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## THE SIN OF GOSSIP.

REV. DR. TALMAGE DENOUNCES THE WHISPERING OF EVIL.

It Is Classed Among the World's Than Open Slander - Destroying Good Names the Worst of Crimes. [Copyright, Louis Klopsch, 1899.]

WASHINGTON, July 2.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage vigorously arraigns one of the great evils that have cursed the world and urges generous interpretation of the characters of others; text, Romans i, 29, "Full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity-whisperers." Paul was here calling the long roll of the world's villainy, and he puts in the midst of this roll those persons known in all cities and communities and places as whisperers. They are so called be cause they generally speak undervoice and in a confidential way, their hand to the side of their mouth acting as a funnel to keep the precious information from wandering into the wrong ear. They speak softly not because they have lack of lung force or because they are overpowered with the spirit of gentleness, but because they want to escape the con-

equences of defamation. If no one hears

but the person whispered unto and the

offender be arraigned, he can deny the

whole thing, for whisperers are always first class liars! Some people whisper because they are poarse from a cold or because they wish to convey some useful information without disturbing others, but the creatures photographed by the apostle in my text give mufiled utterance from sinister and epraved motive, and sometimes you can nly hear the sibilant sound as the letter "S" drops from the tongue into the listening ear, the brief hiss of the serpent as it projects its venom. Whisperers are masculine and femi-

nine, with a tendency to majority on the side of those who are called "the lords of creation." Whisperers are heard at every window of bank cashier and are heard in all counting rooms as well as in sewing societies and at meetings of asylum directors and managers. They are the worst foes of society, responsible for miseries innumerable; they are the scavengers of the world, driving their cart through every community, and today I hold up for your holy anathema and execration these whisperers. From the frequency with which Paul speaks of them under different titles I

conclude that he must have suffered somewhat from them. His personal pres ence was very defective, and that made him perhaps the target of their ridicule, and besides that he was a bachelor, persisting in his celibacy down into the sixties-indeed, all the way through-and, some having failed in their connubial designs upon him, the little missionary was put under the raking fire of these whisperers. He was no doubt a rare morsel for their scandalization, and he cannot keep his patience any longer, and he lays hold of these miscreants of the tongue and gives them a very hard setting down in my text among the scoundrelly and the murderous. "Envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity-whisperers.

More Harmful Than Slander. The law of libel makes quick and stout ip of open slander. If I should in a plain way, calling you by name, charge you with fraud or theft or murder or uncleanness, tomorrow morning I might have peremptory documents served on me, and I would have to pay in dollars and cents for the damage I had done your character. But these creatures spoken of in my text are so small that they escape the fine tooth comb of the law. They go on, and they go on, escaping the judges and the juries and the penitentia ries. The district attorney cannot find them, the sheriff cannot find them, the grand jury cannot find them. Shut them

off from one route of perfidy, and they start on another. You cannot by the force of moral sentiment persuade them to desist. You might as well read the Ten Commandments to a flock of crows, expecting them to retreat under the force of moral sentiment. They are to be found everywhere, these whisperers. I think their paradise is a country village of about 1,000 or 2,000 people where everybody knows everybody, but they also are

to be found in large quantities in all our They have a prying disposition. They look into the basement windows at the tables of their neighbors and can tell just what they have morning and night to eat. They can see as far through a keyhole as other people can see with a door wide open. They can hear conversation on the opposite side of the room. Indeed, the world to them is a whispering gallery. They always put the worst construction on everything. Some morning a wife descends into the street, her eyes damp with tears, and that is a stimulus to the tattler and is enough to set up a business for three or four weeks. "I guess that husband and wife lon't live happily together. I wonder if he hasn't been abusing her? It's outrageous! He ought to be disciplined. He ought to be brought up before the church I'll go right over to my neighbors, and

