

DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Says There Must Be No Intolerance.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text:—"Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."—Romans xiv. 5.

I propose, to-night, to speak of bigotry—its causes, its evils, and its cure. Men have tried to make us believe that this monster with horns and hoofs is religion. We shall, to-night, try to hunt it down and drag it out of the caverns of darkness, and rip off its hide. Distinguish between bigotry and lawful preference for any religious belief or form. We will, by our early education, and by our physical temperament and mental constitution, have proclivities toward certain churches and certain forms of worship. Some people are more impressed when they see a little child presented for baptism, and its white brow is sprinkled with water, in solemn benediction, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost; while others are more impressed when the penitent comes up out of the river, his garments dripping with the waters that typify the washing away of sin. You like one way best, and I like the other way. I have no quarrel with my neighbours. They have quiet in their house; I have quiet in mine. They do not think that the prosperity of their house depends on upsetting the peace of mine; nor do I think that the happiness of my house depends upon marrying theirs.

In the first place, bigotry often starts in wrong education in the home circle. There are very good people who educate their children in the wrong direction in this respect, saying things about other denominations of Christians, and caricaturing them, and throwing slurs upon them, which always have a baleful influence in the household. I could mention the names of prominent ministers of the Gospel who once spent much of their time in bombarding certain denominations of Christians, who lived to see their own sons preach the Gospel in those denominations.

Then the superior power of any one denomination in a community often makes bigotry. People think that all other churches are wrong, and that theirs is right, because it happens to be more fashionable.

MORE WEALTHY.

or more influential; and they talk about "our choir," and "our minister," and "our churches," and they toss their heads and have a patronizing air, wanting other denominations to know their places. Let us remember that more outside prosperity and worldly power are no evidence that a church is acceptable to God. That religion is a poor, mean starveling thing which is made up by bookbinders and upholsterers. The religion of Christ often sits on the curbstone with Lazarus than in the palace with Dives, and helps Naboth to cultivate his vineyard oftener than Ahab to rule his kingdom. Men often do the opposite to what people suppose. They sometimes go up to hell and down to heaven. Dives went up, and Lazarus went down. Do you know where they came out? Transpose the positions.

Further, ignorance is the mother of bigotry. Knowledge enlarges the mind. You seldom find an intelligent man who is a thorough bigot; it is the man who thinks he knows a great deal, but does not. Better a man who by his intelligence and Christian faith, can walk all around the religious subject, and know all sides. If there is any man to be pitied, it is the man who has just one idea in his head—no more, no less. Let a man give his life to the discussion of the doctrine of election, or the doctrine of free agency, or the subject of baptism, or the perseverance of the saints, and he will be imbecile in body and in mind. Bigotry puts its hand on a man's head and flattens his skull, and makes him lean and cadaverous, and exhausts him. Run up your colleges and your schools and universities. Bigotry cannot live under these influences.

Look now at the evils of bigotry. In the first place, it cripples investigation. The different denominations were intended, by holy rivalry, and honest competition, to keep each other wide awake. While, as I say, each denomination ought to present all the doctrines, each denomination ought to make one of those doctrines especially emphatic. Now, bigotry shuts one out from all these lessons. The man will not make an impartial investigation, and he cannot reason. "All others are wrong, and I am right," and there the matter ends. From the glorious realm of God's truth, over which the archangel might fly from eternity to eternity without touching the limits, they shut themselves out, and die like blind moles.

UNDER A CORN-SHEAF.

Another evil of bigotry is, that it prejudices people against Christianity. The churches of God were not made for war barracks. Ah! my friends,

that religion is not worth much which is not tall enough to look over the fence. I have more admiration for a Spanish bull-fight, and believe it to be more merciful and honourable, than the combating of those carnivorous ecclesiastics.

