

## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Dr. Talmage's sermon was from Job xxxviii, 22: "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Grossly aligned in the season of winter. The spring and summer and autumn have had many admirers, but winter, hoary-headed and white-bearded winter, hath had more enemies than friends. Yet without winter the human race would be insane and effortless. You might speak of the winter as the mother of tempests; I take it as the father of the whole of a family of physical, mental and spiritual energies. The most people that I know are strong in proportion to the number of snow banks they had to climb over, or push through in childhood, while their father drove the sled loaded with logs through the crunching drifts as high as the fences. At this season of the year, when we are so familiar with the snow, those frozen vapors, those falling blossoms of the sky, those white angels of the atmosphere, those poems of the storm, those Iliads and Odysseys of the wintry tempest, I turn over the leaves of my Bible and though most of it was written in a clime where snow seldom or never fell—find many of these beautiful cyngelations. Though the writers may seldom or never have felt the cold touch of the snowflake on their cheek, they had in sight two mountains the tops of which were suggestive. Other kings sometimes take off their crowns, but Lebanon and Mount Hermon all the year round and through the ages never lift the coronets of crystal from their foreheads. The first time we find a deep fall of snow in the Bible is where Samuel describes a fight between Benaiah and a lion in a pit, and though the snow may have crimsoned under the wounds of both man and brute, the shaggy monster rolled over dead and the giant was victor. But the snow is not fully recognized in the Bible until God interrogates Job, the scientist, concerning its wonders, saying: "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

And now I propose for your spiritual and everlasting profit, if you will accept my guidance, to take you through some of these wonders of crystallization. And notice first, God in the little. You may take Alpenstock and crass the Mer de Glace, the Sea of Ice, and ascend Mont Blanc which rises into the clouds like a pillar of the Great White Throne, or with Arctic explorer ascend the mountains around the north pole and see glaciers 1,000 feet high grinding against glaciers 3,000 feet high. But I will take you on a less pretentious journey and show you God in the snowflake. There is room enough between its pillars for the great Jehovah to stand. In that one frozen drop on the tip of your finger you may find the throne room of the Almighty. I take up the snow in my hand and see the couriers of celestial dominion paving these crystal pavements. The telescope is grand, but I must confess that I am quite as much interested in the microscope. The one reveals the universe beneath us; the other, just as great a universe beneath us. But the telescope overwhelms me, while the microscope comforts me. What you want and I want especially is a God in little. If we were seraphic or archangelic in our natures we would want to study God in the great, but such small, weak, short lived beings as you and I are want to find God in the little.

When I see the Maker of the universe giving Himself to the architecture of a snowflake and making its shafts, its domes, its curves, its walls, its irradiations so perfect, I conclude He will look after our insignificant affairs. And if we are of more value than a sparrow, most certainly we are of more value than an inanimate snowflake. So the Bible would chiefly impress us with God in the little. It does not say "Consider the clouds," but it says, "Consider the lilies." It does not say, "Behold the tempests," but "Behold the fowls" and it appoints a cup of cold water and the widow's two mites, and says the hairs of your head are numbered. Do not fear, therefore, that you are going to be lost in the crowd. Do not think that because you estimate yourself as only one snowflake among a three days' January snow storm that you will be forgotten.

Behold, also, in the snow the treasure of accumulated power. During a snow storm let an apothecary, accustomed to weighing most delicate quantities, hold his weighing scales out of the window and let one flake fall on surface of the scales and it will not even make it tremble. When you want to express extreme triviality of weight you say, "Light as a feather," but a snowflake is much lighter. It is just twenty-four times lighter than water. And yet the accumulation of these flakes broke down a few days ago, in sight of my house, six telegraph poles, made helpless police and fire department, and halted rail trains with two snowdrifts locomotives. We have already learned so much of the power of electricity that we have become somewhat howl the electric wire, and in many cases a touch has been fatal. But a few days ago, the snow put its hand on these wires and tore them down as though they were cobwebs. And the snow said: "You seem

afraid of the thunderbolt; I will catch it and hurl it to the ground. Your boasted electric lights adorning your cities with bubbles of fire, I will put out as easily as your ancestors snuffed out a tallow candle." The snow put its fingers on the lip of our cities that were talking with each other and they went into silence, uttering not a word. The snow mightier than the lightning!

