and caricatured the profession of religion as hypocrisy, or made a pun out of something that Christ said. The laugh started and you joined in, and not one word of protest did you utter. What kept you silent? Modesty? No. Incapacity to answer? No. Lack of opportunity? No. It was a blow on both your lips by the wing of the dumb devil.

If some one should malign your father, or mother, or wife, or husband, or child, you would flush up quick, and either with an indignant word, or doubled up fist, make response. And yet here is our Christian religion, which has done so much for you and so much for the world that it will take all eternity to celebrate it, and yet, when it was attacked, you did not so much as say: "I differ. I object. I am sorry to hear you say that. There is another side to this."

You Christian people ought in such times as these to go armed, not with earthly weapons but with the sword of the Spirit. You ought to have four or five questions with which you could confound any man who attacks Christianity. Oh, friends, better load up with a few interrogation points. You cannot afford to be silent when God and the Bible and the things of eternity are assailed. Your silence gives consent to the bombardment of your father's house. You allow a slur to be cast on your mother's dying pillow. In behalf of the Christ, who for you went through the agonies of assassination on the rocky bluff back of Jerusalem, you dared not face a sickly joke. Better load up with a few questions so that next time you will be ready.

A Few Leading Questions Suggested.

Say to the scoffer: "My dear sir, will you tell me what makes the difference between the condition of woman in China and the United States? What do you think of the sermon on the Mount? How do you like the golden rule laid down in the Scriptures? Are you in favor of the ten commandments? In your large and extensive reading have you come across a lovelier character than Jesus Christ? Will you please to name the triumphant death-beds of infidels and atheists? How do you account for their fondness for the Christian religion? Among the innumerable colleges and universities of the earth, will you name me three, started by infidels and yet supported by infidels? Down in your heart are you really happy in the position you occupy antagonistic to the Christian religion? When do you have the most rapturous views of the world?"

Go at him with a few such questions and he will get so red in the face as to suggest apoplexy, and he will look at his watch and say he has an engagement and must go. You will put him in a sweat that will beat a Turkish bath. You will put him on a rout compared with which our troops at Bull Run made no time at all. Arm yourself, not with arguments, but interrogation points, and I promise you victory. Shall such a man as you, shall such a woman as you, surrender to one of the meanest spirits that ever smoked up from the pit—the dumb devil spoken of in the text?

But then there are occasions when this particular spirit that Christ exorcised when He said: "I charge thee to come out of him," takes people by the wholesale.

Silence That Ought to Be Song.

In the most responsive religious audience have you noticed how many people never sing at all? They have a book and they have a voice and they know how to read. They know many of the tunes, and yet are silent while the great raptures of music pass by. Among those who sing not one out of a hundred sings loud enough to hear his own voice. They hum it. They give a sort of religious grunt. They make the lips go but it is inaudible. With a voice strong enough to stop a street car one block away, all they can afford in the praise of God is about half a whisper. With enough sopranos, enough altos, enough bassos to make a small heaven between the four walls they let the opportunity go by unimproved. The volume of voice that ascends from the largest audience that ever assembled ought to be multiplied about two-thousand fold.

But the minister rises and gives out the hymn; the organ begins; the choir or precentor leads; the audience are standing so that the lungs may have full expansion, and a mighty harmony is about to ascend, when the evil spirit spoken of in my text—the dumb devil—spreads his two wings, one over the lips of one-half the audience and the other wing over the lips of the other half of the audience, and the voices roll back into the throats from which they started, and only here and there anything is heard, and nine-tenths of the holy power is destroyed; and the dumb devil, as he flies away, says: "I could not keep Isaac Watts from writing that hymn, and I could not keep Lowell Mason from composing the tune to which it is set, but I smote into silence or half silence the lips from which it would have spread abroad to bless neighborhoods and cities.

Some Stories of Favorite Hymns.

