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LAST GREAT SCRUTINY.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Discourses on the Subject.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text:—'Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting.'—Daniel v. 27.

Babylon was the paradise of architecture. Driven out from thence, the most elaborate structures of modern times are only the evidence of her fall. After the site of Babylon had been selected, two million of men were employed for the construction of the wall and principal works. The walls of the city were sixty miles in circumference. They were surrounded by a trench out of which had been dug the material for the construction of the city. There were twenty-five gates of solid brass on each side of the square city. Between every two gates a great watch-tower sprang up into the heavens. From each of the twenty-five gates, on either side, a street ran straight through to the gate on the other side, so that there were fifty streets, each fifteen miles long, which gave to the city an appearance of wonderful regularity. The houses did not join each other on the ground, and between them were gardens and shrubbery. From house-top to house-top bridges swung, over which the inhabitants were accustomed to pass. A branch of the Euphrates went through the city, over which a bridge of marvelous structure was thrown, and under which a tunnel ran. To keep the river from overflowing the city in times of freshet a great lake was arranged to catch the surplus in a reservoir until times of drought, when it was sent streaming down over the thirsty land. A palace stood at each end of the Euphrates bridge; one palace a mile and three quarters in compass, and the other palace seven and a half miles in circumference. The wife of Nebuchadnezzar, having been brought up among the mountains of Media, could not stand it in this flat country of Babylon, and so, to please her, Nebuchadnezzar had a mountain, four hundred feet high, built in the midst of the city. This mountain was surrounded by terraces, for the support of which great arches were lifted. On the top of these arches flat stones were laid; then a layer of reeds and bitumen; then two rows of bricks, closely cemented; then thick sheets of lead, upon which the soil was placed. The earth here deposited was so deep that the largest trees had room to anchor their roots. All the glory of the flowery tropics was spread out at that tremendous height, until it must have seemed to one below as though the clouds were all in blossom and the very sky leaned on the shoulder of the cedar. At the top an engine was constructed, which drew the water from the Euphrates, far below, and made it spout up amid this garden of the skies. All this to please his wife. I think she must have been pleased.

In the midst of this city stood also the temple of Belus. One of its towers was one eighth of a mile high, and on the top of it an observatory, which gave the astronomers great advantage, as, being, at so great a height, one could easily talk with the stars. This temple was full of cups, and statues, and censors, all of gold. One image weighed a thousand Babylonian talents, which would be equal to fifty-two million dollars. But why enlarge? This city is besieged and doomed. Though provisioned for twenty years, it shall fall to-night. See the gold and silver plate flash on the king's table. Pour out the rich wine from the tankards into the cups. Drink, my lords, to the health of the king. Drink to the glory of Babylon. Drink to the defenders of the city. Drink to a glorious future. Startle not at the splashed wine on the table as though it were blood. Turn not pale at the clash of the cups, as though it were the clang of arms. On with the mirth! A thousand lords reel on their chairs, and quarrel and curse. The besotted king sinks back on his chair, and stares vacantly on his wall. But that vacant look takes on intensity. It is an affrighted look. As he gazes, the lords gaze. Every eye is turned to the wall. Darkness falls upon the room. The blaze of the gold plate goes out. Out of the black solitude of the darkness a finger of fiery terror trembles through the air and comes to the wall, circling about as though it would write, and then, with sharp tip of flame, engraves on the plastering the doom of the king. 'Weighed in the balance, and found wanting!'

