

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"THE FIELD OF BLOOD" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

From the Text, Acts 1. Verse 19, as follows: "Aceldama, That is to Say, the Field of Blood"—Downward Path of the Gamemaster Pointed Out.

The money that Judas gave for surrendering Christ was used to purchase a graveyard. As the money was blood-money, the ground bought by it was called in the Syriac tongue, "Aceldama," meaning "the field of blood." Well, there is one word I want to write today over every race-course where wagers are staked, and every poolroom, and every gambling saloon, and every table, public or private, where men and women bet for sums of money, large or small, and that is a word incarnated with the life of innumerable victims—"Aceldama."

The gambling spirit, which is at all times a stupendous evil, ever and anon sweeps over the country like an epidemic, prostrating uncounted thousands. There has never been a worse attack than that from which all the villages, towns and cities are now suffering.

While among my hearers and readers are those who have passed on into the afternoon of life, and the shadows are lengthening, and the sky crimson with the glow of the setting sun, a large number of them are in early life, and the morning is coming down out of the clear sky upon them, and the bright air is redolent with spring blossoms, and the stream of life, gleaming and glancing, rushes on between flowery banks, making music as it goes. Some of you are engaged in mercantile concerns, as clerks and bookkeepers, and your whole life is to be passed in the exciting world of traffic. The sound of busy life stirs you as the drum stirs the fiery horse. Others are in the mechanical arts, to hammer and chisel your way through life, and success awaits you. Some are preparing for professional life, and grand opportunities are before you; nay, some of you already have buckled on the armor. But, whatever your age and calling, the subject of gambling about which I speak today is pertinent.

Some years ago, when an association for the suppression of gambling was organized, an agent of the association came to a prominent citizen and asked him to patronize the society. He said: "No, I can have no interest in such an organization. I am in no wise affected by the evil." At that very time his son, who was his partner in business, was one of the heaviest players in a famous gambling establishment. Another refused his patronage on the same ground, not knowing that his first bookkeeper, though receiving a salary of only \$4,000, was losing from \$50 to \$100 per night. The president of a railroad company refused to patronize the institution, saying: "That society is good for the defense of merchants, but we railroad people are not injured by this evil;" not knowing that, at that very time, two of his conductors were spending three nights of each week at faro tables in New York. Directly or indirectly this evil strikes at the whole world.

Gambling is the risking of something more or less valuable in the hope of winning more than you hazard. The instruments of gaming may differ, but the principle is the same. The shuffling and dealing cards, however full of temptation, is not gambling unless stakes are put up; while, on the other hand, gambling may be carried on without cards, or dice, or billiards, or a ten-pin alley. The man who bets on horses, or elections, on battles, the man who deals in "fancy" stocks, or conducts a business which hazards extra capital, or goes into transactions without foundation but dependent upon what men call "luck" is a gambler.

Whatever you expect to get from your neighbor without offering an equivalent in money, or time, or skill, is either the product of theft or gaming. Lottery tickets and lottery policies come into the same category. Bazaars for the founding of hospitals, schools and churches, conducted on the raffish system, come under the same denomination. Do not, therefore, associate gambling necessarily with any instrument, or game, or time, or place, or think the principle depends upon whether you play for a glass of wine or one hundred shares of railroad stock. Whether you patronize "auction pools," "French mutuels," or "book-making," whether you employ faro or billiards, rondo and keno; cards or bagatelle, the very idea of the thing is dishonest; for it professes to bestow upon you a good for which you give no equivalent.

This crime is no newborn sprite, but a haggard transgression that comes staggering down under a mantle of curses through many centuries. All nations, barbarous and civilized, have been addicted to it.

But now the laws of the whole civilized world denounce the system. Enactments have been passed, but only partially enforced, and at times not enforced at all. The men interested in gaming houses, and in jockey clubs, wield such influence by their numbers and affluence, that the judge, the jury and the police officer must be bold indeed who would array themselves against these infamous establishments. The house of commons of England actually adjourns on Derby day that members may attend the races; and in the best circles of society in this country today are many hundreds of professedly respectable men who are acknowledged gamblers.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in this land are every day being won and lost through sheer gambling. Says a traveler through the West: "I have traveled a thousand miles at a time upon the western waters, and seen gambling at every waking moment from the commencement to the termination of the journey." The cruelties

of this country reek with sin. In some of those cities every third or fourth house in many of the streets is a gaming place, and it may be truthfully averred that each of our cities is cursed with this evil.

