

SERMON

In This Sermon the Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage Warns Young People Against the Tempters Who Would Lead Them to Ruin

CHICAGO, May 18.—In this sermon the Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage warns young people against the tempters who would lead them to ruin; text, Proverbs 1, 10, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

No cathedral, it matters not how lofty the spires or how wonderful the statuary or how many and how beautiful the architects, or how the spirit is bowed down in reverence unless times has hollowed it. Then the centuries have covered up the crumbling walls with moss and creeping ivy; then Westminster abbey, with its dark, damp, dripping vaults, has become the sepulcher of dead kings and queens.

Every speech, every sermon, every argument, every essay, must be backed up by the personality of the individual. It is said that when John J. Crittenden arose to address a jury and ran his fingers through his long gray hair his case was already half won.

King Solomon wrote with authority. He had drunk from the chalice of pleasure. He had quaffed to the bitter dregs every cup of wine. He has seen the ups and downs of the course of life. He was no fanatic of adventure.

King Solomon warns against sin because young people are apt to become despondent. Perhaps this despondency is the loneliest place on earth as a great city. In the country town you know everybody, and everybody knew you.

STAY RIGHT. Young men dislike to be patronized. Although willing to accost each other in terms of familiarity, we dislike older people to pat us condescendingly upon the back.

from horse. At the first manifestation of sin you were shocked and horrified. You were always accustomed to a sacred Sabbath. You went to church regularly. But now you find that most of the clerks and students in the boarding house consider Sunday a play day instead of a holy day, a time for outdoor sports instead of sacred merriment.

AVOID DANGER. A wealthy gentleman once advertised for a coachman. To every applicant who came he put this one question, "How can you drive a horse over a precipice?"

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an angel had given him a hammer and placed him before a huge rock and said to him, "Pound, and keep on pounding." He pounded on, but could not break the rock.

King Solomon warns the young folks against sin because evil companions are always the first to extend the right hand of welcome. The good young man says: "I cannot afford to associate with every one. I cannot go with every stray acquaintance whom I meet upon the street."

SOME FALSE FRIENDS. But the bad young man is never half so bad as he appears to be. He will slap you upon the back as soon as you enter the store. He offers you a cigarette or invites you to take a drink.

Perhaps your discouragement comes from inactivity. You may have been living in the great city now for two years. You worked, and worked hard. Then came a vacancy in the store.

SHIP NEWS. PORT OF ST. JOHN. Arrived. HALIFAX, N. S., May 17.—Arr. str. Peruvian, from Liverpool via St. Johns, N. F.

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but a suffering invalid. After you have once led an immortal soul astray and that soul has departed from earth to meet its judgment at the bar of God you can never change its eternal destiny.

During the persecution of the Huguenots in France a father and mother had to flee from the city for their lives. They had to leave behind an only girl. Fear lest he should not recognize his child again, the father took a sharp knife and cut the arm of the child almost to the bone.

THE GREAT LESSON OF THIS TEXT IS YET TO BE spoken, Solomon tells us not to let evil companions entice us away. But man is a social being. He longs for friends. He must have friends who will associate with him when he is as well as when he is ill.

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