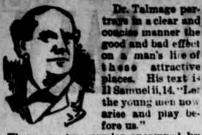
INFLUENCE OF CLUBS.

Dr. Talmage p



two armies encamped by the pool of Gibeon. The time hangs heavily on their hands. One army proposes a game of sword fencing. Noth ing could be more healthful and innowent adversely. Perhaps one of the is innocent may be made destructive?

is a legitimate and an illegitimate use of the clubhouse. In the one case it may become a healthful recreation, like the contest of the twenty-four men in the text when they began their play: in the other case it becomes the massacre of body, mind and soul, as in the case of these contestants of the text when they had gone too far with their sport. All intelligent ages have had their gatherings for political, social, artistic, literary purposes-gatherings characterized by the blunt old Anglo-Saxon designation of "club."

If you have read history, you know that there was a King's Head Club, a Ben Jonson Club, a Brothers' Club, to which Swift and Bolingbroke belonged; a Literary Club, which Burke and Goldsmith and Johnson and Boswell made immortal; a Jacobin Club, a Benjamin Franklin Junto Clubsome of these to indicate justice, some to favor the arts .some to promote good manners, some to despoil the habits, some to destroy the soul. If one will write an honest history of the clubs of England, Ireland, Scotland, France and the United States for the last 100 years, he will write the history of the world. The club was an institution born on English soll, but it has thrived well in American atmosphere. Who shall tell' how many belong to that kind of club where men put purses together and open house, apportioning the expense of caterer and servants and room, and having a sort of domestic establishement-a style of clubhouse which in my opinion is far better than the ordinary hotel or boarding-house? But my object now is to speak of clubhouses of a different sort, such as the Cosmos or Chevy Chase or Lincoln Club of this capital, or the Union Leagues of many cities, the United States Service Club of London, the Lotos of New York, where journalists, dramatists, sculptors, painters and artists from all branches gather together to discuss newspapers, theatres and elaborate art, like the Americus, which camps out in Summer time, dimpling the pool with its hook and arousing the forest with its stag hunt; like the Century Club, which has its large group of venerable lawyers and poets; like the Army and Navy Club, where those who engaged in warlike service once on the land or the sea now come together to talk over the days of carwith its floating palaces of beauty, uphave a passionate fondness for horses. fine horses, as had Job when, in the Scriptures, he gives up a sketch of lazy places. Here and there an aged man reading a newspaper, or an emday then the curtain of the clubhouse hoists for the entertainment. Let us nd all books, from hermeneutics to stops. fairy tale. Coming in and out ten minutes, others stay many But the evening is passing on ,and we hasten through the hall, and block to block until we come to ir style of clubhouse. Opening or, we find the funies of strong and tobacco something almost mble. These young men at this

in a clear and rays in a clear the vile stories. They are three-fourths d and bad effect es. His text i4 I Samuel ii, 14. "Le: all kindness, all care, all culture has straight into the breakers. been bestowed. He is paying his par-

