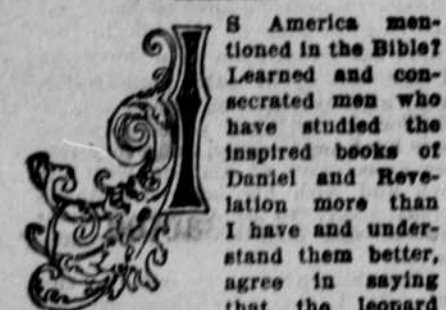


TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"AMERICA IS FOR GOD" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

"And I Beheld Another Beast Coming Up Out of the Earth; and He Had Two Horns Like a Lamb, and He Spoke as a Dragon"—Rev. xiii: 11.



Is America mentioned in the Bible? Learned and consecrated men who have studied the inspired books of Daniel and Revelation more than I have and understand them better, agree in saying that the leopard mentioned in the Bible meant Greece, and the bear meant Medo-Persia, and the lion meant Babylon, and the beast of the text coming up out of the earth with two horns like a lamb and the voice of a dragon means our country, because among other reasons it seemed to come up out of the earth when Columbus discovered it, and it has been for the most part at peace like a lamb, unless assailed by foreign foe, in which case it has had two horns strong and sharp, and the voice of a dragon loud enough to make all nations hear the roar of its indignation. Is it reasonable to suppose that God would leave out from the prophecies of His Book this "I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

I start with the cheering thought that the most popular book on earth today is the Bible, the most popular institution on earth today is the church, and the most popular name on earth today is Jesus. Right from this audience hundreds of men and women would, if need be, march out and die for Him.

Am I too confident in saying "America for God"? If the Lord will help me I will show the strength and extent of the long line of fortresses to be taken, and give you my reasons for saying it can be done and will be done. Let us decide, in this battle for God, whether we are at Bull Run or at Gettysburg. There is a Fourth of July way of bragging about this country, and the most tired and plucked bird that ever flew through the heavens is the American eagle, so much so that Mr. Gladstone said to me facetiously, at Hawarden: "I hear that the fish in your American lakes are so large that when one of them is taken out the entire lake is perceptibly lower," and at a dinner given in Paris an American offered for a sentiment: "Here is to the United States—bounded on the north by the aurora borealis, on the south by the procession of the equinoxes, on the east by the primeval chaos, and on the west by the Day of Judgment." The effect of such grandiloquence is to discredit the real facts, which are so tremendous they need no garnishing. The worst thing to do in any campaign, military or religious, is to under-estimate an enemy, and I will have no part in such attempt at belittlement.

This land to be taken for God, according to Hasel, the statistician, has fourteen million two hundred and ninety-seven square miles, a width and a length that none but the Omnipotent can appreciate. Four Europes put together, and capable of holding and feeding, as it will hold and feed, according to Atkinson, the statistician, if the world continues in existence and does not run afoul of some other world or get consumed by the fires already burning in the cellars of the planet—capable, I say, of holding and feeding more than one billion of inhabitants. For you must remember it must be held for God as well as taken for God, and the last five hundred million inhabitants must not be allowed to swamp the religion of the first five hundred million. Not much use in taking the fortress if we cannot hold it. It must be held until the archangel's trumpet bids living and dead arise from this foundering planet.

You must remember it is only about seven o'clock in the morning of our nation's life. Great cities are to flash and roar among what are called the "Bad Lands" of the Dakotas and the great "Columbia Plains" of Washington state, and that on which we put our school-boy fingers on the map and spelled out as the "Great American Desert," is, through systematic and consummating irrigation, to bloom like Chatsworth Park and be made more productive than those regions dependent upon uncertain and spasmodic rainfall. All those regions, as well as those regions already cultivated, to be inhabited! That was a sublime thing said by Henry Clay, while crossing the Allegheny mountains, and he was waiting for the stage horses to be rested, as he stood on a rock, arms folded, looking off into the valley, and some one said to him, "Mr. Clay, what are you thinking about?" He replied, "I am listening to the on-coming tramp of the future generation of America." Have you laid our home missionary scheme on such an infinitude of scale? If the work of bringing one soul to God is so great, can a thousand million be captured? In this country, already planted and to be overcome, Paganism has built its altar to Brahmin, and the Chinese are already burning incense in their temples, and Mohammedanism, drunk in other days with the red wine of human blood at Lucknow and Cawnpore, and now fresh from the diabolism in Armenia, is trying to get a foothold here, and from the minarets of her mosques will yet mumble her blasphemous, saying, "God is great, and Mohammed is His prophet." Then there are the vast

