

## TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"DIVINE MISSION OF THE NEWSPAPER," HIS SUBJECT.

A Fair Statement of the Conditions That Surround Newspaperdom—The Average Daily or Weekly Paper Is an Instrument for Great Good.



WASHINGTON, March 22, 1896.—"Newspaper Row," as it is called here in Washington, the long row of offices connected with prominent journals throughout the land, pays so much attention to Dr. Talmage they may be glad to hear what he thinks of them while he discusses a subject in which the whole country is interested. His text today was: "And the wheels were full of eyes." Ezekiel x. 12. "For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or hear some new thing." Acts xvii. 21.

What is a preacher to do when he finds two texts equally good and suggestive? In that perplexity I take both. Wheels full of eyes? What but the wheels of a newspaper printing press? Other wheels are blind. They roll on, pulling or crushing. The manufacturer's wheel, how it grinds the operator with fatigues, and rolls over nerve and muscle and bone and heart, not knowing what it does. The sewing machine wheel sees not the aches and pains fastened to it—tighter than the band that moves it, sharper than the needle which it plies. Every moment of every hour of every day of every month of every year there are hundreds of thousands of wheels of mechanism, wheels of enterprise, wheels of hard work, in motion, but they are eyesless. Not so with the wheels of the printing press. Their entire business is to look and report. They are full of optic nerves, from axle to periphery. They are like those spoken of by Ezekiel as full of eyes. Sharp eyes, near-sighted, far-sighted. They look up. They look down. They look far away. They take in the next street and the next hemisphere. Eyes of criticism, eyes of investigation; eyes that twinkle with mirth, eyes glowering with indignation, eyes tender with love; eyes of suspicion, eyes of hope; blue eyes, black eyes, green eyes; holy eyes, evil eyes, sore eyes, political eyes, literary eyes, historical eyes, religious eyes; eyes that see everything. "And the wheels were full of eyes." But in my second text is the world's cry for the newspaper. Paul describes a class of people in Athens who spent their time either in gathering news or telling it. Why especially in Athens? Because the more intelligent people become, the more inquisitive they are—not about small things, but great things.

The question then most frequently is the question now most frequently asked: What is the news? To answer that cry in the text for the newspaper the centuries have put their wits to work. China first succeeded, and has at Peking a newspaper that has been printed every week for one thousand years, printed on silk. Rome succeeded by publishing the Acta Diurna, in the same column putting fires, murders, marriages and tempests. France succeeded by a physician writing out the news of the day for his patients. England succeeded under Queen Elizabeth in first publishing the news of the Spanish Armada, and going on until she had enough enterprise, when the battle of Waterloo was fought, deciding the destiny of Europe, to give it one-third of a column in the London Morning Chronicle, about as much as the newspaper of our day gives of a small fire. America succeeded by Benjamin Harris' first weekly paper, called Public Occurrences, published in Boston in 1689, and by the first daily, the American Advertiser, published in Philadelphia in 1784.

The newspaper did not suddenly spring upon the world, but came gradually. The genealogical line of the newspaper is this: The Adam of the race was a circular or news-letter, created by Divine impulse in human nature; and the circular begat the pamphlet, and the pamphlet begat the quarterly, and the quarterly begat the weekly, and the weekly begat the semi-weekly, and the semi-weekly begat the daily. But alas! by what a struggle it came to its present development! No sooner had its power been demonstrated than tyranny and superstition shackled it. There is nothing that despots so fears and hates as a printing press. It has too many eyes in its wheel. A great writer declared that the king of Naples made it unsafe for him to write of anything but natural history. Austria could not endure Kossuth's journalistic pen, pleading for the redemption of Hungary. Napoleon I., trying to keep his iron heel on the neck of nations, said: "Editors are the regents of sovereigns and the tutors of nations, and are only fit for prison." But the battle for the freedom of the press was fought in the court rooms of England and America and decided before this century began by Hamilton's eloquent plea for J. Peter Zenger's Gazette in America and Erskine's advocacy of the freedom of publication in England.