Another treasure of the snow is the suggestion of the usefulness of sorrow. Absence of snow last winter has not yet ended its disasters. Within a few weeks it put tens of thousands into the grave and left others in homes and hospitals gradually to go down. Called by a trivial name, the Russian "grip," it was an international plague. Plenty of snow means public health. There is no medicine that so soon cures the world's malaria as these white pellets that the clouds administer. Pellets, small enough to be homoopathic, but in such large doses as to be allopathic, and melting soon enough to be hydro-pathic. Like a sponge every flake absorbs unhealthy gases. The tablets of mortality in New York and Brooklyn immediately lessened when the snow began to fall. The snow is one of the grandest and best of the world's doctors.

Yes, it is necessary for the land's productivity. Great snows in winter are generally followed by great harvests next summer. Scientific analysis has shown that snow contains a larger percentage of ammonia than the rain, and hence its greatest power of enrichment. And besides that, it is a white blanket to keep the earth warm. Snow strikes back the rich gases which otherwise would escape in the air and be lost. Thank God for the snows, and may those of December and January have been, high and deep, wide and enriching; then the harvest of next July will embroider with gold this entire American continent. But who with any analogical faculty can notice that out of such chill as the snow comes the wheat, without realizing that chilling sorrows produce harvest of grace! The strongest Christians, without any exception, are those who were by bereavements, or sickness, or poverty or persecution, or all them put together, snowed under, and again and again snowed under. These snow storms of trouble! They kill the malaria of the soul. They drive us out of worldly dependence to God. Call the roll of all the eminently pious of all the ages and you will find them the sons and daughters of sorrow. The Maronites say that one characteristic of the cedar tree is that when the air is full of snow, and it begins to descend, the tree lifts its branches in a way better to receive the snow and bear up under it, and I know by much observation that the grandest cedars of Christian character lift higher their branches toward God when the snows of trouble are coming. Lord Nelson's coffin was made out of the masts of L'Orient, in which he had fought so bravely, and your throne in heaven, O suffering child of God, will be built out of conquered earthly disasters. What gave John Bunyan such a wonderful dream of the celestial city? The Bedford penitentiary. What gave Richard Baxter such power to tell of the "Saints Everlasting Rest," and gave his immortal "Call to the Unconverted?" Physical disease which racked every nerve of his body. What made George Whitfield so mighty in saving souls, bringing 10,000 to God when others brought 100? Persecution that caricatured and assailed him all up and down England, and dead vermin thrown in his face when he was preaching. What mellowed and glorified Wilberforce's Christian character? A financial misfortune that led him to write: "I know why my life is spared so long except it be to show that a man can be as happy without a fortune as with one." What gave John Milton such keen spiritual eyesight that he could see the battle of the angels? Extinguishment of physical eyesight. What is the highest observatory for studying the stars of hope and faith and spiritual promise? The believer's sick bed. What proclaims the richest and most golden harvest that wave on all the hills of heavenly rapture? The snows, the deep snows, the awful snows of earthly calamity. And that comforting thought is one of the treasures of the snow.

Another treasure of the snow is the suggestion that this mantle covering the earth is like the soul after it is forgiven. "Wash me," said the psalmist "and I shall be whiter than snow." My dear friend Gasherie De Witt went over to Geneva, Switzerland, for the recovery of his health, but the Lord had something better for him than earthly recovery. Little did I think when I bade him good-bye one lovely afternoon on the other side of the sea, to return to America, that we would meet again till we meet in heaven. As he lay one Sabbath morning on his dying pillow in Switzerland, the window open, he was looking out upon Mount Blanc. The air was clear. That great mountain stood in its robe of snow glittering in the morning light, and my friend said to his wife: "Jennie do you know what that snow on Mount Blanc makes me think of? It makes me think that the righteousness of Christ, and the pardon of God cover all the sins, and imperfections of my life, as that snow covers up that mountain,

for the promise is that though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Was not that glorious! I do not care who you are, or where you are, you need as much as I do that cleans ing, which made Gasherie De Witt good, while he lived and glorious when he died.

