

THE PLAGUE OF LIES.

FIFTH SERMON IN THE SERIES ON THE CITY'S PLAGUES.

Dr. Talmage Preaches a Forceful Discourse Which Will Apply Equally Well in Country and City—"He Shall Not Surrely Die," Satan Told Eve, and He Lied.

New York, March 28.—"The Plague of Lies" was selected by Dr. Talmage for the subject of the fifth of his discourses...

That was a point blank lie. Satan told it to Eve to induce her to put her semicircle of white, beautiful teeth into a forbidden apricot or plum or peach or apple.

The whitest lie that was ever told was as black as perdition. No inventory of public crimes will be sufficient that omits this gigantic abomination.

There are a hundred ways of telling a lie. A man's entire life may be a falsehood, while with his lips he may not once directly falsify.

The air of the city is filled with falsehoods. They hang pendant from the chandeliers of our finest residences; they crowd the shelves of some of our merchant princes; they fill the sidewalk from curbstone to brown stone facing; they cluster around the mechanic's hammer, and blossom from the end of the merchant's yardstick.

Various sorts of lies. I shall divide them into agricultural, mercantile, mechanical, ecclesiastical and social lies.

First, then, I will speak of those that are more particularly agricultural. There is something in the perpetual presence of natural objects to make a man pure. The trees never issue "false stock."

Deceptions do not all cluster round city halls. When our cities sit down and weep over their sins, all the surrounding countries ought to come in and weep with them.

In jaying open his safe, or his debitors fleeing the town, or his landlord raising the rent, or the fires kindling on the block, contains all his estate. Easy! Is it? God help the merchant!

MERCANTILE LIES. In the next place we notice mercantile lies, those before the counter and behind the counter.

There are a hundred ways of telling a lie. A man's entire life may be a falsehood, while with his lips he may not once directly falsify.

There are thousands of fortunes made in commercial spheres that are throughout righteous. God will let his favor rest upon every scroll, every picture, every tracery window, and the joy that flashes from the lights, and showers from the music and dances in the children's quick feet.

There is no need of falsehood. A merchant can, to the last item, be thoroughly honest. There is never any need of falsehood.

Suppose you are a purchaser. You are "beating down" the goods. You say that that article for which five dollars is charged is worth more than four.

You throw on your counter some specimens of handkerchiefs. Your customer asks: "Is that all silk? No cotton in it?"

Would you dare to make an estimate of how many falsehoods in trade were yesterday told by hardware men and clothiers and fruit dealers and dry goods establishments and importers and jewelers and lumbermen and coal merchants and stationers and tobacconists?

In the next place I notice mechanical lies. There is no class of men who administer more to the welfare of the city than artisans.

It is those who lack in the element of veracity. The contract all is trusted. In times when the demand for labor is great it is impossible to meet the demands of the public, or to do work with that promptness and perfection that would at other times be possible.

But there are mechanics whose word cannot be trusted at any time. No man has a right to promise more work than he can do.

How much wrong to his soul and insult to God a mechanic would save if he promised only so much as he expected to be able to do.

ECCLESIASTICAL LIES. I next notice ecclesiastical lies—that is, falsehoods told for the purpose of advancing churches and sects, or for the purpose of depicting them.

It is strange, also, how individual churches will sometimes make misstatements about other individual churches. It is especially so in regard to falsehoods told with reference to prosperous enterprises.

Next I speak of social lies. This evil makes much of society insincere. You ask me to come you do not know whether or not they want you to come.

Homeless and in Prison. When a woman gets started on the downward way she gets many kicks and few boosts.

Cost of a Man's Outfit. I asked of a dealer in gentlemen's furnishing goods.

His First Bible. A down easter purchased a Bible, which was quite an event in his life and that of his neighbors.

had trouble. The brightest things in all the house dropped from her fingers. She had peculiar notions, but the grandest notion she ever had was to make you happy.

But to many, through insincerity, this life is a masquerade ball. As at such entertainments gentlemen and ladies appear in the dress of kings or queens, mountain bandits or clowns, and at the close of the dance throw off their disguises, so in this dissipated life all unclean passions move in mask.

Lights lower! Floor hollow with sepulchral echo. Music saddens into a wail. Lights lower! The maskers can hardly now be seen.

My first acquaintance with the snake, said he, "came about when I went on a solitary fishing excursion. I was in the habit of taking a small punt on a stream in the northern part of the state.

Gaming in a Cemetery. A cemetery seems a queer place in which to set up a gambling hall, but those who woo fortune at Squirrel Hill, Pa., evidently care little for their surroundings.

When a woman gets started on the downward way she gets many kicks and few boosts. If the tale told by Annie Jones, of New York city, is true, she is more sinned against than sinning.

What does it cost to lift a man out now? I asked of a dealer in gentlemen's furnishing goods.

Well, that is hard to say. A man who buys a fine necktie may like cheap suspenders, and another will like something else cheap.

A down easter purchased a Bible, which was quite an event in his life and that of his neighbors. He informed his friends of his purchase, stating that "he had not a Polypog Bible with the Hypocry in it."

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