

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SAVE THE CITIES, THE SUBJECT OF LAST SUNDAY.

From the Text: Ezekiel, Chapter XXVII. Verse 3, as follows: "O Thou That Art Situate at the Entry of the Sea"—Moral Leprosy the Destroyer.



THIS is a part of an impassioned apostrophe to the city of Tyre. It was a beautiful city—a majestic city. At the east end of the Mediterranean it sat with one hand beckoning the inland trade, and with the other the commerce of foreign nations. It swung a monstrous boom across its harbor to shut out foreign enemies, and then swung back that boom to let in its friends. The air of the desert was fragrant with the spices brought by caravans to her fairs, and all seas were cleft into foam by the keels of her laden merchantmen. Her markets were rich with horses and mules and camels from Togamah; with upholstery, and ebony, and ivory from Dedan; with emeralds, and agate, and coral from Syria; with wine from Helbon; with finest needlework from Ashur and Chilmad. Talk about the splendid state rooms of your Cunard and Inman and White Star lines of international steamers—why, the benches of the state rooms in those Tyrian ships were all ivory, and instead of our coarse canvas on the masts of the shipping, they had the finest linen, quilted together and inwrought with embroideries almost miraculous for beauty. Its columns overshadowed all nations. Distant empires felt its heartbeat. Majestic city, "situate at the entry of the sea."

But where now is the gleam of her towers, the roar of her chariots, the masts of her shipping? Let the fishermen who dry their nets on the place where she once stood; let the sea that rushes upon the barrenness where she once challenged the admiration of all nations; let the barbarians who built their huts on the place where her palaces glittered, answer the question, "Blotted out forever! She forgot God, and God forgot her. And while our modern cities admire her glory, let them take warning of her awful doom."

Cain was the founder of the first city, and I suppose it took after him in morals. It is a long while before a city can ever get over the character of those who founded it. Were they criminal exiles, the fifth, and the prisons, and the debauchery are the shadows of such founders. New York will not for two or three hundred years escape from the good influences of its founders—the pious settlers whose prayers went up from the very streets where now banks discount and brokers shave, and companies declare dividends, and smugglers swear custom house lies; and above the roar of the drays and the crack of the auctioneers' mallets is heard the ascription, "We worship thee, O thou almighty dollar!" The church that once stood on Wall st. still throws its blessing over all the scene of traffic, and upon the ships that fold their white wings in the harbor. Originally men gathered in cities from necessity. It was to escape the incendiary's torch or the assassin's dagger. Only the very poor lived in the country, those who had nothing that could be stolen, or vagabonds who wanted to be near their place of business; but since civilization and religion have made it safe for men to live almost anywhere, men congregate in cities because of the opportunity for rapid gain. Cities are not necessarily evils, as has sometimes been argued. They have been the birthplace of civilization. In them popular liberty has lifted its voice. Witness Genoa, and Pisa, and Venice. The entrance of the representatives of the cities in the legislatures of Europe was the death blow to feudal kingdoms. Cities are the patronizers of art and literature—architecture pointing to its British museum in London, its Royal Library in Paris, its Vatican in Rome. Cities hold the world's scepter. Africa was Carthage, Greece was Athens, England is London, France is Paris, Italy is Rome, and the cities in which God has cast our lot will yet decide the destiny of the American people.

At this season of the year I have thought it might be useful to talk a little while about the moral responsibility resting upon the office bearers of all our cities—a theme as appropriate to those who are governed as the governors. The moral character of those who rule a city has much to do with the character of the city itself. Men, women and children are all interested in national politics. When the great presidential election comes, every patriot wants to be found at ballot box. We are all interested in the discussion of national finance, national debt, and we read the laws of congress, and we are wondering who will sit next in the presidential chair. Now, that may be all very well—is very well; but it is high time that we took some of the attention which we have been devoting to national affairs and brought it to the study of municipal government. This it seems to me now is the chief point to be taken. Make the cities right, and the nation will be right. I have noticed that according to their opportunities there has really been more corruption in municipal governments in this country than in the state and national legislatures. Now, is there no hope? With the mightiest agent in our land, the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, shall not all our cities be reformed, and purified, and redeemed? I believe the day will come. I am in full sympathy with those who are opposed to carrying politics into religion; but our cities will never be reformed and purified until we carry religion into politics. I look over our cities and I see that all great interests are to be affected in the fu-

ture, as they have been affected in the past, by the character of those who in the different departments rule over us, and I propose to classify some of those interests:

