

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: Labor Strikes—A Question of Present Import Treated in a Way Aimed to Bring About a Better Feeling Between Employer and Employee.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—At a time when in various districts labor troubles are existing or impending the efforts Dr. Talmage makes in this discourse to bring about a better feeling between both sides of this difficult question is well timed; texts, Galatians, v., 15. "But as ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another," and Philippians ii., 4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

About every six months there is a great labor agitation. There are violent questions now in discussion between employers and employees. The present "strikes" will go into the past. Of course the damage done cannot immediately be repaired. Wages will not be so high as they were. Spasmodically they may be higher, but they will drop lower. Strikes, whether right or wrong, always injure laborers as well as capitalists. You will see this in the starvation of next winter. Boycotting and violence and murder never pay. There are different stages of anarchy. God never blessed murder. The worst use you can put a man to is to kill him.

The worst enemies of the working classes in the United States are American labor demagogues and conductors. Years ago assassination—the assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke in Phoenix Park, Dublin, in the attempt to avenge the wrongs of Ireland, only turned away from that afflicted people millions of sympathizers. The attempts to blow up the house of common, in London, had only this effect—to throw out of employment tens of thousands of innocent Irish people in England. In this country the torch put to the factories that have discharged their hands for good or bad reason, obstructions on the rail tracks in front of midnight express trains because the offenders do not like the president of the company, strikes on shipboard of the next winter were going to sail or in printing offices the paper was to go to press, or in the mines the day the coal was to be delivered, or on horse scaffolds so the builder fails in keeping his contract—all these are only a hard blow on the head of American labor and cripple its arms and lame its feet and pierce its heart. Traps sprung suddenly upon employers and violence never took one knot out of the knuckles of toil or put a farthing of wages into a callous palm.

Frederick the Great admired some of his near his palace at Potsdam, and he resolved to get it. It was owned by a miller. He offered the miller three times the value of the property. The miller would not take it because it was the old homestead, and he felt that he would not sell it for a vineyard when Abah wanted it. Frederick the Great was a rough and terrible man, and he ordered the miller into his presence, and the king, with a stick in his hand—a stick with which he sometimes struck the officers of state—said to the miller: "Now, I have offered you three times the value of that property, and if you won't sell it I'll take it anyhow." The miller said, "Your majesty, you won't." "Yes," said the king; "I will take it anyhow." "Then," said the miller, "I will sell you my vineyard. I will sell you in the chancery court." At that threat Frederick the Great yielded his infamous demand. And the most important outrage against the working classes will yet come before the law. Violence and defiance of the law will never accomplish anything, but righteousness and submission to the law will accomplish it.

But gradually the damages done the laborer by the strikes will be repaired, and the important things to be done now to be said. The whole tendency of our times, as you have noticed, is to make the chasm between employer and employee wider and wider. In olden times the head man of the factory, the master builder, the capitalist, the head man of the firm worked side by side with their employes, working sometimes at the same bench, dining at the same table, and there are those here who can remember the time when the clerks of large commercial establishments were accustomed to board with the head men of the firm.

All that is changed, and the tendency is to make the distance between employer and employee wider and wider. The tendency is to make the employe feel that he is wronged by the success of the capitalist, and to make the capitalist feel: "Now, my laborers are only beasts of burden. I must give so much money for so much drudgery; just so many pieces of silver for so many heads of sweat." In other words, the bridge of sympathy is broken down at both ends.

That feeling was best described by Thomas Carlyle when he said: "Plunged of St. Dolly Undershot, buccaneerlike, says to his men: 'Noble spinners, this is the hundredth thousand we have gained, wherein I mean to dwell and plant my vineyards. The hundred thousand pound is mine; the daily wage was yours. Adieu, noble spinners! Drink my health with this great cash, which I give you over and above.'"

Now, what we want is to rebuild that bridge of sympathy, and I put the trowel to one of the abutments to-day, and I preach more especially to employers as such, although what I have to say will be appropriate to both employers and employees.

The behavior of a multitude of laborers toward their employers during the last three months may have induced some employers to neglect the real Christian duties that they owe to those whom they employ. Therefore I want to say to the capitalist, if he confronts face to face and those to whom these words may come that all shipowners, all capitalists, all commercial firms, all master builders, all housewives, are bound to be interested in the entire welfare of their subordinate classes.

