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## "SWEAR NOT AT ALL.

A Vigorous Protest Against the Prevalence of Profanity.

THE BLASPHEMER IS A COWARD

Rev. Dr. Talmage's Sermon in Support of the New Interdenominational Society, Which Has Recently Been Formed by Rev. John L. Withrow, D.D., to War Against the Sin of Profanity.

Entered According to Act of Parliament of Can-ada, in the year 1942, by William Baily, of To-ronto, at the Dep't of Agriculture, Ottawa.

chicago, Oct. 12 .- A vigorous protest against the prevalent habit of Witt Talmage in this sermon on the text Exodus xx, 7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God

in vain." The blasphemer's condemnation is a mighty theme. Its curse indirectly affects the whole human race. Every man belongs to one of two classeseither he is a slasphemer and therefore, on account of his profanity, comes directly under the condemnation of God, or else he belongs to that large class whose ears are polluted by his profane utterances, in which class are some who listen with indifference or contempt, while others shudder with horror as they hear the blasphemous mention of the name of

their Master and King. No street car or factory or shop or camp is entirely free from this shocking plague. In our streets and public resorts there is daily and hourly evidence of the prevalence of this pernicious habit. Not only does the husband and father swear, but his example is sometimes followed by his wife and his son and even his little children. Motormen swear at their Engineers swear at their trucks. fires. Boys swear at their baseball swear at their clerks.. Employes, under their breath in the store and out loud when they are away from the counters, swear at their employers. Men swear when they are buying goods. Fishermen swear at their hooks and lines and at the fish they do not catch. Commercial travelers swear because the train or the hotel meal is late or because there is no water pitcher in the bedroom. Sailors swear at the ropes and winds. Farmers swear at the cattle and the grain and the weather. Men swear at the gutter into which they tumble, with the wagon wheel which spatters them with mud. Blasphemers swear when they are happy; they swear when they are sad; they swear

at everybody and everything. Profanity is a cruel and a cowardt feelings and pierces the hearts of thousnads and hundreds of thousands of Christians who are unable by law to stop this awful and blood curdling. infamy. Only the other day a tele phone girl had a Chicago merchant arrested and fined \$20 and costs in the police justice court because the defendant swore at her over the wires His defence before the justice was that he was hungry and wanted to order his dinner from a neighboring restaurant and that the girl in the central office of the telephone company would not give him the right connection. But when the justice heard the young girl's statement that she could not make the necessary connection because the lines were busy at that time, he decided against the defence of the Chicago merchant. He said, "No man has a right to hurl profane words at any public servant, when that man or woman is trying to do his or her full duty," blasphemer is essentially coward, because he inflicts suffering

on persons who are powerless to resist or retaliate. It is a hard word, but I use the plain, unvarnished Anglo-Saxon word which describes the cowardly act. I want you swearers the realize the extent of the injuries which you are doing against some of your fellow men when you swear in public. I want you to fully realize how you are cutting and lacerating Christian hearts with your blood ther's place, who is compelled to listen every day to the public utterances of profanity. You can judge, how your Christian neighperhaps, for feels by supposing that some one is speaking slightingly and disrespectfully and slanderously of some one you very dearly love. You have a mother or a wife or, perhaps, to use a better illustration, a young daughter whom you fondly cherish. Suppose in some public place you should hear her name vilified. What would you do? Why need you answer? Even now I can see your you are an impulsive men,

cheek flush and your teeth become set and your hands clinch together. You would immediately demand an apology from the vilifier or perhaps, if would raise your fist and knock that man down. You would do just what a friend of mine did some years ago in Waynesburg, W. Va. He was bringing home the dead body of his As a great, rough, brutal porter took the coffin out of the bag-gage car he, the father, said to him: "Man, please be careful. Don't han-de that box roughly." But when the porter in spite of that plea swore at the coffin, and used a contempt-uous epithet about the beloved form within it and roughly let the box tumble upon the platform, as an average expressman lets a trunk fall to the ground, my friend doubled up his fist and knocked that porter clear into the tracks. He hit him so hard that the policeman who ran up at first thought him dead. But, though the policeman was about to arrest the suffering father, he did not, for when he heard how the porter had sworn at the body of the dead child he turned and said, "Brother, if that

which my friend showed toward the porter who swore at his little girl's body, you, O blasphemer, would show toward anyone who would insult the fair name of a pure, noble daughter, whom you devotedly lov-

Now, my sinful brother, you who are addicted to the habit of swearing in public, did you ever stop to think that nearly always there are Christian men and women around fou who love the name of Jesus Christ more than they love their father or mothwife or daughter, or you love your chi'd? Did you ever stop to think that by your profanity you are dish noring the name of that Christ for whom those men and women, if necessary, would be willing to die? Have you a right to insult their Christ's name any more than they have a right to insult your child Oh, my blas, huning brother, I called you a cruel coward. I take it all back. I take that statement back, profanity is made by Rev. Frank De because you may have sinned thoughtlessly. I cannot believe that you have deliberately intended to do this cruel thing. In the past you have not realized the enormity of the injustice which by the public habit of profanity you are doing against some of your fellow men. kind hearted you would not hurt a dog or a cat. Surely after this you will cease to use blasphemous words in public and not further cut, and lash into the bleeding hearts of your Christian brothers and sisters with the sharp, merciless impiety which

has heretofore proceeded from your

profane lips.