She rushes in all out of breath to a neigh bor's house and says: "Oh, Mrs. Allean have you heard the dreadful news? Why our neighbor, poor thing, came down off the steps in a flood of tears. That brute of a husband has been abusing her. Well, it's just as I expected. I saw him the other afternoon very smiling and very gracious to some one who smiles back, and I thought then I would just go up to him and tell him he had better go home and look after his wife and family, who probably at that very time were up stairs crying their eyes out. Oh, Mrs. Allear, do have your husband go over and put an end to this trouble! It's simply out-

rageous that our neighborhood should be disturbed in this way! It's awful!" The fact is that one man or woman se on fire of this hellish spirit will keep a whole neighborhood a-boil. It does not require any very great brain. The chief equisition is that the woman have small family or no family at all, because if she have a large family then she would have to stay at home and look after them. It is very important that she be single or have no children at all, and then she can attend to all the secrets of the neighbor hood all the time. A woman with a large family makes a very poor whisperer. Evil Words Travel Fast. It is astonishing how these whisperers gather up everything. They know everything that happens. There are telephone and telegraph wires reaching from their ears to all the houses in the neighborhood. They have no taste for nearth, news, but for the scraps and

peelings thrown out of the scullery into the back yard they have great avidity On the day when there is a new scandal in the newspapers they have no time to go abroad. On the day when there are four or five columns of delightful private letters published in a divorce case she stays at home and reads and reads and reads. No time for her Bible that day, but toward night, perhaps, she may find time to run out a little while and see whether there are any new developments. Satan does not have to keep a very sharp lookout for his evil dominion in hat neighborhood. He has let out to her the whole contract. She gets husbands and wives into a quarrel and brothers and sisters into antagonism, and she disgusts the pastor with the flock and the flock with the pastor, and she makes neighbors who before were kindly disposed toward each other oversuspicious and critical, so when one of the neighbors passes by in a carriage they hiss through their teeth and say, "Ah, we could all keep carriages if we never paid our

es of "Macbeth" dancing around a boiling caldron in a dark cave: Double, double, toil and trouble. Fire burn and caldron bubble. Fillet of a fenny snake In the caldron boil and bakes Eye of newt and toe of frog.

When two or three whisperers get to-

gether, they stir a caldron of trouble, which makes me think of the three witch-

Wool of bat and tongue of dog, Adder's fork and blind worm's sting Lizard's leg and owlet's wing For a charm of powerful trouble, Like a hell both boil and bubble. Double, double, toil and trouble, Fire burn and caldron bubble, Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf, Witches' mummy, maw and gulf Of the ravin'd salt sea shark; Make the gruel thick and stark; Add thereto a tiger's chaudron For the ingredients of our caldron, Double, double, toil and trouble, Fire burn and caldron bubble; Cool it with a baboon's blood,

Then the charm is firm and good. I would only change Shakespeare in this, that where he puts the word "witch" I should put the word "whisperer." Ah, what a caldron! Did you ever get a taste of it? I have more respect for the poor waif of the street that goes down under the gaslight with no home and no Godfor she deceives no one as to what she is -than I have for these hags of respectable society who cover up their tiger claws with a fine shawl and bolt the hell of their heart with a diamond breastpin. The Masculine Whisperers. The work of masculine whisperers is chiefly seen in the embarrassment of

business. Now, I suppose there are hun-

dreds of men here who at some time have been in business trouble. I will under take to say that in nine cases out of ten it was the result of some whisperer's work. The whisperer uttered some suspicion in regard to your credit. You old your horse and carriage because you had no use for them, and the whisperer said: "Sold his horse and carriage be cause he had to sell them. The fact that he sold his horse and carriage shows he s going down in business.' One of your friends gets embarrassed. and you are a little involved with him. The whisperer says: "I wonder if he can stand under all this pressure? I think he is going down. I think he will have to give up." You borrow money out of a bank, and the director whispers outside about it, and after awhile the suspicion gets fairly started, and it leaps from one whisperer's lips to another whisperer's lips until all the people you owe want their money and want it right away, and the business circles come around you like a pack of wolves, and, though you had assets four times more than were neces sary to meet your liabilities, crash went everything. Whisperers! Oh, how much business men have suffered! Sometimes in the circles of clergymen we discuss why it is that a great many merchants do not go to church. I will

