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DR. TALMAGE PLEADS FOR HEROIC MEN AND WOMEN.

Advice to Christians to Broaden Out and Not Remain In Old Ruts—A Sermon of Encouragement to All Christian Workers—Strong Characters Needed.

[Copyright, 1898, by American Press Association.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Dr. Talmage here shows the style of Christian character required for the times in which we live and pleads for more heroics. The text is Esther iv, 14, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther the beautiful was the wife of Ahasuerus the abominable. The time had come for her to present a petition to her infamous husband in behalf of the Jewish nation, to which she had once belonged. She was afraid to undertake the work lest she should lose her own life, but her cousin, Mordecai, who had brought her up, encouraged her with the suggestion that probably she had been raised up of God for that peculiar mission. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther had her God appointed work. You and I have ours. It is my business to tell you what style of men and women you ought to be in order that you meet the demand of the age in which God has cast your lot. So this discourse will not deal with the technicalities, but only with the practicabilities. When two armies have rushed into battle, the officers of either army do not want a philosophical discussion about the chemical properties of human blood or the nature of gunpowder. They want some one to man the batteries and take out the guns. And now, when all the forces of light and darkness of heaven and hell have plunged into the fight, it is no time to give ourselves to the definitions and formulas and technicalities and conventionalities of religion. What we want is practical, earnest, concentrated, enthusiastic and triumphant help.

Aggressive Christians.

In the first place, in order to meet the special demand of this age, you need to be an unmistakable, aggressive Christian. Of half and half Christians we do not want any more. The church of Jesus Christ will be better without them. They are the chief obstacle to the church's advancement. I am speaking of another kind of Christian. All the appliances for your becoming an earnest Christian are at your hand, and there is a straight path for you into the broad daylight of God's forgiveness. You may this moment be the bondmen of the world, and the next moment you may be princes of the Lord God Almighty. You remember what excitement there was in this country, years ago, when the Prince of Wales came here—how the people rushed out by hundreds of thousands to see him. Why? Because they expected that some day he would sit upon the throne of England. But what was all that honor compared with the honor to which God calls you—to be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty—yea, to be queens and kings unto God. "They shall reign with him forever and forever."

But you need to be aggressive Christians, and not like those persons who spend their lives in hugging their Christian graces and wondering why they do not make progress. How much robustness of health would a man have if he hid himself in a dark closet? A great deal of the piety of today is too exclusive. It hides itself. It needs more fresh air, more outdoor exercise. There are many Christians who are giving their entire life to self examination. They are feeling their pulses to see what is the condition of their spiritual health. How long would a man have robust physical health if he kept all the day feeling his pulse instead of going out into active, earnest everyday work?

Strong Characters Needed.

I was once amid the wonderful, bewitching cactus growths of North Carolina. I never was more bewildered with the beauty of flowers, and yet when I would take up one of these cactuses and pull the leaves apart the beauty was all gone. You could hardly tell that it had ever been a flower. And there are a great many Christian people in this day just pulling apart their Christian experiences to see what there is in them, and there is nothing left in them.

This style of self examination is a damage instead of an advantage to their Christian character. I remember when I was a boy I used to have a small piece in the garden that I called my own, and I planted corn there, and every few days I would pull it up to see how fast it was growing. Now, there are a great many Christian people in this day whose self examination merely amounts to the pulling up of that which they only yesterday or the day before planted. Oh, my friends, if you want to have a stalwart Christian character, plant it right out of doors in the great field of Christian usefulness, and though storms may come upon it, and though the hot sun of trial may try to consume it, it will thrive until it becomes a great tree, in which the fowls of heaven may have their habitation. I have no patience with these flowerpot Christians. They keep themselves under shelter, and all their Christian experience in a small, exclusive circle, when they ought to plant it in the great garden of the Lord, so that the whole atmosphere could be aromatic with their Christian usefulness. What we want in the church of God is more strength of piety. The century plant is wonderfully suggestive and wonderfully beautiful, but I never look at it without thinking of its parsimony. It lets whole generations go by before it puts forth one blossom. So I have really more admiration when I see the dewy tears in the blue eyes of the violets, for they come every spring. My Christian friends, time is going by so rapidly that we cannot afford to be idle.

No Time For Inertia.

A recent statistician says that human life now has an average of only 32 years. From these 32 years you must subtract all the time you take for sleep and the taking of food and recreation; that will leave you about 16 years. From these 16 you must subtract all the time that you are necessarily engaged in the earning of a livelihood. That will leave you about eight years. From these eight years you must take all the days and weeks and months—all the length of time that is passed in sickness—leaving you about one year in which to work for God. O my soul, wake up! How darest thou sleep in harvest time and with so few hours in which to reap? So that I state it as a simple fact that all the time that the vast majority of you will have for the exclusive service of God will be less than one year.