Well, Job had great admiration for snow, but he declares in substance that if he should wash his soul in melted snow, he would still be covered with mud like a man down in a ditch. (Job ix, 30.) "If I wash myself in snow water, and make my hands never so clean, yet shall thou plunge me in the ditch and mine own clothes shall abhor me." We must be washed in the fountain of God's mercy, before we can be made whiter than snow. "Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." Oh, for the cleansing power!

If there be in all this audience one man or woman whose thoughts have always been right, and whose words always right, and whose actions always right, let such a one rise, or if already standing, lift the right hand. Not one! All we, like sheep, have gone astray, Unclean! Unclean! And yet we may be made whiter than snow, whiter than that which, on a cold winter's morning, after a night of storm, clothes the tree from bottom of trunk to top of highest branch; whiter than that which this hour, makes the Adriandacks and the Sierra Nevada and Mount Washington heights of pomp and splendor fit to enthrone an archangel.

In the time of Graham, the essayist, in one mountain district of Scotland an average of ten shepherds perished every winter in the snow drifts, and so he proposed that, at the distance of every mile, a pole fifteen feet high and with two cross pieces be erected, showing the points of the compass, and a bell hung at the top so that every breeze would ring it, and so the lost one on the mountains would hear the sound and take the direction given by this pole with the cross piece and get safely home. Whether that proposed plan was adopted or not I do not know, but I declare to all you who are in heavy and blinding drifts of sin and sorrow that there is a cross near by that can direct you to home, and peace, and God; and hear you not the ringing of the gospel bell hanging to that cross, saying: "This is the way, walk ye in it!"

### Japanese Bells.

Bells were in use in China, Japan and India long before they were known in Europe. In the space fronting the temples of Nikko, Japan, there are enormous bells of exquisite purity of sound, too heavy to be suspended in any tower which this people build, and so they are swung on low frames of stout timber, the bell being only three or four feet from the ground.

They are rung by means of battering rams, made of long joists of hard wood, suspended so as to swing by the united aid of many human hands. They give out soft and muffled, though deep and far reaching, notes.—Youth's Companion.

### Lake of Boiling Water.

There is a lake of boiling water in the island of Dominica, lying in the mountains behind Roseau, and in the valleys surrounding it are many solfataras, or volcanic sulphur vents. In fact the boiling lake is a little better than a crater filled with scalding water constantly fed by mountain streams, and through which the pent up gases find vent and are rejected. The temperature of the water on the margins of the lake range from 180° to 190° Fahrenheit. In the middle, exactly over the gas vents, it is believed to be 300°. Where this active action takes place, the water if said to rise two, three or even four feet above the general surface level of the lake, the cone often dividing so that the orifices through which the gases escape are legion in number. This violent disturbance over the gas jets causes a violent action over the whole surface of the lake, and through the cones appear to be special vents, the sulphurous vapors rise with equal density over its entire surface. Contrary to what one would suppose, there seems to be in no case violent action of the escaping gases, such as explosions or detonations. The water is of a dard gray color, and having been boiled over and over for thousands of years, has become thick and slimy with sulphur. As the inlets to the lake are rapidly closing, it is believed that it will soon assume the character of a geyser or sulphurous crater.

### Diamonds, Their Supply and Price.

A diamond once mined and cut is in the world to stay. It is the most indestructible form of matter known, and its value accrues it from the mischances which happened to other kinds of property. Every year the stock already on hand is increased by the whole product of the mines, with little or no corresponding reduction to be made for loss or destruction of old gems. It would be natural to suppose that this steady increase is supply—which in Africa alone exceeds 4,000,000 carats annually—would lower the cost of diamonds, but, on the contrary, every shows a rise in their price.—Kate Field's Washington.

## INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

**Live-Stock And Farm Notes.**  
Keep the seed corn warm and dry if you want to start a good crop for it.  
Do not condemn a breed because you happen to own a poor representation of it.  
Every farm boy should be taught to be at least handy with carpenter's tools.

In winter one learns just where wind breaks are needed. Don't fail to plant them next spring, choosing trees of close growing habit.

A ton of butter sold takes particularly nothing off the farm, while a ton of milk sold takes more than \$2 worth of plant food with it.

Regulate the temperature of the cellar by ventilation, so that fruits and vegetables stored in it will not spoil through becoming too warm.

An exchange says that "large-brained horses are the clearest. In the cavalry the horses with large foreheads learn their drill more quickly than the others. A gentleman measured the heads of all his hunters and found that their intelligence and good sense were in proportion to the width of their foreheads.

Why support a barbed wire fence on the farm when a neatly kept hedge will serve all the purposes of the former, and perhaps a few besides? In a sense a farmer's time is the only commodity he has to dispose of, and at certain seasons of the year farm labor is in very poor demand. At such times work necessary to the proper care of a hedge could be advantageously applied to that task. A hedge fence never cuts up horses; it does not draw lightning and carry it half a mile to kill a bunch of cattle; it doesn't cost any direct outlay of money. Grow more hedges for Nebraska and take care of them, and they are the most satisfactory farm fence that exists.—Nebraska Farmer.

Attentive farmers have noted the fact that crops of all kinds grow more luxuriantly when standing to the north from a strip of timber land or a few rows of cottonwood trees even. This is a natural result from protective influence exercised by the trees in that they ward off the prevailing hot winds from the south, though we are entirely free from the hot winds that occasionally visit us, yet a body of trees to the south of our fields for any given year is an ever active favor in pushing vegetation of all kinds to the extreme limit of its development from the simplest fact that it is allowed to retain moisture, a large part of which would be swallowed up by the thirsty south.

The productivity of the soil depends to a great extent on the farmer. Radishes or lettuce, permitted to run to seed and shell out on the ground, become troublesome weeds.

In planning a new garden make it an oblong square and then put everything in long rows.

In planting trees for a wind-break care should be taken to get those that have a close growing habit.

There are fruit trees that are injured every year by permitting them to over-bear. It does not pay to permit it.

At a recent sale of merino breeding sheep at Sidney, Australia, one ram, Hero Prince brought \$3,500, and another Pilgrim, \$2,150.

Colts will make a better growth and development if they are given a light feed of ground oats every day.

### Planting an Orchard.

Now is the time for the farmer on the prairie farm who has not yet secured this very important improvement to arrange for it. Trees were never cheaper. The spring is the proper time to plant, because experience has taught the tree grower in the west that a larger per cent of spring planting lives than of the fall planting. The dry fall weather and the dry freezing seasons of winter is regarded unfavorable. The early spring with its customary wet, showery season encourages vegetation and is sure to start the tree growth if it is in good living condition.

One of the greatest mistakes that is made in setting out an orchard is in spacing the trees. The crowding of trees into a small space is more frequently observed on our big prairie farms than on the hillside of the eastern farm. As to the space between trees, it is safe to say that thirty-two feet is as close as trees should be set, in order to give the trees plenty of room when grown up. Some prefer the plan of planting closer in the row and spacing the rows wider, say four rods apart. This plan gives an advantage in the cultivation of the land. It is a difficult thing to crop an orchard that is closely planted without interfering with the trees. It will be observed, however, that many of our Nebraska and Iowa orchards, that have the trees set so close together, that by the time they are in full bearing they are so helged in that it is impossible to drive a wagon between their spreading branches, are producing great crops of fruit. The yield of fruit is even greater in many instances than where the trees stand out by themselves. Consider all important nature in setting out your orchard.

