

SERMON.

Rev. Dr. Talmage in His Sermon Makes Practical Use of an Occurrence in the Orient Which has Seldom Attracted Particular Attention.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage makes practical use of an occurrence in the Orient which has seldom attracted particular attention; text, II Kings, vi, 1, "The iron did swim."
A theological seminary in the valley of the Jordan, near the river Jordan, had become so popular in the time of Elisha, the prophet, that more accommodations were needed for the students. The classrooms and the dormitories must be enlarged or an entirely new building constructed. What will they do? Will they send up to Jerusalem and solicit contributions for this undertaking? They may send out agents to raise the money for a new theological seminary? Having raised the money, will they send for cedars of Lebanon and marble from the quarries where Ahab got the stone for the pillars and walls of his palace? No; the students propose to build it themselves. They were rugged and hardy and had been brought up in the country and who had never been weakened by the luxuries of city life. All they ask is that Elisha, their professor and prophet, go along with them to the woods and boss the job. They must get the work, Elisha and his students. Plenty of lumber in those regions along the Jordan. The sycamore is a stout, strong tree and good for timber. Mr. Gladstone asked me if I had seen in Palestine any sycamore tree more beautiful than the one we stood under at Hazzard, I told him I had not.

The sycamores near the Jordan are now attacked by Elisha's students, for they must have lumber for the new theological seminary. I suppose some of the students made an awkward stroke, and the tree was extemporized axmen. Stand firm, under! Crash goes one of the trees and another another. But something new happens so wonderful that the occurrence will tax the credulity of the ages, so wonderful that many still think it never happened at all. One of the students, unable to own an ax, had borrowed one. You must remember that while the ax of olden days was much like our modern ax, it differed in the fact that instead of the head or handle being thrust into a socket in the iron head, the head of the ax was fastened on the handle by a leather thong, and so it might slip the handle. A student of the seminary was swinging his ax against one of these trees, and whether it was at the moment he made his first stroke and the tree fell from all sides or not, but the ax head and the handle parted.

Being near the riverside the ax head dropped into the river and sank to the muddy bottom. It had been his own ax, it would have been had enough, but the ax did not belong to him. He had no means to buy another for the kind man who had loaned it to him, but God helps the helpless, and he generally helps through some other means. This time the ax head was in the river bank at the time. He did not see the ax head fly off, and so he asked the student where it dropped. He was shown the place where it went down into the river. Then Elisha broke off a branch of a tree and threw it into the water and the ax head rose to the surface of the river and floated to the bank, so that the student had just to stoop down and take up the rest of the property. Now you see the meaning of my text, "The iron did swim."

Suppose a hundred years ago some one had told people that the time would come when hundreds of thousands of tons of iron would float on the Atlantic and Pacific iron ships from New York to Southampton, from London to Calcutta, from San Francisco to Canton. The men making such a prophecy would have been sent to an asylum or carefully watched as incompetent to go alone. We have all in our day seen iron swim. Now, if man can make hundreds of tons of metal float, I am disposed to think that the Almighty could make an ax head float.
"What," says some one, "would be the use of such a miracle?" Of vast, of infinite, of eternal importance. Those students were preparing for the ministry. They had joined the theological seminary for all its advantages. They needed to have their faith strengthened; they needed to be persuaded that God can do everything; they needed to learn that God takes notice of little things; that there is no emergency of life where he is not willing to help. Standing on the banks of that Jordan, those students of that day of the recalled ax head had their faith re-enforced, and nothing that they had found out in the classrooms of that learned institution had ever done more in the way of fitting them for their coming profession.

I hear from different sources that there is a great deal of infidelity in some of the theological seminaries of our day. They think that the garden of Eden is an allegory, and that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, and that the book of Job is only a drama, and that the book of Jonah is an unreliable fish story, and that water was not turned into wine, although the bartender now by large additions turns wine into water, and that some of the so-called miracles of the Old and the New Testaments were wrought by natural causes. When those infidels graduate from the theological seminary and take the pulpits of America as expounders of the Holy Scriptures, what advocates they will be of that gospel for the truth of which the martyrs died! Hail the Polycarps and Hugh Latimers and John Knoxes of the twentieth century, believing the Bible is true in spots! Would to God that some great exponent of religion might sweep through all the theological seminaries of this land, confirming the faith of the coming expounders of an entire Bible!

