

STORM-CLOUDS BRIGHTENED.

Sermon by Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D. D.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—This sermon of Dr. Talmage will have a tendency to take the gloom out of many lives, and stir up a spirit of healthful anticipation. Text, Job 37: 21.—"And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds."

Wind east. Barometer falling. Storm signals out. Ship reefing masts aloft! Awnings taken in. Precipices of foul weather everywhere. The clouds congregate around the sun, proposing to abolish him. But after a while he assails the clouds with flying artillery of light, and here and there is a sign of clearing weather. Many do not observe it. Many do not realize it. "And now the men see not the bright light which is in the clouds."

You may have wondered at the statistics that in India, in the year 1875, there were over 19,000 people slain by wild beasts. In the year 1876 there were in India over two thousand people destroyed by wild animals. But there is a monster in our own land which is year by year destroying more than that. It is the old bear of melancholy, and with gospel weapons I propose to chase it back to its midnight caverns. I will take two sums—a sum in subtraction and a sum in addition—a subtraction from your days of depression and an addition to your days of joy. If God will help me I will compel you to see the bright light that there is in the clouds, and compel you to make the best of everything.

In the first place you ought to make the very best of all your financial misfortunes. During the panic a few years ago you all lost money. Some of you lost it in most unaccountable ways. For the question, "How many thousands of dollars shall I lose this year?" you substituted the question, "How shall I pay my butcher, and baker, and clothier, and landlord?" You had the sensation of rowing hard with two oars, and yet all the time going down stream. It is because it was not politic to speak much of financial embarrassment; but your wife knew. Less variety of wardrobe, more economy at the table, self-denial in art and tapestry. Compression, retrenchment. Who did not feel the necessity of it? How did you manage to make the best of this? Are you always of how narrow an escape you made? Suppose you had reached the fortune toward which you were rapidly going? What then? You would have been as proud as Lucifer.

How few of you succeeded largely in a financial sense and yet retained their simplicity and religious consecration! Not one man out of a hundred. There are glorious exceptions, but the general rule is that in proportion as a man gets well off in this world he loses his religion. He loses his sense of God. He gets a distaste for prayer meetings. With plenty of bank stacks and plenty of government securities, what does that man know of the prayer? Give me this day my daily bread. How few men largely successful in this world are yet ready souls to Christ, or showing self-denial for others, or are eminent for piety? You can count them all upon your eight fingers and two thumbs.

One of the old covetous souls, who he was sick, and sank unto death, was to have a basin of gold, and his basin filled with gold, and his only amusement and the only relief he got for his inflamed hands was running them down in the gold and turning it up in the basin. Oh, what infatuation and what a destroying power money has for many a man! Now you are sailing at thirty knots the hour toward these voracious worldlings—what a mercy it was, that honest defalcation! The same divine hand that crushed your storehouse, your bank, your office, your insurance company, lifted you honestly suspended in business, and your fortune for eternity. "Oh," you say, "I could get along very well myself, but I am so disappointed that I cannot leave a competent provision for my children." My brother, the same divine hand that is going to save your soul will save the souls of your children. With the anticipation of large fortunes, how much industry would your children have? Without which habit of industry there is no safety. The young man would say, "Well, there's no work in my working; my father will soon get out, and then I will have just what I want." You cannot hide from him how much you are worth. You think you are hiding it; he knows all about it. He can tell you almost to a dollar. Perhaps he has been to the county office and searched the records for deeds and mortgages, and he has added it all up, and he has made an estimate of how long you will probably stay in this world, and is not as much worried about your rheumatism and shortness of breath as you are. The only fortune worth anything that you can give your child is the fortune you put in his head and heart. Of all the young men who started life with forty thousand dollars capital how many turned out well? I do not know half a dozen.

The best inheritance a young man can have is the feeling that he has to fight his own battle, and that life is a struggle into which he must throw body, mind and soul, or he disgraces himself. Where are the burial places of the men who started life with a fortune? Some of them in the potter's field; some in the suicide's grave. But few of these men reached thirty-five years of age. They drank, they smoked, they gambled. In them the beast destroyed the man. Some of them lived long enough to get their fortunes, and went through them. The

vast majority of them did not live to get their inheritance. From the gin-shop or house of infamy they were brought home, to their father's house, and in delirium began to pick off loathsome reptiles from the embroidered pillow and to fight back imaginary devils. And they took their last rest in highly upholstered parlor, the casket covered with flowers by indulgent parents—flowers suggestive of a resurrection with no hope.