Years ago some one gave three prescriptions for becoming a millionaire: "First, spend your life in getting and keeping the earnings of other people; secondly, have no anxiety about the workmen, the losses, the losses, the losses of others; thirdly, do not mind the fact that your vast wealth implies the poverty of a great many people."

Now, there is not a man here who would consent to go into life with those three principles to earn a million. It is your desire to do your whole duty to the men and women in your service.

First of all, then, pay as large wages as are reasonable and as your business will afford; not necessarily what others pay, but certainly not what your hired help say you must pay, for that is tyranny on the part of labor unbearable.

The right of a laborer to tell his employer what he must pay implies the right of an employer to compel a man into a service whether he will or not, and either of those ideas is despicable.

When any employer allows a laborer to say what he must do or have his business ruined, and the employer submits to it, he does every business man in the United States a wrong and yields to the principle which, carried out, would dissolve society. Look over your affairs and put yourselves in imagination in your laborer's place and then pay him what before God and your own conscience you think you ought to pay him.

"God bless you!" are well in their place, but they do not buy coal nor pay house rent nor get shoes for the children. At the same time you, the employer, ought to remember through what straits and strains you got the fortune by which you built your store or run the factory. You are to remember that you take all the risks and the employe takes none or scarcely any. You are to remember that here may be reversed in fortune and that

some new style of machinery may make your machinery valueless or some new style of craft of your business back bonelessly and forever. You must take all that into consideration and then pay what is reasonable.

Do not be too ready to cut down wages. As far as possible, pay all, and pay promptly. It is a great deal of Bible teaching on this subject. Malachi, "I will be a swift witness against all sorcerers and against all adulterers and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages," Leviticus, "Thou shalt not keep the wages of the hireling all night unto the morning," Colossians, "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." So you see it is not a question between you and your employe so much as it is a question between you and God.

Do not say to your employes, "Now, if you don't like this place, get another," when you know they cannot get another. As far as possible, do not give credit at their homes; your clerks and your workmen. That is the only way you can become acquainted with their wants.

You will by such process find out that there is a blind parent or a sick sister begging support. You will find some of your young men in rooms without any fire in winter and in summer sweltering in ill ventilated apartments. You will find much depends on the wages you pay or withhold.

Moreover, it is your duty as employer, as far as possible, to mold the welfare of the employe. You ought to advise him about investments, about life insurance, about savings banks. You ought to give him the benefit of your experience to help him. There are hundreds and thousands of employes, I am glad to say, who are settling in the very best possible way the duties of their employes. Such men as Marshall of Leeds, Lister of Bradford, Akroyd of Leeds, and many others, whose names might offend their modesty if I mentioned their names—these men have built reading rooms, libraries, concert halls, afforded croquet lawns, cricket grounds, gymnasiums, choral societies for their employes, and they have not merely put the money on Saturday night, but through the contentment and the thrift and the good morals of their employes they are paying wages from generation to generation forever.

Again, I counsel all employers to look well after the physical health of their subordinates. Do not put on them any unnecessary fatigue. I never could understand why the drivers on our city cars must stand all day while they might just as well sit down and drive.

It seems to me most unrighteous that so many of the female clerks in our stores should be compelled to stand all day and through those hours when there are but few or no customers. These people have a right to advances and wages in advance enough without putting upon them additional fatigue. Unless these female clerks must go up and down on the business of the store, let them sit down.

That above all I charge you, O employers, that you look after the moral and spiritual welfare of your employes. First, know where they spend their evenings. That decides everything. You do not want around your money drawer a young man who went out last night to see "Jack Sheppard." A man that comes into the store in the morning gashed with midnight revelry is not the man for your store. The young man who spends his evening in the society of refined women or in musical or literary circles or in literary improvement is the young man for your store.

Do not say of these young men, "If they do their work in the business hours, that is all I have to ask." God has made you that man's guardian. I want you to think of that many of these young men are orphans or worse than orphans, being out into society to struggle for themselves.

