

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Dr. Talmage preached on "Sailing Up the Nile," the second sermon of the series entitled "From the Pyramids to the Acropolis; or, What I Saw in Egypt and Greece Confirmatory of the Scriptures." His text was Ezekiel xxix, 9: "The river is mine and I have made it." Aha! This is the river Nile. A brown, or yellow, or silver cord on which are hung more jewels of thrilling interest than on any river that was ever twisted in the sunshine. It ripples through the book of Ezekiel and flashes in the books of Deuteronomy and Isaiah and Zachariah and Nahum, and on its banks stood the mighties of many ages. It was the crystal cradle of Moses, and on its banks Mary, the refugee, carried the infant Jesus. To find the birthplace of this river was the fascination and defeat of expeditions without number. Not many years ago Bayard Taylor, our great American traveler, wrote: "Since Columbus first looked upon San Salvador, the earth has but one emotion of triumph left for her bestowal, and that she reserves for him who shall first drink from the fountains of the White Nile under the snow fields of Kilimanjaro." But the discovery of the sources of the Nile by most people was considered an impossibility. The malarial, the wild beasts, the savages, the unclimbable steep, the vast distances, stopped all expeditions for ages. An intelligent native said to Sir Samuel W. Baker and wife as they were on their way to accomplish that in which others had failed: "Give up the mad scheme of the Nile source. How would it be possible for a lady young and delicate to endure what would kill the strongest man? Give it up." But the work went on until Speke and Grant and Baker found the two lakes which are the source of what was called the White Nile, and baptized these two lakes with the names of Victoria and Albert. These two lakes, filled by great rainfalls and by accumulated snows from the mountains, pour their waters, laden with agricultural wealth such as leeches no other river, on down over the cataracts, on between frowning mountains, on between cities living and cities dead, on for 4,000 miles and through a continent. But the White Nile would do little for Egypt if this were all. It would keep its banks and Egypt would remain a desert. But from Abyssinia there comes what is called the Blue Nile, which, though dry or nearly dry half the year, under tremendous rains about the middle of June rises to great momentum, and this Blue Nile dashes with sudden influx into the White Nile, which in consequence rises thirty feet, and their combined waters inundate Egypt with a rich soil which drops on all the fields and gardens as it is conducted by ditches, and sluices, and canals every whither. The greatest damage that ever came to Egypt came by the drying up of the river Nile, and the greatest blessing by its healthful and abundant flow. The famine in Joseph's time came from the lack of sufficient inundation from the Nile. Not enough Nile is drouth, too much Nile freshet and plague. The rivers of the earth are the mothers of its prosperity. If by some convulsion of nature the Mississippi should be taken from North America, or the Amazon from South America, or the Danube from Europe, or the Yenesei from Asia—what hemispheric calamity! Still there are other rivers that could fertilize and save these countries. Our own continent is guiched, is ribboned, is glorified by innumerable water courses. But Egypt has only one great river, and that is harnessed to draw all the prosperities of realms in acreage semi-infinite. What happens to the Nile, happens to Egypt. The nilometer was to me very suggestive as we went up and down its damp stone steps and saw the pillar marked with notches telling just how high or low are the waters of the Nile. When the Nile is rising, four criers every morning run through the city announcing how many feet the river has risen—ten feet, fifteen feet, twenty feet, twenty-four feet—and when the right height of water is reached the gates of the canals are flung open and the liquid and refreshing benediction is pronounced on all the land.

Then I understood how the land could be watered with the foot. How do you suppose I felt when on the deck of that steamer on the Nile I looked off upon the canals and ditches and sluices through which the fields are irrigated by the river, and then read in Isaiah, "The burden of Egypt; the river shall be wasted and dried up and they shall turn the rivers far away and the brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up; and they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish." That Thanksgiving morning on the Nile I found my text of today. Pharaoh in this chapter is compared to the dragon or hippopotamus suggested by the crocodiles that used to line the banks of this river. "Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I am against thee Pharaoh, king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said my river is mine own, and I have made it for myself. But I will put hooks in thy jaws and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of rivers will stick unto thy scales, and the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord because he hath said the river is mine, and I have made it."

