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VOL. XXIII. NO. 25.

ELLICOTT CITY, MD., SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1892.

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A FAREWELL SERMON

"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD."

Dr. Talmage Speaks of His Approaching Departure for Europe—He Addresses His Congregation to Hold a Very High Model—Take Jesus Christ for a Pattern.

BROOKLYN, June 12.—Dr. Talmage preached his sermon this morning with a statement to the effect that he would sail on Wednesday next for Europe, and might be able to present at the distribution in the famine districts of Russia of The Christian Herald relief cargo, consisting of three million pounds of flour and other supplies which goes out this week on the steamship Leo, chartered for the purpose. He congratulated the American people on the generous spirit evinced by this magnificent gift to the starving people. His sermon was from the text, Ephesians vi., "Put on the whole armor of God."

There is in this text a great picture of shield and helmet and sword. Soldiers are getting ready for battle. We have had recently in this church new enlistments and I shall address myself to those in the armor of God, and who may be ready to be as yet only raw recruits. "Mostly retreat," in a term often used in the language of religion, there is no such thing. It is either glorious advance or disgraceful and ignominious falling back. It would be a strange thing if all our anxious people were not converted at the moment they were converted.

You would almost doubt the sanity of that farmer who, having planted the corn and there must be a careful keeping up of the fence, and there must be a frightening away of the birds that would pillage the field. And I say the entrance upon Christ's life is only the beginning of a Christian life. The beginning to be a Christian is only putting down a foundation; but after that there are years of hammering, polishing, carving, lifting, and the structure is completed. It takes five years to make a Christian character, it takes twenty years, it takes forty years, it takes seventy years if a man shall live so long. In other words, a man doing all that he can to be a Christian experience feels that he has only learned the "ABC's" of a glorious alphabet. The next year will decide a great deal in your history.

It will decide whether you are to be a blow man in Christ Jesus, with gigantic blows striking the iron mill of darkness, or a backward, wailing, lamenting soldier that ought to be drummed out of the Lord's camp with the "Rogues' March."

You have only just been launched. The voyage is before you. Earth and heaven and hell are watching to see how fast you will sail, how well you will weather the tempest and whether at last, amid the shouting of the angels, you shall come into the port of glory. May God help me this morning to give you three or four words of Christian counsel, as I address myself more especially to those who have just now entered the Christian life.

A HIGH MODEL.
My first word of counsel is, Hold before your soul a very high model. Do not say, "I will hold the high model of Jesus Christ." I wish you would hold the high model of Jesus Christ, a perfect pattern. By that I mean, I wish you would have such a high model as to share all the gladness and goodness to which they were introduced.

"Oh, no. You have just the same promise, just the same Christ, just the same Holy Ghost, just the same offers of present and everlasting love, and if you fall short of what they were—aye, if you do not come up to the high model, you will not be beyond it—it is not because Christ has shut you out from any point of moral and spiritual elevation, but because you deliberately refused to take it up."

I admit that man cannot become a Christian like that without a struggle, but what do you get without fighting for it? The fortress of darkness must be taken by storm. You may by quiet strategy flank the hosts of temptation, but there are temptations, there are evils, in the way of the Christian life. You must fight and conquer. You must take the high model and it will be shot for shot, gun for gun, grip for grip, slaughter for slaughter. The Apostle Paul over and over again represents the Christian life as a contest, a battle. When the war vessel of Christ's church comes into glory, bringing its crew and its passengers, it will not come in like a North river yacht, beautifully painted and adorned, sailing into the harbor after a pleasure excursion. Oh, no. It will be like a vessel coming with a heavy cargo from China or India, the marks of the war and the strife upon it—sails rent, riggings splintered, plum all working to keep her aloft, bulwarks knocked away. I see such a vessel coming, and get out my sun-bat and push toward her, and shout: "Alo, captain! What are you going to do with those shivered timbers? That was a beautiful ship when you went out, but you have ruined her." "Oh, no," says the captain, "I have a fine cargo on board, and by this round trip I have made ten fortunes."

So I believe it will be when the Christian soul at last comes into the harbor of heaven. It will come bearing upon the marks of a great storm of weather. You can see by the very appearance of that soul when it comes into glory that it was driven by a storm and dashed in the hurricane; but by so much as the voyage is rough with the barbs of sin, the more shall be glorified with him on earth, so shall be glorified with him on earth.

Continued on Fourth Page.

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The Belief in Witchcraft.

Witchcraft is at the present time believed in by a majority of the citizens of the United States. The larger number of immigrants from the continent of Europe are more or less in fear of such powers. To these must be added no inconsiderable portion of the persons of English and Scotch descent, for a strong vein of superstition is discernible in many Irish, Scotch and some English, whose folklores, difused in nursery tales and neighborhood gossip, has entwined itself strongly about the fibers of spontaneous subconscious mental imagery. Among the more ignorant members of the church of every nationality the belief produces a mysterious dread, against which men and women cross themselves and resort to various rites supposed to be efficacious.—Dr. Buckley in Century.

The Oldest Inhabitant.
Hiram Lester, of Atlanta, who was married there on Nov. 4 at the age of 24 years, says he is the oldest living inhabitant of that city. Judge Stanton married him to Mrs. Mary E. Mosely, who is eighty years of age.—New York Sun.

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