

BIRDS IN THE BIBLE.

REV. DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Behold the Fowls of the Air, Says the Scriptures. Lessons of Their Flights, The Spirit of God a Gentle Dove.

TEXT: "Behold the fowls of the air" - Matthew vi, 26.

There is silence now in all our January frost, except as the winds whistle through the bare branches of our northern woods...

Most of the other seasons you may study or not study as you please. Use your own judgment, exercise your own taste...

Their nests have been to me a fascination, and my satisfaction in their nesting habits...

Oh, what a variety of wings in Palestine! The dove, the robin, the eagle, the curlew...

But from the top of a Bible tree I hear the shrill cry of the hawk. How, Ezekiel, the eagle is the symbol of the Kingdom of Heaven...

Yes, Christian geology - for you know there is a Christian geology as well as an infidel geology - Christian geology comes in and helps the Bible show what we owe to the bird creation...

Moses, the greatest lawyer of all time and a great man for facts, had enough sentiment and poetry and musical taste to welcome the illumination of revelation and to be divinely drilled into the first chapter of Genesis...

Noah stands on Sunday morning at the window of the ark, in his hand a cooing dove so gentle so innocent so affectionate...

Christ intended that His church should always remain a speckled bird. Let birds of another feather pick at her, but they shall not break on the breakers of Malitia...

But we cannot stop here. From a tall cliff hanging over the sea I hear the eagle calling into the tempest and lifting its wings to smite the wicked world.

The black hawks of its flock and the white of its lower feathers, and the fire of its eye, and the long fan of its wing make glimmer of it as it swings down into the valley to pick up a rabbit, or a lamb, or a child...

The old eagle that shows the young one out of the nest in order to make it fly, and then takes it on her back and flies with it and shakes it off to let it forget her...

Like an eagle, Christ has carried us on His back, and we have been shaken off. And when we were about to fall He came under us again and brought us out of the gloomy valley to the sunny mountain.

When our time on earth is closed on these great wings of God we shall speed with infinite swiftness from earth's mountains to heaven's hills, and as from the eagle's circuit under the sun we shall be carried on a small and independent wing on a rock...

Yes, in this ornithological study I see that Job says, "His days fly as an eagle that hasteth to his prey." The speed of a hungry eagle is not to be compared with that of a stunted and unambitious man.

But here is a man to-day as poor as Job after he was robbed by Satan of everything but his life, yet so richly to-morrow he is a rich man. There is no accounting for his sudden affluence.

But from the top of a Bible tree I hear the shrill cry of the hawk. How, Ezekiel, the eagle is the symbol of the Kingdom of Heaven...

These swallows brought their nests and old-fashioned nests on the eaves of the temple and hatched the young swallows in those nests, and David had seen the young birds...

What carpenters, what masons, what weavers, what spinners the birds lack! Out of what small resources they make so exquisite a nest, curved, pillared, vaulted, and domed...

What if it is to have a mother they know best who have lost her. God only knows the agony she suffered for us, the times she wept over our cruelties and the anxious sighs her bosom heaved as we lay upon it...

But yonder in this Bible sky lies a bird that is speckled. The prophet describing the church says, "Mine heritage is mine as a speckled bird; the birds rook on her as against her." So it was then; so it is now.

The church of God is a peculiar institution, and that is enough to evoke attack of the world, for it is a speckled bird of the world, for it is a speckled bird of the world.

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Christ intended that His church should always remain a speckled bird. Let birds of another feather pick at her, but they shall not break on the breakers of Malitia...

Up out of these lowlands into the heavens of higher experience and wider prospect. But how shall we rise? Only as God's holy spirit gives us strength. But that is coming down. It is a great uplifting. It tells us of light upward. It means to remind you that you yourself have wings.

John Cullie, the postmaster of Redkey, Ind., who has kept the place for ten years, is totally blind.

It is not once in every four hundred years that a fifty-cent piece worth \$10,000 comes along.

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SABBATH SCHOOL.

LESSON FOR SUNDAY JAN. 15.

"Encouraging the People." Hagai ii, 1-9 Golden Text: Psalm xxvii, 1. Commentary.

