

# GIANTS BY EMINENT DIVINES. GOSPEL MESSAGES.

"Giants" is the subject of the Twelfth of the New York Herald's Competitive Sermons—Dr. Talmage Preaches on the Style of the Christian Character. Text: "There were giants in those days."—Genesis, vi., 4.

This text represents the wail of the mortal man who refuses to enter into the activities of life. He finds no life in the world of yesterday, and by comparing them with his own nothingness, calls them giants. Unwilling to follow his rightful leaders, he pines for the mighty men of the past.

If the wall were only the expression of disatisfied donothings in the world it would be of little account; but the regarding the ancient giants has connected with it an inference that no giants exist to-day, because there is no opportunity for giant life. This pseudo reverence for the great men of the past carries with it the poisonous pessimism that says, "There can be no giants now." It is discouragement boiled down and sugar-coated with a pious worship of ancient worthies.

"Caesar, Napoleon and Wellington were great generals, but there never will be any more." "There will never be another Burke, Pitt and Webster." "No more preachers like Wesley, Whitfield, Edwards, and those statesmen as Madison and Jefferson." "There is no chance for such men to-day, and no demand for them."

This is a fair specimen of the idle talk of men who pretend to appreciate the greatness of the fathers, and with this pious plaint unnerve the ambition of youth. Were this simply the silly talk of imbecility no protest from the spirit would be in place, but in behalf of discouraged youth I purpose to enter an unequalled denial of the spirit of all this word. Did it not seem like impious rejection of sacred writ, I would affirm that there were no giants in those days. The men of yesterday were not so great as the men of to-day.

Physically men are better than ever before. The average men of to-day is too large to wear the armor discarded by giant warriors of a few centuries back. The collegian of to-day surpasses the ancient Olympian. Cleo and Demosthenes were giants in oratory by comparison. Orators were few at that time, but these were easily noted. There are better preachers to-day than Wesley. Edwards is far surpassed in truthful presentation of the word by modern preachers. Blaine, Blaine and Gladstone overshadow ancient men in Statecraft. Macaulay tells us that men usually put the golden age of England at a time "when noblemen were destitute of corn, and the people would cause riot in a modern workhouse."

Men are constantly placing the age of mental and spiritual greatness in times when men were conspicuous not so much for their own individual merit, but because of the lack of ordinary merit among their fellows. In a very true sense we may say that in the light of the nineteenth century men there were no giants in those days. There is a proper egoism in the man of to-day, and imperiously declares that no such men lived in the past as our generation has produced.

Turning from this, we may bow with deference to the coming man. The youth of to-day may rise above the best of their fathers. There was never a greater call for giants than now; not a giant here and there, but a race of giants, a college of giants, a crowd of little men and a seeking for giants. Professors, like sky-scrapers, have vacant rooms on the top floors.

Railroads are anxious for first class men; editorial offices will give handsome salaries to skillful writers; pulpits seek commanding preachers; corporations seek in vain for properly qualified counsel; the nation calls for better men; the colleges seek for better teachers, the merchants for better salesmen, the manufacturers for better artisans. "Top floors for rent" is hung out at every corner, inviting boys who are willing and able to climb the old-fashioned stairs. There is no elevator for carrying idle seekers to the top of business and professional life. Men who work at the head of a profession or business must have strength, and that strength best comes by toiling up to the high places.

Giants are not born, they are made. Inherited adaptability will have some bearing, but earned qualities win away the crown. Common sense, common sense, common honesty are the first requisites. The genius of hard work, frugality of time and power, controlled by an indomitable will, will, must enter into the making of a great man. Time, money and nerve power dissipated by young men, not in true recreation and relaxation, but in idle loitering, would, if truly directed, make many great men.

Nor will we forget that "Godliness is profitable." The giants spoken of in Genesis were gradations of God; the giants of to-day are realizations of God. The strong men are they that are strong in the Lord. Jesus is the giant of the age, and the nearer related to Jesus the more gigantic is man. Christian qualities are realizable assets. The Christ rules to-day more than all earthly potentates. Men who scoff at religion desire Christlike qualities in their employes.

Faith, hope and charity are fit emblems for the market, for the making of a great man. There are Calvaries along the road to greatness; men must bear crosses if they would rise. "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." It is more than good; it is essential; and the Christ yoke is the typical emblem by which men may work themselves, by the grace of God to be present day giants.

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## KIND OF PEOPLE NEEDED.

Dr. Talmage Describes the Style of Christian Character Required to-day. Text: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"—Esterh IV., 14.

