

## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"AMERICA IS FOR GOD" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon"—Rev. xiii: 11.



Is America mentioned in the Bible? Learned and consecrated men who have studied the inspired books of Daniel and Revelation more than I have and understand them better, agree in saying that the leopard mentioned in the Bible meant Grecia, and the bear meant Medo-Peria, and the lion meant Babylon, and the beast of the text coming up out of the earth with two horns like a lamb and the voice of a dragon means our country, because among other reasons it seemed to come up out of the earth when Columbus discovered it, and it has been for the most part at peace like a lamb, unless assaulted by foreign foes, in which case it has had two horns strong and sharp, and the voice of a dragon loud enough to make all nations hear the roar of its indignation. Is it reasonable to suppose that God would leave out from the prophecies of His Book this whole Western Hemisphere? No, no. "I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

I start with the cheering thought that the most popular book on earth today is the Bible, the most popular institution on earth today is the church, and the most popular name on earth today is Jesus. Right from this audience hundreds of men and women would, if need be, march out and die for Him.

Am I too confident in saying "America for God?" If the Lord will help me I will show the strength and extent of the long line of fortresses to be taken, and give you my reasons for saying it can be done and will be done. Let us decide, in this battle for God, whether we are at Bull Run or at Gettysburg. There is a Fourth of Julyish way of bragging about this country, and the most tired and plucked bird that ever flew through the heavens is the American eagle, so much so that Mr. Gladstone said to me facetiously, at Hawarden: "I hear that the fish in your American lakes are so large that when one of them is taken out the entire lake is perceptibly lower," and at a dinner given in Paris an American offered for a sentiment: "Here is to the United States—bounded on the north by the aurora borealis, on the south by the procession of the equinoxes, on the east by the primeval chaos, and on the west by the Day of Judgment." The effect of such grandiloquence is to discredit the real facts, which are so tremendous they need no garnishing. The worst thing to do in any campaign, military or religious, is to under-estimate an enemy, and I will have no part in such attempt at belittlement.

This land to be taken for God, according to Hassel, the statistician, has fourteen million two hundred and nineteen thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven square miles, a width and a length that none but the Omnipotent can appreciate. Four Europes put together, and capable of holding and feeding, as it will hold and feed, according to Atkinson, the statistician, if the world continues in existence and does not run afoul of some other world or get consumed by the fires already burning in the cellars of the planet—capable, I say, of holding and feeding more than one billion of inhabitants. For you must remember it must be held for God as well as taken for God, and the last five hundred million inhabitants must not be allowed to swamp the religion of the first five hundred million. Not much use in taking the fortress if we cannot hold it. It must be held until the archangel's trumpet bids living and dead arise from this foundering planet.

You must remember it is only about seven o'clock in the morning of our nation's life. Great cities are to flash and roar among what are called the "Bad Lands" of the Dakotas and the great "Columbia Plains" of Washington state, and that on which we put our school-boy fingers on the map and spelled out as the "Great American Desert," is, through systematic and consummating irrigation, to bloom like Chatsworth Park and be made more productive than those regions dependent upon uncertain and spasmodic rainfall. All those regions, as well as those regions already cultivated, to be inhabited! That was a sublime thing said by Henry Clay, while crossing the Allegheny mountains, and he was waiting for the stage horses to be rested, as he stood on a rock, arms folded, looking off into the valley, and some one said to him, "Mr. Clay, what are you thinking about?" He replied, "I am listening to the on-coming tramp of the future generation of America." Have you laid our home missionary scheme on such an infinitude of scale? If the work of bringing one soul to God is so great, can a thousand million be captured? In this country, already planted and to be overcome, Paganism has built its altar to Brahma, and the Chinese are already burning incense in their temples, and Mohammedanism, drunk in other days with the red wine of human blood at Lucknow and Cawnpore, and now fresh from the diabolism in Armenia, is trying to get a foothold here, and from the minarets of her mosques will yet mumble her blasphemies, saying, "God is great, and Mohammed is His prophet." Then there are the vast-

er multitudes with no religion at all. They worship no God, they live with no consolation, and they die with no hope. No star of peace points down to the manger in which they are born, and no prayer is uttered over the grave into which they sink. Then there is alcoholism, its piled up demijohns and beer barrels, and hogsheds of fiery death, a barricade high and long as the Alleghenies and Rockies and Sierra Nevadas, pouring forth day and night their ammunition of wretchedness and woe. When a German wants to take a drink, he takes beer. When an Englishman wants to take a drink, he takes ale. When a Scotchman wants to take a drink, he takes whisky. But when an American wants to take a drink, he takes anything he can lay his hands on.