Men wishing to gamble will find places just suited to their capacity, not only in the underground oyster cellar, or at the table back of the curtain, covered with greasy cards, or in the steamboat smoking cabin, where the bloated wretch with rings in his ears deals out his pack, and winks in the unsuspecting traveler—providing free drinks all around—but in gilded parlors and amid gorgeous surroundings. This sin works ruin, first, by providing an unhealthy stimulant. Excitement is pleasurable. Under every sky and in every age men have sought it. We must at times have excitement. A thousand voices in our nature demand it. It is right. It is healthful. It is inspiring. It is a desire God-given. But anything that first gratifies this appetite and hurls it back in a terrific reaction, is deplorable and wicked. Look out for the agitation that, like a rough musician, in bringing out the tune plays so hard he breaks down the instrument! God never made a man strong enough to endure the wear and tear of gambling excitement.

What dull work is plowing to the farmer when in the village saloon in one night he makes and loses the value of a summer harvest! Who will want to sell capes and measure nankeen and cut garments and weigh sugar, when in a night's game he makes and loses, and makes again and loses again, the profits of a season?

John Borack was sent as a mercantile agent from Bremen to England and this country. After two years his employers mistrusted that all was not right. He was a defaulter for \$87,000. It was found that he had lost in Lombard street, London, \$29,000; in Fulton street, New York, \$10,000, and in New Orleans, \$3,000. He was imprisoned, but afterwards escaped, and went into the gambling profession. He died in a lunatic asylum. This crime is getting its lever under many a mercantile house in our cities, and before long down will come the great establishment, crushing reputation, home comfort and immortal souls. How it diverts and sinks capital may be inferred from some authentic statement before us. The ten gaming houses that once were authorized in Paris passed through the banks yearly 225,000,000 francs.

A young man in London, on coming of age, received a fortune of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and through gambling in three years was thrown on his mother for support. An only son went to New Orleans. He was rich, intellectual and elegant in manners. His parents gave him, on his departure from home, their last blessing. The sharpers got hold of him. They flattered him. They lured him to the gaming table and let him win almost every time for a good while, and patted him on the back and said, "First rate player." But fully in their grasp, they fleeced him, and his thirty thousand dollars was lost. Last of all, he put up his watch and lost that. Then he began to think of his home, and of his old father and mother, and wrote thus:

"My beloved parents, you will doubtless feel a momentary joy at the reception of this letter from the child of your bosom, on whom you have lavished all the favors of your declining years. But should a feeling of joy for a moment spring up in your hearts, when you should have received this from me, cherish it not. I have fallen deep, never to rise. Those gray hairs that I should have honored and protected I shall bring down in sorrow to the grave. I will not curse my destroyer, but, oh, may God avenge the wrongs and impositions practised upon the unwary, in a way that shall best please him! This, my dear parents, is the last letter you will ever receive from me. I humbly pray your forgiveness. It is my dying prayer. Long before you will have received this from me, the cold grave will have closed upon me forever. Life to me is insupportable. I cannot, nay, I will not, suffer the shame of having ruined you. Forget and forgive is the dying prayer of your unfortunate son."

The old father came to the post-office, got the letter, and fell to the floor. They thought he was dead at first, but they brushed back the white hair from his brow and fanned him. He had only fainted. "Aceldama, the field of blood!"

When things go wrong at a gaming-table they shout: "Foul! foul!" Over all the gaming-tables of the world I cry out: "Foul! foul! Infinitely foul!"

"Gift stores" are abundant throughout the country. With a book or knife, or sewing-machine, or coat, or carriage, there goes a prize. At these stores people get something thrown in with their purchase. It may be a gold watch, or a set of silver, a ring, or a farm. Sharp wits get off unsalable goods. It has filled the land with fetid articles, and covered up our population with brass finger-rings, and despoiled the moral sense of the community, and is fast making us a nation of gamblers.

