

## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

THEY THAT USE THIS WORLD AS NOT ABUSING IT.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Discusses Good and Bad Recreations—The Force of Music—Outdoor Sports—Foundations for Soul Building—The Last Hour.

### Social Diversions.

In his sermon Sunday Dr. Talmage discussed a subject of universal interest—viz., "Our Social Recreations." His text was chosen from I Corinithians vii. 31: "They that use this world as not abusing it." Judges xvi. 25: "And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, call for Samson, that he may make us sport."

There were 3,000 people assembled in the temple of Dagon. They had come to make sport of eyeless Samson. They were all ready for the entertainment. They began to clap and pound, impatient for the amusement to begin, and they cried, "Fetch him out, fetch him out!" Yonder I see the blind old giant coming, led by the hand of a child into the very midst of the temple. At his first appearance there goes up a shout of laughter and derision. The blind old giant pretends he is tired, and wants to rest himself against the pillars of the house. So he says to the lad who leads him, "Show me where the main pillars are!" The lad does so. Then the strong man puts his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on another, and, with the mightiest push that mortal ever made, throws himself forward until the whole house comes down in thunderous crash, grinding the audience like grapes in a wine press. "And so it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house, and he made them sport."

In other words, there are amusements that are destructive, and bring down disaster and death upon the heads of those who practice them. While they laugh and cheer, they die. The 3,000 who perished that day in Gaza are as nothing compared to the tens of thousands who have been destroyed by sinful amusements.

### Lawful Pleasures.

But my first text implies that there is a lawful use of the world as well as an unlawful abuse of it, and the difference between the man Christian and the man un-Christian is that in the former case the man masters the world, while in the latter case the world masters him. For whom did God make the world? For whom did God make this grand and beautiful world? For whom this wondrous expenditure of color, this grandeur of the thin mosaic of the ground, this grace of the sky, this glowing fruitage of orchard and vineyard, this full orchestra of the tempest, in which the tree branches flute, and the wind's trumpet, and the thunders drum, and all the splendors of earth and sky come clashing their cymbals? For whom did God spring the arch'd bridge of colors resting upon buttresses of broken storm cloud? For whom did he gather the upholstery of fire around the windows of the setting sun? For all men, but more especially for his own dear children.

If you build a large mansion and spread a great feast after it to celebrate the completion of the structure, do you allow strangers to come in and occupy the place, while you thrust your own children in the kitchen, or the barn, or the fields? Oh, no! You say, "I am very glad to see strangers in my mansion, but my own sons and daughters shall have the first right there." Now, God has built this grand mansion of a world, and he has spread a glorious feast in it, and while those who are strangers to his grace may come in I think that God especially intends to give the advantage to his own children—those who are the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, those who through grace can look up and say, "Abba, Father." You cannot make me believe that God gives more advantages to the world than he gives to the church bought by his own blood. If, therefore, people of the world have looked with dolorous sympathy upon those who make profession of religion, and have said, "These new converts are going down into privation and into hardship; why did they not tarry a little longer in the world and have some of its enjoyments and amusements and recreations?" I say to such men of the world, "You are greatly mistaken" and before I get through I will show that those people who stay out of the kingdom of God have the hardships and self-denials, while those who come in have the joys and satisfactions.

In the name of the King of heaven and earth, I serve a writ of ejectment upon all the sinful and polluted who have squatted on the domain of earthly pleasure as though it belonged to them, while I claim, in behalf of the good and the pure and the true, the eternal inheritance which God has given them. Hitherto Christian philanthropists, clerical and lay, have busied themselves chiefly in denouncing sinful recreations, but I feel we have no right to stand before men and women in whose hearts there is a desire for recreation amounting to positive necessity, denouncing this and that and the other thing, when we do not propose to give them something better. God helping me and with reference to my last account, I shall enter upon a sphere not usual in sermonizing, but a subject which I think ought to be presented at this time. I propose now to lay before you some of the recreations which are not only innocent, but positively helpful and advantageous.

