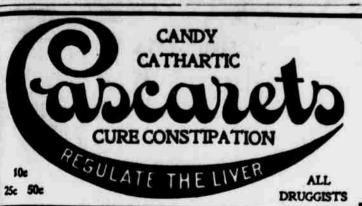
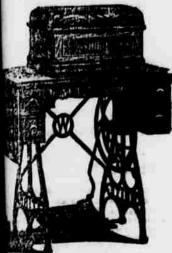


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MODERN ANANIASES.



Dr. Talmage deprecates in this untruths that are spoken or acted in the social and business world, taking his text from Acts v, 1- 0. "A certain man named Anonia .

with Sapphira, his wife, sold a .

A well matched pair, alike in ambi tion and in falsehood, Ananias and Sapphira. They wanted a reputation for great beneficence, and they sold all their property, pretending to put the entire proceeds in the charity fund while they put much of it in their own pocket. There was no necessity that they give all their property away, but they wanted the reputation of so dong. Ananias first lied about it and fropped down dead. Then Sapphira lied about it, and she dropped down dead. The two fatalities a warning to all ages of the danger of sacrificing

There are a thousand of ways of telling a lie. A man's whole life may be a falsehood, and yet never with his lips may he faisify once. There is a way of uttering a falsehood by look, by manner, as well as by lip. There are persons who are guilty of dishonesty of speech and then afterward say 'maybe," calling it a white lie when no lie is that color. The whitest lie ever told was as black as perdition. There are those so given to dishonesty of speech that they do not know when they are lying. With some it is an acquired sin, and with others it is a natural infirmity. There are those whom you will recognize as born liars. Their whole life, from cradle to grave, is filled up with vice of speech. Misrepresentation and prevarication are as natural to them as the infantile discases and are a sort of moral croup or

spiritual scarlatina. Then there are those who in after life have opportunities of developing this evil, and they go from deception to deception and from class to class, until they are regularly graduated liarz. At times the air in our cities is filled with falsehood, and lies cluster around the mechanic's hammer, blossom on the merchant's yardstick and sometimes sit in the doors of churches. They are called by some fabrication and they are called by some fiction. You might call them subterfuge, or deceit, or romance, or fable, or misrepresentation, or delusion, but as I know nothing to be gained by covering up a God defying sin with a lexicographer's blanket, I shall call them in plainest vernacular, lies. They may be divided into agricultural, commercial, mechanical, social and ecclesiastical.

First of all, I speak of agricultural falsehoods. There is something in the presence of natural objects that has a tendency to make one pure. The trees never issue false stock. The wheatfields are always honest. Rye and oats never move out in the night, not paying for the place they occupy. Corn shocks never make false assignment. Mountain brooks are always current. The gold of the wheatfield is never counterfest. But while the tendency of agricultural life is to make one honest, honesty is not the characteristic from the country districts. You hear great cities-a farm wagon in which there is not one honest spoke, or one truthful rivet, from tongue to tailboard. Again and again has domestic on the farmer's firkin. When New York and Washington sit down and weep over their sins, let Westchester county and the neighborhoods around this capital sit down and weep over

theirs. The tendency in all rural districts is to suppose that sins and transgressions cluster in our great cities, but citizens and merchants long ago learned that it is not safe to calculate from the character of the apples on the top of the farmer's barrel what is the character of the apples all the way down toward the bottom. Many of our citizens and merchants have learned that it is always safe to see the farmer measure the barrel of beets. Milk cans are not always honest. There are those who in country life seem to think they have a right to overreach grain dealers and merchants of all styles. They think it is more honorable to raise corn than to deal in corn. The producer sometimes practically says to the merchant, "You get your money easy, anyhow." Does he get it easily? While the farmer sleeps and he may go to sleep conscious of the fact that his corn and rye are all the time progressing and adding to his fortune or his livelihood—the merchant tries to sleep, while conscious of the fact that at that moment the ship may be driving on the rock or a wave sweeping over the hurricane deck spoiling his goods, or the speculators may be plotting a monetary revolution. or the burglars may be at that moment at his money safe, or the fire may have kindled on the very block where his store stands.

Easy, is it? Let those who get their living in the quiet farm and barn take the place of one of our city merchants see whether it is so easy. It is hard enough to have their hands blistered with outdoor work, but it is harder with mental anxiety to have the brain consumed. God help the merchants. And do not let those who live in country life come to the con-clusion that all the dishonestics be-

long to city life.

There are large fortunes gathered in which there is not one drop of the sweat of unrequited toil, and not one spark of bad temper fiashes from the bronse bracket, and there is not one sermon the many drop of needlewoman's heart's blo d on the crimson plush, while there are other fortunes about which it may te said that on every doorknob and on every figure of the carpet and on eve y wall there is the mark of dishonor. What if the hand wrung by toil and blistered until the skin comes off should be placed on the exquisite wall paper, leaving its mark of blood-four fingers and a thumb? Or if in the night the man should be aroused from his slumbers again and again by his own conscience, getting himseli up on elbow and crying out in the darkness, Who is there?