The Church of God has not seemed willing to allow the world to have all the advantage of these games of chance. A church bazaar opens, and toward the close it is found that some of the more valuable articles are unsalable. Forthwith, the conductors of the enterprise conclude that they will raffie for some of the valuable articles, and, under pretense of anxiety to make their minister a present or please some popular member of the church, fascinating persons are dispatched through the room, pencil in hand, to "solicit shares," or perhaps each draws for his own advantage, and scores of people go home with their trophies, thinking that it is all right, for Christian ladies did the embroidery and Christian men did the raffling, and the proceeds went toward a new com-

munion set. But you may depend on it, that as far as morality is concerned, you might as well have won by the crack of the billiard ball or the turn of the dice-box. Do you wonder that churches built, lighted, or upholstered by such processes as that come to great financial and spiritual decrepitude? The devil says: "I helped to build that house of worship, and I have as much right there as you have;" and for once the devil is right. We do not read that they had a lottery for building the church at Corinth, or at Antioch, or for getting up an embroidered surplice for St. Paul. All this I style ecclesiastical gambling. More than one man who is destroyed can say that his first step on the wrong road was when he won something at a church fair.

The gambling spirit has not stopped for any indecency. There transpired in Maryland a lottery in which people drew for lots in a burying-ground! The modern habit of betting about everything is productive of immense mischief. The most healthful and innocent amusements of yachting and baseball playing have been the occasion of putting up excited and extravagant wagers. That which to many has been advantageous to body and mind, has been to others the means of financial and moral loss. The custom is pernicious in the extreme, where scores of men in respectable life give themselves up to betting, now on this boat, now on that; now on this ball club, now on that. Betting that once was chiefly the accompaniment of the racecourse, is fast becoming a national habit, and in some circles an opinion advanced on finance or politics is accosted with the interrogation: "How much will you bet on that, sir?"

This custom may make no appeal to slow, lethargic temperaments, but there are in the country tens of thousands of quick, nervous, sanguine, excitable temperaments, ready to be acted upon, and their feet will soon take hold on death. For some months, and perhaps for years, they will linger in the more polite and elegant circle of gamblers, but, after awhile their pathway will come to the fatal plunge.

Take warning! You are no stronger than tens of thousands who have by this practice been overthrown. No young man in our cities can escape being tempted. Beware of the first beginning! This road is a down grade, and every instant increases the momentum. Launch not upon this treacherous sea. Splint hulks strew the beach. Everlasting storms howl up and down, tossing unwary craft into the Hell-gate. I speak of what I have seen with my own eyes. To a gambler's deathbed there comes no hope. He will probably die alone. His former associates come not nigh his dwelling. When the hour comes, his miserable soul will go out of a miserable life into a miserable eternity. As his poor remains pass the house where he was ruined, old companions may look out for a moment and say "There goes the old carcase—dead at last!" but they will not get up from the table. Let him down now into his grave. Plant no tree to cast its shade there, for the long, deep, eternal gloom that settles there is shadow enough. Plant no "forget-me-nots" or gladioluses around the spot, for flowers were not made to grow on such a blasted heath. Visit it not in the sunshine, for that would be mockery, but in the dismal night, when no stars are out, and the spirit of darkness comes down, horsed on the wind, then visit the grave of the gambler.

NASAL CATARRH.

There is no more prevalent disease than catarrh of the nose passages. The reason of this is not far to seek. It is mainly because the lining membrane is subjected to cold air, hot air, warm air, dust and all the evil influences of the atmosphere can exert; and so after a time becomes chronically inflamed and thickened. But is all this a serious matter? To a certain extent—yes. The chief office, be it noted, of the interior of the nose is to strain and warm the air before passing it into the lungs. To do this work effectually there are situated within each nostril three sets of bones (covered with mucous membranes), which are rolled upon themselves like scrolls. Through these scrolls it is really that the air has to pass. By far more air is thus warmed and strained than would otherwise be possible. These bony scrolls are associated with the sense of smell, and in some animals, such, for example, as the dog, they are much more elaborately developed than in men; and thus we find the sense of smell much keener in the former. What is catarrh? An inflammation of a mucous membrane, accompanied with more or less discharge, is perhaps a good popular definition. Sometimes the discharge is mucous, and whitish or nearly colorless; and, again, it is purulent and yellowish, and sometimes streaked with blood. The condition known as catarrh is one in which the tissues become permeated with extraneous cells, and in which the tissue elements themselves seem to have but one potential property, viz., that of dying. Catarrh of the nose passages may extend along the passages until it has produced catarrh of the throat. Catarrh of the throat, in turn, it is alleged, may extend down ward until it cause bronchial or gastric disease, and even in the end consumption. The ease with which catarrh may frequently be cured renders it all the more remarkable that so many should be troubled with it so long, for we have known it to last for many years. If an absolute cure is to be effected, obviously the mucous membrane must be cleared of inflammatory deposits, when the thickening will quickly vanish.

