

BEAR OTHER LOADS.

Dr. Talmage Tells Us to Be-ware of Selfishness.

Lift Part of the Burden from the Shoulders of the Heavy Laden.

Kind Words Are as Cool Water to a Thirsty Soul.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage shows how it is possible to help others who are under the pressing load of fatigue and care and responsibility. The text is Galatians vi. 2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Every man for himself! If there be room for only one more passenger in the lifeboat, get in yourself. If there be a burden to lift, you supervise while others shoulder it. You be the distaff, sometimes the spindle, and sometimes the hand side, sometimes the loom, but sometimes you be the loom, and sometimes you be the distaff.

Everybody has burdens. Sometimes they come down upon the shoulders, sometimes they come down upon the head, sometimes they come down upon the heart. Looking over any assembly, they all seem well and bright and easy, but each one has a burden to lift, and some of them have more than they can lift. Paul proposed to split up these burdens into fragments. You take part of mine, and I will take part of yours, and each one will take part of the other's, and so we will fulfill the law of Christ.

Mrs. Appleton of Boston, the daughter of Daniel Webster, was dying after long illness. The great lawyer, after pleading an important case in the court room, on his way home stopped at the house of his daughter and went into her chamber and said to her, "Father, why are you out today in this cold weather without an overcoat?" The great lawyer went into the next room and was in a flood of tears, saying, "Dying herself, yet thinking only of me." Oh, how much more beautiful is care for others than this everlasting taking care of ourselves. High up in the wall of the temple of Benches, there are three stones, each weighing 1,000 tons. They were lifted by a style of machinery that is now among the lost arts. But in my text is the gospel machinery, by which the vaster and the heavier tonnage of the world's burden is to be lifted from the crucifixion of the human race. What you and I most need to learn is the spirit of helpfulness.

SCATTER KIND WORDS.

Encourage the merchant. If he have a superior kind of goods tell him so. If he have with his clerks adorned the show window and the shelves complete his task. If he have a good business locality, if he have had great success, if he have brilliant prospects for the future, recognize all this. Be not afraid that he will become arrogant and puffed up by your approval. Before night some shopping person will come in and tell him that his goods are excellent and that his goods are of an inferior quality, and that his show window, gas, promise of far better things than he found inside. Before the night of the day in which you say encouraging words to that merchant there will be some crank male or female, who will come into the store and depreciate everything and haul down enough goods from the shelves to fit out a family for a whole winter without buying a cent's worth. If the merchant be a grocer, there will be some one before night who will come into his establishment and taste of this and taste of that and taste of everything else, and that may shake all the purchase—buying three apples while he is eating one orange!

Before the night of the day when you approve that merchant he will have a bad debt which he will have to settle, a bad debt made by someone who has moved away from the neighborhood without giving any hint of the place of destination. Before the night of the day when you have uttered encouraging words to the merchant there will be some woman who will return to his store and say she has lost her purse; she left it there in the store, she brought it there, she did not take it away, she knows it is there, leaving you to make any defence and complimentary inference that you wish to make. Before the night that merchant will hear that some style of goods of which he has a large supply is going out of fashion, and there will be some one who will come into the store and say a full under protest, saying he has paid it before, but the receipt has been lost. Now, encourage that merchant, not fearing that he will become arrogant or puffed up, there will be some one, right enough, unimpressed things said to keep him from becoming apologetic with plethora of phrase.

ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Encourage newspaper men. If you knew how many amusements they have, if you understood that their most elaborate article is sometimes flung out because there is such great pressure on the columns and that an accurate report of a speech is expected, although the utterance be no indictment, the discourse is one long unceasing guess, and that the midnight which finds you asleep demands that they be awake, and that they are sometimes ground between the wheels of our great brain manufacturers; sickened at the often approval of men who want complimentary newspaper notices, or who want newspaper attention, one day sent to report a burial, the next day to report a pugilistic encounter—if you understood it you would be more sympathetic. Be affable when you have not an axe to be sharpened on their grindstone. Discuss in your mind what the nineteenth century would

be without the newspaper, and give encouraging words to all who are engaged in this interest, from the chief of editorial department down to the boy that throws the morning or evening newspaper into your basement window.

