TALKING ABOUT DANIEL.

The Lessons Drawn from the Lions' Den.

Rev. Dr. Talmage's Sermon to the People of Waco, Texas—"Have a Decision of Character."

WACO, Tex., Aug. 31.—Dr. Talmage today delivered the following discourse on the text: "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions." Daniel vi. 16. Darius was king of Babylon, and the young man Daniel was so much a favorite with him that he made him Prime Minister, or Secretary of State. But no man could gain such a high position without exciting the envy and jealousy of the people. There were demagogues in Babylon who were so appreciative of their own abilities that they were affronted at the election of this young man. Old Babylon was afraid of young Babylon. The taller the cedar, the more apt it is to be rive of the lightning. These demagogues asked the king to make a decree that anybody that made a petition to any one except the king within 30 days should be put to death. King Darius, not suspecting any foul play, makes that decree. The demagogues have accomplished all they want, because they know that no one can keep Daniel from sending petitions before God for 30 days. So far from being afraid, Daniel goes on with his supplications three times a day, and is found on his housetop making prayer. He is caught in the act. He is condemned to be devoured by the lions. Rough executioners of the law seize him and hasten him to the cavern. But what a strange welcome Daniel receives from these hungry monsters. They fawn around him, they lick his hand, they bury his feet in their long mane. That night he has calm sleep with his head pillowed on the warm necks of the tamed tions.

But not so well does Darius the king sleep. He loves Daniel, and hates this stratagem by which he has been condemned. All night long the king walks the floor. He cannot sleep. Darius goes to the den of lions; he looks in. All is silent. His heart stops. He feels that the very worst has happened; but gathering all his strength he shouts through the rifts of the rock, "O Daniel! is the God whom thou servest continually able to deliver thee?" There comes rolling up from the deep darkness a voice which says: "O king! live forever. My God has sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths that they have not hurt me. Then Daniel is brought out from the den. The demagogues are hurled into it, and no sooner have they struck the bottom of the den than their flesh was rent. While God will defend his people, the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Learn first from this subject that the greatest crime that you can commit in the eyes of many is the crime of success. What had Daniel done that he should be flung to the lions? He got to be Prime Minister. They could not forgive him for that; and behold in that a touch of unsanctified human nature as seen in all ages of the world. So long as you are pinched in poverty there are people who will say, "Poor man, I am sorry for him; he ought to succeed, poor man!"

But after a while the tide turns in your favor. Those men who used to sympathize with you stand along the street, and they scowl at you from under the rims of their hats. Just as soon as in any respect you rise above your fellows, if you are more virtuous, if you are more wise, if you are more influential, you cast a shadow on the prospects of others. Young merchants, young lawyers, young doctors, young mechanics, young artists, young farmers, at certain times there were those to sympathize with you, but now that you are becoming master of your particular occupation or profession, how is it now, young lawyers, young doctors, young artists, young farmers—how is it now? The greatest crime that you can commit is the crime of success.

Again: My subject impresses me with the value of decision of character in any department. Daniel knew that if he continued his adherence to the religion of the Lord he would be hurried to the lions, but having set his compass well he sailed right on. For the lack of that element of decision of character, so eminent in Daniel, many men are ruined for this world and ruined for the world to come. A great many at 40 years of age are not settled in any respect, because they have not been able to make up their mind. Perhaps they will go west; perhaps they will go east; perhaps they will go north; perhaps they will go south; perhaps they make that investment in real estate or in railroads; perhaps they will not. They are like a man who starts to build a house in the Corinthian style and changes it to Doric, and then completes it in the Ionic, and is cursed by all styles of architecture.

Young man, start right and keep on. Have decision of character. Their old associates make sarcastic flings at them. They go on excursions and they do not invite them. They prophesy that he will give out. They wonder if he is not getting wings. As he passes, they grimace, and wink, and chuckle and say. "There goes a saint." O, young man! have decision of character. You can afford in this matter of religion to be laughed at. What do you care for the scoffs of these men, who are affronted because you will not go to ruin with them? When the grave cracks open under their feet, and grim messengers push them into it, and eternity comes down hard upon their spirit, and conscience stings, and hopeless ruin lifts them up to hurl them down, will they laugh then?

I learn also from my subject that men may take religion into their worldly business. Daniel had enough work to do to occupy six men, and yet we find him three times a day bowing before God in prayer. There are men in our day who have not a hundredth part of Daniel's engagements, who say they are too busy to be religious. They have an idea somehow that religion will spoil their worldly occupation, that it will trip the accountant's pen, or dull the carpenter's saw, or confuse the lawyer's brief, or disarrange the merchant's store shelf.