Profanity is not only a cruel, but also a very foolish habit. My profane brother, can you cite me one instance in all your life when the indulgence in the habit of swearing helped you in the least? Did the stone over which you stumbled get out of your way and apologize you because you cursed it? Did the winds ever abate when you were crossing the seas because you blasphemod them? Did your employes ever love you better or work for you harder because you lost your temper and hutled at them a whole tornado of oaths? Did your horse ever bats upon the playground. Merchants drive better because you swore at him until you were red in the face? Bid the blood stop flowing when you cut your finger, merely because you made the air sulphurous with your denunciatory imprecations? "No!" you answer, "I cannot think of one good result that ever came from the evil of profanity. It is such a fool-ish habit that I sometimes wonder why God does not let sticks and stones and the dumb brutes have power of speech to rebuke me, as he once bade the long eared beast burden open his mouth and speak to the quick-tempered and unreasonable prophet of old. I ought to have bet-

Blasphemer, have you ever stopped so consider what would be the effort of your profane words by which you conden n your fellow men if they ly carried out? Have you ever stopped to consider that when you ask God to condemn your fellow men to the infernal regions you a desire that through all the coming ages they will suffer greater torture than ever a human victim suffered upon the operating under a surgeon's knife, table, when anaesthetics could not be administered? You express a desire that they shall be thrown into "the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." You express a desire by your profane oaths to see human ings suffer as Mark Anthony and Cleopatra commanded them to suffer, when, at the banquet table, this guilty, merciless twain ordered poibe administered to slaves and prisoners so that they might witness their convulsions in

the throes of an awful death. "But," answers some blasphemer you know just as well as I that there is not one man out of a thousand who ever means what he says when he blasphemes. His profane oaths are mere exclamations. come from the lip and not from the heart." Then, my brother, there is only one other deduction which can ome from the use of this evil habit. Either you as a profane man wish to condemn your brother to eternal misery or you are lacking in reverence to God, which is precisely the attitude condemned in this comcurdling oaths by trying to put your attitude condemned in this com-self, if possible, in your Christian bromandment. Either you despise your fellow men or else you despise the name of your Creator. There is no other outcome to these two extremes. Either you are cursing your fellow man or else you are mocking your

divine Maker. The profane habit is to be dreaded because it is often the outgrowth of seemingly very harmless beginnings. The bloodcurdling oaths heard in the home of the rich man and among the so-called respectable members of society are not, as a rule, born among the saloons and the outcasts. were not once the inhabitants of the slums and the places of wassail and crime. In all probability their germs were fostered in the parlors of Christian homes and in the weekday schoolrooms and even in the Sunday schoolrooms attended by Christian children. These germs of the most horrible of profane oaths were once the exclamations and ejaculations and the slang expressions so commonly used by bolies and children upon our streets. They are the "By Georges," the "By That's" and the "By Other Things." They are the educated and polife and refined.

ejaculations which are used to-day by many people who consider themselves Profanity can glow from seemingly very harmless beginnings. Therefore it is the duty of all Christian parents not only to refrain from the use of such unnecessary and absurd exclamations as those just quoted, but they should instil into their children the right use of the English language. The Anglo-Saxon tongue is a noble tongue. It is especially rich in vehement, emphatic, expressive and, if I might use the expression, sledgehammer words, powerful enough to annihilate any foe. In its broad brutal porter comes to, hit him again sweep of denunciatory words the Enga little harder than you hit him before, and I will stand by and, if necessary, help you," That spirit ents, in the education of your child-

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ren you should teach them never to use slang. You should teach them that slang is only the immacore child which will grow up into destroying monster called Profanity. You should teach them that God hurls his condemnations at slang as well as at the hideous monster called Profanity when Christ says: "Swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God's throne, nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." Could any denunciation be more vehement against the use of slang common amongst our women and children and also among the men than those words of Jesus Christ?

Profanity is a suicidal habit because it runs directly counter to the expressed commands of God. Albert Barnes once wrote, "There is not in the universe more cause for amazement than God's forbearance in his dealings with the blasphemer." But that God will ultimately punish those who take his name in vain there is no doubt. The Bible distinctly asserts it. And that God sometimes instantly punishes the sin of blasphemy is also unquestioned. Incident upon incident be cited to illustrate this fact.