Esterh the beautiful was the wife of Haman the abominable. One day she had come for her to present a petition to her infamous husband in behalf of the Jewish nation, to which she had once belonged. She was afraid to undertake the work, lest she should lose her own; but her cousin, Mordecai, who had brought her up, encouraged her with the suggestion that probably she had been raised up of God for that peculiar mission. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esterh had her God-appointed work. You and I have ours. It is my business to tell you what style of men and women you ought to be in order that you meet the demand of the age in which God has cast your lot. So this discourse will not deal with the technicalities, but only with the practicalities. What we want is practical, earnest, concentrated, enthusiastic and triumphant help.

In the first place, in order to meet the special demand of this age, you need to be an unmistakable, aggressive Christian. Of half-and-half Christians we do not want any more. The Church of Jesus Christ will be better without them. They are the chief obstacle to the Church's advancement. I am speaking of another kind of Christian. All the appliances for your becoming an earnest Christian are at your hand, and there is a straight path for you into the broad day light of God's forgiveness. You may this moment be the bondsmen of the world, and the next moment you may be princes of the Lord God Almighty. Do you need to be aggressive Christians,

and not like those persons who spend their lives in hugging their Christian graces and wondering why they do not make progress. How much robustness of health would a man have if he hid himself in a dark closet? A great deal of the piety of to-day is too exclusive. It hides itself. It needs more fresh air, more outdoor exercise. There are many Christians who are giving their entire life to self-examination.

This style of self-examination is a damage instead of an advantage to their Christian character. I remember when I was a boy I used to have a small plot in the garden that I called my own, and I planted corn there, and every few days I would pull it up to see how fast it was growing. Now, there are a great many Christian people in this day who use self-examination merely amounts to the pulling up of that which they only yesterday or the day before planted. Oh, my friends, if you want to have a stalwart Christian character, plant it right out of doors in the great field of Christian usefulness, and though the storms may come upon it, and though the hot sun of trial may try to consume it, it will flourish, and it becomes a great tree in which the fowls of heaven may have their habitation. I have no patience with these flower-pot Christians. They keep themselves under shelter, and all their Christian experience is in a small, exclusive circle, when they ought to plant it in the great garden of the Lord, so that the whole atmosphere could be aromatic with their Christian usefulness. What we want in the Church of God is more strength of piety.

Again, if you want to be qualified to meet the duties which this age demands of you, you must, on the one hand, avoid reckless extravagance, and on the other hand, not stick too much to things because they are old. The air is full of new plans, new projects, new theories of government, new philosophies, and I am amazed to see how many Christians want only novelty in order to recommend a thing to their confidence; and so they vacillate and swing to and fro, and they are useless and they are unhappy. New plans in secular, ethical, philosophical, religious, cis-Atlantic, trans-Atlantic—long enough to make a line reaching from the German universities to Great Salt Lake City. Ah, my brother, do not take hold of things merely because they are new. Try it by the realities of the Judgment Day. But on the other hand; do not adhere to anything merely because it is old. There is not a single enterprise of the church of the world but has something been scoffed at. There was a time when men derided even Bible societies, and when a few young men met in Massachusetts and organized the first mission society ever organized in this country there was laughter and ridicule all around the Christian Church.

All the great enterprises in and out of the Church have at times been scoffed at. Oh, that we might exert a great influence who have thought that the chariot of God's truth would fall to pieces if it once got out of the old rut. And so there are those who have no patience with anything like improvement in church architecture, or with anything like good, hearty, earnest church singing, and they deride any form of religious discussion which goes down walking among everyday men, rather than that of the great masses. There are five thousand people in Edinburgh who never hear the gospel. There are one million people in London who never hear the gospel. My friends, there is work for you to do and for me to do in order to this grand accomplishment. I have a pulpit. I preach in it. Your pulpit is the bank. Your pulpit is the gate. Every pulpit is the editorial chair. Your pulpit is the anvil. Your pulpit is the house scaffolding. Your pulpit is the mechanics' shop. I may stand in my place and, through cowardice or through sloth, in many keep back the word that ought to utter while you, with sleeve rolled up and brow besweated with toil, may utter the word that will jar the foundations of heaven with the shout of a great victory. Oh, that we might all feel that the Lord is putting upon us the hands of ordination! I tell you, every one, go forth and preach this Gospel. You have much right to preach as I have or any man living.

