

# THE PLACE OF TRAINING.

## Dr. Talmage Speaks of the Benefits of the Sabbath School.

A despatch from Washington says: Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text:—"And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad"—1 Samuel, xx, 40.

Jonathan, with a boy, went out to warn David of his danger. The shooting of arrows was to be the signal. The information having been given, Jonathan has no more use for the weapons, and so he gives them in charge of the boy to take home again. "And Jonathan delivered his artillery unto his lad." Well, my friends, we soon will all be through with this earthly conflict, and we are going to hand over our weapons unto the children. They will take our pupils, our press, our offices, our shops, our legislative halls, and to do battle for the eternal God. Who are they who are making Buddhism and Mohammedism blanch, and convert our boys! Who are they who are holding higher than the standard on which is inscribed the British lion and the Russian bear the more glorious insignia of the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world? Our boys! And yet the Sabbath school has only just begun its work. I propose to mark out what I consider shall be the line of Sabbath school advance.

First, it will be through improved Sabbath school architecture. In all our Sabbath school rooms let there be plenty of light—light clear and beautiful, such as God pours out of the sun every day—a world full of it; not crowding through small windows cobwebbed and stained, but plenty of light, such as puts the blue on the gentian and the gold on the cowslip, and spots the pansy, and sends the mist of the valley in whirling columns of glory sky tall, and that at sunset pulls aside the bars of heaven until the light of the celestial world strikes through the cloud-racks and comes dripping over the battlement in purple and saffron and orange and flaming fire! Then, let such rooms be well ventilated, not the bottled-up air of other Sundays kept over from week to week, as though, like wine, it improved by age; but fresh air, such as comes panting off the sea or moving down the hillside, sweeping up the aroma of whole acres of red clover top. Have the room bright and cheerful. Introduce not the "murder of the innocents." Have the place brightly pictured, carpeted. The line of Sabbath school advance shall be amid pictured walls and over carpeted floors, and I give the command to-day: Column, forward! Dress on the colours! File right! March! And there is no army that can stand before you. The cowards will fly like thistle-down in a tempest. Until we have in the United States and in England the right kind of Sunday school rooms, we will not have the right kind of Sunday schools.

Again, I remark, the line of Sunday school advance in this country will be through an improved Sunday school literature. I am amazed to see what kind of books get into the Sunday school libraries. Sentimental love stories, biographies of generals who were very brave, but who swore like troopers, fairy stories, Oliver Optic, accounts of boys and girls more wonderful than ever lived—books that have no more religion in them than "Hudibras" or "Gulliver's Travels." The poor little darling goes home with her library book thinking she has heaven under her arm, but by the time she has read through the story of love and adventure, she feels so strange, she thinks she must be getting lots of religion! I tell you there is no excuse for getting sick or bad books in our Sunday school libraries. Time was when there was no juvenile literature worth anything. The best minds of Europe and America are now preparing juvenile literature. Refect from your Sunday school libraries all exaggerations, of life and all adventures that do well enough for the romance, but are not fit for the child whose taste is to be formed, and whose habits are to be established, and whose immortal soul is to be saved. Let not the fascinations of style apologize for the lack of truth. Mistake not trash and slops for simplicity. Do not have your books higher than the child's comprehension, or lower than its dignity, the omnipotence of a Sunday school books do not let the angelic and the diabolic efface the human. Oh, the power in a Sunday school book! Oh, the omnipotence of a Sunday school book! A great many of our Sunday school libraries in this country need a blessed fumigation and the infusion of a stout, healthy Christian literature.