THE RIGHT TO BORROW.
Furthermore, in that scene of the text God sanctions borrowing and sets

forth the importance of venturing. I do not think there would have been any miracle performed if the young man had owned the ax that slipped the helve. The young man cried out in the hearing of the prophet, "Alas, master, for it was borrowed!" He had a right to borrow. There are times when we have not only a right to borrow, but it is a duty to borrow. There are times when we ought to lend, for Christ in his sermon on the mount declared, "From him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." It is right that one borrow the means of getting an education, as the young student of my text borrowed the ax. It is right to borrow means for the forwarding of commercial ends. Most of the vast fortunes that now overshadow the land were hatched out of a borrowed dollar.

If in any assembly it were requested that those who had never borrowed hold up their hands, none would be lifted, or if he were and a hand were lifted we would know that it was a case of invertebrate. Borrow! Why, we are borrowing all the time. We borrow from the Lord the sunlight that shows us our way, the water that slakes our thirst, the food that refreshes us through the day, the pillow on which we slumber, the very gladness from our friends; we borrow all elevated surroundings. The church borrows all its beauty from the Christ who founded it. In our songs and sermons we borrow from the raptures of heaven.

We borrow time, we will borrow eternity, and that constant borrowing implies a return. For what we borrow from God we must pay back in hearty thanks and Christian service, in improvement of ourselves and helpfulness for others. For what we borrow from the mercies of God we must pay back in devout devotion. For what we borrow from our parents in their good example and their hard work wrought for us in our journey from cradle to manhood or womanhood for all the ages to come we ought to be paying back. The halls of heaven will be returned for crucifixion agony.

DEBT A CALAMITY.
Hayden, the painter, said his ruin began the day he began to borrow money, and he wrote in his diary, "Here began debt and obligation, out of which I have never been and never shall be extricated as long as I live." Dr. Johnson said, "Do not advise yourself to consider debt only as an inconvenience. You will find it a calamity." We have a right to borrow for the absolute necessities, expecting to pay back again, but we ought never to borrow for the luxuries. According to the "Laws of Amalek" in Egypt, if a man died without paying that which he had borrowed he was deprived of all obsequies. If that law were in vogue in our times, how many postponed and impossible funerals!

Furthermore, let us admire these young men of Elisha's theological seminary for the fact that they were earning their own way. The most of those today who are successful in the professions, medicating the sick or advocating the law or preaching the gospel, fought their own way on and up. Those are the kind of men who know what education is worth, and know how to use it. Many of us remember that in college days the sons of affluent fathers, with plenty of money to spend and horses to drive and libraries crowded with books never read and wardrobes that kept them in possession of the latest fashions, and money for the fact that they were earning their own way. The most of those today who are successful in the professions, medicating the sick or advocating the law or preaching the gospel, fought their own way on and up. Those are the kind of men who know what education is worth, and know how to use it. Many of us remember that in college days the sons of affluent fathers, with plenty of money to spend and horses to drive and libraries crowded with books never read and wardrobes that kept them in possession of the latest fashions, and money for the fact that they were earning their own way.

SUPERIORITY OF GOD.
Those students in the valley of the Jordan had a physical strength and hardihood that would help them in their mental and spiritual achievements. We, who are toiling for the world's betterment need brains as well as illuminated minds and consecrated souls. Many of those who are now doing the best work in churches and state got muscle and power of endurance from the fact that in early life they were compelled to use ax or plow or stall or hammer, while many who were brought up in the luxuries of life give out before the battle is won. They are keen and sharp of mind, but have no physical endurance. They have the ax head, but no handle. The body is the handle of the soul.

Let all those who toil for their education remember they are especially favored, and, if all things go against them, let the ax head show that the helve that very hindrance may some time turn out advantageously, as the accident by the river Jordan, which seemed to finish the young student's capacity to help build the new seminary resulted in a splendid demonstration of the power of Elisha's God to help any one who helps himself. No ax that was ever wielded has wrought so well as that ax, the handle and head of which parted.

Notice, also, how God is superior to every law of nature, the law of gravitation.