The prophecies of Hagai and Zechariah should be read in connection with the historical books of Ezra and Nehemiah, for these prophets were specially commissioned to encourage the people to build the temple...

"In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Lord by Hagai the prophet." Hagai, like every prophet, was simply the Lord's messenger...

"Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come - the time that the Lord's house should be built." This phrase "speaketh or saith" is used in the Bible fifteen times...

"Then came the Word of the Lord by Hagai the prophet, saying, The words of the people are wrong; they have said, 'The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built.'"

"Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cedar houses, and this house lie waste?" Hagai, like every prophet, was simply the Lord's messenger...

"Now, therefore, thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, saying, Because of the neglected condition of His temple, I have taken away the Spirit from Jerusalem, and ye are scattered abroad upon the mountains, and ye have said, 'The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built.'"

"I prayed for him. He said 'amen' that seemed to come from a hungering and thirsting soul, but one agonizing in the embrace of the Father's arms to whose cause a father and mother committed their son in early and tender years." - Rev. G. F. Durbin.

Higher up in society it is a noticeable fact that on occasions of great public excitement, as at political or religious meetings, the men and women who are usually the most dignified and reserved are seen to be the most excited and enthusiastic.

When spirits are used for any length of time the disorder takes on a periodic form in which hysteria and other emotional symptoms are prominent. It may be said to be a disease, but the exception brings the case into the class of hysterical neuroses.

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TEMPERANCE.

BE LOVED HIS FELLOW MAN.

Beedie's duty that follows the Swanton River in North Carolina is a gate that opens on a path leading to a spring that has been walled with brick and is protected by a canopy.

As you are now, so once was I. Stop short, alight, rest, not to rest. Stop at this spring, has quenched his thirst. Gird up your loins, drink once, drink twice; Pass on and think of John S. Rice.

Writing of the physiology of tears in the Associated Press, Dr. W. J. Turner says: "Tears have their value in the life of man; kind they are of value not as tears, although their actual flow gives relief, but as signs that the great centres are being relieved of their sensibility, and the nervous organization of the brain is being set against sorrow."

A very radical change in public sentiment, when in England the total abstinence cause is championed by such patronesses as the Duchess of Bedford, the Lady Cavendish and the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury. And the change is more upon social than upon natural appetites.

Some years ago a young man had been, and he was also drunk. A neighbor, who had become interested in the man, labored with the father, suggesting that for the son's sake the father put away his glass. To this the father replied: "What, shall I deny myself for that man?"

Some weeks ago I visited his son, now an old man. I found him ill, in bed, a mere wreck of what was once a strong body and a bright intellect. When I asked if he did not want a Saviour in his distress he replied, "I have often wanted a Saviour when in health."

He said "amen" that seemed to come from a hungering and thirsting soul, but one agonizing in the embrace of the Father's arms to whose cause a father and mother committed their son in early and tender years." - Rev. G. F. Durbin.

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RELIGIOUS READING.

BETTER BE SURE THAN SORRY.

These words were the answer of a garden worker when his employer expressed a doubt of the necessity of covering certain vegetation from threatened frost: "Better be sure than sorry." When we see a professional Christian hesitating about engaging in some employment or amusement of doubtful character in its effect on spiritual life and influence, we think of the wise poor man's caution: "Better be sure than sorry."

Dr. Cuyler tells how his widowed mother would not put a certain portion of her very limited income, as soon as it came into her hands, into a wallet marked "Sacred Money," and when once in the wallet the Lord was sure to set his own. "Lay by in store a fixed sum and then give conscience the key. The Lord's treasury is a wonderful institution that makes millions to millions. It is a magnificent dividend in this world, and its sacred money becomes precious treasure in heaven."

I should very much like to know how often you will read the word 'justified' or the word 'justification' on this platform since I was here last. There was a time when the mere sound of the word had an electric force in it - when it kindled Christian hearts into flame. When they wanted to do it and sing it, they were satisfied that they had done it. The idea which renewed the religious life of Northern Europe three hundred years ago, raised England to the glory of being among the foremost nations of the world in literature and in arms, added but one word to personal freedom, and enabled us to defy the monarchs, priests and the power of kings. We have almost lost the phrase. I sometimes fear that we have almost lost the truth for which it stands. - Dr. H. W. Dale.