I remark again: One line of Sabbath school advance will be through an improved hymnology. Choirs ought to be the best people in the church, and

they sometimes are; but choirs that sleep, and laugh, and write notes during the service, and yawn, and get up, and sit down, and go out, and shuffle their feet, and rattle the hymn books, are an intolerable nuisance. I have sometimes been afflicted in that direction. And if a church has a preceptor, or a choir, who love God and keep his commandments, that church ought to be grateful. But, if music has so much effect upon grown people, it has more effect upon children. The little feet will not keep step with the dead march. Let every song be buoyant and quick like a battle strain, and no older voices linger and hold the song back, and hang on behind, coming in different trains long after they are due. I believe the time will come when we will realize that that man did more for the race who composed a good Sabbath-school tune than he who marshaled an army or conquered an empire.

Again: The line of Sabbath-school advance will be through improved instruction. We have a great many competent men and women through the country engaged in this business, but they are going to be more competent. What do you say is the first qualification? You say a man must be a Christian. I do not agree with you. I have baptized at the altar on the same day Sabbath-school teachers and their classes. I would have every teacher moral and upright. That must be an indispensable requisition; but just as certainly as a moral and upright teacher comes into a Sabbath-school, though he be not a Christian, he will find himself in the path of eternal life. It is impossible for a moral man or woman to sit down by a class of five or ten children, trying to lead them into the path of life without getting in himself. Who are those four persons seated before you? Oh! you say, they are boys, or they are girls. I go further and say they are immortals, and after the sun has died of old age, and all the countless worlds that glitter at night shall have been swept off by the Almighty's breath as the small dust of a threshing floor, those children will live; so that this afternoon, as you take your place before them, look them in the eye, and as you see them interested in the lesson, do your best for God and eternity, looking at each of the four, saying within yourself: "Immortal! immortal!"

Be punctual. A late teacher makes late class. A punctual teacher makes a punctual class. With wonderful regularity the world moves. Hundreds of years before, the astronomer will tell you what time the sun will rise and set. The queerest comet has a law, so that the philosopher will tell you that night it will first appear. At just the right time the bud bursts and the leaf unfurls, and yet there are thousands of people in our Sunday-schools and churches who are always behind. If you should happen to see them prompt on any one occasion you would think it a phenomenon; you would have to look again and again, lest it were an optical illusion. The fact was they were born too late, and they will die too late, and they will get up in the resurrection too late, if it is possible for them to sleep over. Be prompt—not only prompt at the beginning, but prompt at the close. A Sabbath-school that lasts more than an hour and twenty minutes injures the child and hurts the cause of Christ. Children get worn out, and Christian workers get worn out, and they are unfit for the duties of the holy Sabbath day. Begin promptly at the right time. Close promptly at the right time. You have a half hour or an hour to do the work for eternity. Never scowl or scold in the Sabbath-school. You cannot catch children with the vinegar of a sour visage; you may catch them with Gospel honey. Let your features all shine out the truth: "Religion has made me happy—religion will make you happy." Oh! my friends, we all need better preparation for our work—I for the pulpit, and you for the class. Let us kneel down before God to-day and ask for a new baptism of the Holy Ghost.

I remark last of all; the line of Sunday school advance will be through a more thorough public recognition. A great many people of my church like the Sunday school for one reason; it gets the children out of the house long enough to allow them to take a good nap on Sunday afternoon. They have no idea that this institution takes hold of all the mercantile, agricultural, manufacturing, literary, political and religious interests of the country. They do not know that this institution is deciding whether we shall be a nation of freemen or slaves. They do not realize that these institutions are to make the thinkers, the writers, the poets, the orators, the lawyers, the physicians, and the clergymen of the land.

Go out and gather the children. They are on the commons to-day, within sight of the spires of your churches, yet they know no more of God or heaven than if they had been born in Central Africa. Go out and gather them in, and while you are blessing them you yourselves will be blessed. "Oh!" you say, "they are not washed." Then wash them. Christ washed the disciples' feet, and you can wash these children. "Oh!" you say, "they are unclothed." Then comb them, and become in the highest sense Christian hair-dressers.

