POOR DOCUMENT

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DECEIVED MILLIONS.

REV. DR. TALMAGE ON THE GLORIOUS DELUSION OF CHRISTIANITY.

YET IT ENCIRCLES THE EARTH.

The Transformation of So Many Great Minds by the So-Called Hallucination of the Christian Religion Must Be Taken as an Evidence of Its Truth—Deceits of the Ancients.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Rev. Dr. Talmage took for his text this morning Ezekiel xxi, 21, "He made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver." He said:

Two modes of divination by which the King of Babylon proposed to find out the will of God. He took a bundle of arrows, put them together, mixed them up, then pulled forth one and by the inscription on it decided what city he should first assault. Then an animal was slain, and by the lighter or darker color of the liver the brighter or darker prospect of success was inferred. That is the meaning of the text. "He made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver." Stupid delusion! And yet all the ages have been filled with delusions. It seems as if the world loves to be hoodwinked, the delusion of the text only a specimen of a vast number of deceits practiced upon the human race. In the latter part of the last century Johanna Southcote came forth pretending to have divine power, made prophecies, had chapels built in her honor, and 100,000 disciples came forward to follow her. About five years before the birth of Christ Apollonius was born, and he came forth, and after five years being speechless, according to the tradition, he healed the sick and raised the dead and preached virtue and, according to the myth, having deceased, was brought to resurrection.

The Delphic oracle deceived vast multitudes of people; the Pythoness, seated in the temple of Apollo, uttering a crazy jargon from which the people guessed their individual or national fortunes or misfortunes. The utterances were of such a nature that you could read them any way you wanted to read them. A general coming forth to battle consulted the Delphic oracle, and he wanted to find out whether he was going to be safe in the battle or killed in battle, and the answer came forth from the Delphic oracle in such words that if you put the comma before the word "never" it means one thing and if you put the comma after the word "never" it means another thing just opposite. The message from the Delphic oracle to the general was, "Go forth, return never in battle shalt thou perish." If he was killed, that was according to the Delphic oracle; if he came home safely, that was according to the Delphic oracle.

So the ancient auguries deceived the people. The priests of those auguries, by the flight of birds or by the intonation of thunder or by the inside appearance of slain animals, told the fortunes or misfortunes of individuals or nations. The sibyls deceived the people. The sibyls were supposed to be inspired women who lived in caves and who wrote the sibylline books afterward purchased by Tarquin the Proud. So late as the year 1839 a man arose in New York, pretending to be a divine being, and played his part so well that wealthy merchants became his disciples and threw their fortunes into his keeping. And so in all ages there have been necromancies, incantations, witchcrafts, sorceries, magical arts, enchantments, divinations and delusions. The one of the text was only a specimen of that which has been occurring in all ages of the world. None of these delusions accomplished any good. They deceived, they pauperized the people, they were as cruel as th y were absurd. They opened no hospitals, they healed no wounds, they wiped away no tears, they emancipated no ser.dom.

But there are those who say that all these delusions combined are as nothing compared with the delusion now abroad in the world, the delusion of the Christian religion. That delusion has to-day 400,000,000 dupes. It proposes to encircle the earth with its girdle. That which has been called a delusion has already overshadowed the Appalachian range on this side the sea, and it has overshadowed the Balkan and Caucasion ranges on the other side the sea. It has conquered England and the United States. This champion delusion, this hoax, this swindle of the ages, as it has been called, has gone forth to conquer the islands of the Pacific, and Melanesia and Micronesia and Malayan Polynesia have already surrendered to the delusion. Yea, it has conquered the Indian Archipelago and Borneo, and Sumatra and Celebes and Java have fallen under its wiles. In the Fiji Islands, where there are 120,000 people, 102,000 have already become the dupes of this Christian religion, and if things go on as they are now going on and if the influence of this great hallucination of the ages cannot be stopped, it will swallow the globe. Supposing then that Christianity is the delusion of the centuries, as some have pronounced it, I propose to show you what has been accomplished by this chimera, this fallacy, this hoax, this swindle of the ages.