Plenty of statistics to tell how much money is spent in this country for rum, and how many drunkards die! But who will give us the statistics of how many hearts are crushed under the heel of this worst demon of the centuries? How many hopes blasted? How many children turned out on the world, accursed with stigma of a debauched ancestry? Until the worm of the distillery becomes the worm that never dies, and the smoke of the heated wine vats becomes the smoke of the torment that ascendeth up forever and ever! Alcoholism, swearing—not with hand uplifted toward heaven, for from that direction it can get no help; but with right hand stretched down toward the perdition from which it came up—swearing that it will not cease as long as there are any homesteads to despoil, any magnificent men and women to destroy, any immortal souls to damn, any more nations to balk, any more civilizations to extinguish.

Then there is what in America we call Socialism, in France Communism, and in Russia Nihilism—the three names for one and the same thing—and having but two doctrines in its creed: First, there is no God. Second, there shall be no rights of property. One of their chief journals printed this sentiment: "Dynamite can be made out of the dead bodies of capitalists as well as out of hogs." One of the leaders of Communism left inscribed on his prison wall, where he had been justly incarcerated, these words: "When once you are dead, there is an end of everything; therefore, ye scoundrels, grab whatever you can—only don't let yourselves be grabbed. Amen!" There are in this country hundreds of thousands of these lazy scoundrels. Honest men deplore it when they cannot get work, but those of whom I speak will not do work when they can get it. I tried to employ one who asked me for money. I said, "Down in my cellar I have some wood to saw, and I will pay you for it." For a little while I heard the saw going, and then I heard it no more. I went downstairs, and found the wood, but the workman had disappeared, taking for company both buck and saw.

Socialism, Communism and Nihilism mean, "Too wicked to acknowledge God, and too lazy to earn a living," and among the mightiest obstacles to be overcome are those organized elements of domestic, social and political ruin. There also are the fastnesses of infidelity, and atheism, and fraud, and political corruption, and multimif, and hydro-headed, million-armed abominations all over the land. While the mightiest agencies for righteousness on earth are good and healthful newspapers and good and healthful books, and our chief dependence for intelligence and Christian achievement is upon them, what word among words in our vocabulary can describe the work of that archangel of mischief, a corrupt literature? What man, attempting anything for God and humanity, has escaped a stroke of its filthy wing? What good cause has escaped its hinderment? What other obstacle in all the land so appalling? But I cannot name more than one-half the battlements, the bastions, the entrenchments, the redoubts, the fortifications to be stormed and overcome if this country is ever taken for God. The statistics are so awful that if we had nothing but the multiplication table and the arithmetic, the attempt to evangelize America would be an absurdity higher than the Tower of Babel before it dropped on the plain of Shinar. Where are the drilled troops to march against those fortifications as long as the continent? Where are the batteries that can be unlimbered against these walls? Where are the guns of large enough calibre to storm these gates? Well, let us look around and see, the first of all, who is our leader and who will be our leader until the work is done? Garibaldi, with a thousand Italians, could do more than another commander with ten thousand Italians. General Sherman, on one side, and Stonewall Jackson, on the other, each with ten thousand troops, could do more than some other generals with twenty thousand troops. The rough boat in which Washington crossed the icy Delaware with a few half-frozen troops was mightier than the ship of war that, during the American revolution, came through the narrows, a gun at each porthole, and sunk in Hell-Gate. Our Leader, like most great leaders, was born in an obscure place, and it was an humble home, about five miles from Jerusalem. Those who were out of doors that night said that there was stellar commotion, and music that came out of the clouds, as though the front door of heaven had been set open, and that the camels heard his first infantile cry. Then he came to the fairest boyhood that mother was ever proud of, and from twelve to thirty years of age was off in India, if traditions there are accurate, and then returned to his native land, and for three years had his pathway surrounded by blind eyes that he illumined, and epileptic patients to whom he gave rubricud health, and