tell you why they do not go to church. By the time Saturday night comes they are worn out with the annoyances of business life. They have had enough meanness practiced upon them to set their whole nervous system a-twitch. I think among the worst of the whis perers are those who gather up all the narsh things that have been said about you and bring them to you-all the things said against you, or against your family, or against your style of business They gather them all up, and they bring them to you; they bring them to you in the very worst shape; they bring them to you without any of the extenuating circumstances, and after they have made cour feelings all raw, very raw, they take this brine, this turpentine, this aqua

fortis, and rub it in with a coarse towel and rub it in until it sinks to the bone. They make you the pincushion in which they thrust all the sharp things they have ever heard about you. "Now, don't bring me into the scrape. Now, don't tell anybody I told you. Let it be between you and me. Don't involve me in it at all." They aggravate you to the point of profanity, and then they wonder you cannot sing psalm tunes! They turn you on a spit before a hot fire and wonder why you are not absorbed in gratitude to them because they turn you on a spit. Peddlers of night shade! Peddlers of Canada thistle! Peddlers of nux vomica! Sometimes they get you in a corner where you cannot very well escape without being rude, and then they tell you all about this one, and all about

that one, and all about the other one, and they talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, After awhile they go away, leaving the place looking like a barnyard after the foxes and the weasels have been around; here a wing, and there a claw, and yonder an eye, and there a crop. How they do make the feathers fly! Destroying Good Names. Rather than the defamation of good names it seems to me it would be almost as honorable and useful if you just took a box of matches in your pocket and a razor in your hand and go through the streets and see how many houses you can

> can cut. That is not a much worse business. The destruction of a man's name is worse than the destruction of his life A woman came in confessional to a priest and teld him that she had been slander ing her neighbors. The priest promised her absolution on condition of her performing a penance. He gave her a this tle top and said, "You can take that thistle and scatter the seeds all over the field." She went and did so and came back. "Now," said the priest, "gather up all those seeds." She said, "I can't." "Ah." he said, "I know you can't. Neither can you gather up the evil words you spoke about your neighbors." All good men and all good women have sometimes had detractors after them. John Wesley's wife whispered about him, whispered all over England, kept on whispering about that good man-as good a man as ever lived—and kept on whispering until the connubial relation was dissolved. Jesus Christ had these whisperers after him, and they charged him with drinking too much and keeping bad company. "A wine bibber and the friend of publicans and sinners." You take the best man that ever lived and put a detective on his track for ten years, watching where he

burn down and how many throats you

goes and when he comes and with a determination to misconstrue everything and to think he goes here for a bad purpose and there for a bad purpose, with that determination of destroying him, at the end of the ten years he will be held

despicable in the sight of a great many If it is an outrageous thing to despoil a man's character, how much worse is it to damage a woman's reputation? Yet that evil grows from century to century, and it is all done by whisperers. A suspicion is started. The next whisperer who gets hold of it states the suspicion as a proven fact, and many a good woman, as honorable as your wife or your mother, has been whispered out of all kindly associations, and whispered into the grave. Some people say there is no hell, but if there be no hell for such despoiler of womanly character it is high time that some philanthropist built one! But there is such a place established, and what a time they will have when all the whisperers get down there together rehearing things! Everlasting carnival of mud. Were it not for the uncomfortable surroundings you might suppose they would be glad to get there. In that region where they are all bad what opportunities for exploitation by these whisperers. On earth, to despoil their neighbors sometimes they had to lie about them, but down there they can say the worst things possible about their neighbors and tell

