

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

THE EMINENT DIVINE'S SUNDAY DISCOURSE.

The Choice of a Wife—From a Rustic Bible Scene is Drawn a Practical and Inspiring Lesson For All Classes of People—The Calling For Special Work.

TEXT: "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian."—Exodus iii., 1.

In the southeastern part of Arabia a man is sitting by a well. It is the arid country and water is scarce, so that a well is of great value, and flocks and herds are driven vast distances to have their thirst slaked. Jethro, a Midianite sheik and priest, was so fortunate as to have seven daughters, and they are practical girls, and yonder they come, driving the sheep and cattle and camels of their father to the watering. They lower the buckets and then pull them up, the water plashing on the stones and chilling their feet, and the troughs are filled. Who is that man out there, sitting unconcerned and looking on? Why does he not come and help the women in this hard work of drawing water? But no sooner have the dry lips and panting nostrils of the flocks begun to cool a little in the brimming trough of the well than some rough Bedouin shepherds break in upon the scene, and with clubs and shouts drive back the animals that were drinking and affright these girls until they fly in retreat, and the flocks or these ill-mannered shepherds are driven to the troughs, taking the places of the other flocks.

Now that man sitting by the well begins to color up, and his eye flashes with indignation, and all the gallantry of his nature is aroused. It is Moses who naturally had a quick temper, anyhow, as he demonstrated on one occasion when he saw an Egyptian oppressing an Israelite and gave the Egyptian a sudden clip and buried him in the sand, and as he showed afterward when he broke all the Ten Commandments at once by shattering the two granite slabs on which the law was written. But the injustice of this treatment of the seven girls sets him on fire with wrath, and he takes this shepherd by the throat, and pushes back another shepherd till he falls over the trough, and aims a stunning blow between the eyes of another, as he cries, "Begone, you villains!" and he hoots and roars at the sheep and cattle and camels of these invaders and drives them back; and having cleared the place of the desperadoes, he told the seven girls of this Midianite sheik to gather their flocks together and bring them again to the watering.

The fact that it took the seven daughters to drive the flocks to the well implies that they were immense flocks, and that her father was a man of wealth. What was the use of Zipporah's bemoaning herself with work when she might have reclined on the hillside near her father's tent, and plucked buttercups, and dreamed out romances, and sighed idly to the winds, and wept over imaginary songs to the brooks. No, she knew that work was honorable, and that every girl ought to have something to do, and so she starts with the bleating and lowing and bellowing and neighing droves to the well for the watering. Around every home there are flocks and droves of cares and anxieties, and every daughter of the family, though there be seven, ought to be doing her part to take care of the flocks. In many households, not only is Zipporah, but all her sisters, without practical and useful employments. Many of them are waiting for fortunate and prosperous matrimonial alliance, but some lounge like themselves will come along, and after counting the large number of father Jethro's sheep and camels will make proposal that will be accepted; and neither of them having done anything more practical than to chew chocolate caramels, the two nothings will start on the road of life together, every step more and more a failure. That daughter of the Midianite sheik will never find her Moses.

Girls of America! imitate Zipporah. Do something practical. Do something helpful. Do something well. Many have fathers with great flocks of absorbing duties, and such a father needs help in home, or office, or field. Go out and help him with the flocks. The reason that so many men now condemn themselves to unaffiliated and solitary life is because they cannot support the modern young woman, who rises at 10.30 in the morning and retires after midnight, one of the trashiest of novels in her hands most of the time between the late rising and the late retiring—a thousand of them not worth one Zipporah.

There is a question that every father and mother ought to ask the daughter at breakfast or tea table, and that all the daughters of the wealthy sheik ought to ask each other: "What would you do if the family fortune should fail, if sickness should prostrate the breadwinner, if the flocks of Jethro should be destroyed by a sudden excursion of wolves and bears and hyenas from the mountain? What would you do for a living? Could you support yourself? Can you take care of an invalid mother or brother or sister as well as yourself?" Yea, bring it down to what any day might come to a prosperous family. "Can you cook a dinner if the servants should make a strike for higher wages and leave that morning?"

There needs to be peaceful, yet radical revolution among most of the prosperous homes of America, by which the elegant do-nothings may be transformed into practical do-somethings. Let useless women go to work and gather the flocks. Come, Zipporah, let me introduce you to Moses.

See in this call of Moses that God has a great memory. Four hundred years before He had promised the deliverance of the oppressed Israelites of Egypt. The clock of time has struck the hour, and now Moses is called to the work of rescue. Four hundred years is a very long time, but you see God can remember a promise four hundred years as well as you can remember four hundred minutes.

