

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Dr. Talmage text was taken from Deut. vi, 11. "Only Og, king of Bashan, remained of the remnant of giants; behold the bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? Nine cubits was the length thereof and four cubits the breadth of it."

The story of giants is mixed with myth. William the conqueror was said to have been of overtowering altitude, but, when in after time his tomb was opened, his bones indicated that he had been physically of only ordinary size. Roland the hero was said to have been of astounding stature, but when his sepulchre was examined his armor was found only large enough to fit an ordinary man. Alexander the great had helmets and shields of enormous size made and left among the people whom he had conquered, so as to give the impression that he was a giant although he was rather under than over the usual height of a man. But that in other days and lands there were real giants is authentic. One of the guards of the Duke of Brunswick was eight and a half feet high. Pliny tells of a giant nine feet high and two other giants nine and a half feet. So I am not incredulous when I come to my text and find King Og a giant, and the size of his bedstead, turning the cubits of the text into feet—the bedstead of Og the king must have been about thirteen and a half feet long. Judging from that the giant who occupied it was probably about eleven feet in stature, or nearly twice the average human size.

Cyrus and Solomon slept on beds of gold, and Sardanapalus had 150 bedsteads of gold burned up with him, but this bedstead of my text was of iron—everything sacrificed for strength to hold this excessive avoirdupois, this Alpa of bone and flesh. You say what a fighter this giant, King Og, must have been. No doubt of it. I suppose the size of his sword and breastplate corresponded to the size of his bedstead, and his stride across the battle field and the full stroke of his arm must have been appalling. With an armed host he comes down to drive back the Israelites, who marching on from Egypt to Canaan. We have no particulars of the battle, but I think the Israelites trembled when they saw this monster of a man moving down to crush them. Alas for the Israelites! Will their trouble never cease? What can men five feet and a half feet high do against this warrior of eleven feet, and what can short swords do against a sword whose gleam must have been like a flash of lightning? The battle of Edrei opened. Moses and his army met the giant and his army. The Lord of Hosts descended into the fight and the gigantic strides that Og had made when advancing into the battle were more than equalled by the gigantic strides with which he retreated. Huzza for triumphant Israel! Sixty fortified cities surrender to them. A land of indescribable opulence comes into their possession, and all that is left of the gigantic king is the iron bedstead.

Nine cubits was the length thereof and four cubits the breadth of it. Why did not the Bible give us the size of the giant instead of the size of the bedstead? Why did it not indicate that the man was eleven feet high instead of telling us that his couch was thirteen and a half feet long? No doubt among other things it was to teach us that you can judge of a man by his surroundings. Show me a man's associates, show me a man's books, show me a man's home, and I will tell you what he is without your telling me one word about him. You can not only tell a man according to the old adage, "By the company he keeps," but by the books he reads, by the pictures he admires, by the church he attends by the places he visits. Moral giants and moral pigmies, intellectual pigmies, like physical pigmies may be judged by their surroundings. That man has been thirty years faithful in attendance upon churches and prayer meetings and Sunday schools and putting himself among intense religious associations. He may have his imperfections, but he is a very good man. When a man departs this life you can tell what has been his influence in a community for good by those who mourn him and by how sincere and long continued are the regrets of his taking off. There may be no pomp or obsequies and no pretense at epitaphology, but you can tell how high he was in consecration and how high in usefulness by how long is his shadow when he comes to lie down. What is true of individuals is true of cities and nations. Show me the free libraries and schools of a city, and I will tell you the intelligence of its people. Show me its gallery of painting and sculpture, and I will tell you the artistic advancement of its citizens. Show me its churches and I will tell you the moral and religious status of the place. From the fact that Og's bedstead was thirteen and a half feet long, I concluded the giant himself was about eleven feet high. But let no one by this thought be induced to surrender unfavorable environments. A man can make his own bedstead. Chantrey and Hugh Miller were born stone masons, but the one became an eminent sculptor and the other a

Christian scientist whose name will never die. Turner, the painter in whose praise John Ruskin expended the greatest genius of his life, and was the son of a barber who advertised "a penny a shave." Dr. Pradeaux, one of the greatest scholars of all time, earned his way through college by scouring pots and pans. The late Judge Bradley worked his own way up from a charcoal burner to the bench of the supreme court of the United States. Yes, a man can decide the size of his own bedstead.