"But," says some man, "I liberally support the gospel, and the church is open, and the gospel is preached; all the spiritual advantages are spread before men, and if they want to be saved let them come and be saved—I have discharged all my responsibility." Ah, is that my Master's spirit? Is there not an old book somewhere that commands us to go out into the highways and the hedges and compel the people to come in? What would become of you and me if Christ had not come down off the hills of heaven, and if he had not come through the door of the Bethlehem caravansary, and if he had not with the crushed hand of the crucifixion knocked at the iron gate of the sepulcher of our spiritual death, crying, "Lazarus, come forth!" Oh, my Christian friend, this is no time for inertia when all the forces of darkness seem to be in full blast—when steam printing presses are publishing infidel tracts, when express trains are carrying messengers of sin, when fast clippers are laden with opium and strong drink, when the night air of our cities is polluted with the laughter that breaks up from the 10,000 saloons of dissipation and abandonment, when the fires of the second death already are kindled in the cheeks of some who, only a little while ago, were incorrupt! Oh, never since the curse fell upon the earth has there been a time when it was such an unwise, such a cruel, such an awful thing for the church to sleep! The great audiences are not gathered in Christian churches. The great audiences are gathered in temples of sin—tears of unutterable woe their baptism, the blood of crushed hearts the awful wine of their sacrament, blasphemies their litany, and the groans of the lost world the organ dirge of their worship.

Get Out of Old Ruts.

Again, if you want to be qualified to meet the duties which this age demands of you, you must on the one hand avoid reckless iconoclasm and on the other hand not stick too much to things because they are old. The air is full of new plans, new projects, new theories of government, new theologies, and I am amazed to see how so many Christians want only novelty in order to recommend a thing to their confidence, and so they vacillate and swing to and fro, and they are useless and they are unhappy. New plans—secular, ethical philosophical, religious, cisatlantic, transatlantic—long enough to make a line reaching from the German universities to Great Salt Lake city. Ah, my brother, do not take hold of a thing merely because it is new! Try it by the realities of the judgment day. But, on the other hand, do not adhere to anything merely because it is old.

There is not a single enterprise of the church or the world but has some time been scoffed at. There was a time when men derided even Bible societies, and when a few young men met in Massachusetts and organized the first missionary society ever organized in this country there went laughter and ridicule all around the Christian church. They said the undertaking was preposterous. And so also the work of Jesus Christ was assailed. People cried out: "Who ever heard of such theories of ethics and government! Who ever noticed such a style of preaching as Jesus has?" Ezekiel had talked of mysterious wings and wheels. Here came a man from Capernaum and Gennesaret, and he drew his illustrations from the lakes, from the sand, from the mountain, from the lilies, from the cornstalks. How the Pharisees scoffed! How Herod derided! And this Jesus they plucked by the beard, and they spat in his face, and they called him "this fellow." All the great enterprises in and out of the church have at times been scoffed at, and there have been a great multitude who have thought that the chariot of God's truth would fall to pieces if it once got out of the old rut. And so there are those who have no patience with anything like improvement in church architecture, or with anything like good, hearty, earnest church singing, and they deride any form of religious discussion which goes down walking among everyday men rather than that which makes an excursion on rhetorical stilts. Oh, that the church of God would wake up to an adaptability of work! We must admit the simple fact that the churches of Jesus Christ in this day do not reach the great masses. There are 50,000 people in Edinburgh who never hear the gospel. There are 1,000,000 people in London who never hear the gospel. The great majority of the inhabitants of this capital come not under the immediate ministrations of Christ's truth, and the church of God in this day, instead of being a place full of living epistles, known and read of all men, is more like a dead letter postoffice.

Work to Be Done.

"But," say the people, "the world is going to be converted; you must be patient; the kingdoms of this world are to become the kindoms of Christ." Never, unless the church of Jesus Christ puts on more speed and energy. Instead of the church converting the world, the world is converting the church. Here is a great fortress. How shall it be taken? An army comes and sits around about it, cuts off the supplies and says, "Now we will just wait until from exhaustion and starvation they will have to give up." Weeks and months and perhaps a year pass along and finally the fortress surrenders through that starvation and exhaustion. But, my friends, the fortresses of sin are never to be taken in that way. If they are taken for God, it will be by storm; you will have to bring up the great siege guns of the gospel to the very wall and wheel the flying artillery into line, and when the armed infantry of heaven shall confront the battlements you will have to give the quick command, "Forward! Charge!"