Itation. The stick that Elisha threw into the Jordan floated, but the ax head sank. By inexorable law it must go down into the depths of the Jordan, yet without so much as a touch the hard, heavy metal sought the surface. There it is, the floating ax head. What a rebuke to those who reject miracles on the ground that they are contrary to nature, as though the law were stronger than any law made the law! Again, and again, in Bible times was that law revoked. Witness the scene on the banks of the same Jordan, where, in after time, the fat head sank and rose. Elisha stood there, watching the floating ax head, when there came a rushing of the air and a flashing equipage descended. Elisha stepped into it, and on wheels of fire, drawn by horses of fire, he rose. Fifty men for three days searched the mountains to see if the body of Elisha had been dropped among the rocks and picked up in the hope of the resurrection was in vain. The law of gravitation had been defeated.

WONDERS OF DIVINE POWER.
There Christ stood by his disciples on the Mount of Olives after his coming out of the Babylonian captivity, and let down for his ascension, his feet lifted from the hill, and he goes up until the curtains of cloud drops, and he is invisible. Law of gravitation again unhampered. Enoch, Methuselah's father, escaping death, went up bodily, as well as soul, to meet of resurrection. So will all the souls that are now at rest be alive at the end of the world. They will not need wings. Every one of the millions of our planet who loved and served the Lord, if then alive, will be "caught up," as the Bible says, body and soul, to meet the Lord in the air. So will all the souls that are now at rest be alive at the end of the world. They will not need wings. Every one of the millions of our planet who loved and served the Lord, if then alive, will be "caught up," as the Bible says, body and soul, to meet the Lord in the air. So will all the souls that are now at rest be alive at the end of the world. They will not need wings. Every one of the millions of our planet who loved and served the Lord, if then alive, will be "caught up," as the Bible says, body and soul, to meet the Lord in the air.

Notice also the divine power in the backwoods. Wonderful things were done at the cities of Jericho and Jerusalem and at the towers of Babylon, and the great cities of our time and in the backwoods, far away from the city, in the lumber districts, where the students had gone to cut timber for the new theological seminary. And in this sermon shall we remember that the backwoods, far away from the city, in the lumber districts, where the students had gone to cut timber for the new theological seminary. And in this sermon shall we remember that the backwoods, far away from the city, in the lumber districts, where the students had gone to cut timber for the new theological seminary.

LOST AND RESTORED.
You have a wayward boy. Only God knows how you have cried over him. You have tried everything for his reformation. Where is he now—in this city, in this country, or has he crossed the sea? "Oh," you say, "I do not know where he is. He went away in the sulks and did not say where he was going." You have about made up your mind that you will never hear from him again. Pretty hard pay he gives you for all your kindnesses, and the nights you set up with him when he was sick. Perhaps he struck you one day when you were trying to persuade him to do better. How different was the feeling of that hard fist against your face from his little hand in infancy patting your cheek! Father! Mother! This is an impossible that I would like to see God take hold of the conversion of this boy, for he will never be anything but a boy to you, though you should live to see him fifty years of age. Did you say his heart is hard? How hard? Hard as stone? "Yes," you say, "harder than that. Hard as iron." But here is a God who can make iron swim, the Lord of Elisha, the God of the young student that stood in dismay on the banks of the Jordan at the time of the ax head near the river. He is in a prayer that will take no denial.

Alas, there are impossibilities before thousands of people—called to do work that it is impossible for them to do, called to bear burdens that it is impossible for them to bear, called to endure suffering that it is impossible for them to endure. Read all the gospel promises, rally all your faith, and while you will always be called to worship the God of hope, today, with all the concentrated energies of my soul, I implore you to bow down and worship the God who can turn the impossibilities into possibilities. It was no trivial purpose, but for grand and glorious use I have spoken to you today of the borrowed, the lost and the restored ax head.

DEATHS.
BURKE—At the city hospital, Boston, Jan. 20, Mary, beloved wife of Harry Burke, aged 29 years. (Nova Scotia papers please copy.)
CLARK—Suddenly in this city, Jan. 22nd, Alex. K. Clark, in the 62nd year of his age, leaving a widow and nine children to mourn their loss.
FLEMING—At her residence, 313 Charlotte street, on the 21st inst. Mary, relict of Peter Fleming, leaving two sons and one daughter to mourn their loss.
HOWARD—At Bluefield, West Virginia, U. S. A., on Jan. 21st, Gwendolyn Travers, wife of Alfred W. Howard, and daughter of E. T. P. Shoven, C. B. of this city, at the age of 27.
WANDLESS—In Roxbury, Mass., Jan. 22, Mrs. Mary Wandless, in the 75th year of her age.McGUIRE—At 120 Union Park, Boston, Mass., on January 22nd, Michael McGUIRE.WINTERS—At Chicago, Jan. 17, J. A. Winters, husband of Alice Winters, aged 55 years.