longues that he loosed from silence into song, and those whose funerals he stopped that he might give back to bereaved mothers their only boys, and whose fevered pulses he had restored to rhythmic throbs, and whose paralytic limbs he had warmed into healthful circulation—pastor at Capernaum, but flaming evangelist everywhere, hushing crying tempests and turning rolling seas into solid sapphire, and for the rescue of a race submitted to courtroom filled with howling miscreants, and to a martyrdom at the sight of which the sun fainted and fell back in the heavens, and then treading the clouds homeward, like snowy mountain-peaks, till heaven took him back again, more a favorite than he had ever been; but, coming again, he is on earth now, and the nations are gathering to his standard. Following him were the Scotch covenanters, the Theban legion, the victims of the London Haymarket, the Piedmontese sufferers, the Pilgrim Fathers, the Huguenots, and uncounted multitudes of the past, joined by about four hundred millions of the present, and with the certainty that all nations shall huzzah at his chariot-wheel, he goes forth, the moon under his feet and the stars of heaven for his tara—the Mighty Leader, he of Drumclog, and Bothwell Bridge, and Bannockburn, and the One who whelmed Spanish Armada, "Coming up from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, traveling in the greatness of his strength, mighty to save," and behind whom we fall into line to-day and march in the campaign that is to take America for God. Hosanna Hosanna! Wave all the palm-branches! At his feet put down your silver and your gold, as in heaven you will cast before him your coronets.

With such a Leader do you not think we can do it? Say, do you think we can? Why, many ramparts have already been taken. Where is American slavery? Gone, and the South, as heartily as the North, prays "Peace to its ashes." Where is bestial polygamy? Gone, by the fiat of the United States government, urged on by Christian sentiment, and Mormonism, having retreated in 1830 from Fayette, New York, to Kirklind, Ohio, and in 1833 retreated to Missouri, and in 1846 retreated to Salt Lake City, now divorced from its superfluity of wives, will soon retreat into the Pacific, and no basin smaller than the ocean could wash out its pollutions. Illiteracy going down under the work of Slater and Peabody funds, and Sabbath schools of all the churches of all denominations! Pugnism now made unlawful by congressional enactment, the brutal custom knocked out in the first round! Corruption at the ballot box, by law of registration and other safeguards, made almost impossible! Churches twice as large as the old ones, the enlarged supply to meet the enlarged demand! Nihilism getting a stunning stroke by the summary execution of its exponents after they had murdered the policemen in Chicago, received its deathblow from the recent treaty which sends back to Russia the blatant criminals who had been regurgitated on our American shore. The very things that have been quoted as perils to this nation are going to help its salvation. Great cities, so often mentioned as great obstacles—the center of crime and the reservoirs of all iniquities—are to lead in the work of gospelization. Who give most to home missions, to asylum, to religious education, to all styles of humanitarian and Christian institutions? The cities. From what place did the most relief go at the time of Johnstown food, and Michigan fires, and Charleston earthquake, and Ohio freshets? From the cities. From what place did Christ send out his twelve apostles to gospelize the world? From a city. What place will do more than any other place, by its contribution of Christian men and women and means, in this work of taking America for God? New York city. The way Paris goes, goes France. The way Berlin goes, goes Germany. The way Edinburgh goes, goes Scotland. The way London goes, goes England. The way New York and a couple other cities go, goes America. May the eternal God wake up to the stupendous issue!

### OBSERVED OF OBSERVERS.

One of the latest re-enlistments in the navy is that of John R. Knowles, the sailor who lashed Admiral Farragut to the rigging of the Hartford in her memorable fight with the confederate iron-clad ram Tennessee in Mobile bay. Knowles has been in the service forty-seven years.

Mrs. Levi P. Morton and eighteen other women well known in New York in various branches of philanthropic work have undertaken to establish a co-operative employment bureau for the supply of its patrons with all sorts of help.

The British chemist who recently found in a terrestrial mineral the element helium, hitherto believed to exist only in the sun and a few stars, was Prof. William Ramsay.