In the first place I remark: Commercial ethics are always affected by the moral or immoral character of those who have municipal supremacy. Officials that wink at fraud, and that have neither censure nor arraignment for glittering dishonesties, always weaken the pulse of commercial honor. Every shop, every store, every bazaar, every factory in the cities feels the moral character of the city hall. If in any city there be a dishonest mayoralty, or an unprincipled common council, or a court susceptible to bribes, in that city there will be unlimited license for all kinds of trickery and sin; while, on the other hand, if officials are faithful to their oath of office, if the laws are promptly executed, if there is vigilance in regard to the outranchings of crime, there is the highest protection for all bargain making. A merchant may stand in his store and say: "Now, I'll have nothing to do with city politics; I will not soil my hands with the slush;" nevertheless the most insignificant trial in the police court will affect that merchant directly or indirectly. What style of clerk issues the writ; what style of constable makes the arrest; what style of attorney issues the plea; what style of judge charge the jury; what style of sheriff executes the sentence—these are questions that strike your counting rooms to the center. You may not throw it off. In the city of New York, Christian merchants for a great while said: "We'll have nothing to do with the management of public affairs," and they allowed everything to go at loose ends until there rolled up in the city a debt of nearly \$120,000,000. The municipal government became a hissing and a by-word in the whole earth, and then the Christian merchants saw their folly, and they went and took possession of the ballot boxes. I wish all commercial men to understand that they are not independent of the moral character of the men who rule over them, but must be thoroughly, mightily affected by them.

So, also, of the educational interests of a city. Do you know that there are in this country about seventy thousand common schools, and that there are over eight millions of pupils, and that the majority of these schools and the majority of those pupils are in our cities? Now, this great multitude of children will be affected by the intelligence or ignorance, the virtue or the vice, of boards of education and boards of control. There are cities where educational affairs are settled in the low caucus in the abandoned parts of the city, by men full of ignorance and rum. It ought not to be so; but in many cities it is so. I hear the tramp of coming generations. What that great multitude of youth shall be for this world and the next will be affected very much by the character of your public schools. You had better multiply the moral and religious influences about the common schools rather than abstract from them. Instead of driving the Bible out, you had better drive the Bible further in. May God defend our glorious common school system, and send into rout and confusion all its sworn enemies.

I have also to say that the character of officials in a city affects the domestic circle. In a city where grogshops have their own way, and gambling halls are not interfered with, and for fear of losing political influence officials close their eyes to festering abominations—in all those cities the home interests need to make imploration. The family circles of the city must inevitably be affected by the moral character or the immoral character of those who rule over them.

I will go further and say that the religious interests of a city are thus affected. The church today has to contend with evils that the civil law ought to smite; and while I would not have the civil government in any wise relax its energy in the arrest and punishment of crime, I would have a thousand-fold more energy put forth in the drying up of the fountains of iniquity. The church of God asks no pecuniary aid from political power; but does ask that in addition to all the evils we must necessarily contend against we shall not have to fight also municipal negligence. Oh, that in all our cities Christian people would rise up, and that they would put their hand on the helm before piratical demagogues have swamped the ship. Instead of giving so much time to national politics, give some of your attention to municipal government.

I demand that the Christian people who have been standing aloof from public affairs come back, and in the might of God try to save our cities. If things are or have been bad, it is because good people have let them be bad. That Christian man who merely goes to the polls and casts his vote does not do his duty. It is not the ballot box that decides the election, it is the political caucus; and if at the primary meetings of the two political parties unfit and bad men are nominated, then the ballot box has nothing to do save to take its choice between two thieves! In our churches, by reformatory organization, in every way let us try to tone up the moral sentiment in these cities. The rulers are those whom the people choose, and depend upon it that in all the cities, as long as pure hearted men stand aloof from politics because they despise hot partisanship, just so long in many of our cities will rum make the nominations, and rum control the ballot box, and rum inaugurate the officials.

I take a step further in this subject, and ask all those who believe in the omnipotence of prayer, day by day, and every day, present your city officials before God for blessing. If you live in a city presided over by a mayor, pray for him. The chief magistrate of a city is in a position of great responsibility. Many of the kings and queens and em-

perors of other days have no such dominion. With the scratch of a pen he may advance a beneficent institution or balk a railway confiscation. By appointments he may bless or curse every hearthstone in the city. If in the Episcopal churches, by the authority of the Litany, and in our non-Episcopate churches, we every Sabbath pray for the president of the United States, why not, then, be just as hearty in our supplications for the chief magistrates of cities, for their guidance, for their health, for their present and everlasting morality?