YORK CO COUNCIL.
FRIDERICHTON, Jan. 22.—York municipal council concluded its semi-annual session tonight. The bill of Dr. Ryan for \$15 a day for attending a small-pox patient at St. Mary's was reduced to \$8 a day, and the guard on the house, who put in a bill for \$8 a day, was set down to \$3 a day. Last year \$3,200 salaries were paid off. An assessment was ordered to pay of \$2,000 maturing this year. Fred St. J. Bliss was re-elected secretary-treasurer. This evening Warden Robinson entertained the council and officers at dinner.

Sch. Joseph Hay has been chartered to carry crenated timber from Norfolk to Halifax for \$1,500.

can see the wide reach of my subject. See in all this theme how the impossibilities may be turned into possibilities. The ax head was sunken in the middlest river that could be found. The alarmed student of Elisha may know where it went down and may dive for it and perhaps fetch it up, but can the sunken ax head be lifted without a hand thrust deep into the mud at the bottom of the river? No; that is impossible. It is impossible as human power is concerned, it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. After the tree branch was thrown upon the surface of Jordan the iron did swim.
Some one asks me, "Dir you ever see iron swim? Yes, very easy a time, I saw a soul hardened until nothing could make it harder. All styles of sin had pitted that soul. It was petrified as to all fine feeling. It had been hardening for 30 years. It had gone into the deepest depths. It had been given that rest. The father had given it up. The mother, that could do so, had given it up. But one day in answer to some prayer a branch of the discolored tree of Calvary was thrown into the dark and sullen stream, and the sunken soul responded to its power. The night was light, and to the astonishment of the church and the world, the iron did swim." Have you seen hundreds of cases like that? When the dying bandit on the cross beside Christ's cross was converted. When Jerry McAuley, a ruffian graduate of Sing Sing, was changed into a great evangelist, so used in the reformation of wandering men and women that the merchant princes of New York established for him the Water street and Cremona missions and mourned at his burial, amid the lamentations of a city.

When Newton, the blaspheming sabbater, or under the power of the truth was brought to Christ and became one of the mightiest preachers of the gospel that England ever saw. When John Bunyan, whose cause shocked even the profane of the fish market, was so changed in heart and life that he could write that wonderful drama "The pilgrim's Progress," in such a way that uncounted thousands have found through it the road from the "city of destruction" to the "celestial city." In all these cases I think iron was made to swim. I worship the God who can do the impossible.

DOMESTIC PORTS.
Arrived.
At Ferrandina, Fla., Jan. 19, schs. Thea, McNeal, from Havana; Edna, Dogovan, from Brunswick.
At Savannah, Jan. 19, str. Tiber, Bouliard, from New York.
At Quaco, Jan. 22, sch. Wood Bros, Kingston, from St. John.
At Cape Town, Jan. 23, str. Bharatla, Kehoe, from St. John—orderly Jos. Delgado Bay; Seaman, Hunter, from New York. Has been ordered to discharge at Cape Town.
At Bermuda, Jan. 19, str. Oceano, Bale, from Halifax (and sailed 17th for West Indies).

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900 DROPS
Vegetable Preparation for Assisting the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of INFANTS CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.
A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.
Fac-Simile Signature of *Chas. H. Stebbins* NEW YORK.
400 months old
35 Doses—35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.
Arrived.
Jan. 21—Coastwise—Sch. Beulah, 50, Ellis, from Quaco.
Jan. 22—Coastwise—Schs. Alpha B Parker, 68, Outhouse, from Truro; B. B. Colwell, 18, Galbraith, from Salsing.
Jan. 22—Coastwise—Sch. Alice May, 15, Murray, from Salsing and cleared.
Jan. 21—Sch. R. D. Spear, Richardson, for City Island f. o.
Sch. Annie Bliss, Day, for City Island f. o.
Sch. Cape Breton, Reed, for Lunenburg.
Sch. Hunter, Kelson, for Greenwood.
Coastwise—Schs. Alpha B Parker, Outhouse, for Truro; Sch. Alexandra, Skelly, for North Head.
Jan. 22—Sch. St. Croix, Pike, for Boston. Coastwise—Barge No. 5, Warnock, for Parrsboro.