How much more hearty we would be in our songs, and how easily we could drive back the dumb devil from all our worshiping assemblages, if we could realize that nearly all of our hymns have a stirring history. That glorious hymn "Stand Up for Jesus" was suggested by the last words of Dudley Tyng, who was dying from having his right arm torn off by a threshing machine. That hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," heard through a telephone, converted an obdurate soul. "Shall We Gather at the River?" was a hymn first sung in our Brooklyn Prospect Park, at the children's May anniversary, and then started to encircle the world. "Where Is My Wandering Boy To-Night?" is a song that has saved hundreds of dissipated young men.

That hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," was suggested to Charles Wesley by Peter Bohler, who, after his conversion said: "I had better keep silent about it." "No," said Wesley, "if you had 10,000 tongues you had better use them for Christ."

While much of the modern music is a religious doggerel, a consecrated nonsense, a sacred imbecility, I would like to see some great musician of our time lift the baton and marshal Luther's Judgment Hymn, Yarmouth, Dundee, Ariel, Brattle-street, Uxbride, Pleyel's Hymn, Harwell, Antioch, Mount Pisgah and Coronation, with a few regiments of mighty tunes made in our own time, and storm Asia, Africa and America for the Kingdom of God. But the first thing to do is to drive out the dumb devil of the text from all our churches.

Timely Words of Exhortation Withheld.

Do not, however, let us lose ourselves in generalities. Not one of us but has had our lives sometimes touched by the spirit of the text—this awful dumb devil. We had just one opportunity of saying a Christian word that might have led a man or woman into a Christian life. The opportunity was fairly put before us. The word of invitation or consolation or warning came to the inside gate of the mouth, but there it halted. Some hindering power locked the jaws together so that they did not open. The tongue lay flat and still in the bottom of the mouth as though struck with paralysis. We were mute. Though God had given us the physiological apparatus for speech, and our lungs were filled with air which, by the command of our will, could have made the laryngeal muscles move and the vocal organs vibrate, we were wickedly and fatally silent. For all time and eternity we missed our chance.

Or it was a prayer meeting, and the service was thrown open for prayer and remarks, and there was a dead halt—everything silent as a graveyard at midnight. Indeed it was a graveyard and midnight. Men, bold enough on business exchange or in worldly circles, shut their eyes as though they were praying in silence, but they were not praying at all. They were busy hoping somebody else would do his duty. The women flushed under the awful pause and made their fans more rapidly flutter. Some brother, with no cold, coughed, by that sound trying to fill up the time, and the meeting was slain. But what killed it?—the dumb devil. This is the way I account for the fact that the stupidest places on earth are some prayer meetings.

The Dumb Devil in Politics.

I do not see how a man keeps any grace if he regularly attends them. They are spiritual refrigerators—religion kept on ice.

But do not let the world deride the church because of all this, for the dumb devil is just as conspicuous in the world. The two great political parties will soon assemble to build platforms for the Presidental candidates to stand on. A committee of each party will be appointed to make the platform. After proper deliberation, the committees will come in with a ringing report: "Whereas," and "Whereas," and "Whereas." Pronunciamentoes all shaped with the one idea of getting the most votes. All expression in regard to the great moral evils of the country ignored. No expression about the liquor traffic, for that would lose the rum vote. No expression in regard to the universal attempt at the demolition of the Lord's Day. No recognition of God in the history of this nation, for that would lose the vote of the atheist. But "Whereas," and "Whereas," and "Whereas." Nine cheers will be given for the platform. The dumb devil of the text will put one wing over the Republican platform and the other wing over the Democratic platform.

There is nothing involved in the next election except offices. The great conventions will be opened with prayer by their Chaplains. If they avoid platitutes and tell the honest truth in their prayers, they will say: "O Lord, we want to be Postmasters and Consuls and Foreign Ministers and United States District Attorneys. For that we are here, and for that we will strive till the election next November. Give us office, or we die."

Be out and out, up and down for righteousness. If your ship is afloat on the Pacific Ocean of God's mercy, hang out your colors from mast-head. Show your passport if you have one. Do not smuggle your soul into the harbor of heaven. Speak out for God!