As you sat this morning at your breakfast table and looked at your faces of your children, perhaps you said within yourself, "Poor things! How I wish I could start them in life with a competence! How I have been disappointed in all my expectations of what I would do for them!" Upon that scene of pathos I break with you a word of consolation, that by your financial losses your own prospects for heaven, and the prospect for the heaven of your children is mightily improved. You may have lost a toy, but you have won a palace.

"How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. What does that mean? It means that the grandest blessing God ever bestowed upon you was to take your money away from you. Let me here say, in passing, do not put stress on the treasures of this world. You cannot take them along with you. At any rate, you cannot take them more than two or three miles; you will have to leave them at the cemetery. Atilla had three coffins. So fond was he of this life that he decreed that first he should be buried in a coffin of gold, and that that should be enclosed in a coffin of silver, and that should be enclosed in a coffin of iron, and then a large amount of treasure should be thrown in over his body. And so he was buried, and the men who buried him were slain, so that no one might know where he was buried. But you, you might therefore interfere with his treasures. Oh, men of the world, who want to take your money with you, better have three coffins!

Again, I remark, you ought to make the very best of your bereavements. The whole tendency is to brood over these separations, and to give much time to the handling of mementoes of the departed, and to make long visitations to the cemetery, and to say, "Oh, I can never look up again; my hope is gone, my courage is gone; my religion is gone; my faith in God is gone! Oh, the wear and tear and exhaustion of this loneliness!" The most frequent bereavement is the loss of children. If your departed child had lived as long as you have lived do you suppose that you would have had about the same amount of bereavement as you have had? If you could make a choice for your child between forty years of annoyance, loss, vexation, exasperation, and bereavements, and forty years in heaven, would you choose the responsibility of choosing the former? Or would you snatch away the cup of eternal bliss and put it into the child's hand the cup of many bereavements? Instead of the complete safety into which that child has been lifted, would you like to hold it down to the fangs of this mortal state?

Would you like to keep it out on a sea in which there are no reefs, and no wrecks than safe voyages? Is it not a comfort to you to know that that child, instead of being beset and flung into the mire of sin, is swung clear into the skies? Are not those children to be congratulated that the point of celestial bliss which you expect to reach by a pilgrimage of fifty or sixty or seventy years, they reach at a flash? If the last ten thousand children who had entered heaven had gone through the average of human weeping, crying, and mourning, how long would it take them to reach that point of bliss? Besides that, my friends, you are to look at this matter as a self-denial on your part for their benefit. If your children want to go off in a May-day party, if your children want to go on a fiery and heated excursion, you consent. You might prefer to have them with you, but their jubilant absence satisfies you. Well, your departed children have only gone out in a May-day party, amid dowers and musical entertainment, amid joys and hilarities forever. You ought to quell some of your grief, the thought of their release.

So it ought to be that you could make the best of all bereavements. The fact that you have so many friends in heaven will make your own departure very cheerful. When you are going on a voyage every thing depends upon where your friends are. If they are on the wharf that you leave, or on the wharf toward which you are going to sail. In other words, the more friends you have in heaven the more cheerful will be your departure from this world. The more friends here, the more bitter goodbye the more friends there, the more glorious welcomes. Some of you have so many brothers, sisters, children, friends in heaven that I do not hardly know how you are going to crowd through. When the vessel came from foreign lands and brought a prince to our harbor, the ships were covered with bunting, and you remember how the men-of-war thundered broadsides; but there was no joy there compared with the joy which shall be demonstrated when you sail up the heavenly bay of heavenly salutation. The more friends you have there the easier your own transit. What is death to a mother whose children are in heaven? Why, there is no more grief in it than there is in going into the nursery amid the romp and laughter of her household. Though all around may be seen you not the bright light in the clouds—that light the irradiated faces of your glorified kindred?

So, also, my friends, I would have you make the best of your sickness. When you are sick, you are asked to step and in full physical vigor, sometimes you become impatient with your lame foot. When a man describes an object a mile off and you cannot see it at all, you become impatient of a well man making a great achievement you become impatient with your depressed nervous system of your delapidated health. I will tell you how you can make the worst of it. Brood over it; brood over all these illnesses, and your nerves will become

more twitchy, and your dyspepsia more aggravated, and your weakness more appalling. But that is the devil's work, to tell you how to make the worst of it; it is my work to show you a bright light in the clouds.