"But," you say, "their apparel is not decent enough for a religious assembly." Then beg or buy proper garments for them. Take your old coat or your old dress and refashion it, and before you get it fixed up a voice will drop from the ceiling, saying, "I was naked and ye clothed me." We take this garland of beauty and joy and throw it at thy feet, O Lord Jesus! Thou hast invited them to come, and we bring them, our sons and daughters, and the lost children of the street. Here they are, O blessed Christ! They ask, they kiss. They wait thy benediction. The prayer of Jacob for his sons so many years ago shall be my prayer while I live, and my prayer when I die: "The angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads."

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 24

"Jesus in Gethsemane." Matt. 26, 36-46. Golden Text: Luke 22, 42.

### PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 32. Then cometh Jesus with them. Twelve men altogether, for Judas had left. It was nearly midnight. A place called Gethsemane. "A garden called the oil press." There were many such gardens or orchards, as we would call them, on the slopes of Olivet. The Kidder, which they crossed, is now a dry river-bed, and even in our Lord's day does not seem to have had any water except during and immediately after the rainy season, but there was probably water in it when Jesus crossed over. The walk from the upper room to Gethsemane was down sloping streets, along a jagged edge, across a narrow and probably babbling brook, and then up the turf of Mount Olivet. The ancient Gethsemane was probably far below the present traditional site. John tells us that Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples, and it is supposed to have belonged to a personal friend. Sit ye here. Probably at the garden gate. While I go and pray yonder. Probably in the shady depths of the orchard. It will interest the scholars to search for the names of the disciples that were told to remain at the garden gate. Not Judas, for he had left the party to betray his Master; not Peter nor James nor John, as the next verse tells us. These four were omitted; which eight are left?

37. He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. The particularity of Jesus for these three men—Peter, James, and John—is noticeable throughout the gospel story. They had been with him when he called back a human spirit from the region of the dead, they had been with him at the zenith of his career, when he was transfigured; he has reached the nadir now, and his human fondness still clings to their sympathy. Began to be sorrowful and very heavy. "Sorrowful and sore troubled" is the Revised Version. Dr. Abbott thus states a deep truth: "The desire for fellowship in hours of darkness and of sorrow is one of the desires of love, and is strongest in the hearts in which love is the richest."

38. My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. Various words used to describe his agony are full of suggestion. He was begirded with sorrow, besieged with sorrow. He was alone. The whole agony came upon him as a surprise. In barbaric ages men have been put into diabolical machines that pressed them to death. But here was a case where the pressure on the mind and spirit was "even unto death." Tarry ye here, and watch with me. These three men are requested to be an inner guard, so that if the eight outer ones were overcome by fatigue there would still be some guards to notify their Master when the traitor and his cruel band arrived. Luke tells us that in his agony his sweat became as it were great drops of blood; the writer of Hebrews tells us of his strong crying and tears. This was not shrinking from death, whose dark shadows had lain across every day of his life; it was shrinking from the untold horrors of the aggregate sin of humanity. All the mysteries of the atonement are kept away from us, but we have here some glimpses of its effects. Dr. Schaffler maintains with several other Christian scholars that the great sorrow of Jesus in the garden came not from fear of Calvary at all, but from fear of failure through physical strength to reach Calvary and so lose of all for which he left heaven. Science cannot catalogue and define the

causes of his suffering, for the prophet tells us that he was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; the Lord had laid on him the iniquity of us all.

