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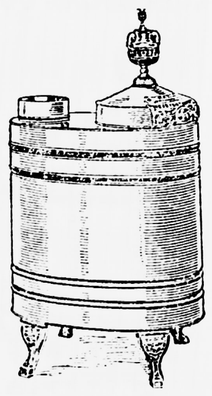

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AN URGENT MESSAGE.

DR. TALMAGE'S WORDS OF COUNSEL TO YOUNG MEN.

Points Out the Dangers Which Await Unwary Feet—Warns Against Drinking, Gambling and Unthrifty Habits—Get Close to God.

[Copyright, 1898, by American Press Association.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—This arousing and practical sermon by Dr. Talmage will reach many hearts and be an especial inspiration to those who are now starting in life. His text is Zechariah ii, 4, "Run, speak to this young man."

There was no snow on the beard of the prophet of my text, and no crow's feet had left their mark near his eyes. Zechariah was a young man, and in a day dream he saw and heard two angels talking about the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. One of these angels desires that young Zechariah should be well informed about the rebuilding of that city, its circumference and the height of its walls, and he says to the other angel, "Run, speak to this young man." Do not walk, but run, for the message is urgent and imminent. So every young man needs to have immediate advice about the dimensions, the height and the circumference of that which under God he is to build—namely, his own character and destiny. No slow or laggard pace will do. A little farther on and counsel will be of no advantage. Swift footed must be the practical and important suggestions, or they might as well never be made at all. Run at the pace of five miles the hour and speak to that young man. Run, before this year of 1898 is ended. Run, before this century is closed. Run, before his character is inexorably decided for two worlds, this world and the next. How many of us have found out by long and bitter experience things that we ought to have been told before we were 25 years of age! Now I propose to tell you some things which if you will seriously and prayerfully observe will make you master of the situation in which you are now placed and master of every situation in which you ever will be placed. And in order that my subject may be climacteric I begin on the outside edge of that advice, which will be more and more important as the subject unfolds.

Now, if you would be master of the situation do not expend money before you get it. How many young men irretrievably mortgage their future because of resources that are quite sure to be theirs. Have the money either in your hand or in a safety deposit or in a bank or in a United States bond before you make purchases or go into expensive enterprises or hitch a spanking team to a glittering turnout or contract for the building of a mansion on the Potomac or the Hudson. Do not depend on an inheritance from your father or uncle. The old man may live on a good deal longer than you expect, and the day of your enforced payment may come before the day of his decease. You cannot depend upon rheumatism or heart failure or senility to do its work. Longevity is so wonderfully improved that you cannot depend upon people dying when you think they ought to. They live to be septuagenarians or octogenarians or nonagenarians or even centenarians, and meanwhile their heirs go into bankruptcy, or, tempted to forgery or misappropriation of trust funds or watering of railroad or mining stock, go into the penitentiary. Neither had you better spread yourself out because of the 15 or 20 per cent you expect from an investment. Most of the 15 or 20 per cent investments are apt to pay nothing save the privilege of being assessed to meet the obligations of the company in the affairs of which you get involved. Better get 3½ per cent from a government bond than be promised 15 per cent from a dividend which will never be declared or paid only once or twice, so as to tempt you deeper in before the grand smash up and you receive, instead of a payment of dividends, a letter from the president and secretary of the company saying they are very sorry.

Save a Little Money.

If you have to wait a year or five years or ten years or most of your lifetime, then you had better wait rather than spend money you expect to get. Then after you get it do not spend it all. Never spend a dollar until you have 50 cents that you do not spend. In the government service in this city how many splendid women who are the daughters of men who spent all they got and then sneaked out of life to leave their daughters penniless, to be looked after by some kind senator or other friend who might solicit for them a position on small salary, but enough to keep them from starvation and the poorhouse! Such men do not die; they abscond. I cannot understand how such spendthrift and reckless and improvident men dare at their decease appear at the door of heaven seeking admission when they have left their families in the tophet of want and mendicancy. Such men do not deserve a throne and a harp and a mansion, but an everlasting poorhouse. From no disappointed or disgruntled state of mind do I give this counsel, for life has been to me a glad surprise, as it has been to most people a disappointment. I expected nothing of advantage or opportunity, and so everything has been to me a matter of pleased amazement, but I have seen so many men ruined for time and eternity by going into expenditure, with nothing to depend upon except anticipation, that if I had power to put all warnings into one clap of thunder I would with that startling vehemence say to all young men what John Randolph said in yonder senate chamber as he stretched his long finger out toward some senatorial opponent and with shrill voice cried out, "Gentlemen, pay as you go!"