Best of All

To cleanse the system in a gentle and truly beneficial manner, when the springtime comes, use the true and perfect remedy, Syrup of Figs. One bottle will answer for all the family and costs only 50 cents; the large size $1. Try it and be pleased. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only.

A Question of Flours.

Every woman is interested in it. They like to use the best their circumstances will allow. Many feel unable to use Camellia, but knowing the reputation of the Marshall Kennedy Milling Co. for milling nothing but high grade flour desire to use flour made by them. For this class our Bayard Amber is especially designed. It is not so dear as Camellia, but a better all around family flour at the price cannot be found. It is made by the same machinery that makes "Camellia," and of selected wheat. It is strong, white and regular and recommends itself after one trial as the king brand of its grade, as Camellia is the queen in its. If you want a medium-priced flour of sterling merit use Bayard Amber.

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In Minnehaha flour quality has reached its highest perfection; flour cannot be made finer. Yet, owing to its great strength, the quality of bread made from it is so much larger than from winter wheat flour that in the end it is cheaper. Try it once and make comparison. MF

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Great clearance sale of this season's fine goods. WM. H. ALLEN, 517 Wood street, near Fifth avenue.

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BORN.

SCHRAM—On May 15, a son to Frank and May Schram, Nunnery Hill.

DIED.

ALTMAN—On Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 6:40 P. M., Mrs. RACHEL M., widow of the late J. B. Altman.

Funeral services at her late residence, 147 Liberty street, Allegheny, on TUESDAY EVENING, May 17, at 7:30 o'clock.

[Indiana papers please copy.] 2

CASSADY—On Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 4:20 A. M., PERRY CASSADY, aged 4 years.

Funeral from the residence of his uncle, Thomas Gordon, No. 46 First street, Allegheny City, on TUESDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

CONNLEY—On Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 10 A. M., JOSEPH CONNLEY, aged 70 years.

Funeral from his late residence, 5427 Carnegie avenue, Eighteenth ward, on TUESDAY MORNING at 8:30 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

EDGAR—On Saturday, May 14, infant son of Samuel and Maud Edgar, Duquesne avenue, Allegheny.

HARVEY—On Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 3 o'clock P. M., ANNA MELISSA, youngest child of William and Mary Harvey, aged 1 year and 2 months.

Funeral from parents' residence, No. 145 Forty-sixth street, on TUESDAY MORNING at 10 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

[Youngstown papers please copy.]

KECK—At Butler, Pa., Friday, 13th inst., at midnight, WALTER J., youngest child of Jacob and the late Louise Trautman Keck.

Burial at Allegheny cemetery "Trautman lot," MONDAY AFTERNOON, 16th inst., at 1:30 o'clock.

LARDNER—Suddenly, at his residence, Sheridan station, P., C., C. & St. L. R. R., on Sunday, at 2 P. M., WILLIAM LARDNER.

Funeral on TUESDAY MORNING, at 9 o'clock. Services at St. Philip's Church, Crafton, at 10 A. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

LEMON—At her residence, 473 Bedford avenue, on Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 10 P. M., ELIZABETH J., widow of the late William Lemon, aged 76 years 5 months.

Funeral WEDNESDAY, 18th, 2 P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 3

LOGAN—At his residence, 25 River avenue, Allegheny City, on Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 10:15 P. M., JOHN LOGAN, aged 69 years.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

MARTIN—On Sunday, May 15, at 8:30 A. M., at the family residence, No. 124 Elm street, Pittsburg, JOHN H., only son of Caroline Martin, in his 44th year.

Funeral services TUESDAY, May 17, at 2:30 P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

MCNULTY—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 4 P. M., AMELIA LYNORE, daughter of P. J. and Margaret A. McNulty, aged 6 years and 7 months.

Oh! come to my grave at the close of the day,
When the sunlight is gloriously passing away;
Oh! come and bring flowers, the sweetest that grow,
And leave them to fade like the slumberer below.

