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RELIGION FOR BUSY MEN

A LESSON DRAWN FROM DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN.

Dr. Talmage Shows That the More Work You Have to Do the More Need You Have for Christianity—God and the Ballot Box.

Waco, Tex., Aug. 31.—Dr. Talmage today delivered the following discourse on the text: "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions."—Daniel vi, 16.

Darius was king of Babylon, and the young man Daniel was so much a favorite with him that he made him prime minister, or secretary of state. But no man could gain such a high position without exciting the envy and jealousy of the people.

These demagogues asked the king to make a decree that no one should make a petition to any one except the king within thirty days should be put to death.

So far from being afraid, Daniel goes on with his supplications three times a day, and is found on his housetop making prayer. He is caught in the act. He is condemned to be devoured by the lions.

But not so well does Darius the king sleep. He loves Daniel, and hates this stratagem by which he has been condemned. All night long the king walks the floor.

Learn first from this subject that the greatest crime that you can commit in the eyes of many is the crime of success. What had Daniel done that he should be flung to the lions? He got to be prime minister.

Every item of your success has been to you an item of discomfort and despair. Just as soon as in any respect you rise above your fellows, if you are more virtuous, if you are more wise, if you are more influential, you cast a shadow on the prospect of others.

New York harbor, starting for Glasgow, and the next day should change for Havre de Grace, and the next for Charleston, and the next for Boston, and the next for Liverpool—these men on the sea of life, everlastingly tacking ship and making no headway.

Oh, young man, have decision of character. You can afford in this matter of religion to be laughed at. What do you care for the scoffs of these men, who are affronted because you will not go to ruin with them?

I learn also from my subject that men may take religion into their worldly business. Daniel had enough work to do to occupy six men.

They think religion is impertinent. They would like to have it very well seated beside them in church on the Sabbath, to find the place in the psalm book, or to nudge them awake when they get sleepy under the didactic discourse; or they would like to leave it in the pew on Sabbath evening, as they go out closing the door, saying, "Good night, religion; I'll be back next Sunday!"

There is much to be said in favor of wisely deliberating before acting. Doubtless many rash deeds are performed, bringing all sorts of unfortunate consequences in their train, simply for the want of a little reflection, and others, that would have been of the utmost benefit to mankind, have never seen the light from the same cause.

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One of the American Baptist periodicals finds fault with the free and easy conduct of ministers when enjoying their vacations. It says that when they take off their usual black coat and stiff collar and put on the flannel shirt and the felt hat they often put on manners which would astonish their best friends.

It is absurd to expect that men who have been immersed in political wickedness for thirty or forty years shall come to reform; and our hope is in the young men who are coming up, that they have patriotic principle and Christian principle side by side when they come to the ballot box and cast their first vote.

It has been proposed to put safety valves on the stove holes in the great ocean racers, so that the air can automatically escape when the pressure is so great that the boiler tubes and grate bars are in danger.

You have a right to discuss men's politics and denounce their political sentiments, or receive them, as you will; but you have no right to assail their private character, as is done every autumn. That is not carrying religion into politics.

You have a right to contest a man's political sentiments; you have no right, for base political purposes, to assail his private moral character.

You need not go to Numidia to get among lions. You all have had them after you—the lion of financial distress, the lion of sickness, the lion of persecution.

The Persians used to think that spring rain falling into sea shells would turn into pearls; and I have to tell you that the tears of sorrow turn into precious gems when they drop into God's bottle.

When in olden times a man was to get the honors of knighthood he was compelled to go fully armed the night before among the tombs of the dead, carrying a sort of spear, and then when the day broke he would come forth, and amid the sound of cornet and great parade he would get the honors of knighthood.

Some time ago a prominent scientist lectured in one of the leading churches of the city, and, in the course of an hour's talk, undertook to show the relation between geology and the Bible.

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The champion camp meeting goer of America is Steve Merritt, the "eloquent undertaker" of New York city. Mr. Merritt has been a regular attendant at the Sing Sing camp for forty years, never missing a summer.

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