I remark again that in order to be qualified to meet your duty in this particular age you want unbounded faith in the triumph of truth, and the overthrow of wickedness. How dare the Christian Church ever get discouraged? Have we not the Lord Almighty on our side? How long did it take God to slay the hosts of Sennacherib or burn Sodom or shake down Jericho? How long did it take God, when he once arises in his strength, to overthrow all the forces of iniquity? Between this time and that there will be long seasons of darkness, and the chariot wheels of God's Gospel may seem to drag heavily; but here is the promise and yonder is the throne, and when omniscience has lost its eyesight and omnipotence falls back impotent, and Jehovah is driven from his throne, then the Church of Jesus Christ can afford to be despondent, but never until then. Despotism may plan and armies may march, but the Congress of the nations may seem to think they are adjusting all the affairs of the world, but the mighty men of the earth are only the dust of the chariot wheels of God's providence. And I think before the sun of the next century shall set the last tyranny will fall, and with a splendor of demonstration that shall be the astonishment of the universe God will set forth the brightness and pomp and glory and perpetuity of His eternal government. Out of the starry flags and the embossed insignia of this world God will make a path for His own triumph, and returning from universal conquest He will sit down, the grandest, highest throne of earth His footstool.

I prepare this sermon because I want to encourage all Christian workers in every possible department. Hosts of the living God, march on! march on! His Spirit will bless you. His shield will defend you. His sword will strike for you. March on! march on! The despots will fall and the tyrants will burn their idols, and Mahometanism will give up its false prophet, and the great walls of superstition will come down in thunder and wreck at the long, loud blast of the Gospel trumpet. March on! march on! The besiegement of the world will be ended. Only a few more steps on the long way; only a few more sturdy blows; only a few more battle cries, then God will put the laurels upon your brow, and from the living fountains of heaven will bathe off the sweat and the heat and the dust of the conflict. March on! march on! For you the time for work will soon be passed, and amid the outpourings of the judgment throne and the trumpeting of resurrection angels and the upheaving of a world of graves, and the hosannas and the groanings of the saved and the wailing of the damned, you will be crowned and rewarded for our faithfulness or punished for our stupidity. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and amen.

THE SOUTH'S IRON INDUSTRY.  
Faith in It Leads to a Large Investment by Englishmen.

An English syndicate, whose agents first visited the Birmingham (Ala.) district last spring, and made a careful inspection of its coal and iron resources, has, it is said, practically completed arrangements for the erection there of a million dollar steel plant. The syndicate, it is said, is convinced that America is to be the future seat of the iron and steel industry of the world, and that Alabama offers the best opportunities for cheap steel production.

It is known that extensive options on mineral lands near there have been secured by the foreigners, and that negotiations for the building of the steel plant have been practically concluded.



Guipure Lace.  
Heavy guipure lace is a feature of trimming on many of the new gowns, where it covers the square neck, so fashionably with the new blouse waist, yokes, revers, epaulettes and collars, with good effect.

New Idea in Waterproofs.  
A novelty seen in the shops in the way of a waterproof cloak is simply a skirt and cape of fine waterproof material. The skirt slips on easily and buttons with an adjustable strap around the waist. The light cape clasps at the throat, and one is ready to battle the elements. Women who have tried to put on over an outdoor suit the awkward cloak with cape attachment of the usual rain proof garment will appreciate the possibilities offered in this new arrangement.

The Czarina's Car.  
The czarina of Russia travels in the same luxury in which she lives in her palace. She has a private car most richly and elegantly furnished. It is upholstered entirely in pale blue satin, and the electric lamps are all in the shape of lilies. Among its perfect appointments are a tea table and a writing desk of mother of pearl. In separate apartments are nursery, dining-room, drawing room and several sleeping rooms. The car wheels have India rubber tires.

Novel Ideas in Braiding.  
Satin ribbon braiding is new and pretty, and when well done has quite a professional air. The ribbon should be narrow and usually black, of good quality. In turning a corner or making a circular figure the inside edge should be gathered in very fine stitches, which are drawn tightly and holds the figure in shape. The rage for braid has extended its use, and the old time braided pillow shams and counterpanes are said to be the coming style in bedroom furnishings. —Woman's Home Companion.

New Skirt for Wheelwomen.  
A new skirt for wheelwomen is described as follows: In each side a division is made, running down from the waistband to the bottom of the skirt, thus forming an apron in the front and back. At the waistband is attached a strap hanging down loosely any suitable distance over each of the divisions. The two edges of each division are then buttoned one over the other; and the two straps having holes worked down them are also buttoned over the division. By missing one or more buttons when fastening, the straps are consequently made to lift and hold the skirt to any length required for the safety of the rider. By undoing the straps the skirt falls again into position. —New York Tribune.