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At Ferrandina, Fla., Jan. 19, schs. Thea, McNeal, from Havana; Edna, Dogovan, from Brunswick.
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SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF EVERY WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA
Castoria is put up in one-size bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else in the place of it, that is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C.A.S.-T-O-R-I-A.
The fac-simile signature of *Chas. H. Stebbins* is on every wrapper.

Holder, for Pasceogoula.
Passed up James River, Jan. 20, sch. Abbie and Eva Hooper, from New York.
Passed out at Delaware Breakwater, Jan. 21, str. Manchester Corporation, from Philadelphia for Manchester.
CHATHAM, Mass., Jan. 20, 4 p.m.—Light-house tender Azalea placed the new Pollock Rip Shoal Lightship on station NE of the entrance of Pollock Rip Sire. The channel will doubtless be lighted tonight for the first time.
PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 20—Commander Martin of the First Lighthouse District, gives notice that Foreport Light, red and black horizontally striped spar, is reported to have drifted to the westward of its proper position in East Penobscot Bay, and will be replaced as soon as practicable.
In port at Buenos Ayres, Dec. 15, bark Alberta, Christie, for Boston.
In port at Turke Island, Jan. 14, brig Leod, from Ponce, arid 13th, to sail about 16th, for Lunenburg; Aldie, Swain, from Labrador, arid 13th, to sail about 16th, for Yarmouth.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.
PORTLAND, Jan. 18.—East Penobscot Bay, Me.: Notice is hereby given that Porcupine Lightship, of Leeds, Me., which is a horizontally striped spar, is reported drifted to the westward of its proper position. It will be replaced as soon as practicable.
BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 21.—Notice is given by the Lighthouse Board that Pollock Rip Shoal Light vessel No. 22, which is a horizontally striped spar, established about 1 1/2 miles NE&E from Pollock Rip Sire north entrance buoy, No. 2A, and to the north of Pollock Rip Sire entrance to Nantucket Sound.

Rheumatic Pains Cured by Nervine.
This is the testimony of Mr. Benjamin Dillon of Leeds, New York, who writes: "It is my duty to proclaim the marvellous value of Polson's Nervine as an infallible cure for rheumatic pains; it cures them every time. Nothing I know of equals it as a household liniment, and mothers should feel it as necessary as bread itself." Nervine has cured rheumatism of 30 years standing, and can cure you. Instant relief, absolute cure; large bottle 25c.

BACK IN ALASKA.
When the temperature of 89 Degrees minus is sometimes experienced. (The Era.)
In the vast and almost unknown interior of Alaska, beyond the influence of the "Kuro Sivo," the climate is arctic in the fullest sense of the word. There are but two seasons here—winter and summer. The winter is of eight months' duration, dry and excepting certain restricted localities, entirely free from wind. The temperature descends as low as 40 degrees (sometimes occasions even—90 degrees has been reached), with a mean of, perhaps—40 degrees. Ice forms in the rivers and lakes to a thickness of eight feet and more. Summer extends over a period of four months. During its earliest months, high winds prevail, greatly assisting in the dissipation of the snow and ice, but rendering this time extremely disagreeable. The balance of this short season is mild and the temperature pleasant, rarely exceeding 86 degrees. The snow and rain annually precipitated is about 12.3 inches.

The hapless resident in this inhospitable section is afforded no relief after his long winter's fight for the unity of soul and body, by the advent of this otherwise agreeable period; for, with the first tempered breeze come countless legions of mosquitoes, black flies, and various stinging insects besides, whose agonizing assiduity and ghoul-like appetite preclude the enjoyment of the briefest moment. Whence comes the abnormal instinct that marks men at first sight as their prey—considering the fact that their ancestry back to protoplasm had no knowledge of his being—is an interesting problem best left for entomologists to determine.

MORE COLDS are cured by Pny-Balm than any other one remedy. It cures quickly and certainly. Bronchial affections give way readily to it. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

BATH, Me., Jan. 22.—Mayor Berry has announced that he does not care to accept a nomination for mayor for a second term, and the republican city committee unofficially has agreed to bring forward the name of President Edward W. Hyde of the Bath Iron Works.

MEMORANDA.
In port at Demarara, Jan. 1, sch. Sirocco.

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