And in the first place I remark that this delusion of the Christian religion has made wonderful transformation of human character. I will go down the aisle of any church in Christendom, and I will find on either side that isle those who were once profligate, profane, unclean of speech and unclean of action, drunken and lost. But by the power of this delusion of the Christian religion they have been completely transformed and now they are kind and amiable and genial and loving and useful. Everybody sees the change. Under the power of this great hallucination they have quit their former associates, and whereas they once found their chief delight among those who gambled and swore and raced horses, now they find their chief joy among those who go to prayer meetings and churches, so complete is the delusion. Yea, their own families have noticed it—the wife has noticed it, the children have noticed it. The money that went for rum now goes for books and for clothes and for education. He is a new man. All who knew him say there has been a wonderful change. What is the cause of this change? This great hallucination of the Christian religion. There is so much difference between what he is now and what he once was as between a rose and a nettle, as between a dove and a vulture, as between day and night. Tremendous delusion!

Admiral Farragut, one of the most admired men of the American navy, early became a victim of this Christian delusion, and, seated not long before his death at Long Branch, he was giving some friends an account of his early life. He said: "My father went down in behalf of the United States Government to put an end to Aaron Burr's rebellion. I was a cabin boy and went along with him. I could swear like an old salt. I could gamble in every style of gambling. I knew all the wickedness there was at that time abroad. One day my father cleared everybody out of the cabin except myself and locked the door. He said: 'David, what are you going to do? What are you going to be?' 'Well,' I said, 'father, I am going to follow the sea.' 'Follow the sea and be a poor, miserable, drunken sailor, kicked and cuffed about the world and die of a fever in a foreign hospital!' 'Oh, no,' I said. 'Father, I will not be that. I will tread the quarter deck and command as you do.' 'No, David,' my father said. 'No, David. A person that has your principles and your bad habits will never tread the quarter-deck or command.' My father went out and shut the door after him, and I said to him: 'I will change. I will never swear again. I will never drink again. I will never gamble again, and, gentlemen, by the help of God, I have kept those three vows to this time I soon after that became a Christian, and that decided my fate for time and for eternity."

Another captive of this great Christian delusion. There goes Saul of Tarsus on horseback at full gallop. Where is he going? To destroy Christians. He wants no better play spell than to stand and watch the hats and coats of the murderers who are massacring God's children. There goes the same man. This time he is afoot. Where is he going now? Going on the road to Ostia to die for Christ. They tried to whip it out of him, they tried to scare it out of him, they thought they would give him enough of it by putting him into a windowless dungeon, and keeping him on small diet, and condemning him as a criminal, and denying him a cloak, and howling at him through the street, but they could not sweat it out of him, and they could not pound it out of him, so they tried the surgery of the sword, and one summer day in 66 he was decapitated—perhaps the mightiest intellect of the 6,000 years of the world's existence hoodwinked, cajoled, duped by the Christian religion.

Ah, that is the remarkable thing about this delusion of Christianity; it overpowers the strongest intellects. Gather the critics, secular and religious, of this century together and put a vote to them as to which is the greatest book ever written, and by a large majority they will say "Paradise Lost." Who wrote "Paradise Lost?" One of the fools who believed in the Bible, John Milton. Benjamin Franklin surrendered to this delusion, if you may judge from the letter that he wrote to Thomas Paine begging him to destroy the "Age of Reason" in manuscript and never let it go into type, and writing afterward in his old days, "Of this Jesus of Nazareth I have to say that the system of morals he left and the religion he has given us are the best things the world has ever seen or is likely to see;" Patrick Henry, the electric champion of liberty, enslaved by this delusion, so that he says, "The book worth all other books put together is the Bible." Benjamin Rush, the leading physiologist and anatomist of his day, the great medical scientist, what did he say? "The only true and perfect religion is Christianity." Isaac Newton, the leading philosopher of his time, what did he say? That man, surrendering to this delusion of the Christian religion, crying out, "The sublimest philosophy on earth is the philosophy of the gospel." David Brewster, at the pronunciation of whose name every scientist the world over uncovers his head, David Brewster saying, "Oh, this religion has been a great light to me, a very great light all my days." President Thiers, the great French statesman, acknowledging that he prayed when he said, "I invoke the Lord God, in whom I am glad to believe." David Livingstone, able to conquer the lion, able to conquer the panther, able to conquer the savage, yet conquered by this delusion, this hallucination, this great swindle of the ages, so when they find him dead they find him on his knees. William E. Gladstone, the strongest intellect in England, unable to resist this chimera, this fallacy, this delusion of the Christian religion, went to the house of God every Sabbath and often at the invitation of the rector read the prayers to the people. If those mighty intellects are overborne by this delusion, what chance is there for you and for me?