Do not say you have no chance, but remember Isaac Newton, the greatest astronomer of his day, once peddling cabbages in the street, and Martin Luther singing on the public square for any pennies that he might pick up, and John Bunyan mending kettles, and the late Judge Bradley of the United States supreme court, who was the son of a charcoal burner, and Turner, the painter, who was the son of a barber, and Lord Clive, who saved India to England, shipped by his father to Madras as a useless boy whom he wanted to get rid of, and Prideaux, the world renowned scholar and theologian, scouring pots and pans to work his way through college, and the mother of the late William E. Dodge, the philanthropist and magnificent man, keeping a thread and needle store, and Peter Cooper, who worked on small wages in a glue factory, living to give $500,000 for the founding of an institute that has already educated thousands of the poor sons and daughters of America, and Bowditch, the scientist, beginning his useful learning and affluent career by reading the books that had been driven ashore from a shipwreck at Salem. There is, young man, a great financial or literary or moral or religious success awaiting you if you only know how to go up and take it. Then take it or get ready to take it. The mightier the opposition the grander the triumph when you have conquered. There is a flower in Siberia that blooms only in January, the severest month of that cold climate. It is a star shaped flower and covered with glistening specks that look like diamonds. A Russian took some of the seeds of that flower to St. Petersburg and planted them, and they grew, and on the coldest day of January they pushed back the snow and ice and burst into full bloom. They called it the "snow flower," and it makes me think of those whom the world tries to freeze out and snow under, but who in the strength of God push through and up and out and bloom in the hardest weather of the world's cold treatment, starred and radiant with a beauty given only to those who find life a struggle and turn it into a victory.

Anger Is Unhealthy.

Again, if you would master the situation, when angry do not utter a word or write a letter, but before you speak a word or write a word sing a verse of some hymn in a tune arranged in minor key and having no staccato passages. If very angry, sing two verses. If in a positive rage, sing three verses. First of all, the unhealthiest thing on earth is to get mad. It jangles the nerves, enlarges the spleen and sets the heart into a wild thumping. Many a man and many a woman has in time of such mental and physical agitation dropped dead. Not only that, but it makes enemies out of friends, and makes enemies more virulent, and anger is partial or consummate suicide. Great attorneys, understanding this, have often won their cause by willfully throwing the opposing counsel into a rage. There is one man you must manage or one woman you must control in order to please God and make life a success and that is yourself. There are drawbridges to every castle by which you may keep out of your nature foreign foes, but no man has a defense against himself unless it be a divine defense. Out of the millions of the human race there is only one person who can do you permanent and everlasting harm, and that is the being that walks under your own hat and in your own shoes. The hardest realm that you will ever have to govern is the realm between your scalp and heel. The most dangerous cargo a ship can carry is dynamite, and the most perilous thing in one's nature is an explosive temper. If your nature is hopelessly irascible and tempestuous, then dramatize placidity. If the ship is on fire and you cannot extinguish the flames, at any rate keep down the hatches. When at some injustice inflicted upon you or some insult offered or some wrong done, the best thing for you to say is to say nothing, and the best thing for you to write is to write nothing. If the meanness done you is unbearable, or you must express yourself or die, then I commend a plan that I have once or twice successfully adopted. Take a sheet of paper. Date it at your home or office. Then put the wrongdoer's name at the head of the letter page, without any prefix of "colonel" or suffix of "D. D.," and begin with no term of courtesy, but a bold and abrupt "sir." Then follow it with a statement of the wrong he has done you and of the indignation you have felt. Put into it the strongest terms of execration you can employ without being profane. Sign your name to the redhot epistle. Fold it. Envelop it. Direct it plainly to the man who has done you wrong. Carry the letter a week or two weeks, if need be, and then destroy it. In God's name, destroy it!

I like what Abraham Lincoln said to one of his cabinet officers. That cabinet officer had been belied and misrepresented until in a fury he wrote a letter of arraignment to his enemy and in tersest possible phraseology told him what he thought of him. The cabinet officer read it to Mr. Lincoln and asked him how he liked it. Mr. Lincoln replied: "It is splendid for sarcasm and scorn. I never heard anything more complete in that direction. But do you think you can afford to send it?" That calm and wise and Christian interrogation of the president stopped the letter, and it was never sent. Young man, before you get far on in life, unless you are to be an exception among men, you will be wronged, you will be misinterpreted, you will be outraged. All your sense of justice will be in conflagration. Let me know how you meet that first great offense and I will tell you whether your life is to be a triumph or a failure. You see, equipoise at such a time means so many things. It means self control. It means a capacity to foresee results. It means a confidence in your own integrity. It means a faith in the Lord God that he will see you through.

Don't Be Suspicious.

Again, if you would be master of the situation put the best interpretation on the character and behavior of others. Do not be looking for hypocrites in churches, or thieving among domestic servants, or swindlers among business men, or malfeasance in office. There is much in life to make men suspicious of others, and when that characteristic of suspicion becomes dominant a man has secured his own unhappiness, and he has become an offense in all circles, religious, commercial and political. The man who moves for a committee of investigation is generally a moral derelict. The man who goes with his nostrils inflated, trying to discover something malodorous, is not a man, but a sleuthhound. The world is full of nice people, generous people, people who are doing their best—good husbands, good wives, good fathers, good mothers, good officers of the law, good judges, good governors, good state and national legislators, good rulers. Does some man growl out, "That has not been my experience, and I think just the opposite?" Well, my brother, I am sorry for your afflictive circumstances, and that you had an unfortunate ancestry, and that you have kept such bad company and had such discouraging environment. I notice that after a man has been making a violent tirade against his fellow men he is on his way down, and if he live long enough he will be asking you for a quarter of a dollar to get a drink or a night's lodging. Behave yourself well, O young man, and you will find life a pleasant thing to live, and the world full of friends, and God's benediction everywhere about you.