On and up till you reach Thebes, in scripture called the City of No. Hundred gated Thebes. A quadrangular city, four miles from limit to limit. Four great temples, two of them Karnac and Luxor, once mountains of exquisite sculpture and gorgeous dreams solidified in stone. Statue of Rameses II., 887 tons in weight and 75 feet high, but now fallen and scattered. Walls bloom with battlefields of centuries. The surrounding hills of rock hollowed into sepulchres on the wall of which are chiseled in picture and hieroglyphics the confirmation of bible story in regard to the treatment of the Israelites in Egypt so that, as explorations go on with the work the walls of these sepulchres become commentaries of the bible, the scriptures originally written upon parchment here cut into everlasting stone. Thebes might and dominant 500 years. Then she went down in fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy concerning the City of No, which was another name for Thebes: "I will cut off the multitudes of No." Jeremiah also prophesied: "Thus saith the Lord, I will punish the multitudes of No." This city of Thebes and all the other dead cities of Egypt iterate and reiterate the veracity of the scriptures, telling the same story which Moses and the prophets told. Have you noticed how God kept back these archaeological conformations of the bible until our time when the air is full of unbelief about the truthfulness of the dear old book? He waited until the printing press had been set up in its perfected shape, and the world was intelligent enough to appreciate the testimony and then he resurrected the dead cities of the earth, and commands them saying: "Open your long sealed lips and speak! Memphis and Thebes! Is the bible true?" "True!" responded Memphis and Thebes. "Babylon! Is the book of Daniel true?" responds Babylon. "Ruins of Palestine and Syria! Is the new testament true?" "True!" respond the ruins all the way from Joppa to the Dead sea, and from Jerusalem to Damascus. What a Mercy that this testimony of the dead cities should come at a time when the bible is especially assailed.

Two great nations, Egypt and Greece, diplomated and almost came to battle for one book, a copy of Aeschylus. Ptolemy great library at Alexandria there was no copy Aeschylus. The Egyptian king sent up to Athens, to borrow the book and make a copy of it. Athens demanded a deposit of \$17,700 as security. The Egyptian king received the book but refused to return that which he had borrowed, and so forfeited the \$17,700. The two nations rose in contention concerning that one book. Beautiful and mighty book indeed! But it is a book of horrors, the dominant idea that we are the victims of hereditary influences from which there is no escape, and that fate rules the world and although the author does tell of Prometheus, who was crucified on the rocks for sympathy for mankind a powerful suggestion of the sacrifice of Christ in later years, it is a very poor book compared with the book which we hug to our hearts because it contains our only guide in life our only comfort in death and our only hope for a bliss-immortality. If two nations could afford to struggle for one copy of Aeschylus, how much more can all nations afford to struggle for the possessions and triumph of the holy scriptures?

I notice the voice of those ancient cities is hoarse from the exposure of forty centuries, and they accentuate slowly with lips that were pale for ages, but all together those cities along the Nile intone these words, "Hear us for we are very old, and it is hard for us to speak. We were wise long before Athens learned her first lesson. We sailed our ships while yet navigation was unborn. These obelisks, these pyramids, these fallen pillars, these wreathed temples, these columns of black granite, wreathed seraphim under the

bow of the hills, tell you of what I was in grandeur, and of what I am coming down to be. We sinned and we fell. Our learning could not save us. See those half-obliterated hieroglyphics on yonder wall. Our architecture could not save us. To the printed columns of Phileas, and the shattered temple of Esneh. Our heroes could not save us. Witness Menes, Diodorus, Rameses and Ptolemy. Our gods Ammon and Osiris could not save us. See their fallen temples all along the 4,000 miles of Nile. Oh, ye modern cities get some other God; a God who can help, a God who can pardon, a God who can save. Called up as we are for a little while to give testimony, again the sands of the desert will bury us. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!" And as these voices of prophesy and granite ceased, all the sarcophagi under the hills responded, "Ashes to ashes!" and the capital of a lofty column fell, grinding itself to powder among the rocks and responding, "Dust to dust."

