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Economist.

Advertisements in The Economist will pay you.

To die is landing on some silent shore, where billows never break, nor tempests roar.--Garth.

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1897.

NO. 32.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills. Your pills are the best in the world. I used to be annoyed with constipation until I began using them.

Pistols and Pestles. The duelling pistol now occupies its proper place, in the museum of the collector of relics of barbarism.

OUR DEBT TO GREECE

REV. DR. TALMAGE RECOUNTS THE OBLIGATION IN AN ABLE SERMON.

The Great Divine speaks of Grecian Influence in Literature and Art--Thermopylae and Bunker Hill--How to Repay the Obligation--Paul's Peroration.

WASHINGTON, March 28.--As Dr. Talmage's sermons are published on both sides of the ocean, this discourse on a subject of worldwide interest will attract universal attention. His text was Romans i, 14, "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians."

At this time, when that behemoth of abominations, Mohammedanism, after having gorged itself on the carcasses of 100,000 Armenians, is trying to put its paws upon one of the fairest of all nations, that of the Greeks, I preach this sermon of sympathy and protest, for every intelligent person on this side, like Paul, who wrote the text, is debtor to the Greeks.

That are now taken as new had their suggestions 2,900 years ago in the 54 comedies of that master of merriment. Grecian mythology has been the richest mine from which orators and essayists have drawn their illustrations and painted the themes for their dramas.

And while speaking of our philological obligation let me call your attention to the fact that many of the intellectual and moral and theological lessons of the ages got much of their discipline and effectiveness from Greek literature. It is popular to scoff at the dead languages, but 50 per cent of the world's intellectuality would have been taken off if through learned institutions our young men had not, under competent professors, been drilled in Greek metaphysics, Hesiod's "Works and Days," or the elegiums by Simonides on the slain in war, or Pindar's "Odes of Victory," or "The Recollections of Socrates," or "The Art of Words," by Corax, or Xenophon's "Anabasis."

These days of awful exigency! Our American senate did well the other day when in that capitol building which owes to Greece its colossal impressiveness they passed a hearty resolution of sympathy for that nation. World that all who have potent words that can be heard in Europe would utter them now, when they are so much needed!

Another way of partly paying our debt to the Greeks is by higher appreciation of the learning and self sacrifice of the men who in our own land stand for all that the ancient Greeks stood for. While here and there one comes to public approval and reward, the most of them live in privation or on salary disgracefully small.

It was rather a risky thing for Paul to attempt to quote extemporaneously from a poem in a language foreign to his and before Greek scholars, but Paul did it without stammering and then acknowledged before the most distinguished audience on the planet his indebtedness to the Greeks, crying out in his oration, "As one of your own poets has said."

Further, all the civilized world, like Paul, is indebted to the Greeks for architecture. The world before the time of the Greeks had built monoliths, obelisks, cromlechs, sphinxes and pyramids but they were mostly monumental to the dead whom they failed to memorialize.

But there is another art in my mind--the most fascinating, elevating and inspiring of all arts and the nearest to the divine--for which all the world owes a debt to the Hellenes that will never be paid. I mean sculpture. At least 650 years before Christ the Greeks perpetuated the human face and form in terra cotta and marble.

Thanks to Phidias, who worked in stone; to Clearchus, who worked in bronze; to Dantas, who worked in gold, and to all ancient chisels of commemoration! Do you not realize that for many of the wonders of sculpture we are debtors to the Greeks?

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