So, also, bigotry hinders the Church's triumph. How much wasted energy; how many men of large intellect who have given their time to abstract and controversial dispute, when, if they had devoted it in the right direction, they would have been gloriously useful! Their books lie on the shelf of college and State libraries, sleeping the long sleep of the ages. Who cares now which of the doctors of divinity got the victory in that thirty years' war about a participle? I go out some summer-day, and I find that there are two bee-hives quarrelling with each other. I come up toward them. I do not come near enough to get stung, but I come near enough to hear the contest between them. The one cried out, "That field of clover is the sweetest." The other cries out, "That field of clover in the sweetest." I say, "Stop this quarrel. If you think that is the sweetest, go there; if you think that is the sweetest, go there. I want you to understand that that hive is the best that gets the most honey." I see different denominations of Christians in contest with each other, some preferring this field of evangelical belief, and others that field. I say, "Take your choice. If you like that evangelical belief the best take it. If you like this evangelical belief the best, take it; but understand that Christ thinks most of that church which gets most of the honey of Christian grace in the heart, and most of the honey of Christian grace in the life."

But more than all will you overcome this evil of bigotry by toiling in a Christian work with men of other beliefs. Here are two men in hostility. Let them go and kneel by that dying woman, and commend Christ to her soul. If they went into that room with antipathies, they will come out with love.

MEN WHO TOIL TOGETHER

In Christian work can never fight in bitter hostility. Out with the "life-line!" I do not care what denomination carries it! Out with the life-boat! I do not care what denomination rows it. Plenty of room for all to toil, for all to pray, for all to work. Do your work in your way; I do my work in my way. But know this; that that church and that denomination which is most fearless of surf and tempest, and that brings the most souls to the shore of eternal safety, will be the one upon which God will put the brightest honours, and the one that heaven will greet with the loudest anthem. Toiling in such service side by side, what though we do belong to different denominations, shall we not, by the memory of common hardships, and common toils, and common prayers, and common tears, be sympathetic with each other? Oh! that God would hasten the day when all the great denominations of Christians shall join hands around the cross of Jesus and recite the creed; "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ and in the communion of saints, and in the life everlasting. Amen and Amen."

HOW IT IS DIVIDED.

The Anglo-Saxon Race Will Dominate the World.

The great powers of the earth start the new century with the world divided up among them as follows:

	Square miles.	Population.
British.	12,151,000	400,000,000
Russian.	8,600,395	130,000,000
American.	3,768,521	90,000,000
French.	3,638,755	95,000,000
German.	1,233,840	70,000,000

The British Empire and the American republic have between them 15,919,521 square miles of territory and a population of 490,000,000, three million square miles more territory and double the population of the other three great powers. The Anglo-Saxon race is evidently going to dominate the world this century. And that is a decidedly fortunate thing for the world.

HER ANSWER.

Oh, I want you to marry me, don't you know, said the exquisite to the plain girl.

Oh, yes I do, she responded, and had to write it out for him, he could get the full force of her reply.

The Holy Synod of the Russian church has sent specific instructions to every bishop so as to make Tolstoy's excommunication complete.

The owners of the steamship Russia, which was recently wrecked near Faraman, will distribute \$0,000 francs to the fishermen who rescued the passengers and crew of the vessel.

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 3.

"Parable of the Ten Virgins." Matt. 25. 1-13. Golden Text. Matt. 2. 5, 13.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verses 1. Our Lord here uses that elastic phrase Kingdom of heaven to represent the Gospel message and its treatment by those who hear it. Much as we now know about oriental customs, we can hardly tell why ten virgins were stationed in the open air at midnight to await the bridal train. They appear to have been the chosen representatives of the bridegroom's neighbors and friends. It is not easy to find any modern custom analogous to this. It would be distinctly offensive to the sense of propriety in Palestine to-day for a bevy of women to take part with men in marriage festivities as it is broadly intimated the wise virgins did. But the life of woman was freer among the ancient Jews than among Mohammedans to-day. Went forth to meet the bridegroom. In the East, and in simpler civilizations generally, the bridegroom goes to the home of the father of his bride, and escorts her, with abundant music and merriment, to his own home.

2. Five. There is probably no special meaning to be attached to the fives and tens of this story.

3. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them. This was their folly, that they undertook an important mission without making proper preparation for its performance. The "lamps" were probably torches, poles with a light hammered iron framework at the top, in which was inclosed a piece of tow, which, when saturated with oil, would burn with a bright flame. Lamps of the Roman type would hardly be usable for the purposes here described. Lamps like ours were not known.

4. The wise took oil in their vessels. The tow that served for wick was not saturated with oil until just before it was lighted. The oil, therefore, must be brought in "vessels." With their lamps means "in addition to." Difficult as it was for young girls to carry these great torches, the wise added to their load vessels containing the needed oil.