Avoid Gambling.

Again, if you would be master of the situation, expect nothing from good luck or haphazard or gaming adventures. In this time, when it is estimated that gambling exchanges money to the amount of about $80,000,000 a day, this remark may be useful. There come times in many a man's life when he hopes to get something for which he does not give an equivalent, and there are 50 kinds of gambling. Stand aloof from all of them.

Understand that the gambling spirit is a disease, and the more successful you are the more certain you are to go right on to your own ruin. Having made his thousands, why does not the gambler stop and make a safe investment of what he has gained and spend the rest of his life in quiet or less hazardous style of occupation? The reason is he cannot stop. Nothing but death ever cures a confirmed gambler. Dr. Keeley's gold cure rescues the drunkard, and there are antitobacco preparations that will arrest the victim of nicotine, and religion can save any one except a gambler. The fact is he is irresponsible. Having got the habit in him, he is no more responsible for keeping on than a man falling from the roof of a four story house can stop at the window of the second story. Here and there you may find an instance where a gambler has been reported or reports himself as being converted, but in that case the man was not fully under the heel of the passion. The real gambler is a through passenger to death and perdition. The only use in referring to him is in the way of prevention. He began by taking chances on a bookcase or a sewing machine at a church fair and ended by getting a few pennies for his last valuable in a pawnbroker's shop. The only man who gambles successfully is the man who loses so fearfully at the start that he is disgusted and quits. Let him win at the start and win again, and it means farewell to home and heaven. Most merciless of all habits!

(Continued on fourth page.)

Dr. Bull's COUGH SYRUP
Mothers! This wonderful remedy will save your child's life when attacked by Croup. It always cures Whooping and Measle Cough. For a bad, stubborn cold in the head, chest, throat or lungs, it is invaluable. Doses are small. Children like it. Sold by all druggists. Price 25 cents.

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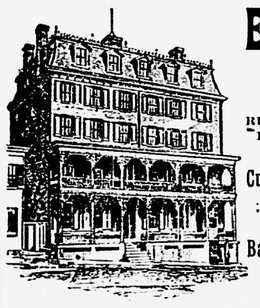

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Strictly Pure Pepper, per lb.,	14c	Citron, lb.,	12c
Laguayra Coffee, lb.,	16c	Mixed Nuts,	9c
Loose Coffee, lb.,	10 to 20c	Port Rica Molasses,	30c
Package Coffee, lb.,	9¾c	Syrup, the best,	30c
Baking Soda, lb.,	4c	Hominy, lb.,	2c
Washing Soda, lb.,	1c	Buckwheat Meal, lb.,	2½c
Cream Cheese, lb.,	14c	Can Corn,	6c
1 Pint Mason Jar Baking Powder,	10c	Can Tomatoes,	8 to 10c
Sardines,	6 for 25c	Crackers,	5c
Salmon, Canned,	12c	Ginger Snaps,	5c
Mince Meat, lb.,	10c	White Fish, by kit,	60c
Baker Chocolate,	12c	Mackerel, doz.,	50c
Cocoanuts,	5 to 7c	Salt Shad, each,	10c
Raisins, 2 crown, per lb.,	6c		

BOOTS AND SHOES.
500 Pairs for less than cost. Ladies' Fine and Coarse Shoes, 300 Pairs, all to be sold in the next 30 days.
CLOTHING.
50 SUITS which sold for $8.00, $10.00 and $12.00, now selling for $4.98, $7.97 and $8.79.
We also have 50 SUITS which sold for $5.00 and $6.00, can now be bought for $3.50 and $4.75.
Ladies' Rubber Shoes, 25 to 45c. per pair: Men's, 50 to 75c.
All our entire stock of DRY GOODS will positively be sold for less than cost, so do not wait until all the bargains are sold, as we mean to close this stock out, so now is your chance.
HAMMOND BROS.

To Select a Pair of Suitable Eye Glasses

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE PROPER OPTICIAN
Who is able to FIT THEM TO YOUR EYES. In his care you entrust your MOST VALUABLE ORGAN—THE EYE. Therefore consider where you go.
Our Eye Glasses and Spectacles in frames of every description, with our CELEBRATED CRYSTAL LENSES have proven to be superior to any other lenses. We make such also at more reasonable prices than others can. Give us a call and be convinced.
EXAMINATION OF THE EYES FREE. Mr. Blum is a graduate of the German University, and examines all Eyes personally.
Artificial Eyes inserted and perfect fit guaranteed. Be sure to notice our name and number.
AUGUSTUS BLUM & CO.,
MANUFACTURING OPTICIANS,
42 WEST LEXINGTON ST., - BALTIMORE, MD.

☞ A Public sale advertisement in THE TIMES is worth vastly more than the cost. We do sale bill printing promptly and in attractive style.