> There are large fortunes upon which God's favor comes down, and it is just honest and just as Christian to be afficent as it is to be poor. In many house there is a blessing on every pletured wall and on every scroll and every traceried window, and the joy that flashes in the lights and that wers in the music and that dances the quick feet of the children pating through the hall has in it the favor of God and the approval of man. And there are thousands and tens of thousands of merchants who, from the first day they sold a yard of cloth or firkin of butter, have maintained their integrity. They were born honest, they will live honest, and they will die But you and I know that there are in commercial life those who are guilty of great dishonesties of speech. A merchant says, "I am selling these goods at less than cost." Is he getting for those goods a price inferior to that which he paid for them? Then he has spoken the truth. Is he getting more? Then he lies. A merchant says, "I paid \$25 for this arti-Is that the price he paid for it? All right. But suppose he paid for it \$23 instead of \$25? Then he lies.

But there are just as many falsehoods before the counter as there are behind the counter. A customer comes in and asks, "How much is this article?" "It is \$6." "I can get that for \$4 somewhere else." Can he get it for \$4 somewhere else or did he say that just for the purpose of getting it cheap by depreciating the value of the goods? If so, he lied. There are just as many falsehoods before the counter as there are behind the counter.

A man unrolls upon the counter a bale of handkerchiefs. The customer says, "Are these all silk?" "Yes." "No cotton in them?" "No cotton in them." Are those handkerchiefs all silk? Then the merchant told the truth. Is there any cotton in them? Then he lied. Moreover, he defrauds himself, for this customer coming in will after awhile find out that he has been defrauded, and the next time he comes to town and goes shopping he will look up at that sign and say: "No, I won't go there; that's the place where I got those handkerchiefs." First, the merchant insulted God, and, secondly, he picked his own pocket.

Who would take the responsibility of saying how many falsehoods were vesterday told by hardware men, and clothiers, and lumbermen, and tobac- buttons or a row of pins." But the conists, and jewelers, and importers, article may be so small you can put it and shippers, and dealers in furniture, in your vest pocket, but the sin is as groceries? Lies about buckles, about your dishonor will reverberate through saddles, about harness, about shoes, the mountains of eternity. There is of all who come to the city markets about hats, about coats, about shovels, no such thing as a small sin. They about tongs, about forks, about chairs, are all vast and stupendous, because the creaking of the dishonest farm about sofas, about horses, about lands, they will all have to come under inwagon in almost every street of our about everything. I arraign commer- spection in the day of judgment. You cial falsehoods as one of the crying may boast yourself of having made a sins of our time.

falsehoods. Among the artisans are regard to that man who went in to economy in our great cities foundered | those upon whom we are dependent for make a purchase and depreciated the the houses in which we live, the garments we wear, the cars in which we had got away boasted of the splendid ride. The vast majority of them are, so far as I know them, men who speak the truth, and they are upright, and many of them are foremost in great philanthropies and in churches, but that they all do not belong to that class every one knows. In times when there is a great demand for labor it is not so easy for such men to keep their obligations, because they may miscalculate in regard to the weather or they may not be able to get the help they anticipated in their enterprise. I am speaking now of those who promise to do that which they know they will not be able to do. They say they will come on Monday. They do not come until Wednesday. They say they will come on Wednesday. They do not come until Saturday. They say they will have the job done in ten days. They do not get it done before 30. And when a man becomes irritated and will not stand it any longer then they go and work for him a day or two and keep the job along, and then some one else gets irritated and outraged, and they go and work for that man and get him pacified and then they go somewhere else. I believe they call that 'nursing a job."

Ah, my friends how much dishonor such men would save their souls if they would promise to do only that which they know they can do! "Oh," they say, "it's of no importance, Everybody expects to be deceived and disappointed."

Social life is struck through with insincerity. They apologize for the fact that the furnace is out; they have not had any fire in it all winter. They apologize for the fare on their table; they never live any better. They decry their most luxuriant entertainment to win a shower of approval from you. They point at a picture on the wall as a work of one of the old masters. They say it is an heirloom in the family. It hung on the walls of a castle. A duke gave it to their grandfather! People that will lie about nothing else will lie about a picture. On small income There are those who apologise we want the world to believe we are levistions from the right and for affluent, and society to-day is struck through with chest and counterfeit that deception by saying it is comthe counterfeit that the world as it is and sham. How few people are naturally that the counterfeit is a counterfeit to be a second to be a counterfeit to b

grinding against leeberg. You must not laugh outright. That is vulgar. You must smile. You must not dash quickly across the room. That is vulgar. You must glide. Much of society is a round of bows and grins and grimaces and oh's and ah's and he, he's and simperings and namby pambylam, whole world of which is not worth one good honest round of laughter. Soclety is become so contorted and deformed in this respect that a mountain cabin where the rustice gather at a quilting or an apple paring has in it more good cheer than all the frescoed refrigerators of the metropolis.

