

# Don't Be a Gadabout

Either in Religious Or Business Matters—Gadabouts Are Failures in Both Worlds

Washington report—From an unusual text Dr. Talmage in this discourse rebukes the spirit of unrest which characterises so many people and shows them the happiness and usefulness to be found in stability. Text, Jeremiah 17, 36: "Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way?"

Homely is the illustration by which this prophet of tears deplores the vacillation of the nation to whom he wrote. Now they wanted alliance with Egypt, and now with Assyria, and now with Babylon, and now they did not know what they wanted, and the behavior of the nation reminded the prophet of a man or woman who is not satisfied with home life, goes from place to place, going about, as we say, never settled anywhere or in anything, and he cries out to them, "Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way?"

Well, the world is now as many gadabouts as it had in Bible times, and I think that that race of people is more numerous now than it ever was. Gadabouts among occupations, among religious theories, among churches, among neighborhoods, and among the greatest wants of the church and the world is more steadfastness and more fixedness of purpose.

While seeking divine guidance in your selection of a life you should examine your own temperament. The phrenologist will tell you your mental proclivities. The physiologist will tell you your physical temperament. Your enemies will tell you your weaknesses. You are about, as we say, nervous, do not become a surgeon. If you are cowardly, do not become an engineer. If you are hoping for a large and permanent income, do not seek a government position. If you are naturally quick-tempered, do not become a minister of the gospel, for while anyone is disadvantaged by ungovernable disposition there is hardly any one who excels such an incongruous part as a mad minister. Can you make a fine sketch of a ship or rock or house or face? Be an artist. Do you find yourself humming cadences, and do the treble clef and the musical bars drop from your pen as you scribble, you make a tune that charms those who hear it? Be a musician. Are you born with a fondness for argument? Be an attorney. Are you naturally a good nurse and especially interested in the welfare of the man? Be a physician. Are you interested in all questions of traffic and in bargain making? Are you apt to be successful on a large or small scale? Be a merchant.

Do you like to get the plow, and do you hear music in the rustle of a harvest field? Be a farmer. Are you fond of machinery, and are turning wheels to you a fascination, and can you follow the intricate and interest a new kind of threshing machine hour after hour? Be a mechanic. If you enjoy analysing the natural elements and a laboratory could entertain you all day and all night, be a chemist. If you are interested in all instruments that would bring them nearer for inspection, be an astronomer. If the grass under your feet and the foliage over your head and the flowers which shake their inches on the summer air are to you the belles lettres of the field, be a botanist.

If you have no one faculty dominant and nothing in your make-up seems to point to this or that occupation, shut yourself up in your own room, get down on your knees, and reverently ask God what He made you for, and tell Him that you are willing to do anything that He wishes you to do. Before you undertake any room you will find out. For the sake of your usefulness and happiness and your temporal and eternal welfare do not join that crowd of people who go gadding about among businesses and occupations, now trying this and now trying that and never accomplishing anything.

All the great successes have been gained through opposition and struggle. Charles Goodyear, the inventor, whose name is now a synonym all the world over for fortune added to fortune, waded many years chin deep through the world's scorn and was thus in debtor's prison and came out of this prison in the verge of starvation, but continue his experiments with vulcanized rubber until he added more than can be estimated to the world's health and comfort, as well as to his own advantage. Columbus and John Fitch, and Stephenson and Robert Bruce, and Cyrus W. Field and 500 others were illustrations of what tenacity and pluck can do. "Hard pounding," said Wellington at Waterloo, "hard pounding, gentlemen, but you will see who can pound the longest." Yes, my friends, that is the secret, not flight from obstacles in the way, but who can pound the longest. The child had it right when attempting to carry a ton of coal, a shovelful at a time, from the sidewalk to the cellar, and some one asked her, "Do you expect to get all that coal in with that little shovel?" And she replied, "Yes, sir, if I work long enough." By the help of God choose your calling and stick to it. The gadabouts are failures for this life, to say nothing of the next.

