

# DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

## SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: "The Coming Century"—What the New Cycle Will Usher In—Needs of the New Age—The End of the Century Watch Night.

Text: "The children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."—Chronicles xii., 32.

Great tribe, that tribe of Issachar! When Job took the census, there were 145,000 of them. Before the time of the Maccabees, through astronomical study, they knew from stellar conjunctions all about the seasons of the year. Before agriculture became an art they were skilled in the raising of crops. Before the invention of the plow they knew the temper of nations, and when they marched, either for pleasure or war, they marched under a three colored flag—topaz, sardine and carbuncle. But the chief characteristic of the tribe of Issachar was that they understood the times. They were not like the political and moral incompetents of our day, who are trying to guide 1898 by the theories of 1828. They looked at the divine indications in their particular century. So they ought to understand the times, not the times when America was thirteen colonies, huddled together along the Atlantic coast, but the times when the nation dips one hand in the ocean on one side and the other side the continent; times when the New York Narrows and the Golden Horn of the Pacific within one flash of electric telegraphy; times when God is as directly, as positively, as solemnly, as majestically addressing us through the daily newspaper and the quick revolution of events as He ever addressed the ancients or addresses us through the Holy Scriptures. The voice of God in Providence is as important as the voice of God in typology. For in our own day we have had our Sinai with thunders of the Almighty, and Calvaries of sacrifice, and Gethsemanes that sweat great drops of blood, and Olivets of ascension, and Mount Pisgahs of far-reaching vision. The Lord who made this world 6000 years ago and sent His Son to redeem it near 1900 years ago has yet much to do with this radiant but agonized planet. May God make us like the children of Issachar, "which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."

The grave of this century will soon be dug. The cradle of another century will soon be rocked. There is something moving this way out of the eternities, something that through its branches no apples will exhilarate me, no enraptures me. It will wreath the orange blossoms for millions of weddings. It will beat the dirge for millions of obsequies. It will carry the gilded banners of the morning and the black flags of the midnight. The world will play the grand march of its heroes and sound the rogues' march of its cowards. Other processions may halt or break down or fall back, but the procession led by the leader moves steadily on and grows more and more brilliant. It will preside over coronations and dethronements. I hail it, I bless it, I welcome it, the twentieth century of the Christian era.

What may we expect of it, and how shall we prepare for it? In the numerous questions I propose now to discuss. As in families, human nativity is anticipated by all sanctity and kindness and solemnity and care and hopefulness, so ought we prayerfully, hopefully, industriously, confidently prepare for the advent of a new century. The nineteenth century must not treat the twentieth century on its arrival as the eighteenth century treated the nineteenth. Our century inherited the wreck of revolutions and the superstitions of ages. Around its cradle stood the armed assassins of Old World tyrannies; the "reign of terror," bequeathed its horrors; Robespierre, plotting his diabolism; the Jacobin club, with its wholesale massacre; the guillotine, chopping the heads of kings and quaking with the great guns of Marengo, Wagram and Badajos. All Europe in convulsion. Asia in comparative quiet, but the quietness of death. Africa in the clutches of the slave trade. American savages in the throes of their knives lifted. The exhausted and poverty-stricken people of America sweating under the debt of \$300,000,000, which the Revolutionary War had left them. Washington just gone into the long sleep at Mount Vernon, and the nation in the throes of the great Burr, the champion libertine, becoming soon after the Vice-President. The Government of the United States only an experiment, most of the philosophers and statesmen and governments of the earth prophesying the ruin of the nation. No poor founding laid at night on the cold steps of a mansion, to be picked up in the morning, was poorer off than this century at its nativity. The United States Government had taken only tentative steps on its journey. Its Constitution had been formed in 1789, and most of the nations of the earth laughed at our Government in its first attempts to walk alone.

The birthday of our nineteenth century occurred in the month of war. Our small United States Navy, under Captain Truxton, commanding the frigate Constitution, was in collision with the French frigates La Vengeance and L'Insurgente, and the first infant cries of this century were drowned in the roar of naval battle. Political strife on this continent was the hottest, the parties rending each other with pantherine rage. The birthday present of this nineteenth century was vituperation, public unrest, threat of national demolition, and a nation in a state of international. I adjure you, let not the twentieth century be met in that awful way, but with all brightness of temporal and religious prospects.