Friends of the family are respectfully invited to the funeral from the parents' residence, 5997 Center avenue, East End, on MONDAY, May 16, 1892, at 3:30 P. M. Services at Sacred Heart Church, at 4 P. M.

PIEPER—On Sunday, May 15, 1892, at 1:20 P. M. AUGUST PIEPER, in the 44th year of his age.

Funeral from his late residence, corner Thirty-ninth and Butler streets, on TUESDAY, May 17, at 2 P. M. Friends of the family and members of "Goethe" Degree Lodge are respectfully invited to attend.

REINHEIMER—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 10:30 P. M., CHARLOTTA, daughter of Jacob and Annie Reinheimer, aged 2 years, 6 months.

A bud the Gardener gave us,
A pure and lovely child;
He gave it to our keeping
To cherish undefiled.
But just as it was opening
To the glory of the day,
Down came the Heavenly Gardener
And took our bud away.

Funeral from the residence of her grandmother, 2630 Carson street, S. S., on MONDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. Friends of the family are invited to attend. 2

ROBB—On Sabbath morning, May 15, 1892, at 5:15 o'clock, MARK ROBB, in the 85th year of his age.

Funeral services at his late residence, McDonald station, P., C., C. & St. L. R. R., on TUESDAY, May 17, 1892, at 10 o'clock A. M. Train leaves Union depot at 9:15 A. M. 2

ROBINSON—May 15, 1892, at 2:30 P. M., at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. W. S Smith, Clayton street, near Cumlia street, Thirteenth ward, Mrs. ELIZABETH ROBINSON, widow of the late Francis Robinson, in the 71st year of her age.

Funeral from the residence of her daughter, on TUESDAY, May 17, at 2:30 P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

ROTT—May 15, 1892, at 5:30 A. M., Mrs. LOUISA ROTT, widow of Christian Rott, aged 81 years 6 months and 2 days.

Funeral from the residence of her son, Frederick Rott, 2526 Smallman street, on TUESDAY, May 17, at 2 P. M. Friends of the family are invited to attend. 2

ROWLEY—On Saturday morning, May 14, 1892, THOMAS A. ROWLEY, in his 85th year.

Funeral from the residence of his son, 383 Webster avenue, on MONDAY, May 16, 1892, at 2 P. M. Members Union Veteran Legion are requested to attend. 2

SCOTT—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 9:45 P. M., ROBERT SCOTT, 178 Bedford avenue, in the 76th year of his age.

Funeral TUESDAY AFTERNOON at 2 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

SHEA—At the family home, 231 St. Andrews street, Twenty-first ward, on Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 8:30 P. M., KATE, wife of William Shea, aged 30 years.

Funeral services at Sacred Heart R. C. Church, Center avenue, East End, on MONDAY, May 16, at 2:30 P. M. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

SMITH—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 5:50 P. M., ANSLEY C. SMITH, only son of A. C. and Annie J. Smith, aged 4 years 3 months and 10 days.

Funeral from the residence of his parents, No. 93 Fourteenth street, Southside, on MONDAY AFTERNOON, May 16, at 2 o'clock. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend. 2

STEINEL—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 2 P. M., CHRISTHOPE, second son of Elizabeth and the late Jacob Steinel, in the 25th year of his age.

VOGEL—On Saturday, May 14, 1892, at 2:20 A. M., MARIE BLOCKFORD, infant daughter of Frank and Chrissie Alston Vogel, aged 5 months 12 days.

Services at the residence of her parents, No. 29 Garrison street, Allegheny City, MONDAY, May 16, at 2 P. M. Interment private.

WASHINGTON—On Sabbath, May 15, 1892, at 8 A. M., MAGGIE, infant child of Arthur and Lizzie Washington, aged 9 weeks.

Funeral from parents' residence, Cliff street, Eleventh ward, Allegheny, at 2 P. M, MONDAY. Friends of the family invited to attend.

WIEMANN—On Friday, May 13, at 6:20 P. M., MARGERETHA WIEMANN, wife of John Casper Wiemann, in her 68th year.

