

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: "Life's Minor Chords"—Trials and Tribulations Are Necessary for the Proper Development of Character—Man's Compensation for Suffering.

Text: "I will open my dark saying upon the harp."—Psalm xlii., 4.

The world is full of the inexplicable, the impassable, the unfathomable, the insurmountable. We cannot go three steps in any direction without coming up against a hard wall of mystery, riddles, paradoxes, profundities, labyrinthine problems that we cannot solve, hieroglyphics that we cannot decipher, anagrams we cannot spell out, sphinxes that will not speak.

So I look upon society and find people in unhappy conjunction with the angels, and they are not now what it means, and they have a right to ask, Why is this? Why is that? and I think I will be doing a good work by trying to explain some of these strange things, and make some more content with your lot, and I shall only be answering questions that have often been asked me, or that we have all asked ourselves, while I try to set these mysteries to music and open my dark sayings on a harp.

Interrogation the first: Why does God take out of this world those who are useful and whom we cannot spare and leave alive and in good health so many who are only a nuisance to the world? I thought I would begin with the very toughest of all the seeming inscrutable. Many of the most useful men and women die at thirty or forty years of age, while you often find useless people alive at sixty and seventy and eighty.

Interrogation third: Why did the good God let sin or trouble come into the world when He might have kept them out of it? He had a good reason. He had reasons that He has never given us. He had reasons which He could no more make us understand in our finite state than the angels could understand the things of earth.

Interrogation the second: Why do good people have so much trouble, sickness, bankruptcy, persecution, sorrow, and black veils sometimes putting their fierce beaks into one set of jangled nerves? I think now of a good friend I once had. He was a consecrated Christian man, an elder in the church, and as polished a Christian gentleman as ever walked Broadway.

You wonder that very consecrated people have trouble? Did you ever know any very consecrated man or woman who had not had great trouble? Never! It was through their troubles sanctified that they were made very good. If you find anywhere in this city a man who has now, and always has had, perfect health, and never lost a child, and has always been popular and never had business struggle or misfortune, who is distinguished for goodness, pull your wire for a telegraph messenger boy and send me word, and I will drop everything and go right away to see him.

There are only three things that can break off a chain—a hammer, a file or a fire—and trouble is all three of them. The greatest writers, orators and reformers got much of their force from trouble. What gave to Washington Irving that exquisite tenderness and pathos which make his books favorites while the English language continues to be written and spoken?

A TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

THE DRINK EVIL MADE MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS.

The Cause of Temperance Aided by a Widespread and Enlightened Public Sentiment Which Promotes Upon Intoxication—The Light Wine and Beer Evil.

A correspondent whose letter we have printed takes exception to the statement made by us, that the growth of temperance in this country in the matter of the use of intoxicating liquor is chiefly due to a widespread and enlightened public sentiment which from early times has been asserting that the chief cause for the growth is the introduction and general use of light wines and malt liquors, particularly the latter.

When in England a man is honored with knighthood, he is struck with the flat of a sword. But those who have come to knighthood in the kingdom of France are first struck, not with the flat of the sword, but with the keen edge of the scimitar. To build his magnificence of character Paul could not have spared one lash, one prison, one scourge, one anathema, one polemic viper from the hand, one shipwreck. What is true of individuals is true of nations.

So the earth itself, before it could become an appropriate and beautiful residence for the human family, had, according to geology, to be washed by universal deluge and scorched and made incandescent by universal fire, and pounded by sledge hammer and anvil, and scorched by earthquakes that split continents, and shaken volcanoes that tossed mountains and passed through the catastrophes of thousands of years before paradise became possible and the groves could shake out their green banners and the first garden pour its carnage of color between the Gihon and the Hiddekel.

Interrogation third: Why did the good God let sin or trouble come into the world when He might have kept them out of it? He had a good reason. He had reasons that He has never given us. He had reasons which He could no more make us understand in our finite state than the angels could understand the things of earth.

Why are saloons so numerous in the poorer districts of cities? It is not because the working people drink more than the so-called "upper class," but because they do not know how to get rid of their drinking establishments from their very doors. Whether a city goes for license or prohibition, the people who live on the aristocratic avenues and boulevards are always ready to give aid and comfort to the forces of the degradation of the poor.

The French Minister of Public Instruction issued last year a decree imposing on all school girls, whether for boys or girls, the necessity for giving lessons on the evils of intemperance. "Le Signal" says that the policy of this decree has been actively forwarded by the University of Toulouse, which is at the head of education throughout a district which contains over ten thousand teachers.

An Insidious Hawaiian Drink. The Hawaiian City Journal thus quotes the letter of a soldier in Honolulu to his friends: "The New York regiment here want to go home very bad. They are dying off very fast, more so than they were from their camp almost every day. It is mostly their own fault, as they won't take care of themselves, but drink and carouse around all the time. The natives make a kind of beer called 'snake.' If a white man drinks it it will make him crazy and probably kill him. One of our soldiers went to town yesterday and drank some of this 'snake.' It didn't do a thing to him but make him crazy. They had to keep him in from most of the night. He is all right to-day, but walks around with a guard over him all the time."

