

## HARVEST TIME HERE

### A Sermon of Congratulation for Christian Endeavorers.

Dr. Talmage Finds a Mighty Suggestiveness in His Text—The Growth and Perfection of Christianity.

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Washington, July 7.

Although Dr. Talmage was hindered from attending the great annual meeting of the Christian Endeavor society at Cincinnati, his sermon shows him to be in sympathy with the great movement; text, Amos 9:13: "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper."

Unable because of other important duties to accept the invitation to take part in the great convention of Christian Endeavorers at Cincinnati, begun last week, I preach a sermon of congratulation for all the members of that magnificent association, whether now gathered in vast assemblage or busy in their places of usefulness, transatlantic and cisatlantic, and as it is now harvest time in the fields and sickles are flashing in the gathering of a great crop, I find mighty suggestiveness in my text.

It is a picture of a tropical climate, with a season so prosperous that the harvest reaches clear over to the planting time, and the swarthy husbandman, busy cutting the grain, almost feels the breath of the horses on his shoulders, the horses hitched to the plow, preparing for a new crop. "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper." When is that? That is now. That is this day, when hardly have you done reaping one harvest of religious result than the plowman is getting ready for another.

In phraseology charged with all venom and abuse and caricature I know that infidels and agnostics have declared that Christianity has collapsed; that the Bible is an obsolete book; that the Christian church is on the retreat. I shall answer that wholesale charge to-day.

Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 Endeavorers sworn before high Heaven that they will do all they can to take America for God, Europe for God, Asia and Africa for God—are not the signs most cheering? Or, to return to the agricultural figure of my text, more than a million reapers are overtaken by more than a million plowmen. Besides this, there are more people who believe in the Bible than at any time in the world's existence. An Arab guide was leading a French infidel across the desert, and ever and anon the Arab guide would get down to the sand and pray to the Lord. It disgusted the French infidel, and after a while, as the Arab got up from one of his prayers, the infidel said: "How do you know there is any God?" And the Arab guide said: "How do I know that a man and a camel passed by our tent last night? I know it by the footprint in the sand. And you want to know how I know whether there is any God? Look at the sunset. Is that the footprint of a man?" And by the same process you and I have come to understand that this book is the footprint of God.

But now let us see whether the book is a last year's almanac. Let us see whether the church of God is a Bull Hunt retreat, muskets, canteens and haversacks strewn all the way. The great English historian Sharon Turner, a man of vast learning and great accuracy, not a clergyman, but an attorney as well as a historian, gives this overwhelming statistic in regard to Christianity and in regard to the number of Christians in the different centuries: In the first century 500,000 Christians, in the second century 2,000,000 Christians, in the third century 5,000,000 Christians, in the fourth century 10,000,000 Christians, in the fifth century 15,000,000 Christians, in the sixth century 20,000,000 Christians, in the seventh century 24,000,000 Christians, in the eighth century 30,000,000 Christians, in the ninth century 40,000,000 Christians, in the tenth century 50,000,000 Christians, in the eleventh century 70,000,000 Christians, in the twelfth century 80,000,000 Christians, in the thirteenth century 75,000,000 Christians, in the fourteenth century 80,000,000 Christians, in the fifteenth century 80,000,000 Christians, in the sixteenth century 125,000,000 Christians, in the seventeenth century 155,000,000 Christians, in the eighteenth century 200,000,000 Christians—a decadence, as you observe, in only one century and more have made up in the following centuries, while it is the usual computation that there were at the close of the nineteenth century 470,000,000 Christians, making us to believe that before this century is closed the millennium will have started its boom and lifted its bonanza.

Poor Christianity! What a pity it is no friend! How lonesome it must be! Who will take it out of the poorhouse? Poor Christianity! Four hundred millions in one century. In a few weeks of this year 2,500,000 copies of the New Testament distributed. Why, the earth is like an old castle with 20 gates and a park of artillery ready to thunder down every gate. See how heathendom is being surrounded and conquered and attacked by this all conquering Gospel. At the beginning of the nineteenth century 150 missionaries; at the close of that century 84,000 missionaries and native helpers and evangelists. At the beginning of the nineteenth century there were only 20,000 converts. Now there are over 2,000,000 converts from heathendom.

