A GREAT SURPRISE.

SERMON PREACHED SUNDAY, FEB. 23, BY REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE, D. D.

A Glowing Description of the Wonderful Magnificence of King Solomon-It Amazed the Queen of Sheba-The Glories of the Christian Religion. Brooklyn, Feb. 28.—The congrega-

tion at the Tabernacle this morning listened to a glowing description of the magnificence of Solomon, which Dr. Talmage likened to the glories of the Christian religion, which would. he said, be a surprise to all who tried it for themselves. His text was I Kings x, 7, "Behold, the half was not told me.

Solomon had resolved that Jerusalem should be the center of all sacred, regal and commercial magnificence. He set himself to work and monopolized the surrounding desert | Lord God. as a highway for his caravans. He built the city of Palmyra around one of the principal wells of the east, so that all the long trains of merchandise from the east were obliged to stop there, pay toll and leave part of their wealth in the hands of Solomon's merchants. He manned the fortress Thapsaeus at the chief ford of the Euphrates and put under guard everything that passed there.

The three great products of Palestine-wine pressed from the richest clusters and celebrated all the world over; oil which in that hot country is the entire substitute for butter olive branches until every tree in the country became an oil well; and honey, which was the entire substitute for sugar-these three great products of the country Solomon exported, and received in return fruits and precious woods and the animals of every clime.

He went down to Ezion-geber and ordered a fleet of ships to be constructed, oversaw the workmen and watched the launching of the flotilla which was to go out on more than a year's voyage, to bring home the wealth of the then known world. He heard that the Egyptian horses were large and swift and long maned and round limbed, and he resolved to purchase them, giving eighty-five dollars apiece for them, putting the best of these horses in his own stall, and selling the surplus to foreign potentates at great profit.

He heard that there was the best of timber on Mount Lebanon, and he sent out one hundred and eighty thousand men to hew down the forest and drag the timber through the mountain gorges, to construct it into were beautiful flowers in other lands.

He sent for them, planted them in his own gardens, and to this very day there are flowers found in the ruins of that city such as are to be found in no other part of Palestine, the lineal descendants of the very flowers that Solomon planted. He heard that in foreign groves there were birds of richest voice and most luxuriant wing. He sent out people to catch them and bring them there and he put them into his cages.

Stand back now and see this long train of camels coming up to the king's gate, and the ox trains from Egypt, gold and silver and precious stones, and beasts of every hoof, and birds of every wing, and fish of every scale! See the peacocks strut under the cedars, and the horsemen run, and the chariots wheel! Hark to the orchestra! Gaze upon the dance! Not stopping to look into the wonders of the temple, step right on to the causeway and pass up to Solomon's palace!

THE ARCHITECTURE OF HIRAM. Here we find ourselves amid a collection of buildings on which the king had lavished the wealth of many empires. The genius of Hiram, the architect, and of the other artists is here seen in the long line of corridors and the suspended gallery and the approach to the throne. Traceried window opposite traceried window. Bronzed ornaments bursting into lotus and lily and pomegranate. Chapiters surrounded by network of leaves, in which imitation fruit seemed suspended as in hanging baskets.

Three branches—so Josephus tells us-three branches, sculptured on the marble, so thin and subtle that even the leaves seemed to quiver. A laver capable of holding five hundred barrels of water on six hundred brazen ox heads, which gushed with water and filled the whole place with coolness and crystalline brightness and musical plash. Ten tables chased with chariot wheel and lion and cherubim. Solomon sat on a throne of ivory. At the seating place of the throne, on each end of the steps,

Why, my friends, in that place they trimmed their candles with snuffers of gold, and they cut their fruits with knives of gold, and they washed their faces in basins of gold. and they scooped out the ashes with shovels of gold, and they stirred the altar fires with tongs of gold. Gold reflected in the water! Gold flashing from the apparel! Gold blazing in the crown! Gold! gold! gold!