Which of the Bible men most attacked and diseased his skin, Job, David, Jeremiah, Paul? Would what a strange thing it is that you have chosen those who were physically disordered. Moses—I know he was nervous from the clip he gave the Egyptian. Job—his blood was vitiated, and diseased his skin distressfully eruptive. David—he had a troubling sore, which he speaks of when he says: "My sore ran in the night and ceased not." Jeremiah had enlargement of the spleen. Who can doubt it who reads Lamentations? Paul—he had a lifetime sickness which the commentators have been guessing about for years, not knowing exactly what the apostle meant by "a thorn in the flesh." I do not know either; but it was something sharp, something that stung him. I gather from the "flowers" which he mentions that it was a physical disorder. You say you have so many temptations from bodily ailments, and if you were only well you think you could be a good Christian. While your temptations may be different, they are no more than those of the man who has no appetite three times a day, and sleeps eight hours every night.

From my observation, I judge that invalids have a more rapturous view of the next world than well people, and will have higher renown in heaven. The best view of the delectable mountains of glory is had by the sick man. There are trains running every hour between pillow and throne, between hospital and mansion, between bandages and robes, between crutch and palm branch. Oh, I wish some of you people who are compelled to spend your days in bed, would try foot! My back, my back! I would get some of the Lord's medicine! You are going to be well anyhow before long. Heaven is an old city, but has never yet reported one case of sickness or one bill of mortality. No pneumonia, no pleurisy, no influenza, no neuritis, no neuralgia for the nerves, no rheumatism for the muscles. "The inhabitants shall never say, I am sick." There shall be no more pain.

Again, you ought to make the best of life's finality. Now, you think I have a right to be here, but you do not see how I am to strike a spark of light out of the flint of the tombstone. There are many people who have an idea that death is a submergence of everything pleasant by everything dolorous. If my subject could proceed to the features of death, I would give you notions it would close well. When you judge best of the features of a man—those who are close by him, or those who are afar off. "Oh," you say, those can judge best of the features of a man who are close by him. I judge best of the features of a man who are close by him. I judge best of the features of a man who are close by him. I judge best of the features of a man who are close by him.

So you see you have not made out one doleful story yet. What have you proved about death? What is the case you have made out? You have made out just this—that death allows us, until this world is full of ashes, united for a brief period, to be free from all sin. Correct your theology. What does it all mean? Why, it means that moving day is coming, and that you are going to quit cramped apartments and be man-to-man. The horse that stands at the gate will get the best of the lathered and bespattered, carrying the news, but it will be the horse that St. John saw in Apocalyptic vision—the white horse on which the King comes to the banquet. The ground around the palace will quake with the treads and hoofs of the angels, and those Christians who have lost their friends, and lost their property, and lost their health, and lost their life, will find out that God was always kind, and that all things were done for their good, and those who were the best of people on earth, who made the best of everything, who do not now the bright light in the clouds?

PITAGORAS SURVIVE THREATENED REFORM. The proposal that the Straits Chinese should be reformed, has been abandoned. The Straits Chinese are the warmest supporters of that, for the present, it is impracticable. In the future many changes may be made among the Straits Chinese, but for the present, it is impracticable. In the future many changes may be made among the Straits Chinese, but for the present, it is impracticable.

TOTTERING MANCHU DYNASTY. The whole of Northern Kwangtung and Southern Fukien, are at present in a state of unrest, and the slightest thing may light the torch of rebellion in that portion of the Chinese empire. Already flags and banners containing motives of treason to the present Manchu dynasty have been raised in several villages in the mountainous region of the hills, and among the population some 40,000 hillmen are ready to take the arms of the Manchu. The village have another of the Manchu, and a number of loading guns and factories to manufacture powder.—North China Daily News.

BIRTHS. WIGGINS—At Waterborough, Queens Co., on April 1st, to the wife of Thomas M. Wiggins, a son.

MARRIAGES. HOOD-DUNLAP—At 42 Charles street, on April 27th, by Rev. D. Fraser, B. D. Wm. Hood of Fredericton to Annie Dunlap of the address of Fredericton.

DEATHS. COLWELL—At Charlton, on April 27th, Charles Colwell, aged 61 years, leaving two sons and two daughters to mourn the loss of a kind and loving father.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

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SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived. April 27—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 28—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 29—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 30—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 31—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 32—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 33—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 34—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 35—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 36—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."

Arrived. April 37—Str State of Maine, 818, Colby, from Boston; G. M. Oliver, from New York; Sch Adelene, 132, McLennan, from New York; Geo F Baird, coal. I am amazed at myself and at yourself for this infatuation under which we all rest. Men you would suppose would get frightened at having to stay in this world instead of getting frightened at having to go toward heaven. I congratulate anybody who has a right to die. By that I mean through sickness you cannot avoid your work consummated. "Where did they bury Lily?" said one little child to another. "Oh," she replied, "they buried her in the ground." "What! in the cold ground?" "Oh, no, no; not in the cold ground, but in the warm ground, where ugly seeds become flowers."