

# SERMON

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## Death of the late President Garfield

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"I will make a man more precious than fine gold ; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir."—Isaiah xlii, 12.

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**W**E see from the context that these words occur in a prophecy concerning ancient Babylon. Though that city was at one time the most magnificent in the world, she was doomed to destruction. If we ask the reason, we might be told that she had sinned and awakened against herself the righteous indignation of the Most High. But this answer is not specific enough. In order to be fully instructed, we need to know what the particular form of her sin was, and of this we are not long left in doubt. She failed to appreciate the value of man as man. Rank, wealth and power were respected ; but the elements of true manhood were lost sight of altogether. A man belonging to the masses was of value only as a beast of burden, or a piece of machinery, to be used until worn out and then thrown aside as worthless ; or, as so much force to build a wall or defend a city. The fact that he was a responsible and immortal creature, with boundless capabilities, connected by intimate and far-reaching relationships with divine and eternal things, was seldom if ever thought of. Hence tyrants of all grades were reckless of the lives of those whom they controlled, and wore them out in weary and hope-