The National Cloth of Ireland.
As far back as the history of Ireland can be traced in writings mention is made of a coarse woolen cloth woven by the people of the country and known to them as frieze. The name is said to be drawn from the ancient Frisa in the Netherlands whence possibly the art of making the fabric was derived. So remote however is the period when frieze was first made in Erin that no one can tell when or where or by whom it was originally spun. Century after century so long as that the mind of man runneth not to the contrary it has been the national cloth of Ireland the distinctive dress of patriot peasant and peer, and since the seventeenth century and outward badge of the people's aspirations for nationality.—Donohoe's Magazine.

Fossil Footprints in Connecticut.
Several footprints of reptiles of various dimensions have lately been discovered about three miles from Holyoke, upon the rock in G. L. Bosworth's quarry, near the shore of the Connecticut river, which have caused considerable excitement and elicited many inquiries.

The discoveries occur not unfrequently, more than 12,000 such foot-marks having already been brought to light and, in fact, it is well known throughout the scientific world that the new red sandstone of the Connecticut valley, which extends about 110 miles from north to south and averages about twenty miles in width from east to west, is one of the most prolific of fossil prints. Slabs of this stone, having upon them the wonderful indentations, can be found in almost all the museums of this country and Europe.—Springfield Republican.

The Sponge is a Fish with a Stomach.
The sponge is perhaps one of the most curious of fish although several eminent naturalists of the past have maintained that it is not. One naturalist says that the animalcule of the sponge is a stomach, without arms very simple very elementary—in short an animal all stomach. The innumerable canals in the sponge are at once its digestive organs and breathing pores. If a sponge is broken open it will be seen that the pores of two different sizes. In the living state the water containing the particles of food is constantly being absorbed by the small holes and is discharged by the larger the food being retained.

The Nutmeg Tree
The nutmeg is the kernel of the fruit of several species of trees growing wild in Asia, Africa and America. The cultivated nutmeg tree is from fifty to seventy-five feet high and produces fruit for sixty years. The fruit is of the size and appearance of a roundish pear, yellow in color. The fleshy part of the fruit is rather hard and resembles candied citron.

An Old Maids' Society.
Thirty years ago and more fifty, ladies of the First Church of Milford formed a society of old maids, every one of whom vowed that she would never marry. Each member paid five dollars on admission, the interest on the principal thus raised to be expended in annual dinners while the principal itself was to go to the member who remained unmarried the longest. In the three decades which have succeeded all but fifteen of the original fifty have married, and as the storms of sixty winters have whitened the hair of the faithful it looks as if they would stick. It is a question who will outlive all the others and receive the reward which now amounts to nearly \$1,000.—New Haven Palladium.

OUR FARM DEPARTMENT.

Stock and Farm Notes.
Tansy water is recommended as a destroyer of the cabbage worm. Where tansy grows in large quantities it will not cost much to try the remedy.

Land Too Rich For Strawberries.
I was recently talking with a friend who lives only two miles from Mr. C. and who marketed last year \$500 worth of strawberries from an acre and one-half and he told me that his crop would have been more satisfactory and yielded more money if the land had been poorer. It was a piece which had been heavily manured for cabbage and onions for several years and the growth of foliage was excessive and the fruit so soft that it was difficult to get to market six miles away, in perfect shape. The varieties are Bubach and Glendale. He charged the softness to an over-supply of nitrogenous manure in the soil or the same cause which makes wheat lodge. If his field been planted to early potatoes then sowed to wheat or stocked with clover, plowing under the young clover next spring, and then planted to strawberries probably 200 bushels of potatoes and thirty of wheat per acre could have been taken off without at all impairing the soil for strawberries. Mr. Terry who by three years rotation of potatoes, wheat and clover gives no opportunity to the white grub plants strawberries or a rich clover sod and manures but slightly so as not to lodge the wheat which follows the strawberries the latter being planted in a corner of the potato field. Mr. T. gets very successful yields of strawberries in this way on land that produces one year with another twenty-eight or thirty bushels of wheat per acre, so this is a very good gauge for the requisite fertility of strawberry ground.—Vick's Magazine for June.