My word now is to all who may come to hold any public position of trust in any city. You are God's representatives. God, the king and ruler and judge, sets you in his place. Oh, be faithful in the discharge of all your duties, so that when all our cities are in ashes, and the world itself is a red scroll of flame, you may be, in the mercy and grace of Christ, rewarded for your faithfulness. It was that feeling which gave such eminent qualifications for office to Neal Dow, mayor of Portland, and to Judge McLean, of Ohio, and to Benjamin F. Butler, attorney-general of New York, and to George Briggs, governor of Massachusetts, and to Theodore Frelinghuysen, senator of the United States, and to William Wilberforce, member of the British parliament. You may make the rewards of eternity the emoluments of your office. What care you for adverse political criticism if you have God on your side? The one, or the two, or the three years of your public trust will pass away, and all the years of your earthly service, and then the tribunal will be lifted, before which you and I must appear. May God make you so faithful now that the last scene shall be to your exhilaration and rapture. I wish now to exhort all good people, whether they are the governors or the governed, to make one grand effort for the salvation, the purification, the redemption of our American cities. Do you not know that there are multitudes going down to ruin, temporal and eternal, dropping quicker than words from my lips? Grogshops swallow them up. Gambling halls devour them. Houses of shame are damning them. Oh, let us toil, and pray, and preach, and vote until all these wrongs are righted. What we do we must do quickly. With our rulers, and on the same platform, we must at last come before the throne of God to answer for what we have done for the bettering of our great towns. Alas! if on that day it will be found that your hand has been idle and my pulpits have been silent. Oh, ye who are pure and honest, and Christian, go to work and help to make the cities pure, and honest, and Christian.

Let it may have been thought that I am addressing only what are called the better classes, my final word is to some dissolute soul to whom these words may come. Though you may be covered with all crimes, though you may be smitten with all leproses, though you may have gone through the whole catalogue of iniquity, and may not have been in church for twenty years, you may have your nature entirely reconstructed, and upon your brow, hot with infamous practices and beset with exhausting indulgences, God will place the flashing coronet of a Savior's forgiveness. "Oh, no!" you say, "if you knew who I am and where I came from, you wouldn't say that to me. I don't believe the Gospel you are preaching speaks of my case." Yes, it does, my brother. And then when you tell me that, I think of what St. Teresa said when reduced to utter destitution, having only two pieces of money left, she jingled the two pieces of money in her hand and said: "St. Teresa and two pieces of money are nothing; but St. Teresa and two pieces of money and God are all things." And I tell you now that while a sin and a sinner are nothing, a sin and a sinner and an all forgiving and all compassionate God are everything.

Who is that that I see coming? I know his step. I know his rags. Who is it? A prodigal. Come, people of God; let us go out and meet him. Get the best robe you can find in all the wardrobe. Let the angels of God fill their chalices and drink to his eternal rescue. Come, people of God, let us go out to meet him. The prodigal is coming home. The dead is alive again, and the lost is found.

Pleased with the news, the saint below In songs their tongues employ; Beyond the skies the tidings go, And heaven is filled with joy.

Nor angels can their joy contain, But kindly with new fire; "The sinner lost is found," they sing, And strike the sounding lyre.

Joy Versus Sorrow.
No human being can come into the world without increasing or diminishing the sum total of human happiness, not only of the present, but of every subsequent age of humanity. No one can detach himself from this connection. There is no sequestered spot in the universe, no dark niche along the disk of non-existence to which he can retreat from his relations to others, where he can withdraw his influence of his existence upon the moral destiny of the world; everywhere he will have companions who will be better or worse for his influence.

Not to Blame.
"You know you think more of a rich man than a poor one," said the outspoken friend. "I can't deny it," said the statesman sadly. "But how can I help it? Every poor man I meet wants me to help him get a government job."—Indianapolis Journal.

Correct Saves Her Life.
A steel of a corset saved the life of Mrs. David R. Evans, at Wilkes-Barre, recently. Her husband discharged a pistol at her, and the bullet struck her corset steel, incised the flesh and fell to the floor.

DECLINE OF EMPIRE.

SPAIN'S POSSESSIONS IN AMERICA NOW FEW.

A Hundred Years Has Relieved Spain From Every One of Her New World Possessions—Little Cuba the Last to Go.



