

REV. DR. TALMAGE.

THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUNDAY SERMON.

"Subject: Defense of Young Men."

TEXT. "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man."—II. Kings vi. 17.

One morning in Dothan a young theological student was walking by himself and Elisha, the prophet, upon whom he had surrounded by a whole army of enemies. But venerable Elisha was not scared at all, because he saw the mountains full of defense for him, in chariots made out of fire, wheels of fire, dashboard of fire and cushions of fire, drawn by horses with nostrils of fire, and manes of fire, and haunches of fire, and hoofs of fire—a supernatural appearance that could not be seen with the natural eye. So the old minister prayed that the young minister might see them also, and the prayer was answered, and the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he also saw the fiery procession looking somewhat, I suppose, like the autumnal maples and the Alleghanies in this autumn.

Many young men, standing among the most tremendous realities have their eyes half shut or entirely closed. May God grant that my sermon may open wide your eyes to your safety, your opportunity and your destiny.

A mighty defense for a young man is a good home. Some of my hearers look back with tender satisfaction to their early home. It may have been rude and rustic, hidden among the hills, and architect or upholsterer never planned or adorned it. But all the fresco on princely walls never looked so enticing to you as those rough hewn rafters.

You can think of no park or arbor of trees so grand and beautiful country seat so attractive as this plain brook that ran in front of the old farmhouse, and sang under the weeping willows. No barred gateway, adorned with statue of bronze, and swing open by obsequious porter in full dress, but half the glory of the swing gate. Many of you have a second dwelling place, your adopted home, that also is sacred forever. There you built the first family altar. There your children were born. All those trees you planted. That room is solemn, because once in it, over the hot pillow, flapped the wing of death. Under that roof you expect when your work is done to lie down and die. You try with many words to tell the excellency of the place, but you fail. There is only one word in the language that can describe your mansion. It is home.

Now I declare that a young man is comparatively safe who goes out into the world with a charm like this upon him. The memory of parental solicitude, watchful nursing and praying, will be to him a shield and a shelter. I never knew a man faithful both to his early and adopted home, who at the same time was given over to any gross form of dissipation or wickedness. He who seeks his enjoyment chiefly from outside association, rather than from the more quiet and unassuming pleasures of which I have spoken, may be suspected to be on the broad road to ruin. Absalom despised his father's house, and you know his history of sin and his death of shame. If you seem unnecessarily isolated from yr kindred and former associates, is there not some room that you can call your own? Into it gather books and pictures and a harp. Have a portrait over the mantel. Make yourself stand back from the threshold. Consecrate some spot with the knee of prayer. By the memory of other days, a father's counsel and a mother's love, and a sister's confidence, call it home.

Another defense for a young man is industrious habit. Many young men, in starting upon life in this age, expect to make their way through the world by the use of their wits rather than the toil of their hands. A child now goes to the city and fails twice before he is as old as his father was when he first saw the spires of the great town. Sitting in some office rented at \$1,000 a year, he is waiting for the bank to declare its dividend, and goes into the market expecting before long to be made rich by the rushing up of the stocks. But luck seems so dull he resolves on some other plan. Perhaps he borrows from his employer's money drawer, and forgets to put it back or for the purpose of improving his pensmanship makes a copy plate of a merchant's signature. Never mind, all is right in trade. In some dark night there may come in his dreams a vision of Blackwell's Island, or of Sing Sing, but it soon vanishes. In a short time he will be ready to retire from the busy world, and amid his flocks and herds culture the domestic virtues. Then those young men who once were his schoolmates, and knew no better than to engage in honest work, will come with their ox teams to draw him logs and with their hard hands help heap up his castle. This is no fancy picture. It is everyday life. I should not wonder if there were some rotten beams and that beautiful palace. I should not wonder if dire sickness should smite through the young man, or if God should pour into his cup of life so draught that would thrill him with unbearable agony. I should not wonder if his children should become to him a living curse, making his human pest and a disgrace. I should not wonder if he goes to a miserable grave, and beyond it into the gnashing of teeth. The way of the ugly shill perish.

My young friends, there is no way to genuine success except through toil either of the head or hand. At the battle of Crecy in 1346 the Prince of Wales, finding himself pressed by the enemy, sent word to his father for help. The father, watching the battle from a windmill and seeing that his son was not wounded and could gain the day if he would, said: "No; I will not come. Let the boy win his spurs, for, if God will, I desire that this day be his with all its honors." Young man, fight your own battle all through and you shall have the victory. Oh, what a little worth fighting. Two monarchs of course fought a duel, Charles V. and Francis, and the others were kings—France—Milan and Burgundy. You fight with the soul and the stakes are heaven and hell.

Do not get the fatal idea that you are a genius, and that therefore there is no need of close application. It is here where multitudes fail. The great curse of this age is the geniuses, men with enormous self conceit and egotism, and nothing else. I had rather be an ox than an eagle; plain, and plodding, and useful, rather than high flying and good for nothing, but to pick out the eyes of carcasses. Extraordinary capacity, without us, is extraordinary failure. There is no hope for that man whose soul is dead. His life resolved to live by his father for help. The father, watching the battle from a windmill and seeing that his son was not wounded and could gain the day if he would, said: "No; I will not come. Let the boy win his spurs, for, if God will, I desire that this day be his with all its honors." Young man, fight your own battle all through and you shall have the victory. Oh, what a little worth fighting. Two monarchs of course fought a duel, Charles V. and Francis, and the others were kings—France—Milan and Burgundy. You fight with the soul and the stakes are heaven and hell.