The bang of heavy fists against the palace gates is followed by the crushing in of the doors. A thousand gleaming daggers strike through a thousand quivering hearts. And now Death is the King, and his throne a heap of corpses. An unseen balance had been set up in the festal hall. God swung it. Belshazzar's oppor-

tunities on one side of the balance, and his sins on the other. Down went his sin; up went his opportunities. Weighed, and found wanting. There has been a great deal of cheating in this country by false weights and measures. Government appointed commissioners to stamp the wrong has been righted. I speak of another kind of scales. We all have been in the habit of making mistakes in our weighing of men and things. There is, indeed, only one pair of balances absolutely perfect, and that is suspended from the throne of God Almighty. Other balances get out of order. The chain breaks, or the metal is clipped, or the equi-poise in some other way is broken; and a pound does not always mean a pound; and you pay for one thing and get another. But the balances of God never lose their adjustment. With them a pound is a pound, and right is right, and wrong is wrong, and a soul is a soul, and eternity is eternity. God has a bushel measure, a peck measure, and a gallon measure. Whenever a merchant measures a bushel of wheat, or salt, or corn, God weighs it immediately after him. The merchant measure may be wrong, but God's measure is just right.

But I am not now to speak of the weighing of coffees and sugars, but of the weighing of principles, of individuals, of churches, and of worlds. Many suppose that sin is imponderable; but it is heavy enough to crush a world. Yea, our earth itself is to be put in scales, with all its mountains, and valleys, and seas. You would think that the Alps, and Pyrenees, and Himalayas, and Mount Washington, and all the cities of the earth, on one side of the scale, would crush it. No! God will at last see what opportunities the world had, and what opportunities it neglected; and he will sit down on the white throne to see the old world weighed, and will see it rise in the balance lighter than a feather; and he will cry out to his messengers who carry the torch, 'Burn that world. Weighed, and found wanting.'

God is every day estimating churches. He puts a great church into the scales. He puts the minister, and the choir, and the grand structure, that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, on the same side. On the other side of the scales he puts the idea of spiritual life that the Church ought to possess, or brotherly love, or faith, or sympathy for the poor. Up goes the grand meeting-house, with its minister and choir. God says that a Church is of much worth only as it saves souls; and if, with all your magnificent machinery, you save but a handful of men when you might save a multitude, he will spew you out of his mouth. Weighed, and found wanting!

But I want to become more personal. I have heard persons say that ministers ought to deal with things in the abstract, and not be personal. What success would a hunter have if he went out to shoot deer in the abstract? He puts the butt of the gun to his breast; lays his eye along the barrel; takes sure aim; draws the trigger, and crash go the antlers on the rocks! What if a physician, called into your house, should treat your ailments in the abstract? How long before the inflammation would heal, or the pain be assuaged? What folly to talk about sin in the abstract, when you and I have in our souls a malady that must be cured, or it will kill us, miserably and for ever!

God lifts the balance to-night. The judgment-day is coming. Every day is a day of judgment. We are this moment being canvassed, inspected, weighed. But do not let us all get on the scales at once. We will take one at a time. Who will get on first? Here is a volunteer. He is a moralist—as upright a man as there is in America. Get in, brother. What is it that you have with you in that bundle? He says, 'It is my reputation for morality, and uprightness, and integrity.' Leave that behind. It is not fair that you carry a bundle with you. We just want to measure you. Have you slandered your neighbors? You say, 'Never have I slandered them.' What outrages have you committed against society? You say, 'None.' So far so good. Have your thoughts always been right? You answer, 'No.' I put down one mark against you. Have you served God as you ought? 'No.' Another mark against you. Have you loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all your soul? 'No.' Another mark against you. Come, now, be frank. Have you not, in ten thousand things, come short of your duty? 'Yes.' Then I put down ten thousand marks against you. Bring me a larger book, in which I may make record of your deficits and neglects. Do not jump out of the scales until I

FROM ERIN'S GREEN ISLE.

Interesting News From Ireland Received By Mail.

Mr. Alex McDowell, of Carson & McDowell, solicitors, has been appointed clerk of the peace for Belfast. On the occasion of the Queen's visit to Dublin she gave £1,000 for the benefit of the poor of that city, to say nothing of the numerous other large donations and presents.

Dublin University has returned Sir Edward Henry Carson to the House of Commons, without Opposition, on his appointment as Solicitor-General, in succession to Sir Robert Bannatyne Finlay.