HEN the great Charles V. mounted the throne of Spain in 1516 as King Charles I., Cabot, Columbus and Vesputius had discovered the New World. Not long after Charles' accession to the Spanish throne, Fernando Cortes marched at the head of his army from the Gulf of Mexico upon the city of that name, and, after furious struggles, dethroned the native sovereign and reigned in his stead as the viceroy of King Charles. Cortes discovered the Pacific and California. Before the death of Charles the Spaniards had pushed northwards, and as early as the year 1540, Spanish settlements were made in what is now the State of New Mexico. Southwards, Charles' lieutenants established a regular line of communication from ocean to ocean across the Isthmus of Panama. This line of communication was made for no less a purpose than to transport the ingots of silver from the rich mines of Peru to Charles' coffers in Spain, and from the Atlantic side on their way to Atlantic to carry the stores for the arsenals and garrisons which were being established on the Pacific.

In the meantime Francesco Pizarro had completed the conquest of Peru, while the Islands of the West Indies peacefully became provinces of Spain, as entirely under her control as were Valencia and Andalusia. Before the death of the great Emperor, Spain had taken possession of Florida, and her flag floated proudly over Mexico, New Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Chili, Paraguay and Buenos Ayres upon the continent, and over every important island in the Caribbean Sea. And on the map Spain claimed even wider dominion in America. Thus stood the condition of affairs in the middle of the sixteenth century.

By the beginning of the present century a vast change had taken place. Spain found herself deprived of a great part of the rich colonial possessions over which she had once held such imperial sway. The entire east-

ern coast was gone, both in North and South America, and there were alarming inroads in the center. But Spain still owned California, Florida, Central America and all the western part of South America.

Spain by this act lost a territory of 318,000 square miles, and twice as large as Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania all three put together. Florida meanwhile had been purchased by the United States for five million dollars. Its possession dates back to 1821, when the United States received it from Spain according to the treaty of purchase made two years before. There were 67,000 square miles and the whole country was rich in vegetation and minerals. It was called the floral region of the New World and was named for the Spanish Easter, upon which day it was discovered.

So rapidly did the land pass out of the hands of the Spanish crown that within a generation the lower half of North America, from being a Spanish country, became part of the United States. California was added to the United States in 1848, after the Mexican struggle. It embraced the immense tract that is now divided up into six states, and in 1849 it became the territory of California.

FOUNDER OF TOMBSTONE.

Remarkable Career of a St. Louis Boy Who Became a Miner.

Edward Scheffelin, who was found dead the other day in his miner's shack in Oregon, had an eventful life, says the St. Louis Republic. "I remember well," said William H. Boothe, an old-time mine promoter, to a reporter, "when he opened up the Contention mine at Tombstone and gave the place its queer name. I ought to remember it, for it was I who grub-staked Scheffelin on that prospecting tour. He bunked me out of all but a few hundred. The stories that have been told about Scheffelin's daring in penetrating into the Apache country and particularly into the Cochise mountains, where he found the Contention lode, are not much exaggerated. It was a pretty ticklish thing to go down there. Old Cochise had been 'pacified,' it is true, but he had a lively son, Natchez, and a valiant nephew, Geronimo, and they were the active young leaders of about as 'pizen' a set of Indians as



THE BLACK PORTIONS SHOW SPAIN'S POSSESSIONS IN 1800 AND TODAY.

ever swung a Winchester. So when Ed Scheffelin struck the Contention lode and called the place 'Tombstone' we thought it a happy play of Ed's mind. The Contention proved to be a great mine. It was enormously rich in silver, but it was discovered just about the time every condition arose to put down the price of that metal. However, it yielded an amount away into the millions. The Scheffelins sold half of the mine to Walter Dean of San Francisco, Dick Gird of Los Angeles, F. A. Tritte, then governor of the territory, and others in San Francisco for \$500,000. Of course the Scheffelins lost most of their fortune. They couldn't help it. Ed was a restless fellow. He wasn't dissipated, nor did he gamble or have other expensive vices, but he was generous and a plunger on his luck. He wouldn't settle down and do business on business principles."

A Dog's Legal Status.

That so august a tribunal as the supreme court of the United States should be called upon to define the legal status of a dog seems singular; but a decision bearing upon that point has just been rendered. The case was a suit brought by a citizen of Louisiana to recover damages from a railroad company for having run over his dog; and the question was, whether the state law recognizing dogs as personal property only when placed on the assessment rolls was constitutional. The court decided that it was. Incidentally the court ruled that property in dogs is of an imperfect and qualified nature, and that they stand between wild animals, in which, till they are subdued, there is no property, and domestic animals, in which the right of property is complete.

