

SUNDAY'S SERMON.

ONE OF DR. T. DEWITT TALMAGE'S STERLING DISCOURSES.

Subject: "Another Chance."

"If the tree fall toward the south or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth there shall be."—Ecclesiastes xi, 3.

There is a hovering hope in the minds of a vast multitude that there will be an opportunity in the next world to correct the mistakes of this. That if we make some gains and losses here, we may walk to a palace; that, as a defendant may lose his case in the circuit court and carry it up to the supreme court or court of chancery and get a reversal of judgment in his behalf, all the costs being thrown over on the other party, so, if we fall in the earthly trial, we may in the higher jurisdiction of eternity have the judgment of the lower court set aside, all the costs remitted, and we may be victorious defendants forever. My object in this sermon is to show that common sense as well as my text declares that such an expectation is chimerical. You say that the impenitent man, having got into the next world and seeing the disaster, will, as a result of that disaster, turn, the pain the cause of his reformation. But you can find 10,000 instances in this world of men who have done wrong, and distress overtook them suddenly. Did the distress heal them? No, they went right on.

That man was flung of dissipations. "You must stop drinking," said the doctor. "Quit the fast life you are leading, or it will destroy you." The patient suffers paroxysm after paroxysm, but under skillful medical treatment he begins to sit up, begins to walk about the room, begins to go to business. And so, he goes back to the same cross-shop for his morning dram, and his evening dram, and the drams between. "Flat down again! Same doctor! Same physical anguish! Same medical warning! Now the illness is more protracted, the liver is more stubborn, the stomach more irritable, and the digestive organs more rebellious. But he says, 'All right, he is going back to the drams and goes the same round of sacrilege against his physical health."

He sees that his downward course is ruining his household; that his life is a perpetual running of a saw. He says, "I wish that broken hearted woman is so unlike the hopeful young wife whom he married that her old schoolmates do not recognize her, that his sons are to be taunted for a lifetime by the father's drunkenness, that the daughters are to pass their marriage vows to the father of a disreputable ancestor. He is drinking up their happiness, their prospects for this life, and perhaps for the life to come. Sometimes an appreciation of what he is doing comes upon him. His nervous system is all a tangle. He is a nervous wreck. His foot he is one aching, rasping, crucifying, damning torture. Where is he? In hell on earth. Does it reform him?"

After awhile he has delirium tremens, with a whole jungle of hissing reptiles let out on his pillow, and his screams are heard by his neighbors as he dashes out of his bed crying, "Take these things off me!" As he sits pale and convalescent the doctor says, "Now, I want to have a plain talk with you, my dear fellow. The next attack of this kind you have you will be beyond all medical skill, and you will go to the other side and go forth into the same light again. This time medicine takes no effect. Consultation of physicians agree in saying there is no hope. Death ends the scene."

That process of inebriation, warning and dissolution is going on all the time of your life, going on in all the neighborhoods of Christendom. Pain does not correct. Suffering does not reform. "What is true in one sense is true in all senses and will forever be so, and yet men are expecting in the next world purgatorial rejoicings. But the printed reports of the prisons of the United States, and you will find that the vast majority of the incarcerated have been there before, some of them four, five, six times. With 1,000,000 illustrations all working the same way, surely the sculptor has more prospect of making a fine statue out of a block of pure white Parian marble than out of an old black rock seamed and cracked with the storms of a half century. Surely upon a clean white sheet of paper it is easier to write a good or a will than upon a sheet of paper all scribbled and blotted and torn from top to bottom. Yet men seem to think that, though the life that began here comparatively perfect turned out badly, the next life will unobscure, though it starts with a dead future, and have a right to blame Him if He does not invite us?"

Twenty gates of salvation stood open twenty years or fifty years for our admission, and at the end of that time they are closed, and we complain of it and say: "The gates ought to be open again. Give us another chance!" If the gates were to be open for Hamburg, and we want to get to Germany by that line, and we read in every evening and every morning newspaper that it will sail on a certain day, for two weeks we have that advertisement before our eyes, and then we go down to the docks fifteen minutes after it has "shoved off" into the stream and say: "Come back! Give me another chance! It is not fair to treat me this way! Swing up to the dock again and throw out plank and let me come on board!" Such behavior would write arrest as a madman.