They think religion is impertinent. They would like to have it very well seated beside them in church on the Sabbath, to find the place in the psalm book, or to nudge them awake when they get sleepy under the didactic discourse. But to have religion go right along by them all through life. They think that is an impertinent religion. They would like to have a religion to help them when they are sick, and when the shadow of death comes over them they would like to have religion as a sort of night-key with which to open the door of heaven; but religion under other circumstances they take to be an impertinence. Now, my friends, religion never robbed a man of a dollar. Other things being equal, a mason will build a better wall, a cabinet-maker will make a better chair, a plumber will make a better pipe, a lawyer will make a better plea, a merchant will sell a better bill of goods. Of course, when religion gives a man a new heart it does not propose to give him a new head, or to intellectualize him; but the more letters you have to write, the more burdens you have to carry, the more miles you have to travel, the more burdens you have to lift, the more engagements you have to meet, the more disputes you have to settle, the more opportunity you have of being a Christian.

Again: I learn from this subject that a man may take religion into his politics. Daniel had all the affairs of state on hand, yet a Christian. He could not have kept his elevated position unless he had been a thorough politician; and yet all the thrusts of officials and all the danger of disgrace did not make him yield one iota of his high-toned religious principle. He stood before that age, he stands before all ages, a specimen of a Christian politician. It is absurd to expect that men who have been immersed in political wickedness for 30 or 40 years shall come to reformation; and our hope is in the young men who are coming up, that they have patriotic principle and Christian principle side by side when they come to the ballot-box and cast their first vote.

Daniel stood on a most unpopular platform. He stood firmly, though the demagogues of the day hissed at him and tried to overthrow him. We must carry our religion into our politics. But there are a great many men who are in favor of taking religion into national politics who do not see the importance of taking it into city politics; as though a man were intelligent about the welfare of his neighborhood, and had no concern about his own home. Now you can always tell without asking, in any contest what candidate I will vote for. It is always for the man who is most badgered, and most abused, and most spit upon, and most howled at. You have a right to contest a man's political sentiments; you have no right for base political purposes to assail his private moral character.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The Millers' Association in Brantford has collapsed.

The Thorold Silver Plating Company's works will be removed to Humberstone.

The institution for the education of the blind will re-open at Brantford on Sept. 10.

Aaron Demarary has been appointed collector for Adelaide township for the year 1890.

Mr. Farewell, editor of the Thornbury Standard died Saturday after a short illness.

Ezra Pickard, of Holmesville, met with an accident lately that will prove troublesome for some weeks.

Nelson Vansickle, of West Lorne, has been promoted to section foreman of the Rodney gang.

Cigar-selling on Sunday in St. Thomas is to be stopped, and the police have been instructed to see that the law is enforced.

A. W. Graham has purchased fourteen acres of land on the Port Stanley gravel road opposite Mr. Frank Hunt's for $1,100.

Martin Purdy, of Corinth, has a 10-year-old son who weighs 160 pounds and measures 4 feet 11 inches in his stockings.

The Flesherton cheese factory has done a good business this season, and the quantity of cheese manufactured is above the average.

The seed fair held in Guelph Saturday was a great success, and was noted for the interest taken by the farmers of that district.

The Woodstock waterworks bylaws were voted on yesterday and carried by good majorities. An expenditure of $105,000 is involved.

In a Windsor livery there are 65 horses requiring daily a ton of hay and 35 bushels of oats. The weekly wages of the men amount to $135.

Mr. Charles Shaw, black-knot inspector, of Ridgetown, is on his rounds. One offender was find the other day and other examples will be made.

The iron steamer Manitoba will probably be put on a route between Cleveland, Detroit, Windsor and the upper lakes ports as soon as the dock at Windsor is completed.

The remains of a child of Mr. J. Meek, Union Road, who died in St. Louis some fifteen years ago, have been exhumed and will be interred in the St. Thomas cemetery.

Tom Stephenson, who has been a station master on the C. P. R. near Kingston, has given up railroading and intends studying medicine. He is now attending Elora High School.

Scobie Logan, secretary of the Muncey-Tecumseh Agricultural Society, of Muncey Reserve, has received a letter from the Local House, Toronto, stating that they have decided to give a special grant of $100 to the societies.

Miss Dale has been engaged to take the highest form during the Model term at Mitchell, and Mr. Robins as vocal instructor for the model class. The Mitchell Board has asked for $2,900 this year, less the Legislative grant, instead of $3,300 as formerly.

The carrier pigeons sent from Toronto were let loose at the Grand Trunk station at Guelph Saturday. There was a large number of people present to see them start off. The birds had considerable difficulty in finding the right course, but after making several circuits headed for the east.

Sir Hector Langevin and his party, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Chapleau, the Misses Langevin and Mr. Roy arrived at Owen Sound Saturday. After the reading of addresses, Sir Hector and his companions departed on the steamship Alberta, of the C. P. R. fleet, for Port Arthur and the West.