39. He went a little further. Deeper and deeper into the silent gloom of the orchard. Fell on his face. Mark says, "Fell on the ground;" Luke says, "Kneeling down." He probably knelt first, and then fell forward, for the prayer he prayed exhausted every longing of the spirit and every strength of his body. O my Father Jesus practices the faith he taught his followers. He, more than any other sacred teacher, insisted on the fatherhood of God. He who cares for the sparrow, who nurtures the lilies, who numbers the hairs of our head, whose heart and love and power and care are all far more than a human father's—he is our God, and to him, with a unique meaning in the word Father, Jesus addresses his prayer. If it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Mark says "this hour." The phrases mean the same. The Hebrew idiom of a cup has passed into many languages, and is carried on in essence in our word "fulfill." Every hour of our lives may be said to be a cup brimming with joy or sorrow. The first phrase varies in structure in the different records. Matthew says, "All things are possible;" Luke says, "If thou be willing." Essentially the stories all agree. Evidently there was one purpose in our Lord's life—the salvation of men; and this phrase means, if it be possible to accomplish that end, then let this cup pass. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. Our Lord's human nature is pouring itself out before God. From such mental torture as was his now and from such physical torture as was close before him, his human desire shrank, but his purpose was harmony with God, "as thou wilt." Every night we offer this prayer to God in words at least, "Thy will be done." In the agonies of our lives can we by faith in Christ offer it as he did?

40-44. Here follows a scene which must needs be studied as a unit. Having offered the heart-wrung prayer of verse 39, our Lord, inexpressibly pained in heart and mind and body, returned unto the disciples, by which term we are here to understand Peter, James, and John, to receive the human sympathy he so greatly needed, and findeth them asleep. Luke tells us that their sorrow had made their eyes heavy, intense strain during hours of excitement had succeeded by all the circumstances of repose, and they yielded to slumber. Our Lord's human nature craved and greatly needed their prayers and their sympathy, nevertheless his rebuke is very gentle. It is to Peter he expresses his keen disappointment—What, could ye not watch with me one hour?—poor Peter, whose confidence had been so great, and whose failure was so imminent. It is better, far better, to conquer sorrow by prayer than to forget it (even if we could forget it) in sleep or in work. Watch and pray. Use all powers. You need all your human ability and all of Heaven's assistance. That ye enter not into temptation. They were in the greatest possible danger of almost every sort. Even their Master was fighting a tremendous battle and the full victory had not yet been won, for hours after this the struggle was still going on. Physically his disciples were in great danger, and spiritually in even greater danger, but they apprehended neither, and could sleep! The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak, are words of singular tenderness, and at the same time words of warning. The moral and physical natures are eager to do right, but the mental and physical natures are worn and weary; such conditions imperatively need prayer and watchfulness. A second and a third time our Lord withdraws to pray and to surrender himself to his Father's will, and a second and third time he returns to his three chosen friends to find them asleep.

45, 46. His words, when for the third time he awakens them, are full of love; Sleep on now, and take your rest. As if he had said, The danger is over; the enemy has been foiled; you need watch no longer—not a word of reproach for their failure to help when help was needed. Suddenly, as if awakening to a sense of others and fresh dangers, he adds, Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

## WAR CLOUD OVER THIBET.

An Armed Mission to Be Sent by the British to Lhasa, From India.

A correspondent in India writes that in consequence of the mission sent by the Dalai Lama of Thibet to the Czar of Russia, the British Government will probably soon despatch an armed mission to Lhasa from India, Gen. Luck, esteemed one of the best cavalry officers in the British Army, and Gen. Leech, have both been at Darjeeling where they went on to the frontier of Thibet to examine the passes.

It is said that the trade of India with Thibet needs protection, and that the influence of Russia must be counteracted, otherwise British trade with Thibet will cease, as it has in other parts of central Asia over which Russian authority has been extended.

Some sixteen years ago a British mission was to have gone to Lhasa, but the project was abandoned, owing to the refusal of the Thibetans to admit so large a military force as was to have composed the escort into their country.

## GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE.

Facts and Figures Show Her Commercial Supremacy.

The trade of Great Britain continues wonderfully prosperous. Last Autumn some people thought there would be a turn of the tide, but the tide has not turned, nor is there any sign of its doing so. The Government is fortunate, for had the prolongation of the war in South Africa been accompanied by a serious decline in trade there would have been much discontent in the country; but trade not only keeps up, but expands.

The total exports and imports of the country for 1900 amounted to the enormous sum of £878,000,000, or \$4,390,000,000 a record year. With the wars in South Africa and China at an end, this year's returns may show a large increase.