You will not be able to go through life without being discovered; a lighted candle cannot be hid. There is a feeling among some good people that it will be wise to be so religious and hide their light under a bushel. But the Lord's light is not to be hid, and come out into the palace being distributed. They who travel to heaven by the back lanes, and slink into glory in disguise, are assured, my fellow Christians, that the most perfect of them in the most quiet lives, will find their reward in open devotion. Days will come when we must speak out, or prove traitors to our Lord and to his truth. You cannot long hold fire in the hollow of your hand. It will burn under the heel. Godliness, like murder, will out. You will always be able to travel to heaven in disguise. - Spurgeon.

A fine illustration of the value of keeping one's word, which boys do well to profit by, is given in the case of Mr. Wilder. The first president of the American Tract Society, he became a very wealthy man, but in his early life, had clerk for a large firm in Christchurch, Mass. He promised a customer one day to deliver a bale of goods at a certain hour. He had to go to Boston to make the purchase, and could not get the goods over at once in a wheelbarrow. The man was overcome with the heat, and stopped on the bridge to rest. Mr. Wilder found him there, promptly traded off his wheelbarrow for a horse, and brought the goods to the customer's door. The merchant, who happened to observe the deed, told Mr. Wilder's employer and said, "Tell that young man when he wishes to go into business for himself, my name is at his service for thirty thousand dollars." - [The Christian at Work.]

"This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!" said he so amiable, he must be "my Beloved, my heart longs to him. Since he is so dear to me, I will do all in my power to please him. He who beholds Jesus as "a better lover" will never rest till he has together said that Jesus is altogether his own. It will not be until we have an appreciation is in great measure the seal of appropriation, for the seal that values Christ most is the soul that most surely taken possession of Christ. So we find in the words of the Lord, "highly, and tremblingly, and with a full heart, it is my conviction that the very fact of praising Him argues a measure of possession of him. Jesus never will a heart to which he refuses his love. If thou lovest him, thou shalt keep his commandments. Yes, he is altogether his own, sooner or later adding, "This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend." - [Spurgeon.]

Alcohol affects specifically the brain. John A. Holliday, of Troy, N. Y., writes being present at the autopsy of a noted "brawler" of that city, a few weeks since, he found that the brain was in a state of inflammation and had been a drunkard for forty years. He says: "When the surgeon saw the brain, he said: 'The man's skull the color of an old shoe that filled the room was strong enough to hold one. One of the surgeons saw a match and held it close to the brain, immediately a blue flame enveloped the portion of the cerebral organ exposed to the quivering blue shined as if on a red iron. He said: 'That experiment was a mistake. I do not want to see you in the poor old town drunkard of Troy.'"

The liquor dealers of Waltham, Mass., have decided to withdraw all their funds amounting to about \$150,000, from the local National Bank, the officers of which were prominent in the no-license agitation this fall.

A Chicago paper bids its readers not to be deceived by the prospect of an increase of the whisky tax. It contends that with the assurance that it will take a long time to work up the price of alcohol, burnt sugar, fusel oil and water.

The Woman's Columbian Association of Northern Ohio, said to be one of the best in the whole circle of associations of its kind, has called to its presidency Mrs. Mary E. Ingham, of Cleveland, a white-ribboner and leader of the temperance crusade in that city in 1874.

The Zurich (Switzerland) society for combating the alcohol habit has circulated an appeal on the continent pointing out the dangers which menace the future of Europe through the use of intoxicants, and calling upon the people to show their patriotism by becoming abstainers.

What to Try. Try snuffing powdered borax up the nostrils for catarrh in the head. Try taking your cod liver oil in potato-custup if you want to make it palatable. Try a cloth, wrung out in cold water, put about the neck at night for a sore throat.

Try a saturated solution of bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) in diarrheal troubles; give freely. Try a newspaper over your chest, beneath your coat, as a chest protector in extremely cold weather. - Health Monthly.

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