

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

BEAUTIFUL SCENES.

Pictures Drawn From the Crucifixion of Stephen.

"Behold, I see the heavens opened." Acts vii, 56-60.

When I have been preaching a rousing sermon and the people could not stand it, I resolved to do as men sometimes would do in this day, if they dared, with a plain preacher of righteousness—kill the breath out of him.

Stephen out of the gates of the city, with curses and whoop and hallow, brought him to the cliff, as was the custom they wanted to take away life by having brought him to the edge of the cliff, they pushed him off. After he fell they came and looked down, and he that was not yet dead they began to stone upon him, stone after stone.

This horrible rain of missiles Stephen threw upon his knees and folds his hands, and the blood from his temples, as a looking up, he makes two prayers—first for himself and one for his murderers, "Lord, receive my spirit." That was all.

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." That was for his murderers. Then, with a faint gasp of blood, he swooned away and fell asleep.

Let us show you to-day five pictures: the first is Stephen, Stephen looking at the sky, Stephen stoned, Stephen looking at the sky, Stephen stoned, Stephen looking at the sky.

Let us take a leap you want to know how the ladder reaches. And it was right there, within a few moments of Stephen's death, that I would like to find in the same posture, as though in heaven to keep his gaze on a man of large wealth may have strolled in the hall, and paintings in the sitting room, and works of art in all parts of the house, but he has the chief pictures in the gallery, and there hour after hour walk with catalogue and glass and ever with admiration.

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SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 22.

Lesson Text: "Joshua Renewing the Covenant," Joshua xxiv, 14-25—Golden Text: Joshua xxiv, 24—Commentary.

"Now, therefore, fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth." Joshua had fulfilled his mission and had now come to the end of his sojourn in the mortal body.

"As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." It is evident from this and the preceding verses that their ancestors beyond the river (E. V.) were idolaters.

"Therefore will we also serve the Lord, for He is our God." This is the conclusion of the people's reply to Joshua's words. They acknowledge that the Lord their God brought them out of Egypt, preserved them in all the way and brought them into the land.

"I do not care what you do with my body when my soul is gone, or whether you believe in cremation or in preparation. I shall sleep just as well with a wreath of sackcloth as in satin lined with eagle's down.

"I have seen the sea driven with the hurricane until the tangled foam caught in the rigging, and wave rising above wave seemed as if about to storm the heavens, and then I have seen the tempest drop, and the waves crouch, and everything become smooth and unruffled as though a ramping place for the chariots of heaven."

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RELIGIOUS READING.

THE BIRDS OF HEAVEN.

What a strange, subtle, inextinguishable thing it is—man's sense of sin! How keen, how just, his distinctions; how prompt and sure his judgments; how sharp and bitter his punishments!

How insignificant is the universality and persistence of this thing we call conscience! It means that there is, somewhere in the universe, a clear note, like the tone of the key-bell in a chime, to which all must correspond.

One of the most pitiful things in the world is to see a man, a woman, a child, a person, contriving, laboring, competing for place, and only one man in a thousand recognizing himself with the vastly more important and pertinent and essential matter of fitness.

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THINGS NEEDFUL. For every need of the spiritual life this is the one thing needful, the Holy Spirit. All the fulness is in Jesus; the fulness of grace and truth, out of which we receive grace for grace.

TO KNOW THE BIBLE. To know the bible well is, in the best sense, to be educated. But to know the Bible well is not merely to know its history, its writers and the languages in which it was written.

TO BEAT WORK, TO DO THINGS FOR THE WORLD, TO TURN THE CURRENTS OF THINGS ABOUT US AT OUR WILL, TO MAKE OUR EXISTENCE A POSITIVE ELEMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT BE NO BIGGER THAN A GRAIN OF SAND IN THIS GREAT SYSTEM.

Empty Alcohol Barrels Are Dangerous. An empty alcohol barrel exploded at the home of W. G. Bentley, Salem, Ohio, blowing his eleven-year-old boy into the top of a pear tree, from which he fell senseless.

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