

THE GEM OF THE MORNING.

Dr. Talmage Discourses Upon the Silver Point in the Heavens.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text; "I am the bright and the morning star."—Rev. xxii. 16.

It seems as if the natural world was anxious to make up for the damage it did our race in furnishing the forbidden fruit.

The meaning of my text is this; as the morning star precedes and promises the coming of the day, so Christ heralds the natural and spiritual dawn.

In the first place, Christ heralded the coming of the creation. There was a time when there was no order, no sound, no beauty.

Again, Christ heralds the dawn of heaven upon every Christian's dying pillow. As one of these brothers told me last night of his mother in the last moment, she looked up, and said, pointing to some supernatural being that seemed to be in the room: "Look at that bright form. Why, they have come for me now."

Again, Christ heralds the dawn of comfort in a Christian soul. Sometimes we come to passes in life where all kinds of tribulation meet us.

Paul kept his eye on that morning star, until he could say, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

The Princess Clementine of Belgium has taken the veil. She desired to take this step two years ago, but was dissuaded by her father, King Leopold.

Queen Wilhelmina is immensely wealthy in her own right, and will settle upon her husband 20,000,000 marks. The interest of this sum, about \$150,000 a year, will be strictly his own.

The Princess of Wales sets aside for the benefit of charity all the prizes taken by her dogs in the Sandringham Kennels. Her most beautiful pet is a Siberian sledge dog, named Luska.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 10.

"Parable of the Talents." Matt. 25, 14-30. Golden Text, Rom. 14, 12.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 14. The words the kingdom of heaven are supplied by the translators. The Revised Version approaches the original more closely.

15. Talents were originally measures of weight in gold and silver. Afterward the word was used of coins.

16. The rich man went on his journey at his own convenience, but straightway when he had gone the bond servant who had received the largest proceeded to invest it in merchandise.

17. Likewise he that had received two. He did quite as well as the man who had received five; but it does not follow that the master had made a mistake when trying to apportion to each man "according to his ability."

18. He that received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. If this action seems to us little short of idiocy, it is because ancient oriental customs differed so widely from our own.

19. The lord of those servants cometh. Reference is here doubtless made to our Lord's second coming, but none of the various "comings" of Christ to human souls are to be excluded.

20. This verse depicts a scene which should be made vivid to the scholars' imaginations. The honest pride shown in the report is admirable.

21. Good and faithful. A wonderful commendation; capable and worthy of praise, more than that, loyal and full of friendship.

Whooping Cough. Don't you dread it? There's not a sensible, well-read person in the world who isn't afraid of whooping-cough. It's a most distressing disease and a very dangerous one, too.

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make thee ruler over many things. Responsibility well discharged leads to greater responsibility even in this life, and those who are faithful Christians in this world, ruling their own spirits, and leading other souls to God, are to be kings and priests in the heavenly world.

greatest risks and temptations, therefore his increased opportunities shall be great. But there is no comparison here of the man of the five talents with the man of the two talents.

That was a poser. Grandma looked at her in real distress. "Dear me, child," said she, "I can't tell you that to save my life! Why, just take 'em to the pump and pump a mite on 'em."

Striking effect which it has on mobs and armies. The Chinese carefully avoid being caught in the rain. They have a superstition that drops of rain falling on the head breed vermin, which, with their very long hair, is very difficult to get rid of.