The Russian peasantry appear to be sunk in ignorance and superstition. During the recent eclipse of the sun three famous Russian savants descended in a balloon at a village in the neighborhood of Moscow, whereupon the peasants rushed out of their houses, shouting: "Let us shoot these evil beasts that have darkened the sun." The savants were lucky to escape with their lives, but the balloon was destroyed, being regarded as an instrument of the devil. The eclipse threw the peasantry into paroxysms of terror and apprehension wherever it was visible.—London Truth.

Peasants scared by a Balloon.

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Sumatra has a flower which grows to nine feet in circumference and weighs fifteen pounds.

Whiffen County, Georgia, has recently been carried for prohibition by 400 majority.

Blowing Up Hell Gate

has been a laborious and costly work, but the end justifies the effort. Obstruction in any important channel means disaster. Obstruction in the organs of the human body brings inevitable disease. They must be cleared away, or physical wreck will follow. Keep the liver in order, and the pure blood courses through the body, conveying health, strength and life; let it become disordered and the channels are clogged with impurities, which result in disease and death. No other medicine equals Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" for acting upon the liver and purifying the blood.

It is stated that the height of the English aristocracy has considerably increased within the last 500 years.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

An Italian physiologist has now found bacteria in hail.

Chinese chronology is founded on their observations of eclipses over 4700 years ago.

Black bass, it is said, will kill from mere love of killing, and thousands of pickerel are so destroyed every year by it.

As early as 1505 adventurous French fishermen of Normandy and other coast provinces of France plied their vocation off the shores of Newfoundland.

The battle of Bosworth, in which Richard III. was defeated and killed, and Richmond won his way to the English throne as Henry VII., occurred A.D. 1485.

The Bibliotheque Royale, Paris, was founded with only twenty books in 1340. It is now one of the finest libraries in Europe, especially rich in ancient manuscripts.

Tobacco was discovered in San Domingo in 1493; afterward by the Spaniards in Yucatan in 1520. It was introduced into France in 1560, and England in 1588.

The first steps looking toward the foundation of the present city of New Orleans were taken by the French Governor, Bienville, in 1718, when a party of convicts were sent to clear up the swamp that was chosen as its site.

According to a celebrated French astronomer, the total number of stars visible to the average naked eye does not exceed 6,000. An ordinary opera glass will bring out 20,000; a small telescope will bring out nearly 200,000, and the most powerful telescope 100,000,000.

An astonishing firearm has been introduced into France. It is of French origin, and is wonderful in the results obtained. At 3,000 feet distance ninety-eight per cent. of the balls hit a number of baskets representing a company of soldiers. Col. Lebel, the inventor, stood within ten feet of a target while one of his friends fired at it 6,000 feet distant.

A case of poisoning by nutmeg is recorded in the British *Medical Journal*, in which one nutmeg had been eaten by a patient as a cure for diarrhoea. It caused him to become giddy, stupid and very drowsy all next day. The narcotic properties of all these seeds, and of others of the same natural order, do not appear to be generally known, and seem worthy of investigation.

Horses Cleaned by Steam.

In the basement or ground floor of the Palmer House livery stables two employees stood on either side of a large, powerfully built horse which was undergoing his daily toilet—in stable parlance, "gittin' cleaned and curried." In exactly forty seconds the animal was turned over to his keeper as bright as a new pin—not a speck of dirt nor a turned hair to be seen on his sleek, shiny coat. His step seemed brisker, and he acted much like a person who has had an invigorating bath. In two hours' time no less than 150 horses, big and little, had received their daily clean-up, and were ready to prance out into society.

The cause of this revolution in the art of horse cleaning, rubbing down and currying—all in one—is a simple contrivance, a movable shaft, at one end of which is a circular brush composed of fairly stiff bristles. The brush, which is run by steam, revolves many hundred times a minute, and is guided by the cleaner. Two of these cleaners, operating with the brushes on one animal, can four men with the old style brush and curry-comb in twenty minute.—Chicago News.

Wind and Endurance in Running.

The essential requisites of a long-distance runner are a strong heart and courageous lungs in a broad, deep and mobile chest. The reason for this will be apparent to those who understand the physiology of exercise. To sustain long-continued exertion latent energy in the muscles used is necessary, and a safe means of supplying these muscles with an increased amount of oxygen while in action, and of carrying away the carbonic acid that results from the combustion in the tissues. Hence the necessity of breathing faster while running than while walking, and unless this exchange of gases can be carried on with sufficient rapidity and in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the organism under these trying circumstances, there soon comes an end to further muscular activity, though the muscles themselves may be far from exhausted.

The Youth's Companion

has recently been increased in size, making it by far the cheapest Illustrated Family Weekly published. That it is highly appreciated is shown by the fact that it has won its way into 400,000 families. The publishers issue a new Announcement and Calendar, showing increased attractions for the new year. If \$1.75 is sent now, it will pay for THE COMPANION to January, 1889, and I will receive the admirable Double Thanksgiving and Christmas Numbers, and other weekly issues to January 1st, free.

Consumption Surely Cured.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its use I have thousands of hopeless cases been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. address. Price reduced to one dollar.

By G. R. MOOT, C. O., 183 Pearl St., New York.

FREE!—To MERCHANTS ONLY: A genuine Meerschaum Smoker's Set (five pieces) in satin-lined plush case. Address at once, R. W. TANSELL & CO., 55 State Street, Chicago.

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