

HEAVEN IMPROVING.

[By T. De Witt Talmage, D.D.]

And I saw a new heaven.—Rev. xxi: 1.

Heaven is not stationary. It is an improvement to-day over what it was yesterday—far beyond what it was in the day of Paul. It is ever a *new* heaven.

1. Heaven is improving in *members*.
2. Heaven is improving in *knowledge*.
3. The *society* of heaven is improving, for every inhabitant is going on from perfection to perfection.
4. Heaven is improving in *good cheer over the conversion of sinners*. Never were so many sinners converted each day as now.

This thought is full of comfort—

1. To those who are impatient to go to heaven, for heaven is not waxing old.
2. To those who are active in brain and heart, for there is no standing still in heaven.
3. To those who have lost dear ones, for the unfolding of their souls has not ceased.

REVIVAL EXPERIENCES.

Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?—Ps. lxxxv: 6.

I. This prayer was dictated by the memory of past *experiences*: “Wilt thou not revive us *again*?”

II. It is the prayer of one alive to the preciousness and needfulness of such special effusions of the Holy Spirit: “Wilt thou not *revive*?”

III. It is the prayer of one fully con-

scious that *God* alone is the source of reviving power and grace: “Wilt not *thou*,” etc. These three points: The *blessedness* of revivals; the *necessity* of revivals; *God*, the *author* of all genuine revivals, are especially pertinent at this time. Never in the history of the world was a revival of “pure religion and undefiled”—a more than Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Ghost—more needed to purify and give new life and faith and evangelism to the Church, and arrest the progress of excessive worldliness and infidelity and immorality, than at this very time. And the prayer of the universal brotherhood of believers should be: “Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?”

Note that it is specially true in revival times, that Christians *rejoice in God*. They (a) “rejoice;” (b) they “rejoice in Thee”—in God.

Funeral Service.

THE HAPPIEST END OF LIFE.

Let me die the death of the righteous.—

Num. 23: 10.

The wish were a frivolous one if there were no life after death. All die alike, if there be no hereafter.

1. The righteous life insures the happiest end—a happy future for the soul.
2. To end well our life is a noble ambition.
3. Let us cultivate this desire, for it will fashion our lives, if it be a strong and constant motive.

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?—KING DAVID.

Divorce Legislation.

God setteth the solitary in families—Psalm lxxviii: 6.

THE *Family* constitution is one of God's fundamental arrangements for the government of the world and the perpetuity of the Church. Church and State are alike dependent upon it. Whatever, therefore, threatens the integrity or perpetuity of the family threatens the welfare and very existence of these institutions. And without *marriage* the family has and can have no existence; it is the warrant, the

basis, the bond which holds it together. And hence *divorce legislation* is vital in its relations to society and to religion; and the growing prevalence of loose legislation on the subject, in order to facilitate the annulling of the marriage tie, is one of the most alarming signs of the growing demoralization of modern society.

Divorce legislation is attracting considerable attention just now, yet this attention is not at all in proportion to the importance of the matter. The Rev. Samuel W. Dike has devoted years to the