Besides that, I have noticed that first rate infidels cannot be depended on for steadfastness in the proclamation of their sentiments. Goethe, a leading sceptic, was so wrought upon by this Christianity that in a weak moment he cried out, "My belief in the Bible has saved me in my literary and moral life." Rousseau, one of the most eloquent champions of infidelity, spending his whole life warring against Christianity, cries out "The majesty of the Scriptures amazes me." Altemont, the notorious infidel, one would think he would have been safe against this delusion of the Christian religion. Oh no! After talking against Christianity all his days in his last hours he cried out "Oh thou blasphemed but most indulgent Lord God hell itself is a refuge if it hide me from thy frown." Voltaire, the most talented infidel the world ever saw, writing 250 publications and the most of them spiteful against Christianity, himself the most notorious libertine of the century, one would have thought he could have been depended upon for steadfastness in the advocacy of infidelity and in the war against this terrible chimera, this delusion of the Gospel. But no. In his last hour he asks for Christian burial and asks that they give him the sacrament of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why you cannot depend upon these first rate infidels; you cannot depend upon their power to resist this great delusion of Christianity. Thomas Paine, the god of modern sceptics, his birthday celebrated in New York and Boston with great enthusiasm—Thomas Paine, the paragon of Bible haters; Thomas Paine, about whom his brother infidel, William Carver, wrote in a letter which I have at my home, saying that he drank a quart of rum a day and was too mean and too dishonest to pay for it; Thomas Paine, the adored of modern infidelity; Thomas Paine, who stole another man's wife in England and brought her to this country; Thomas Paine, who was so squalid and so loathsome and so drunken, and so profligate, and so beastly in his habits, sometimes picked out of the ditch, sometimes too filthy to be picked out; Thomas Paine, one would have thought that he could have been depended on for steadfastness against this great delusion.

But no. In his dying hour he begs the Lord Jesus Christ for mercy. Powerful delusion, all conquering delusion, earthquaking delusion of the Christian religion. Yea, it goes on. It is so impertinent and it is so overbearing, this chimera of the gospel, that, having conquered the great picture galleries of the world, the old masters and the young masters, it is not satisfied until it has conquered the music of the world. Look over the program of any magnificent musical festival and see what are the great performances and learn that the greatest of all the subjects are religious subjects. What was it when 3,000 voices were accompanied with a vast number of instruments? "Israel in Egypt." Yes, Beethoven deluded until he wrote the high mass in D major. Haydn deluded with this religion until he wrote the "Creation." Handel deluded until he wrote the oratories of "Jephthah" and "Esther" and "Saul" and "Israel in Egypt" and the "Messiah." Three thousand deluded people singing of a delusion to 8,000 deluded hearers.

The cannibals in South Sea, the bushmen of Tierra del Fuego, the wild men of Australia, putting down the knives of their cruelty and clothing themselves in decent apparel—all under the power of this delusion. Judson and Doty and Abeel and Campbell and Williams and the 8,000 missionaries of the cross turning their backs on home and civilization and comfort and going out amid the squalor of heathenism to relieve it, to save it, to help it, toiling until they dropped into their graves, dying with no earthly comfort about them and going into graves with no appropriate epitaph when they might have lived in this country and lived for themselves and lived luxuriously and been at last put into brilliant sepulchers. What a delusion!