First, let us put upon the cradle of the new century a new map of the world. The old map was black with too many barbarisms and red with too many slaughters and pale with too many sufferings. Let us see to it that on that map so far as possible our country from ocean to ocean is a Christianized continent—schools, colleges, churches and good homes in long line from ocean beach to ocean beach. On that map Cuba must be free. Porto Rico must be free. The archipelago of the Philippines must be free. In the future we expect by procrastination and intrigue to get back what she has surrendered, then the warships Iowa and Indiana and Brooklyn and Texas and Vesuvius and Oregon must be sent back to Southern waters or across to the coast of Spain to silence the lusty and decidedly as last summer they silenced the Cristobal Colon and Quendo and Maria Teresa and Vizcaya. When we get those islands thoroughly under our protectorate, for the first time our missionaries in China will be safe. The treaties imposed on those good men and women in the so-called Flowery Kingdom will never be resumed, for our guns will be too near Hong Kong to allow the massacre of missionary settlements. On that map must be put the isthmian canal, begun if not completed. No long voyages around Cape Horn for the world's merchandise, but short and cheap communication by water instead of expensive communication by rail. And more millions will be added to our national wealth and the world's betterment than I have capacity to calculate.

On the map must be made evident that America is to be the world's civilizer and evangelizer. In the national religions of Europe on the one side and from the superstitions of Asia on the other side, it will have facilities for the work that no other continent can possibly possess. As near as I can tell by the laying out of the hands of the Lord Almighty, this continent has been ordained for that work. This is the only country in the world where all religions are on the same platform, and the people have free selection for themselves without any detriment. When we

# A TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

## THE DRINK EVIL MADE MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS.

An Abstinence Alphabet—A Railroad Man's Reasons For Thinking That "This Treating Business" Has Got To Stop—A Non-Treating Society.

A stands for Alcohol; deathlike its grip. B for Beginner, who takes just one sip. C for Companion, who urges him on. D for the Demon of drink that is born. E for Endorser he makes to rest. F stands for Friends who so loudly insist. G for the Guilt he afterward feels. H for the Horrors that hang at his heels. I his Intention to drink not at all. K for his Knowledge that he is alive. L stands for Liquors his appetite craves. M for convivial Meetings so gay. N stands for No that he tries hard to say. O for the Orgies that then come to pass. P stands for Pride that he drowns in his. Q for the Quarrels that nightly abound. R is the Ruins that he sees all around. S stands for Sights that his vision bedlams. T stands for Trembling that seizes his. U for his Usefulness sunk in the slums. V for the Vagrant he quickly becomes. W for Waning of life that's soon done. X for his Xit regretted by none. Youths of this nation, such weakness is

Zealously turn from the tempter in time! —Dr. Cyrus Edson, in North American Review.

The Custom of Treating. A prominent railroad man says: "The men of our profession know every Tom, Dick and Harry from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We go into a place to get a drink, and before we can leave we have had half a dozen or more drinks that we have had to take a treat, or let us take a treat to others." The consequence is that they get "full" without previous intent, simply out of good fellowship, and others get "full" with them for like reason. This good fellowship, however, leads to excessive drinking and drunkenness all around. It is not this avoided so long as treating is recognized as the expression of courteous treatment and good will among friends and chance acquaintances. Every railroad man feels that, so long as this custom prevails, he cannot maintain his standing among his boon companions and business associates without following it. To refuse to "stand treat" would belittle him in the eyes of his fellows, and he would appear small and stingy whereas railroad men are among the most generous men in the world, and justly pride themselves on their large-hearted generosity. Nothing hurts a generous man like the charge of meanness and stinginess.

What is this true of railroad men is true of men, more or less, in the various ranks of business and of social life. From the country men, be they to the village or city, and finding the character of the meeting and the day's work is ended, men go "down town" for recreation or shopping, with no thought or purpose of a carousal, and before midnight are beastly drunk, fighting, crazy, or maudlin foolish—all as the fruits of the treating custom. Young men everywhere are led into habits of drink through this method of induction, and even boys find this the entrance door into the wider fields of dissipation. Three things result: Money is worse than wasted that otherwise might be put to some beneficial and commendable purpose; lives are wrecked that otherwise might have been saved and a blessing to the world; families are blighted that otherwise might have been ornaments to society; hence, out here comes evil and only evil. Why, then, continue such a custom? If it be essential to express good fellowship, let it be expressed in some other way. Or, if we must treat our friends, associates and chance acquaintances, let us treat them as we treat them to something that, at least, will not be ruinous to them, their families and to society. We ought to make men better, and not worse. It may be that we think we are treating our personal friends, but take an occasional glass of strong drink; but that cannot excite us from the woe pronounced upon him that "giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also." Well might the sober man be referred to, say that "This treating business has got to stop." Wisely has he organized a non-treating society among the agents concentrating in Chicago. Wisely does he propose to push it until it has a chapter in every large city from Maine to California. Cheerless is the success with which it is meeting. Five thousand buttons and cards were issued within the first few days; ten thousand more were ordered; and up to the present time the demand has exceeded the supply. Surely the time seems to be ripe for the movement. Why, then, not push it? Assuredly every lover of humanity ought to lend it a helping hand. And why stop with railroad men? Why not include every man, woman, professional man, social man, young man, every man, everywhere treating prevails and the curse of excessive drink extends? Who can say anything against a movement of this kind? Do away with the custom of treating, and more than half of the present drunkenness will cease. Who, then, will step up and act for it? Will you?—Christian Work.