But I discourse now on a subject you have never heard—the immeasurable and everlasting blessing of a good newspaper. Thank God that we do not have—like the Athenians—to go about to gather up and relate the tidings of the day, since the omnivorous newspaper does both for us. The grandest temporal blessing that God has given to the nineteenth century is the news-

paper. We would have better appreciation of this blessing if we knew the money, the brain, the losses, the exasperations, the anxieties, the wear and tear of hearts involved in the production of a good newspaper. Under the impression that almost anybody can make a newspaper, scores of inexperienced capitalists every year enter the lists, and, consequently, during the last few years a newspaper has died almost every day. The disease is epidemic. The larger papers swallow the smaller ones, the whale taking down fifty minnows at one swallow. With more than seven thousand dailies and weeklies in the United States and Canada, there are but thirty-six a half century old. Newspapers do not average more than five years' existence. The most of them die of cholera infantum. It is high time that the people found out that the most successful way to sink money and keep it sunk is to start a newspaper. There comes a time when almost everyone is smitten with the newspaper mania and starts one, or have stock in one he must or die.

To publish a newspaper requires the skill, the precision, the boldness, the vigilance, the strategy of a commander-in-chief. To edit a newspaper requires that one be a statesman, an essayist, a geographer, a statistician, and in acquisition, encyclopedic. To man, to govern, to propel a newspaper until it shall be a fixed institution, a national fact, demand more qualities than any business on earth. If you feel like starting any newspaper, secular or religious, understand that you are being threatened with softening of the brain or lunacy and, throwing your pocketbook into your wife's lap, start for some insane asylum before you do something desperate. Meanwhile, as the dead newspapers, week by week, are carried out to the burial, all the living newspapers give respectful obituary, telling when they were born and when they died. The best printer's ink should give at least one stickful of epitaph. If it was a good paper, say, "Peace to its ashes." If it was a bad paper, I suggest the epitaph written for Francis Chartreuse: "Here continueth to rot the body of Francis Chartreuse, who, with an inflexible constancy and uniformity of life, persisted in the practice of every human vice, excepting prodigality and hypocrisy; his insatiable avarice exempted him from the first, his matchless impudence from the second." I say this because I want you to know that a good, healthy, long-lived, entertaining newspaper is not an easy blessing, but one that comes to us through the fire.

First of all, newspapers make knowledge democratic and for the multitude. The public library is a hay-mow so high up that few can reach it, while the newspaper throws down the forage to our feet. Public libraries are the reservoirs where the great floods are stored high up and away off. The newspaper is the tunnel that brings them down to the pitchers of all the people. The chief use of great libraries is to make newspapers out of. Great libraries make a few men and women very wise. Newspapers lift whole nations into the sunlight. Better have fifty million people moderately intelligent than one hundred thousand solons. A false impression is abroad that newspaper knowledge is ephemeral because periodicals are thrown aside, and not one out of ten thousand people files them for future reference. Such knowledge, so far from being ephemeral, goes into the very structure of the world's heart and brain and decides the destiny of churches and nations. Knowledge on the shelf is of little worth. It is knowledge afoot, knowledge harnessed, knowledge in revolution, knowledge winged, knowledge projected, knowledge thunder-bolted. So far from being ephemeral, nearly all the best minds and hearts have their hands on the printing press today, and have had since it got emancipated. Adams and Hancock and Otis used to go to the Boston Gazette and compose articles on the rights of the people. Benjamin Franklin, De Witt Clinton, Hamilton, Jefferson, Quincy were strong in newspaperdom. Many of the immortal things that have been published in book form first appeared in what you may call the ephemeral periodical. All Macaulay's essays first appeared in a review. All Carlyle's, all Ruskin's, all McIntosh's, all Sydney Smith's, all Hazlett's, all Thackeray's, all the elevated works of fiction in our day, are reprints from periodicals in which they appeared as serials. Tennyson's poems, Burns' poems, Longfellow's poems, Emerson's poems, Lowell's poems, Whittier's poems, were once fugitive pieces. You cannot find ten literary men in Christendom, with strong minds and great hearts, but are or have been somehow connected with the newspaper printing press. While the book will always have its place, the newspaper is more potent. Because the latter is multitudinous do not conclude it is necessarily superficial. If a man should from childhood to old age see only his Bible, Webster's Dictionary and his newspaper, he could be prepared for all the duties of this life and all the happiness of the next.

Again, a good newspaper is a useful mirror of life as it is. It is sometimes complained that newspapers report the evil when they ought only to report the good. They must report the evil as well as the good, or how shall we know what is to be reformed, what guarded against, what fought down? A newspaper that pictures only the honesty and virtue of society is a misrepresentation. That family is best prepared for the duties of life which, knowing the evil, is taught to select the good. Keep the children under the impression that all is fair and right in the world, and when they go out into it they will be as poorly prepared to struggle with it as a child who is thrown

into the middle of the Atlantic and told to learn how to swim. Our only complaint is when sin is made attractive and morality dull, when vice is painted with great headlines and good deeds are put in obscure corners, iniquity set up in great primer and righteousness in nonpareil. Sin is loathsome, make it loathsome. Virtue is beautiful, make it beautiful.