## VICTORIA'S STORES OF GOLD.

The colony of Victoria, the smallest division of the colony of Australia, has produced, during the last half century, more gold than any other country in the world, with the exception of California. Mr. James Stirling recently informed an audience at the Imperial Institute, in London, that there is a gold-mine at Bendigo in Victoria, which has reached a depth of 3,434 feet, and that deep levels of gold exist over an area of about 400 miles. Victoria also possesses extensive coal-fields.

## EDWARD VII.'S HEIGHT.

The King of England Rather a Short Man, Says an Englishman.

"It seems to be the general impression over here that the new King of England, is a large, heavily built sort of person," says an Englishman. "The impression is gained from his photographs and from the pictures in the illustrated papers, which certainly would lead any one to believe that Edward VII. was at any rate above the medium height. But he isn't."

"I don't know of any official record of his Majesty's height, but he must be a shade under 5 feet 5 without his shoes. I know this because I stood beside him for a few minutes at a state funeral. Now, my height is exactly 5 feet 3-4 inches, and I noticed that he seemed exactly as tall, but as he was broader and much heavier than I, he seemed a larger man."

"The fact surprised me, because I had never seen him at such short range before. I wouldn't be so certain about it had not a friend who stood behind me, and was as much surprised at the discovery as I was, mentioned to me that he had noticed that I was as big a man as my future King."

"So, giving him the benefit of the doubt for a quarter of an inch, that's his size—5 feet 5, and the illustrations that depict him as standing nearly to the height of men of 5 feet 10 or thereabouts are either fixed up with a desire to please him—though it has never been said that he was sensitive on the point—or with the idea of letting the world at large believe that our royal personages were just as big as those of any other country."

## ARABI PACHA TO BE LIBERATED.

The Egyptian Leader's Long Exile in Ceylon Soon to Be Ended.

It is announced that Achmed el Arabi, better known as Arabi Pacha, who headed the revolt of 1882 in Egypt against the foreign control of that country, and has been for the last eighteen years a prisoner of the British Government in Ceylon, is about to be allowed to return to his country.

He now speaks English, and his children as well as those of the other exiles have received a good education, and most of them have found employment under the Egyptian Administration. Arabi's great desire is to end his life in the home where he was born in the last days of the greatest ruler Egypt ever had in modern times, the Khedive Mehemet Ali. Two of his fellow exiles, Ismail and Tewfik, lie buried near each other in Egypt in the mosque which was begun by the mother of the former, but which she did not live to see finished.

Things have greatly changed in Egypt since 1882, and the British Government runs no risk in now liberating the man whose name was the rallying cry, not only of the Egyptians, but of the Arabs generally, who had conferred on him the significant title of El Arabi, in the belief that he was destined to revive the glory of their race.

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## THE HORSE SHOW.

The Alabama state record, 2:00 1/2, held by Sherman Clay, 2:05 1/2.

Excel, 2:10 1/2, is said to be one of the finest road horses in the country. Ed Geers has already driven a 3-year-old half in 1:07 1/2 at Jewettville.

Herman Fox, the Connecticut trainer, started the pacer Teddy B. 2:12 1/2, in 20 races in 1900 and won 17.

The 5-year-old Missouri bred pacer Albert Allison, 2:10 1/2, started in 23 races the season of 1900 and won 12.

S. P. Kelly of Oil City, Pa., has a grand road horse in a bay gelding by Eljira. He can step a 2:30 gait with no training.

Frank Rockefeller has bought a 150,000-acre ranch in Kiowa county, Kan., near Wichita, upon which he will raise harness horses.

Dr. H. C. Wells of Laconia, N. H., states that his horse Battledox has a record of 2:20 1/2, not 2:18 1/2, as has generally been reported.

The correct record of the pacer Cassa, by Dunton Wilkes, is not 2:15 1/2, but 2:17 1/2, so J. W. Eshleman of Parkersburg, Pa., reports.