### Influence of Music.

In the first place, I command, among indoor recreations, music—vocal and instrumental. Among the first things created was the bird, so that the earth might have music at the start. This world, which began so soft with a serenade, is finally to be denoted with amidst the ringing blast of the archangel's trumpet, so that as there was music at the start, there shall be music at the close. While this heavenly art has often been dragged into the use of superstition and dissipation, we all know it may be the means of high moral culture. Oh, it is a grand thing to have our children brought up amidst the sound of cultured voices and amidst the melody of musical instruments.

There is in this art an indescribable fascination for the household. Let all those families who have the means to afford it have flute or harp or piano or organ. As soon as the hand is large enough to compass the keys teach it how to pick out the melody. Let all our young men try this heavenly art upon their nature. Those who have gone into it fully have found in it illimitable recreation and amusement. Dark days, stormy nights, seasons of sickness, business disasters, will do little toward depressing the soul which can gallop off over musical keys or soar in jubilant lay. It will cure pain; it will rest fatigue; it will quell passion; it will re vive health; it will reclaim dissipation. In the battle of Waterloo Wellington saw that the Highlanders were falling back. He said, "What is the matter there?" He was told that the band of music had ceased playing, and he called up the pipers and ordered them to strike up an inspiring air, and soon enough did they strike the air than the Highlanders were rallied and helped to win the day. Oh, ye who have been routed in the conflicts of life, try, by the force of music, to rally your scattered battalions.

I am glad to know that in our great cities there is hardly a night in which there are not concerts where, with the best musical instruments and the sweetest voices, people may find entertainment. Patronize such entertainments when they are afforded you. Buy season tickets if you can for the Philharmonic and the Handel and Haydn societies. Feel that the \$1.50 or \$2 that you spend for the purpose of hearing an artist play or sing is a profitable investment. Let your academies of music roar with the acclamation of appreciative audiences assembled at the concert or the oratorio.

### Physical Culture.

Still further, I command, as worthy of their support, the gymnasium. This institution is gaining in favor every year, and I know of nothing more free from dissipation, or more calculated to recuperate the physical and mental energies. While there are a good many people who have employed this institution, there is a vast number who are ignorant of its excellencies. There are men with cramped chests and weak sides and despondent spirits who through the gymnasium might be roused up to exuberance and exhilaration of life. There are many Christian people despondent from year to year, who might, through such an institution, be benefited in their spiritual relations. There are Christian people who seem to think that it is a good sign to be poor; and because Richard Baxter and Robert Hall were invalids they think that by the same sickness they may come to the same grandeur of character. I want to tell the Christian people of my congregation that God will hold you responsible for your invalidism if it is your fault, and when, through right exercises and prudence, you might be athletic and well. The effect of the body upon the soul you acknowledge. Put a man of mild disposition upon the animal diet of which the Indian partakes, and in a little while his complexion will change its chemical proportions. It will become like unto the blood of the lion, or the tiger, or the bear, while his disposition will change, and become fierce and unrelenting. The body has a powerful effect upon the soul.

There are good people whose ideas of heaven are all shut out with clouds of tobacco smoke. There are people who dare to shatter the physical vase in which God has put the jewel of eternity. There are men with great hearts and intellects, in bodies worn out by their own neglects—magnificent machinery, capable of propelling a Majestic across the Atlantic, yet fastened to a rickety North river propeller. Martin Luther was so mighty for God, first, because he had a noble soul, and secondly because he had a muscular development which would have enabled him to thrash any five of his persecutors, if it had been Christian to do. Physical development which merely shows itself in fabulous lifting, or in perilous rope-walking, or in pugilistic encounter, excites only our contempt; but we confess to great admiration for the man who has a great soul in an athletic body, even nerve, muscle and bone of which is consecrated to right uses. Oh, it seems to me outrageous that men, through neglect, should allow their physical health to go down beyond repair—a ship which ought, with all sail set and every man at his post, to be carrying a rich cargo and passing on. He wonders who that well-dressed man was who helped him. You did a kindness to the boy, but who will go to the city, but who will will a great joy to your own soul. You will not get over it all the way.

