

DR. TALMAGE DISCOURSES AT EAST HAMPTON, L. I.

Why Did God Let Sin Come Into the World?—No One Can Tell Until He Gets on the Other Side of the River of Death.

EAST HAMPTON, N. Y., Sept. 2.—The Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D. D., who spends a good part of his summer rest here, took for the subject of his vacation sermon of this date, "Plasters That Will Not Stick." His text was, "Miserable comforters are ye all."—Job xvi, 2. Following is the sermon:

The man of Uz had a great many trials—the loss of his family, the loss of his property, the loss of his health; but the most exasperating thing that came upon him was the tantalizing talk of those who ought to have sympathized with him.

Why did God let sin come into the world? It is a question I often hear discussed, but never satisfactorily answered. God made the world fair and beautiful at the start.

Again I remark, that those persons are incompetent for the work of comfort bearing who have nothing but cant to offer. There are those who have the idea that you must groan over the distressed and afflicted.

Again I remark that those persons are poor comforters who have never had any trouble themselves. A larkspur cannot lecture on the nature of a snowflake—it never saw a snowflake; and those people who have always lived in the summer of prosperity cannot talk to those who are frozen in disaster.

People who have not had trial themselves cannot give comfort to others. They may talk very beautifully, and they may give you a great deal of poetic sentiment; but while poetry is perfume that smells sweet, it makes a very poor salve.

There is also a great deal of comfort in the fact that there will be a family reconstruction in a better place. From Scotland, or England, or Ireland a child emigrates to this country.

Again I remark, that all those persons are incompetent to give any kind of comfort who act merely as worldly philosophers. They come in and say: "Why, this is what you ought to have expected. The laws of nature must have their way."

by an enemy, go out and battle against them. But no; they come from a Father so kind, so loving, so gentle, that the prophet, speaking of his tenderness and mercy, drops the idea of a father, and says, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you."

I once went through an ax factory, and I saw them take the bars of iron and thrust them into the terrible furnaces. Then besweated workmen with long tongs started the blaze.

Again, there is comfort in the thought that all our troubles are a revelation. Have you ever thought of it in that connection? The man who has never been through chastisement is ignorant about a thousand things in his soul he ought to know.

Suppose these people who were once gleefully entertained at his table get so short sighted that they cannot recognize him upon the street. How then is it so easy to be cheerful? It is easy to be cheerful in the home, after the day's work is done, and the gas is turned on, and the house is full of romping little ones.

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They are not poor. You are poor—your home has been shattered—not they. You do not dwell much with your families in this world. All day long you are off to business.

I remark once more, our troubles in this world are preparative for glory. What a transition it was for Paul—from the slippery deck of a foundering ship to the calm presence of Jesus!

These shall I bathe my weary soul In seas of heavenly rest, And not a wave of trouble roll Across my peaceful breast.

Castelar's Expulsion from Rome. Senor Castelar gives a dramatic picture of his expulsion from Rome, in the days before Victor Emanuel entered that capital.

A Prediction Concerning Gladstone. The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, which was celebrated recently, recalls a reminiscence of the day, now more than half a century distant, when Mrs. Gladstone first saw her future husband.

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