Employers, urge upon your employes, above all, a religious life. So far from that, how is it, young men? Instead of being cheered on the road to heaven some of you are caricatured, and it is a shame for you to keep your Christian integrity in that store or factory where there are so many hostile to religion. Zietzen, a grave general under Frederick the Great, was a Christian. Frederick the Great was a skeptic. One day Zietzen the venerable, white haired general, asked to be excused from military duty that he might attend the holy sacrament. He was excused. A few days after Zietzen was dining with the king and with many nobles of Prussia, when Frederick the Great in a jocular way said, "Well, Zietzen, how did that sacrament of last Friday digest?" The venerable old warrior arose and said: "For your honor, my Lord and my Saviour." Frederick the Great leaped to his feet, and he put out his hand, and he said: "Happy Zietzen! Forgive me, forgive me!"

Oh, there are many being scoffed at for their religion, and I thank God there are many men as brave as Zietzen! Go to heaven yourself, O employer! Take all your people with you. Soon you will be through buying and selling, and through with manufacturing and building, and God will ask you: "Where are all those people over whom you had so great influence? Are they here? Will they be here?" O shipowners, into what harbor will your crew sail? Oh, you merchant grocers, are those young men that under your care are providing food for the homes and families of men to go starved forever? Oh, you manufacturers, with so many wheels flying and so many hands pulling and so many goods shipped, are the spinners, are the carmen, are the draymen, are the salesmen, are the watchmen of your establishments working out everything but their own salvation? Can it be that, having those people under your care five, ten, twenty years, you have made no everlasting impression for good on their immortal souls? God turn us all back from such selfishness and teach us to live for others and not for ourselves. Christ sets us the example of sacrifice, and so do many of His disciples.

One summer in California a gentleman who had just removed from the Sandwich Islands told me this incident: You know that one of the Sandwich Islands is dedicated to lepers. People getting sick of the leprosy on the other islands are sent to the island of lepers. They never come off. They are in different stages of disease, but all are dying. Some more to the island of lepers. On one of the islands there was a physician who always wore his hand gloved, and it was often discussed why he always had a glove on that hand under all circumstances. One day he came to the authorities and said to the officers of the law: "You see that hand a spot of the leprosy and that I am doomed to die. I might hide this for a little while and keep away from the island of lepers, but I am a physician, and I can go on that island and administer to the sufferings of those who are further gone in the disease, and I should like to go now. It would be selfish in me to stay amid these luxurious surroundings when I might be of so much help to the wretched. Send me to the island of lepers." They, seeing the spot of leprosy, of course took the man into custody. He bade farewell to his family and his friends. It was an agonizing farewell. He could never see them again. He was taken to the island of the lepers and he wrought among the sick until prostrated by his own death, which at last came. Oh, that was magnificent self denial, magnificent sacrifice, only surpassed by that of Him who died for us. He made the health of heaven to this leprosy island of a world that He might physician our wounds and weep our griefs and die our deaths, turning the island of a leprosy world into a great blooming, glorious garden. Whether employer or employe, let us catch that spirit.

HINTS FOR HOUSEWIVES.

To Take Grease from Wall Paper.

Lay a sheet of thick blotting paper over the stain and then press a hot iron over it. As soon as the blotting paper becomes greasy move it; bring a clean paper over the stain, and then apply the iron again. Repeat this until the stain has quite disappeared.

The Perfect Kitchen.

To provide perfect kitchen equipments requires a special intelligence gathered only by experience that shall enable one to meet the exactions of individual conditions. If the young wife lacks practical experience she cannot do better than apply to the siders of her acquaintance for advice as to locations, rather than abundance of supplies. At every house-furnisher's shop she will be presented with a list of household vessels, including every essential for the kitchen, closets and dresser, but not one of the catalogues will tell her what she can do without and not be incommode.

Linon Couch Covers.

We are bound to pause and bestow a pleased glance upon the new linen couch covers. Large enough to cover entirely, not to mention reaching fairly to the floor, are the most generously proportioned divans, these covers are in the natural linen color with a border of red, or blue or dull green. They are fringed out all around the edge to the depth of a couple of inches.

In addition to their comfort-giving qualities, the frugal housewife has the satisfaction of knowing that the upholstery underneath them is being well preserved from the plentiful sunshine and the dust.