Of course the news of the affluence of that place went out everywhere by every caravan and by wing of every ship, until soon the streets of derusalem are crowded with curiosity seekers. What is that long procession approaching Jerusalem? I think from the pomp of it there must be royalty in the train. '1 smell the breath of the spices which are they come from far away. Cry the news up to the palace

When you buy your spring medicine you should get the best, and that is Hood's Sarsaparilla. It thoroughly She says: "I had suffered from rheuma

G. T. Daracot, Old Church, Hanover county, Va., says: "Please send me four for it with physicians and tried electric to say that after years of intense sufferbarrels of Powell's Prepared Chemicals to make fertilizer for wheat. I used thing that is recommended for rheuma-Powell's Prepared Chemicals on sweet tism. Finally a neighbor advised me to potatoes this season and they have acted try Chamberlain's Pain Balm and was so

Don't make up your mind to die because you have a cough. Invest 25 because you have a cough. Invest 25 cents in a bottle of Stonebraker's bottles to cure me, so you can guess how Cough Syrup. You'll not miss the 25 bad I was, as one or two bottles will —Mrs. L. B. Millard, Dunkirk, N. Y."

The Queen of Sheba advances. Let all the people come out to see. Let the mighty men of the land come out on the palace corridors. Let Solomon come down the stairs of the palace before the queen has alighted. Shake out the cinnamon, and the saffron, and the calamus, and the frankincense, and pass it into the treasure house. Take up the diamonds until they glitter in the sun.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ARRIVES. The queen of Sheba alights. She enters the palace. She washes at the bath. She sits down at the banquet. The cupbearers bow. The meat smokes. You hear the dash of waters from the molten sea. Then she rises from the banquet, and walks through the conservatories, and gazes on the architecture, and she asks Solomon many strange ques tions, and she learns about the religion of the Hebrews, and she then and there becomes a servant of the

She is overwhelmed. She begins to think that all the spices she brought, and all the precious woods which are intended to be turned into harps and psalteries and into railings for the causeway between the temple and the palace, and the one hundred and eighty thousand dollars in money -she begins to think that all these presents amount to nothing in such place, and she is almost ashamed that she has brought them, and she says within herself: "I heard a great deal about this wonderful religion of the Hebrews, but I find it far beyond my highest anticipations. I must and lard, and was pressed from the add more than fifty per cent. to what has been related. It exceeds everything that I could have expected. The half—the half was not told me."

tion and wealth surrender themselves to God. When religion comes to a because they are weak minded. I say it is because they have quicker perception of what is right, more ardent affection and capacity for sublimer emotion. After the women have received the Gospel then all the distressed and the poor of both sexes, those who have no friends, accept Jesus. Last of all come the people of affluence and high social position. Alas, that it is so! SURRENDER ALL TO GOD.

If there are those here today who have been favored of fortune or, as I might better put it, favored of God, surrender all you have and all you rafts to be floated to Joppa, and from | Christ has had his imperial friends in | you have now, since you have bethence to be drawn by ox teams all ages—Elizabeth Christina, queen come a Christian, and you are willtwenty-five miles across the land to of Prussia; Maria Feodorovna, queen ing to attest before angels and men-Jornsalem. He heard that there of Russia: Marie, empress of France: that you never in the days of your beggar and scattering great fortunes among the distressed; Prince Albert, singing "Rock of Ages" in Windsor reading the Scriptures to a dving

thrones, and music all its harmonies. and painting all its pictures, and sculpture all its statuary, and architecture all its pillars, and conquest all its scepters, and the queens of the earth in long line of advance, frankincense filling the air and the camels laden with gold, shall approach Jerusalem, and the gates shall be hoisted, and the great burden of splendor shall be lifted into the palace of this greater than Solomon.