Encourage mechanics. They will plumb the pipes, or they will calamine the ceilings, or they will put down the carpets, or they will grain the doors, or they will fashion the wardrobe. Be not among those who never say anything to them. Do not afraid you will make that mechanic so puffed up and arrogant he will never again want to be seen with working apron or in shirt sleeves, for before night comes of that day when you praise him there will be a lawsuit brought against him because he did not finish his work as soon as he promised it, forgetful of the fact that his wife has been sick and two of his children have died with scarlet fever and he has a felon on a finger of his right hand. Denounced perhaps because the paint is so very faint in color, not recognizing the fact that the mechanic himself has been cheated out of the right ingredients, and that he did not find out the trouble in time, or scolded because he seems to have lamed a horse by unskillful shoeing when the horse has for months had spavin or ringbone or sprain. You feel that you have the right to find fault with a mechanic when he does ill. Do you ever praise as mechanic when he does well?

BE SYMPATHETIC.

Encourage the farmers. They come into your stores, you meet them in the city markets, you often associate with them in the summer months. Office seekers go through the land, and they stand on political platforms, and they tell the farmers the story about the independent life of a farmer, giving flattery where they ought to give sympathy. Independent of what? I was brought up on a farm; I worked on a farm; I know all about it. I hardly saw the city until I was grown, and I tell you that there is no class of people in the country who have it harder than the farmer. Independent of what, of the rust in wheat, of the long rain with the rye down? Independent of the grasshopper, of the locust, of the army worm, of the potato bug? Independent of the drought that burns up the harvest? Independent of the cow that has the horn rot, or the pig that has the foot rot, or the pig that has the nail in his hoof? Independent of the snowbank out of which he must shovel himself? Independent of the cold weather when he stands thrashing his numbed fingers around his body to keep them from being frosted? Independent of the frozen ears and the frozen feet? Independent of what? Fancy farmers who have made their fortunes in the city and go out in the country to build houses with all the modern improvements and make farming a luxury may not need any advice, but the yeomanry who get their living out of the soil and who in that way have to clothe their families and educate their children and pay their taxes and meet the interest on mortgaged farms, such men find a terrific struggle. I demand that office seekers and politicians fold up their gaseous and imbecile speeches about the independent life of a farmer and substitute some word of comfort drawn from the fact that the farmer is the only conventionalist and city epidemic and city temptations.

My most vivid remembrance of boyhood is of my father coming on a very hot day from the harvesting field and seating himself on the door sill because he was too faint to get into the house, the perspiration streaming from forehead and from neck and from every pore, trying to dissipate his heat with a cup of cold water which he was too faint to hold to his own lips; while saying to us: "Don't be frightened, there's nothing the matter. A little tired, that's all; a little tired." Ever since that day, when I hear people talking about the independent life of a farmer I see through the sham. Farmers want not your flatteries, but your sympathies.

GIVE PRAISE WHERE DUE.

Encourage the doctors. You praise the doctor when he brings you up from an awful crisis of disease, but you do not praise the doctor when, through skillful treatment of the incipient stages of disease, he keeps you from sliding down to the awful crisis? There is a great deal of cheap and harmless wit about doctors, but I notice that the people who get off that wit are the first to send for a doctor when there is anything the matter. There are those who undertake to say in their day that doctors are really useless. One man has written a book entitled, "Every Man His Own Doctor." That author ought to write one more book entitled, "Every Man His Own Undertaker." "Oh," says some one, "physicians in constant presence of pain get hard hearted." Do they? The most celebrated surgeon of the last generation stood in a clinical department of one of the New York medical colleges, the students gathered in the amphitheatre to see a very painful operation on a little child. The old surgeon said: "Gentlemen, excuse me if I retire. These reports are too distressing to me, and as I get older they distress me more and more distress to see pain."