Notice, furthermore, that God's people on the way to Canaan need not be surprised if they confront some sort of a giant. Had not the Israelites had trouble enough already? No! Red Sea not enough. Water famine not enough. Long marches not enough. Opposition by enemies of ordinary stature not enough. They must meet Og, the giant of the iron bedstead. "Nine cubits was the length thereof and four cubits the breadth of it." Why not let these Israelites go smoothly into Canaan without this gigantic opposition? Oh, they needed to have their courage and faith further tested and developed! And blessed the man, who in our time, in his march toward the promised land does not meet more than one giant. Do not conclude that you are not on the way to Canaan because of this obstacle. As well might the Israelites conclude that they were not on the way to the promised land because they met Og, the giant. Standing in your way is some evil propensity some social persecution, some business misfortune, some physical distress. Not one of you but meet a giant who would like to hew you in twain. Higher than eleven feet this Og darkens the sky and the rattle of his buckler stuns the ear. But, you are going to get the victory, as did the Israelites. In the name of the God of Moses and David, and Joshua, and Paul, charge on him, and you will leave his carcass in the wilderness. You want a battle shout! Take that with which David, the five-footer, assailed Goliath, the nine-footer, when that giant cried, with stinging contempt both in manner and intonation: "Come to me, and I will give you my flesh and the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field," and David looked up at the monster of braggadocio and defiantly replied: "Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast. This day will the Lord deliver thee unto mine hand; and I will smite thee and take thine head from thee, and I will give the carcass of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

Another impression from my subject: The march of the church cannot be impeded by gigantic opposition. That Israelites host led on by Moses was the church, and when Og, the giant, him of the iron bedstead, came out against him with another host—a fresh host against one that seemed worn out—things must have looked bad for Israel. No account is given of the bedstead of Moses, except that one in which he first slept—the cradle of aquatic vegetation on the Nile where the wife of Chenephres, the king, found the floating babe and, having no child of her own, adopted him. Moses of ordinary size against Og of extraordinary dimensions. Besides that Og was backed up by sixty fortified cities. Moses was backed up seemingly by nothing, but the desert that had worn him and his army into a group of undisciplined and exhausted stragglers. But the Israelites triumphed. If you spell the name of Og backward you turn it into word "Go," and Og was turned backward and made to go. With Og's downfall all the sixty cities surrendered. Nothing was left of the giant except his iron bedstead, which was kept in a museum at Rabbath to show how tall and stout he once was. So shall the last giant of opposition in the church's march succumb. Not sixty cities captured, but all the cities. Not only on one side of Jordan, but on both sides of all the rivers. The day is coming. Hear it all ye who are doing something for the relic hunters to examine.

"The Lord of Hosts!" "The Lord of Hosts!" and I cry exultantly, with Oliver Cromwell at the battle of Dunbar: "Let God arise; let his enemies be scattered." Make all the preparations for the world's evangelization. Have the faith of Robert and Mary Moffatt, the missionaries, who after preaching in Bechuanaland for ten years without one convert, were asked what they would like to have sent them by way of gift from England, said: "Send a communion service, for it will be surely needed," and sure enough the expected ingathering of many souls was realized and the communion service arrived in time to celebrate it. Appropriately did the missionary write in an album when his autograph was requested:

My album is the savage breast, Where darkness reigns and tempests wreat, Without one ray of light. To write the name of Jesus there, And point to words both bright and fair, And see the savage bowed in prayer, In my supreme delight.

Whatever you work and wherever you work for God—forward! You are in your way and I in my way. With holy pluck fight on with something of the strength of Thomas Troubridge, who at Inkermann had one leg shot off and

the foot of the other leg, and when they proposed to carry his off the field replied: "No, I do not move until the battle is won." Whatever the rocking of the church of state, have earthquake that frightened everybody else, and who, when asked if she was not afraid said: "No, I am glad that I have a God who can shake the world." Whether your work be to teach a Sabbath class, or nurse an invalid, or reform a wanderer, or print a tract or train a household, or bear the querulousness of senility, or cheer the disheartened or lead a soul to Christ know that by fidelity you may help hasten the time when the world shall be snowed under with white lily and incarnadined with red rose. And now I bargain with you that we will come back some day from our superstellar abode to see how the world looks when it shall be fully enparadised its last tear wept, its last wound healed its last shackle broken its last desert gardenized, its last giant of iniquity decapitated. And when we land, may it be somewhere near this spot of earth where we have together toiled and struggled for the kingdom of God and may it be about this hour in the high noon of some glorious Sabbath, looking into the upturned faces of some great audience radiant with holiness and triumph.

Rarer Than Gold.
Those with only an elementary knowledge of chemistry are aware there are more than forty recognized metals. A large number of these can only be regarded as curiosities of the laboratory, for there is no specific use in them; indeed they are found in nature in such minute quantities that some of them are far more precious than gold.

Among these rare metals is wolfram or tungsten, a use for which has been found since guns of enormous calibre came into vogue, says the Chicago Times. It is, unfortunately, a matter of common knowledge that these guns are liable to fracture; but it has been found that by adding a small percentage of tungsten to the fine steel of which the inner lining is made, an elasticity is conferred upon the metal which it did not possess before, so that it will bear expansion and contraction under heavy charges without giving way.

