

THE WISE KING.

Dr. Talmage Discourses on the Works of Solomon.

Week-end Reservoirs and Acqueducts of the Holy Land—Achievements of the Past Compared With the Present—The Savior's Birth Place.

In his sixth sermon on the Holy Land Rev. Dr. DeWitt Talmage described the gardens and public works of King Solomon. His text was Ecclesiastes 1: 4-6: "I made me great works. I builded me houses, I planted me vineyards, I made me gardens and orchards, I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits; I made me pools of water to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth the tree." Dr. Talmage said:

A spring morning and before breakfast at Jerusalem! A King with robes snowy white in chariot decked with gold, drawn by eight horses, high meted, and housings as brilliant as if scolloped out of that very sunrise, and the winds that speed, followed by a regiment of archers, bow drawn, with hand on gilded bow and arrows with steel points flashing in the sun, clad from head to foot in Tyrian purple and black hair sprinkled with gold dust, all dashing down the road, the horses at full run, the reins loose on their necks, and the halloo of the reckless cavalcade putting the miles at defiance. Who is it and what is it? King Solomon taking an outing before breakfast from Jerusalem to his gardens and parks and orchards and vineyards, six miles down the road towards Hebron, and a contrast between that and myself at that very road one morning last December, going afoot, for our plain vehicle turned back for photographic apparatus forgotten, we on the way to find what the waters of the Holy Land are, and the gardens of a King nearly 3,000 years ago. We cross the aqueduct again and again and here we are at the three great reservoirs, not ruins of reservoirs, but the reservoirs themselves, that Solomon caused to be built for the purpose of catching the mountain water, and passing them to Jerusalem to slake the thirst of the city, and also to irrigate the most glorious range of gardens that ever bloomed with all colors, and adorned with all reflorescence, for Solomon was the greatest horticulturist, the greatest botanist, the greatest ornithologist, the greatest capitalist and the greatest scientist of his century.

Come over the piles of gray rock, and here we are at the first of three reservoirs, the base of the top of the second, the base of the second reservoir higher than the top of the third, so arranged that the waters gather from several sources above shall descend from bas to basin, the sediment of the water deposited in each of the three, so that by the time it gets down to the aqueduct which is to take it to Jerusalem it has had three filterings, and is as pure as the clouds that rain it. Wonderful specimens of masonry are these three reservoirs. The white cement facings, the blocks of stone together is now just as when the trowels 3,000 years ago smoothed the layers. The highest reservoir 380 feet by 225; the second, 425 by 165; and the lowest reservoir 555 feet by 165, and deep enough and wide enough, and slightly enough to float an ocean steamer.

On that December morning we saw the waters rolling down from reservoir to reservoir, and can well understand how in this neighborhood the imperial caravans were one great caravan, and the orchard one great basket of fruit, and that Solomon in his palace, writing the Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes, may have been drawing illustrations from what he had seen that very morning, and to repeat the words of the Song of Songs, and mandrakes, and apricots, and grapes, and pomegranates, and figs, and spikenard, and cinnamon, and calamus, and camphire, and "apple trees among the trees of the wood," and the almond trees flourishing, and to the words of Ecclesiastes, "the vineyard of the Lord, and the beds of spices to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies," and to "eyes like fish pools," and to the voice of the turtle dove as heard in the land.

But all this splendor did not make Solomon happy. One day, after getting back from his morning ride and before the horses had yet been cooled off and rubbed down by the royal eunuchs, Solomon wrote the memorable words following my text: "Behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." In other words, "It doesn't pay." Would to God that we might all be like the king, that this world can not produce happiness!