5. The bridegroom tarried. Stately processions are often late, so much so that in certain high functions it has become almost a matter of propriety to be behind time. They all slumbered and slept. A touch of nature to round out the story.

These five verses have made us acquainted with the ten virgins, and it is now time for us to study their symbolism—what they mean. If the kingdom of heaven be regarded as the Gospel, the ten virgins must represent those to whom the Gospel comes, and straightway we see the great body of mankind dividing itself into the wise and the foolish, the heedful and the heedless. Those who are conscientious of eternal possibilities plan for an eternal life; and those who neglect the future, which they may or may not deny, will be solicitous only for the present. They all slept; the wise could afford to do so; the foolish slept to awake to nervous hurry, belated effort, and a pale hope that soon darkened into despair.

6. At midnight there was a cry made. We can picture the scene; the watchful ears and strained eyes of the guard who had the ten virgins in his care. At length he hears a slight, confused sound in the distance, that indescribable sound, not to be duplicated on earth, of Eastern music. He looks in the direction from which the sound comes, and at length sees a glimmering light, and immediately calls; Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. At once all is astir.

7. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. Which means that they poured the oil slowly upon the tow. They all arose at once, and for the moment it would have been difficult to have selected the foolish from the wise.

8. Give us your oil; for our lamps are gone out. There was no impertinence in this but it was a request that could not in the nature of the case be granted.

9. Not so. Words that are supplied by the translator and plainly implied in the narrative. This refusal shows no meanness on the part of the wise virgins; there simply was not enough oil to go around. Go ye rather to them that sell. It is hazardous something to give a definite meaning to "them that sell." For yourselves. Each man must be righteous or neglectful for himself. Religion is a personal matter.

There are not in all literature many scenes more impressive than those of the four verses we have just studied; the ten sleeping girls; the watchman, hearing and seeing the distant approach of the bridegroom; his loud call, and the confused awakening; the readiness of the wise virgins, the despair of the foolish.

10. While they went to buy, the bridegroom reached the home. They that were ready went in with him to the marriage. There was no hazard

for them. The door was shut. A phrase the symbolism of which is plain to the reader. Opportunities were gone.

11. Came also the other virgins. "Pathetic types of the unready in every age."

12. Verily I say unto you, I know you not. And so effort to exclude uninvited intruders excluded also those who had the right of entrance but were too late. "To heaven, symbolized by the marriage feast, none are admitted without holiness, light, which can be sustained only by divine grace, oil."—Abbott.

13. Watch therefore. Because of all the implications of this wonderful story. For ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. These words must have been well-nigh incomprehensible to the group of disciples who were in the immediate presence of their Master. To us the meaning is plainer. The Revised Version omits the last three words, as we have already noted, but it is the prime duty of the Christian to be ready for the coming of the Son of man.

SEARCH FOR SUNKEN GOLD.

Duke of Argyll Will Try to Recover Lost Treasure.

Several interesting efforts to recover treasure that has long since lain at the bottom of the sea will signalize the opening year of the new century. Of these, the two most important are one which is to be undertaken under the auspices of Lloyds, off the coast of Holland, and the other under the direction of the Duke of Argyll, on the coast of Scotland.

In the former case the treasure amounts to \$8,000,000 in bar gold, sunk in Her Majesty's ship *Lutine*, in 1799. The Netherlands claimed the wreck, owing to its being just within the three-mile limit of the Dutch coast. But, after much legal controversy, and negotiation, which has extended over the greater part of the past century, the Netherlands Government has given its consent to Lloyds taking the necessary steps to recover the treasure, which was originally shipped for the purpose of furnishing the necessary supplies to the governments of the continental powers in the struggle against the first Napoleon. The wreck has been located and the treasure is accessible.

TIME OF SPANISH ARMADA.

The other treasure has lain concealed by the deep for several hundreds of years, dating back to the time of the Spanish Armada. The craft containing the treasure bore the name of Admiral of Florence, and now lies in Loch Duin in relatively shallow water. The Duke of Argyll has a map showing exactly where it lies, and about one hundred years ago one of his ancestors employed a man with a diving bell to begin operations. The diver succeeded in recovering some cannon, but suspended operations on the Government notifying him that anything recovered was the property of the Crown, in spite of the fact that the waters and shore rights at the spot where the wreck lies are the property of the Duke of Argyll.