You all know that an important work in an army is to plant the batteries. It takes many days to plant the batteries, and they may do all the work in

ten minutes. These Gospel batteries are being planted all along the seacoasts and in all nations. It may take a good while to plant them, and they may do all their work in one day. They will. Nations are to be born in a day. But just come back to Christendom and recognize the fact that during the last ten years as many people have connected themselves with evangelical churches as connected themselves with the churches in the first 40 years of last century. So Christianity is falling back, and the Bible, they say, is becoming an obsolete book. I go into a court, and wherever I find a judge's bench or a clerk's desk I find a Bible. Upon what book could there be uttered the solemnity of an oath? What book is apt to be put in the trunk of the young man as he leaves for city life? The Bible. What shall I find in nine out of every ten homes in this city? The Bible. In nine out of every ten homes in Christendom? The Bible. Voltaire wrote the prophecy that the Bible in the nineteenth century would become extinct. That century is gone, and I have to tell you that the room in which Voltaire wrote that prophecy not long ago was crowded from floor to ceiling with Bibles from Switzerland.

Suppose the congress of the United States should pass a law that there should be no more Bibles printed in America and no Bibles read? If there are 60,000,000 grown people in the United States, there would be 60,000,000 people in an army to put down such a law and defend their right to read the Bible. But suppose the congress of the United States should make a law against the reading or the publication of any other book, how many people would go out in such a crusade? Could you get 60,000,000 people to go out and risk their lives in the defense of Shakespeare's tragedies or Gladstone's tracts or Macaulay's "History of England"? You know that there are a thousand men who would die in the defense of this book where there is not more than one man who would die in the defense of any other book. You try to insult my common sense by telling me the Bible is fading out from the world. It is the most popular book of the centuries.

How do I know it? I know it just as I know in regard to other books. How many volumes of that history are published? Well, you say 5,000. How many copies of another book are published? A hundred thousand. Which is the more popular? Why, of course, the one that has the hundred thousand circulation. And if this book has more copies abroad in the world, if there are five times as many Bibles abroad as any other book among civilized nations, does not that show you that the most popular book on earth to-day is the word of God?

"Oh," say people, "the church is a collection of hypocrites, and it is losing its power, and it is fading out from the world." Is it? A bishop of the Methodist church told me that that denomination averages two new churches every day. In other words, they build 730 churches in that denomination in a year, and there are at least 1,500 new Christian churches built in America every year. Does that look as though the Christian church were fading out, as though it were a defunct institution? What stands nearest to the hearts of the American people to-day? I do not care in what village or what city or what neighborhood you go. What is it? Is it the post office? Is it the hotel? Is it the lecturing hall? Ah, you know it is not! You know that that which stands nearest to the hearts of the American people is the Christian church.

The infidels say: "There is great liberty now for infidels; freedom of platform. Infidelity shows its power from the fact that it is everywhere tolerated, and it can say what it will." Why, my friends, infidelity is not half so blatant in our day as it was in the days of our fathers. Do you know that in the days of our fathers there were pronounced infidels in public authority, and they could get any political position? Let a man to-day declare himself antagonistic to the Christian religion, and what city wants him for mayor; what state wants him for governor; what nation wants him for president or for king? Let a man openly proclaim himself the enemy of our glorious Christianity, and he cannot get a majority of votes in any state, in any city, in any county, in any ward of America.

I am mightily encouraged because I find, among other things, that while this Christianity has been bombarded for centuries infidelity has not destroyed one church, or crippled one minister, or uprooted one verse of one chapter of all the Bible. If that has been their magnificent record for the centuries of the past, what may we expect for the future? The church all the time getting the victory, and their shot and shell all gone.