How It Was Accomplished.

How doth the busy little trust Such large dividends acquire? Why, competition it does bust, Then marks the prices higher.

OUR TRADE BALANCE.

EVEN DEBT INTEREST MAY YET BE PAID OFF.

The Only Thing That Stands in the Way is Our Payments to Foreign Ship Owners for Carrying Our Products to Europe.

The January record of the foreign trade of the United States shows a continued increase of exports and a decrease of imports, and a constantly augmenting trade balance in favor of this country. In addition, the foreign trade figures for the seven months of the fiscal year ending with January—six of the seven months being those in which the Dingley tariff was in operation—show a heavy increase both in the value of exports and the credit balance of 1898 as compared with the corresponding period of 1897.

Our exports of domestic products for last month aggregated the very high total of \$106,761,524, or at the rate of \$1,230,000,000 a year. Adding the re-exports of foreign goods, the grand total of our export trade was \$108,489,455, an increase of \$14,537,572 over our total exports in January, 1897, while the gain in our foreign shipments of American products and manufactures was \$14,287,242 for last month.

Imports of foreign goods, on the other hand, show a slight decline, \$551,103, as compared with January, 1897. There was a decrease of \$5,185,640 in the imports of foreign goods that are admitted free of duty and a gain of \$4,634,531 in the value of dutiable imports.

For the seven months of the current fiscal year ending with January our foreign trade shows an increase of \$63,258,823 in exports and a decrease of \$22,557,628 in imports, thus making a gain of \$85,816,451 in our favorable trade balance as compared with the corresponding months of the last fiscal year. During the seven months of the current year we have sold \$340,000,000 more of American products and manufactures than we purchased of foreign goods. Our imports of goods admitted free of duty have decreased by \$3,802,136 during the seven months of this fiscal year, as compared with the corresponding period in the 1896-97 fiscal year, while our imports of dutiable goods have diminished to the extent of \$12,955,492.

The fact that America's trade balance for the sixth month of the Dingley tariff amounted to \$57,685,546, or at the rate of nearly \$700,000,000 a year, while for the seven months ending with January the actual gross trade balance was \$377,815,561, constitutes a most extraordinary demonstration of the workings of the American policy of protection. Sharply in contrast with this showing is a balance of trade against Great Britain amounting to \$785,000,000 for the calendar year 1897. In other words, while the United States is gaining wealth at the rate of \$700,000,000 a year under the workings of a protective tariff, Great Britain, enjoying all the "superior advantages" of free trade, has bought nearly \$800,000,000 more than she has sold. At this rate it will not be far beyond the beginning of the twentieth century when the commercial, industrial and financial supremacy of the world will have been transferred from Great Britain to the United States.

Provided, however, some steps are taken to establish and maintain an American merchant marine. Unless this be done, our big trade balances will be more imaginary than real, for from every annual excess of exports over imports must be deducted the \$200,000,000 which the United States pays each year to foreign shipowners and sailors, to say nothing of the vast amount of capital that would be invested in labor and material in the building of American ships in which to carry American commerce. Then indeed would the industrial, commercial, and financial supremacy of the world be permanently transferred from Great Britain to America within a very few years from the beginning of the twentieth century.

Democratic Theory vs. Price Fact.

Mr. Bryan's trip through the south last week is understood here to have been made with the purpose of trying to strengthen the waning cause of silver in that section, and at the same time to encourage fusion, which has been coldly received by the Populists of the south generally. The tone of the Populist press has been far from satisfactory to the fusion leaders, and great anxiety is felt among the friends of silver lest this last attempt to unite the voters of the three parties in its support will prove an absolute failure. The Populist press of that section is insisting that the party cannot march under Democratic banners, and is carefully omitting the active support of the silver cause which characterized the earlier history of the party and press. The rapid improvement of business conditions in the south and the advance in prices of farm products generally, in the face of the steady fall of silver since Mr. Bryan's nomination, are causing the average citizen to lose confidence in those assertions which were the basis of the silver campaign in 1896.