A Milking Machine.
The milking machine recently invented and patented says the Farming World was shown in operation twice daily at the royal show at Doncaster last week. Three cows were provided by the society to afford the public an opportunity of witnessing the much-talked of machine at work and also to all the society to form an opinion as to its real worth. Notwithstanding the fact that the invention has many prejudices and skepticisms to overcome it created a very favorable impression amongst the large crowds that continually thronged the stand. Amongst the many noted personages who inspected the machine at work where the Prince and Princess of Wales who witnessed the operation with apparent interest. We have little doubt but this machine has a successful future before it. It performed its work so satisfactory as to earn an award of a silver medal from the royal society.

Advances in Science.
Antimony is found extensively in Portugal, the largest beds being situated near Braganza.
An electric flying machine was recently made to rise to a height of 70 feet and fly about 400 yards.
Sawdust and shavings, when reduced to powdered charcoal, are now used in wine to absorb unpleasant odors.
A French electrician has gotten up a device by which he can send 150 type-written words per minute over a single wire.
A great microscope that is being built at Munich will under ordinary conditions magnify 11,000 and in special cases 16,000 diameters.
Recent improvements in telegraphy enable certain companies to transmit 100 words for cents and realize a handsome profit.
An alloy of gold and aluminum has recently been made. Its color is a most beautiful purple, and it will be valuable in making up jewelry.
Besides the large planets which revolved about the sun, over 250 others have been discovered and catalogued, and science is daily adding to this list.
Telescopic steel masts or rods are to be used in lighting the public squares in Brussels. The object of this system is to preserve the beauty of the parks in the daytime.
A new aluminum alloy, with titanium, is being manufactured in Pittsburg. It sells at from 25 cents to \$1 per pound more than pure aluminum. It is very hard and is an excellent material for making tools. About 10 per cent of titanium is used.
Further tests of fibrelia, the product of common flax straw, show that to a certain extent it has not only valuable textile properties of itself, but also as a substitute for cotton or wool; it is claimed in fact, that 25 per cent of the fibrelia, with 75 per cent of wool, made into broad-cloth, gives a product absolutely more valuable than if made of wool alone—that it is the real strength of the cloth that is enhanced, it is more impervious to water, is warmer and on account of its tenacity and flexibility, cementing property and electrical adhesion fibrelia does not impart corrosive qualities to the wool and increased durability to the cloth, but imparts to the whole a gloss and finish, not otherwise attainable.
By the use of the camera, with powerful telescopes, a new and very large crater has been shown upon the moon's surface.

Use the best Salt.
It is one of the queerest things in the dairy world of the man who pays thousands of dollars for his blooded cows and perhaps has his cow stable and dairy houses built after classic architectural designs small five or ten pound bags of salt brands "Sam Jones Light of the World," or even more familiar name of the nearest cross roads grocer. Does he not know that wholesale dealers in salt buy up large quantities of job lots of all kinds of salt except the best and then pack it in little blue-lettered bags in any brand or name the purchaser may desire? Does he not know that this is the best way in the world to get into his butter all the objectionable articles that salt is ever known to contain? If he does not it is time he was learning and buy his salt from those old established manufacturers whose dairy have a reputation to protect.—New Dairy.

A Short Pig Crop.
Mr. W. M. Lambing of Des Moines (who has travelled extensively over the state spoke of "The Pig Crop of 1891.") The crop is short for several causes. Breeders were short of feed in some places and reduced the stock of females. The damp early spring caused heavy loss from such causes as thumps or indigestion and chills. The loss is estimated at from 25 to 50 per cent in

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Notes of the Fashion.
A pretty ulster is of chenille cloth in black and white, with the hood and cape lined in black velvet.