On the street to-morrow morning you will see a sick man passing along. "Ah," you say, "what can I do to make this man happy?" He certainly does not want money; he is not poor, but he is sick." Give him one of those 2,500 cheerful looks that you have garnered up for the whole year. Look joy and hopefulness into his soul. It will thrill him through, and there will be a reaction upon your own soul. Going a little farther on, you will come to the store of a friend who is embarrassed in business matters. You will go in and say: "What a fine store you have! I think business will brighten up, and you will have more custom after awhile. I think there is coming a great prosperity all the country. Good morning." You pass out. You have helped that young man, and you have helped yourself.

And recreations with strength in your arm and color in your cheek and a glint in your eye and courage in your heart. In this great battle that is opening against the kingdom of darkness we want not only a consecrated soul, but a strong arm and stout lungs and mighty muscle. I bless God that there are so many recreations that have not on them any taint of induction—recreations in which we may engage for the strengthening of the body, for the clearing of the intellect, for the illumination of the soul.

There is still another form of recreation which I command to you, and that is the pleasure of doing good. I have seen young men, weak and cross and sour and repelling in their disposition, who, by one heavenly touch, have wakened up and become blessed and buoyant, the ground under their feet and the sky over their heads breaking forth into music. "Oh, I should like that recreation above all others, but I have not the means." My dear brother, let us take an account of stock. You have a large estate, if you only realize it. Two hands, two feet. You will have, perhaps, during the next year at least \$10 for charitable contribution. You will have 2,500 cheerful looks, if you want to employ them. You will have 5,000 pleasant words, if you want to speak them. Now, what an amount that is to start with!

You go out to-morrow morning, and you see a case of real destitution by the way-side. You give him 2 cents. The blind man hears the pennies rattle in his hat, and he says: "Thank you, sir! God bless you!" You pass down the street, trying to look indifferent, but you feel from the very depth of your soul a profound satisfaction that you made that man happy. You go on still farther and find a poor boy with a wheelbarrow, trying to get up on the curbstone. He falls in the attempt. You say, "Stand back, my lad. Let me try." You push it up on the curbstone and pass on. He wonders who that well-dressed man was who helped him. You did a kindness to the boy, but who will go to the city, but who will will a great joy to your own soul. You will not get over it all the way.

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### The Greatest Joy.

Col. Gardner, who sat with his elbow on a table spread with all extravagant viands, looking off at a dog on the rug, saying, "How I would like to change places with him, I be the dog and he be Col. Gardner," or those two Moravian missionaries who wanted to go into the Lazaretto for the sake of attending the sick, and they were told: "If you go in and say: "What a fine store you have! I think business will brighten up, and you will have more custom after awhile. I think there is coming a great prosperity all the country. Good morning." You pass out. You have helped that young man, and you have helped yourself.

### An Excellent Clod Crusher.

The illustration shows a home-made implement that will not only crush clods, but will be found very serviceable in fitting any soil for planting, making the surface exceedingly fine and mellow. The importance of securing a fine seed-bed cannot be too strongly urged upon farmers, and this machine so finely supplements the

## REAL RURAL READING

### WILL BE FOUND IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

Two Million Dollars Worth of Chestnuts Imported Annually—A Home-Made Clod Crusher—Brooder for Early Chicks—Profitable Cows.

