

BATTLING A BAD HEREDITY

I think the genealogical table was put in the first chapter of the new testament not only to show our Lord's pedigree but to show that a man may rise up in an ancestral line and beat back successfully all the influences of bad heredity. See in that genealogical table that good King Asa came of the vile King Abia. See in that genealogical table that Joseph and Mary and the most illustrious being that ever touched our world,—or ever will touch it, had in their ancestral line scandalous Rehoboam, and Tamar, and Bathsheba. If this world is ever to be Edenized—and it will be—all the infected families of the earth are to be regenerated, and there will be some arise in each family line, and open a new genealogical table. There will be some Joseph in the line to reverse the evil influence of Rehoboam, and there will be some Mary in the line to reverse the evil influence of Bathsheba. Perhaps the star of hope may point down to your manger. Perhaps you are to be the hero or the heroine that is to put down the brakes and stop that long train of genealogical tendencies, and switch it off on another track from that on which it has been running for a century. You do that, and I promise you as fine a palace as the architects of heaven can build, the archway inscribed with the words, "More than conqueror."—*T. De Witt Talmage, in Ladies' Home Journal.*

WHAT THE EYE SEES.

We give the following brief selection taken from a sermon preached recently by W. H. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the United States Senate: It is somewhat remarkable for a blind minister to take the marvels of the eye for a theme:

"Sight is a matter of constant education and training. Each man sees according to his power of perception. The astronomer views the heavens with the stars and their surroundings, which are never the same. The real estate dealer looks for lots and houses

favorably located. The poet and the artist see the beauties of their respective professions. It is most important for every man to see himself. We see others according to our own standard of character. If we are given to backbiting, calumny, hardness of heart, and other evils, we shall look for those things in other people. On the other hand we can tell people's power of sight by their character and action. Beds of coal, valuable beyond comparison, have lain unworked for centuries because no one had the trained sight to detect the evidence of their existence. Watts saw the steam which issued out of the tea kettle's throat. The eye gets its quality and power of seeing from the brain, the heart and the soul. Continued darkness diminishes and eventually destroys the sight. Mules kept in a deep coal mine in the subterranean passage grow blind. . . . Christ said to Nicodemus that a man must be born again before he could see the kingdom of heaven. Out of this birth comes the spiritual vision. The natural man and the animal seeth not the things of the spirit. The apostle says that eye hath not seen nor ears heard the things that God has prepared for them that love him. This spiritual vision demands renunciation of the world, and humility, subjection to Christ. It enables one to see new wonders and new growth, and adds space after space to the possessor's sphere. This is the eye of faith, which opens to us a new heaven and a new earth, and gives us the companionship of those who are reverent and pure. Death then ceases. Our friends never leave us. They may go to the happy clime where the just live for their former faith, and where we shall be with them when freed of earthly limitation. A supreme intelligence is shed above them, which shall also beam upon those who walk faithfully here. If the walk here on earth is with the evil, darkness will come to the spirit. The curtains will fall before the vision, and the beauties of the world, of mountain and valley, will be swallowed up in