With the object of popularizing and encouraging Irish industries the Lady Mayress of London has ordered a court dress of Irish poplin, trimmed with Irish lace, for her use at the next drawing-room.

The Duke of Abercorn, the Marquis of Dufferin, and the Earl of Annesley, have cordially granted permission to the members of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society to visit their estates in Ireland.

There is less pauperism in Ireland than there is in England and Wales. Last year one person in 37 was a pauper in this part of the British Isles, whilst only one in 45 was receiving poor relief in the sister isle.

Wexford has lost one of the most remarkable of its citizens in the death of Fred Hyland, an undertaker, at the age of 85. For 60 years he was an undertaker in Wexford, and it is calculated that during that time he buried over 5,000 people.

A tourist in Ireland has returned sighing for Irish instead of foreign waiters in the leading hotels. Irishmen, he says, make good waiters in America, and he does not see why they should not likewise make good waiters in their native land.

In Australia they are making blankets, wallpapers, curtains, carpets, and various other things out of peat. If the Australians can turn their peat bogs to such good account, the Irish people are asking, why may we not do likewise? The supply of peat is unlimited in Ireland, and the question of what to do with it, besides local consumption for fuel, has occupied the thoughts, more or less desultorily, of generations.

The Belfast Board of Guardians are in the proud position of not having suffered able-bodied paupers to do the work of the house. Some few months ago a parade of paupers was held, when all the able-bodied—numbering over 600—were pointed out with a view to putting them to hard work. Now the board have only 75 such in the house, and have to offer two ounces of tobacco weekly to men classed as 'infirm if they will volunteer to do some light work which is necessary in the workhouse garden. There is no doubt that the severe labour test recently introduced into the house is a large measure responsible for this desirable state of affairs.

A captain of the Salvation Army, Sidney Porter, and other members of the same corps were recently prosecuted by the Dublin police, who charged them before Mr. Mahony with having, by their meetings on Sunday evenings in Middle Abbey street, obstructed the thoroughfare. The Magistrate fined the Captain and his companion, Walter O'Neil, one pound each, and directed them to find bail to keep the pace and be of good behaviour, or in the alternative that they should go to prison. They accepted the latter alternative. Their counsel asked the Magistrate to state a case for the Queen's Bench, and the Magistrate said he would do so. In the meantime a report of the matter was forwarded to the headquarters of the Salvation Army in London, and in consequence of the view taken by the responsible leaders of the movement, an official was despatched to Dublin. This gentleman made arrangements for providing the necessary security with the result that two gentlemen attended before Mr. Mahony, entered into the necessary security and the representatives of the Salvation Army were released.

LONDON WASHERWOMEN DOOMED.

The Church Army Teaching Boys the Business—Good Results Thus Far.

Not long ago a celebrated French woman who had been exploring the mysteries of the Sahara reported that she had discovered a highly civilized Arab tribe, in which the men not only tended the babies, but did all the family washing, while the women made the laws. And she brought back photographs to prove it, says a London letter.

Maybe the Arab tribe was a forerunner of a new state of things for us who think we are most civilized, for it has been discovered in London, scales. Christ, on your side, has settled the balance for ever. There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Go free! go free! Sins all pardoned, shackles all broken, prison doors all opened. Go free! go free! Weighed in the balance and found wanting!

But, oh Christian; you may not get off so easily. I place on the opposite scale all the sins that you ever committed, and all the envies, and hates, and inconsistencies of a lifetime, but altogether they do not budge the scales. Christ, on your side, has settled the balance for ever. There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Go free! go free! Sins all pardoned, shackles all broken, prison doors all opened. Go free! go free! Weighed in the balance and found wanting!

JUSTIFIED COOLNESS; I've dropped that impudent little Jacky Jenkyns. You have? What for? Why he dropped me first.

THEM RIVALS IN A FRIENDLY FASHION.