### Chestnuts for Profit.

Upwards of \$2,000,000 worth of nuts, mostly chestnuts, are imported annually into the United States, yet chestnuts are selling at as much per bushel at this time as they did during the war. At present prices, there is no more inviting field in all horticulture than the growing of these improved chestnuts. At this time, when the prices of many farm products are verging on the cost of production, and some going far below it, improved chestnuts not only yield a large profit to the grower, but sometimes make returns that seem fabulous. A grove once planted is a source of great revenue for generations. I own a farm of 140 acres of land at Emilie, Pa., and have nearly 1,000 grafted Paragon chestnut trees six years old on the farm; some of the trees bore from six to eight quarts of nuts per tree this fall; the grove of chestnuts will yield more revenue for the year 1865 than all the rest of the farm. It is to be remembered that large tracts of land suitable for this crop can be bought at \$5 to \$10 per acre.

Much has been written on how to keep boys on the farm. The problem would be solved if the farm could be made profitable. With twenty acres of improved chestnut trees in bearing the strife among the boys would be, not who will go to the city, but who will stay on the farm.

### Cleanliness in Butter-Making.

We hear of a great deal about the value of bacteria cultures. It is likely that some good will result from their introduction; there is danger, however, that in the attempt to produce the best result we overlook one of the oldest cultures in existence, the culture of cleanliness. We believe it was Wesley who said cleanliness was next to godliness, a motto believed by many good people to be found in the Bible, says the Creamery Gazette. It contains, in fact, a very strong element of Biblical doctrine. There is no place, however, where cleanliness is so essential as in the dairy. From the brushing of the cow's udder until the tub is ready for shipment, cleanliness is of the utmost importance. Dirt on the outside of the tub, no matter how fine the butter may be, will seriously affect the price. Culture of cleanliness cannot be purchased in quantity. It can only be had by self-control, diligence, formation of the habit from childhood up, and an instinctive hatred of dirt, and all the better if the instinct is inherited. Let us get all the good possible out of cultures and starters and all that science can give us on that line, but do not forget the old and reliable culture of cleanliness.

### Comfort for Crows.

The simplest, cheapest and most effective remedy I know of is to feed them, says the New England Homestead. As soon as the corn is planted, scatter about two quarts of shelled corn thinly over the whole piece, and this amount will be sufficient whether it is half acre or ten. Every evening repeat the operation, using one quart. Do not put up any scarecrows, twine or anything else to notify the crows that you have corn planted ready for them. The crows will not dig up the ground or pull up the younger sprouts if they can get it without this trouble. From a peck to a half bushel will be sufficient to feed them until the crop is too large to pull.

### Thrifty Farming.

Farming ought to be done systematically, adopting those systems and plans which have proved the most successful in each individual case, says the Market Garden. Have a time and place for everything, and see that everything is kept in its place when not in actual use. And what must we do and have in order to make farming pay? First and foremost, we must give to the farm and the farm business our personal attention. We must have bone and muscle, a large amount of ambition, which needs to be put in constant use for about 313 days in a year, for without work on a farm nothing seems to do well.

### Soil Moisture.

Prof. W. D. Gibbs, at the farmers' convention in Ohio, made the statement that it requires 1,200 tons of water to make an acre of corn. He urged the systematic saving of the natural moisture of the soil by eradication of the weeds. They act as so many pumps to bring the moisture to the surface and evaporate it. He showed that the natural moisture of the earth is easily exhausted by improper methods of cultivation; that frequent level and shallow cultivation furnishes a mulch at the surface; that loose soil will hold in solution twice as much moisture as compact soil, yet if the entire soil surface be loose it will soon exhaust the subsoil of its moisture, because, being loose, it parts with moisture rapidly under the sun's rays, and, being loose, has not so great capillary power to bring the plant roots the moisture of the subsoil.

### High Feeding of Stock.

Within certain limits, high feeding, and especially high nitrogenous feeding, does increase both the yield and the richness of the milk. But it is evident that when high feeding is pushed beyond a comparatively limited range, the tendency is to increase the weight of the animal; that is, to favor the development of the individual, rather than to enhance the activity of the functions connected with the reproductive system.