Notwithstanding the claim that prices could not rise without the free coinage of silver, there has been a steady advance in practically all farm products since the date of Mr. Bryan's nomination, and this has happened in the face of a steady fall in the price of silver. Silver, which was 69.2 cents per ounce in the New York market on the

date of Mr. Bryan's nomination, was on Wednesday of last week 54.3 cents, while meats, provisions, dairy products and all kinds of grain have advanced. The excuse which the supporters of silver in Washington have constantly offered for the advance in wheat has been that of the shortage abroad, and their explanation of the advance in other classes of grain has been that it has been "due to sympathy" with the advance in wheat. An examination, however, of some tables just issued by the bureau of statistics shows that the advance in prices, which attracted most attention with reference to wheat, has been equally felt in practically all articles of farm production, and that all this has happened in the face of a steady fall in silver.

These tables, which show the range of prices in silver and various farm productions, are too lengthy to reproduce in full. It is practicable, however, to present in a single table the history of the upward course of prices in all classes of farm products in the face of the downward course of silver.

These facts, coming to the surface as they do just at the time of Mr. Bryan's tour through the south and his prospective visit to Washington, are especially interesting and make the table one well worth the study and preservation of everyone interested in the coming campaign. The articles selected for comparison with silver represent the three great classes of farm production—breadstuffs, provisions and wool—while other articles of the classes thus represented have advanced in an equally marked ratio. The comparison includes the period from July 19, 1896, the date of Mr. Bryan's nomination, to March 19, 1898. The table follows:

	Silver, per oz.	Wheat No. 2, per bu.	Mess Pk., per cwt.	Wool, O. X., per lb.
July 19, 1896	69.2	62.5	7.75	17.0
Sept. 26	66.0	74.5	8.25	18.0
Nov. 1	65.6	85.0	8.50	19.0
April 17, 1897	62.5	86.5	8.75	21.5
Sept. 16	57.1	100.5	8.50	23.5
Dec. 18	55.6	102.2	9.00	27.5
Feb. 25, 1898	55.6	104.2	10.75	27.5
March 19	54.3	106.5	10.75	28.0

Out of Reach.



Montana's Sheep, Wool and Cattle.

The extent to which Montana has been benefited by the Dingley tariff is shown in the annual report of the state commissioner of labor, agriculture and industry. For the year 1897 there were owned in Montana 3,095,192 sheep, with a wool production of 24,012,498 pounds. The average selling price for the year was 11.58 cents per pound, against 8.91 cents per pound in 1896, and the values of the clips for the two years were, respectively, \$2,780,647 and \$1,745,402, a gain of more than \$1,000,000 in favor of the clip of 1897.

In the abstract of the commissioner's report which has reached us no mention is made of the comparative market values of the sheep for the two years, but it is safe to conclude that Montana is an exception to the general rule of heavy increase in sheep values as the result of the Dingley tariff, and that at the rate of an increase of \$1 per head the sheep owners of that state are more than \$3,000,000 richer than they were a year ago.

Cattle in Montana have advanced in value \$4 a head, and the shipments for 1897 amounted to \$1,103,294, against \$5,439,512 in 1896. It is, therefore, evident that in the three items of sheep, wool and cattle Montana's gain as the result of six months of protection has been about \$5,000,000. This is a goodly sum, but it is only a fraction of the gross sum realized from the re-inauguration of the American policy.

Silver in 1897.

During the year 1897 there were many fluctuations in the price of silver. According to Pixley & Abell of London, the leading authorities on the market, the highest price for the year, 29 13-16, was made in the early part of the year, while as it progressed prices declined, with fluctuations, until in August the price had reached a low price of 23 3/4 per ounce was reached. From this there was a recovery, the market at the end of the year being steady at 26 1/2. Following are London prices for silver (in pence) during the years 1890-1897:

	Highest.	Lowest.
1897	29 13-16	23-3/4
1896	31 15-16	29-3/4
1895	31 3-8	27 3-16
1894	31 3-4	27
1893	38 3-8	30
1892	43 3-4	37 7-8
1891	48 3-4	43 1-2
1890	54 5-8	42 5-8

Japan's abandonment of the silver standard had the most depressing effect. China and the Straits settlements absorbed less than usual, but the shipments to India were larger than in 1896.