Tungsten is a white metal of every brittle quality, and its specific gravity is only a trifle less than that of gold.

Guarding England's Doors.
The bank of England's doors are now so finely balanced that the clerk by pressing a knob under his desk can close the outer doors instantly and they cannot be opened again except by special process. This is done to prevent the daring and ingenious unemployed of the great metropolis from robbing the famous institution.

The bullion departments of this and other great English banking establishments are nightly submerged in several feet of water by the action of the machinery.

In some of the London banks the bullion departments are connected with the manager's sleeping room, and an entrance cannot be effected without setting off the alarm near the Manchester Guardian.

If dishonest official, during day or night should take even as much as one from a pile of a thousand sovereigns, the whole pile would instantly sink and a pool of water take its place, besides letting every person in the place know of the theft.

New Disinfectant.
The manufacture of a new disinfectant and deodorant called Sauridon has been commenced at Maryhill, England. It is a residual product of an uncommon kind of black stone shale, which is composed of animal and vegetable remains, is remarkably light and yields a large proportion of heavy volatile oil. The oil is extracted by distillation, and the residual product is reduced to grains of different sizes, varying from a fine powder to the size of a pea. The powder is claimed to have an instantaneous effect upon obnoxious matter, while also being tasteless and colorless and harmless to animal life.

A Hired Servant.
"Do you employ your man Rastus by the month or day?"
Well, with Rastus it's sort of both. I employ him to do a day's work and then, but it always takes him a month to do it."—Washington Hatchet.

Giants of the Forest.
In big trees the new state of Washington is quite rich. A Seattle paper mentions a fir in Sumas which is eight and one-half feet in diameter. Near Stanwood there is a cedar seventeen feet in diameter thirty-three feet from the roots, and twelve feet in diameter 112 feet from the roots. Nooksack reports a fir twelve feet in diameter.

Designs on Glass.
So called diamond ink for writing on glass is a compound of fluorine acid and barium; the latter has no effect, it being simply a white powder to give the body to the acid. The ink can be used with a rubber hand-stamp, and it should be allowed to remain fifteen minutes, when the barium will brush off, leaving the design on the glass.

FARM DEPARTMENT.

Large and Small Ears.
The number of stalks in the hill usually regulates the size of the ear. Ordinarily there are 3,240 hills in an acre of checked corn. Allowing for about seven per cent of loss, 3,000 hills, with two stalks each, (counting 100 ears to a bushel) produce 60 bushels to the acre. This is the best way to plant if one expects to shell the corn for feeding or for market, provided one is sure of good seed, and that the ground is not so foul as to require harrowing during the first two weeks after the young corn is out of the ground to keep down weeds. If the corn is to be cut and shocked into fodder and fed to cattle without husking, three stalks in the hill are more satisfactory. Three thousand hills would produce 60 bushels of 150 ears each, to the acre. The stalks would be finer, too, and would furnish a greater quantity and better quality of fodder for feeding purposes. There are cases, where the unsoundness of seed and foulness of the ground, with insufficient time to harrow it thoroughly before planting, necessitates persistently harrowing to suppress the weeds while the young stalks are shooting from the ground and this makes it advisable to plant three grains to the hill for growing corn for shelling, and four grains for production of fodder corn.—M.

Shallow Cultivation.
If the farmer will select the best ears in the early fall, thoroughly dry before a hard freeze and then store in the ear, in a dry place, during the winter, he is almost absolutely safe in having seed which will grow. In selecting seed varieties, each must determine what is best adapted to his particular soil and season. We find advocates of deep plowing and of shallow plowing, of deep cultivation and of shallow cultivation, of root pruning and of surface cultivation. Soils, climates, and seasons differ, hence the diversity of methods required. In preparing the soil, whatever its nature, the following facts should be borne in mind. The corn roots require a good depth of loose soil which they can easily penetrate, and permeate, that they may draw their substance from it. On the other hand, the soil should be sufficiently compact to induce, to the fullest, capillary attraction by which means the moisture is brought from a depth, to supply the growing crop during the hot dry periods. This action is also greatly retarded and in a measure prevented if the soil is cloddy. The surface of the ground should be loose and fine admitting of thorough cultivation, and to serve as a check to evaporation of moisture from the soil below. The moisture being brought to the surface must be held in check there. A layer of loose soil also serves as a non-conductor of the sun's rays and the heat in the air. In our black prairie soil, we plow moderately deep, compact the under soil and crush all clods by the use of the roller, if necessary; then pulverize the surface and keep it in a fine loose condition. As to cultivation, all that is needed is to keep the surface loose and free from weeds. We believe in surface cultivation almost exclusively, using the small shovel cultivator the first time over, and the gopher or scraper the remaining part of the season. The roots are the feeders of the growing plant, and why should they be disturbed by deep cultivation if the soil can be kept loose without.—G. W. Riding, Grundy Co., (N.) Ill.