A Fatal Remedy. There was recently in the jail in New Brunswick, N. J., a woman who was arrested while passing in a wild drunken orgy with a gang of tramps in the woods near the town. She appears to-day nothing but a besotted hag, but was only a short time ago the dutiful wife of a respectable man and the mother of three beautiful children. Her father, who is said to be living in a village in New York State, is a highly respected minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her children are in an asylum, and her husband is a wanderer in the West. The cause of her ruin was beer, prescribed for her by the family physician as a tonic. At first she refused to take it, having always been a teetotaler, but persuaded to obey the physician, she soon acquired a taste for the drink that speedily developed into the overmastering appetite which has brought her and hers to this sad condition.

A Rumseller's Confession. A man who had been rumselling for eleven years, in this confession, says he has sold liquor long enough for me to see the beginning and end of its effects. I have seen a man take his first glass of liquor in my place, and afterwards fill the grave of a suicide. I have seen a man after man, wealthy and educated, come into my saloon, who cannot now buy his dinner. I can recall twenty customers worth from \$100,000 to \$500,000 who are now without money, place or friends.—Baptist Argus.

Notes About the Crusade. The death of each drunkard means the drafting of another boy to the ranks of the saloon. The Royal Commission appointed by the British Parliament to investigate the rum business has finished taking evidence. It examined 160 witnesses. The temperance question is co-extensive with human weakness, and at the most unexpected times and seasons occasions arise to help others by word and deed. A parliamentary paper just issued shows that there are in Belgium no fewer than 168,000 liquor establishments of all kinds, one to every twenty-nine of the population.

# The Merrimac's Flag.

## Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson, in his personal story of "The Sinking of the Merrimac" in the Century, says:

With regard to the ensign, I had asked Captain Miller about the ensign of the Merrimac. He said that he had already considered the matter, but had found that the strippers had taken off the ensign and the contents of the signal-chest, and even the signal-halyards. In fact, the men had been so keen for relics and souvenirs, that nothing seemed to have escaped. He said that he had, however, an enormous flag, blue field, or background, with "Maine" across it in large letters, which he proposed to have bent on. But I was particularly anxious for a large national flag, and put it down on the list of items for the executive officer to get us on the New York. I was a little afraid they would not let us have the flag, so I asked the executive officer not to say anything about it to the captain until we were gone, and told him that I should not hoist it while running in, or while doing so could in any way affect the success of the effort, but that I did wish very much to hoist it after firing the torpedoes from the vessel sank. The executive officer was not convinced, and his instinct of the risk involved was true; for though the captain let me have the flag without asking any questions, and it was bent on the halyards at the bridge ready for hoisting, it was never hoisted, for after the work was done, and the Merrimac was sinking, and a strong impulse set in to have the flag flying, it was clear, lying at the muzzles of the enemy's guns, that any move to hoist it would betray our position and cost the life of all. Responsibility for the group forbade the attempt.

## A Preacher on Fire.

At Chacombe Church, 11bury, during the harvest thanksgiving services on a recent Sunday evening, according to the Westminster Gazette, the vicar, the Rev. G. J. Hammon, while holding forth with his usual stirring eloquence, was suddenly disturbed by several members of the congregation rising from their seats and exclaiming: "You're on fire, sir!" On putting out the fire with his hand the reverend gentleman thanked his informers and then proceeded with his discourse as if nothing had happened. Afterward it was found that the long lawn sleeve had been burned, the reporter pathetically added, "beyond repair." Congratulations were accorded to the vicar on his escape. The flames nearly reached his head before he discovered the cause of alarm.

## Julius Cesar Caught Scorching.

The announcement that Julius Cesar was summoned for scorching on a bicycle must cause a smile upon the most serious face. There were many smiles at the Haywards Health Petty Sessions. Julius Cesar did not appear at first, and the historic name seemed more out of place when bawled by a leather-lunged constable outside the court. People began to think that a wag-gish cyclist had been playing larks with the rural constable, and had given a wrong name, but presently a young gentleman stepped into the box and all smiles ceased. "Are you Julius Cesar?" quoth the clerk. "Yes, sir," replied the scorcher.—Sussex (England) News.

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## Clubs for the study of the French language have been organized in Chicago.

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A calculation has been made showing that the war cost Spain \$435,000,000 and the United States but \$215,000,000.

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