Funeral will take place on MONDAY, May 16, 1892, from late residence, 61 Voegtly street, Fourth ward, Allegheny, at 8:30 A. M. There will be a requiem mass at St. Mary's Church, Allegheny, at 9 A. M., to which friends of the family are invited to attend. 2

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Genuine Hermsdorf fast black Ladies' Fine Hose, 12½c.
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Misses' Ribbed Fast Black Hose, 12½c, 15c, 18c, 25c.

SILK HOSE FOR LADIES, GENTLEMEN AND CHILDREN, AT EXCEEDINGLY LOW PRICES.

Gents' Fast Black or Balbriggan Socks, 12½c and 15c.
Gents' Striped Full Regular, 12½c and 15c; extra fine qualities, 18c to 25c.

Of course space forbids an enumeration of all the special offerings in the Hosiery Department. All we ask is that you come and see.

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Many music lovers will attend the Mozart Concerts this week, and we wish to call special attention to our line of Gloves for evening wear. There's nothing to compare with it hereabouts. No fancy prices, but quality guaranteed the best.

Black Silk Mitts for Ladies, Misses and Children, 22c, 25c, 33c, up to 75c a pair.
Black and Colored Elbow and Full Arm Length Mitts of all kinds.

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100 pieces assorted FINE IMPORTED GINGHAMS, all stylish stripes in rare colorings, 29 inches wide,

17c.

100 pieces assorted fine SCOTCH GINGHAMS, choicest new styles, 27 inches wide,

15c.

75 pieces assorted fine ZEPHYR GINGHAMS, all WHITE grounds, with checks and lines of color thereon—25-cent qualities, as usually sold—32 INCHES WIDE, at

12 1-2c.

These Ginghams are on sale at a special department in the Dress Goods and Silk Room. Are you ready for Summer Ginghams? Then here's the opportunity. It's no ordinary, but a very extraordinary Gingham offer, and to make it more interesting we will include in the sale over 100 PIECES assorted of DAVID & JOHN ANDERSON'S celebrated

Scotch Ginghams,

Last season's patterns, that we bought at a sacrifice—their name stamped on the end of every piece. Their best wide 40-cent quality goes in this sale at

17c.

Also about 50 pieces of D. & J. ANDERSON'S WIDE 40-CENT GINGHAMS—styles we do not regard so good—go at

15c.

IMPORTANT NOTICE—so there will be no misunderstanding—200 pieces D. & J. ANDERSON'S GINGHAMS—no two pieces alike—of their choicest, newest and best 1892 styles are on sale—but the price of these is **40c**, and no other price.

Owing to the superior styles, large collection and the prices, thousands and thousands of yards of these Ginghams will be bought quicker by the people who come regularly to this store, and by those who read this paper who live within shopping distance, than ever before. And to the people who can't come would say send for samples, or order as many yards or dress patterns as you wish—stating whether stripes, checks or plaids and the colorings wanted; neat, medium or large patterns; whether for grown people or for children; or black and whites, black and greys or mourning styles, and you'll get values so far beyond the usual as will pay you well, and, if not, return the goods, express at our expense, and get your money.

This is a Gingham purchase and sale (early in the season, just when you want them) so extensive that it never has had an equal—except, perhaps, last season, when one of the large Eastern houses sold about a like amount—40,000 yards—and the Ginghams went to almost every State in the Union, as these will do—but the

PRICES

Were not so low nor the goods as choice.

Come, or write our Mail Order Department.

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More money is lost in the wear of cheap goods than ever is saved in the buying.

The quality of goods represents the moneyed value. Buy a poor article cheap and you lose your dollars.

Our present offerings in Men's Fine Suits take away the last excuse for buying anything but a good article.

Every suit in the entire stock, and it's an immense one, has been selected with good taste as to style, while as to variety there is a prodigality never before seen in any stock of ready-made clothing.

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300 TO 400 MARKET ST.
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Have been the standard for purity and flavor for nearly a quarter of a century. Their quality never varies, except to improve.

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GET THE GENUINE.

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