And then I find another most encouraging thought in the fact that the secular printing press and the pulpit seem harnessed in the same team for the proclamation of the Gospel. Every banker in this capital to-morrow, every Wall street banker to-morrow in New York, every State street banker to-morrow in Boston, every Third street banker to-morrow in Philadelphia, every banker in the United States and every merchant will have in his pocket a treatise on Christianity, 10, 20 or 30 passages of Scripture in the reports of sermons preached throughout the land to-day. It will be so in Chicago, so in New Orleans, so in Charleston, so in Boston, so in Philadelphia, so in Cincinnati, so everywhere. I know the tract societies are doing a grand and glorious work, but I tell you there is no power on earth to-day equal to the fact that the American printing press is taking up the sermons which are preached to a few hundred or a few thousand people, and on Monday

morning and Monday evening scattering that truth to the millions. What an encouragement to every Christian man!

Then you have noticed a more significant fact if you have talked with people on the subject, that they are getting disgusted with worldly philosophy as a matter of comfort. They say it does not amount to anything when you have a dead child in the house. They tell you when they were sick and the door of the future seemed opening the only comfort they could find was the Gospel. People are having demonstrated all over the land that science and philosophy cannot solace the troubles and woes of the world, and they want some other religion, and they are taking Christianity, the only sympathetic religion that ever came into the world. You just take a scientific consolation into that room where a mother has lost her child. Try in that case your splendid doctrine of the "survival of the fittest." Tell her that child died because it was not worth as much as the other children. That is your "survival of the fittest." Just try your transcendentalism, your philosophy, your science, on that widowed soul, and tell her that is a geological necessity that her companion should be taken away from her, just as in the course of the world's history the megatherium and the ichthyosaurus had to pass out of existence, and then you go on in your scientific consolation until you get to the sublime fact that 30,000,000 years from now we ourselves may be scientific specimens on the geologic shelf, petrified specimens of an extinct human race. And after you have got all through with your consolation, if the poor afflicted soul is not crazed by it, we will send forth from any of our churches the plainest Christian we have, and with one-half hour of prayer and reading of Scripture promises the tears will be wiped away, and the house from floor to ceiling will be flooded with the calmness of an Indian summer sunset. There is where I see the triumph of Christianity. People are dissatisfied with everything else. They want God. They want Jesus Christ.

The fact is that infidelity and agnosticism are founded on ignorance geological, ignorance chemical, ignorance astronomical, ignorance geographical. We have heard what the enemies of Christianity have had to testify. Now I put before you the testimony of the church on earth and the church in Heaven. Not fifty, not a thousand, not a million, but all of the church on earth and all of the redeemed in Heaven. Will you take the evidence of those who have witnessed as well as felt the power of religion, or will you prefer the testimony of those who begin by declaring that they have never witnessed or felt its power? You tell me that on a certain 4th of March, 30 years ago, a president of the United States was inaugurated. How do I know it? You tell me there were 30,000 persons who distinctly heard his inaugural address. I deny both. I deny that he was inaugurated. I deny that his inaugural address was delivered. You ask why? I did not see it. I did not hear it. But you say there were 20,000 people who did see and hear him. Is not the testimony of the 20,000 who were present worth more than the testimony of one who was absent? Now, there are some men who say they have never seen Christ crowned in the heart, and they do not believe it is ever done. There is a group of men who say they have never heard the voice of Christ, that they have never heard the voice of God. They do not believe that anything like it ever occurred. I point to twenty, a hundred thousand or a million people who say: "Christ was crowned in our hearts' affections, we have seen Him and felt Him in our soul, and we have heard His voice; we have heard it in the storm and darkness; we have heard it again and again." Whose testimony will you take? These men who say they have not heard the voice of Christ, have not seen the coronation, or will you believe the thousands and tens of thousands of Christians who testify of what they saw with their own eyes and heard with their own ears?