er multitudes with no religion at all. They worship no God, they live with no consolation, and they die with no hope. No star of peace points down to the manger in which they are born, and no prayer is uttered over the grave into which they sink. Then there is alcoholism, its pilled up demijohns and beer barrels, and hogsheds of fiery death, a barricade high and long as the Alleghenies and Rockies and Sierra Nevada, pouring forth day and night their ammunition of wretchedness and woe. When a German wants to take a drink, he takes beer. When an Englishman wants to take a drink, he takes ale. When a Scotchman wants to take a drink, he takes whisky. But when an American wants to take a drink, he takes anything he can lay his hands on.

Plenty of statistics to tell how much money is spent in this country for rum, and how many drunkards die! But who will give us the statistics of how many hearts are crushed under the heel of this worst demon of the centuries? How many hopes blasted? How many children turned out on the world, accursed with stigma of a debauched ancestry? Until the worm of the distillery becomes the worm that never dies, and the smoke of the heated wine vats becomes the smoke of the torment that ascendeth up forever and ever! Alcoholism, swearing—not with hand uplifted toward heaven, for from that direction it can get no help; but with right hand stretched down toward the perdition from which it came up—swearing that it will not cease as long as there are any homesteads to despoil, any magnificent men and women to destroy, any immortal souls to damn, any more nations to balk, any more civilizations to extinguish.

Then there is what in America we call Socialism, in France Communism, and in Russia Nihilism—the three names for one and the same thing—and having but two doctrines in its creed: First, there is no God. Second, there shall be no rights of property. One of their chief journals printed this sentiment: "Dynamite can be made out of the dead bodies of capitalists as well as out of hogs." One of the leaders of Communism left inscribed on his prison wall, where he had been justly incarcerated, these words: "When once you are dead, there is an end of everything; therefore, ye scoundrels, grab whatever you can—only don't let yourselves be grabbed. Amen!" There are in this country hundreds of thousands of these lazy scoundrels. Honest men deplore it when they cannot get work, but those of whom I speak will not do work when they can get it. I tried to employ one who asked me for money. I said, "Down in my cellar I have some wood to saw, and I will pay you for it." For a little while I heard the saw going, and then I heard it no more. I went downstairs, and found the wood, but the workman had disappeared, taking for company both buck and saw.

Socialism, Communism and Nihilism mean, "Too wicked to acknowledge God, and too lazy to earn a living," and among the mightiest obstacles to be overcome are those organized elements of domestic, social and political ruin.

There also are the fastnesses of infidelity, and atheism, and fraud, and political corruption, and multimorph, hydra-headed, million-armed abominations all over the land. While the mightiest agencies for righteousness on earth are good and healthful newspapers and good and healthful books, and our chief dependence for intelligence and Christian achievement is upon them, what word among words in our vocabulary can describe the work of that archangel of mischief, a corrupt literature? What man, attempting anything for God and humanity, has escaped a stroke of its filthy wing? What good cause has escaped its hindrance? What other obstacle in all the land so appalling? But I cannot name more than one-half the battlements, the bastions, the intrenchments, the redoubts, the fortifications to be stormed and overcome if this country is ever taken for God. The statistics are so awful that if we had nothing but the multiplication table and the arithmetic, the attempt to evangelize America would be an absurdity higher than the Tower of Babel before it dropped on the plain of Shinar. Where are the drilled troops to march against those fortifications as long as the continent? Where are the batteries that can be unlimbered against these walls? Where are the guns of large enough calibre to storm these gates? Well, let us look around and see, the first of all, who is our leader and who will be our leader until the work is done? Garibaldi, with a thousand Italians, could do more than another commander with ten thousand Italians. General Sherman, on one side, and Stonewall Jackson, on the other, each with ten thousand troops, could do more than some other generals with twenty thousand troops. The rough boat in which Washington crossed the icy Delaware with a few half-frozen troops was mightier than the ship of war that, during the American revolution, came through the narrow, a gun at each porthole, and sunk in Hell-Gate. Our Leader, like most great leaders, was born in an obscure place, and it was a humble home, about five miles from Jerusalem. Those who were out of doors that night said that there was stellar commotion, and music that came out of the clouds, as though the front door of heaven had been set open, and that the camels heard his first infantile cry. Then he came to the fairest boyhood that mother was ever proud of, and from twelve to thirty years of age was off in India, if traditions there are accurate, and then returned to his native land, and for three years had his path way surrounded by blind eyes that he illumined, and epileptic patients to whom he gave rubicund health, and