There are many who exhibit this frailty in matters of religion. They are not sure about anything that pertains to their soul or their eternal destiny. Now they are Unitarians, and now they are Methodists, and now they are Presbyterians, and now they are nothing at all. They are not quite sure that the Bible was inspired or, if inspired, whether the words or the ideas were inspired or whether only part of the book was inspired. They think at one time that the story in Genesis about the Garden of Eden is a history, and the month after they think it is an allegory. At one time they think the book of Job describes what

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. XI. DECEMBER 16, 1900.

Zaccheus the Publican.—Luke 19: 1-10.

Commentary.—I. And passed through "Was passing through."—R. V. Zaccheus evidently lived in the city. Tidings of far approach of Christ and His apostles must have reached Him. Since the raising of Lazarus, a short time before this, the fame of Jesus went throughout this part of the country, and many were anxious to see Him.

2. A man named Zaccheus—He was a Jew by birth (v. 9), but because he had engaged in a business so infamous in the eyes of the Jews, he was considered as a more heathen. V. 7.—"Zaccheus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew "Zakkai" and means "pure." The meaning of his name was in sharp contrast with his character, which seems to have been bad. Chief among the publicans at Jericho was Zaccheus, one of the principal custom houses. "The trade in business was extensive and Zaccheus was evidently superintendent of the tax collectors' office." The oversight of the revenue derived from the article of wine, rich—and like many rich men had not always come honestly by his money. It was no credit to him that he was rich, he was rich before he became a "chief publican," "otherwise he could not have purchased his position."

3. Sought to see Jesus—At this time Zaccheus must have known that Jesus had been in his country, or he may have been run over by some reckless driver, or some explosion did the damage. So you wonder how Mephibosheth became lame in both feet, and though the good reason gives us the particulars. It tells us that when he was a child his nurse dropped him. She must have dropped him very hard, for he never again got over the effects of that fall. If you are on the sea, you want to know into what port you will run or upon what rocks you are in danger of crashing. This moment you have all the information pointing to the road that terminates at the gate of the golden city and the voyage that anchors in the haven of eternal rest. Why go on guessing when you have all the facts before you? So, alas! there are those who gad about among particular churches. No pastor can depend on them for a single service. At some time when he has prepared a sermon, after all prayer and all research, put after nerve and muscle and brain and soul into its every paragraph, these intermittent attendants are not there to hear it. While an occasional absence is excusable for that which is consecrated or religiously oratorical, some other pulpit, when the pastor of a church with his eyes call the roll of attendance, by your presence in the old pews, practically answer, saying: "I am here to get the benefit of all the useful thoughts you may utter, and of all the hymns you may give out and of all the prayers you may offer. I, a soldier of Jesus Christ, am in my own place in the company, in the battalion, in the regiment, and when you command 'March!' we will march, and when you command 'Halt!' I will halt, and when you order 'Ground arms!' I will ground arms."

But, oh, how the gadabouts injure the churches! Instead of staying in their own prayer meetings, and of school they afflict other prayer meetings and Sunday schools. I meet them on the street going the wrong way on Sunday morning or evening, and I accept them in the words of the poet, "Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way?" My text also addresses those who in search of happiness are going hither and yonder looking for that which they find not. Their time is all taken up with "musicales," and "progressive churches," and tea, and yellow luncheons, and at-home and dances, and operas, and theaters, and, instead of finding happiness, they get pale cheeks, and insomnia, and indigestion, and an abbreviated lifetime. There is more splendid womanhood sacrificed in that way in our cities than in any other way in our world. The judgment day can only reveal the awful holocaust of jangled nerves and the suicidal habits of much of our social life. The obituary of such reads well, for the story is suppressed about how they got their death waiting for the carriage on Friday night, on the front steps. Find me one man or one woman who in all the rounds of pleasure and selfishness has found a place of happiness as large as that half dollar coin put into the palm, and Christlike soul puts into the palm of the hand of that mother whose children are crying for bread.