Ah, my friends, there is work for you to do and for me to do in order to this grand accomplishment. I have a pulpit. I preach in it. Your pupit is the bank. Your pulpit is the store. Your pulpit is the editorial chair. Your pulpit is the anvil. Your pulpit is the house scaffolding. Your pulpit is the mechanics' shop. I may stand in my place and, through cowardice or through self seeking, may keep back the word I ought to utter, while you, with sleeve rolled up and brow besweated with

Continued on fourth page.

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WILL PUT ANIMALS IN GOOD CONDITION QUICKLY.
WILL MAKE MILCH COWS GIVE MORE MILK.
WILL WARD OFF DISEASE.
WILL FATTEN ANIMALS IN A NATURAL WAY.

5 lb. Box	$ 1.00
15 lb. Pail	2.50
25 lb. Pail	3.75
50 lb. Cabinet	7.00
100 lb. Cabinet	13.00
1,000 lbs.	110.00
2,000 lbs.	200.00

Large Concerns Use it Because it is Profitable to do so.

WE WANT AGENTS IN ALL THE COUNTIES.

We mention
Adams Express Co.
Baltimore Transfer Co.
Union Transfer Co.
N. C. Railway.
Baltimore City Fire Department.
Fire Insurance Salvage Corps.
S. B. Sexton & Son.
Knox Express, Washington, D. C.

The Larger Dairies, the Larger Brewers, the Larger Stock Dealers.

SURETY BONDS FURNISHED.

FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT CO., OF MARYLAND.

Home Office, N. W. Cor. Charles & Lexington Sts.,
BALTIMORE, MD.

RESOURCES, April 30th, 1897:

PAID-UP CAPITAL	$1,000,000.00
SURPLUS	750,000.00
RESERVE REQUIREMENT	397,691.09
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	153,608.03
TOTAL	$2,301,299.12

LOSSES PAID SINCE ORGANIZATION $199,413.33.

THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST SURETY COMPANY IN THE SOUTH.

BECOMES SURETY ON BONDS of Executors, Administrators, and in all undertakings in Judicial Proceedings. Does nothing to conflict with the business of lawyers.
Accepted by the United States Government as sole surety on Bonds of every description.
BECOMES SURETY on Bonds of Sheriffs, Registers of Wills, Clerks of Courts, Collectors and other Officials of States, Cities and Counties. Also on Bonds of Contractors and Employes of Banks, Mercantile Houses, Railroad, Express and Telegraph Companies, and on those of Officers of Fraternal Organizations.

HERMAN E. BOSLER, Secretary and Treasurer. EDWIN WARFIELD, President.

THE GUARDIAN SECURITY, TRUST AND DEPOSIT CO

Legal Depository for Court or Trust Funds.

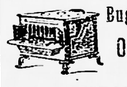
General Banking and Trust Business. Receives Deposits and Allows Interest on Same

Acts as Executor, Administrator, Trustee, Receiver, Guardian, etc., alone, or with an Individual Appointee. Makes Loans on Call or Time on Approved Collateral. We have on hand, and offer to investors, a line of first-class Investment Securities.

EDWARD STABLER, Jr., President.
DANIEL MILLER, JONATHAN K. TAYLOR, Vice-Presidents. WM. M. BYRN, Secretary and Treasure
7 North Calvert St., - - Baltimore.

ROBERT W. CARTER,

—SYKESVILLE, MD.—
—DEALER IN—
Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines,
Ball-bearing, very latest improvement—excels all others.



Buggies, Stick Wagons and Daytons. Prices to suit the times.
Orders taken for FURNITURE and STOVES of all kinds.

LIVERY TEAMS FOR HIRE, with or without driver.
HANDY TO RAILROAD STATION.

GREAT * OPENING * SALE

OF NEW FALL GOODS

Selected With the Greatest Care Before the Advance of Prices.

We again urge consumers in their own interest TO MAKE THEIR PURCHASES NOW. These prices will have to be advanced to correspond with wholesale market when present stock is sold.

—OUR REPUTATION FOR CARRYING THE MOST COMPLETE LINES OF—

MEN'S, YOUTH'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING,
OVERCOATS, LADIES' CAPES AND COATS,
BOOTS, SHOES, HATS AND CAPS,
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,
LADIES' AND GENTS' FURNISHINGS,

has been well established and it is due to our never-ceasing efforts ever since that

WE ARE THE ACKNOWLEDGED HEADQUARTERS FOR CLOTHING.

—WONDERFUL BARGAINS IN—

BLANKETS AND COMFORTS.

DON'T FORGET TO GIVE US A CALL.

PEOPLE'S BARGAIN STORE,

AARON SCHROEDER, Propr.,
NEXT DOOR TO ODD FELLOWS' HALL,
MAIN STREET, - - ELLICOTT CITY, MD.