It would work a vast improvement if all our papers—religious, political, literary—should for the most part drop their impersonality. This would do better justice to newspaper writers. Many of the strongest and best writers of the country live and die unknown, and are denied their just fame. The vast public never learns who they are. Most of them are on comparatively small income, and after awhile their hand forgets its cunning, and they are without resources, left to die. Why not, at least, have his initial attached to his most important work? It always gave additional force to an article when you occasionally saw added to some significant article in the old New York Courier and Enquirer J. W. W., or in the Tribune H. G., or in the Herald J. G. B., or in the Times H. J. R., or in the Evening Post W. C. B., or in the Evening Express E. B. While this arrangement would be a fair and just thing for newspaper writers, it would be a defense for the public.

Once more I remark, that a good newspaper is a blessing as an evangelistic influence. You know there is a great change in our day taking place. All the secular newspapers of the day—for I am not speaking now of the religious newspapers—all the secular newspapers of the day discuss all the questions of God, eternity and the dead, and all the questions of the past, present and future. There is not a single doctrine of theology but has been discussed in the last ten years by the secular newspapers of the country. They gather up all the news of all the earth bearing on religious subjects, and then they scatter the news abroad again. The Christian newspaper will be the right wing of the apocalyptic angel. The cylinder of the Christianized printing press will be the front wheel of the Lord's chariot. I take the music of this day, and I do not mark it diminishing—I mark it crescendo. A pastor on a Sabbath preaches to a few hundred, or a few thousand people, and on Monday, or during the week, the printing press will take the same sermon and preach it to millions of people. God speed the printing press! God save the printing press! God Christianize the printing press!

When I see the printing press standing with the electric telegraph on the one side gathering up material, and the lightning express train on the other side waiting for the tons of folded sheets of newspapers, I pronounce it the mightiest force in our civilization. So I commend you to pray for all those who manage the newspapers of the land, for all type setters, for all reporters, for all editors, for all publishers, that, sitting or standing in positions of such great influence, they may give all that influence for God and the betterment of the human race. An aged woman making her living by knitting, unwound the yarn from the ball until she found in the center of the ball there was an old piece of newspaper. She opened it and read an advertisement which announced that she had become heirless to a large property, and that fragment of newspaper lifted her from pauperism to affluence. And I do not know but as the thread of time unrolls and unwinds a little further, through the silent yet speaking newspaper may be found the vast inheritance of the world's redemption. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does his successive journeys run; His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.

### RELIGION AND REFORM.

Over 600 preachers in Connecticut work for salaries that do not average more than \$750 a year.

It was a Connecticut woman who refused to buy a copy of the Bible from an agent because it did not contain portraits of the presidents of the United States.

The Church of Messiah, Brooklyn, Dr. Charles R. Baker, rector, has maintained for several years a circulating library for the blind, probably the only one in the United States.

Hui Kin is the first Chinaman to be ordained as a Christian minister in the eastern part of the United States. He is a Presbyterian and has lived in New York since he came to this country, twenty years ago.

Rev. Benjamin Waugh has retired from the editorship of the London Sunday Magazine, his work in connection with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children leaving him no leisure for other labors.

Dr. Alexander Charles Garrett, bishop of northern Texas, has just been elected bishop of the newly created diocese of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Bishop has for years been one of the most aggressive missionary bishops in the Episcopal church.

A priest of the Greek church in Thessaly died lately at the age of 102. During the last years of his life his memory became so much impaired that he often forgot whether or not he had dined, and sometimes he dined twice or three in succession.

Rev. Dr. George W. Miller, now of St. Andrew's Methodist church, New York, has accepted a call to succeed Rev. Dr. Richard Harcourt of Grace church, Baltimore. Dr. Miller has had charge of the largest church of his denomination in Kansas City, was formerly pastor of Grace church, Wilmington, and began his ministry in Chambersburg.

The love that never speaks until it does it on a grave-stone, keeps still too long.

## WAGES IN CHINA.

COMPETITION THAT AMERICAN LABOR MAY MEET.

Rates Paid in Skilled Industries Mean Starvation for Americans—Existing Chinese Trade Against the United States—Adequate Protection.