longues that he loosed from silence into song, and those whose funerals he stopped that he might give back to be-reaved mothers their only boys, and whose fevered pulses he had restored to rhythmic throb, and whose paralytic limbs he had warmed into healthful circulation—pastor at Capernaum, but flaming evangelist everywhere, hushing crying tempests and turning rolling seas into solid sapphire, and for the rescue of a race submitted to courtroom filled with howling miscreants, and to a martyrdom at the sight of which the sun faded and fell back in the heavens, and then treading the clouds homeward, like snowy mountain-peaks, till heaven took him back again, more a favorite than he had ever been; but, coming again, he is on earth now, and the nations are gathering to his standard. Following him were the Scotch covenants, the Theban legion, the victims of the London Haymarket, the Piedmontese sufferers, the Pilgrim Fathers, the Huguenots, and uncounted multitudes of the past, joined by about four hundred millions of the present, and with the certainty that all nations shall huzzah at his chariot-wheel, he goes forth, the moon under his feet and the stars of heaven for his tiara—the Mighty Leader, he of Drumcock, and Bothwell Bridge, and Bannockburn, and the One who whelmed Spanish Armada, "Coming up from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, traveling in the greatness of his strength, mighty to save," and behind whom we fall into line to-day and march in the campaign that is to take America for God. Hosanna Hosanna! Wave all the palm-branches! At his feet put down your silver and your gold, as in heaven you will cast before him your crowns.

With such a Leader do you not think we can do it? Say, do you think we can? Why, many ramparts have already been taken. Where is American slavery? Gone, and the South, as heartily as the North, prays "Peace to its ashes." Where is heathen polygamy? Gone, by the fiat of the United States government, urged on by Christian sentiment, and Mormonism, having retreated in 1830 from Fayette, New York, to Kirklund, Ohio, and in 1833 retreated to Missouri, and in 1846 retreated to Salt Lake City, now divorced from its superfluity of wives, will soon retreat into the Pacific, and no basin smaller than the ocean could wash out its pollutions. Illiteracy going down under the work of Slater and Peabody funds, and Sabbath schools of all the churches of all denominations! Paganism now made unlawful by congressional enactment, the brutal custom knocked out in the first round! Corruption at the ballot box, by law of registration and other safeguards, made almost impossible! Churches twice as large as the old ones, the enlarged supply to meet the enlarged demand! Nihilism getting a stunning stroke by the summary execution of its exponents after they had murdered the policemen in Chicago, received its deathblow from the recent treaty which sends back to Russia the blatant criminals who had been regurgitated on our American shore. The very things that have been quoted as perils to this nation are going to help its salvation. Great cities, so often mentioned as great obstacles—the center of crime and the reservoirs of all iniquities—are to lead in the work of gospelization. Who give most to home missions, to asylum, to religious education, to all styles of humanitarian and Christian institutions? The cities. From what place did the most relief go at the time of Johnstown flood, and Michigan fires, and Charleston earthquake, and Ohio freshets? From the cities. From what place did Christ send out his twelve apostles to gospelize the world? From a city. What place will do more than any other place, by its contribution of Christian men and women and means, in this work of taking America for God? New York city. The way Paris goes, goes France. The way Berlin goes, goes Germany. The way Edinburgh goes, goes Scotland. The way London goes, goes England. The way New York and a couple other cities go, goes America. May the eternal God wake up to the stupendous issue!

OBSERVED OF OBSERVERS.

One of the latest re-enlistments in the navy is that of John R. Knowles, the sailor who lashed Admiral Farragut to the rigging of the Hartford in her memorable fight with the confederate iron-clad ram Tennessee in Mobile bay. Knowles has been in the service forty-seven years.

Mrs. Levi P. Morton and eighteen other women well known in New York in various branches of philanthropic work have undertaken to establish a co-operative employment bureau for the supply of its patrons with all sorts of help.

The British chemist who recently found in a terrestrial mineral the element helium, hitherto believed to exist only in the sun and a few stars, was Prof. William Ramsay.

Miss Braddon intends to write no more novels. She has already given to the world more than fifty works of fiction.

Monsignor Capel, the well known Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, became a ranchman in California a few years ago, and is now said to be very wealthy. Formerly the pink of perfection in dress, he has now become indifferent to his garb, and always appears in the rough costume of a ranchman. He was a brilliant social figure in London, and is said to be the original of Catesby in Disraeli's "Lothair."