Again, my subject teaches me what is earnestness in the search of truth. Do you know where Sheba was? It southern part of the Arabia Felix. In either case it was a great way off voice of God and wheel into line from Jerusalem. To get from there and India, destroying her Juggeracross blistering deserts. Why did and send a committee to inquire the nations of the earth shall hear delegates report in regard to that religion and wealth of King Solomon? she had a soul worth ten thousand kingdoms like Sheba, and she wanted | and say, "The half—the half was not a robe richer than any woven by told me! oriental shuttles, and she wanted a

crown set with the jewels of eter-Bring out the camels. Put on the an earnest seeker after the truth."
But there are a great many of you, my friends, who do not act in that way. You all want to get the truth, but you want the truth to come to you. You do not want to go to it. There are people who fold their arms and say: "I am ready to become a Christian at any time. If I am to be saved I shall be saved, and if I am to be lost I shall be lost." Ah, Jerusalem will never come to you! You must go to Jerusalem. The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ will not

come to you. You must go and get religion. Bring out the camels; put on all the sweet spices, all the treasures of brought as presents, and I hear the the heart's affection. Start for the shout of the drivers, and I see the throne. Go in and hear the waters dust covered carayan showing that of salvation dashing in fountains all around about the throne. Sit down at the banquet—the wine pressed

Persons troubled with rheumatism should read the following from Mrs. N M. Peters, of East Des Moines, Iowa. tism the greater part of the time for nearly seven years. At times I was al most helpless. I doctored a great deal belts, patent medicines, and almost everysure that it would help me that I pro-cured a bottle. It did help me, right from the start; but it took five 50-cent Cough Syrup. You'll not miss the 25 cents, but you'll soon miss the cough.

A. G. Daley, Ellicott City and Walter R.

TIMES office.

from the grapes of the heavenly of Lebanon, and the temples, and the Eschol, the angels of God the cupbearers. Goad on the camels; Jeru- the sun, and the gates flash as they salem will never come to you; you must go to Jerusalem.

The Bible declares it, "The queen of the south"-that is, this very weary of the march of the desert. woman I am speaking of - "the queen of the south shall rise up in udgment against this generation these waters, recline on these banks. and condemn it, for she came from | Take this cinnamon and frankincense the uttermost parts of the earth to and myrrh and put it upon a censer hear the wisdom of Solomon, and, behold! a greater than Solomon is here." God help me to break up the upon us it will be a greater surprise infatuation of those people who are than that-Jesus on the throne, and sitting down in idleness expecting to | we made like him! All our Christian be saved. "Strive to enter in at the straight gate. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." Take the kingdom of heaven by violence. Urge on the camels.

Again, my subject impresses me with the fact that religion is a surprise to any one that gets it. This story of the new religion in Jerusalem, and of the glory of King Solomon, who was a type of Christ-that story rolls on and on, and is told by every traveler coming back from Jerusalem. The news goes on the wing of every ship and with every caravan, and you know a story enlarges as it is retold, and by the time that story gets down into the southern part of Arabia Felix, and the Queen of Sheba hears it, it must be a tremendous story. And yet this queen declares in regard to it, although she had heard so much and had her anticipations raised so high, the half—the half was not told her.

RELIGION A WONDERFUL SURPRISE. So religion is always a surprise to any one that gets it. The story of Learn from this subject what a grace—an old story. Apostles beautiful thing it is when social posi- preached it with rattle of chain; martyrs declared it with arm of fire; deathbeds have affirmed it with visneighborhood the first to receive it ions of glory, and ministers of reare the women. Some men say it is ligion have sounded it through the lanes, and the highways, and the chapels, and the cathedrals. It has been cut into stone with chisel and spread on the canvas with pencil, and it has been recited in the doxology of great congregations. And yet when a man first comes to look on the palace of God's mercy, and to see the royalty of Christ, and the wealth of this banquet, and the luxuriance of his attendants, and the loveliness of his face, and the joy of his service, he exclaims with prayers, with tears, with sighs, with triumphs, "The half