Among the race of gadabouts are those who neglect their homes in order that they may attend to institutions that are really excellent and do so much ask for help as demand it. I am acquainted, as you are, with women who are members of so many boards of direction of benevolent institutions, and have to stand at a booth in so many fairs, and must collect funds for so many philanthropic meetings, and are expected to be in so many different places at the same time that their children are left to the care of irresponsible servants, and if the little ones wanted to say their prayers at their mother's knee they would never see their evening prayers at all. Such a woman makes her own home so unattractive that the husband spends his evenings at the club house or the tavern. The children of that house are as thoroughly orphan as any of the fatherless and motherless little ones that gadabout woman is telling so in domestic, cherubim, and seraphim, and archangel became your allies.

A Land of Poverty.—It is in Russia's most fertile districts that the worst famines occur, for famine—a little one every year—a big one every seven years—has now become a regular occurrence. And the country, as one flies across it, leaves the general impression of indigence. In sharp and painful contrast with western Europe there are virtually flat stock yards, an enormous, no chateau of the local landowner, no squire's hall—pitiful assemblages of men and women just on the other side of the starvation line.

Teachings.—Jesus welcomes all sinners who are willing to leave their sins. All Christians should follow Christ's example in reaching out to the worst of humanity. No one ever ought Christ with all the heart who did not find Him. We should put our trust in Jesus Christ, who passes the house of God, the prayer circle, the closet for secret prayer. Every tongue we take for the Lord requires courage.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.—The seeker, described in the lesson is spoken of as a prominent man in

## The Markets

Following are the closing quotations of important wheat centres to-day.

New York	.....	80.00	\$80 1-8
St. Louis	.....	0.71 1-2	0.74 1-4
Chicago	.....	0.76 3-4	0.79 1-8
Detroit, red	.....	0.78 1-2	0.80 3-4
Detroit, white	.....	0.78 1-2	
Duluth, No. 1 hard	.....	0.72 1-8	0.76 1-4
Duluth, No. 2 hard	.....	0.74 1-8	
Minneapolis No. 1	.....		
Northern	.....	0.78	0.75 1-4

Toronto Farmers' Market. Wheat—250 bush. of white sold 1/2c higher at 68c, 150 bush. of gray higher at 61c, and a load of spring sold 1/2c higher at 67c.

Barley—Offerings were very small, 100 bush. selling at 41c. Oats—150 bush. sold at 29c.

Hay and Straw—Hay was less plentiful, and prices were easier, 10 tons sold at 50c lower at \$12.50 to \$1, per ton. No straw was offered.

Dressed Hogs—Are firmer, prices having advanced 10c to 40c per cwt. They are quoted at \$7.40 to \$7.60. The rise is due to the advance in the price of live hogs.

Dressed Meats—Trade is active, with large offerings and a keen demand. Prices are steady and unchanged.

Butter—Very little is coming forward, but there is a steady demand for pound rolls. They are steady at 22c to 22 1/2c.

Eggs—No new laid eggs are to be had, and trade is quiet, as only packed eggs are offered. They are quoted at 23c to 21c, while new laid are worth 23c to 21c.

Poultry—Supplies are heavy, but trade is rather quiet, as the demand is light. Prices are steady and unchanged at 25c to 26c for geese, 1/2c to 3/4c for turkeys, 20c to 25c for chickens, and 40c to 60c for ducks.