I pass on to speak of ecclesiastical lies, those which are told for the advancement or retarding of a church or sect. It is hardly worth your while to esk an extreme Calvanist what an Arminian believes. He will tell you that an Arminian believes that man can save himself. An Arminian believes no such thing. It is hardly worth your while to ask an extreme Arminian what a Calvanist believes. He will tell you that a Calvanist believes that God made some men just to damn A Calvanist believes no such thing. It is hardly worth your while to ask a Pedo-Baptist what a Baptist believes. He will tell you that a Baptist believes that immersion is necessary for salvation. A Baptist does not believe any such thing. It is hardly worth your while to ask a man who very much hates Presbyterians what t Presbyterian believes. He will tell you that a Presbyterian believes that there are infants in hell a span long. and that very phraseology comes down from generation to generation in the Christian church. There never was a Presbyterian who believed that. "Oh," you say, "I heard some Presbyterian minister 20 years ago say so." fld not. There never was a man who believed that. There never will be a man who will believe that. And yet from boyhood I have heard that particular slander against a Christian thurch going down through the community.

Then, how often it is that there are misrepresentations on the part of individual churches in regard to other to great prosperity. As long as a thurch is in poverty and the singing is poor, and all the surroundings are decrepit, and the congregation are so hardly bestead in life that their pastor goes with elbows out, then there will always be Christian people in churches who say, "What a pity; what a pity!" But let the day of prosperity come to a Christian church and let the music be triumphant, and let there be vast assemblages, and then there will be even ministers of the gospel critical and denunciatory and full of misrepresentation and faisification, givng the impression to the outside world that they do not like the corn because it is not ground in their mill. Oh, my friends, let us in all departments of life stand back from decention

But some one mys, "The deception that I practice is so small that it foesn't amount to anything." Ah. my friends, it does amount to a great deal. You say, "When I deceive, it is only about a case of needles or a box of big as the pyramids, and the fine bargain-a sharp bargain. You I pass on to speak of mechanical may carry out what the Bible says n value of the goods, and then after he bargain he had made. "It is naught. it is naught, saith the buyer, but when he is gone his way then he boasteth." It may seem to the world a sharp bargain, but the recording angel wrote down in the ponderous tomes of eternity, "Mr. So-and-so, doing business on Pennsylvania avenue or Broadway or Chestnut street or State street, told

> May God extirpate from society ail the ecclesiastical lies, and all the social lies, and all the mechanical lies, and all the commercial ites, and all the agricultural lies, and make every man to speak the truth of his neighbor. My friends, let us make our life correspond to what we are. Let us banish all deception from our behavlor. Let us remember that the time comes when God will demonstrate before an assembled universe just what we are. The secret will come out. We may hide it while we live, but we cannot hide it when we die. To many life is a masquerade ball. As at such entertainment gentlemen and ladies appear in early of kings or queens or mountain bandits or clowns and then at the close of the dance put off their disguise, so many all through life are in mask. The masquerade ball goes on, and gemmed hand clasps gemmed hand, and dancing feet respond to dancing feet, and gleaming brow bends to gleaming brow, and the masquerade ball goes bravely on. But after awhile languor comes and blurs the sight. Lights lower. Floor hollow with sepulchral echo. Music saddens into a wall. Lights lower. Now the masquerade is hardly seen. The fragrance is exchanged for the sickening odor of garlands that have lain a long while in the damp of sepulchers. Lights lower. Mists fills the The scart drops from the shoulroom. der of beauty, a shroud. Lights low-er. Torn leaves and witnessed garlands now hardly cover up the ulcered feet. Stench of lamp wicks almost quenched. Choking dampness. Chili-iness. Feet still. Hands folded. Eyes ahut. Voice husbed. Lights out.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON V. FOURTH QUARTER, INTER-NATIONAL SERIES, OCT. 31.

Text of the Lesson, Acts xxvil, 13-96 Mem ory Verses, \$1-95 -- Golden Text, Acts zzvii, 25 Commentary by the Bov. D. M.