### Farming Not Hard Work.

Farmers are not an over-worked class. In fact, there is no class of laborers having work on hand at all times that are so little chained to the treadmill of labor as are the farmers. Work well and hard they do—that is, the enterprising ones—yet there are snatches of time, leisure hours, stormy days, and, above all, winter evenings, which give leisure and the opportunity for reading far above that of any other class of laboring people, says the Maine Farmer.

### Protecting Fruit Trees.

Do not foul away your time making decoctions of paint, copperas or any similar compound. Weave together eight laths, so they will be one-eighth of an inch apart and fasten them about the tree. This will afford protection from rabbits, borers, sheep, mice and sunscald, and will last a long time at a cost of a half-cent a year. I have used this protection for twelve years, and have not lost a single tree, says A. J. Phillips, secretary Wisconsin State Horticultural Society.

### Good for the Garden.

Don't make your onion-bed the same place you did last year, just because you have been making it always in that corner of the garden. Change them around; put your onions where you had

cabbage or tomatoes last year, and put peas and beans where you had parsnips and beets. A change of ground is good for vegetables, as a change of pasture is for sheep. All plants do not take the same nourishment from the soil. Hence, when one vegetable has exhausted such properties of the soil as it needs the ground is still rich in some other property that will produce a good crop of some other kind of plant. So we see the necessity of rotation of garden vegetables, and have seen its effects by trying it. Try for yourselves and be convinced, says the National Stockman.

### For Early Chickens.

It is not difficult matter to hatch out chicks early with hens. It is a more difficult matter to make them live and grow when hatched in cold weather. They must stay under the hen almost constantly in order to keep warm, but after a few days the hen will not continually brood them, even if cold, and the chicks become chilled. The evening shows a device for keeping the brood warm. It is a coop with glass top set on top of a pen filled with heating horse manure. It is, in fact, a coop on top of a hot bed. The bottom of the coop is of thin boards, so that sufficient warmth will get up into the coop to make it very comfortable. The hen and the chicks are placed inside and sand and chaff given

### They Find \$500 in a Satchel.

A brakeman on the Peoria division of the Vandalia Railroad, named Reed, was handed a satchel containing \$500 the other day, and the man who gave it to him evidently wanted to be rid of it for all time.

A passenger who boarded the train at Decatur and left it at Mount Zion handed the satchel to Reed as he left the cars, saying: "Take care of this for me."

The brakeman decided to open the satchel, because the man had acted in a peculiar manner, and in it they found \$500 in bills.

### Jealousy Leads to a Fight.

Henry Wilson was a suitor for the hand of Nora McIntyre, daughter of Thomas McIntyre, living near the Franklin-Rush County line, but he was supplanted in the young girl's favor by Samuel Templeton, a school teacher who recently came into the neighborhood. The other night the rivals met at a country dance, and when Templeton ventured outside the house he was attacked by Wilson, armed with a knife. Templeton used his revolver, and mutual friends joined in. When the smoke cleared away Templeton was found dangerously stabbed in the breast, back, while Wilson had a bullet in his thigh and Charles Bolster, a friend of Templeton, was shot in the neck. The condition of all three was alarming. During the fight, which was general, brass knuckles, knives, stones and clubs were used, and everyone of the participants is bruised and battered. The participants are all members of prominent families, and disputes from the quarter indicate intense excitement in the neighborhood. The young woman whose charms caused the melee was born to her home in a protracted condition.

### Pearl Bryan's Funeral Services.

Several hundred people were attracted to Forest Hill Cemetery in Greenastle Friday afternoon by the announcement of the funeral of Pearl Bryan, the Fort Thomas victim. The body was brought home on Feb. 9, and has been kept in the public vault in the cemetery awaiting burial. The North Carolina station has gotten the best results from plowing under after the pea vines are ripe in the fall, following with wheat, and not allowing them to remain on the land until the next spring. Cowpeas have somewhat more fertilizing properties than common clover.

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