Yea, this delusion of the Christian religion shows itself in the fact that it goes to those who are in trouble. Now, it is bad enough to cheat a man when he is well and when he is prosperous; but this religion comes to a man when he is sick and says: "You will be well again after awhile; you are going into a land where there are no coughs and no pleurisies and no consumptions and no languishing; take courage and bear up." Yea, this awful chimera of the gospel comes to the poor, and it says to them, "You are on your way to vast estates and to dividends always declarable."

This delusion of Christianity comes to the bereft, and it talks of reunion before the throne and of the cessation of all sorrow, and then, to show that this delusion will stop at absolutely nothing, it goes to the dying bed and fills the man with anticipations. How much better it would be to have him die without any more hope than swine and rats and snakes! Shovel him under. That is all. Nothing more left of him. He will never know anything again. Shovel him under! The soul is only a superior part of the body, and when the body disintegrates the soul disintegrates. Annihilation, vacancy, everlasting blank, obliteration. Why not present all that beautiful doctrine to the dying instead of coming with this hoax, this swindle of the Christian religion, and filling the dying man with anticipations of another life until some in the last hour have clapped their hands, and some have shouted, and some have sung, and some have been so overwrought with joy that they could only look ecstatic? Palace gates opening, they thought—diamond coronets flashing, hands beckoning, orchestras sounding. Little children dying actually believing they saw their departed parents, so that, although the little children had been so weak and feeble and sick for weeks they could not turn on their dying pillow, at the last, in a paroxysm of rapture uncontrollable, they sprang to their feet and shouted: "Mother, catch me! I am coming!"

And to show the immensity of this delusion, this awful swindle of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I open a hospital and I bring into that hospital the death beds of a great many Christian people, and I take you by the hand and I walk up and down the wards of that hospital and I ask a few questions. I ask, "Dying Stephen, what have you to say?" "Lord, Jesus, receive my spirit." "Dying John Wesley, what have you to say!" "The best of all is, God is with us." "Dying Edward Payson, what have you to say?" "I float in a sea of glory." "Dying John Bradford, what have you to say?" "If there be any way of going to heaven on horseback or in a fiery chariot, it is this." "Dying Dr. Thomas Scott, what have you to say?" "This is heaven begun." "Dying soldier in the last war, what have you to say?" "Boys, I am going to the front." "Dying Paul, what have you to say?" "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand; I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

O my Lord, my God, what a delusion, what a glorious delusion! Submerge me with it, fill my eyes and ears with it, put it under my head for a pillow, this delusion; spread it over me for a canopy, put it underneath me for an outspreading wing, roll it over me in ocean surges 10,000 fathoms deep. If infidelity and if atheism and if annihilation are a reality and the Christian religion is a delusion give me the delusion.

What Crowned Heads Wear.

The Sultan of Turkey is always seen attired in pale brown garments; the Emperor of Austria affects gray. The young German Emperor has what may be called a loud taste in clothes, and is never so happy as when wearing the showiest of uniforms or hunting costumes; indeed, when attired in the latter he looks as though he had stepped out of a Drury Lane pantomime, so extraordinary and fantastic is his get-up on these occasions The Emperor of Russia, on the other hand, likes the simplest, darkest form of undress uniform, and he habitually wears that which became so familiar in all the photographs of his late father.

Ostrich Ate Barbed Wire.

The stomach of an ostrich is often made the receptacle for strange things. One of these birds mysteriously died at a California farm, and a post-mortem was held. It had followed about a gang of men who were building wire fences, and swallowed the bits of wire they chipped off from time to time.

Hobson's Choice.

The expresson of "Hobson's choice" is said to be derived from the peculiar rule enforced by an eccentric English livery stable keeper named Hobson. His horses stood in a long row, and each customer, in turn, was obliged to take the horse nearest the door. This was "Hobson's choice."

FASHION NOTES.

Pretty Blouses and Bodices of Transparent Goods.