testant by the hair and then with the the railings of the fence. The young a bad association. sword thrusting him in the side, so man who is not able to stand will have that that which opened in innocent fun a bed improvised for him in the clubended in the massacre of all the twen- house, or two not quite so overcome be deplored because it takes down the ty-four sportsmen. Was there ever a with liquor will conduct him to his very best men. The admission fee sifts better illustration of what was true father's house, and they will ring the out the penurious and leaves only the then and is true now, that that which doorbell, and the door will open and best fellows. They are frank, they the two imbecile escorts will intro- are generous, they are whole-souled, At this season of the year the club- duce into the hallway the ghastlicat they are talented. Oh, I begrudge the houses of our towns and cities are in and most hellish spectacle that ever devil such a prize! After awhile the full play. I have found out that there enters a front door-a drunken son. If frank look will go out of the face and the dissipating clubhouses of this coun- the features will be haggard, and try would make a contract with the when talking to you, instead of looking inferno to provide it 10,000 men a year. you in the eye, they will look down, and for twenty years, on the condition and every morning the mother will the clubhouses could afford to make so late last night?" and he will make that contract. for they would save no answer, or he will say, "That's my homesteads, save fortunes, save bod- business." Then some time he will les, minds and souls. The 10,000 men come to the store or the bank cross who would be sacrificed by that con- and befogged, and he will neglect tract would be but a small part of the some duty, and after awhile he will multitude sacrificed without the con- lose his place, and then with nothing tract. But I make a vast difference to do he will come down at 10 o'clock between clubs. I have belonged to in the morning to curse the servant four clubs-a theological club, a ball because the breakfast is cold. The lad club and two literary clubs. I got from who was a clerk in the cellar has them physical rejuvenation and moral got to be chief clerk in the great comhealth. What shall be the principle? mercial establishment; the young man If God will help me, I will lay down who ran errands for the bank has got three principles by which you may to be cashier; thousands of the young judge whether the club where you are men who were at the foot of the lada member or the club to which you der have got to the top of the ladder, have been invited is a legitmate or an but here goes the victim of the dissiillegitimate clubhouse.