Miss Braddon intends to write no more novels. She has already given to the world more than fifty works of fiction.

Monsignor Capel, the well known Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, became a ranchman in California a few years ago, and is now said to be very wealthy. Formerly the pink of perfection in dress, he has now become indifferent to his garb, and always appears in the rough costume of a ranchman. He was a brilliant social figure in London, and is said to be the original of Catechy in Disraeli's "Lothair."

The Tennyson memorial to be erected near the poet's old home on the Isle of Wight will bear the legend: "Erected by Friends in England and America." The late Oliver Wendell Holmes was the first American contributor.

Hiram S. Maxim, the inventor, says that New Englanders are the best mechanics in the world, and that the French are the best mechanics in Europe.

Some folks are a long time in finding out that it never pays to worry.

Every man makes unwritten laws that others have to keep.

## SILVER IS THE ISSUE.

TARIFF WILL CUT NO FIGURE IN THE CAMPAIGN.

The Populists Looming Up as the Greatest Power in American Politics—Sure of a Silver President in 1897—Shadows of Coming Events.

Day by day it becomes clearer that the great issue of 1896 will be, whether the American people shall return to the honest money of the constitution, by the complete restoration of silver, or permit themselves to be dragged to their death and destruction at the wheels of England's golden chariot.

That is the issue and there is no blinking it. The senseless drivel about "50-cent dollars," and "honest money," presents an issue that is absolutely false, and if the people will study the question a little they will see it.

There is no question of a "fifty-cent dollar" involved. It is a one-hundred cent dollar or a "two-hundred-cent dollar," which the gold dollar actually is. The republican convention goes to St. Louis. In that convention there will be a tremendous struggle over the money plank. The extreme silver men will have nothing less than free coinage at 16 to 1. Unless they get it, there will doubtless be several spokes knocked out of the republican wheel then and there.

The democratic convention comes to Chicago, but no one looks for a representative convention. Two-thirds of the democratic party are for free coinage. If the administration and the money power together do not capture the convention it will certainly be a grand triumph for the people.

If the sentiments of the rank and file of the party do not find expression both in the platform and the candidates, there will not only be some spokes knocked out of the democratic wheel, but the hub will go too. That is, these things will take place if silver democrats are true to their principles, as we believe they are.

Then the populist party is looming up as an unquestioned power in American politics. In the creed of this organization there is much that is good, and it has in its ranks some very able and admirable men.

The more conservative of its elements understand that they cannot expect to win in the near future on all of their issues. In order to win at all, they must plant themselves on middle ground, where the dissatisfied elements of other parties can meet them. Should they conclude to make bimetalism the paramount issue, it may lead to combinations that will revolutionize the country.

On the 22d instant a conference of leading men was held in Washington for the purpose of outlining a policy. This conference was composed of men from all parties and all sections, and was a fair representation of the average silver sentiment of the country.

The national executive committee of the populist party has appointed a committee to confer with the American Bimetallic Union at Washington.

Thus events thicken and the tide of silver sentiment rolls on.

The campaign of 1896 bids fair to be the most momentous and exciting of any since the close of the war, and the "ghost" of free silver, of which we have heard so much, will be the grand central figure of the play.

CLOSING OF INDIAN MINT.

It Was Part of the Conspiracy to Rob American Producers.

A correspondent writes from Galena, Ill., as follows: Hon. H. F. Bartine, Chicago, Ill. My Dear Sir: In your reply to Mr. T. E. Diamond in The Bimetallist of Feb. 5, you gave two very strong reasons why certain classes in England were interested in the further separation of the standards of value in India and England, but overlooked another very strong reason. England's interests are three—agricultural, financial and manufacturing, its commercial being well included within the latter.

The fall in the gold value of an India rupee had already seriously affected English manufacturing by discouraging commerce between the countries owing to the fluctuating of exchange and a gradual rise of the same. This stimulated domestic industry in India to the detriment of Birmingham and other centers of activity in England.