Russian Candlesticks.

In our fervor to find out old things we fall with glee upon the reproductions of candlesticks in Russian brass. One tremendous thing, surely a whole yard in height, with a pattern engraved in quite the Russian idea, suggests the poor subject of the great white Czar staggering to bed under this mighty weight. And this also leads one to think that all Russians go to bed sober, unless they have appointed masters of the candles.

Seriously, however, there are smaller candles, which will doubtless serve for carrying about. Say what you will, and even if the house is lit with both gas and incandescents, it does look fetchingly quaint to start off to one's bed chamber with an individual light, for all the world like one of those admired wise virgins. Candles are nicer than lamps, so much so that one can only hope the much-admired ten had maids to handle the oil and to rub off the wicks.

Laundering Table-Cloths.

The beautiful laundering of table-cloths is the test of an ironer's skill. They must have just enough body not to seem limp, the pattern must be "brought out," and there should be a satin-finished surface. The right body may be given to table-linen by adding a quart of starch to the last rinse water—a good tubful. Whether that is done or not they must be made very wet in the sprinkling, and ironed until perfectly dry. No matter how smoothly they are ironed, if they are moist when hung on the bars they will acquire a "rough-dry" appearance. A special cloth for "best occasions" may be dried after rinsing without starch in the water, then wet entirely and run through the wringer, then laid on a sheet (or two run together), and rolled up tightly overnight. It will take a weary long time to iron that cloth until perfectly dry, but it will be like new, only handsomer.—Woman's Home Companion

Recipes.

Tripe—Parboil till tender; then for a pound put two tablespoonfuls butter in saucepan and a little chopped onion, a tablespoonful vinegar and a few caraway seeds, if liked. Lay tripe in, covering it. Cook slowly 10 to 12 minutes, according to the time at disposal. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and serve on hot plates.

Raised Cake—This is from a cook book of "the good old times." Two cups light sponge, one cup sugar, one half cup butter, two well-beaten eggs, one cup stoned raisins, flour, half a nutmeg, grated, one-half teaspoonful soda dissolved in a little water. Make into a loaf or loaves, and when light bake in rather slow oven, as it scorches easily.

Chicken Livers—Clean, remove gall bag and green liver adjoining; cut in small slices. Dredge with salt, pepper and flour and saute in butter. Remove, add one teaspoonful butter, one level tablespoonful flour, one-half cup chicken stock, stir till thick, add two tablespoonfuls mango chutney, and pour it over the livers.

Potato Soup—Take six good-sized potatoes and four onions (or less, if strong flavor is disliked), dice them and put on to boil in two quarts of water. When cooked soft put all through a sieve, add half a cup of milk, stir in a tablespoonful of flour smoothed in milk—just enough to "bind" the puree—add a tablespoonful of butter in small bits and salt and pepper to make palatable, but leaving opportunity for individuals to season at table.

Indian Banquet—This is from a very old family recipe book and marked "A delicious breakfast dish." It is equally good for luncheon, and nice with milk for those who drink the beverage. One pint cornmeal, one quart milk. Boil half the milk and scald the meal with it; mix with this while hot a piece of butter the size of an egg and a little salt; beat three eggs, add these and thin off with the cold milk. Bake in shallow pans.

Bathing in Ye Olde Tymes.

In these days of universal tubbing, it is interesting to read the curious notions about bathing, in vogue in former generations. In a sketch of the childhood of Louis XIII., in the Atlantic Monthly, his tutor writes under date of August, 1608: "The Dauphin was bathed for the first time; put into the bath, and Madame, his sister, aged six, with him. The Dauphin was seven years old at the time." In his fourth year he had his feet washed with a damp cloth; when he was six, they "washed his feet in tepid water in the Queen's basin for the first time."

It's peculiar that the biggest expenses in married life are the little ones.

The number of families living in one room in London covers 400,000 persons.

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The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TARTARUS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

There are 30,000 more exhibitors at the present Paris fair than there were in 1889.

I am sure Piso's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—Mrs. J. HOS. ROUBINSON, Maple St., Norwich, N. Y., Feb. 17, 1901.

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