Working Corn Early.
I select good seed, examine kernels of each ear to see that it is sound, keep seed dry in winter and where it can get plenty of air. I plow my corn land as early in spring as it will work well, generally from April 10, to May 1. I believe in deep plowing on old land—say from 5 to 7 inches. I run a smoothing harrow over the ground as soon as plowed, and if it is dry and cloddy, I run a drag after a harrow. The drag levels the ground and mashes the clods. The corn comes up more evenly when the land is level and loose. I plant as soon as the land is prepared or as soon after plowing as possible. This I think very essential, as corn comes up quicker and grows faster than when land has laid for some time after plowing before planting. I commence cultivating as soon as corn is 3 or 4 inches high. I use a cultivator with good fenders to keep from covering the corn up. I cultivate it once every week or oftener if possible, until it is waist high. The first time I plow it I get as close to it as I can; afterwards I keep farther away, and the last plowing I run plows in center of rows and throw all the soil to the corn land.

Good Cows.
Can any one estimate the loss annually entailed upon the dairymen of the country by keeping poor cows on scant pasture, stunted in water, or compelled to drink from stagnant pools, hounded to and from the milking yard, milked by brutal and rough hired men, the milk manipulated in a room unsuited for the purpose by women or girls without the slightest idea of the art of butter making, and packed and sent to market in an almost unmarketable style? This is something that the most competent expert cannot detail in dollars and cents.

The Tall Grass of Yucatan.
The sisal grass of Yucatan is one of the most remarkable vegetable products known. It grows in long blades, sometimes to the length of four or five feet, and when dry the blade curls up from side to side, making a cord which is stronger than any cotton string of equal size that has ever been manufactured. It is in great demand among florists and among manufacturers of various kinds of grass goods, but as soon as its valuable properties become known it will have a thousand uses which are now undreamed of. Ropes, cords, sines of any size may be manufactured of it, and a ship's cable of sisal grass is one of the possibilities of the future. It is almost impervious to the action of salt water, and is not readily decayed or disintegrated by moisture and heat, and will in time prove one of the most valuable productions of Central America.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Honey For The
A round waist in modern tailors forms is selected as well as light gowns and simple toilets.

In Paris the long line almost to the knees and majority of fashionable are made of Chantilly or Pale green will be in season in combination with cloths, and darker green, sage, etc. also in a pale and fawn gown.

A pretty spring crepon, a floral design green ground, has a velvet as a finish at the corded with green just waist line.

It is pleasing to see Jenness Miller has to speak metaphorically—it is hoped her assent will enough to take the scenery.

New and pretty bangles in the shape of fragrant leaves and berries. These twist around the style of the ugly chaper and serpent bangles.

A simple and effective pink silk gauze over the of the same color. The figure by three or four velvet. A large bouquet throums at the shoulder.

A pretty waist may be little trouble from the that you wore a thousand but that now you are wondering why you extravagant enough to The silk show string and shelf; its height is eight gilt cords are the fashion. At the end of each cord is a rosette. I wanted and silver or black as popular.

Gold and silver are decorative effects in millinery. Real gold introduced into colors designed for elegant handsome evening and gray cloth, velvet and Spring jackets are military air. They are and trimmed with buttons. Pocket buttons in size since last spring finished with three up and down the collar.

Many of the newly Russian, Bolero, and loose blouse vests of those of silk designs in a tiny pattern. The jackets fit the form in most cases this collar in velvet.

The girls are busy neckties for their They first carefully plexion and then by will be becoming to beauty. The silk is a "four-in-hand" and patience, but they are happy.

A few jackets will be coarser woven cloths traveling wear, and skirted coats flaring at the waist line in the style, or plaited or gathered according to the Russian majority of women round waist.

Dress skirts will be model, flaring even more knee than those now sweeping out gracefully. Linings should be cut of the cloth and exactly in every way, and fitted at the top which are darts of the outer skirt.

A pretty and stylish evening dresses for the coming is to have the dress pelisse, and toque of material. This neat and effective carriage dotted surah in brown color, in gray pouffe cashmere, or in narrow or soft summer silk.

Such a line and very the extravagance of the day, and yet at the same in a dress of velvet, gold, which is said to less than \$1,500. Marie a gown town with 3,000 diamonds, and followed by lesser cheerfully expended incomes for gowns precious stones that scarcely move about the de Montespan the best at the court of Louis one great court favorite gold on gold and, over attached with a certain makes the most diverse ever been imagined, and panegyrics written by de Sevigne.