The 4-year-old colt Dormouth, by Hildes-Law, 2:05 1/2, out of Chimes Maid, is said to be a great trotter. The other day he stepped a half in 1:07.

The total winnings of the black gelding Connor, 2:02 1/2 (2:13 1/2 trotting) approximate \$22,000, of which amount he placed \$9,675 to his credit in the season of 1900. Connor has more than 30 heats to his credit as a trotter and more than 100 as a pacer.

A fast green pacer at the Jewettville covered track is The Heir Apparent, by Chimes, dam Grace Hamlin, by Mammoth King. A. E. Pevon bought The Heir Apparent in the spring of 1900 for \$250. Not long ago he was driven a mile in 2:19 1/2, the half in 1:07 1/2.

## FOWL AND THEIR FRUIT.

Supply the layers with bone, oyster shells and vegetables.

The best layers will generally be found to be the most active hens.

With good management poultry and small fruits are a good combination.

In raising fowls for meat instead of eggs you want the large breeds and those that grow rapidly.

Dry picked fowls present the best appearance in winter. To dry pick successfully pick while the flesh is warm.

When fattening geese, as soon as they begin to show a lack of desire for food they should be sold, as they will then begin to lose.

If increased egg yield is the object, select the most constant layers and mate them with a cockerel of the best laying strain you have.

The highest prices for fowls are received only by those who are able to comply with the demands of the market which they supply.

A good ration for the production of eggs in winter is boiled and mashed potatoes with bran, mixed with warm, sweet milk for breakfast, whole wheat at noon and whole corn and oats at night.

## PEN, CHISEL AND BRUSH.

Frank Edwin Elwell, the noted New York sculptor, has modeled a bust of Louisa M. Alcott, which he has presented to the University of Kansas.

William Gillette, the playwright, says that he once became an apprentice in a machine shop in order to study the lingo and characteristics of the genuine mechanic.

Mark Twain says he found 64 or more religious sects in South Australia, but that, as he was ourselves well enough supplied, he decided not to import any into the United States.

John McAuliffe, the celebrated painter of horses, who recently met with a fatal fall from a window in New York, had in the course of his career painted portraits of every horse of note in this country.

The poet Swinburne recently said that if early in life he had made it a rule to answer only such letters as came from friends and relatives his contributions to literature would have been augmented by the addition of at least three volumes.

## THE BOER WAR.

The war in the Transvaal is still under the head of unfinished business.—Portland Oregonian.

A London banker says the South African war is now costing the British people \$650 a minute. "Time is money" are enough in this case.—New York World.

General Christian De Wet came so near being captured the other day that he picked up a company of British yeomanry, stripped them of their guns and ammunition and told them to run home.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

General De Wet is making a good deal of trouble for the British. But he cannot win lasting or effective victories. Besides, his temporary success is bought at a tremendous sacrifice of the lives of his own people.

## THE ROYAL BOX.

Queen Victoria sent New Year's gifts of meat and coal to over 900 poor persons in Windsor.

The Prince of Wales after the shooting season always amuses himself with daily target practice. He is said to be one of the best pistol shots in England.

Queen Wilhelmina is said to be converting her nation to temperance in the matter of drinking. Her father and predecessor on the throne was accounted the champion royal drunkard of Europe.

The German emperor was at Leghorn when the census was taken. Under the heading "profession" he wrote "German emperor, king of Prussia." The card has been framed and preserved, a certified copy being sent to the census headquarters.

## STATE LINES.

Florida has its pests, among them the moccasin, rattlesnake and sand fly. But it has one tremendous compensation. It is free from malaria.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The fact has come to light that out of the governors which the state of West Virginia has had six of them were re-elected. In spite of this untoward circumstance the state has been moderately well governed.

## ON THE F.

Ladies of Canada: Side by side storied with the best brawn the recent unpleasant "help one another,"

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