But though Kazlitt Arvine gives incident after incident where the condemning wrath of God has instantly slain the blasphemer, none of them ever made such an impression upon my mind as that which happened some years ago practically under my own eyes. We were then stopping in Elizabethtown, among the Adiron-dack mountains. One afternoon a fearful thunderstorm came up. Before the tempest broke it was almost black as night. The air became so still that even the leaves ceased to rustle, Nature was silent, save here and there when we heard a frightened bird twitter as she flew away to her nest and young. Then the winds began to blow, and those great trees began to groan and bend like monstrous human Laocoons with their children in the fatal grip of a destroying serpent dragging them down. Then the heavens became at times like great rivers of fire. The lightning struck the earth again and again. Amid this battle scene of the elements a party of men were gathered in a barn but a short distance from the hotel piazza. In the company was an infidel, a blaspheming When the conversation turned upon the power of God, he arose and said, "Even in this storm I am not afraid to defy God." He stepped



Pain across the forehead or at back of head is dangerous. It slowly but surely weakens the intellectual powers, impairs the vitality and will. Headache is sometimes from the eyes but more frequently is caused by a disordered condition of the sto-mach and digestive organs.

Do not suffer. The pain can be cured by the harmless remedy

It never loses its effect. Cures by driving out the poison, and does not simply deaden the pain as do so many preparations con-taining narcotics. Abbey's in the morning will make you well and keep you well.

arms as he cried: "Curse God! Strike if you dare!" Immediately there was a flash, and the blasphemer fell dead. The God who had uttered the words of my text had heard. God in one stroke of the unsheathed sword of fire made that blasphemer answer for

I have written this sermon upon the blasphemer's condemnation for two purposes. The first is, I want two purposes. The first 18, I want to make the blasphemer realize his awful danger and, by the grave of God, to rescue him if possible from the awful destruction toward which he is heading. I want to rescue him he is heading. I want to rescue him by the grace of God, because, my brother, you will never be emanci-pated from this sinful habit of profanity unless you seek divine help. After you have been a profane man for many years your profanity becomes a part of yourself. You are bound to this evil habit by links stronger than steel. So, my profane brother, if you wish to be emancipated from this sin of profanity you must pray to God for help. You must plead and pray for divine help to resist this evil habit to the day of your death. You must pray not only for the forgiveness of your past profanities, but you must also pray that God will keep your lips pure from ever uttering another blasphemous word.

let it. Oh, my brother, will you ask God for help and consecrate your life to overcome the worldwide sin of blasphemy as well as all the other kind of sins which are striving to destroy the throne of righteousness and are defying your Master and King? Lord God of the past, help us to make they Son's name honored and worshipped all round this blaspheming, cursing and Holy Spirit defying world-around this world which more oftea hears the name of Jesus spoken in derision than in earnest, tender, heart pleading prayer.

must horse's brain in a few hours. few hours? It is impossible. But in very mi'd pari breent cirt soon accomplish wonders in your coit.

## BEAMS OF

Chatham Branch of the International Sunshine Society.

it travel down the years, it wipe another's tears, Till in heaven the deed appears-Pass it on.

The President has procured several Sunshine pins from headquarters, They are exceedingly pretty in design, and we think each of the mem-bers should have one.

Make the best of everything: think the best of everybody: hope the best for yourself, and persevere.

RIGHT WILL REIGN.

that grieve; That somewhere night And that the wrong,

Though now it triumphs, wields no sceptre long, But right will reign where the waves of error beat in vain!

The upright man will be downright

The second reason why I preach this sermon is to rally all Christian people to the support of a new interlenominational society, which has just been formed to war against the sin of profanity. I believe this so-ciety has as great a mission as the Christian Endeavor Society, the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip or, any of the other interdenominational societies which are binding together the Christian people of the land. This society is called the Antiprofanity League. Rev. John L. Withrow, D.D., an ex-moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church and the present pastor of the famous Park Street Church, Boston, has thrown the weight of his influence into it and accepted the presidency. The object of this society is to rally all Christian people to gether to oppose this universal evil. That society will furnish you tracts; it will teach you what to do and what to say in the unrelenting war which hereafter we must all pledge ourselves to wage. The society called the Antiprofanity League will arouse your holy enthusiasm if you will only

Essentials in Horse Training Do not break your horse, but teach It is a mistake to say you break a colt. There is nothing about him that needs breaking. All he wants is teaching or guiding. You cannot crowd everything into a takes time to teach a child. Why do you expect a horse to learn everything you d sire him to know in a tellig nce, common Sense, patience, perseverance. Graness, gentleness and

### \*\*\*\* SUNSHINE \*\*\*\*\*

Motto-Good cheer. Have you had a kindness shown? Pass it on. not given for you alone-Pass it on.

The Chatham Branch of the Sunhine Society held a meeting on Friday last, when five new members were enrolled. It was decided to give a social evening in a week or so, when our Sunshine Barrel will be much in evidence. The members will begin work at their next meeting on a quilt, which when complered with be sent to the Children's Hospital in Toronto, The Juniors, who used this idea for paying their dues last spring also intend to start one soon, which will serve as a Christmas present to some poor family. The Juniors held their last meeting at the residence of Mrs. Polson and spent a busy afternoon with their sewing: our Junior Branch is a very energetic band of little women. Where are the brothers, who should be Sunshiners, too!

That there is hope for all the hearts

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-Frank L. Stanton.

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