Rev. A. L. Macfadyen, Congregational minister of West Toronto, and formerly of Kingston, has been spending a few weeks at Doe Lake, near Emsdale, where he preached in open air each Sabbath. At his closing service he received a vote of thanks for his kindness in preaching in that vicinity.

Worse harvest weather there could not be than that prevailing for the past two weeks in the district of Owen Sound. Shower succeeded shower from day to day while the temperature is that of late October. Hundreds of acres of wheat is yet in the fields, some uncut and some lying rotting on the ground. Unless a change is soon experienced the greater part of the crop will be a dead loss.

The Tilsonburg Liberal says: Miss Alice VanSittart, daughter of the late Henry VanSittart, of Eastwood, went to Persia as a missionary, under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Society of the English Church, from England, about a year ago. The hardships which she had to bear on the journey to the north part of Persia, brought on sickness from which she never recovered, and news has just been received of her death.

A dreadful accident happened on Saturday at the sawmill back of Windermere. Mr. Clarke, son of the manager of the mill, caught his foot in the chain, and before he could extricate himself he was beheaded by the circular saw. His mother gathered the head up, and the family are nearly frantic with grief over the occurrence. A liberal subscription was raised by the visitors for the unfortunate wife. The tragedy cast a deep gloom over the neighborhood. Five young Londoners who were camping near by, named Lind, Beltz, Murray, Mills and McIlwain, stood near by and saw the frightful occurrence.

For ten years past the Rev. J. A. Macdonald has been a resident of the village of Brigden, and during that time has made many warm friends as well as proving himself an ardent worker in matters that tended to enhance the interests of the village. He is now removing to another sphere of usefulness, and before doing so was visited Tuesday evening last by several of the officers of Lambton Lodge, No. 277, I. O. O. F., of which he was a member, who presented him with a purse and cane and an address, which says of him: "By the purity, the manliness, and the ingeniousness of your Christian character and deportment, you have always commanded our highest regard and esteem. No small credit is due to you for its (the village) moral status, because of the pure influence you have exerted, and the unequivocal and consistent course you have pursued." The address was signed on behalf of the lodge by Fred. H. G. Ames, M.D., N.G.; W. J. Ward, Treas.; A. S. Harkness, Frank R. Seager, M.D., V.G., and T. Hayne, J.P.G.

PORT STANLEY.

The foundation of Mr. F. E. Shepard's new warehouse is being laid, and it will not be long before it is completed. He will also erect coal and salt sheds. The building will be erected on the west side of the G. T. R. track, one block south of the depot. Mr. Shepard is engaged now buying apples.

Mrs. A. Ellison and Mrs. C. Weir are spending this week in Detroit at the Exposition.

Ben Marsh, one of the enterprising young men of our village, has opened out a boot, shoe and harness shop.

Mr. Reid, of Belleville Business College, takes the position of bookkeeper in the store of Mr. John Price.

Mr. J. D. McIlwain and Mr. Alex. Gillean, of London, who summered at New Orchard Beach with their families, have returned to the city.

NILESTOWN.

Isaac Barrows returned to Ruthven on Saturday.

Andrew Gilmour is attending the high school, Aylmer.

Ada Moore is one of our late visitors.

Emma and Julia Barnard have been visiting Mrs. Secord, of Gladstone, who is very ill.

Wm. McDiarmid has been feasting his botanic eye upon some ferns and mosses culled on Pike's Peak, Colorado.

Johnnie Kilbourn threshed 300 bushels of wheat, a greater share of which he contracted to Leith county millers at $1 per bushel.

As John Goble has had occasion to pass by a school house a number of times of late, and seeing that he failed to succumb to the tantalizing jeers of those that swarmed the grounds and fences, they thought they would treat him to a shower of stones, some of them coming in contact with his head. Mr. Goble declares that should the like happen again he will treat the youngsters to an "at-home" entertainment, at which several solos will be sung to "raw hide" accompaniment.

Wm. McDiarmid expects to leave for Cleveland, Ohio, about the end of the present month to perfect himself as a telegraph operator.

Are you weak and weary, overworked and tired? Hood's Sarsaparilla is just the medicine to purify your blood and give you strength.

A bank in Springfield, Mass., received for collection Saturday a draft from Chicago upon a large corporation for 5 cents.

A large brain is better than a small foot.

The great lung healer is found in excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

Clover blossoms are the bon-bons of the bees.

We have no hesitation in saying that Dr J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial is without doubt the best medicine ever introduced for dysentery, diarrhœa, cholera and all summer complaints, sea sickness, etc. It promptly gives relief and never fails to effect a positive cure. Mothers should never be without a bottle when their children are teething.

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Rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, etc., can be cured by taking Kern's Rheumatic Cure. Price $1 at all druggists'.

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BOTHNIA	Wednesday, Sept. 24, 1 p.m.
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GERMANIC	Oct. 8

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