Good Reasons For Going to Church the truth. Jubilee of whisperers. Semiheaven of scandal mongers stopping their gabble about their diabolical neighbors only long enough to go up to the iron gate and ask some newcomer from the earth, "What is the last gossip in the It Curses Every Community. Now, how are we to war against this iniquity which curses every community on earth? First, by refusing to listen to or believe a whisper. Every court of the land has for a law and all decent communities have for a law that you must

hold people innocent until they are proved guilty. There is only one person worse than the whisperer, and that is the man or woman who listens without protest. The trouble is, you hold the sack while they fill it. The receiver of the stolen goods is just as bad as the thief. An ancient writer declares that a slan derer and a man who receives the slan der ought both to be hanged—the one by the tongue and the other by the ear-and I agree with him. When you hear something bad about your neighbors, do not go all over and ask about it, whether it is true, and

scatter it and spread it. You might as

well go to a smallpox hospital and take a patient and carry him all through the community asking people if they really thought it a case of smallpox. That would be very bad for the patient and for all the neighbors. Do not retail slanders and whisperings. Do not make yourself the inspector of warts, and the supervisor of carbuncles, and the commissioner for street gutters, and the holder of stakes for a dog fight. Can it be that you, an immortal man; that you, an immortal woman, can find no better

business than to become a gutter in-

Beside that, at your family table allow

to detraction. Teach your children to

speak well of others. Show them the difference between a bee and a wasphe one gathering honey, the other thrusting a sting. I read of a family where they kept what they called "A Slander Book," and when any slanderous words were uttered in the house about anybody or detraction uttered it was all put down in this book. The book was kept carefully. For the first few weeks there were a great many entries, but after awhile there were no entries at all. Detraction stopped in that household. It would be a good thing to have slander book in all households. Are any of you given to this habit of whispering about others? Let me per- OLD suade you to desist. Mount Taurus was great place for eagles, and cranes would fly along that way, and they would cackle so loud that the eagles would know of their coming, and they

would pounce upon them and destroy them. It is said that the old crane found this out, and before they started on their flight they would always have a stone in their mouth so they could not cackle, and then they would fly in perfect safety. Ob, my friends, be as wise as the old cranes and avoid the folly of the young cranes! Do not cackle. Detraction Changed to Eulogy. If there are people here who are whis pered about, if there are people here who are slandered, if there are people here who are abused in any circle of life, let me say for your encouragement that these whisperers soon run out. They may

do a little damage for awhile, but after awhile their detraction becomes a eulogy and people understand them just as wel as though some one chalked all over their overcoat or their shawl these words 'Here goes a whisperer. Room for the leper. Room!" You go ahead and do your duty, and God will take care of your reputation. How dare you distrust him? You have committed to him your souls. Can you not trust him with your reputation? Get down on your knees before God and settle the whole matter there. That

man whom God takes care of is well sheltered. Let me charge you, my friends, to make right and holy use of the tongue. It is loose at one end and can swing either way, but it is fastened at the other end to the floor of your mouth, and that makes you responsible for the way it wags Xanthus, the philosopher, told his servant that on the morrow he was going to have some friends to dine, and told him to get the best thing he could find in the market The philosopher and his guests sat down the next day at the table. They had noth ing but tongue-four or five courses o tongue-tongue cooked in this way an

tongue cooked in that way, and the phi losopher lost his patience and said to his servant, "Didn't I tell you to get the best thing in the market?" He said: "I did get the best thing in the market. Isn't the tongue the organ of sociality, the organ of eloquence, the organ of kindness, the organ of worship?" Then Xanthus said, "Tomorrow I want you to get the worst thing in the mar ket." And on the morrow the philosopher sat at the table, and there was nothing there but tongue—four or five courses of and always tongue—tongue in this shape and tongue family use. in that shape, and the philosopher again

lost his patience and said, "Didn't I tell you to get the worst thing in the mar ket?" The servant replied, "I did, for isn't the tongue the organ of blasphemy the organ of defamation, the organ of Oh, my friends, employ the tongue which God so wonderfully created as the organ of taste, the organ of deglutition the organ of articulation to make other happy and in the service of God! If you whisper, whisper good-encouragement to the fallen and hope to the lost. Ah,

my friends, the time will soon come when we will all whisper! The voice will be enfeebled in the last sickness, and though that voice could laugh and shout and sing and halloo until the forest echoes answered, it will be so feeble then we can only whisper consolation to those whom we leave behind and only whisper our hope of heaven. While I speak this very moment there are hundreds whispering their last utter ances. Oh, when that solemn hour come