FOREGO RIGHTS OF THE CROWN.

According to the ancient laws of Great Britain, all treasure trove is a perquisite of the Crown, no matter on whose property it may be found, and this naturally, had a deterrent effect upon any search for treasure. Owing, however, to the fact that the Duchess of Argyll is a daughter of the Queen, the latter has agreed to forego the rights of the Crown to all treasure trove rights in connection with the wreck of the Armada flagship, the Admiral of Florence, and all the gold, silver and precious stones recovered will belong exclusively to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, who are beginning operations with a view to a search of the wreck early in the new year.

There is every prospect, therefore, that the Dukedom of Argyll, will ere long be placed in possession of sufficient treasure to restore the somewhat dimmed fortune of the house.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Conceit is self-deceit.
True courtesy is of the heart.
Purity is not negative, but positive.
An honor bought dishonestly is a dishonor.

A brave man hazards life, but not his conscience.
A thing is not necessarily true because it is new.

Readiness in criticism often marks ignorance of the task.

The greatest coward kink the dead lion most heartily.

When a man is dead to the sense of right he is lost forever.
No toil, no hardship can restrain ambitious men inured to pain.

Any coward can fight with the mighty, but it takes a strong man to side with the weak.

The saving of one convict's soul is striking one blow toward the stamping out of hereditary vice.

Somewhat the things you want always seem to come to you just as you've left off wanting them.

FORETELLS EVIL IN 1901.

PROPHECIES IN "OLD MOORE'S" ALMANAC ISSUED IN LONDON.

Two of His Most Notable Guesses Last Year—He Looks for Rebellions in India and Ireland—Other Catastrophes Foretold.

At the beginning of each year prophets and astrologers and all sorts of folks with long distance vision start in to lay bare the future with as much confidence as the rhyme-makers turn out poetry in the first flush of spring. One of the most persistent of these prophets is a person in London known as "Old Moore." For many years he has issued in the latter part of December a publication called "Old Moore's Almanac." Just who old Moore is does not appear, but he has been in the business of making almanacs and prophecies for so many years that Londoners have come to look forward to the appearance of his almanac and its prophecies with something of the same interest they manifest toward the holiday season.

As a guesser of what is going to happen "Old Moore" has been more successful than the majority of those in the same business. Indeed, many Londoners, practical men and women at that, have become firmly convinced that "Old Moore" can see visions and dream dreams and that they will come true. His almanac for 1900 contained, among other things, the statement that one, and only one, European monarch would be assassinated during the year, that there would be more than one great war, and that India would be visited by a terrible famine. A man in the prophesying business can predict a famine in India in almost any old year and be pretty certain to have the prophecy come true. India rather

RUNS TO FAMINES

and a person with only short distance sight might venture on a prediction of that kind. It is rather a different matter, however, to guess that just one European sovereign will be assassinated in any one year, as was the case in 1900. Because of these prophecies and others which came true, Londoners have been looking forward with rather unusual interest to "Old Moore's" almanac for 1901.

The almanac was issued about a month ago, and, among other predictions its author made the following: "In January, there will be a formidable agitation in France and a severe attack will be made upon the Republic."

"In February and March, most notable events will take place in the extreme East, and India will threaten to rise up against British domination."

"April will be a comparatively quiet month, although there will be trouble in various quarters during the entire year."

"In May, Ireland will follow the example of India and rebel against England."

"In June, the Anarchists will again come to the front and will give the world much to talk about. During the same month the young King of Spain will be in danger from his political enemies and he is cautioned to guard against them."

"July will be a month of catastrophes the whole world being threatened at this time with misfortunes of various kinds. Those who are planning to take a journey during this month will do well to remain at home."

"August will be comparatively quiet."

"During September, India will again suffer terribly from famine."

"During October, the Derwishes will start an agitation which may attain formidable proportions."

"In November, the Kingdom of Holland will attract attention by its dangerous and novel diplomatic policy and the statesmen in the various foreign offices will have to exercise all their skill if they would avoid a conflict."

"In December there will be insurrections revolts and strikes in various quarters of the globe. As a rule, they may not be of great importance, yet they will occur at this time and they will be striking features of the month."