Buy your trees from your home nurserymen. The country is full of tree peddlers, solicitors, men whom you are not acquainted with; men whom are willing to make you all kinds of guarantees to secure your order. Nebraska has several good reliable nursery firms. Order direct from them and then you get what you buy. These men will also advise you properly as to planting in order to secure the best results.—World Herald.

### Keep Up Repairs.

This is a very necessary part of the farm work. If boards are allowed to be broken off the fence about the stock lots or yard without being immediately replaced, posts broken off or pulled out, wires pulled loose on the pasture fences, the farm will very soon show indications of neglect and the reputation of the owner drop down in the estimation of his neighbor. Besides this injury there is absolute loss introduced at the same time. Impaired fences increase the liability of stock to escape, causing in many instances damage to crops and injury to the stock. A good, secure fence, kept in repair, is one of the valuable improvements of the farm, while a fence in bad repair is a nuisance and damage. It costs but little in time or labor to make the needed repairs as the breaks occur, and by this means every thing is in order. Always have a saw, hatchet, nails and staples ready for use. The majority of repairs required for the implements and machinery of the farm may be made by the farmer who provides himself with a few carpenter and blacksmith tools. If every little break must be taken away to the town blacksmith or mechanic there will be a great expense of time that should be saved to the farm.—World Herald.

### The Hog in Winter.

Change the bedding regularly. Feed some clover hay every day. More corn is necessary during the winter.

Young pigs should take exercise on chilly days.

Oil meal and bran makes good feed for growing pigs.

It is not good economy to feed young pigs frozen slops.

Avoid dust in the beds as well as filth in order to maintain health.

The first six weeks of a pig's life is of the most importance in securing a good profit.

When a hog must be fed until it is fourteen to eighteen months old it is usually fed at a loss.

There is considerable risk in holding hogs for a better price after they are fully ready to market.

A dry earth floor is the best for the sleeping quarters; it is usually warmer than a plank floor.

Salt and ashes should be kept in a box in a convenient place where the hogs can help themselves.

During growth it is quite an item to secure a good development of bone and muscle; when mature, fatten.

It is rarely good economy to allow the boar to run with the other pigs. He is apt to get troublesome.

Even in winter it will be an item to water the hogs regularly. Slop should never take the place of pure water.

Breeding stock should be kept with reference to their use, and this implies having them in a good, thrifty condition.

It is quite an item in breeding to secure as even a lot of pigs as possible. They can be marketed to better advantage.

Oats are one of the very best materials to use in feeding young pigs, especially when they are just beginning to eat.—St. Louis Republican.

All fanciers ought to bear in mind that during this season much of the natural food of fowls is securely bound up by frost or covered with snow. What in other portions of the year fowls with an ordinary run could readily pick up for themselves, must now be supplied.

### A Lucky Burglar.

Many a practiced professional burglar no doubt would envy the luck which fell to the lot of a bad character named Carre, in Paris, who, despite the fact that he has already been three months in jail for theft, must be described as a mere amateur housebreaker. Carre was wandering penniless and purposeless the entire night through the Rue Sainte Anne, Paris, when he suddenly conceived the idea of entering a suite of rooms in a block of buildings guarded by a careless concierge.

He succeeded in passing the porter's lodge without being observed, and going up the back stairs nearest to him, he got into a flat by the kitchen door, which was not closed. Fortune further favored the happy-go-lucky burglar by directing him to the cash box in one of the rooms, and without being seen or heard by anybody he extracted from this receptacle a sum of \$850 in gold and notes. Then he left the place quietly, emerged into the street, and would have escaped altogether with his ill-gotten gains had he not been too eager to taste the wild delights of a carousal.

Next morning Carre was found lying hopelessly and helplessly drunk on the asphalt of the Boulevard Malesherbes. The policeman who searched him found \$480 in his pockets. When asked by the magistrates before whom he was brought to account for the rest of the money, and to describe his nocturnal expedition in extenuation, Carre calmly confessed his theft and was sent to jail for fifteen months.

## OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

Heart-shaped jewels are all the rage. White gloves make the hands look large, still they are very fashionable for bridesmaids to wear with white and colored dresses.

A pretty idea for table ornamentation is to fold the napkin in a shape complimentary to the guest of the occasion—a boat for a sailor, a fan for a society bud.

Really good linen pays by its wearing qualities for the original outlay. If it is not allowed to become so dirty before it is washed that hard rubbing is required to make it clean, it will last for years. The first tiny breaks must be carefully watched for and repaired at once.

A good nurse is more helpful than the doctor, at least she may treble her efficiency; but she should be emphatically a good one—fully trained, with a natural aptitude for her calling, and in fullest sympathy with the physician. A self-opinion nurse may more than undo all the doctor's work.

Nowhere in the world can so many handsome, tasteful women be seen as in London during the season. Of course some are foreigners, and Americans are generally among the most attractive, and it must be remembered that the British kingdom sends its fairest flowers to town at that time; but the fact remains that many English women know how to dress well.

Mrs. Stanley has not once been ill during her stay in America. She is very fond of fresh air, and keeps the temperature of her room at 62 degrees. Every day she takes a long walk. She thinks that American women are more hospitable than the women of London and the cities of the British Isles, but that the English girl is better when you can get acquainted with her.

Some very delicate freezing may be done and is done right along, by skillful letter writers. Omit your address from the postcard and most formal note you can write and the intelligent recipient will understand that he or she has outlived the welcome of your hospitality. Cut the engraved address from the letterhead and the cut becomes an insult. Another indication of social paragon is the omission of all subscription phrases, even she stereotyped, "Yours, Truly," while to write a note and omit the signature altogether is "the unkindest cut of all."

The prettiest toilet tables now have tops or plate glass with beveled edges. Such make a very showy background for all the glittering impedimenta with which the women of fashion like to litter her dressing room. This error effect is a popular one. Frequently a mirror is let in at the end of a table in modern houses, producing very handsomely the illusion of a vista of pretty rooms. Off from their dressing rooms, some women who carry the operation of gowning themselves to the verge of art, have had built, small closet-like rooms, lined on every side with the finest reflecting glass, and lighted from above by electricity. Is to this inclosing mirror, madame steps after the last lock of hair has been arranged and the last fold of the gown adjusted, trusting to its many-sided views for accurate criticism.

It is not an unusual thing for a lady to carry the box of flowers sent to her the previous evening to the florist from whom they were purchased and offer them for sale at a large discount. Often they are accepted, the shrewd merchant fearing that her displeasure will cost him a good customer.

### The Latest in Mirrors.

Rockwood pottery is out in grotesque and Japanese designs.

Cut glass table balls with silver tongues are the correct thing.

Handles of Dresden wares have appeared on some of the new umbrellas for women.

Desert plates of white china, with painted portrait centers and perforated borders, represent a popular article.

One may gratify his taste with table wear, cut, plain, engraved, gilded or ornamented, and still be in fashion.

Serve porcelain as the delight of every woman who knows anything about ceramics, and just now they are immensely popular, being in harmony with the light furniture so fashionable in modern drawing rooms.

Pretty trays of various sizes and designed for pens, pins and other small objects, are this season out in decorated china and cut glass, the shapes being much the same as those occurring in silver.—Jewelers' Circular.

Besides being the fad to always carry an umbrella it is also quite the proper thing to raise one upon the slightest provocation of rain, or snow, or sun shine. You see a woman tastefully dressed and exquisitely gloved, carrying in her left hand a silk umbrella with a gay Dresden handle. There is no sign that the elements will give unpleasant exhibition of their power. It is a sunny bright day. Suddenly out comes a gleam of sun, and presto! up goes the umbrella over the left shoulder of the wearer and on she walks in the sun, her tenor of her ways, not a whit disturbed, but simply obeying one of the laws dictated of the fashion that makes her so novel and charming.