One of this army's lines of activity is to enlist bad boys as they come, out of jails, workhouses, and such places, keep them for a time, provide them with board and lodging, while an attempt is being made to improve their characters, and then get them into good places. The ages of these boys range from 12 to 19. Some of them are typical "hard cases" and many are first offenders. And with all of them the

ARMY DOES GREAT THINGS. The Church Army has 102 homes, all told, where it keeps for a time the men, women and children it rescues from crime and misery. In most of the homes set apart for boys the youths were formerly put to work cutting kindling wood or other work of that sort, but the supply of boys presently exceeded the demand for the work they were doing, and then it was that the officer in charge of them hit upon the laundry idea.

The women who formerly did all the washing for the homes did it badly, after the manner of London washerwomen. They were slow, too, and putting a garment into the wash was like putting money into a lottery. You might get it back with a lot of other things that didn't belong to you, but the chances were in favor of your never seeing it again. The officer figured out that as boys like to dabble in water they might take to laundry work rather better than one would suppose. So he engaged a laundryman, set up an assortment of tubs, mangles, ironing boards and boilers in one of the homes situated on Latimer road, and tried it on. That was last August and the results have proved rather surprising.

Most of the boys, when first introduced to the tubs, wringer and ironing board, grumbled a lot about being put "made old women of," as they put it, but the idea appealed to them more on the whole than slicing hard wood into chips. They regarded the work as a huge joke at first, and spent most of their time splashing each other liberally, but before they knew it they began to take real interest in doing their work well, and really were fairly expert by the time the Church Army found them situations elsewhere.

Of course, the boys don't do fine work, such as da'ntly things. They don't bother with women's clothes at all. That is yet done by the women in the

FEMALE HOMES

whom the boys have, to a certain extent, superseded. The boys mostly confine their efforts to rough work, but they can "do up" their own linen and those of the men and boys in the other homes. That they are capable of still higher things, or would quickly become so, is proved by the cases of two or three boys, who through exceptional circumstances have been made "assistant superintendents," and have thereby been enabled to remain in the laundry for ten or twelve months, instead of the customary three. In that time they have made so much progress that not only are they to be trusted with the finest of linen and dress shirts, but they have even aspired to lace curtains and "done" them without a flaw.

"Capt. Winson, the man in charge, was questioned on the subject. "I am now sure that boys can do laundry work, better than women," he said. "It stands to reason. In laundry work you need strength. Watch a woman who is ironing and see how she bears down on the board. She knows that the harder she presses the better. Take wringing. The great difference between the amount of water their people wring out, or leave in, the clothes. A lusty boy of 17 or 18 can develop twice as much strength in his wrist as a woman, and having to wear shirts and collars himself, he is likely to treat them more respectfully. And, after all, why not English laundrymen, as well as Chinese?"

HIS OWN WEAPONS.

The extraordinary skill with which Sir Edwin Landseer painted animals was due not merely to his mastery of the brush, but also to his intimate knowledge of the animal world. One of his many talents was the power of imitating to perfection the cry of any creature with which he was familiar. One day, when the artist happened to be the guest of Lord Rivers, he was requested to go and see a very savage dog that was tied up in his yard. As Landseer approached the growling beast, he dropped quickly upon his hands and knees, and then, crawling forward, snarled so alarmingly that the dog, overcome with terror, suddenly snapped his chain, jumped over the wall, and was never seen afterwards.

USES OF CHIMNEY SOOT.

Experiments in France have showed that chimney soot is valuable both as a fertilizer and as an insecticide. Its fertilizing properties are particularly noted in gardens and meadows. M. Dasserre, a wine-grower, in Southern France, avers that "chimney soot kills the phylloxera with the rapidity of a stroke of lightning, and at the same time endows the vines with extraordinary energy of growth." Other experimenters, however, have not found it effective in the case of phylloxera, although it kills many kinds of larvae.

VACCINATION'S PROGRESS.

HOW INOCULATION AGAINST SMALL POX HAS AIDED MANKIND.

