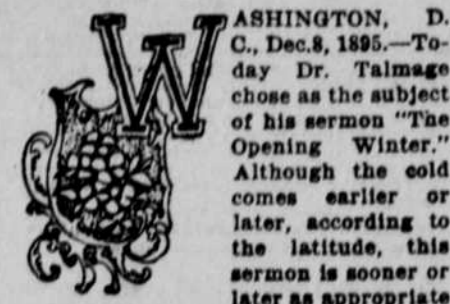


TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"THE OPENING WINTER" THIS WEEK'S SUBJECT.

Text Selected from Titus 3:12, "I have determined there to winter."—Temptations of the Season Explained in eloquent words.



WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8, 1895.—Today Dr. Talmage chose as the subject of his sermon "The Opening Winter." Although the cold comes earlier or later, according to the latitude, this sermon is sooner or later as appropriate everywhere as it is in Washington.

Paul was not independent of the seasons. He sent for his overcoat to Troas on a memorable occasion. And now in the text he is making arrangements for the approaching cold weather, and makes an appointment with Titus to meet him at Neopolis, saying: "I have determined there to winter." Well this is the eighth day of December and the second Sabbath of winter.

Now that the long winter evenings have come, there are many who will employ them in high pursuits, in intelligent socialities, in Christian work, in the strengthening and ennobling of moral character, and this winter to many of you will be the brightest and the best of all your lives, and in anticipation I congratulate you.

In the first place, I have to remark that at this season of the year evil allurements are especially busy. There is not very much temptation for a man to plunge in on a hot night amid blazing gaslights, and to breathe the fetid air of an assemblage, but in the cold nights Satan gathers a great harvest.

Oh! make your home bright. Bring in the violin or the picture. It does not require a great salary or a big house, or chased silver, or gorgeous upholstery to make a home happy. All that is wanted is a father's heart, a mother's heart, in sympathy with the young folks.

and the temptations shall be mighty in dull times such we have had, but which, I believe, are gone; for I hear all over the land the prophecy of great prosperity, and the railroad men and the merchants, they all tell me of the days of prosperity they think are coming, and in many departments they have already come, and they are going to come in all departments; but those dull times through which we have passed have destroyed a great many men.

Then, the winter has especial temptations in the fact that many homes are peculiarly unattractive at this season. In the summer months the young man can sit out on the steps, or he can have a bouquet in the vase on the mantel, or the evenings being so short, soon after gas-light he wants to retire anyhow.

Oh! make your home bright. Bring in the violin or the picture. It does not require a great salary or a big house, or chased silver, or gorgeous upholstery to make a home happy. All that is wanted is a father's heart, a mother's heart, in sympathy with the young folks.

Alas! that old people so much misunderstood young folks! There was a great Sunday-school anniversary, and there were thousands of children present; indeed, all the Sunday-schools of the town were in the building, and it was very uproarious and full of disturbance, and the presiding officer on the occasion came forward, and in a very loud tone shouted, "Silence!"

Oh, what a beautiful thing it is to see a young man standing up amid these temptations of city life incurrant while hundreds are falling. I will tell your history. You will move in respectable circles all your days, and some day a friend of your father will meet you and say: "Good morning, glad to see you. You seem to be prospering; you look like your father for all the world; I thought you would turn out well when I used to hold you on my knee; if you ever want any help or any advice, come to me; as long as I remember your father I'll remember

you. Good morning." That will be the history of hundreds of these young men. How do I know it? I know it by the way you start. But here's a young man who takes the opposite route; voices of sin charm him away. He reads bad books, mingles in bad society. The glow has gone from his cheek and the sparkle from his eye, and the purity from his soul. Down he goes, little by little. The people who saw him when he came to town while yet hovered over his head the blessing of a poor mother's prayer and there was on his lips the dew of a pure sister's kiss, now, as they see him pass, cry: "What an awful wreck!"

Post-Mortem Generosity. We lead miserly or selfish lives, thinking to redeem ourselves by a post-mortem generosity; only relieving distress when our effects can be of no further use to us. We go into mourning and give away our gay apparel because it will become old-fashioned by the time we emerge from our somber garb.

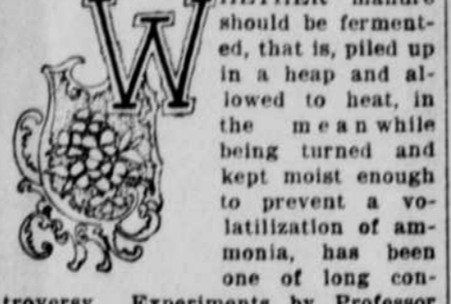
Baxter, it is said, kept the manuscript of the "Saint's Everlasting Rest" in his hands for thirteen years, revising and condensing. Bryant is said to have written "Thanatopsis" in a week. The work of translating Homer consumed four or five of his best years.

Wear a clean apron while ironing or bed-making. To clean bamboo furniture use a brush dipped in salt water. The eyes should be bathed every night in cold water just before retiring, and they will do better work the following day.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.



WHETHER manure should be fermented, that is, piled up in a heap and allowed to heat, in the mean while being turned and kept moist enough to prevent a volatilization of ammonia, has been one of long controversy.

On sandy soils this loss of organic matter, it would appear, is a serious matter, for it is already deficient in it and the water-holding capacity that it brings to the soil is of value to it. In soils already overrich in organic matter and inclined to retain moisture too much—and these are soils where decomposition is likely to be slight—another question will be presented.

Chinch Bugs in Oklahoma. At the Oklahoma Experiment Station Farm, at Stillwater, as well as in many other parts of the territory, chinch bugs were nearly or quite as injurious to crops in the summer and fall as was the dry weather.