Young man, do not be ashamed to be a friend of the Bible. Do not put your thumb in your vest, as young men sometimes do, and swagger about talking of the glorious light of nature and of there being no need of the Bible. They have the light of nature in India and China and in all the dark places of the earth. Did you ever hear that the light of nature gave them comfort for their trouble? They have lancets to cut and juggernauts to crush, but no comfort. Ah, my friends, you had better stop your skepticism. Suppose you are put in a crisis like that of Col. Ethan Allen. I saw the account and at one time mentioned it is an address. A descendant of Ethan Allen, who is an infidel, said it never occurred. Soon after I received a letter from a professor in one of our colleges, who is also a descendant of Ethan Allen and is a Christian. He wrote me that the incident is accurate; that my statement was authentic and true. The wife of Ethan Allen was a very consecrated woman. The mother instructed the daughter in the truths of Christianity. The daughter sickened and was about to die, and she said to her father: "Father, shall I take your instruction or shall I take mother's instruction? I am going to die now; I must have the matter decided." That man, who had been loud in his infidelity, said to his dying daughter: "My dear, you had better take your mother's religion." My advice is the same to you, O young man! You know religion comforted her. You know what she said to you when she was dying. You had better take your mother's religion.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for July 28, 1901—God Calls Abraham.

[Prepared by H. C. Longfellow.]  
THE LESSON TEXT.  
(Genesis 12:1-8.)

1. Now the Lord had said unto Abram, let thee out of thy country, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee.  
2. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.  
3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.  
4. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him; and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.  
5. And Abram took Sarai, his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.  
6. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh, and the Canaanite was then in the land.  
7. And the Lord appeared unto Abram and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land; and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.  
8. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east; and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.  
9. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.—Gen. 12:2.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Two stories come up for consideration in connection with this lesson, and they are embraced in the eleventh and twelfth chapters of Genesis. Read the whole of both chapters. The two stories are:

The Confusion of Tongues..... Genesis 11  
The Call of Abraham..... Genesis 12

The Confusion of Tongues. —The flood, according to Cresser's biblical chronology occurred in the year 2348 B. C. The population at this time again began to increase through the families of Noah's three sons, and as the population increased a new civilization was gradually taking the place of the old. Before the flood there was anarchy, after the flood began the reign of law. Not law as we understand it to-day. Patriarchal government came into being, that is the head of each family or group of families began to exercise control over and command the obedience of his progeny and servants in all the affairs that pertained to social life. He became the judge in case of disputes, and exercised generally the functions of ruler and of judge. For 100 years these people spoke one language. But they became too numerous to live longer in one community, so they separated, some going to the east, some to the west, others to the north, and many to the south. The immediate cause of this great migration lay in a great project which was on foot near the present site of Babylon. The people had begun to fear another flood. A tower that would reach to Heaven seemed a plausible way of preventing any wholesale destruction of life. They had begun to forget the promise of God. So God Himself took a part in the work, and about that same time it happened that the discovery was made that they could no longer understand what one said to another. Of course it was impossible to go on with the great undertaking when general intercommunication was denied them, so gradually the work was dropped and the people separated. It is said that to-day there are over 3,000 languages spoken, and that all are traceable back to less than 300 leading languages. The confusion of tongues has always been going on and will continue to go on as long as people will continue to work at cross-purposes with the plans of God. Contrast the day of Pentecost with the day of confusion of tongues. On the day of Pentecost the disciples of Jesus became brothers with all the world, and were understood by each hearer in his own tongue.

The Call of Abraham.—Genesis 12:1-9 details the account of the call of Abraham. This may be said to be the first great call recorded in the Bible. It reminds us of the call of Moses a little later, of the call of Samuel, of the call of David, of Jeremiah and Isaiah, of Matthew and Saul (Paul). Every man receives a Divine call, but these referred to have been especially notable in that they were of national or international import. The call of Abraham meant the beginning of a nation, and, through this nation in the person of Jesus Christ, the salvation of the world. Abraham was a religious man, a man of God. His heart was so nearly right that God could say: "I will bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." He was a man so pure in heart that the Lord appeared unto him (Gen. 12:7). Ur was the holy city of the Chaldeans. It was an idolatrous city, worshipping many gods. If the truth were to be perpetuated among men, the men who saw the truth would have to give it a better environment into which to grow. Abraham was a worshiper of the true God, he heard the call to leave the city of idolatry. Because of his ready compliance it was made possible that in him should all families of the earth be blessed.

### Wheat and Chaff.

Christ completes the commandments. The picture of Christ is developed in the dark room of prayer.

Your feelings in the meeting may be injurious if they do not become facts in the market.