-the balf was not told me!" I appeal to those in this house who expect to be to the Lord who blessed are Christians. Compare the idea this Queen of Sheba. Certainly you | you had of the joy of the Christian are not ashamed to be found in this life before you became a Christian queen's company. I am glad that with the appreciation of that joy Helena, the imperial mother of spiritual bondage had any apprecia-Constantine: Arcadia, from her great tion of what was to come. You are fortunes building public baths in ready today to answer, and if I gave Constantinople and boiling for the you an opportunity in the midst of alleviation of the masses; Queen Clo | this assemblage, you would speak tilda, leading her husband and three out and say in regard to the discovthousand of his armed warriors to eries you have made of the mercy, Christian baptism; Elizabeth of Bur | and the grace, and the goodness of gundy, giving her jeweled glove to a God, "The half-the half was not

told me!" Well, we hear a great deal about the good time that is coming to this castle, and Queen Victoria, incognita, world when it is to be girded with salvation. Holiness on the bells of the horses. The lion's mane patted I bless God that the day is coming by the hand of a babe. Ships of Tarwhen royalty will bring all its shish bringing cargoes for Jesus, and the hard, dry, barren, winter bleached, storm scarred, thunder split rock breaking into floods of bright water. Deserts into which dromedaries thrust their nostrils, because they were afraid of the simoom -deserts blooming into carnation

roses and silver tipped lilies. It is the old story. Everybody tells it. Isaiah told it, John told it, Paul told it, Ezekiel told it, Luther told it, Calvin told it, John Milton told it -everybody tells it; and yet-and yet when the midnight shall fly the hills, and Christ shall marshal his was in Abyssinia, or some say in the great army, and China, dashing her idols into the dust, shall hear the to Jerusalem she had to cross a coun- naut and snatching up her little try infested with bandits and go children from the Ganges, shall hear the voice of God and wheel into not the Queen of Sheba stay at home line; and vine covered Italy and all about this new religion, and have the the voice of God and fall into line; then the church which has been toiling and struggling through the cen-She wanted to see for herself and turies, robed and garlanded like a hear for herself. She could not do | bride adorned for her husband, and this by work of committee. She felt | shall put aside her veil and look up into the face of her Lord and King,

Well, there is coming a greater surprise to every Christian-a greater surprise than anything I have depicted. Heaven is an old story. spices. Gather up the jewels of the Everybody talks about it. There is throne and put them on the caravan. hardly a hymn in the hymu book Start now; no time to be lost. Goad that does not refer to it. Children on the camels. When I see that read about it in their Subbath school caravan, dust covered, weary and ex- book. Aged men put on their spechausted, tradging on across the destacles to study it. We say it is a ert and among the bandits until it harbor from the storm. We call it reaches Jerusalem, I say, "There is our home. We say it is the house of many mansions. We weave together all sweet, beautiful, delicate, exhilarant words; we weave them into letters, and then we spell it out in rose and lily and amaranth. And yet that place is going to be a surprise to the most intelligent Christian.

Like the Queen of Sheba, the report has come to us from the far country, and many of us have started. It is a desert march, but we urge on the camels. What though our feet be blistered with the way? We are hastening to the palace. We take all our loves and hopes and Christian ambitions as frankincense and myrrh and cassia to the great King. We must not rest. We must not halt. The night is coming on, and it is not safe out here in the desert. Urge on the camels. I see the Baltimore & Charles Sts.,

domes against the sky, and the houses Wonderful Gains. Dr. Miles' Nervine not only cures all nervous diseases, headache, blues, ner rous prostration, sleeplessness, neural gia, St. Vitus dance, fits and bysteria, but also builds up the body. "I am pleased ing with nervous disease, headache and prostration, I tried Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine, and in two weeks gained eight pounds in weight. I could not lie down to sleep, but now sleep perfectly easy, and am still improving wonderful-"One customer used Nervine and gained Posters, bill heads and cards printed in neat style and at reasonable rates at Promissory potes for sale at THE and elegant book free at A. G. Daley's Drug Store.

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our sorrows and tears and sins gone by forever! The thousands of thousands, the one hundred and forty MANUFACTURERS OF and four thousand, the great multitudes that no man can number, will cry, world without end, "The half

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-the half was not told us!"

gardens. See the fountains dance in

open to let in the poor pilgrims.

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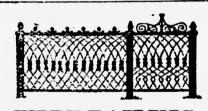
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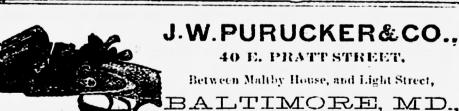
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