Fashion Notes.  
The fleur-de-lis still holds its own as a design for brooches and chate-laine pins.  
Chate-laines are more popular than ever. Those made of oxidized silver take the lead.  
Artificial flowers without foliage are used in great profusion to decorate evening gowns.  
White ostrich feathers and pheasant's quills are distinctive features of the winter millinery.  
Hatspins are shown in great variety, real and imitation gems being the principal decorations.  
A jeweled pin, similar to a safety pin in shape, is worn to fasten up the curling locks at the nape of the neck.  
Blouse waists of velvet are studded all over with jet, steel and silver spangles, or brilliants which have the effect of diamonds.  
Silver and decorated china bon-bon dishes are shown in many novel designs and shapes. These may be had in sets of graduated sizes.  
Black satin, finely tucked, makes very pretty belts to wear with separate waists. Fasten them with a fancy buckle or a knot of satin.  
Bangles and bracelets are again in high favor. There are coin bangles and bangles of gold and silver decorated with pretty colored enamels.  
A pendant which combines the old with the new styles of jewel work shows blue, green and red enamel gleaming amid diamonds and rubies.  
Jewelry in Oriental designs and effects is especially popular this season. The rich eastern appearance is obtained by a free use of topazes, spinels, peridots and chrysolites.  
Sleeves seem to have settled down to their limit in size, for the season at least, and the comfortable fullness at the top still remains; but the skirt is gradually diminishing in width, two and a half yards around being the size of the latest model.  
A decidedly new bracelet is set loosely in links alternating with pearls, cabochon rubies and diamonds, set clearly in gold rims, so that the back and front of the stones are alike visible. This beautiful wristlet is fastened with a bow of diamonds, from which hangs a pendant of pearls.  
Crepes de chine in all the lovely tints is one of the season's leading materials for evening and house dresses. A pretty costume is in a bright shade of pomegranate, toned down by panels of black plaited chiffon, two on either side of the skirt, over black, and one at the left side of the bodice where it opens, and is fastened with silk cord and small diamond buttons. Both the skirt and bodice are accented plaited, and the belt and collar band are of black satin.

themselves anxious to help along the cause of humanity can do it no more easily or effectively than in this way. It is a gracious mission and one in which the only sacrifice involved is of a very little personal vanity."

Gloves in the Present and Past.  
It would be a rare thing to find a person who would not be pleased with a present of gloves. One cannot have too many of these useful articles. Even those wearing mourning, and therefore unable to make any great change in the matter of hand coverings, can find several different styles of kids or cloth to choose from, and suede, stitched, elaborately or slightly, glaze leathers, both heavy and fine, are made up into gloves for all sorts and conditions of people.  
The wearing of gloves is a more ancient custom than it is generally thought to be. Homer speaks of gloves, and tells of one who wore them to protect his hands while working in his garden. The use of some covering for the hands was known to the ancient Persians, and Old Testament writers also mention them. They were in such common use among the Romans that they were worn even in the wild country by the Britons. Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was, it has been said, a knitter, and manufactured gloves, for which reason the glove-makers of France long ago made her their patron saint. At one time gloves had a certain meaning attached to them, and chosen to show the character or occupation of the wearer. There are records of gloves being ordered for "grave and spiritual men." About this time, the sixteenth century, gloves made of chicken skin were used by both men and women for whitening the hands, and were worn at night. In this connection one is reminded that for bleaching the hands and for preventing or curing them of the roughness so difficult to avoid in winter, nothing is better than the free use of mutton tallow, and a pair of white kid gloves, worn while sleeping. The gloves serve to keep the hands warm enough to induce perspiration, and the opening of the pores enables the tallow to do its work easily. So even in so small a matter as this, history is only repeating itself, when the nineteenth century girl goes to bed with her hands encased in gloves. —New York Tribune.

# THE FARM GARDEN



Double Walls for Warmth.  
In building for warmth it should never be forgotten that light double walls, enclosing a dead air space, are much better than a solid wall of any material. These are equally useful to keep out cold in winter and the excessive heats of summer. Air is one of the poorest conductors known, and when it is confined so that no current affects it, there is greater uniformity of temperature than can be secured by any other method.

Full Colonies Are Best.  
It is always best to start with a full colony of bees, and one that is in every way in first class condition. It is true that you can buy a part of a colony for less money, but it is the dearest in the long run, and more liable to be a failure with you. A full colony of bees in one season are capable of storing 100 or 200 pounds of honey, besides they may swarm and make from one to three colonies; and more, a full colony of bees are in a condition to take care of themselves, and do not require such difficult manipulation as that of a nucleus, or pounds of bees, and a queen, etc. Full colonies are always sent in the ordinary hive used in the apiary, and are equipped with the necessary fixtures to have everything in working order the moment the bees are located, and the entrance opened. —The Epitomist.