Gerard Wallop, Esq., is the name of the secretary of the British National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

SEDAN CHAIRS COME AGAIN.

London's Fashionable Women Will Try to Make Them Popular.

While New York is trying to accustom itself to the novelty of the horseless carriage there has commenced in London a demand for the sedan chair as a vehicle of fashionable travel, says the New York Herald. One firm, according to a newspaper paragraph, is busy in the manufacture of these relics, which of recent years have proved useful only as ornaments or on the stage. The new chairs are not to be decorated as of old, with paintings or gilded moldings, but the colors popular for the decoration of ordinary vehicles will be used. They will be painted black, dark green, blue or maroon, with light yellow, green and red for trimmings. The chairs will be very light and the promoters of the scheme are said to expect their profit from the use of the vehicles for evening parties, dinners or other gatherings where the distance to be traveled is not far. Other passengers will not be carried and the interior of the chairs will in this way be kept perfectly clean and wraps or dresses of light colors are not likely to be soiled. Sedan chairs are said to have got their name from the town of Sedan, where they were first used. They were used in London about the beginning of the seventeenth century, but the first person of note to use one was the duke of Buckingham, the favorite of King James I., and his son Charles. Prince Charles, on his return from his adventurous journey to Spain, is said to have brought back three curiously carved sedan chairs. The palmy days of the sedan chair in England were the earlier decades of the last century. In 1710 there were 200 in London and the number remained much the same until the reign of George III. Besides these public chairs there were very many which belonged to private owners and were elaborately carved and luxuriously fitted. As the eighteenth century neared its end the number of chairs began to decrease, while the number of hackney coaches was largely increased. The use of sedan chairs, however, died hard. In many country towns they remained in use until a period well within the memory of men still comparatively young. At Newcastle one was still extant in 1885 and at Bury St. Edmund's in 1890. They are still in use in some places abroad. Mention is made of such conveyances at Geneva in 1882; in 1888 the archbishop of Seville was carried forth in one. In the streets of Bahia, in Brazil, sedan chairs borne by stalwart negroes may be seen in use at the present day.

Jury Laws.

So much difficulty is experienced in getting twelve men in a jury box to look at a case from the same point of view that several states, Utah among them, have passed laws permitting verdicts to be rendered in civil cases by a majority vote of jurors. The supreme court of the United States has just set aside a verdict; but as the case was one that arose while Utah was a territory, the decision does not touch the validity of a majority verdict under a state form of government. The court grounded its objection on the seventh amendment to the constitution, which guarantees the right of trial by jury, and on the general law which confirms the statutes of territories "so far as they authorize a uniform course of proceeding in all cases." The court held that uniformity is a prerequisite in all territorial cases.

The Villyun.

"Papa, are we descended from monkeys?" asked a small boy, who had heard some one expounding certain scientific opinions. "No, my son, not on this side of the house," was the father's very improper answer.—Exchange.

MISCELLANY.

Twelve thousand feet of lumber was unloaded from a railroad car and piled up in twenty minutes at Gardiner, Me., the other day.

One sixty-four-year-old resident of Pettis, Mo., says that he has never worn a pair of overshoes, a watch, or a paper collar.

A meeting of 2,000 persons over seventy years of age is annually held in Leicester, England, and of these 400 die before the next anniversary.

In times of scarcity the South African natives sometime rob the nests of the ternites, and as much as five bushels of grain have been taken from a single nest.

Mary—Does it ever occur to you that Mr. Smithers is acting a part? Harriet—No, Smithers always seemed to me to think himself the whole thing.—Truth.

The towns of Woodsdale, Moscow, Springfield and Fargo, in Kansas, which had a population of eleven hundred in 1890, have now only a population of eighteen.

Fleas are infested with parasites which prey upon them and destroy them, and these, in turn, as has been shown by the microscope, are killed by still smaller parasites.

Nibbs—What a perfect poem the count's rich wife is. Dibbs—Yes; the count is the only man I know of who can make poetry pay him thirty thousand a year.—Tit-Bits.

Little Boreham (relating his Alpine adventures)—There I stood, the abyss yawning at my feet— Cropper (yawning portentously)—"Excuse me, B, but the thing's infectious.—Household Words.

When a man realizes that he can't pay his debts, and has got to ask for an extension of time, the first thing for him to do is to go to a fashionable tailor and get him a new suit of clothes. Creditors are seldom lenient with a sordid man.—Somerville Journal.