No country in the world is more abundantly supplied with labor than China, and in no country in the world does the laborer receive less compensation. A Chinese laborer will save money on wages that would hardly be sufficient to supply the absolute necessities of an American laborer. This is made possible by the cheapness of the vegetable diet on which the Chinese laborer is content to live; the small cost of house accommodations, for several families will subdivide one room of a house and live in contentment in it, and the low price paid for clothing, which is made of the coarsest cottons. But the cheapness of labor in China does not mean that the products of that labor are inferior in quality. The Japanese laborer, receiving higher wages, is more artistic in his work—his productions are more finished; in dyes and blending of colors he is superior to his Chinese rival, but in substantial and lasting quality the latter is fully the equal, and in some instances the superior.

There is in Chinese character a conservatism which has discouraged all progress in China. The principle, "let well enough alone," has been adhered to under the mistaken idea that "well enough" was the best; but in China this adherence to custom, this opposition to change, has filled the Empire with an impoverished population, for a people that use in their trade and business a currency of so small a denomination as one-tenth of a Mexican cent cannot be said to have felt the quickening influence of an enlarged and civilizing commerce. The cheapness and small denominations of Chinese currency and the low price of the diet and clothing of the Chinese laborer are evidences of nonprogressiveness, but it should not be inferred from these that the capacity for progress is absent from Chinese character.

During the last fiscal year the value of the aggregate trade relations between China and the United States was estimated at \$25,500,000, with a balance against the United States of \$7,200,000, while in China, as in Japan, Great Britain checks off large balances in her favor, although more remote from China by thousands of miles.

European nations are sustaining the efforts of European merchants more substantially than the American merchant is sustained. The latter, in the competition, has to rely upon his own skill and energy, while the merchants of Europe are encouraged by the aid given to the great steamship lines which carry their flags and pour the productions of Europe into Asiatic ports. At the port of Shanghai, the great commercial and distributing center of Asiatic trade, Great Britain, France and Germany have direct mail and commercial communication—the steamers entering and leaving the port every week, carrying the flags of their respective nationalities, while no ship carrying the American mail and flying the Stars and Stripes touches at Shanghai at all.

From this standpoint the advantages to American interest of the cutting of the Nicaragua Canal would evidently be great. Should the United States cut the canal and say that vessels carrying the flag of the United States should pass toll free, or at very moderate tolls, for a certain period, would not the benefit to American shipping be almost incalculable? Would it not create a new life in the shipyards of the United States, and soon restore our flag to its former supremacy on the ocean?

In conclusion, we give the value of Chinese labor, the rates of wages being those paid at Shanghai, and reduced to American currency, by Consul Jernigan, on September 30, 1895.

### WAGES OF CHINESE AT SHANGHAI, SEPT. 30, 1895.

	Per day.	Per month.
Blacksmith	\$.013	.....
Brass worker	.16	.....
Barber	.16	.....
Bootmaker:		
Native	.10	.....
Foreign	.....	\$5.28
Bamboo cabinet maker	.11	.....
Bricklayer	.11	.....
Compositor:		
Native	5.28	.....
Foreign	7.92	.....
	to 15.84	.....
Carpenter	.11	.....
Cabinetmaker	.13	.....
Coolie*	.13	.....
Bookbinder:		
Native	4.22	.....
Foreign	6.34	.....
Lithographer*	10.56	.....
Furniture polisher	.21	.....
Tailor:		
Native	.10	.....
Foreign	6.34	.....
Pressman	6.34	.....

Coachman:		
Native	3.17	.....
Foreign	6.34	.....
House boy:		
Native*	2.11	.....
Foreign	4.75	.....
Cotton mill machinist*	.11	.....
	to .22	.....
Cotton factory hands*	.18	.....
*Without food		

Country.	1894.	1895.
United Kingdom	\$12,822,895	\$47,212,366
France	3,604,312	10,456,397
Germany	3,503,570	9,455,139
Austro-Hungary	48,584	144,199
Belgium	228,406	596,168
Other Europe	1,821,221	2,581,449
South America	1,444,960	3,717,574
British Nth Am.	480,446	1,353,785
China	1,342,985	1,510,572
Japan	12,055	6,083
Other Asia and Oceania	1,814,524	2,913,671
Other countries.	577,370	2,328,593

