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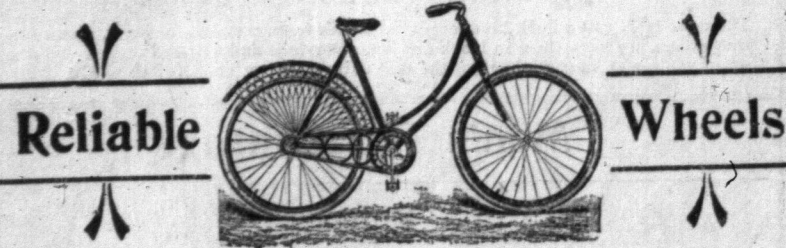
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THE FIELD OF LABOR

Dr. Talmage on the Relations of Employer and Employee.

THE RIGHTS OF BOTH PARTIES.

A Timely Discourse Aimed at Bringing About More Friendly Relations Between Capital and Labor—The Christian Remedy for Industrial Troubles.

Washington, May 20. — At a time when in various districts labor troubles are existing or impending the effort Dr. Talmage makes in this discourse to bring about a better feeling between both sides of this difficult question is well timed; texts, Galatians v, 15, "But if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another," and Philippians ii, 4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

About every six months there is a great labor agitation. There are violent questions now in discussion between employers and employees. The present "strikes" will go on until the past. Of course, the damage done cannot immediately be repaired. Wages will not be so high as they were. Spasmodically they may be higher, but they will drop lower. Strikes, whether right or wrong, always injure laborers as well as capitalists. You will see this in the starvation of next winter. Boycotting and violence and murder never pay. They are different stages of anarchy. God never blessed murder. The worst use you can put a man to is to kill him. Blow up to-morrow all the country seats on the banks of the Hudson and the Rhine and all the fine houses on Madison Square and Brooklyn Heights and Ritten and house square and Beacon street, and you will just fall back on the bare hands of American and European labor.

The worst enemies of the working classes in the United States and Ireland are the seditious conductors. The assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke in Phoenix Park, Dublin, Ireland, in the attempt to avenge the wrongs of an afflicted people, away from the sympathizers. The attempts to blow up the house of commons in London had only this effect — to throw out of employment tens of thousands of innocent Irish people. In this country the torch put to the factories that have discharged hands for good or bad reason, obstructions on the rail tracks, in front of midnight express trains, because the owners do not like the president of the company; strikes on shipboard the hour they were going to sail or in the mines the day the coal was to be delivered or on house scaffolds so the builders fall — all these are a hard blow on the head of American labor and cripple its arms and lame its feet and pierce its heart.

Frederick the Great admired the miller who got it. It was owned by a miller. He offered the miller three times the value of the property. The miller would not take it because it was the old homestead, and he felt about as Naboth felt about his vineyard. When Ahab wanted it, Frederick the Great was a rough and terrible man, and he ordered the miller into his presence, and the king, with a stick in his hand, and a stick with which he sometimes struck the officers of state—said to the miller, "Now, I have offered you three times the value of that property, and if you won't sell it I'll take it anyhow." The miller said, "Yes, said the king, 'I will take it.' "The miller said, "If your majesty does take it I will sue you in the chancery court." At that threat Frederick the Great yielded his vineyard to the miller. And the most imperious outrage against the working classes will yet cover before the law. Violence and defiance of the law will never accomplish anything; but righteousness and submission to the law will accomplish it.

But gradually the damages done the laborer by the strikes will be repaired, and some important things ought now to be said. The whole tendency of our times, as you have noticed, is to make the chasm between employer and employee wider and wider. In olden times the head man of the factory, the master builder, the capitalist, the head man of the firm, worked side by side with their employees, working sometimes at the same bench, dining at the same table, and there are those here who can remember the time when the clerks of large commercial establishments were accustomed to board with the head men of the firm.