Toronto Live Stock Market. Export cattle, choice, per cwt. \$1.10 to \$1.20. Export cattle, light, per cwt. 4.15 to 4.25. Butcher's cattle, choice, 4.00 to 4.10. Butcher's cattle, good, 3.40 to 4.00. Do medium, 3.00 to 3.50. Butcher's common, per cwt. 2.00 to 2.50. Hogs, heavy, per cwt. 3.50 to 3.80. Hogs, light, per cwt. 3.00 to 3.50. Feeders, heavy, per cwt. 2.50 to 3.00. Feeders, light, per cwt. 2.00 to 2.50. Stockers, per cwt. 1.50 to 2.00. Off-colors and heifers, per cwt. 1.00 to 1.50. Feeding bulls, per cwt. 2.50 to 3.00. Light stock, per cwt. 2.00 to 2.50. Milch cows, each, 35.00 to 45.00. Sheep, export ewes, per cwt. 3.00 to 3.50. Do, bucks, 3.00 to 3.50. Sheep, butchers', each, 2.50 to 3.25. Lambs, each, 1.75 to 2.00. Do per cwt., 3.50 to 4.12 1/2. Calves, per cwt., 2.00 to 2.50. Hogs, choice, per cwt., 3.75 to 4.00. Hogs, fat, per cwt., 3.25 to 3.50. Hogs, light, per cwt., 2.75 to 3.00.

Hides and Wool. Hides, green, per lb. 7 1/2 to 9 1/2c; black, per lb. 9c; calfskins, No. 1, per lb. 8c; deacons dairies, each 60c; lambskins and kids, 40c; horse hides, each \$2.50 to \$3; deer-skins, green, per lb. 10 to 12c; deer-skins, grey, per lb. 17 to 23c; tallow, rendered, per lb. 5 1/2 to 6c; tallow, pulled, super, per lb. 17 1/2 to 18c; wool, pulled, extra, per lb. 10 1/2 to 12c; wool, fleece, unwashed, per lb. 8 1/2 to 10c; wool, pickings, per lb. 8 1/2c; horsehair, clean, per lb. 30c.

Another Advance in Live Hogs. It was stated by a leading buyer of hogs yesterday that the price of hogs in Toronto's market would be increased 25 to 50c per cwt. on quotations which ruled last week. The price of select will go up to \$6 and fat and lights will sell at \$5.75. The figures are the most important of the changes when the market opens, but buyers will be prepared to pay good prices. There are few hogs offering in competition with the demand at this season, and the price has been steadily advanced during the past two or three weeks in the hope of inducing the farmers to send along their live pork. It is claimed by packers that the price has almost reached the limit, as hogs cannot be profitably handled at higher figures.

Cold Storage Fruit Shipment. Sampson Morgan, London, reporting on the Canadian fruit recently shipped per S.S. Manchester, says: "Taken all around, the prices realized were most satisfactory, and I prove unmistakably that the future of the fruit export trade of the colony will develop into a very extensive business, for such fruit will always meet an insatiable demand in the English markets and at paying prices. Contrasted with the pears sent from France, which is the pear producing country from which the bulk of our pear supplies come, hitherto been drawn, they were in size and color far superior; as regards flavor the French fruit were nowhere with them. The fruits were brought over in cold storage, regulated by the use of electrical ventilating fans, a method which was established by the Hon. Sydney Fisher in 1897. By the adoption of this system the fruit puts on a perfect color, keeps perfectly sound and without having any of its quality in any way impaired."

The British Apple Trade. Woodall & Co report the total arrival of apples to Nov. 17th as 200,800 barrels, against 270,551 for the same time last year, and say the arrival this week (Nov. 17th) of 71,878 barrels are the most important of the season, but a considerable quantity were not landed in time for disposal this week. The total receipts, as shown above, are for the first time in excess of those of the corresponding period last year. There has been a fairly active demand at the increased quantities has naturally caused some little weakness in the market, and there have been shipments from Boston and Maine both as regards quality and condition, whereas, on the other hand, it is to be regretted that the Canadians are proving the demand for the fruit was the reverse, and much of the fruit was as should never have been shipped. There were, however, a few notable exceptions.

Cattle Branding With Liquids. A resident of New Zealand has patented a liquid for branding cattle which can be applied with a brush without the necessity of holding the animal, the compound consisting of hydrate of soda, water, kerosene, benzoate and alcohol.