club by its influences on home, if you tered hat set sidewise on a shock of have a home. I have been told by a greasy hair; his cravat dashed with prominent gentleman in the club life cigar ashes. Look at him! Pure heartthat three-fourths of the members of ed young man, look at him! The clubthe great clubs of these cities are mar- house did that. I know one such who ried men. That wife soon loses her in- went the whole round, and turned out fluence over her husband who nervous- of the higher clubhouses, went into the ly and foolishly looks upon all even- lower clubhouses, and on down, until ing absence as an assault on domes- one night he leaped out of a third-story ticity. How are the great enterprises window to end his wretchedness. of art and literature and beneficence and public weal to be carried on if every man is to have world bounded low you. You think your son does not on one side by his front doorstep, and on the other side by his back window, heard men who say. "I am profane, knowing nothing higher than his own but never in the presence of my chilattic of nothing lower than his own dren." Your children know you swear. cellar? That wife who becomes jeal- I have heard men say, "I drink, but ous of her husband's attention to art never in the presence of my children." or literature or religion or charity is Your children know you drink. I depower. I know an instance where a of households in this country. The tea wife thought that her husband was hour has arrived. The family are giving too many nights to Christian ser- seated at the tea table. Before the rest vice, to charitable service, to prayer- of the family arise from the table the meetings and to religious convocation. father shoves back his chair, says he She systematically decoyed him away has an engagement, lights a cigar, until now he attends on church and is goes out, comes back after midnight, on a rapid way to destruction, his mor- and that is the history of 365 nights of als gone, his money gone, and, I fear, the year. Does any man want to stulhis soul gone. Let any Christian wife tify himself by saying that that is rejoice when her husband consecrates healthy, that that is right, that that evenings to the service of God, or to is honorable? Would your wife have charity ,or to art, or to anything ele- married you with such prospects? vated, but let not men sacrifice home Oh, my heart aches! I see men struglife to club life. I can point out to gling against evil habits, and they nage; like the New York Yacht Club, you a great many names of men who want help. I have knelt beside them are guilty of this sacrilege. They are and i have heard them cry for help, holstered with velvet and paneled with as genial as angels at the clubhouse and then we have risen, and he has ebony, having all the advantages of and as ugly as sin at home. They are put one hand on my right shoulder and electric bell and of gaslight and of generous on all subjects of wine sup- looked into my face with an infinity king's pantry; like the American pers, yachts and fast horses, but they of carnestness which the judgment Jockey Club, to which belong men who the children's shoes. I tell you there are thousands of scorched in ruin, "God help me!" For houses in the cities being clubbed to such there is no help except in the that king of beasts ,the arch of its death. There are clubhouses where Lord God Almighty. I am going to neck, the nervousness of its foot, the membership always involves domestic make a very stout rope. You know majesty of his gait, the writwind of shipwreck. Tell me that a man has that sometimes a ropemaker will take its power, crying out: "Hast thou joined a certain club, tell me nothing very small threads and wind them toclothed his neck with thunder?" Dur. more about him for ten years, and I gether until after awhile they become ing the day they are comparatively will write his history if he be still ship cable. And I am going to take alive. The man is a wine guzzler, his some very small, delicate threads and wife broken-hearted or prematurely wind them together until they make a ployee dusting a sofa or a clerk write old, his fortune gone or reduced, and very stout rope. I will take all the ing up the accounts, but when the cur-tain of the night falls on the natural Here are six secular nights in the thread of laughter, a thread of light. week. "What shall I do with them?" a thread of music, a thread of banquetsays the father and the husband. "I log, a thread of congratulation, and I hasten up now the marble stairs. What will give four of those nights to the im- twist them together and I have one an imperial hallway! See, here are provement and entertainment of my strand. Then I take a thread of the parlors on the side, with the uphols. family, either at home or in good hour of the first advent in your house, tery of the Kremlin and the Tuller- neighborhood. I will devote one to a thread of the darkness that preceded ies, and here are dining hails that chal- charitable institutions. I will devote and a thread of the light that followed, lenge you to mention any luxury that one to the club." I congratulate you, and a thread of the beautiful scarf they cannot afford, and here are gal. Here is a man who says: "I will make that little child used to wear when she leries with sculpture and paintings and a different division of the six nights. bounded out at eventide to greet you, lithographs and drawings from the I will take three for the club and three and then a thread of the beautiful best of artists. Cropsey and Bierstadt for other purposes." I tremble. Here dress in which you laid her away for and Church and Hart and Gifford-pic- is a man who says, "Out of the six sec- the resurrection. And then I twist all tures for every mood, whether you are ular nights of the week I will devote these together, and I have another impassioned or placid; shipwreek or five to the clubhouse and one to the strand. Then I take a thread of the unlight over the sea. Sheridan's ride home, which night I will spend in scarlet robe of a suffering Christ, and or the noonday party of the farmers scowling like a March squall, wishing a thread of the white raiment of your ader the trees, foaming deer pursued I was out spending it as I had spent loved ones before the throne, and a y the hounds in the Adirondacks or the other five.". That man's obituary string of the harp cherubic, and a e sheep on the lawn. On this side is written. Not one out of 10,000 that string of the heart scraphic, and I tere are reading rooms where you ever gets so far on the wrong road ever twist them together, and I have a third strand. "Oh," you say, "either strand I think that damage is often done by is strong enough to hold fast a world!" re are gentlemen, some of whom the scions of some aristocratic family No. I will take these strands and I who belong to one of these dissipating will twist them together, and one end: clubhouses. People coming up from of that rope I will fasten, not to the humbler classes feel it an honor to be- communion table, for it shall be relong to the same club, forgetting the moved; not to the pillar of the organ, In the steps into the street, and fact that many of the sons and grand- for that will crumble in the ages, but sons of the large commercial estab- I wind it round and round the cross of lishments of the last generation are a sympathizing Christ, and having now, as to mind, imbecile; as to body. fastened one end of the rope to the diseased; as to morals, rotten. They cross I throw the other end to you. would have got through their proper-Lay hold of it! Pull for your life! Pull to hone are if they had had full non-

they are at from the flushed check, the session of it, but the willy ancesters intent look, the almost angry way of who earned the money by hard knocks tossing the dice or of moving the foresaw how it was to be be, and they "chips." They are gambling. At an- tied up everything in the will. Now, other table are men who are telling there is nothing of that unworthy descendant but his grandfather's name. intoxicated, and between 12 and 1 and roast beef rotundity. And yet iow o'clock they will go staggering, hott- many steamers there are which feel ing, swearing, shouting on their way bonored to lash fast to that v home. That is an only son. On him eaten tug, though it drags that