At Marcellus there is a castellated house on high ground crowned with all that grove and garden can do, and the whole place looks out upon an enchanting landscape as the world holds, water and hills, and clouds, and a perfect bewitchment of scenery, but the owner of that place is totally blind, and to him all this goes for nothing, illustrating the truth that, whether one be physically or morally blind brilliancy of surrounding can give no satisfaction. But tradition says that when "the wise man of the East" were being guided by the star on the way to Bethlehem, they, for a little while, lost sight of that star, and in despair and exhaustion came to rest at Marcellus, and looking into the well they saw the star reflected in the water, and that cheered them, and they resumed their journey, and I have the notion that though grandeur and pomp of surroundings may not afford peace, at the well of God's consolation, close by, you find real happiness, and the plainest cup at the well of salvation may hold the brightest star that ever shined from the heavens.

Although these Solomon's gardens are in ruins, there are now growing there fanned that are to be found nowhere else in the Holy Land. How do I account for the? Solomon sent out his servants and robbed the gardens of the whole earth for flowers and planted these exotics here, and these particular flowers are direct descendants of the foreign plants he imported.

Storms, the waters, the great midsummer heats of Palestine, by crumbling up and dissolving the rocks, are gradually preparing Palestine and Syria to yield a product like that of New York and Lancaster County farms of Pennsylvania, and Somerset County farms of New Jersey, and the other magnificent farm fields of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the opulent orchards of Maryland and California.

I look upon this great aqueduct of Palestine, a wondrous specimen of ancient masonry, about seven feet wide, sometimes tunneling the solid rock and then rolling its waters through stone-work pipes, an aqueduct doing its work ten miles before it gets to these three reservoirs, I find that our country has no monopoly of the world's wonders, and that the conceived age in which we live had better take in some of the wells of God's consolation, close by, you find real happiness, and the plainest cup at the well of salvation may hold the brightest star that ever shined from the heavens.

THE INDIAN MESSIAH.

General Miles Gives the Result of His Investigation of the Indian Messiah.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 5.—Major-General Sir Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., commander of the division of the Missouri, who has returned from a tour of the West, says regarding the "Indian Messiah" that he believes in the existence of the Indian Messiah among the various tribes of Sioux, Cheyennes, Blackfeet, Shoshones and other tribes. In all the cases he has extended to sixteen tribes, the Snake Indians being the only ones to repudiate it. There is no doubt that many of the Indians holding this belief in the Indian Messiah sincerely, and some have certainly seen some person whom they took to be Messiah. Several small parties of Indians have gone westward from their tribes to some point which, as near as I can locate, is Nevada, and there they have been shown somebody who they believe to be the Messiah, and spoken with him. I am inclined to believe that there is more than one person impersonating this Messiah, as when Sioux have spoken with him he has replied in the Sioux language and when the Cheyennes and Shoshones have spoken with him he has replied in their own language, and so on with the representatives of each nation or tribe, speaking their own language to each.

"What do you think is responsible for this imposture upon the Indians?" "I can not state positively but it is my belief the Mormons are the prime movers in it. This is not a hard statement to believe, for there are 200,000 Mormons and they themselves claim to believe in prophets and spiritual manifestation, and they even now claim to have the Messiah in their midst. Besides they have had missionaries at work among the Indians for many years and have many converts."

"Do you think this new belief of the Indians will lead to an outbreak and bloodshed?" "I do not think so, but where an ignorant race of people become religious fanatics it is hard to tell just what they will do. It is noteworthy, however, that this so-called Messiah tells the Indians that when he comes to reign over the world he says he wears white, and longer he wears white, and he tells them also that with his coming the dead Indians will all be raised to life, the buffalo will return and he will draw a line behind which he will gather all the Indians, and then he will give the Indians up to the whites. This has naturally excited the Indians and large numbers have accepted the new belief. Among those who have done so none are more ardent than Sitting Bull, who is intensely Indian in all his ideas."

"Do you think the person who is impersonating the Messiah is a white man or an Indian?" "Those who have seen him say he is muffled up and disguised so that they do not see his face, but I believe that he is a full-blooded white. The argument the Indians used in disbelieving the matter is that the whites have had their Messiah and the Indians now have theirs; that if it is reasonable for the whites to believe in a Messiah it is reasonable for the Indians to do so. The situation is not alarming in any way, and I do not know whether any action will be taken by the Government regarding this matter until after I have made a report."

