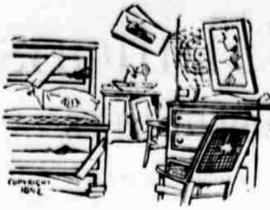


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GOOD GAME WASTED.

DEPLORABLE RESULTS OF INDOLENCE PORTRAYED BY DR. TALMAGE.

Solomon's Satire and Denunciation of the Sluggard—Some Are Born Lazy, Some Achieve Laziness and Some Have Laziness Forced on Them.

BROOKLYN, April 24.—A visitor to the Brooklyn Tabernacle this morning would have no difficulty in understanding the secret of the attraction which fills the vast building Sunday after Sunday with throngs of eager listeners.

David and Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Micah and Solomon of the text showed that some time they had been out on a hunting expedition. Spears, lances, swords and nets were employed in this service.

A sportsman arrayed in a garb appropriate to the wild chase lets slip the blood-thirsty hounds from their kennels, and mounting his fleet horse, with a halloo and the yell of a greyhound pack they are off and away, through brake and dell, over marsh and moor, across chasms where a misstep would hurl horse and rider to death.

The first picture I ever bought was an engraving of Thorwaldsen's "Autumn." The clusters of grapes are ripe on the vine of the homestead, and the returned hounds, panting from the chase, are lying on the doormat and the hunter is unshouldering the game, while the housewife is about to take a portion of it and prepare it for the evening meal.

Notwithstanding he is pinched with poverty and any other man would be downcast at the forlorn prospect, he is always cheerful and sanguine and jovial, for he does not know but that he may be within a day or two of astounding success.

Indolence and wickedness always make bad luck. These people of reverie are always about to begin. They say, "Wait a little." So with the child who had a cage containing a beautiful canary, and the door of the cage was open, and a cat was in the room.

Now, what are the causes of laziness and what are its evil results? I knew a man who was never up to time. It seemed impossible for him to meet an engagement. When he was to be married he missed the train.

You sometimes behold it in childhood. The child moping and longing within doors while his brothers and sisters are at play, or if he join them he is behind in every race and beaten in every game.

When I see a man fighting an unfortunate temperance all my sympathies are aroused, and I think of Victor Hugo's account of a scene on a warship, where, in the midst of a storm at sea, a great cannon got loose, and it was crashing this way and that and would have destroyed the ship.

Furthermore, indolence is often the result of easy circumstances. Rough experience in earlier life seems to be necessary in order to make a man active and enterprising.

Another cause of indolence is severe discouragement. There are those around us who started life with the most sanguine expectation. Their enterprise excited the remark of all comers.

In most cases these persons have been honored and appreciated all their lives, for rogues never get discouraged, and they always some other plot they have not laid and some other trap they have not sprung.

THE UNREASONING OPTIMIST. Notwithstanding he is pinched with poverty and any other man would be downcast at the forlorn prospect, he is always cheerful and sanguine and jovial.

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work and make you sick of life's drudgery, and though now and then between your seasons of dissipation you may rouse up to a sudden activity and start again in the thought you catch the game you will sink back into slothfulness before you have reached that which you took in hunting.

Now, what are the results of indolence? A marked consequence of this vice is physical disease. The healthiness of the whole natural world depends upon activity.

The fountain, born far up in the wild wood of the mountain, comes down brighter for every obstacle against which it is riven, and singing a new song on every shelf of rock over which it bounds, till it rolls over the water wheels in the valley, not ashamed to grind corn, and runs through the long grass of the meadow, where the willows reach down to dip their branches, and the unyoked oxen are content to loiter.

Not one fly on the window pane, not one squirrel gathering food from the cones of the white pine, not one rabbit feeding on clover tops, not one drop falling in a shower, not one minnow glancing in the sea, not one quail whistling from the grass, not one hawk cawing in the sky but is busy now and is busy always, fulfilling its mission as content as any monarch on earth and an angel in heaven.

So if you put your ear to a lump of riven soil you may hear nothing in the roots and branches of Eshcol, and at work spades and cleavers and pickledrivers and battering rams and interminable wars.

Oh, where are the reapers to bind the sheaves! The enemies of God are marshaled. You see the glitter of their bucklers. You hear the pawing of their chargers, and all along the line of battle is heard the shout of their great captain, and at the armistice the living God they had their defiance.

Oh, I should like to see God arise for the defense of his own cause and the disentanglement of a world in bondage! How the fetters would snap and how the darkness would fly, and how heaven would sing.

Let the conquest shall be none the less complete, for if in that hour when all should be vigilant the church of God should neglect to seize the prize and the cause should seem to fall, from the graveyards and cemeteries of all Christendom the good and faithful of the past would spring to their feet in time to save the cause, and though the sun might not again stand still above Gibeon, or the moon in the valley of Ajalon, the day would be long enough to gain a decisive victory for God and the truth.

But my text is descriptive also of those who hunt for opportunities, and when they get them, do not use them. The rabbit they overcome by an early morning trap lies for weeks uncooked in the dooryard. The deer that they brought down after long and exhausting pursuit in the Adirondacks lies on the doormat undressed and the savory venison becomes a malodorous carcass.

There are many who estimate the respectability of an occupation by the little exertion it demands, and would not have their children enter any employment where their hands may be soiled, forgetting that a laborer's overalls are just as honorable as a priest's robes and an anvil is just as respectable as a pulpit.

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to the devout women of his time and expressed his doubts. They said they were sorry, but they had no time to listen. Then St. Thomas concluded that it was because they were so busy that the Apostles and the devout women had no doubts.

Idleness not only leads a man into associations which harm his morals, but after thrusts upon him the worst kind of skepticism. Loafers are almost always infidels, or fast getting to be. Consummate killers never read the Bible, and if they appear in church can be distinguished in an audience of a thousand by their listlessness, for they are too lazy to hear.

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