No one realizes how great he is for good or for evil. There are branchings out and rebounds, and reverberations, and elaborations of influence that can not be estimated. The fifty or one hundred years of our earthly stay is only a small part of our sphere. The flap of the wing of the destroying angel that smote the Egyptian oppressors, the wash of the Red Sea over the heads of the drowned Egyptians, were all fulfillments of promises four centuries old. And things occur in your life and in mine that we can not account for. They may be the echoes of what was promised in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. Oh, the prolongation of the divine memory!

Notice, also that Moses was eighty years of age when he got this call to become the Israelite deliverer. Forty years he had lived in palaces as a prince, another forty years he had lived in the wilderness of Arabia. Nevertheless, he undertook the work, and if we want to know whether he succeeded, ask the abandoned brick-kilns of Egyptian taskmasters, and the splintered chariot wheels strewn on the beach of the Red Sea, and the timbrels which Miriam clapped for the Israelites passed over and the Egyptians gone under.

Still further, watch this spectacle of genuine courage. No wonder when Moses scattered the rude shepherds, he won Zipporah's heart. What mattered it to Moses whether the cattle of the seven daughters of Jethro were driven from the troughs by the rude herdsmen? Sense of justice fired his courage; and the world wants more of the spirit that will dare almost anything to see others righted. All the time at wells of comfort, at wells of joy, at wells of religion, and at wells of literature there are outrages practiced, the wrong herds getting the first water. Those who have the previous right come in last, if they come in at all. Thank God, we have here and there a strong man to set things right! I am so glad that when God has an especial work to do, He has some one ready to accomplish it.

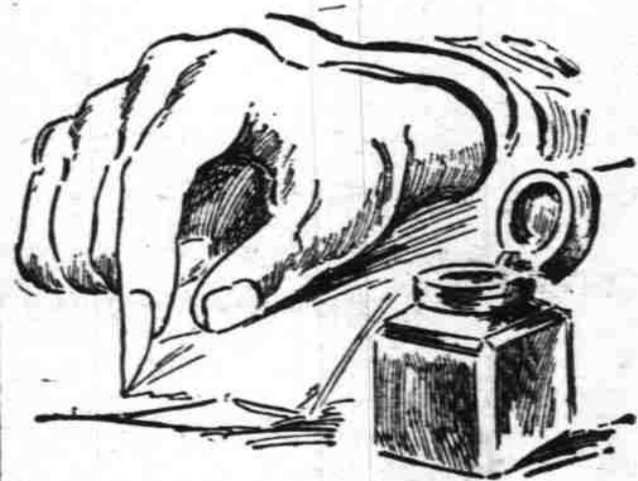
Still another, see in this call of Moses that if God has any especial work for you to do He will help you. There were Egypt and Arabia and the Palestine with their crowded population, but the man the Lord wanted was at the southern point of the triangle of Arabia, and He picks him right out, the shepherd who kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest and sheik. So God will not find it hard to take you out from the sixteen hundred millions of the human race if He wants you for any thing especial.

O what a fascinating and inspiring character this Moses! How tame all other stories compared with the biography of Moses!

WRITES WITH HIS FINGER NAIL

Jersey City Man Who Believes Every One Should Be His Own Pen.

It makes no difference to Walter Lowery, of Jersey City, that steel pens rust and gold pens break, that stubs blot and fine pens scratch. For Mr. Lowery proceeds on the principle that every



man should be his own pen, so to speak. He allows the nail of his right forefinger to grow to a prodigious length. Then he trims it to a fine point and writes away, cheerfully dipping it into the ink well.

Egypt follows the lead of China, Japan, India, Russia, Finland, and, indeed, most other countries in ordering fifteen American locomotives, which will speedily be turned out, and which in no long time will fly screaming along the Egyptian State railway, waking Memnonian echoes along the slumberous Nile loud enough to rouse its mummied Pharaohs and awaken anew the bellowings of Osiris, suspended without date some thousands of years ago. The American can now travel all over the world with the patriotic consciousness that he is being drawn by the iron horses of his own native land.

A first-class price doesn't always indicate a first-class hotel.



Wants to Secure Suffrage.

The first annual convention of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association was held in Greenville, March 29 and 30. According to the constitution, the object of this association is declared to be to advance the industrial, educational and legal rights of women, and to secure suffrage to them by appropriate State and National legislation.

New Occupations.