And if, after the gospel ship has lain at anchor before our eyes for years and years, and all this benign "voice of earth" and "voice of heaven" has urged us to get on board, and the might sail away at any moment, and after awhile she sails without us, is it common sense to expect her to come back? You might as well go out on the highlands at Navesink and call to the Majestic after she has been there for an hour, and expect her to return at once back an opportunity for heaven when it once has sped away. All heaven offered us as a gratuity, and for a lifetime we refuse to take it, and then rush on the bosom of Jehovah's bowler demanding another chance. There ought to be no second chance, but we will be no such thing as posthumous opportunity. Thus our common sense agrees with my text, "If the tree fall toward the south or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth there shall be."

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

There were a billion and a half bushels of corn raised in this country last year, over half a million bushels of oats, and a third of a million bushels of wheat.

The greatest engineering feat at present under way in Europe is, perhaps, the improvement of the Lower Danube. There has been talk of opening up this river to large vessels for three hundred years. The work is now under way, and when it is through Vienna will be a port of entry for large vessels.

A METALLURGIST at Westfield, N.J., who has been experimenting for many years, has discovered a method of making aluminum at twenty-five cents a pound with a profit to the manufacturer. This is about one-half its present selling price, and this inventor believes that in time the metal can be produced as cheaply as Bessemer iron.

The grape has been a most popular and useful fruit, but it is only recently that all its possibilities have been grasped. They are now making an excellent illuminating oil out of grape seed. For generations cotton seed, now so important an agricultural product, was regarded as a useless substance, and so it has been with grape seed.

The systems of rewards and punishments which seem to be the ruling motives of our lives are in themselves degrading. The man who does a good act prompted only by the incentive of reward would commit a crime for the same purpose. It is only when we have reached a stage of development where we forget the punishments that might follow neglect or the reward that is to come through a work performed, and do right because it is right, without fear of the consequences, that we can reach our highest development.

Some two years ago the State of Pennsylvania appointed Eckley B. Cox a commissioner to see whether some good use might not be made of the slack, coldst, etc., which goes to waste around the coal mines. After a great many experiments and tests, it is said, Mr. Cox has made some remarkable discoveries. With the aid of a specially constructed stoker and fan blast, not only can the dirt heretofore thrown away be utilized, but in steam production better results have been obtained from it, and at fifty per cent. less in cost. A number of experts who have examined the test plants say that it will revolutionize the production of steam power.

THE INCREASING number of fires ascribed to electricity demands the exercise of greater care in the use of this method of furnishing light and power. Boston has had a number of fires within the past few years directly traceable to electricity which burned up millions of dollars worth of property. The fire record in Hartford shows the same result and doubtless an investigation of the fires in other cities would prove the destructive part electricity, when not properly handled, has played in fires. The recent burning of Talmage's church, in Brooklyn, with much valuable property adjoining was probably caused by the defective insulation of some electric light wires.

THE GREAT AND UNFORTUNATE M. de Lesseps in his extreme old age finds himself a very poor man. He married late in life and has a family of thirteen children. It is generally believed that the blunders of the Panama were not criminal on his part. But recalling his past great services to commerce in the construction of the Suez Canal, it is proposed by a majority of the shareholders that during the rest of M. de Lesseps' life he shall be given an annuity of 60,000 francs, or about \$12,000, and that after his death and till his youngest child is of age, 40,000 francs a year shall go to the widow and children. This illustrates that there are cases when great corporations show they are not soulless.

THERE ARE SOME curious statements published in the Japanese Mail, made by a Japanese who has been traveling in China. He thinks the present Chinese Manchurian dynasty is so much hated that it will be overthrown within ten years, which will be followed by a breaking up of the Empire. He says there are twelve hundred foreign missionaries in China. "Among them," he declares, "those sent from America are true propagandists of the Gospel, but of those belonging to the Russian and French nationalities, some are really of the military profession. They take no interest in the propagation of their religion, but are busily engaged in geographical studies with special reference to military operations."