One day there was a dreadful foreboding in our home. All hope was gone. The doctor came four times that day. The children put away their toys, and all walked on tiptoe, and the least sound said, "Watch!" How loudly they lock the door, and how the banister creaked, though we tried to keep it so still! That night the doctor staid all night. He concentrated all his skill upon the sufferer. At last the restlessness of the sufferer subsided into a calm, sweet slumber, and the doctor looked up and smiled and said, "The crisis is past." When propped up with pillows on an easy chair, she sat and the south wind tried to blow a rose leaf into the faded cheek, and the children brought flowers—the one a red clover top, the

other a violet from the lawn—to the lap of the convalescent, and Bertha stood on a high chair with a brush, smoothing her mother's hair, and we were told in a day or two she might ride out, joy come back to our house. And as we helped the old country doctor into his gig we noticed that the step was broken, or the horse blind in the knees, and we all realized for the first time in our life what doctors were worth. Encourage them.

CHEER THE DOWNCAST.

Encourage the teachers in our public schools—occupation arduous and poorly compensated. In all the cities when there comes a fit of economy on the part of officials the first thing to do is always to cut down teachers' salaries. "You say," said an old school parent, "suppose them precocious and keep the parents from finding out their mistake, to take an empty head and fill it, to meet the expectation of parents who think their children 15 years of age ought to be mathematicians and metaphysicians and rhetoricians, and work successfully that great stuffing machine, the modern school system, is very arduous work. Encourage them by the usefulness and the everlastingness and the magnitude of their occupation, and when your children do well compliment the instructor; praise the teacher, thank the educator."

Encourage invalids by telling them how many you have known who show ailments who got well and not by telling them of their sunken eye or asking them whether the color of their cheek is really hectic or mentioning cases in which that style of disease ceased fatally or telling them how badly they look. Cheerful words are more soothing than any; more stimulating, more cordant, more tonic than bitter. Many an invalid has recovered through the influence of cheerful surroundings.

Encourage all starting in life by your self-encouraging remembrance. Established merchants, by telling these young merchants when you get your feet on the ground, that you have behind the counter eating your hunchback with one eye on the door. Established lawyers, encourage young lawyers by telling of the time when you broke down in your first speech. Established ministers of the gospel, encourage young ministers by mentioning your own theological candidates, but not the more you have sympathy than farmers. Independent of what, of the rust in wheat, of the long rain with the rye down? Independent of the grasshopper, of the locust, of the army worm, of the potato bug? Independent of the drought that burns up the harvest? Independent of the cow that has the horn rot, or the pig that has the foot rot, or the pig that has the nail in his hoof? Independent of the snowbank out of which he must shovel himself? Independent of the cold weather when he stands thrashing his numbed fingers around his body to keep them from being frosted? Independent of the frozen ears and the frozen feet? Independent of what? Fancy farmers who have made their fortunes in the city and go out in the country to build houses with all the modern improvements and make farming a luxury may not need any advice, but the yeomanry who get their living out of the soil and who in that way have to clothe their families and educate their children and pay their taxes and meet the interest on mortgaged farms, such men find a terrific struggle. I demand that office seekers and politicians fold up their gaseous and imbecile speeches about the independent life of a farmer and substitute some word of comfort drawn from the fact that the farmer is the only conventionalist and city epidemic and city temptations.

HELP THE NEEDY.

A gentleman was passing along, crossing a bridge in Germany, and had come along with a cage of birds for sale. The stranger said to him, "How much for those birds and the cage?" The price was announced, and the stranger did was to open the door of the cage, and the birds flew out into the sunlight and the forest. Some one who saw the purchase and the illustration persisted in having a business matter brought to his notice. The man on the table a petition for the pardon of a distinguished criminal, the petition signed by distinguished men. There was also on that table a letter from a poor woman in the penitentiary, written and signed by her son, a young Alexander Stephens. The man said, "What did you do that for?" "Ah!" said the stranger, "I was a captive myself once, and I know how good it is to be free." Oh, ye who remember hardships in early life, but have come beyond those hardships, sympathize with those who are in the struggle! Free yourself, help others to get free. 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