The disappearance of the blouse has been repeatedly predicted as imminent, but each season, nevertheless, the blouse reappears in new and attractive varieties. This summer the finest white wash fabrics are employed, incrusted with lace and embroidery, puffed, tucked, hemstitched and elaborated with all sorts of fine needlework. These delicate blouses

VEILING GOWN.

are worn with white or colored skirts and with or without a bolero. They are not to be adopted by stout women, however, as they increase the apparent size of the figure a great deal.

Bodices of tinted or figured lawn and nainsook often have a yoke and sometimes sleeves of open white fabric, either embroidered or cut by bands of insertion. These yokes and sleeves are unlined, showing the arms and neck beneath, and are therefore not worn for the street by refined women. They are intended for house use and look out of place elsewhere.

The cut shows a costume of pearl gray veiling. The skirt has three horizontal bands of guipure of graduated widths. The bodice is gathered at the waist in front, opening over a plastron of guipure. The collar and revers of white moire are bordered with a band of guipure, and small crystal buttons decorate the fronts. The sleeves are plain, save for a guipure band at the wrists, and the belt is of white moire, the plaited collar being of veiling. The hat of pearl gray straw is trimmed with pink azaleas and their foliage.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

FASHION HINTS.

Dainty Gowns and Accessories For Summer Wear.

Among the most charming of summer gowns are those of the Trianon order, striped or flowered, recalling Sevres shepherdesses and all sorts of dainty china things. Far from being expansive, however, all gowns are clinging and are molded to the figure so that they envelop it as an umbrella case envelops an umbrella. Where draped tunics are used

TEA GOWN.

the drapery is slight, and the folds are long and flowing in the classical style, all bunchiness being avoided.

A great many buckles, pins and jewels of all sorts are used in the draperies of corsages and in decorative bows and rosettes.

Chemisettes of white or cream lace over blue, pink or rose silk have the narrowest of ribbons, tinted to match, run through the interstices of the lace to form stripes.

A new idea is to have the lower edge of the chemisette extend below the belt in square tabs, forming a sort of basque.

The belt most in favor at present is a band of grosgrain ribbon of a color matching the chemisette, fastened by a jeweled or metal buckle.

The tea gown illustrated is of mauve crepon. It falls straight in large, flat plaits from beneath a short bolero of guipure, which is pointed at the back. Around the foot is a band of guipure, the collar is of guipure, and the large, open sleeves are finished with a frill of guipure. The tea gown fastens at the top under a large bow of mauve satin, with a buckle, below which it opens over a straight front of accordion plaited cream surah.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

He Hunts For It.

Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. What few days the trouble is out of sight he wanders about uneasily hunting it.—Indianapolis Journal.

SUMMER GOWNS.

Details of Their Trimming and General Arrangement.

Small buttons of fine goldsmiths' work are fashionably employed as a decoration for bodices, and even white blouses of wash materials are thus adorned. The smaller the button the more valuable it is, as a rule, stones of genuine value being frequently used.

The mode has a tendency to enlarge the width of the shoulders, although sleeves are close and sleeve caps are less and less seen. The bodice itself is cut rather wide at the top, and the top of the sleeve is stiffened with canvas to give it a square form.

Costumes of lawn, thin nainsook or batiste, or Swiss muslin are usually made over a lining, either colored or white. It is not necessary that this lining should be silk, percaline or some similar lining fab-

CRAPE COSTUME.

ric of fine quality answering the purpose very well. If it is colored, the lower edge may be finished with a pinked silk ruffle of the same shade, and in any case it is best to stiffen the hem a little in order that it may give proper support to the separate outside skirt.

The princess costume of pink crepe de chine which is shown in the sketch has a slight train, and closes at the left side, the edge of the skirt having a deep flounce of plaited pink mousseline de soie, which follows the line of closing up the side of the skirt to the waist. The flounce is headed by a continuous design of bow knots in narrow black velvet. The bodice has a mousseline plaiting, headed in the same way and forming a fichu. Black velvet trims the wrists. The leghorn hat is decorated with pink tulle and black plumes, a scarf of tulle coming from pink roses beneath the brim and tying under the chin.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

MILLINERY NOTES.

Flowers and Other Trimmings For Summer Hats.