Garden and Truck Farming.  
There are several things to contend with in gardening and truck farming to make it a success:  
1st. You must find a place where there is a demand for your product; where there are factories, mines or some similar concerns, employing many people who have little time or room to raise a garden.  
2d. You must have good land and keep it good by frequent applications of the best fertilizers for the crop you expect to raise.  
3d. Ascertain what vegetables your customers want and supply them with the best of each variety. Keep posted on store prices and don't undersell them, thereby commanding the respect of your merchants. Thus you will get much better prices than if you sold at the store.  
4th. Have regular days for making your rounds and make them, rain or shine. Then your customers will wait for your coming instead of buying elsewhere. Sell for cash.  
5th. Be polite, dress neatly, have your wares arranged to look attractive and keep your rig in good repair.  
6th. Be honest and industrious, give good measure, and success awaits you. —Charles L. Berry in the Epitomist.

Poultry Notes.  
If half the hens lay during the winter (50 per cent. of the flock) it is good enough.  
If the hens lay fairly well during January and February, it shows that they get proper care.  
In fact, meat should be fed every day in the year, only more should be given in winter than in summer.  
Keep the bone mill going if you have one. If not, then feed plenty of ground meat and bone, put up for that purpose.  
Feed the mash every morning also. So many different grains, etc., can be thus easily mixed and fed, and acts as a change and invigorator.  
Do not overfeed. Give plenty of good, sound food, but in such a manner so the fowls will have to work to get it. Never feed rye to laying hens.  
Meat in some form is the foundation of winter egg-laying. Use one quart of prepared meat to every six quarts of the soft mash, seven mornings every week.  
Do not neglect to season the mash with salt. We use about a good teaspoonful of salt to a pail of mash. All these little things count in the course of the year.  
Wheat is the best standby for a regular diet, yet if possible change to other grains. If very cold feed corn at night. Cracked corn (sieve out the meal) is the best, for it works down in the litter better.  
Never confine fowls to the same kind of food every day in the year. Make a change as often as possible. Small potatoes or any vegetable can be boiled, mashed and thickened with bran and fed warm will do nicely for a change.  
Clean, warm water mornings, during cold weather, acts as a tonic on the fowls. It warms them up and gets them to work sooner than a drink of ice-cold water. The water can be boiling hot when taken from the stove. It don't take it long to cool at this season of the year.  
Fresh eggs and fresh-killed poultry will always bring a good price. If the quality (of egg) is regular—no new nest ones—the price will be way above market quotations. This is where the farmer has the advantage. Make your own market in the nearest town. People will pay high prices for strictly fresh eggs or fresh-killed poultry. —Agricultural Epitomist.

Growing Cabbage.  
Unless you intend to grow cabbage for early summer use, which is expensive and often unprofitable, it will not be best to sow the seed until March or April. Before that time make a hotbed, but without manure, for the young cabbage is quite as likely to "damp off" from too much heat as to be injured by cold. Make a bed of as rich soil as you can procure and cover this with straw or leaves to prevent it freezing. Then when the sun passes the March solstice rake off the straw or leaves used as protection, and sow the cabbage seed rather thinly in rows six inches apart, and cover with a glass sash large enough to cover the bed and banking on three sides. The fourth side should merely fit against a board, so that it can be lifted to give air and ventilation. In ten days the cabbage will be up, and then the sash should be raised every day so long as the sun is shining and the air is above the freezing point. If you have some nitrate of soda to put in the drills with the cabbage seed it will make stronger plants. So soon as the plants are three inches high they should be transplanted into larger beds, which must be previously prepared for this purpose. Every time the cabbage is transplanted shorten its leaves so as to keep it from wilting. This will make a stocky plant, with plenty of roots. Such plants in fairly rich soil will be sure to head. The plants that are grown in masses and have no transplanting until taken from the bed where they have grown and set in the open ground are not worth taking as a gift where those that have been at least once transplanted can be had. —American Cultivator.

Poultry for the Table.  
It is singular, but it is true, that in our country yellow legs control most purchasers of fowl for the table in their selections. The shape of the body which comes on the table is ignored in favor of the color of the legs, which are cut off and become offal. It is a truth that there exists no breed of fowl bred for table poultry in all the long list of American productions save one; and in the wide world there is no distinctive table fowl with yellow legs. American lovers of roast fowl must give up their fancy for yellow legs or forego the choicest of table poultry.