While the money power controls England's policy, when its interest is at all menaced, England's official ear becomes very sensitive to the protest of her other interests. With the English land owner, the money lender and the manufacturer all demanding a common sacrifice from the British dependency, it was granted with alacrity that a further vantage be not granted to the India farmer, that the money lenders' tribute be not endangered and that the English factory be not put to a further disadvantage.

If every intelligent voter in the Union could read the Bimetallist from now until election the fate of financial emancipation would be in no doubt. In ignorance of finance lies gold's great hope. Respectfully,

M. H. CLEARY.

Mr. Cleary is right in saying that the English manufacturers were being injured by the competition of East Indian factories, but he is mistaken in thinking that the mint of India was closed on that account.

The suspension of coinage on public account in India was the act of the East Indian government itself, permission of the British ministry having first been obtained. In doing this, the Indian government was seeking to save itself from the disastrous consequences of a further and heavy decline in the gold value of the rupee. The government of that country would scarcely go de-

liberately at work to protect the Manchester factory at the expense of those in Calcutta and Bombay.

The English government of India is very strongly in favor of bimetalism, and some of the ablest bimetalists in the world are, or have been, members of that government. What they wanted was the restoration of silver, not its exclusion from the mint. The closing of the mint was not a policy of desire, but, as expressed by President Andrews, one of "despair."—National Bimetalist.

GO A LITTLE SLOW.

Silver the Only Question on Which Patriots of America Are United.

Editor The National Bimetallist: I am glad that the great "rank and file" of the two old parties refuse to longer be "nosed" about by the leaders that are responsible for the awful conditions that now prevail, have taken the initiative step to ally themselves with the party that has already "declared" itself on the question that so vitally affects us all, and called a representative meeting of the bimetalists of the nation to meet at St. Louis at the time of the convening of the People's party in national convention. That is a step in the right direction. Neither of the old parties will offer, either in platform or as a candidate for the presidency, anything looking toward the "free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1," independent of any other government intervention. If such a thing should happen the "money power" would defeat such a party at the polls, for they have the machinery and can do it. But if all the reform forces can and will unite at St. Louis upon a common platform, with a presidential candidate who will stand upon the platform with both feet, declaring for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio that it enjoyed prior to 1873, and then add the "initiative," the "referendum" and the "imperative mandate" planks, such a party could and would sweep the country, electing a president and a majority of both houses of congress. With such a platform the issue between the monometalists and bimetalists would be squarely made, and the Populists and Prohibitionists would, in the end, gain all they are now demanding, and the "people" would rule; for if any representative dared to be recreant to the trust reposed in him, he would be called home and an honest man placed in congress who would do the will of the people. With the "initiative" in the hands of the people, prohibition would follow and the saloon that has been such an awful curse, would be eliminated from the nation; railroads, telegraphs, telephones and express companies would soon come under either government ownership or control, and the land question equitably settled. And not only that, but the government would issue all the money and the people control it, instead of its being issued by private corporations and controlled by them for their private interests as now. In that manner we would soon have an ideal republic as intended by our forefathers by and through the constitution, instead of a plutocracy as now exists.

There is not a government on the face of the earth—excepting, possibly, Russia—that is worse governed than the United States; and yet no nation, like ours, has the semblance of being governed "by the people." If the dear, good people will now, in this year, lay aside their party prejudices and vote awhile for their own interests, and all stand together as one man at the polls, the difficulty can and will be soon settled.

Yours for reform,  
CHARLES HOWELL.

Our correspondent is all right on the main idea—the necessity for united action. He makes one mistake though—that of expecting too much.

There are at least ten million voters in the United States who do not even know what the "initiative," the "referendum" and the "imperative" mean as these terms are used in our politics. Where they are understood there are wide differences of opinion concerning their merits.—National Bimetalist.

Trade Reports.

Trade reports from the commercial centers always have prosperity just "a coming," but halting on the way because of the silver spectre ahead. When the country was thrown into a panic in order to force the repeal of the Sherman law, we were to have prosperity at once, after it was repealed. It didn't come.

Before the elections of last year we were most positively assured that the business stagnation was owing to the "craze for free silver," and that the triumph of "sound money" at the polls would bring a flood tide of prosperity. "Sound money" won, but the prosperity failed to materialize.