Enormous flowers are used on hats—roses so gigantic that they almost cover one side. Then there are turbanlike scarfs of gauze and garlands of flowers, all tending to enlarge the mass of the hat. High, detached sprays of trimming are less used than they were last year.

Orchids are seen upon some of the most elegant models of hats. Large shapes, with twisted brims, are much trimmed with these effective flowers, especially hats of the directory style, which are shown by the great millinery authorities.

Scarfs of tulle and gauze, coming from the back of the hat and tied under the chin or at the side, are becoming to nearly all faces, and their revival is an agreeable circumstance.

Many women wear beneath the ordinary veil another one of the finest white

NOVEL HAT.

illusion, which answers the double purpose of protecting the skin and making it appear clearer.

A novelty in parasols is of light colored taffeta, decorated with Louis Quinze knots of black velvet in application. Another idea is to have the velvet bands design a Greek or arabesque border, the edge of the parasol being cut to follow the shape of the design.

The picture shows a hat of leghorn straw. The brim is not very wide and curls upward. Around the crown is a band of black velvet, and in front is a chou of sky blue ribbon and a full trimming of bunches of black and white grapes, with leaves, black and white dandelion balls and ears of ripe wheat.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

Public Land In Idaho.

Eighty-four per cent of the entire state of Idaho is still public land, amounting to more than 44,000,000 acres. Of this area it has been estimated by the government geological survey that 7,000,000 acres can be irrigated successfully.—Minneapolis Journal.

ACCESSORIES.

Pretty Trifles to Enhance the Beauty of the Costume.

Boleros of the newest fashion are not trimmed, with the exception of the revers and collars, which may be elaborately ornamented. Black satin skirts of good quality are also left untrimmed and are much worn with boleros and fancy waists.

Medici collars are still in great favor, little adapted as they are to warm weather wear. The discomfort they cause has been largely diminished, how-

TAILOR MADE GOWN.

ever, by making them of lace and tulle, embroidered with jet and spangles and kept in form by wire. Being of open material, they do not make the neck so warm as do those of the usual kind.

Boas of gauze, tulle and lace are made just long enough to pass around the neck and reach the waist line in front. At the back they are very large, but they taper toward the ends, which are secured at the belt.

A picture is given of a tailor made gown of thin red cloth. The skirt is adorned with stitched straps which outline the tablier and yoke, passing downward again at the back. The double breasted coat has a short round basque and is trimmed with stitched straps which design a sort of plastron and border the edges, the pocket flaps, collar and revers. Crystal buttons appear in groups of three on the plastron. The straw hat is encircled with a puffing of tulle and has a trimming of foliage and a bow of ribbon edged with velvet.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

CHILDREN'S FASHIONS.

Duck and Pique Suits For Seaside and Country Wear.

The favor in which piques, galatea cloth, duck, canvas and similar fabrics are held by fashion is a blessing to mothers, for no materials could be better suited for the summer attire of small boys and girls. Cool and serviceable,

PIQUE COSTUME.

such goods may be washed over and over without receiving injury, especially when they are white. There is another useful material for children, less often seen in America, although it may be obtained at first class shops, and that is English holland in tan and linen shades. When it is washed, it comes out as good as new, and it will wear for an indefinite time.

Children's clothing of finer goods, such as muslin and flowered lawn, is trimmed chiefly with valenciennes lace, which is arranged in lengthwise or horizontal bands, in squares, lozenges and other decorative forms. In all such cases the insertion is first sewed on the smooth material in the desired design, and then the goods beneath it are cut away.

The illustration shows an attractive little costume of navy blue pique. The skirt is plain. The short, loose sacque is open and is bordered with stitching, as are the wrists of the plain sleeves. The revers and collar are of white pique with navy blue dots, and under the sacque is worn a shirt waist of the dotted pique, with a white cravat. The hat of navy blue straw is trimmed with white ribbon and white lace.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

Largest Tree In the World.

The largest tree in the eastern hemisphere, if not in the world, is a monster chestnut standing at the foot of Mount Etna. The circumference of the main trunk at 60 feet from the ground is 212 feet.