VAST BENEFITS TO LABOR.

Great Increase of Work and Wages During the Past Year.

Convincing testimony as to the improved condition of organized labor is given by Commissioner John T. McDonough of the New York state bureau of labor statistics in his annual report. According to this report, on March 31 last 327 labor organizations reported a total membership of 142,679. At the close of the next quarter, June 30, 975 unions reported a membership of 151,206, and on September 30, 1,009 organizations reported 167,454 members, of whom 5,702 were women. The increase in the number of organizations reporting for the third quarter was mainly due to more complete returns.

On March 31 43,631 members of unions were reported as out of work at that time, or 36.6 per cent. Three months later, on June 30, 27,378 were returned as unemployed, or 18.1 per cent, while on September 30 23,230 were so reported, or 13.9 per cent.

Reports as to the number of days each member worked show that during the first quarter the average number of days of work per member was for men, 58; for women, 63. In the second quarter it was 69 for men and 57 for women, while for the third quarter it was 67 for men and 66 for women.

From the increase of the number of days each member of a trades union worked from 58 days in the first quarter to 69 in the second and 67 in the third quarters of the year 1897, as well as from the marked decrease in the percentage of the unemployed—36.6 per cent on the 31st of March, 18.1 per cent on the 30th of June, and 13.9 per cent on the 30th of September—the conclusion is plain that there has been an enormous increase in the gross aggregate of employment and wages during this year of protection to industries and to labor.

What is true of New York is true of every state in the union. In some of the states—for example, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois—the full statistics would doubtless show a still larger increase in the percentage of employment furnished and wages paid.

The total sum for the wage-earning and wage-paying classes of the whole United States would, if obtainable, present a gain for the year amounting to many hundreds of millions of dollars.

Gigantic sums are needed to measure the total benefits already wrought by the American policy of protection.

IT IS A MONEY MAKER.

Large Surplus Produced by the Dingley Law for February.

Receipts averaging more than \$1,000,000 per day under the Dingley law are shown by the figures for February, the total for the twenty-eight days being \$28,572,538.

The receipts of February, 1897, under the Wilson-Gorman law were \$24,409,497, a difference of \$4,173,041 in favor of the Dingley law.

The receipts from customs alone during the month of February, 1898, were \$15,040,680, against \$11,587,260 for the Wilson-Gorman law during the same month a year ago.

The expenditures for the month of February were \$29,729,019, leaving an actual surplus of \$1,843,528. This is the first surplus the month of February has shown since the election of President Cleveland and his free trade congress.

The average daily receipts for February were \$1,020,447, this being more than \$17,000 a day in excess of the average daily expenditures during the last five years.

The total receipts under the Dingley law have gained steadily from August, 1897, to February, 1898, inclusive, the average daily receipts showing an increase every month over the receipts of the preceding month. Thus for August last the daily receipts averaged \$629,794; for September, \$751,063; for October, \$784,819; for November, \$828,966; for December \$901,113; for January, \$934,681; and for February, \$1,020,447.

Comparative receipts under the Wilson and Dingley laws for the first seven months of their operation show a balance in favor of the Dingley law of \$16,915,745.

The law that produces a surplus of revenue over expenditure while at the same time defending American industries from foreign competition is a good law.

Substantial Benefits.

New Jersey has greatly benefited by the new tariff. Pottery importation increased 50 per cent under the Wilson law, and decreased about 50 per cent under the Dingley law. The importation of silk flax and other similar goods decreased about 40 per cent in the five months of 1897. In glass and glassware South Jersey is benefited to the extent of 50 per cent. The new tariff law has already proved a conspicuous success. You can always hereafter count New Jersey among the Republican tariff states of the union.—Newark Advertiser.

A Bright Spring Outlook.

The Buffalo News claims that the lumber interests have been greatly benefited by the Dingley tariff, and says: "It is expected that there will be a general advance in wages with the opening of the sawing the coming spring, and the outlook certainly is bright for the immediate future, not only in the matter of wages but the increased employment."