The Tennyson memorial to be erected near the poet's old home on the Isle of Wight will bear the legend: "Erected by Friends in England and America." The late Oliver Wendell Holmes was the first American contributor.

Hiram S. Maxim, the inventor, says that New Englanders are the best mechanics in the world, and that the French are the best mechanics in Europe.

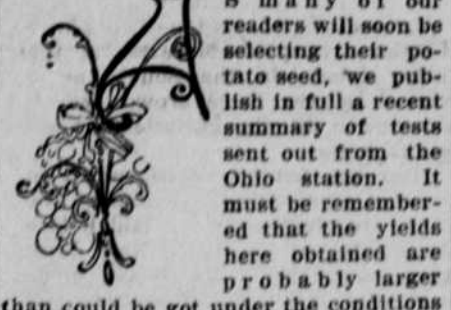
Some folks are a long time in finding out that it never pays to worry.

Every man makes unwritten laws that others have to keep.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.



Many of our readers will soon be selecting their potato seed, we publish in full a recent summary of tests sent out from the Ohio station. It must be remembered that the yields here obtained are probably larger than could be got under the conditions that exist on many farms.

Upward of seventy varieties of potatoes were grown by the Ohio experiment station in 1895 at the central station. The following list includes those in which there is the most interest at present:

Variety	Yield per acre
Banner	201
Carman No. 1	262
Carman No. 3	224
Columbus	281
Clay Rose	214
Craig	211
Early Norther	270
Early Harvest	290
Everitt's Six Weeks	202
Freeman	237
Forest Rose	304
Irish Daisy	247
Koskonong	309
Maggie Murphy	238
Maule's Thoroughbred	357
Nebula	266
Rural New Yorker No. 2	213
Somerset	248
Sir William	308
Salzer's Earliest	177
Timpee's No. 4	223
Victor Rose	244
World's Fair	266

The varieties which stood above the average in all cases are Sir William, Koskonong, Columbus and Irish Daisy. Following closely are Forest Rose, World's Fair, Early Harvest, Carman No. 1, Nebula, Rural New Yorker No. 2, Timpee's No. 4, Early Norther, Victor Rose, Clay Rose and Maggie Murphy, in the order named. All of the varieties named are intermediate or late except Early Harvest, Nebula and Early Norther. Everitt's Six Weeks, which is the same as the Early Ohio, is slightly earlier than these, and less prolific, while Salzer's Earliest, another name for Bliss' Triumph, is still less productive.

Banner, a good intermediate white variety. Resembles the Rural New Yorker No. 2 in both plants and tubers, but is of distinct origin.

Carman Nos. 1 and 2. These are both valuable midseason white sorts. No. 1 seems to be more subject to blight than No. 2. The latter is quite resistant, but is not exempt from the disease. No. 2 resembles the Rural New Yorker No. 2 in tubers and foliage, but is probably more vigorous and prolific.

Clay Rose. An intermediate rose-colored variety; very vigorous in growth, but only moderately prolific and not specially promising.

Craig. Tested but one season. The yield was small because of susceptibility to blight. It is a vigorous grower and no doubt prolific under favorable conditions.

Columbus. This variety has uniformly given good yields here and at the substations. It is a good keeper and of good quality, but the general appearance of the tubers is not pleasing, because of unevenness in size and irregularity, besides they are not of a clear white color. Nevertheless it is a desirable variety.

Early Norther. This may be described as an improved Early Rose, being similar to that variety in form and color, but a better cropper. It has given the best results in our various tests of any variety of its class.

Early Harvest. At present this stands at the head of the list of early white varieties. It ripens with the Early Rose.

Everitt's Six Weeks. Not distinguishable from Early Ohio.

Irish Daisy. Too large a per cent of small tubers to be desirable, but it is one of the most prolific.

Maggie Murphy. A coarse-looking, pink potato and not of good quality unless grown on sandy soil.

Maule's Thoroughbred. It gave a high yield when grown on a small plot and has been tested one season only. It belongs to the rose class and seems to be very promising, but more time is needed in order to fully test its value.

Nebula. Similar to Early Norther.

Somerset. A midseason rose-colored variety of considerable promise.

Sir William. Some have thought that this variety has been overrated, but at the station and substations it has made a record second to none. It easily ranks with the most prolific varieties and excels most of them in table qualities. All things considered it deserves a place near the head of the list.