CONGRESSMAN Amos Cummings recently told a story about a public document which has been printed for over 100 years without the slightest ground why it should be thus preserved. "In 1789," Mr. Cummings said, "a law was passed requiring the treasurer of the United States to send to congress annually copies of

all his accounts settled by the comptroller of the treasury, transmitted them without delay, and this report was printed until 100 years. The last one cost \$100. The report for 1889 was printed by order of the fifty-first congress. Its preparation took the whole time of two clerks in the printer's office. These reports have been utterly worthless ever since they were issued, in 1789, and undoubtedly cost the government hundreds of thousands of dollars. When they were first printed covered not more than three or four pages. They have increased until the report of 1889 covered nearly 1,000 printed pages. Not a clerk of one of the congresses went to Amzi Smith, superintendent of the senate document room, and asked him for a copy of these reports. Smith disappeared and returned after half an hour with the volume, saying: 'I have here over thirty years, and you are the first man that ever called for a copy of this work.'"

In the laboratory of the Imperial Board of Health of Germany experiments were made and the results which have been published in the London Science Sittings, the seeds of consumption were found in abundance in the dust collected not only on the floors, but on the walls and seats of carriages. Samples of dust were taken from forty compartments of twenty-one cent passenger cars and 117 and were inoculated with them. Patients died very soon thereafter various contagious diseases they had time to develop consumption; of the rest, killed four weeks after inoculation, three tubercles. These three, however were inoculated with sleeping draught dust, taken not from the floor but from the walls, cushions and ceilings. Bacteria at the rate of 78,800 per square inch were found on the floor of a fourth-class carriage and 84,400, 27,000, and 16,500 per square inch on the floors of the second, and first-class carriage. Thus, even in the latter, the passenger, who usually has at least half a compartment to himself, 3,000 square inches of floor, he may acquire 49,500,000 deadly germs aiming at his vitals on the floor alone, to say nothing of other lions in front and rear, on both sides and overhead. It would seem possible to escape; but a Boston Health is said to have reported that for removing or reducing danger which the railroads are sideling.

THE GIANT BAMBOO. An Enthusiastic Grower on the Possibilities of the Plant. I believe there is a fortune in bamboo. It will grow well on land as the Cane River valley is alluvial soil; in fact, it will wherever the wild cane grows as north as Mason and Dixon's line. The cuttings should be planted in a row, flat in the ground, or four inches deep. It requires little cultivation, for it will grow so thick and fast that it runs ahead of all weeds, says Norman in Southern Farm. You can begin to ship the canes years after the cuttings are set, obtain from 50 cents to \$1 per foot from almost any furniture mart in the South. I believe you grow merchantable canes on every acre of land that is set out with every season. On a six-year plantation you can figure on profits. The canes are tied in bundles, in ten or twenty, for shipment. I cut them in midwinter, when the canes are thoroughly ripe and ended.

The third year you can begin to cut them and use them for poles, bean poles, fancy fence, etc. The fourth and fifth years fencing, combined and work with wire, grape arbors, pipe fancy arbors for climbing vines, telegraph poles, gutter pipes to run in, split in four for nailing to make fence, flower pots, and houses. Outhouses can be built with less work and quicker with it with lumber. It makes a splendid roof for things that will not leak, and cut out the inside joints or and lay them side by side, and up, and come in with another turned down. It is not necessary to give any pitch or slope to your and do away with laths, rafters, a good deal of work. Large can be built in less time and with less work with lumber, which is as long as our best building material and as a decorative plant the ought to take the foremost place. Nothing can be more graceful than a group of them, towering high above the tallest trees. Wind breaks it cannot be excelled.

Merchants are selling less fancy fabrics that have either or chined-back-grounds, also, shawls, shepherd's-check all China, India, Persian, or by ever other name these delicate transparent silks are known.

Advertisement for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, including text about "The Magic Touch" and "Food's Sarsaparilla".