18. "And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence they miled close by Crete." Paul, with Aristarchus, a former fellow traveler, and afterward a fellow prisoner (Acts xix, 99; Col. iv, 10). is now at sea on his way to Rome. They touched at Sidom and thence near Cyprus to Myra on the mamland of Lycia, in Asia Minor. There he was transferred to a ship of Alexandria bound for Italy, and after many days of slow miling rounded the east end of Crete and reached the Fair Havens, on the south coast of Crots. Here they spent much time, until Paul advised them not to venture farther on account of the season, but the muster and owner and the majority advised to try and reach the port of Phenice, a little farther west in Crete, and winter there. So with a light wind they started, keeping as near the land as possible. Paul is in the bands, humanly speaking, of those who know not God, but he is really in the hands of God and can trust Him to manage.

14, 15. A mighty wind from the land aross against which the ship could not bear pp, and they were compelled to let her run before it. Was this of God or the devil that they were thus driven out to sea? We know that satan is the prince of the power of the air and that he caused the wind that bless down the house upon Job's children and killed them (Joh I, 12, 19), but he could not do it without God's permission. God controls the angels who control the winds, and even the stormy wind fulfille His word (Rev. vii, 1; Ps. criviii, 8). We must see

16, 17. The storm increased. Under the ies of the island of Claude they get the small boat on board which had evidently been towing astern. They somehow undergird the ship, then lower the sail and let her drive under here poles. What about the condition of the passengers among the 276 souls on board? (Verse 37.) Satiors are not supposed to feel anything, never to know they are sick till they are dead, but many ordinary people do get awfully stek thurches, especially if a church comes in a storm. This must have been a sad ship. And yet there were some on it very dear to the Lord Jesus.

18, 19, "Exceedingly tossed with a tem-est," Well, there is no use to say a word pest. " about this unless you have been in such droumstances yourself. It was a had case, and many doubtless wished that there was no more sea (Rev. 1x1, 1). Yet even under such circumstances the Prince of Peace can control one's heart. In health or sickness, life or death, we can be quiet in His low ing care.

20. "All hope that we should be saved was then taken away." Surely they were at their wite end (Ps. ovil. 27), or, as in the margin, "All their wisdom was swallowed up." The case was, as far as human eyes could see, utterly hopeless. It makes one think of the sinner having no hope and without God in the world (Eph. ii, 12), or as in Rom. v. 6, "without strength." But there is a Saviour for the loss, and only for such. He said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

21. "But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them." They had fasted for 14 days (verse 33), and must have felt forlorn indeed and ready for a word of comfort from any one who might have is for them. None but God could help or comfort them, and His servant is ready to be the messenger. He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort (II Cor. 1, 3), but we cannot fully preciate it or Him till we get into strait

22. "And now I exhort you to be of good cheer, for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship." He emphasized it by adding, "There shall not an bair fall from the head of any of you," and he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all and began to eat (verses 34, 35). 23. "For there stood by me this night

the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve." This and the next two verses are to me the very heart of this lesson. Take the words, "God, whose I am," and think of what is included. His property, which He will certainly care for, His child, whom He will certainly see to, loved by the Lord Jesus as the Father loves Him (John IV. 9), bought with the precious blood of Christ, and therefore as precious to God as that blood is; a part of Christ Himself, a member of His body. We need not hesttate to say, "The most high God, the poscesor of heaven and cartn, owns me, 'ami take all the comfort there is for us. Then consider "whom I serve," and remember that we manget serve God and Mammon: neither can we serve Christ and piense men (Mash. vi. 24; Gal. 1, 10.

24. "Saying, Fear not, Paul! Thou must be brought before Cmsar, and, lo. God hash given thee all them that sail with thee. " This is a confirmation of the Lord's testimony to him in Jerumiem- Thou must bear witness at Rome" (chapter axiit, The Lord's "musts" are as sure as God Himself, whether "ye must be born again" or "all things must be fulfilled. Every purpose of the Lord shall be performed, and all His thoughts shall come to pass (Jer. II, 29; Isa. xiv, 24). It was the Lord's purpose that Paul should be His witness at Rome, and therefore it was as good as done, although in this storm every thing seemed against it. How blessed are the "fear note" of God from the first one in Gen. xv. I, to the last in Revelation His perfect love casts out all fear, and the soul that rests in hitm can truly say, "What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee." will trust and not be afraid. 35. "Wherefore, sire, be of good cheer,

for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. 'Verse it says, 'And so to was told me. Verse to says, "And so is came to pass." Whatever God says is as sure as if 16 had already come to pass, so we should say continually, "I believe God." The first "believe" in the Bible is in Gen. av, 6, where it is said of Abraham, "He beleved in the Lord, and He counted is to him for righteousness." It might be lit-erally translated "Abraham amened God," long afterward. See Jer. xi, 5, in the mar-gin. Is becomes us to be over saying "Even so, Father," or, as Mary said, "Be is unto

me according to Thy word."

98. "Howbets we must be cust upon a certain island?" There must have been a