Victor Rose. A second early, rose colored variety, of considerable merit, principally because of the fine appearance of the tubers.

Wise. A very vigorous and prolific pink-skinned variety, from Ashland county, where it has a high reputation. It has been tested here one season only, but appears to have more than ordinary merit.—Farmers' Review.

Peanut (to conductor)—I haven't quite enough money to go home on the flyer. Couldn't you go a little slower and take me on an ordinary ticket?—Fleegende Blaetter.

Michigan Horticultural Convention.

(Condensed from Farmers' Review Stenographic Report.)

Prof. L. F. Taft spoke on irrigation. In sub-irrigation, water has to be supplied slowly. The tiles used are bent, and the joints do not thus fit closely. This permits the water to escape from the tiles more rapidly than it could through the pores of the tiles. In sub-irrigation there is applied from 700 to 800 barrels of water per acre.

They had tested the effects of these tiles on tomatoes when the tiles were placed at different depths. The results were about the same, but when sub-irrigation was compared with surface irrigation, the results were in favor of the former.

With beans, the results varied greatly. By irrigating they had obtained 76 pounds of beans per square rod, while without water the returns were only 17 1/2 pounds. Besides that the returns from the watered portion were much earlier than on the other, and if they had been marketing them they would have been able to get a better price for these first ones. They picked 27 pounds off the irrigated lot before any were fit to be picked on the unirrigated patch.

They had tried the effect of irrigating the timothy field, and had put on water at the rate of 1,000 barrels per acre, the application being made but once. At harvest time the difference was very great. A field that was irrigated three times gave stalks of timothy 3 feet 9 inches to 4 feet 3 inches in height; the yield was at the rate of 5,360 pounds per acre. The part watered once gave 2,230 pounds per acre, while without water the yield was 800 pounds to the acre. The cost of pumping water was about 3 cents per 1,000 gallons. In sub-irrigation, great care must be taken to lay the tile very loosely, and too much water must not be put on.

They had planted without regard to irrigation a number of rows of early peas, but when it came time to water the other fields, they managed to distribute the water over some of these rows. The slope was about one foot to every four rods. June 13 they picked the first from the irrigated peas. With water they had at the first picking 3 1/2 pounds, and without water 1 1/2 pounds. This did not seem very favorable, but they kept on, and the total harvest gave 54 pounds with water and without water 21 pounds. The irrigated portion had yielded at the rate of 3,537 pounds per acre. The cost of watering had been at the rate of \$1.75 per acre.

They tried the effects of irrigation on cabbage, and got three times the weight with water that they did without it. With water applied to the potatoes four times, they got at the rate of 130 bushels per acre over the unwatered lot. Applied three times the gain was 60 bushels per acre, and twice late in the season the gain was only 42 bushels to the acre. It is often said that it is advisable to wait till the tubers form before applying the water, but no difference was detected at this station.

If the soil be not moist at the time of sowing the seed, provide the moisture by applying the water in furrows four feet apart made by a plow. The seed may also be thoroughly soaked before being planted.

Second, never apply water to start the seed after planting. In applying water as directed, use from 500 to 1,000 barrels per acre. It was found at the station that 750 barrels gave the best results.

Again, in irrigating potatoes, avoid running the water over the surface of the ground, but have it directed into the furrows.

Mr. Williams—There are several kinds of irrigation in use. This variation of methods arises from difference of conditions. Some of our Michigan fruit growers will probably fail if they try to use the same methods that are in use in California and Dakota. I once lived in a Dakota town that had an artesian well. Water was struck at 1,145 feet, and the flow was strong. I had a hydrant in my front yard, and with a one-inch hose I could water my entire lot. My cistern was nearly ruined from the seepage, and my present tenant there writes that the cellar is being flooded from a break in the main 25 feet away, while a neighbor's cellar is overflowed by the seepage from an open ditch on the opposite side of the road, 60 feet away. All this shows the character of the soil, the seepage denoting its intense porosity. Now, my experience in Douglas, Michigan, is that the soil is very different from that I have described, and the seepage is very slow. Sub-irrigation is good where it can be used, but for general orcharding it is too expensive, and I fear too that it would be found that the roots of the trees would penetrate the tile and fill it up.