All that is changed, and the tendency is to make the distance between employer and employee wider and wider. The tendency is to make the employee feel that he is wronged by the success of the capitalist and to make the capitalist feel: "Now, my laborers are only beasts of burden; I must give so much money for so much drudgery, just so many pieces of silver for so many beads of sweat." In other words, the bridge of sympathy is broken down at both ends. That feeling was well described by Thomas Carlyle when he said, "Platoon of St. Dolly Underfoot, buccaneerlike, says to his men: 'Noble spinners, this is the hundredth thousand we have gained, wherein I mean to dwell and plant my vineyards.' The £100,000 Adieu, noble spinners! Drink my health with this great each, which I give you over and above." Now, what we want is to rebuild that bridge of sympathy, and I put the crowd to one of the abutments today, and I preach more especially to employers as such, although what I

have to say will be appropriate to both employers and employees. The behavior of a multitude of labor toward their employers during the last three months may have induced some employers to neglect the real Christian duties that they owe to those whom they employ. Therefore I want to say to you whom I confront face to face and those to whom these words may come that all shipowners, all capitalists, all commercial firms, all master builders, all housewives, are bound to be interested in the entire welfare of their subordinates. Years ago some one gave three prescriptions for becoming a millionaire: "First, spend your life in getting and keeping the earnings of other people; secondly, have no anxiety about the losses, the disappointments, of others; thirdly, do not mind the fact that your vast wealth implies the poverty of a great many people." Now, there is not a man here who would consent to go into the world to earn a fortune. It is your desire to do your whole duty to the men and women in your service.

First of all, then, pay as large wages as are reasonable and as your business affords—not necessarily what others pay. The right of a laborer to tell his employer what he must do to get his business is not a new idea. It is a principle which, carried out, it does every business man in the United States a wrong and yields to the principles which, carried out, would dissolve society. Look over your affairs and put yourselves in imagination in your laborer's place, and then pay him his wages. Do not be too ready to cut down wages. As far as possible, pay all, and pay promptly. There is a great deal of Bible teaching on this subject. Malachi: "I will be a swift witness against all sorcerers and against all adulterers and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages." Leviticus: "The wages of the hiring hand shall not be withheld until the morning." Colossians: "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven." So you see it is a question between you and your employee so much as it is a question between you and God.

Do not say to your employees, "Now, if you don't like to get another," when you know they are not. As far as possible, once a year visit at their homes, and you can become acquainted with your men. You will be a blind parent or a sick sister being supported. You will find some of your young men in rooms without any fire in winter, and in summer sweating in the heat. You will find out how much depends on the wages you pay or withhold.

Again, I counsel all employers to look well after the physical health of their subordinates. Do not put on them any unnecessary fatigue. I can understand why the drivers on our city cars must stand all day when they might just as well sit down and drive. It seems to me most unrighteous that so many of our clerks in our stores should be compelled to stand all day and through those hours when there are but few or no customers. These people have aches and annoyances, and weariness, and all that, and putting them through additional fatigue. Unless these female clerks must go up and down on the business of the store, let them sit down.

But, above all, I charge you, O employers, that you look after the moral and spiritual welfare of your employees. First, know where they spend their evenings. That decides everything. You do not want around your money drawer a young man who was last night in the speakeasy. A man that comes into the store in the morning ghastly with midnight revelry is not the man for your store. The young man who spends his evening in the speakeasy or in the saloon or in the musical or artistic circles or in literary improvement is the young man for your store.

Do not say of these young men, "If they do their work in the business hours, that is all I have to ask." God has made you that man's guardian. I want you to understand that many of these young men are orphans, or worse than orphans, flung out into society to struggle for themselves. A young man is pitched into the middle of the Atlantic ocean, and a plank is pitched after him, and then he is told to take that and swim ashore. Treat that young man as you would like to have your son treated if you were dead. Do not tread on him. Do not send him on a useless errand. Say "good morning" and "good night" and "goodbye." You are deciding his destiny for two worlds.