GENERAL HOWARD'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—Major-General G. H. Howard, commanding the division of the Atlantic, in his annual report calls attention to the subject of seacoast defense. He says that, considering the armament necessary for the extent of seacoast in the division, the liberal appropriation of one year should not lead to overconfidence, but since his last annual report a decided step has been taken both in providing for the construction of seacoast common and rified mortars, the preparation of fortifications for them and the construction of fixed torpedo boats, with galleries, operating casemates and other belongings. The principal harbors have been properly patrolled, and the artillery on duty near them is at present engaged in earnest practice with such weapons as the forts now have, and will be fully equipped as they are repaired. It is hoped that the new guns and appliances as soon as they begin to arrive. The artillery regiments have been necessarily increased in size at the expense of the rest of the line and still two more regiments are needed. It is hoped that Congress may be induced to augment the enlisted strength of the army sufficiently to allow this increase without permanently diminishing the cavalry and infantry. Until last September the mortality of the Indian prisoners was excessive, but it now appears to have been checked. A new village should be constructed for them in place of the present temporary shelters. The idea of making these Indians self-supporting had to be given up and 25 cents a day has been allowed those who work for the post with the result of ameliorating their condition. General Howard earnestly hopes that efforts will be made to organize the Christian Indians into regiments of twelve troops, battalions or companies and offered by the number and grade of officers now authorized for cavalry regiments. It is strongly recommended that the privates of artillery be classified with a difference in pay as the case of the infantry. An increase of pay for non-commissioned officers in each line to correspond to the staff is desirable. From various reasons the present maximum of 25,000 enlisted men results in a severe restriction and to keep the organization up to 25,000 trained men constantly on foot the maximum, including recruits, should not be less than 35,000. General Howard says that the effect of having organized the army in 1866 within the limits of the same age, and who had already suffered much hardship in the rebellion, is now working serious injury to the service. The number of disabled officers far exceeds the limit of the retired list, the captains are too old for marching duty, and therefore such officers as are above 30 years of age should by legislation be transferred from the limited to the unlimited retired list. In the case of enlisted men thirty years' service is too long before retirement, and twenty-five years is suggested as a proper period of service. In conclusion General Howard recommends that some system of school battalions of boys from 17 to 21 years of age be organized as a source of supply of material for non-commissioned officers of the army and militia, and the post of New York is mentioned as a convenient point for its establishment.

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HARRISVILLE, Mo., Nov. 7.—Fifty or sixty Whites entered Freeman, about ten miles west of this place, and going into a dive supposed to have been run by Andy Spradling emptied his liquor into the street. Local option is a law in Freeman, but owing to insufficient evidence they have been unable to convict any one.

LEXINGTON, Mo., Nov. 7.—Henry Spason, editor of the "Star," and a man who wanted to "see the editor," and W. B. Powell, special correspondent, it, knocked two men out in one round.

Christian Workers in Convention. HARTFORD, Conn., Nov. 7.—The first session of the fifth annual convention of the Christian Workers in the United States and Canada, which was held with a large attendance. Rev. A. E. Torrey, of Chicago, chairman of the convention, delivered an address, which was followed by the report of the secretary.

Will Close the Campaign Here. CHICAGO, Nov. 7.—Chairman Finley, of the Western Business Association, has authorized all Illinois delegates between Kansas City and St. Louis to meet the scalpers' rates by a reduction from \$7.50 to \$6.30.

French Manufacturers Meet. PARIS, Nov. 7.—Four hundred delegates from the manufacturing centers of France met at the Hotel Continental to consider the Government's tariff proposals. M. Dyrard, president of the Lyons Chamber of Commerce, presided. Resolutions were adopted protesting against the protection policy of the Government, and a resolution was adopted entitled "Union for French raw material and for the defense of the export trade."

The plurality of Messrs. D. in the Second Missouri Congressional District is 7,000.

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