Notes of the Crusade. Ireland has 280 distilleries; Scotland has 143. The British Army Temperance Association recently held its regular half-yearly meeting in London. Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the armies in India, presided.

Under a law just passed by the Vermont Legislature no town in that State need have a liquor agency, if the majority of the people are opposed.

A Trick of a Hotel Beat.

The strangest type of hotel beat I ever encountered," said a veteran New Orleans boniface, "walked into our house one evening about ten years ago, registered, and went directly to his room. I was at the desk, and noticed casually that he was a stout, good-looking man, and that he wore a handsome fall overcoat. He had no baggage, and paid in advance, remarking that he had merely stopped over en route to Galveston, and his things had gone on. Next morning there was a terrible uproar. The stranger, it seemed, had been robbed. According to his story, he woke up to find the room in disorder and his coat, vest and shirt gone. He claimed to have had a gold watch, several hundred dollars and a number of valuable papers in the pockets of his coat and vest, and three diamond studs in the shirt.

"I felt sure the loss was exaggerated, but there was no doubt about the things being gone, and I was on the point of compromising the claim when my lawyer—poor fellow, he's dead now—insisted on holding him off until we investigated his record. We soon found some of his statements to be false, and he thereupon took alarm and quietly departed. I never saw him again, but a hotel detective of my acquaintance encountered him in Chicago, and he told me how the scheme was worked. The beat had on neither coat, vest nor shirt when he registered, and had merely pinned a collar and cravat inside the lapels of his overcoat. It was simple as A, B, C, and made out a clear case when he raised the row in the morning."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Unique Postage Stamp. Canada's new penny postage stamp is unique. When Postmaster-General Mulock was in England recently he was struck by the failure of the great mass of the people there to appreciate at their true value the portions of the British Empire beyond the sea. The thought occurred to him that no more effective object lesson of the vastness and solidarity of the empire could be given than by presenting a picture on the new imperial penny postage stamp, contrasting the dimensions of Great Britain with those of all other Powers.

Boston Outshines the World. Boston claims to be the best-lighted city in the world, not excluding any of the European capitals, the Hub City leading by a large majority in the number of electric lamps it possesses per thousand inhabitants. The figures are as follows:

Table listing cities and their electric lamps per thousand inhabitants: Boston 1292, New York 833, Chicago 730, San Francisco 660, St. Louis 669, Cincinnati 551, Philadelphia 373, Baltimore 373, Brooklyn 286, Vienna 246, Edinburgh 242, Paris 185, London 184, Berlin 178.

Did you ever see a snow storm in summer? We never did; but we have seen the clothing at this time of the year so covered with dandruff that it looked as if it had been out in a regular snow-storm. No need of this snowstorm. As the summer sun would melt the falling snow so will...

Ayer's Hair Vigor advertisement. Includes text: "The Best Holiday Gift" and "melt these flakes of dandruff in the scalp. It goes further than this: it prevents their formation."

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly advertisement. Includes text: "Now 10 cts.; \$1 a Year." and "Beautiful Art Plates, 'A Yard of Panes' or 'A Yard of Pupples' also the superb New Xmas Nos. GIVEN FREE with a \$1.00 year's subscription."

TORPID LIVER advertisement. Includes text: "If you have a carpet that looks dingy and you wish to restore it to its original freshness, make a stiff lather of Ivory Soap and warm water and scrub it, width by width, with the lather. Wipe with a clean damp sponge. Do not apply more water than necessary." and "A Life-Sketch of Major Marchand."

Dr. SETH ARNOLD'S COUGH KILLER advertisement. Includes text: "LADIES GOING TO CALIFORNIA" and "Want comfort en route, which was always a distinction of the California Limited—Santa Fe Route."

MONEY advertisement. Includes text: "Representatives wanted every State. No Security required! Either \$500 or \$1000 in stamps for only 25 cents."

DENSION'S ROSE W. MORRIS advertisement. Includes text: "Wanted—Case of bad health that H.P.F. Patent will not benefit. Send 25 cents to H.P.F. Patent Co., New York, for 10 samples and 100 testimonials."

PATENTS advertisement. Includes text: "WATSON E. COLEMAN, Patent Lawyer, 217 F Street, Washington, D.C." and "MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN APPLYING TO ADVT'S. NYNU-80."

FREE advertisement. Includes text: "We give every girl or woman one rolled gold filled solitaire Puritan rose diamond ring, solid gold pattern, for selling 25 packages of GARFIELD PURE PEP-SIN GUM among friends at 4 cents a package. Send name; we will mail ring; low cost; genuine diamond. Unsold gum taken back. GARFIELD GUM CO., Dept. 8, Brooklyn, Pa."

FREE advertisement. Includes text: "Beautiful Art Plates, 'A Yard of Panes' or 'A Yard of Pupples' also the superb New Xmas Nos. GIVEN FREE with a \$1.00 year's subscription." and "SAPOLIO? THEN USE IT."