To the lay mind it might appear to be a somewhat hazardous undertaking to

FIX COMING EVENTS

with the definiteness that "Old Moore" does. In his almanac this year he has located certain events in certain specific months, and if his prophecy in relation to January doesn't pan out, he is likely to find his reputation as a prophet seriously impaired. It will be seen that the almanac maker reverts to India again and another famine is to trouble that country. Since the Irish have always been uneasy under British domination, it was comparatively safe for "Old Moore" to predict that Ireland would rebel against England. Men familiar with the Indian situation, who make no pretensions as prophets, who have no clearer sight than officers in the British Army, have been talking for some time about

the possibility of an Indian revolt, so that "Old Moore" cannot pretend that this prediction is altogether original with him.

The prophecy about the diplomacy of Holland is, perhaps, as interesting as any of "Old Moore's" prognostications, and the reports from London are that Englishmen are not a little interested in this statement. It is easy to imagine that Holland's sympathy with the Boers might be the first cause of diplomatic complications, but there is nothing to indicate at present that the policy of Wilhelmina will result in getting her disliked at the other courts of Europe.

AN HOUR WITH UNCLE SAM.

News Notes of Interest From the Other Side.

It is reported that the Republican organization leaders are in favour of nominating Seth Low for Mayor of New York, next fall.

The population of the State of California, as officially announced, is 1,485,053, as against 1,208,130 in 1890. This is an increase of 276,923, or 22.9 per cent.

The widow of Supreme Justice Stephen J. Field has presented to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco a finely executed oil portrait of the jurist.

Ten years' immigration in the United States, according to the census returns, counts up nearly four millions, almost a million more than the entire population of the nation at its birth.

Mrs. Amy B. Porter, widow of the late John Addison Porter, has given to the Day Kimball Hospital, of Putnam, Conn., in memory of her husband, \$1,250 for a free bed for five years.

An interesting feature of the new Boston Symphony Hall is the arrangement by which the auditorium is protected from outside noises by being completely surrounded by a system of wide corridors and foyers.

The street railway companies of Allegheny, Pa., are required by ordinance to equip their cars with jacks for use in lifting the vehicles from the bodies of persons who may have been run down and pinned under the wheels.

A musician in an army band gets only the regular pay of common soldiers—\$13 to \$18 monthly, according to the length of time he has served. The bandmaster gets \$50 a month, and after ten years' service \$55 more.

The use of Niagara Falls as a generator of electrical power on a large scale, followed by successful experiments all over the United States as well as in Europe, has led to the investment of enormous sums of money elsewhere for water power schemes.

Efforts of various patriotic societies to raise funds with which to purchase and preserve the old home of President Polk in Nashville, Tenn., have failed, and the mansion is to be demolished. It is to be replaced by an apartment house.

Martin Irons, the labour leader, who conducted the big Missouri Pacific strike in 1888, died at Buncefield, Texas. He was born in Dundee in 1832, and emigrated to this country when 14 years old.

The Bible is still the most popular of all books. During the year 1899 the American Bible Society issued 1,406,800 copies in 58 different languages. In the 84 years of the society's existence, it has issued 67,639,300 copies.

The marble mansion of the late A. T. Stewart, which stands at the north-west corner of Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth streets, New York, has been sold to a syndicate of real estate operators and capitalists, and the imposing edifice will soon be torn down.

The immigration to New York according to estimate made at the Barge Office has averaged about 1,000 a day since July 1st. It is thought that the total immigration for the present fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1901, will be above 450,000, which will be the largest influx of homeseekers since 1892.

Claude Anson, who will shortly marry Lady Clodagh Beresford, sister of the Marquis of Waterford, has for some years been ranching in Texas. After the marriage the young couple will go to Texas to make their home. Mr. Anson is a younger brother of the Earl of Lichfield, and is now 36 years old.

The initial quotation on the Carnegie Company stock was made at the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange on Friday, when one share was sold for \$1,500, \$500 above par value. At this figure the total capitalization of the Carnegie Company would be valued at \$408,000,000, of which Mr. Andrew Carnegie owns 53 per cent.

General John G. Parke, who died recently in Washington, was the last officer to command the army of the Potomac. General Meade was spending a few hours with General Grant City Point when Kyd Douglas broke through the Federal lines, of which Parke had to take command. That was on May 25, 1865. The battle of Fort Stedman, one of the most brilliant of the war, was also fought under him.