A third test by which you may hnow ents in this way for their kindness, whether the club to which you belong That is a young married man, who or the club to whose membership you only a few months ago at the altar are invited ,is a legitimate club or an made promises of kindness and fidel- Illegitmate club, is this: What is its ity, every one of which he has brok- effect on your sense of moral and reen. Walk through and see for your- ligious obligation? Now, if I should cent. The other army accepts the self. Here are all the implements of take the names of all the people in any challenge. Twelve men against twelve dissipation and of quick death. As the audience and put them on a roll and men, the sport opens. But something hours of the night go away the conver- then I should lay that roll back of the sation becomes imbecile and more de- organ and 100 years from now some swordsmen got an unlucky clip or in basing. Now it is time to shut up, one should take that roll and call it some way had his ire aroused, and Those who are able to stand will get from A to Z there would not one of that which opened in sportfulness end- out on the pavement and balance them- you answer. I say that any associaed in violence, each one taking his con- selves against the lamppost or against tion that makes me forget that fact is

The influence which some of the clubhouses are exerting is the more to that no more should be asked of them, kindly ask, "My son, what kept you out par. pating clubhouse, with staggering step First of all I want you to test the and blood-shot eye and mud-bespat-

Let me say to fathers who are be coming dissipated, your sons will folknow. He knows all about it. I have eaking her own scepter of conjugal scribe now what occurs in hundreds Dr. R. C. Fisher, 1.321 Michigan Ave., Chicago 111. Col P. A. Huffman, Detroit, Mich. M. G. B. Swift, Attorney-at-Law, Fall River, Mass. sane W. Scott, Deduty Collector, Cedar Rapids, lowa. Wm, F. McKnight, Attorney-at-Law, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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THE SU Y SCHOOL

aternationsi .a for Janaary 18, I-I-Beginn " Jesas' Ministry -Matt 4:17-1 [Arranged from Peioubet s Notes.]

GOLDEN TEX The people which sat in darkness saw great light Matt 4:16 THE SECTION condes the general view f Christ's ministry in Gallice, as given in Matt. 4:12-25, and the parallels, and a glance at Christ's few earlier works there (1) John 2:1-11: (2) John 4:42-54: (3) Luke 4:16-

PARALLELS. -Mark 1:14-20. Luke 4:14. 5. 5:1-11 With vs 23-25 Mark 1:35-39: Luke 4:42-44 TIME .- A D. 28 Spring and summer, a

year and a half after the temptation LESSON COMMENT 1. The First Year of Jesus' Ministry.

-A. D 27 The Judean Ministry The Year of Beginnings Recorded chiefly by John, chaps. 1-4. The chief events were the first Disciples, the first Miracle, the first Reform, the first Discourse, the first Tour, the first Converts in Samaria John the Baptist was still preaching and preparing the way.

Il Opening of the Great Galilean Ministry, which extended from December, A D. 27, to October, A. D. 29-a year and nine months The first part of this is The Second Year of Jesus' Ministry, A. D. 28, which may best be called The Year of Development-the growth from the small beginnings of the first year into a great work, with marked results.

111 A General View of His Galilean Ministry - Vs. 17-25. First. The Field Galilee contained about 2,000 square miles, or about one-third of Palestine proper, with a population of offered for proof to the contrary. It 3,000,000 Josephus says that it included 204 cities and villages, the small- Poison, Scrofula, Eczema, Rheumatism, est of which had 15,000 inhabitants. The Sea of Galilee "was covered with vessels engaged in traffic and fisheries. Second. The Preaching of Jesus .--- V. 17 "From that time:" From His coming into Galilee, after the imprisonment of John. "Jesus began:" Jesus had been teaching for more than a year, but for most part privately and individually; but now began a new era; the preparatory work was completed; John had ceased preaching; Jesus had gained followers enough to enter fully upon His work, and "preach"-i. e., as the Greek word means, proclaim as a herald-His message from God, and announce publicly the coming of the kingdom, as a herald running before the king announces his approach. "Repent:" Change your mind and conduct. "For the kingdom of Heaven:" The new Heavenly community about to be established by a new message from God, a new means of salvation through the life and death of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Is at hand," in the person and teachings of the Son of God. It was the beginning of a new era.