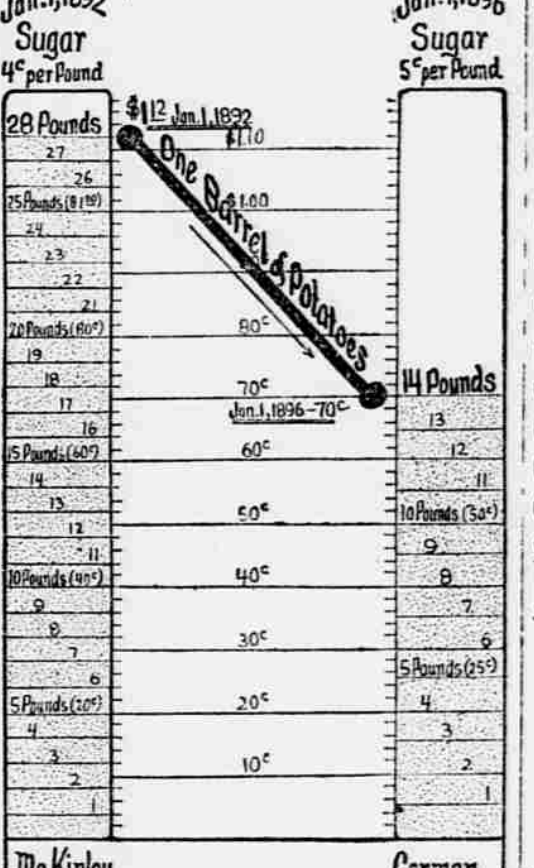
Totals ..... \$27,701,328 \$82,275,996

This shows only the payments for wool, carpets, cloth and dress goods, as the official statistics do not give details of the amounts paid to different countries for rags, shoddy, shawls, knit goods, yarns, ready-made clothing, or "all other" woolen and shoddy goods.

**Policy of Indebtedness.**  
The policy of the nation, during the past two years, has been one of indebtedness. And so it has been, in too many instances, on the part of the individual. We are confronted now with a proposition for a new loan. If this be put through, then the combined payments for principal and interest of new bonded debt, incurred under the present administration, will approximate half a billion of dollars. This in time of peace, and following so closely upon a time of unparalleled prosperity, as we had in 1892, is appalling.—The Morning Union, Springfield, Mass.

**What Free Trade Did.**  
Port Townsend, Wash., Feb. 2, 1896.—One of the most mammoth trusts ever formed on the Pacific Coast went into effect last night. It was the formation of the Central Lumber Company of California, representing a combined capital of \$70,000,000, and including in its membership every lumber mill and all wholesale and retail dealers and ship owners on the coast.

The first move will be to advance the price of lumber \$2 per thousand feet. The effect of free trade is growing here as in England. It creates trusts and monopolies and advances prices to the consumer.



When a barrel of potatoes can be exchanged for 28 pounds of granulated sugar, as was the case on January 1, 1892, farmers were not doing so badly. But when a barrel of potatoes was worth only 14 pounds of sugar, as was the case at the beginning of this year, it comes pretty hard upon farmers. They realize, now, the difference between McKinley Protection and Democratic Free Trade.

**Cheap Wages, Cheap Buying.**  
Men who labor for twelve cents a day are poor customers for our farmers, and we do not want that sort of people to furnish the goods we use. We will not compete with them in making their kind of rags, or lanterns, or fire-crackers, or fans, or sun umbrellas, and we will be very foolish to let them supplant us in the more substantial manufactures, by which the millions of home customers of our farmers get their living.—The Commercial, Louisville, Ky.

**Railroads Need Protection.**  
Railroads are not exempt from the general depression in this country caused by the Wilson tariff, so-called. I think our Democratic friends, or many of them, not only see it, but feel it, and I hope they will get enough of it. For railroads give us a Protective Tariff and for all other kinds of business.  
B. & S. R. R.  
By Wm. F. Perry, President.  
Bridgton, Me.

**Picked from Europe's Sewers.**  
Another record broken. The first year of free wool brought us 250 per cent. more foreign rags and shoddy than in 1899, the year of largest previous importations.

# That Tired Feel-

ing is a positive proof of thin, weak, impure blood; for, if the blood is rich, red, vitalized and vigorous, it imparts life and energy to every nerve, organ and tissue of the body. The necessity of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling is, therefore, apparent to every one, and the good it will do you is equally beyond question. Remember that

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**CUT AND SLASH**  
SMOKING TOBACCO,  
2 oz. for 5 Cents.  
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