Making Hotbeds.—A hotbed, when properly made, will hold heat a considerable time. Get good stable manure, and if it be scarce, mix some leaves with it. Stable manure and leaves make a splendid and lasting bed, providing the material is well packed down. Soil for hotbeds ought to be prepared in the fall. At this season, as a rule, everything is frozen up. A liberal amount of old decayed manure that is well rotted down is just the thing to mix with the soil. Seeds will come up well in a compost of this.—Am. Gardening.

Best Fertilizer.—Professor Atwater says: "Chemists do not prescribe for soils as doctors do for patients. Stable manure is a complete fertilizer. It contains all the ingredients of plant food; and its organic matter improves the mechanical condition of the soil besides. It is a standard fertilizer, and useful everywhere. To learn by what artificial fertilizer it can be supplemented in any given case, is, as I have often insisted, best settled by experience and experiment."

A single swallow, according to an authority, can devour 6,000 flies in a day.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON XII, MARCH 22—FAITHFUL SERVANTS—LUKE 12:37-48.

Golden Text: "Be Not Drunk with Wine, Wherein Is Excess; but Be Filled with the Spirit"—Ephesians 5:18—Scriptural Light.



SINCE we have this subject here only in this course, although in the other gospels it comes some months later, it will be well for the teacher to bring together what Jesus says about it in various places. The occasion for this warning, in the circumstances of the disciples, their peculiar temptations, and dangers, should be first made clear. The application to our own times can then come with greater force. For every reason why the disciples should watch is intensified in our own times. The application to temperance is very clear, and the emphasis can be laid upon this application according to the needs of each class. The Section includes verses 26-48, together with the similar teachings about watchfulness on the Tuesday before the crucifixion, four months later. See Light from Other Scriptures.

The full lesson for to-day is as follows: 27. Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall find them ready to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. 28. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 29. And this know, that if the "goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. 30. Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

41. Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? 42. And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his servants, to give them their portion of meat in due season? 43. Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 44. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. 45. But, and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; 46. The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47. And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Some explanations to to-day's lesson are as follows: Vs. 27-29. "Shall find watching." The word "watching" expresses not a mere act, but a state of wakefulness and alertness. "What the behavior enjoined is not curiously straining to be the first to see the returning master, but the wakefulness and diligence that overlooks no duty, indulges no indolence. The last thing that would please a master would be the idle curiosity which would make the servants neglect their work to stand outside the door gazing to catch a glimpse of his return. What the master desires is wakeful work."—R. Glover. We watch by serving the Lord as faithfully as if he were ever looking upon us. We watch by being on our guard against every temptation and danger. Watchfulness is the opposite of careless security; it is a state of readiness.

Against What to Watch. We are to watch against temptation from within and without; against prevailing iniquities which fill the air with moral malaria, or chill the piety of even the church; against failure in duty; against the loss of the warmth of first love; against the day of death and of judgment, so as to be prepared for them when they come.

"Second or third watch." Always watching, whether it be early or late. "The watch was a military division of the night, covering the hours occupied by each of the four relays of guards stationed from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m."—American Commentary.

A Reason for Watching. 29. "If the goodman, the master or head, of the house, had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched. When a house has not been robbed for a long time men are apt to relax their vigilance. 40. "The son of man cometh in an hour when ye think not." Not only his final coming, but all his comings are sudden, at unexpected times, and in unexpected ways. There is only one way to be safe against temptation, only one way to be ready to enter open doors of usefulness, or new work, and that is to be always on guard, always watching, always ready. If we are unprepared the opportunities pass us forever.

Vs. 41-44. "Peter said." Peter recognized that the apostles were referred to, and would of course reap the great reward promised, but how about other people? "Was there room for them?" 42. "The Lord said." He now implies by a parable what he at another time directly said (Mark 13:37). "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." "Who then is that faithful and wise steward?"

43. "Blessed." He possesses all the beatitudes. "Shall find so doing." We see by this illustration of Christ what he means by watching, not gazing up into the heaven for signs, but faithful performance of duty, as if God himself were ever present, with hope and joy in the thought of his coming. In many cases watching is joined with prayer, because he that means to watch will seek all the help possible, especially the guardianship of God.

44. "Will make him ruler over all that he hath, and not simply over his body of domestics." (Compare 26: 1; Luke 12: 11, 28.)

NOTES OF ART AND SCIENCE.

Milk may be sterilized, says the Scientific American, by passing through it an alternating electric current.

A German contractor has recently received a concession to build electric railways in the suburbs of Teheran, Persia.

Electrical sewage purification is a very promising solution of the sewage problem. It is calculated that one electrical horse power will purify 14,000 gallons of sewage in ten hours.