Towels, especially the plain linen hemstitched ones, have taken to themselves added inches this autumn.

Pearl gray gloves with rough edges and wide black or white stitching are considered more elegant for street wear than the pure white.

Of all the shapes, the very long and perfectly round, loosely flowing cape is perhaps the most graceful. The wind will circulate rather freely beneath it, but who will care for that? It is pretty.

The watch paper weight is something of a novelty. It is more suited to a man's desk than the boudoir kavenport, as it is very massive and solid. The timepiece is sunk in brass, usually a plain heavy piece with polished finish.

Fine lingerie is plainer in that it is not lace trimmed, but its cost is kept up with exquisite needlework. Fine wide frills worked at the edge by hand in French knots in red, blue, mauve, and heliotrope is a new garniture. The frills are put on very deep and full.

Yellow cloth skirts appear on French costumes made with dark brown or green princess overdresses, slashed to the waist and edged with brown fur. The yellow skirts are nearly covered with brown or green silk Soutache, braiding with a roll of fur at the extreme edge.

How to Cut Off Artistic Corners.
No room ought to have more than two corners if you expect to have it pretty. Get rid of one by a four leaved screen, in front of which your lounge will be very much in place. I have seen a lovely corner treated in this way. The screen is covered with shirred alkaline in soft cream and wood color, the lounge is a bamboo affair with cool thin pillows, covered with grass cloth. At the head of the lounge stands an old rosewood chest with brass handles, to which the family silver used to be kept fifty years ago. It has a few favorite books on it now and a reading lamp. The flat where you must go to admit this corner was designed by a man with a soul above closets. So the innocent looking screen conceals a lot of trunk and a length of stove-pipe. Fill up another corner with a lot of drapery and set there a small table, covered with pictures of everyone of your family, from grandpa to the baby. Don't let a single outsider show his face there, not even if he is engaged to one of the girls. It is a pretty idea and rapidly growing in favor. Besides its dainty sentiment it is a great source of conversation and will draw pleasant remarks from the most impossible visitor: There is pretty sure to be a door in the third corner, so don't pay any attention to it, but put your easiest chair in number four, and, if by a window, it will be instead of an eyesore, the place of others the most desirable.

Indeed the man who can resist a girl in this season in her opera cloak of mauve plush, lined with silk to match, will be either soulless or so occupied with the hideous contrast made by his own stupid, prosaic black coat and white shirt front that he wants to go away on a vacation until some kind brave soul inaugurates for men a style of dress that will be more artistic and suited to the sumptuousness of the girl he elects to escort. Of course, this means velvet coats, satin waistcoat, delicious lace frills that seem to breathe fourth the courtly grace that has become adead letter in the days of modern attire. He will also have to don knee breeches and wear jeweled shoe buckles. I leave the suggestion to work. What man has the courage or artistic sense to take up the gauntlet?

Balzac, the keenest anatomist of woman, says that in a woman's selection of color is to be found the keynote of her character. If you have courage you may change your favorite hue if it contains too much self betrayal, after you read that he thinks the woman's eyes orange or green is quarrelsome.

Women who sport yellow hats or who go clad in black without cause are not to be trusted. White should indicate coquetry. Gentle and thoughtful women prefer pink. Pearl gray is the color of women who consider themselves unfortunate. Lilac is the shade particularly affected by over ripe beauties; therefore, according to Balzac, lilac hats are mostly worn by mothers on their daughters' marriage day and by women more than forty years old when they go visiting.

It may startle you a little when you come to be fitted for the gown to be told that you must get rid of your hips this season. Of course you can't have them planed off or the bones crushed with some slight inconveniences resulting, but you can consent to have your waist that you have been squeezing in padded out a little, which will produce the straight outline now absolutely necessary to a front rank in the procession. If you are a very slim girl, so much the better—you can achieve the straight up and down look that better proportioned girls must pad out to attain, and even then come in only second

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