Sir Titus Salt had wealth which was beyond computation, and at Saltair, England, he had a church and a chapel built and supported by himself — the church for those who preferred the Episcopal service, and the chapel for those who preferred the Methodist service. At the opening of one of his factories he gave a great dinner, and there were 3,500 people present, and in his after-dinner speech he said to these people gathered: "I cannot look around me and see this vast assemblage of friends and work people without being moved. I feel greatly honored by the presence of the nobleman at my side, and I am especially delighted at the presence of my work people. I hope to draw around me a population that will enjoy the life of this neighborhood. A population of well paid, contented, happy operatives. I have given instructions to my architect that nothing is to be spared to render the dwellings of the operatives a pattern to the country, and if my life is spared by divine Providence I hope to see contentment and happiness around me."

That is Christian character demonstrated. There are others in this country and in other lands on a smaller scale doing their best for their employees. They have not forgotten their own early struggles. They remember how they were discouraged, how hungry they were, and how cold and how tired they were, and, though they may be 60 or 70 years of age, they know just how a boy feels between 10 and 20 and how a young man feels between 20 and 30. They have not forgotten it. Those wealthy employers were not originally let down out of heaven with pulleys of silk in a wicker basket sat in, fanned by cherub wings. They started in roughest cradle, on whose rocker misfortune put her violent foot and tipped them into the cold world. Those old men are sympathetic with boys.

And then I charge you not to put unnecessary temptation in the way of your young men. Do not keep large sums of money lying around unguarded. Know how much money there is in the till. Do not have the account books loosely kept. There are temptations inevitable to young men, and enough of them, without your putting so unnecessary temptations in their way. Men in Wall street, having 30 years of reputation for honesty, have dropped into Sing Sing and perdition, and you must be careful how you try a lad of 15. Tell why you dismiss him to those who will give him another chance. Many a young man has done wrong once who will never do wrong again. Ah, my friends, I think we can afford to give everybody another chance when God knows we should have been in perdition if he had not given us 10,000 chances.

Then, if in moving around your factory, or mill or barn or store, you are jostled by a young man, he will remember it. Some day the wheel of fortune will turn, and you will be a pauper, and your daughter will go to the workhouse, and your son will die on the scaffold. If in moving among your young men, you see one with an ominous pallor of cheek or you hear him coughing behind the counter, say to him, "Stay home a day or two and rest or go out and breathe the breath of the hills." If his mother dies, do not demand that he be in the store. Give him at least a week to get over that which he will never get over.

Employers, urge upon your employees, above all, a religious life. Get from them that, how is it, young men? Instead of being cheered on the road to heaven some of you are caricatured, and it is a hard thing for you to keep your Christian integrity in that sort of a factory where there are so many hostile to religion. Zietzen, a grave general under Frederick the Great, was a skeptic. One day general asked to be excused from military duty that he might attend the holy sacrament. He was excused. A few days after Zietzen was dining with the king and with many notables of Prussia when Frederick the Great in a jocular way said, "Well Zietzen, how did the sacrament of last Friday digest?" The venerable old warrior arose and said: "For my majesty I have risked my life many a time on the battlefield, and for your majesty I would be willing at any time to die; but you do wrong when you insult the Christian religion. You will forgive me if I, your old military servant, cannot bear to silence any insult to my Lord and my Saviour." Frederick the Great leaped to his feet, and he put out his hand, and he said: "Happy Zietzen! Forgive me, forgive me!"

Oh, there are many being scoffed at for their religion, and I thank God there are many men as brave as Zietzen! Go to heaven yourself, O employer! Take all your people with you. Soon you will be through buying and selling and through with manufacturing and building, and God will ask you: "Where are all those people over whom you had so great influence? Are they here? Will they will your crew sail? O you merchant grocer, are those young men that under your care are providing food for the bodies and families of men to go starved forever? O you manufacturer, with so many wheels flying and so many bands pulling and so many gears shipped, and out and so many goods shipped, are the spinners, are the carmen, are the draymen, are the sailmen, are the weavers of your establishment working out everything but their own salvation? Can it be that, having those people under your care 5, 10, 20 years, you have made no everlasting impression for good on their immortal souls? God turn us all back from such selfishness, and teach us to live for others and not for ourselves! Christ sets us the example of sacrifice, and so do many of his disciples.