Third. The Calling of Helpers for Work and Training .-- Vs. 18-22. 18. "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee:" On the first morning after His arrival at Capernaum, and probably these busy fishermen did not know of Il is arrival till He spoke to them.

"Simon called Peter," the Rock, "and Andrew his brother:" These had become followers of Christ at the very beginning of His ministry, more than a year before (John 1:35-44.) But after being with Jesus for a time they again returned to their business for support.

Bottled Up!

Whether in the form of pill powder or liquid, the doctor's prescription for blood diseases is always the samemercury or potash. These drugs bottle up the poison and dry it up in the system, but they also dry up the marrow in the bones at the same time.

The suppleness and elasticity of the joints give way to a stiffness, the rackgradually bends, the bones ache, while decrepitude and helplessness prema-turely take possession of the body, and it is but a short step to a pair of crutches. Then comes falling of the hair and decay of the bones,- a condition truly horrible.

1.1

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A fine gold quartz lode in Alaska, which as A fine gold quarks of the Assess, which we says from \$15 to \$500 per ton. The lode show an enormous outerop of free milling ore, -vein at surface heims 12 feet thick; on this property have made 12 locations of 1500 feet by 300 feet, equaling 120 acres. We don't claim that it is the mother lode, but we do know it is without an equal for prospective values.

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19, "And He saith unto them:" The circumstances in which this call was made are related with much greater fulness by Luke (5:1-11.)

"Follow me," not only be a disciple, but spend your time in going around with me, to learn, to help, to be trained for future work. "I will make you fishers of men:" You shall draw men into the kingdom of Heaven, as you have

The business of the Alaska-Klondyke Gold drawn fishes ashore by your skill. 20. "And they straightway:" There was no indecision. They knew well Him who had called them. "Left their nets, and followed Him:" Their nets were the means of their living, and they gave them up and trusted to the precarious living of a poor man.

21. "James:" The Greek form of Jacob. He became the first martyr among the apostles (Acts 12:2), "son of Zebedee" (Jehovah's gift.) "John:" The disciples whom Jesus loved,

22. "They immediately left the ship and their father:" The call of God is above all earthly demands (Matt. 10:37.)

Fourth. His Methods of Work .-- Vs. 23-25. 23. "And Jesus went about all Galilee:" This was His first tour of the country. "Teaching in their syna-gogues:" The Jewish churches of that day, where any distinguished teacher could speak. This was probably interpreting the Scriptures, and was to be distinguished from "preaching," which was heralding, proclaiming "the Gospel of the kingdom" of God, which was at hand. It was the good news of God's fatherly love and care, of His forgiveness of sin, of knowledge of the way of life, of the power of the Holy Spirit, of new light breaking over all the earth. "Healing all manner of sickness:" Severe, dangerous diseases. "Of disease:" Debility, weakness.

25. "And there followed Him great multitudes:" Imagine, if you can, the condition of a country in which there are no doctors, where the healing art is only practiced by a few quacks, who rely more on charms than on physic for their cures.

In such a country as this, with sick and crippled in every village, picture the eager excitement when the news spread that there is a good physician arrived in town; that he has healed a fierce demoniae by a word, and a great fever by a touch.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

We are not to be discouraged at small beginnings. All great things were once small. To all reformers the first year and a half of Christ's ministry is an en-S. L. Hillegman, Tax Agent M. P. R. R. St., couragement.

The kingdom of Heaven is at hand. It lies all around us, as the sunlight around a darkened building, waiting for the blinds to be thrown back and the windows to be opened. It has already begun in the world, and is coming faster and faster.

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