Green Manuring.—A report from the New Jersey Station gives the plan of an experiment for the improvement of light lands by the use of crimson clover and cow peas and a statement regarding the method of cultivating cow peas on a larger scale in New Jersey.

Propagating Raspberries.—The proper way to propagate the black cap raspberry is by sticking the long, snake-like tips in the soil and growing a new plant from these. If the soil has been well cultivated and the plant is very vigorous a plant can be made not only from the tip of the main stem, but from most of the branches.

The Economical Cow.

As all successful breeders realize, the time is past when we can wholly rely upon the pedigree as a guide in selecting the animals whose characteristics we wish to perpetuate in our flocks or herds. Not that the law of heredity is any less true than formerly, but because we are coming to appreciate that an animal parent is more likely to transmit its own characteristics rather than those of some ancestors.

In order for a cow to produce a pound of butter fat economically (which should be the standard by which all dairy cows should be judged), she must be able to consume a large amount of coarse fodder, which, of necessity, will always be grown in large quantities by every farmer and dairyman.

Considering the general type of the Holstein breed, is it too much to say that as a breed it contains a greater proportion of cows capable, on account of their large storage capacities, of making butter cheaper than any other breed? I was very much interested in looking over the results obtained at the Minnesota Experiment Station from a herd of 23 cows composed of nearly all breeds and their grades, to find that in a year's trial the cow that produced the most butter was a high-grade Holstein and that the next greatest amount was produced by a registered Holstein.

There is scarcely a year that there is not more or less smutty corn. We would be pleased to have the views and experience of feeders on this subject in the Farmers' Review. Having fed thousands of steers in twenty-five years successfully, without losing a steer from this smut; we tasted it to know its flavor; not using narcotics, or spirits, we found it had the flavor of cornmeal, dry ground. Hence we stacked the entire season's crop and let it sweat. We feared spontaneous combustion, but the wind changed daily, and cooled the stack to the windward, and thus prevented spontaneous combustion.

High-Headed Orchards.—Every year a great deal of fruit is lost by heavy winds blowing it from the trees. This is before it has attained full size. This is partly due to the fact that trees are generally headed too high, a relic of times when the high-branched tree was cut up until a team could walk under it to plow and cultivate.

Is Golden Rod Poisonous?—Dr. C. F. Scott, Wisconsin's state veterinarian, states that the golden rod, which has been suggested as our national floral emblem, is responsible for the death of hundreds of horses in the mining camps in the northern part of that state. Horses turned out to graze feed on the plant and it is reported to be so poisonous that no administered remedy will counteract its effects.

When washing anything that has a cream that do not rise in blue water, but in clear water.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XII, DECEMBER 22—THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

Golden Text: Behold I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy.—Luke, 2:10.—The Need of a Redeemer for Mankind.



INTRODUCTORY: The moral state of the world was then and is now a proof of the need of a Saviour from sin. The moral condition of the Roman Empire, amid the glory of its military achievements, made Rome the mistress of the world; in the height of its intellectual supremacy, producing works which have aided the education of the world for eighteen centuries, and are still a part of the training of every educated person in Christendom; under the power of a law which is still the basis of civilized legislation; amid the triumphs of wealth and luxury, is portrayed in the terrible indictment of Romans 1:21-23, the contemporary literature of the day fully confirms, as do the startling revelations from the ruins of Pompeii.

IV. Jesus Came at the Best Time—There has been no other time in the history of the world so perfectly adapted for the beginning of the Kingdom and the spreading of the news of salvation throughout the earth as that in which Christ was born. (1) It was after the Jews had received all that they would about God's Kingdom, but before the breaking up and scattering of the nation by the fall of their capital and the temple. (2) There were many lands, but nearly all the world was subject to the one government at Rome, so that the preachers of the gospel could travel in safety, and be protected in their work. Roman roads made for their legions were a highway for the gospel, and the Roman soldiers were a guard for its preachers. (3) The world was at peace, for almost the only time, so that the gospel could have free course. (4) The Greek language, the most perfect medium of human speech, was spoken everywhere with the native languages, so that the gospel could be heard and read by all. The conquests of Alexander, which diffused the Greek language, the Greek civilization, and Greek learning throughout the East, were a marvelous providential preparation for the gospel.

V. Jesus Came in the Best Way.—v. 8-20.—Place. He was born at Bethlehem, the city of David, his royal ancestor. Time. He was born about December, B. C. 5. His Father was God. His mother was Mary, a descendant of David. His birth was as an infant, and he was laid in a manger. His circumstances were of humble life and honest toil, that he might be the friend of all men, but especially of the poor and suffering.

1. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 2. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them, and they were sore afraid. 3. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 4. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 5. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Romance of a Watch. A Westboro man has a watch which has quite a romance attached to it. It belonged to Capt. Daniel Chamberland of that town, who carried it to the Sandwich Islands in 1819, he being a member of the pioneer missionary band. While lying in the harbor at Honolulu, Mr. Chamberland accidentally dropped the timepiece overboard into the deep but clear water. It could be seen upon the bottom, and the natives, who were expert divers and swimmers, were called upon to aid in its recovery.

Not a Mere Clerk. Wealthy Parent—What! Engaged yourself to young Tapester? Outrageous! The idea of a Van Juneberry marrying a mere store clerk! Daughter—But he isn't a store clerk now, papa. He is a gentleman of leisure. "Eh?" "Yes; he's been discharged."

CURIOUS FACTS. The Japanese method of lacquering is said to be at least 2,000 years old. Pieces made ten centuries ago are still exhibited. The authorities have prohibited the use of boric acid as a meat preservative. It is said to be used largely by butchers and fish dealers. A year-old baby recently died from nicotine poisoning. It had a pipe to play with for a short time and must have put it in its mouth.