We have been plunged \$162,000,000 more deeply into debt, and still prosperity is away off in the dim distance. But it is always in sight, and it is only necessary to give Wall street the legislation it demands, to bring it to every poor man's door.

Destroy \$500,000,000 of our currency and add \$500,000,000 to our interest-bearing debt, and we will be happy—according to the Wall street idea.

Light is Breaking.

A few months ago Judge Miller, second vice-president of the union, made a silver speech in western New York, and upon his return, said: "The ignorance of the people upon the question of bimetalism is astonishing. The farmers of western New York, as elsewhere, are losing their farms but don't understand why." That seed was sown in fruitful soil. To-day we are receiving more calls for literature from western New York than any part of this great nation.

A Palm Needs Fresh Air.

The air where a palm is kept must be moistened by the evaporation of water about the plant, or by the application of it to its foliage. Fresh air must be admitted to take the place of that whose vitality has been burned out by too intense heat. The plant must have a place near the window, where direct light can exert its beneficial effect on the soil. Care must be taken to give only enough water to keep the soil moist. Good drainage must be provided also.—Washington Star.

Antidote for Carbolic Acid.

There seems to be no restrictions to the sale or use of carbolic acid, one of the most powerful and dangerous poisons known, and the result is a large number of cases of accidental poisoning are reported. Dr. Edmund Carlton recommends cider vinegar as the best antidote.—Popular Science News.

Free to "Comrades."

The latest photograph of the Hon. I. N. Walker, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. Write to F. H. Lord, Quincy Building, Chicago, and you will receive one free.

You will never realize the scarcity of your friends until you need one.

Billiard table, second-hand, for sale cheap. Apply to address, H. C. Axtell, 511 S. 12th St., Omaha, Neb.

# Spring

Is the season for purifying, cleansing, and renewing. The accumulations of waste everywhere are being removed. Winter's icy grasp is broken and on all sides are indications of nature's returning life, renewed force, and awakening power.

# Spring

Is the time for purifying the blood, cleansing the system and renewing the physical powers. Owing to close confinement, diminished perspiration and other causes, in the winter, impurities have not passed out of the system as they should but have accumulated in the blood.

# Spring

Is therefore the best time to take Hood's Sarsaparilla, because the system is now most in need of medicine. That Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best blood purifier and Spring medicine is proved by its wonderful cures. A course of Hood's Sarsaparilla now may prevent great suffering later on.

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to pur. rate. 2c.

"IT WILL NOT RUB OFF"

## ALABASTINE

DURABLE AND BEAUTIFUL WALL COATING.

## CUT AND SLASH

SMOKING TOBACCO, 2 oz. for 5 Cents.

## CUT AND SLASH

CHEEROOTS—3 for 5 Cents.

Give a Good, Mellow, Healthy, Pleasant Smoke. Try Them.

LYON & CO. TOBACCO WORKS, Durham, N. C.

The papers say

"travel is light."

But you wouldn't think so if you went west on the Burlington's "Denver Limited."

It is the one train in the west that holds its own—that is as well patronized today as it was two years ago.

Leaves Omaha, 4:35 p. m.—EXACTLY.

Arrives Denver, 7:30 a. m.—NO LATER.

The local ticket agent will gladly ticket you via the Burlington if you tell him to do so.

J. FRANCIS, Gen'l Pass' Agt., Omaha, Neb.

## LEGGINS!

Fine Army Duck, with Buckles, 65c. Sent prepaid on receipt of price. Send size of shoe and measure of calf of leg. L. C. HUNTINGTON & SON, Omaha.

## PARKER'S HAIR BALM

Cleanse and beautify the hair. Promotes a healthy growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases, a hair falling, etc., and all sorts of Dandruff.

## WANTED LADIES or GENTLEMEN

to distribute samples everywhere. BIG MONEY to hustlers; position permanent; enclose stamp. Swiss Herb Tea Co., Chicago.

## Patents, Trade-Marks.

Examination and Advice as to Patentability of Invention. Send for "Inventors' Guide," or How to Get a Patent. PARKER & FARRER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

## PISCO CURE FOR

COUGHS, BRONCHITIS, AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE THROAT AND LUNGS. Sold by druggists.