They who do not bring the Kingdom to earth will not be brought into the Kingdom in Heaven.

When we ask for deliverance from suffering God often answers best by giving deliverance through suffering.—Ram's Horn.

## GOOD AND BAD MILKERS.

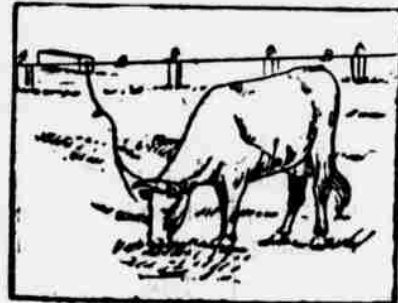
Why Dairymen Should Make Occasional Tests of the Milk from All Their Cows.

At a milking trial held in connection with one of the recent summer shows in England the cow which was awarded the first prize produced over six gallons of milk in the day, and her milk was so rich in quality that it produced over four pounds of butter. At the same show there were on exhibition other cows of the same breed and practically the same size and weight which produced only two to three gallons of milk and barely one pound of butter. It would be a mistake to suppose that the feeding of one of the last-named would cost as much as the six-gallon cow, because, as a rule, the better milker a cow is the more food will she consume. It is only natural that a cow yielding six gallons of milk should require a much more liberal food ration than one producing less than half that quantity. The difference in the cost of feeding the cows in question would not, however, be anything like so marked as their relative milk yields would suggest. In practice it is found that cows producing only 1½ gallons to two gallons—that is, six to eight quarts—per day cost as much to keep as those yielding double that quantity. It is only when calculations of this kind are gone into that the difference between good and bad milkers can be properly estimated. At least occasional tests should be made of the milk which all the cows in the herd are producing, and a similar test should be made of the food which they are consuming, and if it is found, as it is to be feared will be only too frequently the case, that the animals are not giving a sufficient return for the cost of the food which they are disposing of, they should be got rid of at the first opportunity and their places filled by others capable of giving a better return for the food.—Farmers' Gazette.

## GOOD PASTURE FENCE.

Its Inventor, a North Dakota Man, Has Used One for Three Years with Satisfaction.

A cheap fence for cows and calves at pasture can be made as sketched. Take two-foot posts (a a s), sharpen, drive in the ground a rod apart, leaving eight inches above ground. Fasten a



EXCELLENT PASTURE FENCE.

smooth wire (b b) on top of posts with staple (c c c). A cow is tied to a rope about 15 feet long. Fasten a block six by six inches 6/8 or three feet long to rope. Attach rope in center (d) of end of stick with staple. I have used this sort of a fence with satisfaction three years. I used four-foot cordwood sawed in half for posts. The longer the rope used the further the cow can graze.—J. Peterson, in Farm and Home.

## WATER AFFECTS MILK.

Therefore the Farmer Who Lets His Cows Drink from a Stagnant Pool Commits a Crime.

We hear some things that we find hard to believe in the way of the treatment of dairy cows. One of these things is that there are here and there pastures in which the only watering place is a stagnant pond full of insects and slimy grasses. It is a wonder that cows can drink such stuff and still remain healthy, but it is certain that they take chances on acquiring some one of the water-borne diseases common to stock. No human being should be asked to drink milk made out of such water, even after it has been strained through the cow. It is claimed that other owners are known to water their cows out of rain water barrels. Well, that is only a slight improvement over the stagnant pond method. The water in the rain water barrel soon takes on a smell that is disagreeable to man and beast. Why can't our cows have at least pure water to drink? Water, pure and sparkling, enters very largely into the life of every being. Let us be sure that the milk we drink is made from water and food absolutely pure.—Farmers' Review.

## Neufchatel Cheese Making.

Neufchatel is a soft, white, and, as generally eaten, entirely uncurd cheese, resembling in name only the celebrated Neufchatel cheese of Switzerland. Very briefly and exactly we may define it as unskimmed milk, coagulated with rennet, allowed to stand until sour, the surplus whey removed by drainage and pressure, after which the resulting curd is salted to taste and molded into the familiar little cylinders of the stores. This is an outline of the process, but the questions of ripeness of milk, amount of rennet, length of time it stands before draining and the pressure to be applied are not easily explained on paper, and they constitute the art of Neufchatel making.