In entering on new occupations for their sex women have not taken any work away from men. New kinds of work have come on the scene faster in some cases than the workers were ready. The majority of women entering the industrial world become either typewriters, telegraphers, trained nurses or teachers of physical culture, occupations that have almost without exception come into existence within the past fifty years.

London Bicycling Costume.

For bicycling there are a number of different designs in gowns; but one of the smartest is a blue homespun, the skirt made in the regulation pattern, reaching to the ankles and in the bell shape. The waist is a basque of medium length, made with revers of dark blue edged with white cloth on which is a braiding of blue. There is a close waistcoat of white cloth or white pique fastened with tiny buttons, and a small turn-down linen collar, with black neck-tie. The sleeves are of medium size, finished at the waist with a turned-down cuff of dark blue edged with white braided in blue to match the revers.—Harper's Bazar.

Little Chance for Error in Taste.

As time goes on fashions become more decided and as the eyes grow accustomed to the new styles, their faults and errors in taste are detected and all that is bad is carefully eliminated. A perfect blending of colors and individual suitability of style are the rocks upon which most women come to grief, but the styles are so pretty and so varied this season that it is possible for the woman of taste and judgment to look well without a prodigious outlay of money. Most of the new materials are expensive but many old and inexpensive fabrics are being made up into very smart frocks, and thin goods, such as muslins, lawns and dimities, are absurdly cheap.

An Inventor and Benefactor.

Miss Jennie Wertheimer, a young woman of Cincinnati, Ohio, can now retire from business with a small fortune at her disposal.

Three years ago she conceived a scheme for making commercial paper which would prevent amounts being raised on checks, or names being forged, and she succeeded so well that her paper is already well known.

From the top of the note to the blank for the name of the payee this paper has the usual thickness, but below the name it gradually grows thinner, until it is as transparent as tissue paper. If the amount written in has been raised, or if chemicals have been used, or any changes made in the original draft, this may be discovered immediately by holding the paper up to the light.

Miss Wertheimer placed the matter in the hands of an attorney in Cincinnati, who procured for her an offer from a New York firm to sell her entire patent to them for \$25,000 each and attorneys' fees, and she agreed to their proposal.—New York Tribune.

Business Women as Wives.

It has frequently been said that women in business employments do not make as desirable wives as their sisters who have lived only domestic lives, but a recent observer takes a wholly different view of the case. He holds that the effect of the woman in business is not so much to the advantage of the woman herself as to the business man. Such a woman has more respect for him, more regard, more sympathy. She is altogether less likely voluntarily to impose upon him or involuntarily to harass and worry him. She has been there, she knows how it is herself, and this personal experience and knowledge make her more lenient and considerate.

Every woman wage earner worthy of the name learns first, last and all the time that success is only attained by close attention and single mindedness. The woman who realizes this must also realize that the same rule holds good of the business man. In a present capacity of daughter and sister or in a future capacity as wife she is certain to show such a keen consideration for the business members of the household as is undreamed of in the philosophy of the other kind of woman.

There is no danger of her husband being besought to just stop on his way down town and attend some specially seductive "special sale" or to leave his office an hour or so earlier in order that he may bring her home a lot of "samples." She has had practical and personal proof that it is through this sort of thing that business interests are made to suffer, and she doesn't propose to let this knowledge play her false. A woman's appreciation of business and business ways and means thus insures domestic comfort. If conditions warrant it, it benefits the business man even more than it benefits the business woman herself.—Trenton (N. J.) American.

Fashion's Fancies.

- Cut-glass lily vases.
- Denim floor covering.
- Silk-striped mantle draperies.
- String ties of plaid natte silk.
- Steamer capes made of Scotch rugs.
- Solid silver buttons set with jewels.
- Net dotted with chenille for gowns.
- Ladies' heavy, white, two-class gloves.
- Small double picture frames in leather.
- Point Arabe and renaissance lace blouses.
- Gray kid cardcases, belts, chate-laines, etc.
- Fine damask towels with large polka dots.
- Heavy upholstery satin for lining cushions.
- White mull corded and with printed designs.
- Large scarf neckties of Scotch plaid natte silk.
- Parasols with lace insertion set in as a border.
- Tiny chiffon capes having throat bows to the knees.
- New satin-finished silk fabrics in black and colors.
- Bagdad portieres in every possible array of colors.
- Gold golf pins for the cravat, as a belt or stick pin, etc.
- Narrow neckties having a tiny accordion bow in front.
- Belts having large turquoise medallions rimmed in steel.