Greatest Banquet in History. The greatest banquet in history took place August 18, 1889, when the 40,000 Mayors of France sat at a table in the Palais de l'Industrie in Paris. There were three relays of about 13,000 guests each. To prepare the feast required 75 chief cooks, 18,000 waiters, scullions, cellar-men and helpers, 80,000 plates, 32,000 glasses, knives, forks and spoons in proportion, 40,000 rolls, and fish, meat and fowl by the ton. The banquet was part of the centenary celebration of the events of 1789.

Four in Three Thousand. Four persons out of every 3,000 men, women and children in the United States are either in jail, or out on bail, or are fugitives from justice. Their total number is 90,000, out of a population estimated at 70,000,000. Only six per cent. of all those who have fallen foul of the law are women.

After Marriage

They are going to be together just as much as before, going to ride the wheel, take little pleasure jaunts, etc., enjoying everything together. Isn't that what many a young couple promise each other? And yet how very soon the wife begins to say:

"No, I don't think I care to go. You go alone, dear." Young women don't reckon on the great physical changes which follow marriage. How can they when they are allowed to grow up in entire ignorance of vital physiological facts? They feel languid, weak and nervous. Sometimes there is headache and backache. The pulse no more leaps in answer to the thought of a sport on the wheel. Women who have used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, know how promptly the languor, headache, backache, nervousness and weakness are cured by this medicine. Sometimes husbands write in gratitude to Dr. Pierce for the medicine which gives them back the wife's companionship, as it gives her back her health. "All praise is due to you for your wonderful 'Favorite Prescription,'" writes Mr. John W. Coffman, of Ellensburg, Casey Co., Ky. "My wife suffered with female irregularity, was confined to bed every three weeks. After using two bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription she was cured, and has not suffered any derangement since. Your 'Favorite Prescription' is a boon to delicate women."

There is no alcohol in "Favorite Prescription," and it is entirely free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.

ALL SORTS.

A Boothby, Me., fisherman, Ab Ak, claims to have the shortest name on record. There is said to be no abbreviation about it either. English insurance societies are badly divided over the question of war risks. Some refuse to have the volunteers at any price, while others think the men as safe in South Africa as at home catching influenza. When the New York 3d av railroad has completed work on the big power line that will supply power for all its lines there will be installed there machinery that will produce over 100,000 horse power.

It is curious to notice that wood tar is prepared just as it was in the fourth century. B. C. A bank is chosen and a hole dug into which the wood is placed, covered with turf. A fire is lighted underneath and the tar slowly drips into the barrels placed to receive it. The British government is making strenuous efforts to prevent an increase in civilian occupation of Gibraltar. It is now difficult for civilians to find houses, and owners of property are not allowed to add to their tenants. The first skates were made out of the bones of animals. Sometimes children would sit on the jawbones of a horse or cow and propel themselves along the ice by means of iron staves. Damascus is said to be the oldest city in the world, dating back 4,000 years. Its present population is 200,000, a tenth being Christians. The mosques are numerous, there being more than 50.

In the free text-books system in operation in Yankton, S. D., the children rent the books, the yearly charge ranging from 20 cents in the first grade to 85 cents in the eighth grade. The fee entitles the pupils to all the books available for his grade.

A LITTLE LAY SERMON

Let it rest! Some proceeding has wounded us by its want of tact; let it rest; no one will think of it again. A harsh or unjust sentence irritates us; let it rest; whoever may have given it will be pleased to see it is forgotten. A painful scandal is about to estrange us from an old friend; let it rest, and thus preserve our charity and peace of mind.

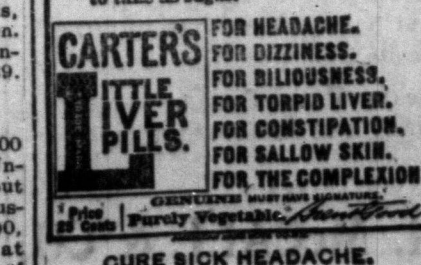
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