The humblebee, with his fuzzy legs and body, is the best carrying medium for the distribution of pollen from blossom to blossom. Without this insect the clover field would be seedless.

The blackbird is a great enemy to the insect pests of the garden and orchard.

Gambling appears to be rapidly approaching a degree of respectability—Judicial Recognition. A court consideration of gambling. As heretofore noted, the United States supreme court holds that a stock deal cannot be repudiated on the ground that it is a gambling transaction. This would seem to cover "bucket shop" deals as well as those of the stock exchange proper. And now we get from the United States court at Indianapolis another illustration, observes the Detroit Free Press. A gambler opened a "jack pot" with a counterfeit dollar, and was hauled before the court for passing counterfeit money. The verdict rendered is that it is no violation of law to use a counterfeit coin in opening a "jack pot" in a poker game. This would indicate recognition of the game, by consideration of the rights and wrongs in playing it, while it also suggests that it is safe to have counterfeit money in one's possession while sitting in a poker game, if not elsewhere. The prosecution was not for gambling, mind you, simply for using counterfeit coin in an attempt to fleece possible losers. Strange how hairs can be split.

"As a rule, it is only 'thorough-going worldlings' who can be termed 'smart.'"

The Only "Smart" That Relieves or Piques.

People. "Smart" people can be so called," ordinarily observes a worldly contemporary. "To be 'really smart' means perfection in dress and general effect, and artistic taste in all places and at all times, whether it be in the world of sport or in public places of amusement, and in society generally. It also entails a great deal of thought as to how all things whatsoever can be done in the best possible style. Smart people look nice from the moment they rise in the morning to the last thing at night—and never give themselves away over the smallest detail of appearance or conversation. When they entertain it is always 'done perfectly,' with plenty of go and life, whether it be a dance, dinner or garden fete; of course, to act up to this standard of 'smartness' would mean a large income—a mastery of the art of wit and 'tact' at all times and in all places." This view will hardly receive sufficient substantiation to make it authoritative.

The young man in demand everywhere, to-day, is the one who can create something, the man of productive power. There are many who can do routine work, follow prescribed lines, carry out in detail a programme mapped out by others; but the man of original force, of constructive energy, who can start out in untrodden paths and blaze the way for others, is as rare as he is valuable, says Success. There is always a premium on the thinker, the man of original ideas and methods and real productive force. Insurance companies are scouring the country for such men; merchants are in need of them, great combinations are looking for them as leaders; they are wanted in law, in the business world, in the field of science, in all walks of life.

A Brown county, Kansas, girl loved a young man some and his driving horse more. She was engaged to him, but when he sold the horse she stoutly declared that he would have to get the animal back or hunt another wife. The young man offered the purchaser of the horse a bonus of \$50 to trade back, but the latter refused, and the young man, in extreme distress, told the story of his love and his plight. The purchaser melted and gave up the horse and the announcement of a marriage is soon to be published in Brown county.

It is said that Niagara Falls looks like a veritable midway. There are fakirs and side shows of every kind and description, from the bearded lady to the three-horned cow, that have attracted the small boy and his elders, too, for that matter, for many years in the circus side shows. The Buffalo exposition is, of course, the cause of all this additional effort at amusement, as it is calculated that fully nine-tenths of the people that visit the exposition during the summer will journey to Niagara.

The Daughters of Ceres is a society in Iowa composed of women who live on farms, but who have the prevailing "jining" instinct. Some of the wives and daughters of the farmers are said to drive over 12 miles to attend the meetings, which are held semi-monthly. A system of traveling libraries among the various branches has been founded, and debates on social and economic questions, with their special relation to a rural population, are frequently held.

A musician in New York asserts that not only animals but plants have a passion for sweet music, and a Bostonian musician avers that when he plays harmonies his sensitive plant "stretches abroad, drinking in the music like sunshine." If, on the other hand, he strikes a discord, the plant trembles and closes.

The people of the United States are the best fed people of the world and consume more per head per year than the inhabitants of any other country of the world.