to you and to me, as come soon it will may it be found that we did our best to serve Christ, and to cheer our comrade in the earthly struggle, and that we con secrated not only our hand, but ou tongue, to God. So that the shadows that fall around our dying pillow shal not be the evening twilight of a gather ing night, but the morning twilight of ar everlasting day. This morning at half past 4 o'clock I

looked out of my window, and the stars were very dim. I looked out a few moments after, and the stars were almost invisible. I looked out an hour or tw afterward. Not a star was to be seen. What was the matter with the stars Had they melted into darkness? No They had melted into the glorious light of a Sabbath morn. Our Admiral's Uniform. The rank of admiral in our navy is to

exalted to have any duties prescribed for Therefore the navy regulations are silent on the subject. In fact, they recog nize the altitude of the position by merely specifying the honors to be paid to it and nothing else. The admiral has no prescribed uniform The navy department at last accounts was conceeting one for him and raking un precedents. But in the end he will fix it to suit himself, just as Farragut did, though probably not with such artistically disastrous results, for Dewey is a man of great taste and discernment in matters of personal apparel.

I never could understand why Admira Farragut did not bestow on himself a uni form coat with gold sleeves and a few blue stripes on them, and thus be done with it He had on each sleeve two very broad bands of gold lace and a slightly narrowe one between them, the combination reach ing about to the elbow, and still above that a huge gold embroidered star with . steam frigate worked in silver in the middle of it. It was quite imposing, if no slightly tropical in its splendor. Admiral Porter cut it down on his undress uniform to one broad band and three much narrower ones above it, but kept the star. For full dress he wore three embroidered bands of oak leaves, and these, it is be lieved, Admiral Dewey will adopt, inasmuch as the rear admiral's uniform a ready has a single oak leaf band .- Park Benjamin in Independent.

"I should say," writes Rev. Amory H Bradford, D. D., on "What Is the Good of Going to Church?" in Ladies' Home Journal, "attend church that you may worship God; that you may learn of the things of the spirit; that you may be brought face to face with 'the doctrine of Estab. 1887. grace,' which in hours of deepest nee alone can satisfy (ither the mind or the heart. If you answer, 'I believe in none of these things,' then I reply, 'Attend church that you may hear the loftiest ideals presented by those who have no selfish ends to subserve, and that you may be kept sensitive to the moral order of the world in which all men are included, the violation of which means ruin and misery, and harmony with which is followed by benefit and blessing."

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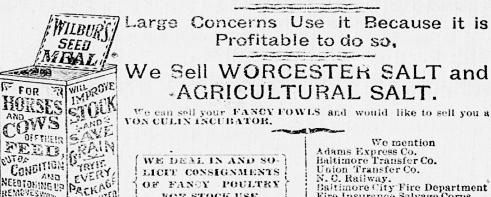
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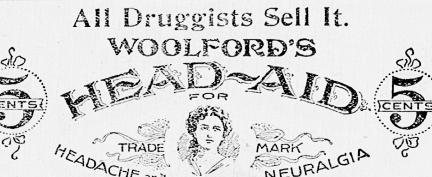


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18.11 A. M.—Main Line, Shippensburg, Frederick, Emmitsburg and N. and W. k. R. to Shenandosh.

19.15 A. M.—Pen-Mar Express. (Pen-Maronly.)

19.35 A. M.—Accom. for Union Bridge and Ranover.

4.00 p. M.—Accom, for Alexia, 4.01 p. M.—Ex. Main Line Points, also Frederick, Emmitsburg and Shippensburg. 15.00 P. M.—Ex. to Glyndon, Accom, beyond to Union Bridge.
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†10.17 A. M.-Accom. for Union Bridge, York. Gettysburg.

12.26 P. M.—Accom. for Emory Grove.

12.25 P. M.—Accom. for Emory Grove.

12.25 P. M.—Accom. for Union Bridge.

13.22 P. M.—Blue Mt'n Ex. (Parlor Car), connection for Fredk., Martinsb'g and Winchester. 13.32 P. M. - Express for York and B. & H. Div.

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