The Disease Disappears Everywhere Vaccination is Strictly Enforced—Great Loss of Life Before its Adoption.

The City Medical Health officer has recently gathered much valuable information as to what has been the history of vaccination in various countries.

The most valuable document received on the vaccination question is from the Imperial Health Bureau of Berlin. On account of the recent passing of the "conscience" clause, in regard to vaccination in England, the document has been published at a very opportune time, and is attracting much attention in Europe.

The work begins by showing that Jenner, in 1796, wrote that about four hundred thousand lives were lost yearly in Europe through smallpox. King Frederick William III., of Prussia, in a regulation of 1803, states that in that country the loss from smallpox was more than forty thousand lives yearly.

Smallpox was then so much a children's disease that in three Prussian towns with a total population of 13,229 souls in the year 1796, when there were 1,250 cases of smallpox, it was found that of the remaining 12,079, all had already had smallpox except 524 persons. The adult population was thus permanently protected against smallpox.

DISCOVERY OF VACCINATION.

The inoculation of smallpox was introduced, but it attracted little attention till 1740. "Inoculation," the document says, "is not a discovery of the laboratory; it is a practice taken up from a belief of the peasantry in various parts of the world." It was believed that scores on the hands of milkers of cows affected with "cow pox" conferred protection against smallpox. Experiments had been made by others before Jenner.

In England we have Jessy's vaccination, and in 1765 Sutton and Fewster annually made a communication to the Medical Society. But Fewster had a poor opinion of vaccination experiments, and in no way assisted Jenner, whom he often met. In 1781 Dr. Nash vaccinated his son, and other children, but died in 1789 without publishing results.

The spread of vaccination was very rapid; in 1800 the French Government appointed a commission to investigate into the matter, and the result of the investigation was the acceptance of vaccination. Russia accepted it in the following year. In Vienna the first vaccination was done in 1799, the year after Jenner's pamphlet. Germany and Sweden took it up at once. Vaccination very early became compulsory in some countries; in Bavaria, in 1707; Baden, 1815; Wurtemberg, 1818; and in Sweden in 1816. Where it was not compulsory it was largely adopted at first.

Frederick William III., of Prussia, in 1803, issued a decree requiring the authorities to active prosecution of vaccination.

DISEASE VANISHED RAPIDLY.

Within a few years the mortality from smallpox diminished so rapidly that the disease, as an epidemic, appeared to be vanishing from Europe. As an example, both of the rapid spread of vaccination and the rapid decline of smallpox, Sweden can be taken as an example. This yearly average deaths from smallpox in the country before vaccination was 191 per 100,000 of population. In a very few years the rate fell to the small figure of 7 in 100,000 of population.

The decline of the disease in Europe, after vaccination, was so rapid indeed, that it was said to "astonish the world."

About the third decade of this century, however, smallpox increased again in certain countries, and then the question of re-vaccination was brought prominently before the public notice.

The era of re-vaccination began at first in the armies. The Wurtemberg army led the way in 1833, with the result that during the twenty years before the epidemic of 1870-5 not one smallpox death occurred. The Prussian army followed in 1834, and while during the five years previous there had been 370 deaths, an average of 74 a year, in the army during the thirty-five years there were only 77 deaths, an average of only 2.2 yearly.

The Bavarian army adopted re-vaccination in 1843, and from thence till 1870 had only 6 deaths from smallpox. Vaccination made only slow progress in England comparatively, and it was not till much later that vaccination of all recruits was established. It took fifty years of England to enforce vaccination by law upon all children.

Such is the history of vaccination. That it is a great preventive against smallpox is admitted by medical men all over the world.

WERE EARLY HISTORIANS.

The Chinese are remarkable as a nation for their carefully preserved historical annals, even from the most remote period of antiquity. The first mention of pottery is found in the reign of the Emperor Hoangti in 2838, before the Christian era. Porcelain was made under the Han dynasty 18 B.C., at least 1,600 years before it was known to the western countries of the globe.